

Is your congregation is a bit stuck?

Or are you ready to engage in missional thinking?

Or are you in the process of calling a new pastor?

Do you want to know the Bible better and to engage more deeply as a Christian community?

Welcome to

## ***Story Matters: Naming, Claiming, and Living Our Biblical Identity***

The basic idea is this:

The Bible is both God's story and our story

But how does this work for us... really?

...in ways that help to form us as disciples?

How can we claim our story (the old one and the one still happening)?

How can we live into our story (learn, practice, and deepen our faith)?

How can we live out of our story

(out of the congregation into the world)?

These questions can be fruitfully engaged by *Story Matters*, a free resource from the ELCA that invites congregations to participate in a simple 2-step process that is flexible and easily adapted to individual congregations.

*Story Matters* will help you:

- Tell your own congregational stories through the Bible.
- Do mission planning in ways that are fun, engaging, and biblically alive.
- Reimagine ways to practice the faith both as individuals and as a faith community.
- Address biblical illiteracy and show how a really old book can still make sense and apply to life today.
- Engage Scripture in ways that are fun and lets God into the conversation.
- Provide fellowship for the whole congregation.

A leader's guide to *Story Matters* is available at [www.bookoffaith.org](http://www.bookoffaith.org) and the upcoming Faith Practices page at [www.elca.org](http://www.elca.org). Supporting videos also soon available.

***STORY MATTERS* -- This just might be fun... let's go for it.**