

The most popular *Century* articles

December 26, 2012

Here are the *Century* magazine articles that were most popular online this year. Thanks for reading.

- 1) [**The gospel in seven words**](#), by **David Heim**. “The *Century* asked 23 authors to boil Christian proclamation down to just a few words. What is the essence of the essence of Christianity?”
- 2) [**The Bible plus**](#), by **Kathleen Flake**. “The LDS canon's four books carry equal weight of authority. All are read as historical witnesses to God's promise of salvation.”
- 3) [**This just isn't working**](#), by **LeeAnne Watkins**. “Our church tried endless varieties of adult ed opportunities and midweek services, but people didn't come. So we canceled them—all of them.”
- 4) [**The new black theology**](#), by **Jonathan Tran**. “When black theologians focused on nontraditional and extra-Christian sources, white theologians had an excuse to ignore them. Not anymore.”
- 5) [**Fit for ministry**](#), by **Amy Frykholm**. “Being a pastor is bad for your health. The Clergy Health Initiative aims to study this problem and begin to correct it.”
- 6) [**The absurd in worship**](#), by **Thomas G. Long**. “I recently learned that ‘Onward Christian Soldiers’ can speak truth—when it's not a display of militarism but just patently ridiculous.”
- 7) [**New clergy, new churches**](#), by **Jesse James DeConto**. “Emily Scott had an idea: what if young adults got together for a weekly agape feast? Soon St. Lydia’s was born—but Scott was not ordained.”

8) [Saved by fiction](#), by Deborah Smith Douglas. "Reading fiction has done more to baptize my imagination, inform my faith and strengthen my courage than any prayer technique has."

9) [Courage to date](#), interview with Kerry Cronin. "I once asked a panel of students about relationships—were they seeing anyone? Did they feel like they had to break up before graduation? They looked at me as if I had been speaking Greek."

10) [Who is communion for?](#) by Charles Hefling. "Offering the elements to the unbaptized can be seen as a development and not a revolution, but it is a significant change. Is it a good one?"

11) [Culture changers](#), interview with David Hollinger. "Ecumenical leaders of the 1960s took a series of risks, asking their constituency to follow them in directions that many resisted."

12) [Unnecessary roughness](#), by Benjamin J. Dueholm. "A sociologist might see in football a society's need to control and ritualize violence. The church fathers, however, weren't much for sociologists."