

THE COLLECTED WORKS OF Daniel Erlander

All your favorite Erlander resources in one place!



Dear Partner in Ministry,

You are holding a catalog focused on a remarkable collection of work by Daniel Erlander—Lutheran theologian, pastor, artist, author, and beloved child of God.

These pages feature a wide array of books written and illustrated by Pastor Daniel Erlander along with curriculum, board books, videos, and other resources we've developed at Augsburg Fortress to accompany many of his books.

Whether you're new to the work of Pastor Dan or have been using his books for decades, we hope this catalog offers a comprehensive look at his publications along with many resources to help you expand and deepen how people encounter his theological ideas expressed through illustrations and hand lettered text.

Five of his classic works now have accompanying curriculum:

- *Manna and Mercy: A Brief History of God's Unfolding Promise to Mend the Entire Universe*
- *A Place for You: My Holy Communion Book*
- *Let the Children Come: A Baptism Manual for Parents and Sponsors*
- *Water Washed and Spirit Born: A Baptism Manual for Youth and Adults*
- *Baptized, We Live: Lutheranism As a Way of Life*

Explore these additional works by Daniel Erlander:

- *Tales of the Pointless People*, a collection of short stories illustrated by Pastor Dan
- *Come and See: A Collection of Cartoons, Graphics, and Illustrations by Daniel Erlander*—the title says it all!

You'll also find these additional resources created around Pastor Dan's work:

- Operation Restoration VBS, with seven resources that invite your VBS community to be menders of God's world
- A Lutheran Welcome, a series of six booklets with Pastor Dan's art and ideas that are perfect for your narthex, pew, or church office

And we're introducing a NEW downloadable resource based on Pastor Dan's work—a collection of reproducible certificates that can be used for celebrating baptism, marking first communion, affirming confirmands, and offering gratitude to those in your church community who serve in all kinds of ways.

We also think you'll enjoy hearing from ministry leaders who have been using Pastor Dan's work to enhance their ministry for all ages.

May these resources bless your ministry as you carry out your work to share the good news about God's unfolding promise to mend the entire universe!

Dawn Rundman, Ph.D.
Director of Congregational Development and Marketing
Augsburg Fortress Publishers

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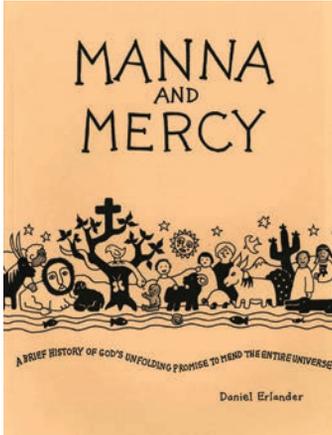
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“As a retired pastor, I find that I am meeting more people who are not acquainted with the Christian faith and teaching. Erlander’s work makes it easy to share faith and direct people to the right questions and framework for further encounter.”

-The Rev. Dr. Jane Kunzie-Brunner, J.D.



Manna and Mercy

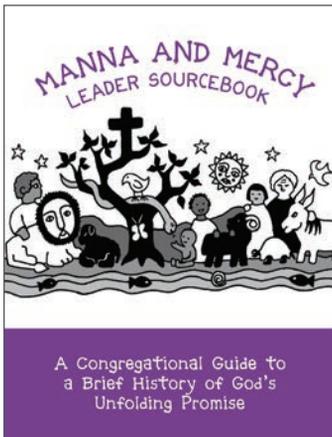


Manna and Mercy: A Brief History of God's Unfolding Promise to Mend the Entire Universe

This vibrant, in-depth exploration of the Bible in the classic Erlander style focuses on God's grace and never-ending love for all creation. *Manna and Mercy* is a book about God—more specifically, the God of the Bible who is present and active in human history and in our lives today. Through his distinctive illustrations and hand-lettered text, Erlander conveys the continuity of God's covenant of life, justice, and inclusion to all people and all of creation. God is in the business of mending the universe, and we are all Partner People in that work. **100 pages.**

9781506457017

\$10.75



Manna and Mercy Leader Sourcebook: A Congregational Guide to a Brief History of God's Unfolding Promise

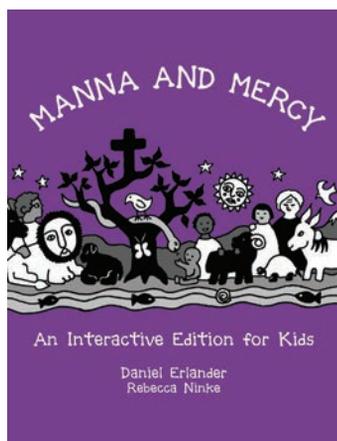
This comprehensive sourcebook equips you to lead your whole congregation into a deeper exploration and understanding of the Bible with inviting and appealing teaching tools centered on Daniel Erlander's beloved book *Manna and Mercy*. Curriculum options are designed for all ages to explore Manna and Mercy. **368 pages.**

