

OFF THE SHELF



Mission Statement: To energize church library ministry through education, resource sharing, spiritual encouragement and fellowship.

Spring 2024

TCACLA Spring Meeting
Richfield United Methodist Church
April 27, 2024
8:30-12:30

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Discounted copies of this book will be available for \$20. Your payment can be in cash or check.

The program also includes a panel discussion on how church libraries can support the pastor, the congregation, and the mission of the church. As always, you'll have time to check out the book swap table, visit the church library, and network with other church librarians.



Our keynote speaker is Rev. Dr. Nancy Koester. She has a PhD in church history and is ordained in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. Her book, **Harriet Beecher Stowe: A Spiritual Life**, won the Minnesota Book Award in 2015 in General Nonfiction. Her new book, **We Will be Free: The Life and Faith of Sojourner Truth**, has been favorably reviewed in **The**

Christian Century and in **Christianity Today**, where it received an "Award of Merit" in the 2024 Book Awards in the History/Biography category.

She will speak about her research and give some highlights of Truth's life and why her story inspires and informs readers today. Per Rev. Dr. Koester, "We need to know more about what our foremothers did to promote equality for all American citizens. And the fact that Truth did this from a faith perspective is important for readers in church contexts. I'm passionate about telling the story of Truth's life and her importance for American history, religion, and citizenship. And I relish the chance to talk with librarians, without whom I could not have created this book!"



Information

The **Twin Cities Area Church Library Association (TCACLA)** is a non-profit support organization serving church librarians. Membership is open to individuals and churches of all denominations that desire to network with others on church library development and enrichment.



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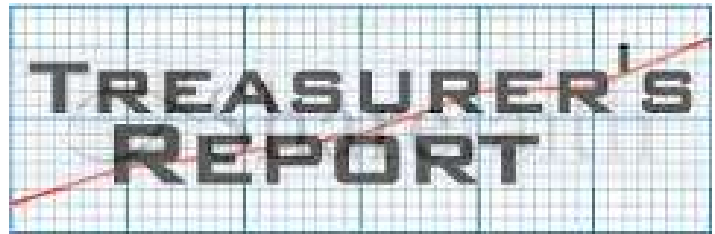
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Members: 22 Churches

01/01/2024	\$1,855.98	Beginning Balance
	\$330.00	Membership Renewals
	\$24.00	Meeting Registration
	-\$67.52	<i>Off the Shelf</i> Expenses
	-\$22.17	Website Fee
03/31/2024	\$2,120.29	Ending Balance

Dear friends:

It will be great to have a new opportunity to convene at our spring meeting on Saturday, the 27th of April, at Richfield United Methodist Church, our newest member. In touring the church recently, I found an interesting arrangement of the library - an open and very accessible space, with an abundance of rich offerings, with much credit going to our secretary, Wayne Albertson, who has provided his knowledge and expertise in the arrangement of their church library.

We are looking for a church that can host our fall meeting. If you haven't hosted our event yet or it's been several years since the last time you did, it would be a great opportunity to share your church and, most of all, your library with other TCACLA members. We cover all the expenses, and our board members provide any assistance you need for the event.

Lastly, we are always looking for new or potential board members. Serving on the board is a great opportunity to learn more about the work of our libraries and share the knowledge you have about your own library. Elections for two of the board member positions are held at our fall meetings. We would be happy to speak with you if you are interested.

Hope to see you all on April 27th. It will be a great opportunity to greet old and new friends, plus get some new ideas about how to meet our church community needs through our church libraries. Until then...

Janet Howard, President

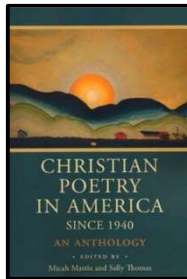
WHAT CHURCHES ARE READING

Everyone is encouraged to contribute to this section. Please send book titles and authors to otseditor@gmail.com.

"I have found sanctuary in libraries my whole life, and there is sanctuary there now, from the war, from the storms of our families and our own minds. Libraries are like mountains or meadows or creeks: sacred spaces."— Anne Lamott

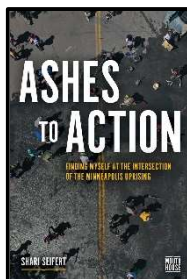
CHRISTIAN POETRY IN AMERICA SINCE 1940

edited by Micah Mattix and Sally Thomas, Iron Pen, 2022.



