NEW FROM CAPTIVE CONSCIENCE PRESS

Love. Serve. Witness.

A Forty-Day Journey of Living the Christian Faith

Jeffrey E. Skopak edited by Albert B. Collver III

Forty days. One road. The Christian life does not begin with what we do for God. It begins with what God has done for us in Jesus Christ. *Love. Serve. Witness.* walks that road one day at a time: from the love that found us before we ever sought it, through the service that flows from faith, to the witness that simply says, "Behold, the Lamb of God."

Each day opens a passage of Scripture — Jacob and Esau, the Jordan, the wilderness, Mamre, Zarephath, Cana, the Areopagus — reads it with Luther and the Lutheran Confessions, and closes with a prayer and a place to write the names of those you will carry with you. Nothing here is a ladder to climb. It is a journey of faith receiving and love giving, for the parent and the pastor, the nurse and the retiree, for anyone ready to take the first step.

IN THIS BOOK

- Forty daily readings in three parts, *Love*, *Serve*, and *Witness*, each opening a passage of Scripture from Genesis to Acts
- Luther and the Lutheran Confessions read alongside the text, with every source given in full: the Confessions in the Triglotta, Luther in public-domain translations or fresh ones made for this edition
- A prayer to close each day, and a page for the names of those you carry with you
- An index of Scripture; forty days that fit Lent, or any season

FOR CONGREGATIONS AND GROUPS

- Three parts of about two weeks each, for a three-session class or a Lenten series
- Written for the parent, the teacher, the nurse, and the retiree as much as the pastor: vocation is where the book keeps landing
- Confessionally Lutheran throughout, with the Law and the Gospel kept distinct on every page; endorsed by pastors and teachers from South Africa to Arizona

BIBLIOGRAPHIC DATA

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REVIEW AND EXAMINATION COPIES

Review copies are available to church periodicals, reviewers, district and congregational libraries, and to pastors considering the book for a group. Bulk pricing for congregations on request. Interview requests are welcome.

Captive Conscience Press
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Book page, sample pages, and press kit:
threedovespress.com/books/love-serve-witness/

SUGGESTED FOR

Congregational and school libraries; Lenten and Advent reading programs; adult Bible classes and small groups; Lutheran bookstores and district conferences.

OF INTEREST TO READERS OF

Daily devotionals in the Lutheran tradition; Luther's catechisms and the Confessions read for the Christian life; books on vocation, discipleship, and everyday witness.

Praise for Love. Serve. Witness.

In Love. Serve. Witness. *Pastor Jeffrey Skopak offers a refreshing reminder that the Christian life is not a spiritual ladder to climb but a daily journey of receiving God's grace, mercy, and peace and of sharing His mercy with our neighbors. Grounded in Scripture and the Lutheran Confessions, these forty devotions anchor our everyday vocations at the foot of the cross, where God first loves and serves us in Christ. Whether at home, in the classroom, in the workplace, or in the congregation, this book will sustain and encourage believers to live in the freedom of the Gospel and to boldly point a hurting world to the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.*

— Rev. Dr. Jamison J. Hardy President, Concordia University System

Modern Christians often focus on the solas of the Reformation but forget how they shape the way we live. Love. Serve. Witness. *answers that by walking forty days through Scripture with Luther and the Confessions, showing that a life of love, service, and witness is simply faith receiving and then love giving. I commend it to parents, pastors, and anyone who wants the Reformation's doctrine to take root in ordinary vocations.*

— Bishop Helmut Paul Free Evangelical Lutheran Synod in South Africa (FELSISA)

Pastor Skopak has made a wonderful confessionally Lutheran contribution to growth as a disciple of Jesus. All of the Christian life is found through love—God is love. We serve because God first served us in Christ. We give witness not to the greatness of man, but to the greatness of God. I pray this forty-day discipleship journey fills your heart with great joy. You are loved by Christ who served you from the cross and calls you to witness to His love.

— Rev. Dr. Tim Ahlman Senior Pastor, Christ Greenfield Lutheran Church, Gilbert, Arizona

Skopak and Collver's devotional hits a sweet spot where theological richness and approachability for everyday Christians intersect; with humor and opportunities for personal application and reflection to boot. This is a great resource to enrich the journey of anyone walking as a disciple of Jesus.

— Rev. Derek Klemm Senior Pastor, Mountain View Lutheran Church and School, Las Vegas, Nevada

From the Book

"The Christian life never starts with what we do for God. It always begins with what God has done for us."

— The Conclusion

"The Christian never graduates from the Gospel. Every day begins again at the foot of the cross."

— Day Forty

The Forty Days

Introduction · Preparing for the Road

LOVE · DAYS 1–13
1 The Journey Begins with Love
2 Love–A Step Toward My Neighbor
3 The Face of God in the Face of the Brother
4 The Cradle of Grace – The Incarnation and the Ultimate Gift of Love
5 God's Love in the Baptism of Jesus
6 The Wilderness of Love
7 The Authority of Cosmic Mercy: God's Divine Compassion
8 The Glorious, Multi-Faceted Jewel
9 The Anatomy of a Beggar's Faith
10 The Echo of Divine Charity
11 The Good Shepherd's Love
12 The Love of the Father – Love for One Another
13 The Great Commandment – Vertical Love for God and Horizontal Love for the Neighbor

SERVE · DAYS 14–26
14 Serving the Lord - The Old Testament Vision of Service and the Christian Life
15 Christian Service and the God Who Draws Near
16 The God Who Serves and the People Who Serve
17 Service in the Hands of God
18 Selfless service in the House of God
19 Serving the Christ Child
20 Served in the Wilderness
21 Serving When Unexpected
22 Christ the Servant and the Service of His Church
23 Christ the Servant Who Makes Servants
24 Compassion that Serves
25 Cleansed to Serve
26 Christ Hidden in the Neighbor

WITNESS · DAYS 27–40
27 Behold the Lamb of God
28 Go Home To Your Friends
29 Sent to Bear Witness
30 Confessing Christ Before Men
31 The Blind Man Who Became a Witness
32 Christian Witness Begins in the Arms of Jesus
33 We Cannot But Speak
34 Witness to the Risen Christ
35 Witness Empowered By Prayer
36 The Witness Who is Sent
37 Witness Through a Changed Life
38 Witness in a World of Many Voices
39 Personal Christian Witness
40 The United Life of Faith

Conclusion · Index of Scripture

About the Author

Jeffrey E. Skopak, D.Min., is a pastor of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod and, since 2023, Senior Pastor of Emmanuel Lutheran Church and School in Asheville, North Carolina. He has served congregations in metropolitan New York, New Jersey, Florida, and Arizona.

He is a guest instructor for the International Lutheran Council, where he teaches in the Lutheran Leadership Development Program, and the author of *Christ, Culture, and Cinema: How Faith and Film Intersect*, with a weekly podcast of the same name. He and his wife, Amy, live in Asheville.