

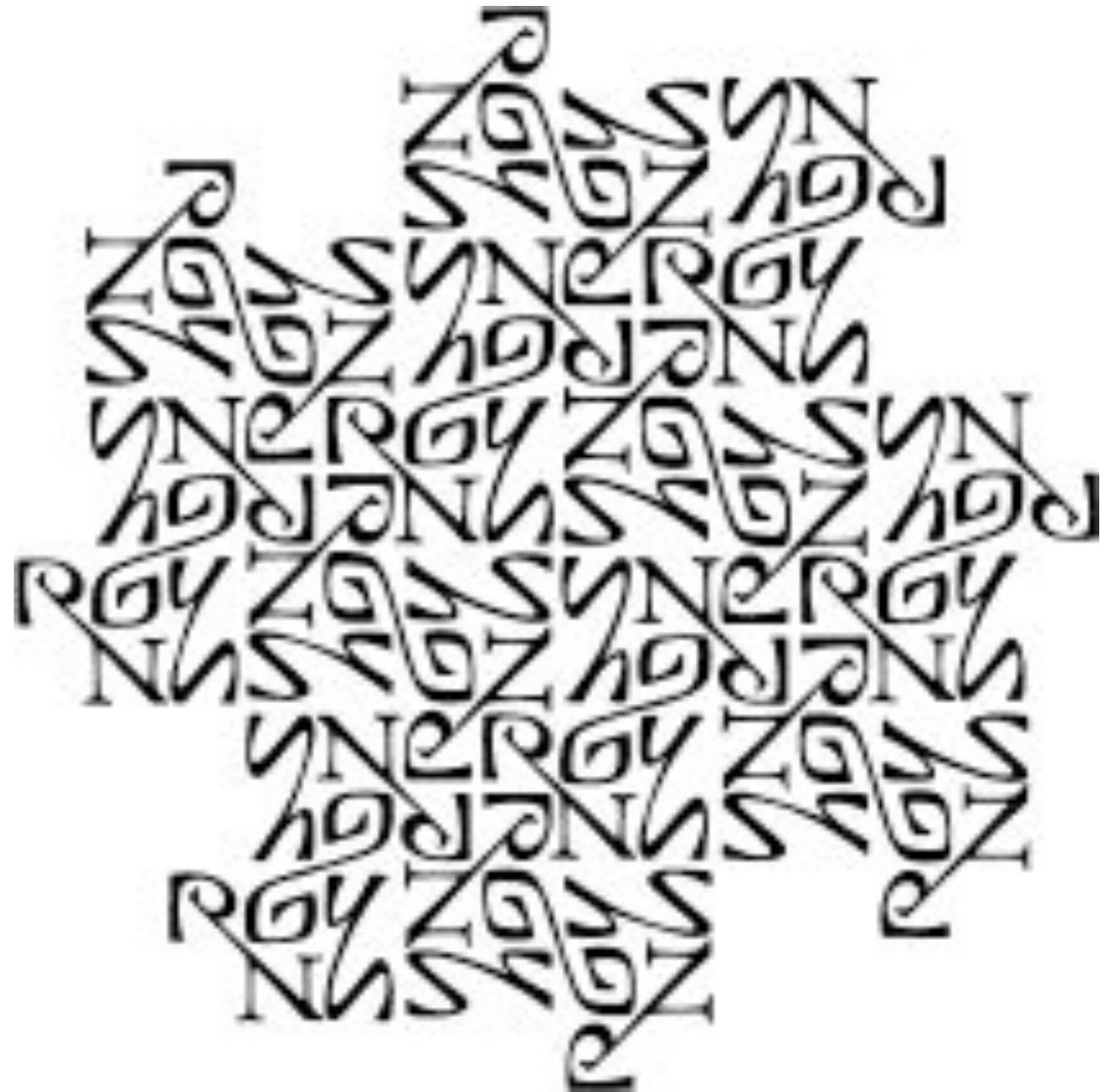
loving, tending, feeding faith in the 21st century

november 29, 2012

united theological seminary of the twin cities

you'll remember...

- part one: a theological frame for faith formation in the 21st century
- part two: pragmatic ways to “feed my sheep” in the midst of digital cultures





daily life, encountering a stranger, breaking bread

food, faith and media: an analogy

outline

- faith formation happens most at home, how do pastoral leaders support and engage?
- this is an adaptive challenge
- key to understanding media is understanding practice
- best analogy might be to food
- what are good practices?
- some practice with the analogy...

adaptive challenge

messy, no clear answer or
technique will suffice, changing
contexts, learning together



so we learn...