This anthology showcases 35 American poets across a full spectrum of Christian belief, including the struggle to believe at all. They bring the power of their art to bear on serious questions: how to understand the goodness of God in a fallen and tragic world, how to reconcile universal truths with the particularities of human experience, and how to render familiar events of salvation history in new language that generates its own epiphanies. **Winner of the 2023 Christianity Book Award – Culture & The Arts**

ASHES TO ACTION; Finding Myself at the Intersection of the Minneapolis Uprising by Shari Seifert, Augsburg Fortress, 2023.



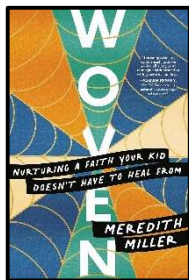
Calvary Lutheran Church is an ELCA congregation whose members have engaged in racial justice work for years. It's located one block away from George Floyd Square. Seifert, a member of the church, provides a riveting first-person account of the events following May 25, 2020. The Calvary community showed up, listened, and asked what was needed in the moment. As the lines between the congregation and neighborhood blurred, the way toward a faithful response became clearer.

THE DIVINE PROVERB OF STREUSEL; a Novel by Sara Brunsvold, Revell, 2024.



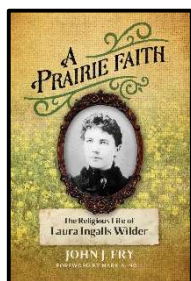
When Nikki Werner goes through her late grandmother's belongings at her uncle's farm in a small town in MO, she finds an old notebook filled with handwritten German recipes and wise sayings pulled from the book of Proverbs. With each recipe she makes, Nikki invites locals to the family table to hear their stories about the town's history, her ancestors, and her estranged father. As she learns how the women before her endured, with the help of their cooking prowess, Nikki realizes how delicious streusel with a healthy dollop of faith can serve as a guide to heal wounds of the past.

WOVEN; Nurturing a Faith Your Kid Doesn't Have to Heal From by Meredith Miller, Worthy Books, 2023.



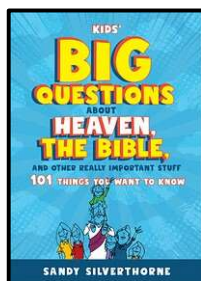
Kids need space to explore the Bible, ask big questions, and even change their understanding of God and faith along the way. With a deep reverence for scripture and suggested activities to help families grow in faith together, **Woven** is for parents who want to go beyond a list of do's and don'ts and pass along a resilient faith based on genuine love for and trust in God. This is the sort of faith that can stand up to the life a child will live, the doubts they will encounter, and the questions that will come up. Miller is both a parent and a pastor.

A PRAIRIE FAITH; The Religious Life of Laura Ingalls Wilder by John J. Fry, Eerdmans, 2024.



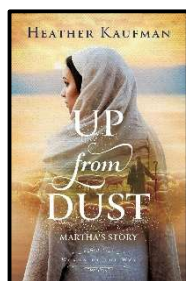
Despite Wilder's enduring popularity, few fans know much about her Christian beliefs and practice. Fry surveys the **Little House** books, **Pioneer Girl**, and Wilder's lesser-known writings, including her letters, poems, and newspaper columns. Analyzing this wealth of sources, he reveals how Wilder's down-to-earth faith and Christian morality influenced her life and work. Interweaving these investigations with Wilder's perennially interesting life story, **A Prairie Faith** illustrates the Christian practices of pioneers and rural farmers during this dynamic period of American history.

KIDS' BIG QUESTIONS ABOUT HEAVEN, THE BIBLE, AND OTHER REALLY IMPORTANT STUFF by Sandy Silverthorne, Revell, 2024.



Kids have lots of questions. But adults don't always have the answers, especially about the BIG things. Silverthorne, the award-winning creator of the Great Bible Adventure children's series, tackles 101 questions, including some you never thought to ask, offering honest, biblical answers. His quirky cartoons and activities make finding the answers fun. And the information he provides helps kids explore their faith, consider God's plans for their lives, and understand just how much God loves and cares for them. *Ages 6-8*

UP FROM DUST; Martha's Story by Heather Kaufman, Bethany House, 2024.



