

Faithful Learning & Teaching Together (FLATT)

A collective of learning opportunities to grow in faithful witness and service as we continue to notice who and how God is calling us to be.

FLATT Current Offerings (as of August 2022)

Register HERE for all offerings: <https://forms.gle/RuW9oa9XNPnijNyE7>

Hospitality in Worship Planning and Leadership

2 sessions (4 learning hours)

Monday, Sept. 27 and Tuesday, October 25, 6:30-8pm

led by Julie Grindle (each session will also include additional leaders with expertise and passion in this area of ministry)

About: The time will be focused on sharing technical, practical knowledge while also making space for sharing among participants.

Some areas that will be explored: Copyright Issues (faithful reporting); Worship Planning with a committee or alone; Resources; Liturgical Planning; Welcoming All – body language, intentional language, building use and accessibility, accurate sharing of worship times; Lectionary ; Bulletins/Worship Folders; Hospitality- In-Person and Online; Choosing/Teaching Music; Utilizing lay folk gifts in leadership; Writing Prayers; Beyond Worship- How to stay connected beyond the worship service; AND MORE

Audience: Lay and Rostered Leader Worship Planners, Musicians, Members of Worship and Music Teams, Synod Authorized Ministers (SAMs)

Register: <https://forms.gle/RuW9oa9XNPnijNyE7>

Language for God: A Lutheran Perspective

5 sessions (10 learning hours)

Wednesdays, September 14, 21, 28, October 5, & 12, 2022

7PM-8:15PM

facilitated by Pastor Lori Kochanski

About: We will read and discuss the Dr. Mary J. Streufert's new book Language for God: A Lutheran Perspective It will be important to complete the assigned reading prior to the conversation so that you can fully participate.

About the Author and Book

Author: from [amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com), "Mary J. Streufert is Director for Justice for Women, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. Teaching and facilitating nationally and globally, she works to empower people to foster gender justice."

Book: from [indibound.org](https://www.indibound.org), "This book is for a variety of people, including those who are unsure of why language and images for God matter; those who need assurance that language and images for God include all genders, including people who identify as queer; and those who want language for God to be faithful to the Scriptures and to the witness of the Christian theological tradition. It is also for people who need convincing that God is Mother as much as Father, pregnant Christ as much as crucified Christ, and Godhead beyond all gendered appellations."

Purchase the book: You may find this book online in a variety of places. Here are some to try: Fortress Press: <https://www.fortresspress.com/store/product/9781506473963/Language-for-God> ; Amazon <https://www.amazon.com/Language-God-Perspective-Mary-Streufert/dp/1506473962> ; Indie Bound <https://www.indiebound.org/book/9781506473963>

Register: <https://forms.gle/RuW9oa9XNPnijNyE7>

Formation of the Biblical Canon

2 sessions (8 learning hours)

Tuesdays, September 27 and October 4

7-8:15 PM

facilitated by Pastor Lori Kochanski

About: Using the Yale Bible Study material (<https://yalebiblestudy.org/courses/formation-of-the-biblical-canon/lessons/old-testament-additional-resources/>) we will study the formation of the Biblical Canon. This class will require work outside of the session, probably about 2 hours a week, so that you are prepared for the class conversation.

Register: <https://forms.gle/RuW9oa9XNPnijNyE7>

Artful Reflection and Group Conversation:

This Here Flesh: Spirituality, Liberation and the Stories that Make Us Cole Arthur Riley

5 Sessions (10 learning hours)

Thursdays, September 15, 22, 29 October 6 & 13

9:30-10:45 AM

facilitated by Pastor Lori Kochanski

About: We will read the book *This Here Flesh: Spirituality, Liberation and the Stories that Make Us* by Cole Arthur Riley. As you read you will be encouraged to use forms of art (in particular images and words) in order to reflect on what you are learning and noticing. When we gather on Thursday mornings for conversation you will be encouraged to share your questions and reflections and your art.

About the Author and Book

Author: from her website <https://colearthurriley.com/about> , “Cole Arthur Riley is, more than most things, a writer. Born and for the most part raised in Pittsburgh, Cole studied writing at the University of Pittsburgh, but traces her love of words back to her father, who would bribe her and her siblings to write poems and stories to get out of chores, or for cold hard cash; and her grandma who was part writer, part sage.

“Cole currently serves as the spiritual teacher in residence with Cornell University’s Office of Spirituality and Meaning Making. She is also the creator of Black Liturgies, a space that integrates spiritual practice with Black emotion, Black literature, and the Black body; and a project of The Center for Dignity and Contemplation where she serves as Curator.

“Some thinkers who have formed her include, Audre Lorde, Octavia Butler, James Baldwin, Thomas Merton, Toni Morrison, Maya Angelou, Dietrich Bonhoeffer, and Julian of Norwich.”

Book: from her website, “unforgettable book of stories and reflections on discovering the sacred in her skin. In these deeply transporting pages, Arthur Riley reflects on the stories of her grandmother and father, and how they revealed to her an embodied, dignity-affirming spirituality, not only in what they believed but in the act of living itself. Writing memorably of her own childhood and coming to self, Arthur Riley boldly explores some of the most urgent questions of life and faith: How can spirituality not silence the body, but instead allow it to come alive? How do we honor, lament, and heal from the stories we inherit? How can we find peace in a world overtaken with dislocation, noise, and unrest? In this indelible work of contemplative storytelling, Arthur Riley invites us to descend into our own stories, examine our

capacity to rest, wonder, joy, rage, and repair, and find that our humanity is not an enemy to faith but evidence of it.”

Purchase the book: This link includes several options for purchasing this book <https://www.penguinrandomhouse.com/books/673836/this-here-flesh-by-cole-arthur-riley/>

Register: <https://forms.gle/RuW9oa9XNPnijNyE7>

Artful Reflection and Group Conversation:
Birth of the Holy: Wisdom from Mary to Nurture Creativity and Renewal Christine Valters Paintner

5 sessions (10 learning hours)

Thursdays, November 3, 10, 17 December 1, 8

9:30-10:45 AM

facilitated by Pastor Lori Kochanski

About: We will read the book *Birth of the Holy: Wisdom from Mary to Nurture Creativity and Renewal* by Christine Valters Paintner. As you read you will be encouraged to use forms of art (in particular images and words) in order to reflect on what you are learning and noticing. When we gather on Thursday mornings for conversation you will be encouraged to share your questions and reflections and your art.

About the Author and Book

Author: from the [amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com) description, “Christine Valters Paintner is the online Abbess at www.AbbeyoftheArts.com, a virtual monastery and global community offering resources that integrate contemplative practice and creative expression. She is the author of fifteen books on spirituality including two collections of poetry.”

Book: from the [amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com) description, “Whether you’re meeting Mary for the first time in these magnificent titles or revisiting her as a beloved companion, *Birth of the Holy* invites you to see the exploration of Mary and your life as a spiritual and creative act, one that can help deepen your faith even as it sparks new growth within you.”

Purchase the book: Scroll to the bottom of this link for ordering options <https://abbeyofthearts.com/books/birthing-the-holy/>

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