



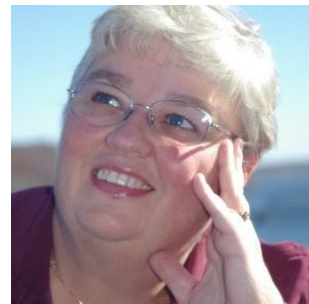
*Living for God, Writing for People*

## November 14

**Joyce K. Ellis**

### **Crafting Personal Experience Stories**

Your own personal experience (or someone else's) can encourage, motivate, and challenge readers. Many editors of books, articles, and devotionals are looking for personal experience manuscripts because "truth-enfleshed" writing often reaches readers better than the theoretical. In this practical session, we will help you identify stories that can benefit others and give you the tools to craft them into saleable books and articles.



Joyce K. Ellis is author or coauthor of more than a dozen books, including *The 500 Hats of a Modern-Day Woman*, updated and revised and the soon-to-be-released grammar book, *Write with Excellence: A lighthearted guide to the serious matter of writing well for Christian authors, editors, and students*. She has also published hundreds of magazine articles (specializing in stories from her own personal experience and those of others). She wrote a grammar column for *Christian Communicator* magazine for five years, served as a staff editor for two Christian magazines, and currently does editing for *Prayer Connect* magazine. She received a Gold Medallion Award for her children's

devotional book, *The One-Minute Bible for Kids*, and she has won numerous awards from the Evangelical Press Association for her articles. She has mentored writing students in person and by correspondence course, has served as assistant director for the Write-to-Publish Conference in the Chicago area, and teaches at writers conferences and speaks for women's groups and retreats across the country and internationally. She and Steve, her husband of almost 47 years, who live in Eden Prairie, love traveling, reading, and being involved in the lives of their seven grandchildren.

**Next Month - December 12  
Susan May Warren**



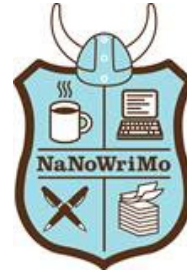
***Huddle Up!***

**Coaching, Mentoring,  
and Critique Groups...**

**how to find the right fit for you!**

Whatever your stage in the writing journey, you need help and support to grow. Author of more than 50 novels and a well-known mentor, Susan May Warren will compare the benefits of coaching, critique groups, and mentoring. She will discuss how to huddle up with other writers to transform each other's writing and careers.

**NaNoWriMo**



**Time to Write Your Novel?**

Are you ready to write your novel but need a push to get the first draft done? National Novel Writer Month (NaNoWriMo) may be just what you need!

The goal is to write for thirty days and nights, November 1-30, with literary abandon. The emphasis is on quantity, meeting word count goals, and completion, not perfection.

For more information, go to:  
<http://nanowrimo.org/> Set your goal, turn off your inner editor, and have fun!

**Going Deep to Reach High  
by Marianne McDonough**  
Communications Director

Recently I saw Tom Hanks interviewed. Accomplished actor and consummate professional, Hanks knows his business. For that reason, I particularly noted how

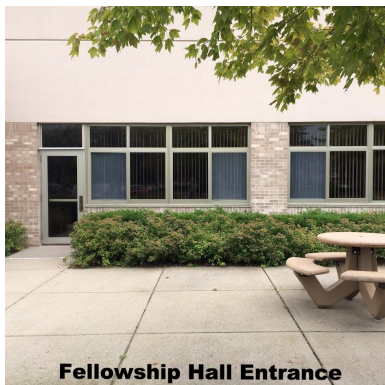
he prepared for his latest movie.

Of course, we expect him to have studied, memorized, and rehearsed the script. Those things are given, but here's what piqued my interest. He also researched the scientific and theoretical premises of the movie. He said that he read books and kept Google close at hand for questions he might have about the text. Not only that, he studied the location ahead of time, all the sites and history, including those slated for filming. That way, when he arrived, he would be familiar with his surroundings.

Impressed? I was. Because I could relate the way he approaches his art to the way we best approach ours. In fact, what he did is a great prescription for any art.

When we go deep into our subject matter, we lay a foundation for both the basics and the imperceptible nuances and qualities that make it really good. Just as filmgoers may not be aware that Hanks did all that research, our readers may not appreciate all of our groundwork and diligence. But in both cases, people know that they're experiencing something authentic. In order to give our readers writing that's full, rich, and satisfying, we take ample time for solid preparation.

In other words, to reach high we have to go deep first. This means for us as Christians, that we're firmly convinced about the purpose, truth, message, and Scriptural foundations of our work. When we instill those elements into our writing, we take our readers on a meaningful journey and invite them to reach high in their own lives for God's glory.



**Fellowship Hall Entrance**

Please note: When you turn onto Fairfield Road, Oak Knoll is on your right. Take the second right turn into the parking lot on the west side of the church. You will enter directly through the Fellowship Hall door, not the front entrance. A sign for



**Oak Knoll Lutheran Church**  
600 Hopkins Crossroad  
Minnetonka, 55305

[Map](#)

7:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.  
Second Monday of the Month  
September 2016 - May 2017

MCWG will be displayed on the correct door.

## 2016-2017 Officers

### President:

Beverly Snyder

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### Communications Director:

Marianne McDonough

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### Website and Media Director:

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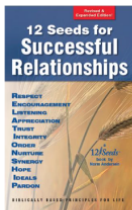
### Membership Director:

Kathy Gruber

[kathy.mcwg@gmail.com](mailto:kathy.mcwg@gmail.com)

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### Our Partner of the Month



English Version



Spanish Version

**12 Seeds International** provides transformational training materials for families, recovery ministries, businesses, and youth ministries.

The 12 Seeds are twelve Biblically-based principles that are planted in character, cultivated in relationships, and harvested in life together.

Go to [www.12seeds.org](http://www.12seeds.org) for more information on the powerful book, **12 Seeds for Successful Relationships**, as well as free downloadable training tools for leaders, mentors, and study groups.

Norm Andersen, [612-866-5927](tel:612-866-5927)

email: [norm@12seeds.com](mailto:norm@12seeds.com)

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### 2015-2016 Scripture

Hebrews 10:23-24 NIV

*Let us hold unwaveringly to the hope we profess,  
for he who promised is faithful.*

*And let us consider how we may spur one another on  
toward love and good deeds.*

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