- Theological Backgrounds
- Biography of Daniel Erlander
- 4 sessions for young children that accompany the four board books
- 16 sessions for elementary kids that accompany the Interactive Edition for Kids
- 16 sessions for confirmation students
- 18 sessions for high school youth and adults
- 6 Mini Bible studies
- Glossary

9781506480183

\$65.00



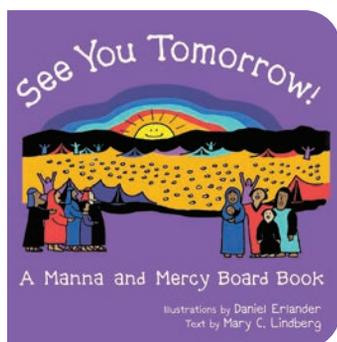


Manna and Mercy: An Interactive Edition for Kids

This resource includes content from the original *Manna and Mercy* plus additional pages of interactive content written by Pastor Rebecca Ninke. Kids will love to draw, doodle, jot, brainstorm, write, and wonder about the Bible and the story it tells on these interactive pages. This edition is designed to accompany the 16 sessions for elementary kids found in the Leader Sourcebook. **40 pages.**

9781506480176

\$10.75

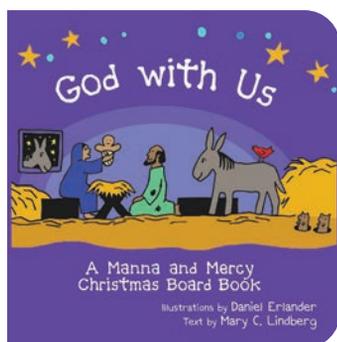


See You Tomorrow: A Manna and Mercy Board Book

This colorful and inviting board book introduces young children to the story of God providing manna each day in the wilderness. Using images from *Manna and Mercy* and text by Pastor Mary C. Lindberg, this book gives families a way to read and talk about trusting in God's promises. **24 pages.**

9781506479262

\$8.49

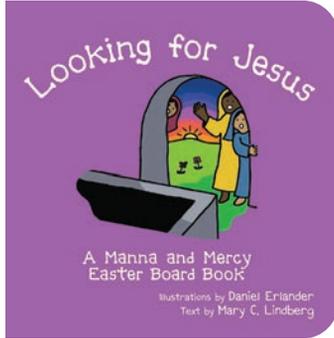


God with Us: A Manna and Mercy Christmas Board Book

This colorful and inviting board book introduces young children to the story of *God with us* through the birth of Jesus. Using images from *Manna and Mercy* and text by Pastor Mary C. Lindberg, this book gives families a way to read and talk about the Christmas story. **24 pages.**

9781506479279

\$8.49

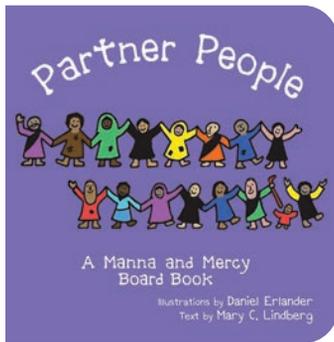


Looking for Jesus: A Manna and Mercy Easter Board Book

This colorful and inviting board book immerses children in the stories of Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter morning. Using Pastor Dan's images from *Manna and Mercy* and text by Pastor Mary C. Lindberg, this book gives families a way to read and talk about the stories of Holy Week and Easter. **24 pages.**

9781506479286

\$8.49



Partner People: A Manna and Mercy Board Book

This colorful and inviting board book introduces young children to serving God and working together with God as Partner People, a term used throughout *Manna and Mercy*. Using Pastor Dan's images from this book and text by Pastor Mary C. Lindberg, this book gives families a way to talk about all the ways that people of all ages are Partner People with God. The text can be sung to the tune of "This Is the Way." **24 pages.**

9781506479293

\$8.49

"I use Manna and Mercy as my confirmation curriculum to teach the Bible to middle schoolers. I love how Dan Eriander's framework paints a consistent story of God and God's people from Genesis to Revelation. This resource helps me share the biblical narrative with a wide variety of learners across different levels of biblical knowledge."

