Collaborator Bios

The following skilled writers expanded on Daniel Erlander’s Manna and Mercy to create the resources in this Leader Sourcebook.

Anne Basye is a writer, editor, musician, gardener, master composter/recycler, and lifelong Lutheran who lives in Mount Vernon, Washington. A practitioner of simple living, she first encountered Daniel’s wonderful work at Holden Village when Manna and Mercy was the all-staff read. Anne wrote the glossary and is a member of the Advisory Panel.

Jessica Davis is a Christian educator, pastoral counselor, reparations educator/coordinator, and freelance writer and speaker living in the Philadelphia area. Her ministry passions include youth ministry, church music, community visioning, and diversity/equity/inclusion education. When not doing churchy things, she can usually be found knitting, volunteering with refugees and asylum-seekers, or working as a freelance makeup artist. Jessica wrote the Mini Bible Studies.

John Rohde Schwehn serves as associate pastor of Christ the King Lutheran Church in New Brighton, Minnesota and lives with his family in Minneapolis. He received his first communion around Jesus’ table at Holden Village, a community profoundly shaped by Daniel’s pastoral presence and writings. John wrote the theological backgrounds.

Julie B. Sevig, ELCA deacon, wife, and mother, works as communications specialist for the Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago. Since this is the fourth story Julie has written about Daniel, she considers herself his unofficial biographer and is honored to have such a role. “Everyone is happy to talk about Dan!” she says. Julie wrote the biography of Daniel Erlander.


Mary C. Lindberg has served the church as an editor, pastor, chaplain, and writer. She currently works as a chaplain with older adults in Seattle, Washington. Mary and her husband live in Seattle and have two grown daughters. Mary’s connections to Daniel Erlander go back fifty years to a time when he was a pastor at her grandparents’ church. Mary wrote the four board books and early childhood sessions. She is a member of the Advisory Panel.

Rebecca Ninke is a freelance writer and Lutheran pastor in Madison, Wisconsin. Her first encounter with Daniel Erlander’s work was during an internship in Colorado (where she also met her spouse—then happily took both with her when she moved). With her daughter, Rebecca cowrote her first children’s book, There's No Wrong Way to Pray, a warm and funny look at how one kid prays. Rebecca wrote the elementary sessions, confirmation sessions, and Interactive Edition.

Susan Briehl, a Lutheran pastor, teacher, and liturgical writer, lives in Spokane, Washington. Her friendship with Daniel began at Holden Village in 1980. She and her husband, Martin, served with Daniel as Pacific Lutheran University’s campus pastors (1986–1994), and she and Daniel were part of the Living Liturgy team (1998–2008). Susan is a member of the Advisory Panel.

Throughout the development of resources based on Daniel Erlander’s original works, the editorial team consulted with an Advisory Panel whose members provided guidance and expertise to support the wise stewardship of these publications.