with our congregations
with families
with children
with each other



basic assumptions about faith



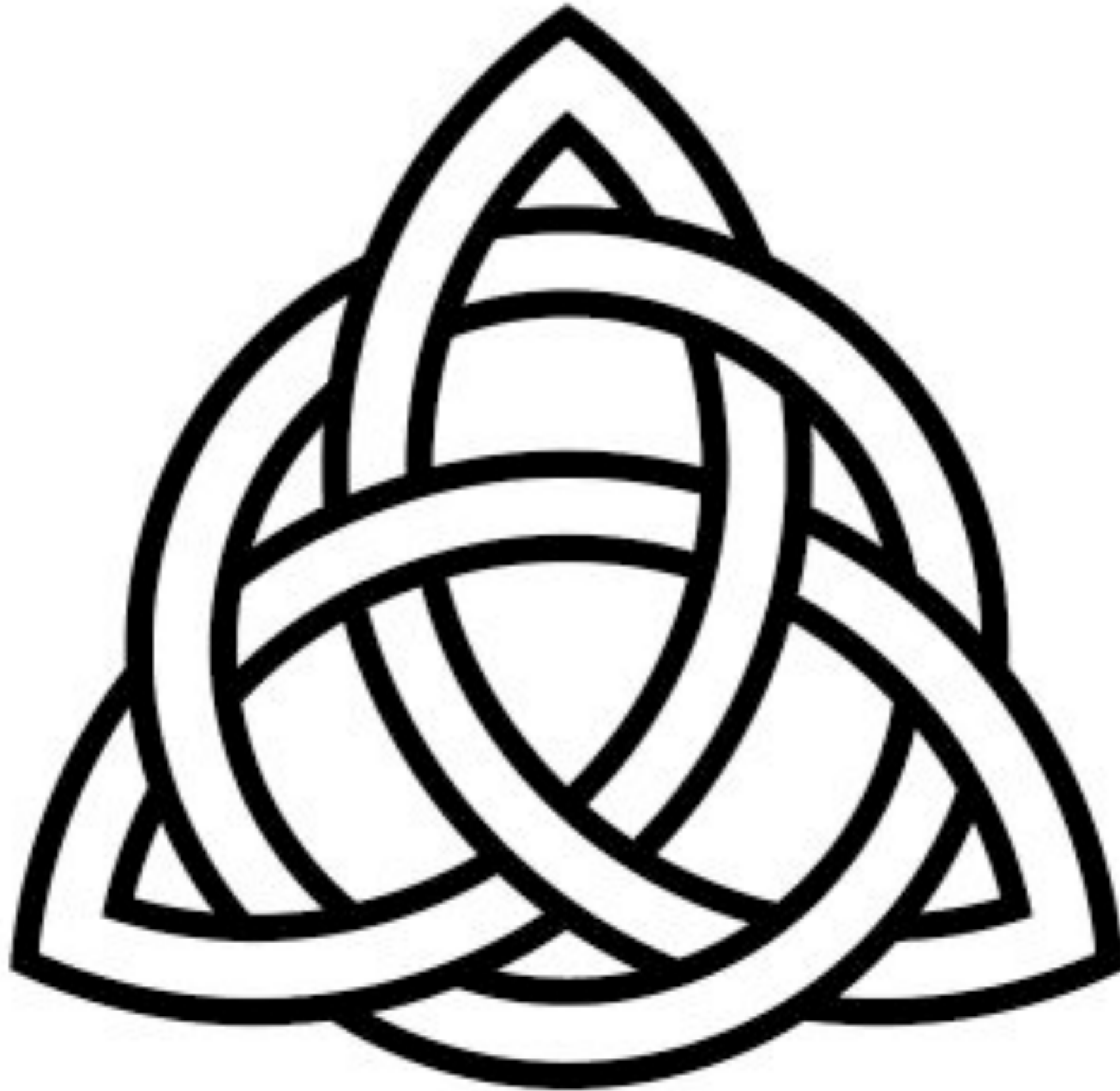
we know that faith has to be nurtured at home, although community is essential



we know that practices matter, in terms of exercise or *practice* of something as way to learn (not as a means of redemption or grace)



God is always the primary Agent in the community of truth



we are made in the *image of God*, a God who is communicative within Godself,
and in communication with all of God's Creation

and so we turn to media...



to understand media you need to understand practice



media practice is about communication and relationality

analogies?

best one might be to food



food

- we all require it to survive
- we are embedded in a culture that offers us a lot of unhealthy choices
- the artful practices of preparing and eating food are stressed if not extinct
- no clear social consensus



media

- we require communication to survive
- we are offered a lot of unhealthy communication practices
- artful practices of preparing and engaging in communication are stressed if not extinct
- no clear social consensus



so what are we to do?

analogies

- help people develop healthy practices around media
- encourage a diverse media diet
- encourage the production of media
- provide ways to share more communally in consuming pre-produced media
- highlight our unique media



some examples, NOT definitive!

for young children

- limit commercially produced media consumption
- for the times you do engage media, put good pieces in front of them (Common Good radio, Children's literature, etc.)
- institute table prayers and practices (candles, etc.)
- invite a biblical imagination into daily practice (Bible Stories for the 40 days)



for school age kids

- invite them to create media (MyPopStudio, animoto, etc.)
- watch media together
- have clear family practices around media use
- diversify your media diet
- choose media with deep theological themes to engage together
- choose Wii or Kinect over more solitary or less physical options