-The Rev. Bre Roberts, Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church, Millersville, Maryland



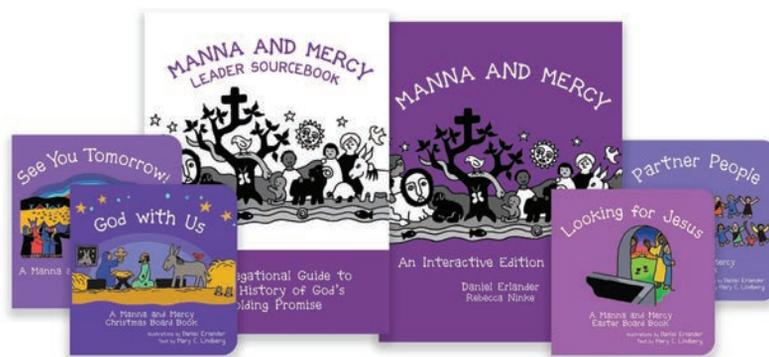


Manna and Mercy Board Book Bundle

This bundle includes all four board books from the *Manna and Mercy* collection: *See You Tomorrow!*, *God with Us*, *Looking for Jesus*, and *Partner People*. Use these colorful and inviting board books with young children to share the images of Daniel Erlander and text by Pastor Mary C. Lindberg. Each book accompanies an early childhood lesson in the Leader Sourcebook.

9781506480534

\$27.99



Manna and Mercy Starter Pack

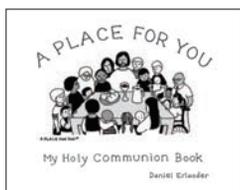
The Manna and Mercy Starter Pack includes all the *new* components of the Manna and Mercy collection. (Note: Daniel Erlander's original *Manna and Mercy* is not included.)

- *Manna and Mercy Leader Sourcebook*
- *Manna and Mercy: An Interactive Edition for Kids*
- *See You Tomorrow! A Manna and Mercy Board Book*
- *God with Us: A Manna and Mercy Christmas Board Book*
- *Looking for Jesus: A Manna and Mercy Easter Board Book*
- *Partner People: A Manna and Mercy Board Book*

9781506481432

\$99.99

A Place for You

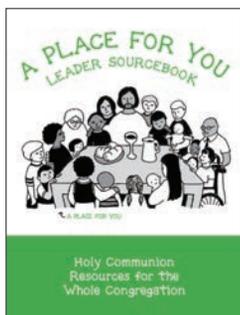


A Place for You Original Edition: My Holy Communion Book

First published in 1999, this beloved classic has invited people of all ages to find their place at the table. The opening words extend an invitation echoed throughout Daniel Erlander's work: "God sent Jesus into the world to show that God loves everybody." As Jesus and his followers eat together at a table with room for everyone, people of all ages will recognize many loving communities (and some crabby people too). **24 pages.**

9781506447841

\$6.50



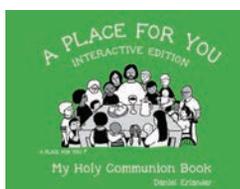
A Place for You Leader Sourcebook: Holy Communion Resources for the Whole Congregation

This rich sourcebook equips you to lead your whole congregation into a deeper understanding of holy communion with inviting and appealing teaching tools centered on Daniel Erlander's beloved book, *A Place for You*. An array of curriculum options provide content to support ongoing learning about Holy Communion for all ages. **160 pages.**

- One early childhood class
- Three parent-child sessions for elementary ages
- Adult education class
- Self-study materials
- Intergenerational event

9781506447803

\$49.99

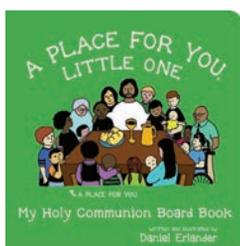


A Place for You Interactive Edition: My Holy Communion Book

This edition is designed especially for kids, with original *A Place for You* content, plus 12 additional pages of interactive content written by Pastors Anne Edison-Albright and Melissa Bills. Kids will love to draw, doodle, jot, brainstorm, write, and wonder about holy communion throughout its pages. This expanded edition is designed to accompany three holy communion sessions for kids and families, with corresponding leader material found in the Leader Sourcebook. **32 pages.**

9781506447797

\$8.99



A Place for You, Little One: My Holy Communion Board Book

This colorful and inviting board book introduces young children to holy communion with its welcoming message: "There's a place for you!" Using images from the original edition of *A Place for You* along with text from Pastor Mary C. Lindberg, this book gives families a way to read and talk about the special meal of Jesus with their babies, toddlers, and preschoolers. **24 pages.**

9781506447827

\$8.49



Hay un Lugar para Ti: A Place for You Bilingual Edition

This beloved story of Jesus welcomes everyone to his special meal of holy communion. First published in 1999, this classic Erlander book has invited many to join their place at the table. This bilingual edition includes text in both English and Spanish. While appealing to all ages, this book is especially designed for

- **Children** to read, look at, color, and learn about the meal of Jesus.
- **Parents** (and other loved ones) to read and explore with their children.
- **Church leaders** to use with classes that are studying Holy Communion.

