



Introduction

Welcome to the 2027 edition

For three decades *Sundays and Seasons* has been a trusted worship planning resource, guiding the church's leaders as they prepare for worship in their communities. Whether you are encountering *Sundays and Seasons* for the first time or it has been essential for you for many years, you are welcome here! As it has been from the beginning, the Sundays and Seasons family of resources continues to support week-by-week planning for Lutherans with content and ideas shaped by the Revised Common Lectionary, the church year, and the assembly gathered around word and sacrament. Its robust family of resources includes the online planning tool, sundaysandseasons.com.

Introducing the NRSV Updated Edition

This 2027 edition of *Sundays and Seasons* is the second volume to adopt the New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition (NRSVue), which is now utilized across the full family of resources (Planning, Preaching, Bread for the Day, Worship Planning Calendar etc.) as well as digitally on sundaysandseasons.com. The NRSVue is an update of the NRSV instituted by the National Council of Churches, created by the Society of Biblical Literature, and first made available through Friendship Press. Its primary purpose is to reflect advances in Biblical scholarship over the past thirty years, such as the discovery of the Dead Sea Scrolls, and updates in the English language. In some Biblical passages these changes will be clearly noticeable while in others they may be quite minor, such as a single word or punctuation mark. The best place to find information about the NRSVue is on the Friendship Press website at www.friendshippress.org/pages/about-the-nrsvue. We hope that you find the updated scholarship and language beneficial for your worship, study, and preaching.

Provisional lectionary materials from the Consultation on Common Texts

This 2027 edition includes an essay that introduces provisional lectionary readings proposed by the Consultation on Common Texts (CCT). The CCT, a joint American and Canadian ecumenical body that oversees the Revised Common Lectionary (RCL), proposed a provisional update to the RCL at their spring 2025 meeting and this print edition notes these provisional alternative readings for Good Friday, the Easter season, and the Time after Pentecost/Autumn day pages. The provisional

updates respond to concerns about anti-Jewish interpretation. Read more on page 20. In addition, the CCT has been involved with a proposed ecumenical Feast of Creation. See the essay by Benjamin Stewart on page 17 and find practical suggestions on page 251.

Meet the 2027 artist

Artist Mary Button created the cover art as well as the black and white interior art for this year's edition. Mary is a native Texan and graduate of the Tisch School of the Arts at New York University (BFA), the Candler School of Theology at Emory University (MTS), and United Lutheran Seminary (MDiv). She is an ordained minister of word and sacrament in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. An artist and activist, Mary's work explores the connections between biblical narratives and contemporary social justice issues. Mary's work has been exhibited across the United States and the United Kingdom, with exhibitions at the Museum of Biblical Art, the Church Center of the United Nations, and Wesley House at Cambridge University. She has written curricula on a number of social justice issues. Her Stations of the Cross series has been shown in hundreds of churches and explores themes like mass incarceration, mental illness, climate change, migration, and the COVID-19 pandemic. You can see her work at marybutton.com.

With the whole church

Sundays and Seasons would not exist without the creative talents of many people across the church. Pastors, musicians, deacons, members of worship committees and altar guilds, seminary professors, and visual artists contribute their wisdom and ideas. They work full-time, part-time, or are volunteers in their churches. They serve large and small congregations and campus ministries in rural areas, small towns, cities, and suburbs in the United States, Canada, and abroad. They come from various cultural contexts and with different approaches to worship in word and sacrament. Over the past thirty years literally hundreds of people have contributed to *Sundays and Seasons*. Here's this year's group.

Topical essays

David Schnasa Jacobsen is Bishops Scholar Emeritus in homiletics and preaching at Boston University. He co-authored *Race, Preaching, and Ricoeur* (Bloomsbury/Fortress Academic, 2025). David enjoys writing and travel with wife Cindy, a

retired ELCA pastor. **Benjamin Stewart** is pastor to Emmanuel Lutheran, Two Harbors, Minnesota, and distinguished affiliate professor at the Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago. Ben is author of *A Watered Garden: Christian Worship and Earth's Ecology* (Augsburg Fortress, 2011).

