

Thursday digest

November 17, 2011

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New today from the *Century*:

- Steve Thorngate on [church music and congregational identity](#): "Some post-worship-war churches revel in musical eclecticism. Others have a singular approach and sound, rendering the terms *traditional* and *contemporary* irrelevant."
- Jesse James DeConto on [the church as arts patron](#): "Mercy Seat spends about \$27,000 a year on the arts—a quarter of its annual budget. At those rates, the church is one of the better-paying gigs in the Minneapolis-St. Paul area."
- Scott Cairns's stab at the [gospel-in-seven-words-or-less challenge](#): "[Christ's humanity occasions our divinity](#)."
- Thomas Jay Oord on [Pentecostalism and science](#): "The Pentecostal tradition has the potential to turn the science-and-religion dialogue into a mutually transformative engagement."
- "[Ladder](#)," a poem by Steve Lautermilch

In the news:

- [Pakistani parliament criticizes murders of Hindus](#)
- [Tea Party, Occupy movements fail to capture Americans' hearts](#)
- [Austria's dissident Catholics urged to "maintain church unity"](#)