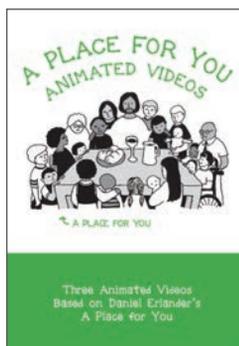
Una entrañable historia de Jesús dándole la bienvenida a su cena especial de la Santa Comunión. Publicado por primera vez en 1999, el clásico de Erlander ha invitado a muchos a tomar su lugar a la mesa. Esta edición bilingüe incluye texto en inglés y en español. Aunque atractivo para todas las edades, este libro está diseñado para que

- Niños y niñas lo lean, miren, coloreen, y aprendan sobre la cena de Jesús.
- Padres y madres (y otros familiares) lo lean y exploren con sus hijos e hijas.
- Líderes de iglesia lo usen en clases donde estén estudiando la Santa Comunión.

36 páginas.

9781506474410

\$6.50



A Place for You Animated Videos

These videos tell the story of *A Place for You* in a fresh way that features a hand-drawn animation style that perfectly complements the illustrations of Daniel Erlander. These videos are an essential part of the holy communion classes in found in the Leader Sourcebook, and they appeal to kids, youth, and adults alike. This DVD includes three episodes that are approximately 5 minutes each.

9781506447810

\$15.99



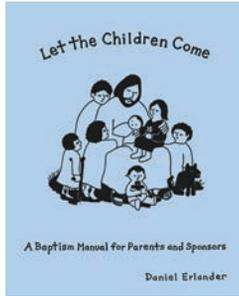
A Place for You Starter Pack

This collection provides you with essential components you need to introduce or reintroduce your congregation to Daniel Erlander's beloved classic, *A Place for You: My Holy Communion Book*. Order additional board books and original or interactive editions for each participant in the sessions you plan. This pack contains *A Place for You Interactive Edition*, *A Place for You Leader Sourcebook*, *A Place for You, Little One* board book, and *A Place for You Animated Videos*. (Note: Daniel Erlander's original *A Place for You* and the Bilingual Edition are not included.)

9781506447834

\$64.99

Come to the Water

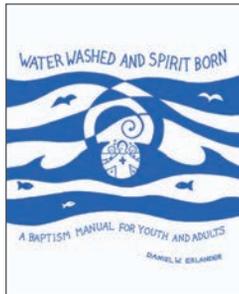


Let the Children Come: A Baptism Manual for Parents and Sponsors

Daniel Erlander's engaging book provides a vivid introduction to baptism for children, parents, sponsors, and caregivers. This book includes friendly illustrations to help adult caregivers prepare for their child's baptism and a lifetime of "living wet." It has an accompanying session in the Leader Sourcebook. Contents cover the roots of baptism, baptism in the New Testament, infant baptism, Luther's teaching, and the baptism service. **40 pages.**

9781506458878

\$6.50

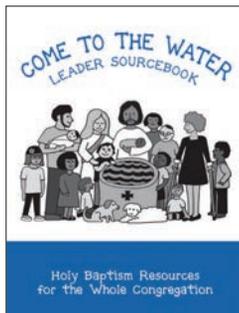


Water Washed and Spirit Born: A Baptism Manual for Youth and Adults

This illustrated book was written for youth and adults preparing for baptism. Excellent for individual study and reflection, it has an accompanying session in the Leader Sourcebook. Topics include biblical background of baptism, a historical view of baptism in the early church and during the Reformation, current baptismal practices, and a call to living out our baptism. **40 pages.**

9781506458861

\$6.50



Come to the Water Leader Sourcebook: Holy Baptism Resources for the Whole Congregation

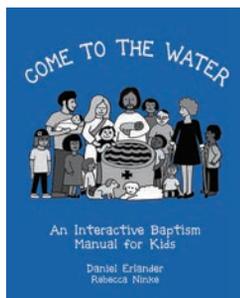
This comprehensive sourcebook equips you to lead your whole congregation into a deeper understanding of holy baptism. Its inviting teaching tools center on Daniel Erlander's two baptism manuals and a new interactive manual and board book. Use this sourcebook with *Let the Children Come*, *Water Washed and Spirit Born*, *Come to the Water*, *Little One*, *Come to the Water Animated Video*, and *Come to the Water: An Interactive Baptism Manual for Kids* to engage your whole congregation in learning more about holy baptism. Contents include the following background documents and curriculum options:

- Theological backgrounds
- Baptism Preparation and Review sessions for parents and sponsors of infants, toddlers, and preschoolers; elementary kids; and youth and adults
- Self-study Resource
- 7 Mini Bible studies
- Intergenerational event
- Reproducible resources, including coloring sheets, activity pages, and children's bulletins

176 pages.