Preparing for the season

Miriam Schmidt (Advent/Christmas/Time after Epiphany preaching) serves as pastor/priest at All Saints in Big Sky, a shared ministry of the Episcopal and Lutheran (ELCA) churches. She enjoys hiking and cross-country skiing in her Montana mountain home. **Hillary Doerries** (Advent/Christmas/Time after Epiphany assembly song) is the director of music ministries at Christ the King Lutheran of South Bend, Indiana. She is a graduate of the Jacobs School of Music, Southern Methodist University's Perkins School of Theology. **Amy Carr**, PhD (Advent/Christmas/Time after Epiphany connections with creation) teaches religious studies at Western Illinois University. She is co-author with Christine Helmer of *Ordinary Faith in Polarized Times: Justification and the Pursuit of Justice* and leads adult education at Trinity Lutheran, Macomb, Illinois. **Foy Christopherson** (Advent/Christmas/Time after Epiphany worship space) is a pastor of the ELCA on call to Mt. Carmel Lutheran, Minneapolis. He is author of *A Place of Encounter: Renewing Worship Spaces* and is a frequent workshop leader, consultant, and mentor for worship and the arts questions and projects. **Katie Hines-Shah** (Lent/Three Days/Easter preaching) is senior pastor of Redeemer Lutheran in Hinsdale, Illinois. **Clayton Faulkner** (Lent/Three Days/Easter assembly song) is dean of the chapel at Wartburg Theological Seminary in Dubuque, Iowa, and pastor at Wiota Lutheran in South Wayne, Wisconsin. **Lena Warren** (Lent/Three Days/Easter connections with creation) is an ELCA pastor serving in New York. **Liv Larson Andrews** (Lent/Three Days/Easter worship space) is an ELCA pastor serving as director for evangelical mission in the Northwest Intermountain Synod. She lives in Spokane, Washington, with her English professor spouse and two sons. **Paul E. Hoffman** (Summer/Autumn/November preaching) is a retired ELCA rostered leader living in Mukilteo, Washington. He is the author of several books including *Faith Forming Faith* and *Welcome One Another*. **Adam Lefever Hughes** (Summer/Autumn/November assembly song) is the education coordinator for the Association of Lutheran Church Musicians. **Leah D. Schade** (Summer/Autumn/November connections with creation) is the associate professor of preaching and worship at Lexington Theological Seminary in Kentucky and director of the grant project, Compelling Preaching for a Climate-Changed World. **Ollie Bergh** (Summer/Autumn/November worship space) is the pastor of Fairbanks Lutheran in Fairbanks, Alaska.

Seasonal worship texts

Anna Mercedes (Advent) is professor of theology at the College of Saint Benedict and Saint John's University and serves as a pastor in campus ministry. **Matt Musteric** (Christmas) serves as pastor at St. Peter Lutheran in Martin, Ohio, and St. Luke's Lutheran in Curtice, Ohio. He also dabbles in improv comedy with Glass City Improv in Toledo. **Tracey Breashears Schultz** (Time after Epiphany) is bishop of the Texas-Louisiana Gulf Coast Synod. She is grateful for the ways scripture and liturgy have shaped her faith and has been a contributor to *Sundays & Seasons* since 2015. **Bryan Cones** (Lent) is pastor of Trinity Episcopal in Highland Park, Illinois, and the author of *This Assembly of Believers: The Gifts of Difference in the Church at Prayer* (SCM Press, 2020). **Steven Wilco** (Easter) is a Lutheran pastor who lives in the Connecticut River watershed in Massachusetts. **Paul Hoffman** (Summer; see preparing for the season). **Bekki Lohrmann** (Autumn) lives in San Diego, California, where she mothers two small children and serves as pastor at St. Peter's by the Sea Lutheran. **Stacey Nalean-Carlson** (November) lives in Decorah, Iowa, with her spouse and children, and works at Luther College. She loves to observe, experience, and write about the work of the Holy Spirit in daily life.

Liturgical, theological, and sensitivity review of the seasonal worship texts: **Leila Ortiz**, former bishop of the Metro DC synod, serves as pastoral theologian in residence at Saint Peter's Church in Manhattan. **Martin Seltz** is a retired ELCA pastor and publisher who recently edited a compilation of Mark Bangert's writings, *That Divine and Most Excellent Gift: Martin Luther, Music, and the Arts* (Fortress, 2025).

Seasonal rites

Nicolette Marie Faison (Advent midweek service) (she/her) is the Illinois Outreach Director at Faith in Place. She is completing her DMin in Black Church Studies at United Lutheran Seminary, is the illustrator of *God's Holy Darkness* (Beaming Books, 2022) and is a guest artist for A Sanctified Art. **Erik Christensen** (Blessing and Sending for Public Witness) (he/him) is the pastor to Trinity Lutheran in Evanston, Illinois, and recently celebrated twenty years of ministry in the Metropolitan Chicago Synod where he was ordained in 2006. **Foy Christopherson** (Scripture Readings Arranged for Multiple Voices; see preparing for the season). **Melissa Bills** (Lent midweek service) serves as the director of college ministries and college pastor at Luther College in Decorah, Iowa. She is a graduate of St. Olaf College and Princeton Theological Seminary and has served congregations in the Metro Chicago and Northeastern Iowa synods. **Jennifer Shimota** (Mother's/Father's Day Litanies) is a pastor serving a congregation in rural North Carolina part-time, while also speaking and leading workshops on employing the tools of humility and curiosity to build bridges across differences. **Benjamin Stewart** (Planning Notes for

