

# Thursday digest

By [Steve Thorngate](#)

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New today from the *Century*:

- Philip Jenkins on the [Dutch Bible belt](#): "The persistence of a rigorously orthodox Protestant area in the Netherlands must make us rethink our generalizations about the state of religion in Europe." (subscription required)
- Amy Frykholm reviews [James Kloppenberg's Obama book](#) for the magazine and [Mark Davis's end-times-humor book](#) for the blog
- A [paraphrase](#) of the pope's recent ecumenical gesture

In the news:

- [Supreme Court to weigh churches' hiring rights](#)
- [U.S. Christians rally around Iranian pastor](#)
- [Is there a death penalty-sized hole in Catholicism's 'seamless garment'?](#)
- [Mother cares for her son's Amish victims](#)
- [Churches lose fight over Ala. immigration law](#)

Links from elsewhere:

- [Alabama best in nation at teaching children about civil rights movement](#)
- Immigration-crackdown [profiteering](#)
- Princeton [tears down](#) scholarly paywalls