

**Resources for Discernment**

***Baptized We Live: Lutheranism as a Way of Life***– Daniel Erlander

Don’t know where to start? Start with Daniel Erlander’s unique vision of the Lutheran faith as a way of teaching, worshiping, and living. This rich book has guided generations interested in enriching their faith in a meaningful way. Designed for adults and grades 9-12, Erlander’s cartoon illustrations matched with powerful Lutheran theology, this book is a must for every library.

***4D Formation: Exploring Vocation in Community*** - Drew Tucker

Using the 4Ds – Discovering, Demystifying, Developing and Deciding, Tucker builds on his definition of vocation as “meaningful, life-giving work for the world”. He writes for young adults who are often struggling with the task of identity formation and dealing with life transitions. The book is however not reading limited to young adults. There is wisdom for every age as one explores and encounters God on the journey.

***Without Meaning: A Call for Radical Renewal in the Theology of Vocation*** *–* Rev. Dr. Adam White

In his blog post with Church Anew, White writes, “We’re pushing what journalist Derek Thompson has talked about as ‘workism’. We’re teaching Christians ‘to make their passion their career and, if they don’t have a calling, (they’re) told not to yield until they find one’. As Thompson describes it, ‘to make our desks our altars’. Pastor Adam encourages us “to decenter ‘work’ in our discussion of vocation and re-center the work of God in Jesus Christ.” Pastor White is serving currently as Senior Pastor at Faith Lutheran, Waconia, MN. (Blog - April 28, 2021)

<https://churchanew.org/blog/posts/adam-white-without-meaning-a-call-for-radical-renewal-in-the-theology-of-vocation>

***If Only I Had a Green Nose***- Max Lucado

Amazon says it is for preschool to grade 2 and reading level 4 -8 years but read it once and you will know this gem has no age limits. How many times have we given into the latest fad? In this case, everyone has a green nose. Punchinello learns the hard way that Eli made each of the Wemmicks different for a reason. Great conversation starter about gifts and call. Available in hardcover, paperback, board book and DVD.

***In the Name of Jesus; Reflections on Christian Leadership***– Henri Nouwen

We live in a society that is increasingly measuring successful leadership in terms of the effectiveness of the individual. Father Nouwen contents leadership cannot function apart from the community. It is an idea grounded in the foundation that we as people are “called”. This 120-page book will have you pondering. It is a great book for a faith-driven, faithful book club.

***The Stories We Live: Finding God’s Calling All Around Us*** *–* Kathleen A Cahalan

Built on her own stories, biblical texts, and stories from others, Cahalan discusses how each of us are called by God to follow as we are. She introduces a new vocabulary of vocation and fresh vision for God’s calling in our lives. The book includes discussion questions and is a good conversation starter for an adult forum, Circle or book club.

***Let Your Life Speak: Listening for the Voice of Vocation*** - Parker Palmer

***A Hidden Wholeness: The Journey Toward an Undivided Life*** - Parker Palmer

Both books are on the shelves of many church leaders. Palmer offers wisdom, compassion and a gentle sense of humor along with his deep commitment to the power a “circle of trust”. He invites us to listen to the inner teacher as we seek to find a sense of meaning and purpose. A teacher at heart and professionally Palmer has a way of opening the door to our own learning.

***Make a Move: How to Stop Wavering and Make Decisions in a Disorienting World***- Stephanie Williams O’Brien

How many times have you said you are waiting for a sign from God, a billboard perhaps, or a road map to help you know the way. Life, Williams O’Brien acknowledges, does not always work like that. Big decisions can lead to frustration, anxiety, and confusion. There are so many unexpected moments and things out there. In *Make a Move,* Williams O’Brien offers practical steps for moving through the experiments of life, so that we can narrow down the choice and discern God’s leadership.

***Ordinary Blessings: Prayers, Poems, and Meditations for Everyday Life*** - Meta Herricks Carlson

You will soon discover this collection of poems, prayers and meditations hits the mark every time you turn to them. They invite you to pause and take a deep breath. You will discover you have been standing on holy ground all along.

***The Essential Enneagram: The Definitive Personality Test and Self-Discovery Guide***– David Daniels, Virginia Price

The Enneagram can be a guide in your journey toward self-understanding and self-development. There are many resources available and some freebie tests online and some are pretty weak. Daniels and Price are two highly regarded leaders in field. They offer understandable self-test and then guide your discovery as you learn what your type means and how it impacts your relationships with others. The nine personality types as labeled by Daniels and Price are: Perfectionist (1), Giver (2), Performer (3) Romantic (4), Observer (5), Loyal Skeptic (6), Epicure (7), Protector (8) and Mediator (9). Many have found the Enneagram to be useful discernment tool.

***The Call: The Life and Message of The Apostle Paul***– Adam Hamilton

From the introduction by Pastor Adam Hamilton: “I have a deep appreciation for Paul. His story inspires me. His writings have shaped my life more than any but the Gospels. Though I’m aware of his short comings and at times disagree with him, I believe his life, when viewed as a whole, reveals a heroic figure who sought to exemplify what it means to faithfully follow Jesus Christ.” The book is divided into 6 chapters: Called to Follow Christ, Called to Go, Called to Suffer, Called to Love, Called to Give and Called to Be Faithful. Adam Hamilton is senior pastor a Church of the Resurrection UMC in Leawood, KS.