a Festival of Creation; see topical essays). **Imogen Rhodenhiser** (Worship and Prayer Resources for Feeding Ministries) pastors in Raleigh, North Carolina. An Episcopal priest, she is passionate about lifelong formation and stewardship, running long distances and reading long books, and chasing after her two young sons. **Jonathan Niketh** (Commendation of a Pet) serves as senior pastor of Trinity Lutheran in Grand Rapids, Michigan. He previously served for sixteen years at First Lutheran in Lynn, Massachusetts.

About the prayer of the day

Gail Ramshaw has written texts for public worship and has published extensively in the field of liturgical language. Her 2025 book from Fortress Press is *Mystery Manifest: The Triune God, Figuratively Speaking*.

Prayers of intercession

Monica Butler (Advent–Christmas) serves campus and young adult communities in Northern Colorado. She is committed to cultivating communities of faith and belonging that embody God’s transforming love in the world. **Elle Dowd** (Epiphany of Our Lord–Transfiguration) (she/they) is a bi-furious pastor with deep gratitude to the places that taught her the most about justice and liberation: Sierra Leone and Ferguson. **Kristian Kohler** (Ash Wednesday–Fifth Sunday in Lent) is a rostered minister of word and sacrament in the ELCA New England Synod and a PhD candidate in liturgical studies at the Boston University School of Theology. **Brad Froslee** (Sunday of the Passion–Resurrection of Our Lord) serves as co-pastor at St. Michael’s Lutheran in Roseville, Minnesota. Volunteering with St. Olaf College, Minnesota Boychoir, genealogy groups, and keeping up with a teenager and family Border Collie keep him busy. **Rhoda Schuler** (Easter 2–Ascension of Our Lord), Lutheran deaconess, has a master’s degree in liturgical studies from St. John’s University, Collegeville, Minnesota, a ThD from Luther Seminary, and co-authored *Journey to Jesus: Faith Formation into Christ and Community* (Cascade Books, 2025). **Catherine Healy** (Easter 7–Lectionary 11) is an Episcopal priest and the associate vicar of the Daily Office Network (dailyoffice.org). She lives in Chicago with her wife, children, and a magnificent family forest that includes many different trees. **Stephen Crippen** (Lectionary 12–15) is the rector of St. Paul’s Episcopal Church, Seattle, Washington. He is a former Lutheran parish musician who served congregations in Minnesota and Washington state. **Timothy Siburg** (Lectionary 16–19) is a deacon serving as the director for evangelical mission, innovation, and stewardship of the Nebraska Synod, ELCA. He is happily married to pastor Allison Siburg, and together they have two joyful young daughters. **Lydia Posselt** (Mary, Mother of Our Lord–Lectionary 22) is the associate pastor for evangelism and mission for Emmanuel Lutheran in Vienna, Virginia. She lives in nearby Reston with her family,

and she enjoys books, coffee, traveling, and exploring the nearby Washington, D.C., region. **Mallory Morris** (Lectionary 23–Lectionary 27) was ordained in 2023 and serves in the Northern Texas–Northern Louisiana Synod. She lives in the Dallas–Fort Worth Metroplex with her husband, dog, and cat. **Hannah Stairsrud** (Lectionary 28–31) grew up in Washington State, deeply shaped by music, books, and church folks that felt like family. She received her Master of Divinity from the Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago in 2025. **Annemarie Cook** (All Saints–Day of Thanksgiving) is an assistant to the bishop in the Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod and program director for the Faith Alive Initiative which strives to help congregations better welcome children in worship. She is a co-host of the podcast “Mind the Gap RCL.”

Liturgical, theological, and sensitivity review of the prayers of intercession: **Jim Honig** is pastor of Shepherd of the Bay Lutheran in scenic Door County, Wisconsin. He is also board president of Door County Housing Partnership providing home ownership opportunities for working families. **Ernesto Medina** is a pastor in the Nebraska Synod. He is a “want-to-be mystic” and a pilgrim on a journey (he has walked the Camino de Santiago five times). He flies large rockets as well! **Christina Marthield Montgomery** (she/her/hers) is a queer Black disabled fat femme death doula and ordained ELCA pastor who serves as racial justice manager for the office of the presiding bishop of the ELCA. **Hannah Hawkinson** is resource developer for congregational resources at Augsburg Fortress Publishers, living in St. Paul, Minnesota. A Lutheran pastor, she has served congregations in northeast Indiana and Chicagoland.

