

The most popular Century Blogs posts

December 28, 2012

Here are the year's most-viewed posts by the *Century* editors, lectionary bloggers and guest bloggers. (Listed separately: the top posts from the [CCblogs](#) network, [Carol Howard Merritt's blog](#) and [Steve Thorngate's blog](#).) Thanks for reading.

**1) [No elf on our shelf](#), by Lee Hull Moses.** “My family celebrates Christmas with a mix of Jesus and Santa Claus. But there is one story we don't tell.”

**2) [The Hunger Games contradiction](#), by Janet Potter.** “The book's message is fundamentally anti-violence, and its first half introduces the Games as the unjust, inescapable instrument of exploitation they are. Whatever, kill them all, Katniss!”

**3) [The morning communion rush](#), by Amy Frykholm.** “When John Wesley sent missionaries to America, he said simply, ‘Offer them Christ.’ That's what the Chicago Temple sees itself doing, no questions asked.”

**4) [Decoration Day](#), by Benjamin J. Dueholm.** “There's a danger in making veterans into secular saints. The saints don't need us to give their deaths meaning; they died fully rewarded.”

**5) [Bad words in the pulpit](#), by Bromleigh McCleneghan.** “I did what I felt called to do. I preached a Lenten sermon on birth control and standing up for those without a voice. Also: I used the word ‘slut.’”

**6) [Renaming the mainline](#), by Amy Frykholm.** “ I have long disliked both the terms ‘liberal’ and ‘mainline’ to refer to whatever-kind-of-Protestant it is that I am. But ‘ecumenical’ has its problems, too. What would you call it?”

**7) [All is not calm; all is not bright](#), by Ashley-Anne Masters.** “Those of us in violence-plagued neighborhoods look forward to winter's reprieve. Our teenagers

understand Advent waiting all too well.”

**8) Structure and power, by Bromleigh McCleneghan.** “The current United Methodist structure is unwieldy and confusing. But its structure is also its strength.”

**9) All the bad people, by David Heim.** “This *New York Times* story would make for a good spot quiz in a Lutheran confirmation class. Identify the theological problem in the following report.”

**10) Losing weight at church, by Colin Mathewson.** “It’s hard not to feel a bit envious of Saddleback Church’s diet plan. What can mainline churches learn?”

**11) Do something! But what? by Laura Jean Torgerson.** “The Kony video went viral because young people are open to being moved by compassion. I have to celebrate that. But how do you inspire people to care? What story do you tell?”

**12) Getting behind Jesus—again, by Phyllis Kersten.** “The whole time I was with her, Merlyn was lying in bed with her face turned away from me. I prayed, and I left. It didn't take a brain surgeon to figure out that I hadn't ‘connected’ with her.”