

Catechumenate Resources

Classical Authors

Augustine. *On the Catechizing of the Uninstructed*. In *The Nicene and Post-Nicene Fathers*, vol. 3. Grand Rapids: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Company. 1989.

Instructing Beginners in Faith is a response to a request, an answer to questions put to him by others. Augustine was asked to send “something in writing which might be of use to him on the question of instructing beginners in faith.” Instructing Beginners in Faith has been frequently and creatively adapted to serve the needs of education in faith in many different contexts, including the education of clergy and religious education more generally. The two models of catechesis that Augustine sketches continue to have relevance today. Augustine’s awareness of the problems that religious educators face demonstrates his profound grasp of the human condition. Written as a reflection on the most suitable way of communicating the heart of Christian faith to those applying for membership of the Church.

Clement of Alexandria. *The Instructor*. In *The Ante-Nicene Fathers*, vol. 2. Grand Rapids: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Company. 1989.

Clement of Alexandria, a scholar who flourished around the turn of the third century, devoted this work to instructing Christian converts on the nature of the Christian life. This book, the Paidagogos (called here The Instructor), was to serve as a guide to Christian living for baptized individuals who were still young in the faith. A sober lifestyle of moderation and self-restraint should characterize every Christian, and Clement’s thinking on ethics reveals the influence of Stoic philosophy.

Constitutions of the Holy Apostles. In *The Ante-Nicene Fathers*, vol. 7. Grand Rapids: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Company. 1989.

The Apostolic Constitutions or Constitutions of the Holy Apostles is a Christian collection of eight treatises which belongs to the Church Orders, a genre of early Christian literature, that offered authoritative “apostolic” prescriptions on moral conduct, liturgy and Church organization.

Cyril of Jerusalem. *Catechetical Lectures*. In *The Nicene and Post-Nicene Fathers*, vol. 7. Grand Rapids: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Company. 1989.

The Catechetical Lectures of Cyril, archbishop of Jerusalem, are a series of 23 addresses St. Cyril gave in the fourth century to the newly baptized Christians, unpacking for them the theological meaning of the sacraments in which they partook during the Easter Vigil—baptism and Eucharist. The Catechetical Lectures are an invaluable resource for the teachings of the early church, when teaching the some doctrines of Christianity to outsiders was forbidden.

Justin Martyr. *The First and Second Apologies* in *The Ante-Nicene Fathers*, vol. 1. Grand Rapids: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Company. 1989.

The First Apology was an early work of Christian apologetics addressed by Justin Martyr to the Roman Emperor. In addition to arguing against the persecution of individuals solely for being Christian, Justin also provides the Emperor with a defense of the philosophy of Christianity and a detailed explanation of contemporary Christian practices and rituals. This work, along with the Second Apology,

has been cited as one of the earliest examples of Christian apology, and many scholars attribute this work to creating a new genre of apology out of what was a typical Roman administrative procedure.

Tertullian. *Homily on Baptism*. In *The Ante-Nicene Fathers*, vol. 3. Grand Rapids: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Company. 1989.

Tertullian of Carthage played a primary role in witnessing to the traditional practice of baptism in the late second and third century church. In fact, he wrote the first surviving treatise on baptism in his work entitled De Baptismo or On Baptism. The bulk of Tertullian's thoughts and beliefs concerning baptism are represented in this treatise.

The Didache, or The Teaching of the Twelve Apostles. In *The Ante-Nicene Fathers*, vol. 7. Grand Rapids: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Company. 1989.

This first-century pastoral manual known as the Didache enumerates the step-by-step training of converts for the full, active participation in the earliest Jewish-Christian communities.

Modern Authors

Bass, Diana Butler. *Christianity for the Rest of Us: How the Neighborhood Church Is Transforming the Faith*. San Francisco: Harper. 2006.

This book is the result of Diana Butler Bass' extensive, three-year study of centrist and progressive churches across the country. Her findings that many of the churches are flourishing without resorting to mimicking the mega-church, evangelical style. Christianity for the Rest of Us describes this phenomenon and offers a how-to approach for Protestants eager to remain faithful to their tradition while becoming a vital spiritual community. As Butler Bass delved into the rich spiritual life of certain consistent practices—such as hospitality, contemplation, diversity, justice, discernment, and worship. This book, which includes a study guide for groups and individuals, reveals the practical steps that leaders and laypeople alike are taking to proclaim an alternative message about an emerging Christianity that strives for greater spiritual depth and proactively engages the needs of the world.

Duckworth, Jessica Krey. *Wide Welcome: How the Unsettling Presence of Newcomers Can Save the Church*. Minneapolis: Fortress Press. 2013.