Ideas for the day

Elise Anderson is pastor at St. John Lutheran in Abingdon, Virginia. After growing up in Chicago and living in cities most of her life the last thing she expected was to serve in rural Virginia, but she has fallen in love with the mountains, pastures, and especially the people! **Erin Taylor Bodenstab** serves as deacon for baptized living in the Northeastern Ohio Synod. She is passionate about equipping the baptized, prayer and scripture art, her family, and anything Captain Marvel. **Tim Brown** currently serves in the office of the presiding bishop as director for congregational stewardship support. He lives in Raleigh, North Carolina, with his wife and two sons and likes reading and writing interesting things. **Becca Ehrlich** is a writer, author, and spiritual director. She serves as executive director/founder of New Breath Spirituality Center, and adjunct professor of Christian Spirituality at United Lutheran Seminary. **Paul M. C. Eldred** (he/him) serves as pastor of Central Lutheran Church of the Holy Trinity in Seattle’s Capitol Hill neighborhood. He’s found his home in Seattle with his husband, Ryan, and their dog, Alki. **Preston Fields** serves as campus pastor at Lutheran Campus Ministry–Madison. He holds a master of divinity and a master of social work, combining

pastoral care with a deep commitment to community well-being. **Jami Goetz** is an ELCA pastor, serving Grace Lutheran in Spirit Lake, Iowa. He enjoys playing music, watching movies, spending time with his wife Leah, and seeking God's extraordinary presence in all things ordinary. **Liza Hawkins** serves as mission developer at Riverside Commons, an emerging arts and mutual aid collective in Nashville, Tennessee. She holds a BA in psychology and earned her master of divinity from Brite Divinity School. **A.J. Houseman** hosts the Ten Foot Pole Podcast, a ministry that unpacks challenging scripture, and is the campus ministry pastor at St. Matthew's Lutheran and the College of Charleston in Charleston, South Carolina. **Katie Johnson** serves at Dr. Martin Luther Evangelical Lutheran, where she is part-time co-pastor with her husband, Michael. When not at church, she enjoys nourishing her family with delightful cooking and homeschooling her son. **Matt Keadle** is pastor of St. Mark's Lutheran, a multiracial congregation in the heart of Los Angeles. With Zach Parris, he co-hosts The Vinyl Preacher, a podcast about preaching and popular culture. **Amy Kienzle** has been an ELCA pastor for 18 years and serves as director for evangelical mission in the Sierra Pacific Synod. She lives in Sacramento with her husband Zayd and dog Moses. **Liz Lowry** currently serves Lutheran Church of Hope in Anchorage, Alaska. She enjoys writing, baking, and singing along to Disney music while her dog looks on in confusion. **DaMisha McFarland-Pollock** (she/her) pastors two churches in Burlington, Iowa. She is an eco-womanist theologian who seeks to name the voices in scripture that are often overlooked, misunderstood, or misrepresented in sermons and bible studies. **Troy Medlin** is an associate pastor at Grace Lutheran Church and School in River Forest, Illinois. Troy enjoys running, cooking, and spending time with his husband who is also a Lutheran pastor, and with their beagle, Lady Bug. **Lauren Mildahl** is a church nerd and former school librarian, currently serving in her first call as the pastor of St. Mark Lutheran Church in Circle Pines, Minnesota. **Joel Nau** is married to Annie and is the father of two adult children. He serves as pastor of Redeemer Lutheran in Bettendorf, Iowa. **Serena Rice** is the pastor of Abiding Peace Lutheran in Budd Lake, New Jersey, where she has served since 2016, following a career as a licensed social worker with a focus on poverty-related issues. **Riley Santelman** (MDiv) currently works with ELCA Young Adults and with youth in central Minnesota. She studied at Concordia College and Yale Divinity School. Her favorite way to spend time is reading in God's creation! **John Rohde Schwehn** serves as a university pastor at Augsburg University in Minneapolis. He enjoys baking treats and breads at home for his sweet-loving family of four. **Nick Tangen** is a writer, community builder, and neighbor living in Bloomington, Minnesota. He serves as the assistant to the bishop for faith and neighboring at the Minneapolis Area Synod, accompanying congregations as they embed themselves

in their neighborhoods. **Sarah Taylor** is a pastor who has served congregations (often more than one at a time) in Minnesota and Ohio. In her spare time, she likes to look at birds.