After her mother's untimely death, Martha of Bethany shoulders the responsibility of raising her siblings - quiet and studious Lazarus and wild and rambunctious Mary. Just as she begins to imagine a new future, hardship strikes again. When Jesus of Nazareth comes to heal her friend's husband, Martha discovers that the carpenter-rabbi is connected to her past. She's not sure she can trust him with her future though. But as he continues to perform miracles, the invitation to believe becomes harder to resist.

WEEDING MNEMONIC

Is it time for a book to be withdrawn from your library? Here's an acronym from the Texas State Library CREW methodology that might help you decide.

- M** - Misleading and/or factually inaccurate
- U** - Ugly; worn and beyond mending or rebinding
- S** - Superseded; new edition or a much better book on the subject
- T** - Trivial; of ephemeral interest once, no discernible merit now
- I** - Irrelevant to the needs and interests of your community
- E** - Elsewhere; may be easily obtained in another source



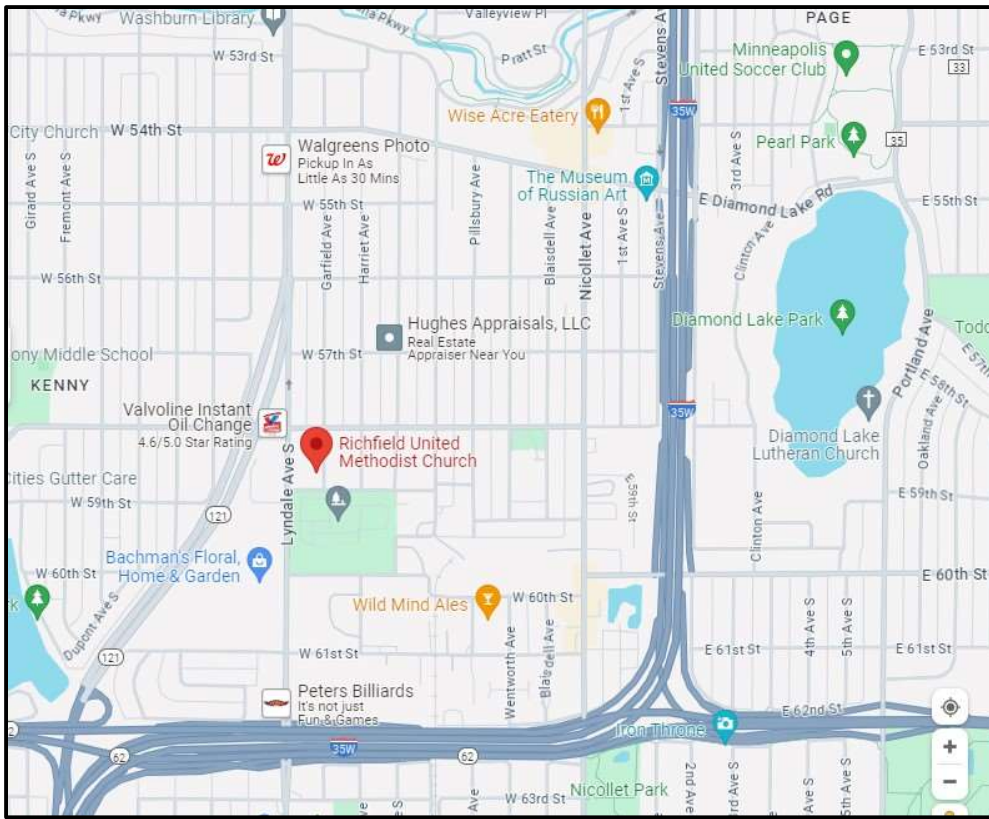


WORKSHOP ON APRIL 27

When was the last time you looked at your library's mission statement? Does it still align with the mission of your church? Have you looked critically at your collection recently with an eye toward your church's current and long-range priorities, activities, and educational goals? If your library exists as a satellite rather than an active part of the church's mission and practice, it's going to struggle. You won't want to miss this interactive workshop. Some of our members will share the amazing work they have done in this area. We anticipate a lively discussion.