While most churches offer "new member classes" and genuinely seek to welcome visitors, too often the end result is a rush to assimilate the newcomer into formal membership and all of the invitations to participation in committees, choirs, or fellowship groups that go along with it. In Wide Welcome, Jessicah Krey Duckworth presents the stark differences between the established congregation, which cares for current members and congregational identity, and the disestablished one, intentionally equipped to facilitate the encounter between new and established members.

Galbreath, Paul. *Leading Through the Water*. Virginia: Alban. 2001.

Galbreath, Paul. *Leading from the Table*. Virginia: Alban. 2008.

Leading Through the Water links baptismal practice to daily life as congregations provide an alternative witness to the cultural voices around us. At the same time, it expands the vision of baptism from a single occasion to a distinctive way of life within a community of faith and a primary metaphor for Christian discipleship. In concert with Leading from the Table, Galbreath, a Presbyterian minister, continues to explore how the sacraments of baptism and communion connect with the world around us. Galbreath explores Christian discipleship through baptism imagery in Scripture, history, and experience,

and identifies patterns of baptismal formation that guide the choices we make each day. He follows the individual's journey through baptism, beginning with inquiry, through the preparation for baptism, the event of baptism itself, and a time of discernment following baptism.

Kreider, Alan. *The Change of Conversion and the Origin of Christendom*. Eugene, OR: Wipf and Stock Publishers. 1999.

This book focuses on conversion and Christendom, and the relationship of one to the other. Alan Kreider, a Mennonite, helps readers think about the meaning of the word Christendom, its character and inner dynamics, arguing that methods of conversion produced Christendom. This study, then, examines Christendom as the product of conversion, the latter understood as changes within categories of belief, belonging, and behavior.

Turner, Paul. *The Hallelujah Highway: A History of the Catechumenate*. Chicago: Liturgy Training Publications. 2000.

Paul Turner relates the history of the catechumenate through the stories of people and documents that played a significant role in developing the rites and recording its development from the earliest days of the Church to the present. Quotations from the documents, maps and photos of significant places, and artifacts enrich and enliven the story. A comprehensive index and a helpful bibliography make this book immensely useful.

Weems, Ann. *Kneeling in Jerusalem*. Louisville: Westminster John Knox, 1992.

In a powerful and creative way, renowned author and speaker Ann Weems brings new insight into the Lenten season by providing seventy-one poems of inspiration. With her intuitive and heartening poems, Weems takes the reader on a pensive journey through Lent and Easter.

Worship Materials

Brugh, Lorraine S. *The Sunday Assembly (Using Evangelical Lutheran Worship)*. Minneapolis: Augsburg Fortress Publishers. 2008.

Addresses the general principles that have guided the shaping of Evangelical Lutheran Worship, considering that central liturgy of Christian worship, Holy Communion. This text examines how worship interacts with environment, music, and the preached word, and features useful and practical suggestions for all those who lead the assembly in worship around word and table.

Bushkofsky, Dennis L. *The Christian Life: Baptism and Life Passages (Using Evangelical Lutheran Worship)*. Minneapolis: Augsburg Fortress Publishers. 2008.

The Christian Life, written by Dennis L. Bushkofsky and Craig A. Satterlee, focuses on the formative role of baptism not only for the individual being baptized but the church. Examines baptism and the related rites of affirmation of baptism in which the baptismal center is clearly seen: Healing, Funeral, and Marriage.

Huck, Gabe, and Mary Ann Simcoe, editors. *A Triduum Sourcebook*. Chicago: Liturgy Training Publications, 1983.

Reflections, prayers, poems on Holy Thursday, Good Friday and the Easter Vigil.

Ramshaw, Gail. *Keeping Time: The Church's Years (Using Evangelical Lutheran Worship)*. Minneapolis: Augsburg Fortress Publishers. 2008.

Keeping Time, written by Gail Ramshaw and Mons Teig, explores why Christians have different ways of looking at time, at how the life of the church is ordered and organized by days, weeks, seasons, and years. Provides detailed information about Sundays, festivals, seasons, and commemorations as well as daily prayer.

Handbooks

Bushkofsky, Dennis et al., editors. *Go Make Disciples: An Invitation to Baptismal Living*. Minneapolis: Augsburg Fortress: 2012.

This highly-informative handbook is intended to help congregations implement the task of making disciples in their own community. Go Make Disciples provides updated resources for preparing adults for baptism or affirmation of baptism, and for Christian discipleship. Appropriate for a wide range of Protestant denominations, especially Lutheran, Episcopal, Anglican, United Methodist, Presbyterian, and Reformed traditions. Materials intended for group use and distribution are available on the companion CD-ROM, which is sold separately.

Hoffman, Paul E. *Faith Forming Faith: Bringing New Christians to Baptism and Beyond*. Eugene, Oregon: Cascade Press. 2012.