9781506458496

\$49.99

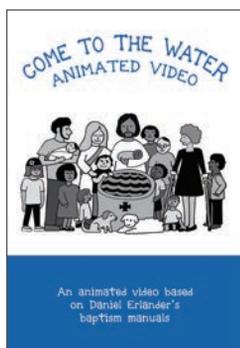


Come to the Water: An Interactive Baptism Manual for Kids

This resource draws on Daniel Erlander's two baptism manuals: *Let the Children Come* and *Water Washed and Spirit Born*. Using Pastor Dan's illustrations and text as a guide, Pastor Rebecca Ninke wrote interactive content that kids will love as they draw, doodle, jot, brainstorm, write, and wonder about baptism. This manual is designed for elementary-age kids learning more about baptism or preparing for their own baptism. It can be used for sessions in the Leader Sourcebook. **40 pages.**

9781506458526

\$6.50

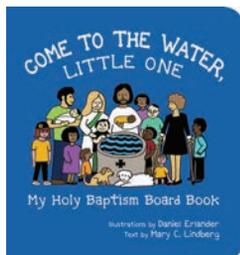


Come to the Water Animated Video

This video features a hand-drawn animation style that perfectly complements the illustrations of Daniel Erlander. Drawing from themes in Daniel Erlander's manuals, it tells the story of the history, gift, and call of baptism. This video is an essential part of sessions in the Leader Sourcebook and will appeal to kids, youth, and adults alike. This 10-minute episode on DVD includes closed captioning.

9781506458519

\$15.99



Come to the Water, Little One: My Holy Baptism Board Book

This colorful and inviting board book introduces young children to holy baptism with its welcoming invitation: Come to the water! Using images from *Let the Children Come* and *Water Washed and Spirit Born*, this book gives families a way to read and talk about the special bath called baptism. Daniel Erlander's illustrations are accompanied by simple rhyming story written by Pastor Mary C. Lindberg. **24 pages.**

9781506458502

\$8.49



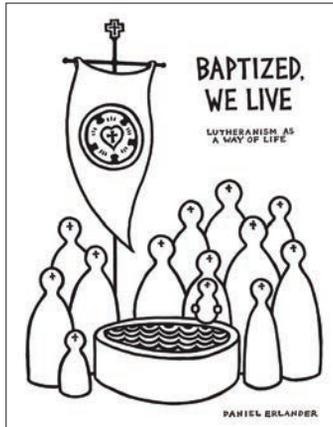
Come to the Water Starter Pack

This collection provides you with essential components you need to introduce or reintroduce your congregation to Daniel Erlander's baptism manuals. Order additional board books and manuals for each participant in the sessions you plan. This pack contains *Come to the Water: An Interactive Baptism Manual for Kids*; *Come to the Water Leader Sourcebook*; *Come to the Water, Little One: My Holy Baptism Board Book*; and *Come to the Water Animated Video DVD*. (Note: Daniel Erlander's original baptism manuals are not included.)

9781506461489

\$64.99

Baptized, We Live

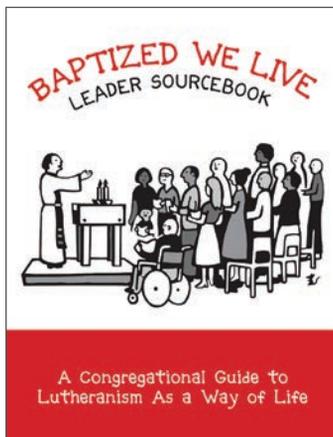


Baptized, We Live: Lutheranism As a Way of Life

Explore Daniel Erlander's unique vision of the Lutheran faith as a way of teaching, worshiping, and living. This compelling book has guided generations interested in enriching their faith in a meaningful way. Its four parts cover topics like history, liturgy, the eucharist, saying yes and no, and more. In this updated edition, an array of skin tones are shown, worship resources now reference *Evangelical Lutheran Worship* rather than *Lutheran Book of Worship*, and language is now even more inclusive and expansive. **28 pages.**

9781506467658

\$6.50



Baptized, We Live Leader Sourcebook: A Congregational Guide to Lutheranism As a Way of Life

This guide equips you to lead youth and adults into a deeper understanding of a Lutheran way of life with inviting and appealing teaching tools centered on Daniel Erlander's *Baptized, We Live*. Contents include theological backgrounds, four sessions and a retreat for high school youth, eight sessions for adults, a self-study resource, five mini Bible studies, and a glossary. **130 pages.**

9781506464503

\$49.99

"*Baptized, We Live* is my primary resource for our newcomers group. Many have come from non-Lutheran backgrounds, but lifelong Lutherans find it enlightening and valuable too. The Leader Guide helped our youth leaders engage the topics with our high schoolers. We ordered 10 copies of the "Lutheran Welcome" series to have sets out in our narthex and office lobby. Great conversation starter."

-Rev. Amalia Vagts, Pastor,
Our Saviour's Lutheran Church, Tucson, Arizona

GO IN PEACE!
SERVE THE LORD!