BOOK SWAP: If you are new to TCACLA, you should know that there is a book swap table at all our meetings. Your library may have a duplicate copy of a book or a gently used book that you no longer need. If so, consider bringing it to share with others. Despite the "swap" name, you don't have to bring a book to take a book. If you do bring a book and it's still on the table when the meeting is over, please take it with you when you leave.



Richfield United Methodist Church is near the intersection of I-35W and MN-62. Despite its name, the street address is:

**5835 Lyndale Ave S
Minneapolis**

If coming east or west on MN-62/Crosstown, take the north Lyndale exit. You will go past Bachman's on the left side and a cemetery on the right. The church is immediately north of the cemetery. Enter the church parking lot on the north side of the church. The building entrance is adjacent to the lot.

If coming north on Lyndale, follow the same directions after crossing under MN-62.

If coming south on Lyndale, be careful where Lyndale curves to the west, south of 55th Street. "Jog" to the left on 58th Street for a short block and then right to Lyndale for a half block. The entrance to the church is on the left.

The mission of Richfield United Methodist Church is for all people to be able to live in faith, justice, and joy. The library has over 1,500 curated titles: fiction, nonfiction, history, children's, theology, ethics, comparative religion, LGBTQIA+ justice, Bible study, social justice, health/wellness, and more! You can explore the catalog at www.richfieldumc.org/ministries/library/.



**Twin Cities Area Church Library Association Meeting
Saturday, April 27, 2024**

The book swap and church library will be open all morning.

8:30	Registration
9:00	Welcome and Devotions
9:15	Workshop: How Can Church Libraries Support Your Church's Mission?
10:10	Break; Library and Church Tours
10:30	Nancy Koester: Sojourner Truth - Her Words Are More Relevant Than Ever
11:30	Break; Book Purchases and Signings
11:45	Lunch

**TCACLA Spring Meeting
April 27, 2024
MEETING REGISTRATION FORM**

Please pre-register by April 24.

Your church name: _____

Name(s) of person(s) attending: _____

Number of registrants: _____ x \$12.00 = \$ _____.

Make checks payable to TCACLA. Mail the completed form and check(s) to:

Roberta Shaw
940 Franklin Ter Apt 404
Minneapolis MN 55406-1136

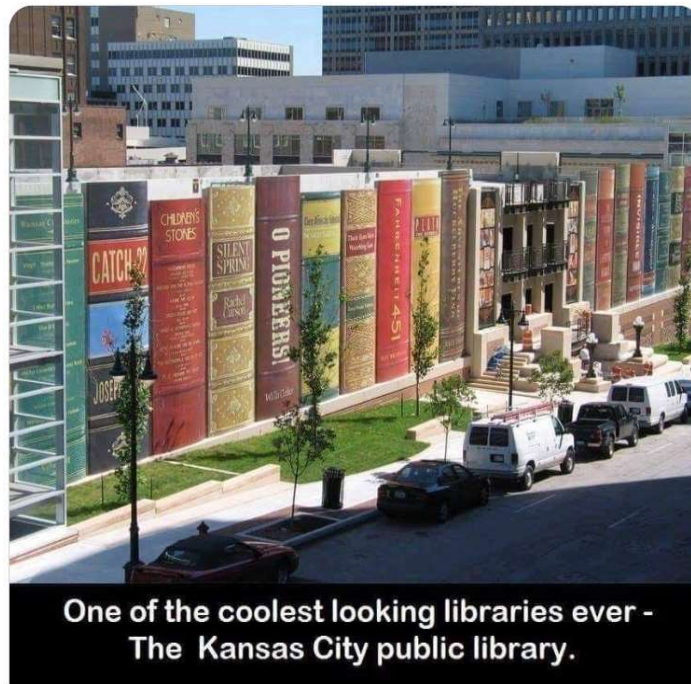


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One of the missions of TCACLA is to provide a forum for church librarians to exchange information with each other. In addition to our meetings and our newsletter, we do this via our Facebook page, Twin Cities Area Church Library Association, and our website at www.tcacla.com.



Dulcie Campana is our social media administrator. She is always looking for input from you. If you have an upcoming book event at your church, have had a special promotion for your library, want to recommend a new book, or have any other news that would interest our members, please send the information to her at livingoutfaith@hotmail.com.



**One of the coolest looking libraries ever -
The Kansas City public library.**