



Staff Picks

2024 Devotionals

“Grace for the Moment” by Max Lucado. Every day it provides a scripture and then gives a scenario of what that scripture looks like in our everyday lives. – Stephanie Lusinski

“Prayer Seeds: A Gathering of Blessings, Reflections, and Poems for Spiritual Growth” by Joyce Rupp. Some of Sr. Joyce Rupp’s most perennially popular books have been collections of her original prayers, blessings, poems, and reflections. In Prayer Seeds, the bestselling author and retreat leader offers almost a hundred new selections on a variety of themes such as the feasts and seasons of the liturgical year, compassion, ministry, difficult times, and important events - all suitable for personal or group prayer. - Michele Herrick

“Acts of the Almighty: Meditations on the Story of God for Every Day of the Year” by Rev. Walter Wangerin. Pastor Wangerin takes you through key stories of scripture in the spirit of his novel, The Book of God, connecting you to the Biblical story in a relevant way. – Pr. Greg Berger

“The Fisherman” by Larry Huntsperger. This book fits with in with Advent, Christmas, and Epiphany because it is a book about surprises and expectations. This is a fictional first-person story about a man called Peter. Huntperger has done his research. The book is packed with New Testament stories. Peter meets Jesus and his life is turned upside down but Peter struggles because he wants to control the outcome but trying to control Jesus’ actions. And we all know Jesus was not about to let others control the work he was sent to do. A good read for the season. – Dn. Sunni Richardson

“Today is Day One” by Matthew West. The focus of this devotional is how today can be different than yesterday and your tomorrow can be better than today. And... every day is dated “Day One” which is such a wonderful reminder that you can start over every day. Missed yesterday? No worries... today is “Day One.” - Amy Buch

“Ordinary Blessings: Prayers, Poems, and Meditations for Everyday Life” by Meta Herrick Carlson. Dated devotionals don’t work for me because it is too easy not to keep up or catch up – especially when I sometimes like to live with reading for days at a time. The Amazon description of this book by a fellow Luther Seminary grad says, “Open it when the spirit moves you . . .” I can do that for all of 2024 and beyond. – Pr. Heidi Wallace

Stewardship of Life Institute - With an interest in holistic stewardship, reading the weekly devotions, reflections, and commentaries from the Stewardship of Life Institute can be quite a gift. Some weeks these posts get me thinking in a new way about some of the scriptures and themes we might be hearing and sensing in worship. To subscribe to the weekly emails that typically come on Tuesdays or Wednesdays, visit: <https://www.stewardshipoflife.org/subscribe/>
– Dn. Timothy Siburg

Bread for the Day is a short daily devotional book based on the Revised Common Lectionary’s daily readings. I’ve become an early riser in recent years, and I usually start my day with Bread for the Day’s reading and prayer before reading the daily paper. It’s available in print and ebook formats from Augsburg Fortress and at Amazon. - Bishop Scott Johnson

“Praying Our Days: A Guide and Companion” by Frank T. Griswold (published 2009). The author is the former presiding bishop of the Episcopal Church. What I love about our Episcopal siblings is their commitment to the rhythms of liturgical worship. In case you didn’t know, Lutherans, Episcopalians, Presbyterians, and other Christian denominations follow not just a calendar of set readings for each Sunday, but there is also a calendar of assigned daily readings (lectionary). This devotional provides prayers and other spiritual practices that you can incorporate into your own devotion time. It will help you start a practice of reading the daily lectionary and praying throughout the day. This would be a good choice for anyone who enjoys the traditional hymnbook liturgy and wants to use elements of Sunday worship in their personal devotions. - Pr. Kristen VanStee