

Duehring Article for the Northern Light April/May 2022 edition

*Precious Lord, take my hand, lead me on, let me stand. I am tired, I am weak, I am worn.
Through the storm, through the night, lead me on to the light. (From the hymn, "Precious
Lord, Take My Hand," ELW #773)*

The theme for our 2022 Synod Assembly is "faith." Faith is the bedrock that sustains us in times of trouble and weariness. Faith allows us to take the next step even when we've fallen many times. Faith is what brings texture and meaning to our lives. Faith gives us a compass for venturing out of our comfort zones so that others might know of Jesus and his way of justice, mercy, and love. Faith trusts in a God that cannot be seen, so that we might love those we can see. Faith trusts a God that can save sinners like me.



Here are 20 "faith" passages from our scriptures that I invite you to receive in faith for the strengthening of your faith (all from the NRSV translation):

1. *Now therefore revere the LORD, and serve him in sincerity and in faithfulness; put away the gods that your ancestors served beyond the River and in Egypt, and serve the LORD. (Joshua 24:14)*
2. *He charged them: "This is how you shall act: in the fear of the LORD, in faithfulness, and with your whole heart." (2 Chronicles 19:9)*
3. *Into your hand I commit my spirit; you have redeemed me, O LORD, faithful God. (Psalm 31:5)*
4. *Therefore, when the LORD heard, he was full of rage; a fire was kindled against Jacob, his anger mounted against Israel, because they had no faith in God, and did not trust his saving power.
Yet he commanded the skies above, and opened the doors of heaven. (Psalm 78:21-23)*
5. *I kept my faith, even when I said, "I am greatly afflicted." (Psalm 116:10)*
6. *Happy are those whose help is the God of Jacob, whose hope is in the LORD their God, who made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them; who keeps faith forever; who executes justice for the oppressed; who gives food to the hungry. (Psalm 146:5-7)*
7. *Jesus immediately reached out his hand and caught him, saying to him, "You of little faith, why did you doubt? (Matthew 14:31)*
8. *Jesus answered them, "Have faith in God." (Mark 11:22)*
9. *The word of God continued to spread; the number of the disciples increased greatly in Jerusalem, and a great many of the priests became obedient to the faith. (Acts 6:7)*

10. *For I am not ashamed of the gospel; it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who has faith, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. For in it the righteousness of God is revealed through faith for faith; as it is written, "The one who is righteous will live by faith." (Romans 1:16-17)*
11. *For we hold that a person is justified by faith apart from works prescribed by the law. (Romans 3:28)*
12. *Therefore, since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. (Romans 5:1)*
13. *So faith comes from what is heard, and what is heard comes through the word of Christ. (Romans 10:17)*
14. *For we walk by faith, not by sight. (2 Corinthians 5:7)*
15. *And it is no longer I who live, but it is Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me. (Galatians 2:20)*
16. *For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God. (Ephesians 2:8)*
17. *Let no one despise your youth, but set the believers an example in speech and conduct, in love, in faith, in purity. (1 Timothy 4:12)*
18. *Fight the good fight of the faith; take hold of the eternal life, to which you were called and for which you made the good confession in the presence of many witnesses. (1 Timothy 6:12)*
19. *Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. (Hebrews 11:1)*
20. *So faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead. (James 2:17)*