

# WordbyWord



Library Newsletter/October 2018

## The Best of Both . . .

By Vernita Kennen, Incarnation Library

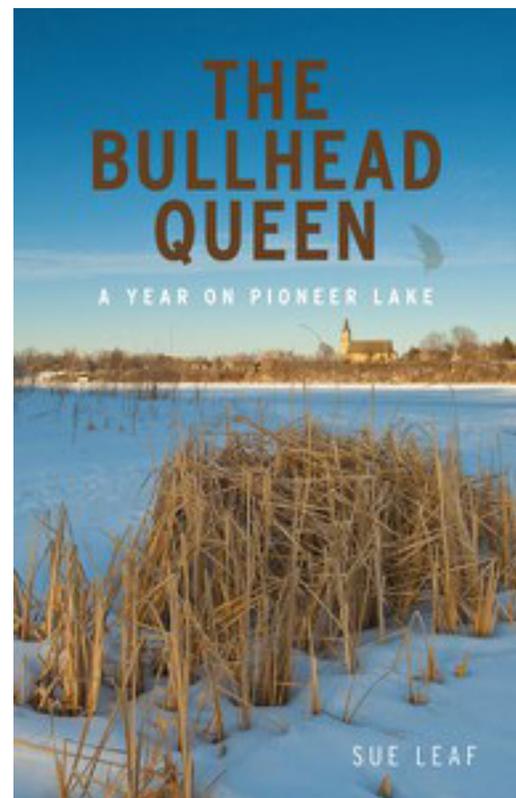
The September book for the Women Read group at Incarnation was one that did two things extraordinarily well for me. In *The Bullhead Queen* by Sue Leaf, I learned to reflect on the environment and God's creation through the eyes of one woman (albeit an instructor in biology and environmental science) as she writes of her life on the shores of Pioneer Lake. I also learned to more closely connect the environment and the natural turning of the year with the liturgical year.

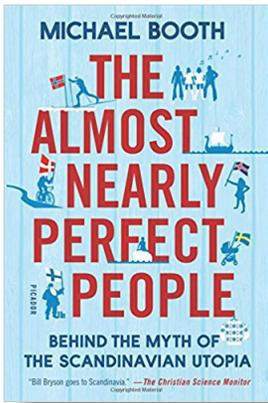
Anyone with a cabin on a lake will relate to this book, even if you only spend the summers there. And if you are blessed with a year-round cabin or even visit quickly during the winter, you will appreciate her comments on ice and the creatures living around and beneath the surface. You can enjoy the changing of the seasons in new ways through Sue's eyes and acknowledge the changes she sees in the environment as humans and climate change bring challenges to people and nature alike.

The series of meditations/reflections are ordered by the liturgical year rather than the chronological year so begin with Advent. The author intersperses her nature reflections with comments about her congregation and their celebrations of church festivals. The chapter "The Green Season" and the understanding of Ordinary time brings new connections to the long season of Sundays after Pentecost. She also does a good job of explaining the difference between chronos and kairos time, something we at Incarnation should know because of the name of our Sunday adult learning hour.

It is no small thing that I know Pioneer Lake and Chisago Lake Lutheran Church, the congregation where Sue Leaf and her family are members. When she writes about sitting in a pew and being able to look through the open doors during worship and seeing a lake, I know the pews in which she would sit. While Chisago Lake is not my home church, it is the church of my great-grandparents and the church in which I attended vacation Bible School as a child. It's an historic church in our Saint Paul Area Synod.

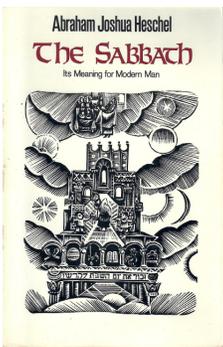
You will appreciate Sue Leaf's way with words, her connecting of her observations of and sensitivity to the environment around her, and her way of weaving all this around the liturgical year and her Lutheran background. One could hardly ask for more - unless it is a map so you can set out for a short drive up Highway 8 to Center City for a view of Pioneer Lake, Chisago Lake Lutheran Church, and Hillside Cemetery.





