

Please include in Newsletters and Bulletins as appropriate. Thanks!

It seems like forever since the **Page Turner's Book Club** has come together for one of our lively discussions. We anticipate safely resuming in-person meetings at noon on Sept. 2 in the Campus Center. Hooray!

Schedules and commitments have changed for many. This may be a great time for you to join us. All are welcome. We gather at 12:00 noon on the first Thursday of each month during the academic year. We meet in University Lutheran's Campus Center for about an hour. You are welcome to bring your lunch. University Lutheran continues to monitor and follow COVID safety protocols put forth by the synod (social distancing, masks).

Our group is very informal. Books are selected based on recommendations from members and friends. Many of us find that alternating between fiction and non-fiction expands the scope of our reading quite a bit beyond books we would choose ourselves. Leaders also alternate, based on book selections. You are welcome to come any time; friends are welcome, too.

The book group is seeking a savvy volunteer to serve as Zoom meeting administrator, while attending our in-person discussions. The church office plans to provide the laptop, setup, and access codes. Please let us know if you have the basic Zoom skills to allow us to include those who may be unable to attend in person.

As promised, we plan to pick up right where we left off, with these two selections.

- Sept. 2, 2021
"Killers of the Flower Moon: The Osage Murders and the Birth of the FBI"
by David Grann (2017)
Leader: Pat Carper
- Oct. 7, 2021
"The Guardians: A Novel"
by John Grisham (2019)
Leaders: Jerry & Jean Park

Bring your suggestions for books to read going forward. Can't wait to see you all again!

Kim Savage

Book Descriptions:

Sept. 2, 2021: “Killers of the Flower Moon: The Osage Murders and the Birth of the FBI” by David Grann (2017) (Pat)

In the 1920s, the Osage found themselves in a unique position among Native American tribes. As other tribal lands were parceled out in an effort by the government to encourage dissolution and assimilation of both lands and culture, the Osage negotiated to maintain the mineral rights for their corner of Oklahoma, creating a kind of “underground reservation.” It proved a savvy move; soon countless oil rigs punctured the dusty landscape, making the Osage very rich. And that’s when they started dying.

You’d think the Osage Indian Reservation murders would have been a bigger story, one as familiar as the Lindbergh kidnapping or Bonnie and Clyde. It has everything, but at scale. Execution-style shootings, poisonings, and exploding houses drove the body count to over two dozen, while private eyes and undercover operatives scoured the territory for clues. Even as legendary and infamous oil barons vied for the most lucrative leases, J. Edgar Hoover’s investigation – which he would leverage to enhance both the prestige and power of his fledgling FBI – began to overtake even the town’s most respected leaders.

Oct. 7, 2021: “The Guardians: A Novel” by John Grisham (2019) (Jerry & Jean)

In John Grisham’s latest novel, *The Guardians*, a former priest named Cullen Post works for an organization called Guardian Ministries that scours court transcripts and personal letters from convicts to determine if someone is wrongfully imprisoned for a crime he or she didn’t commit. If the organization believes without a doubt that the potential client is innocent, it will do everything it can within the boundaries of the law to free an innocent person, investigating and pushing for a new trial.

Quincy Miller has been in prison for 22 years — and still claims his innocence. A young lawyer was murdered, and suspicion quickly turned to Miller pulling the trigger. He says a fellow inmate fabricated a story about Miller confessing, and his ex-wife claimed that he owned several guns, which also wasn’t true. Another witness lied about seeing him flee the scene. Miller swears he never owned a gun, wasn’t anywhere in the area that night and that a key piece of evidence that later disappeared was planted. It’s a bit much to believe that so many folks would be involved in a miscarriage of justice, but Post believes Miller and begins to dig into what happened that fateful night.

Grisham again delivers a suspenseful thriller mixed with powerful themes such as false incarceration, the death penalty and how the legal system shows prejudice. The Guardian team of characters is first-rate, and Miller’s attitude and mannerisms will have readers questioning what truth means in the world of the legal system.