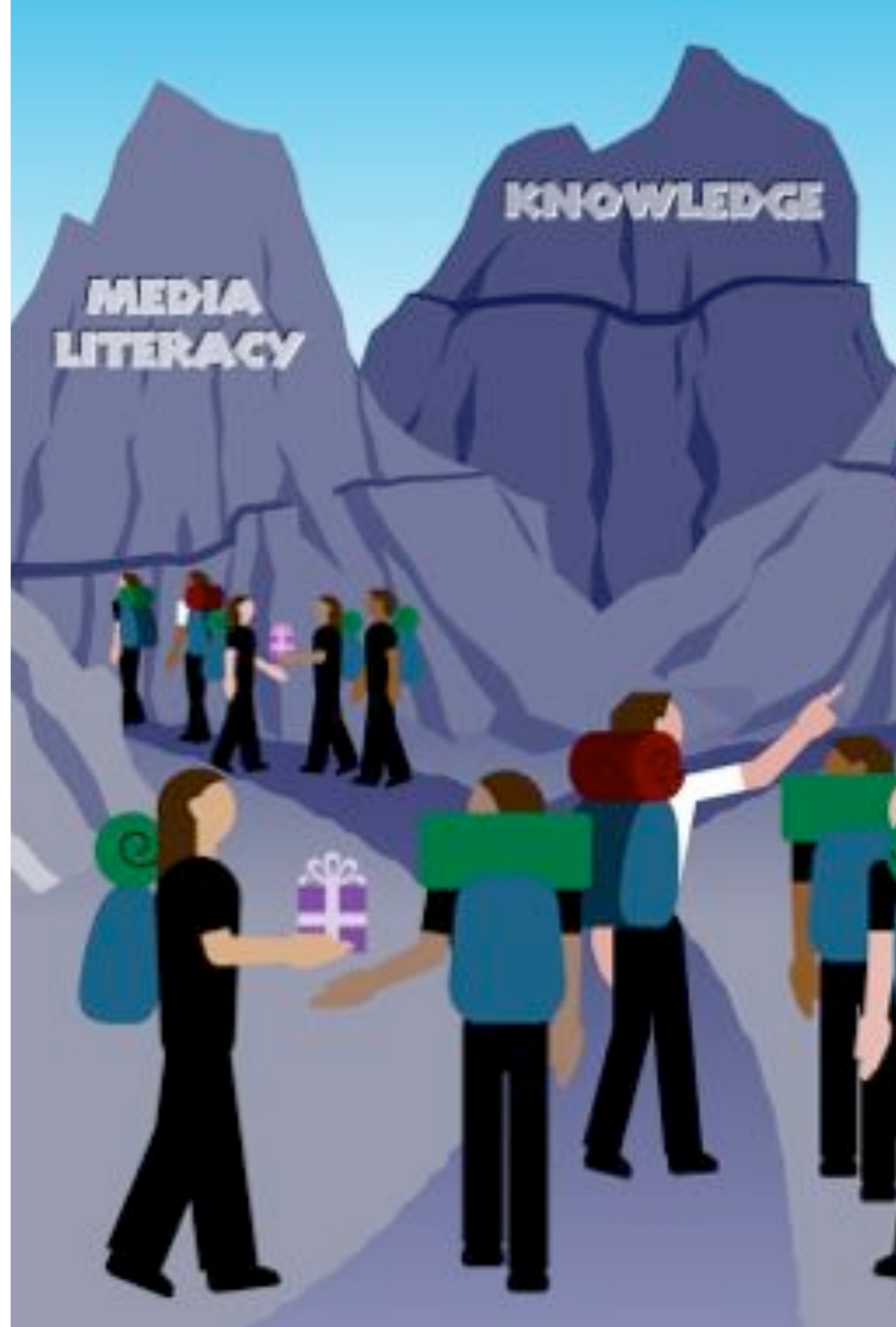
for teens

- play and learn online together
- set clear guidelines for family media use
- provide opportunities to create in media
- practice open and engaged communication in any medium
- engage in service together
- participate with them in social media



for adults

- choose the Net over cable tv
- develop a thoughtful news diet
- learn with young people
- create in media



for pastoral leaders

- learn what your community is engaging and join them there
- mind your own media diet (subscribe to a variety of news and pastoral resources)
- encourage media creation
- hone the unique media of faith community



remember

- *practices* by which we engage media are more determinative than media content
- emerging technologies make engaging media an *adaptive* challenge
- we confess a Trinitarian God, communicative within Godself, and in relationship with Creation
- we need to support people with media in ways that we support healthy food practices
- support your congregation with faith practices that engage and produce media

let's practice the analogy: what are your questions?
how does the analogy help you to answer them?

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