Phinney Ridge Lutheran Church in Seattle discovered that by forming the faith of new Christians and leading them to the waters of baptism, they as a parish were renewed and revitalized for mission in the world. Faith Forming Faith describes the year-long process of faith mentoring that has become the center of this congregation's ministry. Hoffman's easy narrative style weaves together solid pastoral and theological insights with the practical, real-life stories of lives transformed by a vibrant new faith--the lives of newcomers and long-time members alike. This is a great primer for anyone wanting more than a pastor's class, more than another curriculum. It is a book for pastors, parish leaders, or seminarians. But it's also a great witness to a skeptical, questioning world outside the Church as well, showing that a life of faith can be lived in a secular, questioning culture.

Hoffman, Paul E. *Faith Shaping Ministry*. Eugene, Oregon: Cascade Press. 2013.

Building on the work of the first volume in this series, Faith Forming Faith, Paul Hoffman interprets how a congregation that intentionally practices baptism and its renewal is itself re-formed. Pastors, teachers, lay leaders, students of ministry, and people in the pew: all will find the compelling story of the ministry of Phinney Ridge Lutheran Church in Seattle, Washington—one of our nation's most secular cities—to be an inspiring and practical primer for renewal. Bringing others to the waters of baptism transforms those already at home in the congregation. In fact, this intentional spiritual practice completely transforms the parish and the lives of God's people. There are new discoveries to be made in the ancient treasures of the Church as these gifts are shared with those hungering and thirsting for a place at God's table.

Nelson, Paul et al., editors. *Welcome to Christ: A Lutheran Catechetical Guide*. Minneapolis: Augsburg Fortress. 1997.

Offers practical advice on the foundations of this ministry to the newcomer: scripture study, personal prayer and communal worship, and ministry in daily life. An annotated bibliography presents Lutheran and ecumenical resources that will help congregations carry out this baptismal ministry.

Nelson, Paul et al., editors. *Welcome to Christ: A Lutheran Introduction to the Catechumenate*. Minneapolis: Augsburg Fortress, 1997.

Explores the cultural, pastoral, and theological aspects of welcoming adults to Christ and the Christian community.

Nelson, Paul et al., editors. *Welcome to Christ: Lutheran Rites for the Catechumenate*. Minneapolis: Augsburg Fortress, 1997.

These services can be celebrated as part of the congregation's principal Sunday service at different times throughout the year. Music designed to accompany the rites is also included in the volume.

Catechetical Materials

Erlander, Daniel. *Baptized, We Live: Lutheranism As A Way of Life*. Daniel Erlander Publications. 1981.

Erlander describes Lutheranism as a way of seeing, hearing, teaching, and following. For individual reading, adult classes, new member instruction.

Johnson, Donald. *Praying the Catechism*. Winnipeg, Manitoba: Hignell Printing Limited. 1998.

This devotional book is an attempt to help restore the Catechism into the prayer room. It invites you to experience its parts through a journey of prayer and meditation. Along with the Catechism, passages of Scripture, the liturgies of Baptism, and the Eucharist are used as a starting point for some meditations.

This book was written to be a part of the Adult Catechumenate Program of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada for adults preparing for Baptism. It is divided into two sections which may be used approximately 40 days before and 50 days after their Baptism. If Baptism is to occur at the Easter Vigil, the two sections are especially appropriate for the seasons of Lent and Easter, respectively. It is hoped that people preparing to affirm their faith, whether old or young, will find this book helpful.

This book can be used by individuals and families as a part of their devotional life. In this case, the book may be used in its 90-day entirety, or the devotions may be undertaken in smaller sections through the six sections of the Catechism: the Ten Commandments, the Creed, the Lord's Prayer, Baptism, Eucharist and Confession.

Pless, John T. *Praying Luther's Small Catechism*. St. Louis: Concordia Publishing House. 2016.

To pray the Catechism is to learn how to speak to God the Father in the name of the Son through the Holy Spirit. Praying Luther's Small Catechism moves sequentially through the Six Chief Parts of Christian Doctrine with prayers developed out of the catechetical material.

Powell, Karen et al., editors. *Breaking Open the Word of God: Resources for Using the Lectionary for Catechesis in the RCIA (Cycle C)*. New York: Paulist Press. 1988.

This book provides theological and pastoral guidelines for the use of the Lectionary, as well as outlines for sessions based on the readings of the Sundays and Feasts for Cycle C. Also available for Cycle A & B.

Weedon, William. *Thank, Praise, Serve, and Obey: Recover the Joys of Piety*. St. Louis: Concordia Publishing House. 2017.

For Christians who are struggling to understand what it means to be pious and how to embrace the classic Christian practices of piety, Thank, Praise, Serve, and Obey shows that acts of piety are not

simply rules to keep in order to be a “good” Christian, but how the new life in Christ is lived out in day-to-day life.