

**Karl Anliker, M.Div Final Year
Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago (LSTC)**

Karl grew up in Indiana with two parents who are scientists and faith-filled Lutherans. Karl's faith was nurtured by a loving suburban congregation, Christ Lutheran Church in Zionsville. His journey in ministry was formed by outdoor camp experiences and a Lutheran Volunteer Corps position with All Peoples Church in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. It was under the beautiful night sky at summer camp and at protests and revivals with All Peoples Church that Karl experienced the call to serve the church. While studying at LSTC, Karl has joined his passion for ministry with a passion for community organizing, uncovering our shared stories and building the better world we all need, together. Karl lives with his wife Charlotte in Hyde Park, Chicago where they find joy in walking around the neighborhood.

***Look for the Women: A Virtual Bible Study in Search of Hope*
Redeemer Lutheran Church in Hinsdale, IL (project site)**

Have you ever heard the announcement "Word of God. Word of Life." at the end of a reading at church and been destabilized or confused? The Bible contains stories of violence, destruction, and evil. In order to provide readers of the Bible with a tool to read difficult stories, this study draws upon the wisdom of Rachel Held Evans and her final book *Inspired*. She wrote that the stories of women in the Bible, when sought out, offer a more complex story, help us to confront evil systems of violence and patriarchy, and are instructive for people who want to build a better world. In that spirit, this study set out to find women (prophets, slaves, concubines, and unnamed characters) to see how their stories might be instructive for us. Miriam, Hagar, Sarah, Lot's Wife, and Rizpah: each of their stories contain immense tragedy but these women are prophetic and resilient. This study utilized art, scholarship, and poetry. The main goal was to empower people with a specific hermeneutic (looking for the women) to aid their study of scripture.

**Taylor Berdahl, M.Div., Senior Intern
United Lutheran Seminary, Gettysburg, PA**

Taylor is from Austin, TX, where she graduated from the University of Texas with Bachelor of Arts degrees in Religious Studies and Psychology. After completing three years of seminary, she is on a "capstone" internship with Bendersville Lutheran Parish in central PA. She completed her project in partnership with Greencastle Presbyterian Church, where she had been a regularly scheduled supply preacher. She loves singing, dancing, and crafting in her free time, lately with the "help" of her two kittens.

***Biblical Responses to COVID-19: Lament, Bodies, Breath*
Greencastle Presbyterian Church, Greencastle, PA (project site)**

Developed in the heart of an unprecedented global pandemic, this three-week biblical encounter, completed via live video conferencing, addressed some of the many effects with scriptural tools. In an ecumenical setting that included a Presbyterian (PCUSA) congregation, a Methodist (UMC) supervisory pastor, and a Lutheran (ELCA) seminarian, we expanded what is often a one-dimensional understanding of biblically appropriate responses to tragedy. The first session focused on Psalm 80, reframing the common emphasis on hope alone and exploring the concept of lament as another faithful means of relating to God. The second session focused on Mark 5:25-34 (the healing of the hemorrhaging woman), reframing the tendency to separate matters of the mind, body, and soul to understand and care for the holistic self. The third session focused on Ezekiel 37:1-14 (the valley of the dry bones), reframing the usual ways people of faith notice God's presence in the world to an acknowledgement of the history of the Holy Spirit's surprising, creative, and life-giving activity among humanity. This biblical encounter was an opportunity for connection and pastoral care through scriptural engagement and tool-building.

Jennifer Garcia, M. Div., Graduate
Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary, Berkeley, CA

Jennifer completed her final-year internship at Our Redeemer Church in Garden Grove, CA, after three years of coursework at Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary in Berkeley, CA. She has been approved as a candidate for ordained ministry in the ELCA and is awaiting her first call. She grew up in Orange County, CA and got her Bachelor's in English at Westmont College. Before seminary, she served as Executive Assistant and Accounts Payable at the Orange County Conservation Corps. A year ago, she married a professor and debate coach named Eric, and they live in La Mirada, CA. Eric's little black cat, Faith, has kindly accepted Jennifer into her family.

Sharing Our Faith in a Time of Social Distancing
Our Redeemer Church, Garden Grove, CA (project site)

Evangelism does not generally come easily to mainline churches, so this three-week workshop series sought to take evangelism strategies used by more evangelical churches researched through numerous interviews and apply them in an ELCA context. The COVID stay-at-home orders brought new challenges and opportunities to evangelism efforts. Even as people were physically cut off from each other, the thirst for connection and community grew. Through Bible study, discussion, and storytelling, this workshop series strove to turn away from aggressive, weaponized evangelism strategies toward a relational, flexible, and respectful approach to sharing our faith in the midst of turbulent circumstances.

Christopher Shealy, MDiv, senior
Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary of Lenoir-Rhyne University, Columbia, SC

Christopher is from Newberry, SC. He is a graduate of Furman University in Greenville, SC, where he majored in music education. After several years, at the nudging of the Holy Spirit, he decided to attend seminary and begin the process of becoming an ordained minister in the ELCA. Christopher just completed his internship at Grace Lutheran Church in Boone, NC, and is excited to be in his final year of classes. Christopher enjoys reading sci-fi/fantasy/horror novels, drinking coffee, keeping his Greek and Hebrew sharp, and playing piano.

How Scripture is Weaponized, and What We Can Do About It
Grace Lutheran Church, Boone, NC (project site)

Plans for this study were delayed by a couple months due to the coronavirus. It ended up taking the form of a three-week Sunday School series conducted over Zoom with adult participants at my internship site. The first session addressed the question, "How is it possible that the Bible can be so badly misused?" by stepping back and taking a "big picture view" of scripture—how it came about, the different authors, intended hearers, perspectives, and genres. The second session discussed specific ways that the Bible can be (and has been) used to hurt people, and we analyzed historical and current examples. The third session explored specific methods that we can use to de-weaponize scripture, and we tried putting those methods into practice with several examples. It's my hope that the class participants will now be more aware when people are using scripture to hurt others, and that they will be prepared to counter such misuse.