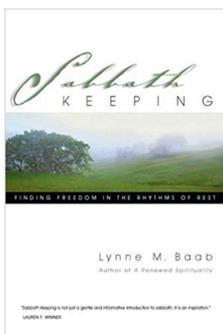
Many of us at Incarnation are of Scandinavian background and several of us have had the opportunity to visit “the old country”. Many of us grew up hearing about the amazing and wonderful people and places from which our families sprung. A fun as well as informative book in our library would make good reading for you.

*The Almost Nearly Perfect People: Behind the Myth of Scandinavian Utopia* by Michael Booth is a witty, informative cultural history and a travelogue about the Scandinavian countries - and how they may not be as happy or as perfect as we assume. Here are intriguing and revealing facts galore. Ever wondered why the Danes are so happy, despite having the highest taxes? Do Finns really have the best education system? How are the Norwegians spending their oil wealth? And why are they so set against the Swedes? The book says “They may very well be almost nearly perfect, but it isn’t easy being Scandinavian”. Enjoy!



Do you remember Pastor Joel’s sermon on Sabbath? Our church library added two titles he mentioned, *Sabbath Keeping: Finding Freedom in the Rhythms of Rest* by Lynne M. Baab and the classic *The Sabbath* by Abraham Joshua Heschel. Both of these books bring new ways of looking at Sabbath, Heschel because of his Jewish heritage and Baab because she is a Presbyterian minister living in New Zealand.

Both authors see Sabbath as a gift and offer ways for us to renew ourselves by truly keeping the discipline of Sabbath. As Baab’s book cover reminds us: “Seven Full Days Makes One Week”.

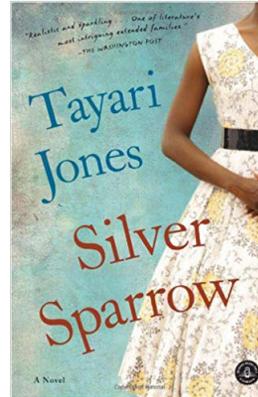
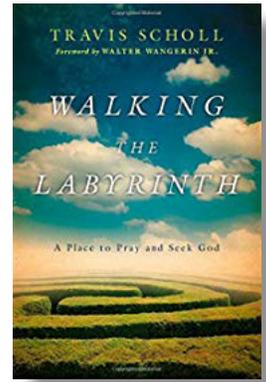


Do you know that Incarnation has a labyrinth? Have you enjoyed walking it in more than one season of the year, both chronological and liturgical? Have you pointed it out to others and invited them to use the labyrinth as “a place to pray and seek God”? This is how Travis Scholl subtitles his book, *Walking the Labyrinth*.

Scholl’s book is both a historical and modern look at labyrinths. But it is also a book of forty reflections on his own experiences of the labyrinth based on Mark’s gospel.

It is an ideal book for reading during Lent or any time during the year. A bibliography and a scripture reading index make the book even more helpful.

Walk and then read - or read and then walk. And always seek God.



Fiction usually reflects real life and we often feel we know the characters we read about. *Silver Sparrow* by Tayari Jones is a bit different but the characters and their relationships are memorable for many reasons. You will be grabbed by the first line - “My father, James Witherspoon, is a bigamist”. This story of two teenage girls caught in the middle of two families, one public and another secret, is certain to keep you turning pages.

Set in a middle-class African American neighborhood of Atlanta in the 1980’s it is not an “old” setting but an “old” story. And you will want to keep on reading to learn what happens to the sisters and their unusual family.



## Library Hours

The Library is open whenever the Incarnation building is open.

### Check-out procedures:

- 1) Fill out the card in book/media pocket with your full name, phone number and the date you take out the materials.
- 2) Leave card(s) in the basket. PLEASE DO NOT FILE CARDS!
- 3) Return books after three weeks and Videos/DVDs/CDs after one week. Place returned items in the large basket on the floor.