



THE BOOK OF FAITH INITIATIVE

OPEN SCRIPTURE. JOIN THE CONVERSATION.

What is the Book of Faith?

The Book of Faith is an initiative of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. The Book of Faith initiative invites the whole church to become more fluent in the first language of faith, the language of Scripture, in order that we might live into our calling as a people renewed, enlivened, and empowered by the Word.

The Bible is a book of faith

The Bible is the written Word of God that creates and nurtures faith through the work of the Holy Spirit and points us to Christ, the incarnate Word and center of our faith. The Bible invites us into a relationship with God, making demands on our lives and promising us life in Christ. The Bible tells the stories of people living their faith over the centuries and, through its demands and promises, forms us as a people of faith.

The language of Scripture is our first language of faith

The Bible teaches us about God, about the world, and about ourselves. We become renewed, enlivened, and empowered as the language of Scripture forms our hearts, our minds, our community conversation, and our commitments.

We have a calling as the people of God

Part of our calling is to know, hear, share, and be rooted in Scripture. We are renewed, enlivened, and empowered by the Word. As we live into our calling as people who are formed by Scripture, we become renewed in our faith, enlivened through the Spirit, and empowered through the cross of Christ to serve God and neighbor.

FEATURED RESOURCES

The Book of Faith initiative has a lot of online resources available at www.ELCA.org/bookoffaith. Visit the site and click on “Resources” to find the following items and much more:

- *Opening the Book of Faith* - a book to introduce the initiative and get started
- Individual and group assessment tools for use in getting started
- Conversation tools including an online forum
- More than a dozen different Bible studies
- “Dwelling in the Word” - ideas to get your congregation in conversation, including sample stories from others to get the ball rolling
- Several videos to go with the initiative and some studies
- Additional basic Bible resources



MONTHLY BIBLE VERSE

This Bible verse was selected by Harold Usgaard, bishop of the Southeastern Minnesota Synod, for everyone in the synod to study.



“These are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.”
JOHN 20:31

ABOUT OUR SYNOD

The Southeastern Minnesota Synod is a faith community of 132,000 baptized people in 184 congregations as well as related institutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA). Its geographic area includes 15 counties in the southeastern corner of Minnesota.

The Bridge is a monthly publication of the Southeastern Minnesota Synod, ELCA. For more information, contact the synod office:

SOUTHEASTERN MINNESOTA SYNOD, ELCA
1001 14TH ST. NW, SUITE 300
ROCHESTER, MN 55901-2551
(507) 280-9457
WWW.SEMNSYNOD.ORG