



## 2020 HEIN-FRY BOOK OF FAITH CHALLENGE

*Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the 2020 Challenge will be held online. Audience members will be able to interact with students via the chat function.*

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### HISTORY, VISION AND INVITATION

The Hein-Fry Book of Faith Challenge (HFBFC) seeks to enliven the biblical engagement of the whole church by encouraging the development of faithful, innovative and effective ways of teaching and learning Scripture. The challenge is jointly sponsored by the seminaries of the ELCA, the Hein-Fry Planning Team and the Book of Faith Initiative. Each year, one student from each ELCA-affiliated seminary is invited to create an innovative class, encounter or series for people steeped in biblical texts, as well as those unfamiliar with them, and then report their learnings.

The 2020 HFBFC centers on the theme “The Bible – Word Not Weapon.” In our day, citation of the Bible doesn’t always reflect God’s love. Verses taken out of context can become weapons that discredit others or justify cruel treatment of those different from ourselves. Students were challenged to create a nonthreatening encounter with God’s Word that provides a way to gather around that Word in a polarized world and empowers participants to disarm Scripture in their everyday encounters.

You are invited to join the conversation in this year’s four online events.

### STUDENT PRESENTERS

**Jennifer Garcia, M.Div., Graduate** – Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary, Berkeley, Calif.  
“Sharing Our Faith in a Time of Social Distancing” | Wednesday, Oct. 21, 2 p.m. Pacific time

**Taylor Berdahl, M.Div., Senior Intern** – United Lutheran Seminary, Gettysburg, Pa.  
“Biblical Responses to COVID-19: Lament, Bodies, Breath” | Monday, Oct. 26, 5:30 p.m. Eastern time

**Karl Anliker, M.Div., Final Year** – Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago  
“Look for the Women: A Virtual Bible Study in Search of Hope” | Wednesday, Oct. 28, 2:30 p.m. Central time

**Christopher Shealy, M.Div., senior** – Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary of Lenoir-Rhyne University, Columbia, S.C.  
“How Scripture Is Weaponized, and What We Can Do About It” | Friday, Oct. 30, 2:00 p.m. Eastern time

### ONLINE HOST

**The Rev. Susan R. Briehl** will serve as the online host and emcee for each of the four events, moderating a panel of three academic and church leaders as they interact with each student following the project presentation.

### INFORMATION AND REGISTRATION

For additional information contact Dwight DuBois, special projects director for the Book of Faith Initiative, at [dwight.dubois@elca.org](mailto:dwight.dubois@elca.org). There is no cost for participating; register at [www.bookoffaith.org](http://www.bookoffaith.org) to attend one or all of the events. There is a separate registration for each event.

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