

**WRITING SEMINAR: Where to Start**  
**Keynote Speaker: Liz Tolsma**

**Saturday, February 28, 2015**  
**9 am – 11:30 pm**

Our keynote speaker today is Liz Tolsma. She is a local author, who was raised in Menomonee Falls and is the daughter of a long time Falls Presbyterian OPC church pastor. Liz is a busy wife, mother of three internationally adopted children, one of which is a special needs child, speaker, and author of a trilogy of historic, inspirational fiction.

Her debut publication was a novella included in a collection called, "A Log Cabin Christmas." That book landed on the New York Times Bestseller list. Not bad for a first venture.

With that achievement under her belt, she proceeded to write her trilogy, the last of which was just released at the beginning of February. Her tag line for these stories is "Ordinary Women, Extraordinary Lives." Those novels were seeded from her family's history.

The first book of the trilogy, "Snow on the Tulips," earned her a finalist position for the prestigious Selah Award, as well as the Carol Award making her well qualified to speak about the writing and publishing process.

Panel discussion participants in addition to Ms. Tolsma were:

- Rev Dale Dykema, a retired pastor and Christian educator. He created and wrote texts for Covenant Home Curriculum for 30 years. He currently has theological and philosophical essays posted on Covenant Home's website. He also is a poet.
- Kristen Hammer has recently published a reference book "Understanding the Guatemalan Patient" she edited for her father, Dr. Steven Hammer. She also is a regular contributor to the blog "Just a Little Bit Older." And she just began her own blog "A Storyful Life."
- Nathan Pennington, a computer programmer, self-published a collection of 10 short mysteries as an experiment and has written many other yet unpublished.