Operation Restoration VBS: Mending God's World

Operation Restoration VBS invites kids to be menders in God's world. As they make connections between Bible stories and mending actions, they'll discover simple ways to live out faith in daily life. Everyone at Operation Restoration explores language and practices to mend God's world. This program features a restoration theme that inspires everyone to be menders of God's world, daily themes kids understand (feed, heal, forgive, pray, and rest), multisensory activity centers (art, music, science and nature, service learning, and storytelling), captivating visuals created and inspired by Pastor Daniel Erlander, and flexible content for many contexts—including yours!



Scan here to see free
downloads of reproducible pages!

Operation Restoration VBS Director Guide

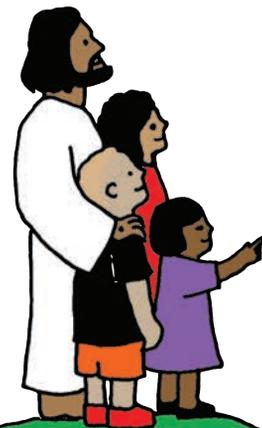
This guide includes an array of resources for directors to plan and carry out a safe, exciting VBS program. Additional reproducible resources are available as free downloads online. The Director Guide includes these components:

- Planning tools, sample schedules, and volunteer training
- Five Theological Backgrounds to help volunteers prepare their hearts and minds for each day of VBS
- Five Small Group sessions that help small group leaders guide their groups each day using the Interactive Book for Kids
- Five Large Group Openings that include storytelling scripts, skits, song suggestions, and more
- Five days of preschool lessons for a self-contained early childhood environment
- Snack Guide with five days of easy-prep ideas

Scan this QR code to access free digital downloads of essential content including editable schedules, jumbo coloring poster downloads, decorating helps, script PDFs, and much more.

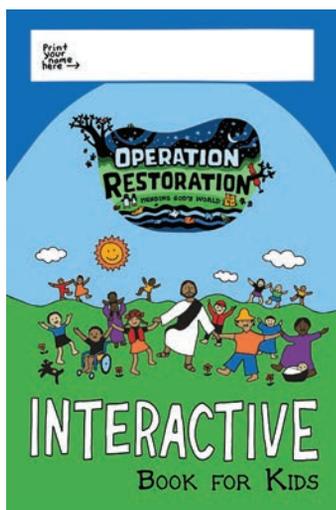
9781506487205

\$60.00



“Pastor Daniel Erlander’s work is grounded in a solid Lutheran theology that puts grace and love at the center of everything. When we ordered Operation Restoration VBS, I knew that I wouldn’t have to do any major rewrites for theology. It was playful, fun, and flexible. It was also deep and respectful of children and adults. The inclusion of care of creation materials and service learning helped our young people connect faith with life outside the walls of the church. Grace filled faith in action theology is what I’ve come to love and trust in materials based on Erlander’s work.”

-Deaconess Claire Schoepp, Children and Family Minister,
Augustana Lutheran Church, West Saint Paul, Minnesota



Operation Restoration VBS Interactive Book for Kids

This interactive booklet introduces kids to the daily theme and includes interactive content to use throughout each day at VBS. It’s packed with activities, questions, Bible verses, prompts, and plenty of Daniel Erlander’s illustrations to color. These are a must-buy for kids at Operation Restoration to reinforce the daily themes and share with their families after VBS. **16 pages.**

9781506487274

1 to 9: \$3.00

10 or more: \$2.50



Operation Restoration VBS Art Guide

This guide includes everything the Art Center leader needs to guide kids through five days of art activities at Operation Restoration. With no individual craft kits, less waste, and many prompts for discussion, everyone’s creativity is invited and nurtured. Daily art activities are included for four age levels: Lower Elementary, Upper Elementary, All Kids, and Intergenerational groups. **68 pages.**

9781506487229

\$15.00



Operation Restoration VBS Music Guide

This guide includes everything the Music Center leader needs to guide kids through five days of musicmaking activities at Operation Restoration. Leaders and kids make music together and mend God's world through singing, playing instruments, dancing, and even composing their own tunes. Several tips help leaders connect VBS to their church's own music traditions. Daily music activities are included for four age levels: Lower Elementary, Upper Elementary, All Kids, and Intergenerational groups. **94 pages.**

9781506487236

\$15.00



Operation Restoration VBS Science Nature Guide

This guide includes everything the Science and Nature Center leader needs to guide kids through five days of science experiments and nature activities at Operation Restoration. Leaders can choose from a range of lively lab experiments and engaging outdoor nature explorations designed to help everyone experience how we can mend God's world through exploring and experimenting with God's creation. Daily science and nature activities are included for four age levels: Lower Elementary, Upper Elementary, All Kids, and Intergenerational groups. **76 pages.**