Let the children come

Lisa A. Smith (Advent–Transfiguration of our Lord) is a writer and ELCA pastor living in Anchorage, Alaska, with her spouse and three children. Her blog “Bedtime Theology” is at www.pastorlisawrites.com. **Amy Lindeman Allen** (Ash Wednesday–Ascension of Our Lord) is Indiana Christian Church Associate Professor of New Testament at Christian Theological Seminary (Indianapolis, Indiana). She is an ordained pastor in the ELCA, author, and advocate for youth and children's ministry. **James Vitale** (Holy Trinity–Lectionary 22) is the associate director of Camp Mount Luther and a minister of word and sacrament in the Upper Susquehanna Synod. He lives in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, with his wife and three children. **Jess Daum** (Lectionary 23–Day of Thanksgiving) serves as the senior pastor of First Lutheran in Brookings, South Dakota. She and her husband, who pastors alongside her, enjoy adventures with their three children who are in elementary school.

Music suggestions

Karen Eddinger (assembly song) is a retired church musician last serving Trinity Lutheran in Reading, Pennsylvania, where she is minister of music emerita. Reading, gardening, disc golfing, hiking, traveling, volunteering, and subbing fill her days. **John D. Jahr** (assembly song) is director of music/organist at Good Shepherd Lutheran in Raleigh. He previously served congregations in North Dakota, Minnesota, and Texas. John is a graduate of Concordia, Moorhead and Luther Seminary, St. Paul. **Dillon J. Swanson** (additional assembly song) has served Lutheran, Presbyterian, and Episcopalian congregations in North Dakota, South Dakota, Minnesota, and now Virginia. He currently serves as director of music ministries at Raleigh Court Presbyterian in Roanoke. **Hilary Ritchie** (additional assembly song) is a singer, violinist, and guitarist and serves as the minister of worship and the arts at Hope Church in Richfield, Minnesota. **Brian Schroeder** (additional assembly song) is a queer songwriter and worship leader based in the Twin Cities. His inclusive worship songs are played in churches across the country. Resources for his music can be found at briavnschroeder.com. **Kyle Haugen** (choral), a native of Tacoma, Washington, is cantor at Seattle's Queen Anne Lutheran (named for its neighborhood). He has previously served music ministries in greater Seattle; St. Louis Park, Minnesota; and Boston, Massachusetts. **John Sall** (choral), a regular guest of the ELCA worship music staff for Churchwide Assemblies from 2001 to 2019, celebrates diverse local and global worship resources in weekly music ministry in Abington, Pennsylvania.

Mari Espeland (children’s choir) has worked with children and music in public school, private school, church, and community settings for thirty-eight years. She currently teaches children from birth to fourth grade at Mount Olive Lutheran in Minneapolis. **Rebekah Schulz** (children’s choir) (she/her) is a church musician who has served congregations in Minnesota, Massachusetts, and Connecticut. She joyfully leads the youth choir at Mount Olive Lutheran in Minneapolis. **Tim Getz** (keyboard/instrumental) is director of music at Grace Lutheran in Palo Alto, California, in the heart of Silicon Valley, where his life is *still* organized by a paper calendar and sticky notes.

Karissa Dennis (handbells) has been a director of music ministries in various ELCA churches across Minnesota since 2004. She has a passion for composing music, with over twenty handbell publications in print as well as a choral anthem. **Fernanda Van Atta** (handbells) is a handbell director and performer based in the San Francisco Bay Area. She performs with Sonos Handbell Ensemble and was formerly on staff at the Lutheran Summer Music Academy and Festival.

You make it happen

Sundays and Seasons continues to be a collaborative endeavor each year. In our editorial conversations here at Augsburg Fortress we regularly evaluate the scope, format, and quality of the content provided in these pages. Your feedback—collected from you firsthand at events around this church, from postings in various forms of social media, from phone calls and emails to our sales and service representatives, and from surveys—helps us make decisions about how to adjust content so it is even more helpful. You, dear partners in ministry, make this resource happen. We welcome your ideas for future content, your suggestions for potential contributors (maybe you!), and your constructive feedback. If that potential contributor is you, send an email expressing your area of interest to afsubmissions@augsbουργfortress.org. The link to the submission guidelines can also be found at www.augsburgfortress.org by clicking on “about” on the home page. Thank you for the trust you place in the changing roster of contributors who offer their time and talent to the whole church through *Sundays and Seasons*. Even more, thank you for the many and various ways in which you care for the Sunday assembly and its worship of the triune God.

Jennifer Baker-Trinity, Suzanne Burke, and Andrew Stoebig,
editors