Book Review:

Grace and Gigabytes: Being Church in a Tech-Shaped Culture
by Ryan M. Panzer

Reviewed by Carole Joyce, CENetwork of the ELCA

What will the church look like after the pandemic? After a long year of digital faith formation and worship, our congregations are discerning how to go back to in-person ministry yet keep the new digital connections that were built. ***Grace and Gigabytes*** can help.

I read the book hoping to figure out how grace and technology work together in ministry. I was pleasantly surprised to discover that the book is not really about technology in the church. And you do not have to know what a gigabyte is to read it! Instead, the book reflects on how **culture** has changed **because of technology.** That changing culture affects how we do everything including ministry.

Ryan Panzer skillfully lays out key shifts in culture due to technology. The devises we use every day—phones, computers, apps, video games—are all built to encourage questions, connections, collaboration, and creativity. These are the cultural values of the digital age and the church needs to engage them.

Questions. Connection. Collaboration. Creativity. Each are explored through the lens of our culture, the church and its mission. Chapters include reflection questions for your leadership teams. Most helpful are all the practical ideas for ministry. Yes, some do involve technology, but others are low tech or no tech options.

Grace and Gigabytes will help your congregation to encourage questions, build connections, include collaboration, and seek creativity for the sake of God's grace and mission.