9781506487243

\$15.00



Operation Restoration VBS Service Learning Guide

This guide includes everything the Service Learning Center leader needs to guide kids through five days of service learning activities at Operation Restoration. Projects invite kids to learn hands-on ways of becoming menders in the world as they engage in projects that help their church or the greater community. Kids will. Daily service learning activities are included for four age levels: Lower Elementary, Upper Elementary, All Kids, and Intergenerational groups. **68 pages.**

9781506487267

\$15.00



Operation Restoration VBS Storytelling Guide

This guide includes everything the Storytelling Center leader needs to guide kids through five days of storytelling activities at Operation Restoration. Each day, storytellers will explore one or more additional Bible stories connected to the daily theme through illustrations, dramatic movement, puppets, and other methods. Daily storytelling activities are included for four age levels: Lower Elementary, Upper Elementary, All Kids, and Intergenerational groups. **104 pages.**

9781506487250

\$15.00



Operation Restoration VBS Starter Kit

This kit includes everything you will need to start planning Operation Restoration VBS. It includes one Director Guide, one copy of all five Activity Center Guides, and ten copies of the Interactive Book for Kids. Order additional Guides and Interactive Books as needed.

ITEM011287

\$140.00



A Lutheran Welcome

These highly visual and engaging booklets are for *everyone*, from visitors looking for a church home to life-long Lutherans. Theologian Marc Olson has written this series of captivating booklets that center the artwork and theology of Pastor Daniel Erlander. Each booklet is designed to capture the reader's attention and help them learn more about a facet of the Lutheran expression of faith. Place booklets in your narthex or welcome area display rack, include them in new member packets, and keep them handy for anyone with questions about the basics of Lutheran faith. Each booklet measures 5.5 x 8.5 and is **16 pages**.

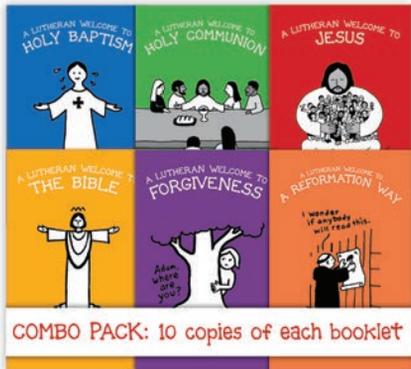


A Lutheran Welcome Sampler Pack

This pack contains one copy of all six booklets in the *Lutheran Welcome* series. Order the Sampler Pack to become acquainted with this series.

9781506464084

\$6.00



A Lutheran Welcome Combo Pack

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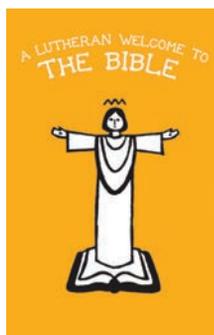




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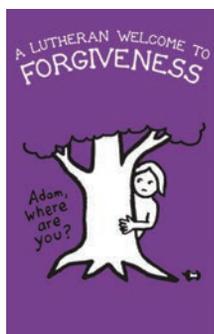
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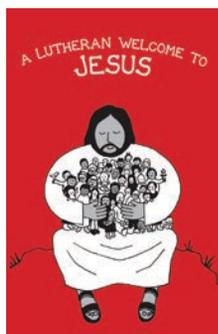
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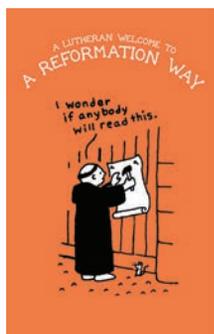
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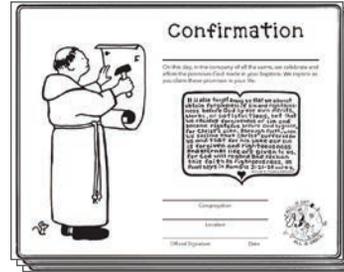


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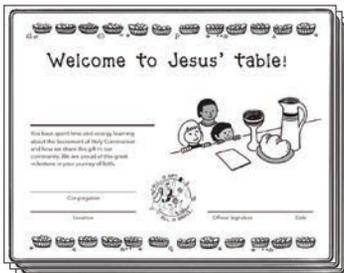


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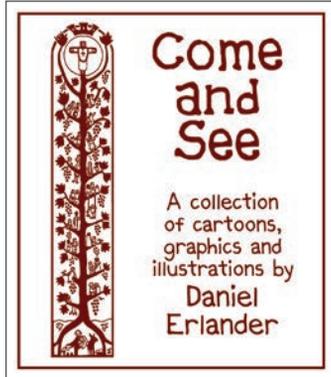
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"I am a big Daniel Erlander fan, having used his books for years in different settings and for various age groups. From catechetical instruction, welcome classes, evangelism and engagement, baptismal catechumenate, and communion enrichment, Daniel Erlander's materials are my trusted stand-by."

