

Bishop's Column

Summer Is for Books: What are you reading?

Making Sense of Scripture

(Augsburg Fortress) by David Lose:

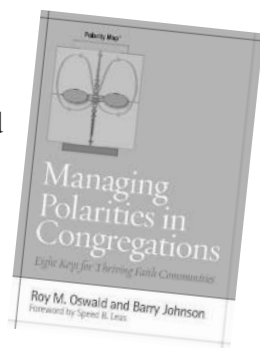
Lose serves on the faculty at Luther Seminary and will be a presenter at our synod's Book of Faith Festival this September. This book is one of the newest in the Book of Faith initiative. He writes in a very conversational style and believes "asking questions is essential to the life of faith." This could be a very usable book for congregational study.



Managing Polarities in

Congregations (Alban Institute) by Roy Oswald and Barry Johnson:

Oswald writes "I have noticed that thriving congregations are thriving in large part because they manage some key polarities well." This book seeks an alternative to settings in which both sides believe they are right. Chapters focus on topics such as tradition and innovation...strong clergy leadership and strong lay leadership...inreach and outreach... nurture and transformation.



The Shack (Windblown Media) by Wm. Paul Young:

Everyone else had read it, so I thought I would too. One of those books you continue to process...about forgiveness and healing, relationships, the image of God. There are some sermon quotes here pastors.



Where do you get your suggestions for reading? I have long been an observer of Martin Marty's reviews in his newsletter, Context...Martin Marty on Religion and Culture. I was disappointed to receive a notice that the Claretians are discontinuing its publication. The publishing industry is taking hit after hit. Hundreds of magazines are disappearing each year. I might add that includes denominational products... our own Lutheran is struggling to stay viable. So I shouldn't have been surprised by the Claretian's announcement. But how will I build my book list? Where do you find suggestions?

As I sort and shelve books during the summer, I enjoy looking inside to see the year purchased or comments I may have jotted after reading. But I also noted that on too many books, it was not my name but a friend's on the inside cover ... at least they were friends when they first loaned the books to me. Perhaps they should have included this quote which comes from the Monastery of San Pedro in Barcelona, Spain:

"For him that stealeth or borroweth and returneth not this book from its owner, let it change into a serpent in his hand and rend him. Let him be struck with palsy and all his members be blasted. Let him languish in pain crying aloud for mercy, and let there be no surcease to his agony till he sink into dissolution. Let bookworms gnaw his entrails in token of the Worm that dieth not, and when at last he goeth to his final punishment, let the flames of Hell consume him forever."

Shalom,

Harold Usgaard
Bishop



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