

## It Is Good, Lord, To Be Here

Greetings!

Peter, on top of the mountain while Jesus was transfigured, says, “It is good, Lord, to be here.” (Luke 9:33) He didn’t understand what was going on at that moment; he just knew he was pleased to be a part of it. Isn’t that the way with most of us most of the time—or *shouldn’t* that be the way with most of us most of the time?

A pastor new to our synod comments, “It is good to be back in Minnesota.” A committee member who particularly enjoys the discussion and attitude of the group says, “I so enjoy being part of this group.” A member of a Bible study group remarks, “I really need your comfort and strength and love this morning. I’m so glad we are all together.” Each one is really saying, “It is good, Lord, to be here.”

So often we are bound up with events and concerns of the past or we are anxious and uneasy about the future, and we miss the joys and pleasures of the present. Yet we all know that life is a gift and a tenuous and fragile gift at that! We would do well to keep aware of that and be grateful for it. “It is good, Lord, to be here.”

We all know that each day is an adventure with new people, new experiences, new thoughts and feelings just as each day is also a joyful repetition of people and experiences of the past. The people and experiences nourish and nurture us. We are fed with innumerable

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**“If we can live every day with an attitude of ‘It is good, Lord, to be here,’ every moment will be richer and deeper.”**

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“It is good, Lord, to be here”—wherever that is. May we live with that attitude of gratitude!

Blessings in Christ,

*Shirley*



Shirley Gangstad  
Synod Vice President

## Making Sense of Scripture

By Rev. Jay Dahlvang

Synod Book of Faith Advocate



**book of faith**  
Open Scripture. Join the Conversation

Luther Seminary Professor David Lose has written an outstanding Book of Faith study called, “Making Sense of Scripture.” The study is based on seven major questions of the Bible including: What is the Bible? How can I read the Bible with greater understanding? And what kind of authority does the Bible hold?

Lose writes of his hopes for the study:

I hope you will be absorbed by the Bible’s stories in a way that will touch and move you, and maybe even transform the way you look at yourself, the world and God...I hope you will feel free to think, wonder, question, and even express doubt as we discuss issues and explore the claims the Bible makes. And I hope and pray that through all the thinking, wondering, questioning, and doubting, you might also find the capacity to hear God speaking a word to you.

But Lose also warns us of the power of the Word. People inspired by Scripture have, “Been led to do things beyond their imaginations:

- making peace with someone who had formerly been an enemy;
- giving away one’s wealth or security for the sake of another;
- leaving the comforts of home to reach out to others;
- changing careers to respond more fully to a sense of God’s call;
- staying in one’s career to do the same; or
- putting one’s reputation, and even life, on the line by taking a stand for justice.”

We are pleased to announce David Lose will present the keynote at Our Savior’s in Austin, on September 25, for the second Book of Faith Fall Festival. At our first festival, well over one hundred from all over the synod shared their passion for opening scripture and joining in conversation. Watch for information and registration.

### Correction

Last month’s Book of Faith article should have listed Rev. Jay Dahlvang as the author with some of the content originally shared by Diane Jacobson.