-The Rev. Dr. Eric Childers,
St. Matthew's Lutheran Church, Charleston, South Carolina



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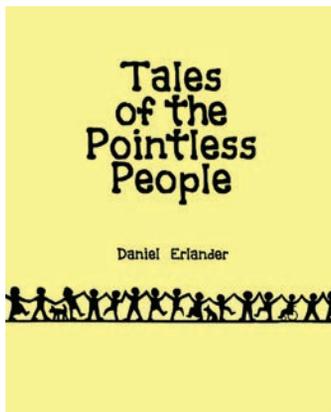


Come and See: A Collection of Cartoons, Graphics and Illustrations by Daniel Erlander

This compelling collection of almost 200 illustrations represents more than three decades of Daniel Erlander's work. Rich with wit, whimsy, and wisdom, his book compiles favorite illustrations from Erlander's various publications. It also includes many pieces never before published. This treasury is perfect for those who love Erlander's work and is a great introduction for those new to his art. This book offers a wealth of God's good news and Erlander's good humor. Notes, biographical information, and an index indicating the origin of the art are included. Individual graphics may be reproduced by churches, schools, and nonprofit groups for one-time nonprofit use in bulletins, newsletters, and classroom study materials. **120 pages.**

9781506411712

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Tales of the Pointless People

This engaging collection of short stories from Daniel Erlander shows and tells how we don't need to accumulate points in life. They are inspired by an original story by Anne Herbert. Nine stories contrast how value is measured by society with how we are loved by God. **28 pages.**

9781506447858

\$6.50

"No other author that I know has so wonderfully captured being a Lutheran follower of Jesus than Dan Erlander. His work makes God's love and grace clear, accessible, and easy to remember; his illustrations bring the reader into the picture. Before the curriculum resources existed, I used *Baptized, We Live* (which every family had for home reading) and *Tales of the Pointless People* as sermon series because Dan's words and delightful illustrations tell truth that everyone can grasp—from the oldest to the youngest who enjoy coloring the pages that seem to invite them to jump in! Now I want to do another series using Dan's work augmented by invaluable resources!"

-The Rev. Dr. Marjorie H. Keiter,
Pastor at St. John the Evangelist (Slovak) Lutheran, Lansford, Pennsylvania

An Introduction to Daniel Erlander

For the last few decades, pastors, teachers, friends, and relatives have placed Daniel Erlander's books into the hands of countless people. Maybe you have given or received an Erlander resource that offers both a simple and a profound look at our Christian faith. And as he wrote and doodled, Erlander's playful faith was also shared in person.

Jim Lindus and Erlander were colleagues for nearly a decade. Lindus recalls, "Daniel was always doodling—his mind was always finding humor in the midst of human story and interaction. His mind was always finding God connections in the simplest moments of daily life. And here's the thing—if his mind made the connection or found the humor, then it flowed out of his pen or pencil into brilliant illustrations. I would complete a sermon and Daniel would hand me a cartoon."

Longtime Erlander friend (and board book author) Mary Lindberg recalls "Dan was way ahead of his time with the combination of illustrations and theology. He gets the truth across in ways that sneak in through humor, clear messages, and joy. Dan takes the gospel seriously, but doesn't take himself too seriously. That's rare in a church leader," she says.

"I've learned over the years that adults really want to learn interactively. They don't want to be bored any more than kids do. But adults don't want to be dumbed down to, either," she says. "Dan's material finds the middle ground—clear and engaging enough for young people, bright and deep enough for all ages. As someone who has worked closely with Dan's material, I know very well that each piece has good bones. The user can follow the dots—and that's so important!"

Tom Witt, Dan's business manager, remembers that he and others used to kid Erlander about his "junior high-like" handwriting. But it was the simple handwriting, drawings, and message that have for decades drawn people into his simple, yet profound, understanding of Christianity in general, and the Lutheran way in particular.

"Pictures for him—like stories—were Dan's way of sneaking beneath people's radar," Witt continued. "He thought that most people had a trap door in the back of their head and that stories and pictures—and humor, but not necessarily doctrine or dogma—could sneak through this trap door into people's hearts."

Susan Briebl, another longtime friend and former colleague said, "Dan opens complex and profound biblical, theological, and sacramental teaching in a simple, but not simplistic, way. There is no arrogance in his writing, only a winsome humility. He respects the reader. His welcome is wide."

Indeed, the impact of his work would have been impossible to imagine more than 30 years ago when Dan's creative and faithful spirit was nourished by his wife, friends and colleagues, and a mountainous home, and released on paper with a #1 pencil (his favorite).

After journeying with Alzheimer's, Pastor Daniel Erlander passed away in August 2022 in Seattle while surrounded by family. To date more than 350,000 Erlander resources have been sent out into the world sharing his messages of faith, love, and light.



