

Foundational Courses of the LPA Program of the Montana Synod, ELCA

Foundational Courses

Students are expected to complete courses in four areas:

1. Old Testament
2. New Testament
3. Church History
4. Lutheran Theology

The cost of these resources is included in the tuition fees. At the first retreat students will be given a flash drive that includes all the resources needed for the program.

Old Testament

Digital presentation by Dr. Michael Chan

Description:

The Old Testament is challenging literature for Christian leaders. This course will persuade students that the Old Testament is not only a helpful companion in ministry, but that it is also invaluable. All lectures are given with preaching, teaching, and pastoral care in view. These lectures will provide crucial information on Israel's history and narratives, prophetic literature, wisdom literature, and why Scripture matters in the first place.

Your instructor is Dr. Michael Chan, Assistant Professor of Old Testament at Luther Seminary. Dr. Chan did his Ph.D. work at Emory University and the University of Helsinki. The author of several books. Dr. Chan's research focuses on developing resources for Christian leaders, apocalyptic literature, and the prophets.

Details:

- Course Introduction (18 minutes)
- Part 1: Creation, Exile, and Return (74 minutes)
- Part 2: Prophetic Imagination (62 minutes)
- Part 3: Wisdom Literature (89 minutes)
- Part 4: Why Scripture Matters (44 minutes)

New Testament

An Introduction to the New Testament with Dr. James Aageson

The New Testament documents are central to the Christian faith and to historic Christianity. By ecumenical consensus among all Christian traditions, the New Testament is central to the faith, life, and worship of the Church. It is the word of God and it conveys the word of God. Even as the New Testament is central to all Christian traditions, interpretations of these texts often vary widely. This makes for a rich and fascinating tapestry of readings in the history of New Testament interpretation. This course is an introduction to the New Testament designed for a general audience and for lay people who may be preparing themselves for congregational leadership.

Notes: Jim is a Lutheran Professor.

Details: This is also included on the flash drive given to you during registration.

Church History

Reformation Roots (Select Learning resource)

Each session is 20-30 minutes long and is accompanied by a study guide designed for 50-60 minutes of class time. Featured presenters include: Martin Marty, Hans Wiersma, Phil Adamo, Mark Tranvik, Mickey Mattox, Victoria Christman, Darrell Jodock, Mickey McCormick, Ron Rittgers, Robert Christman, Laurel Carrington, Kirsi Stjerna, Euan Kerr Cameron, Mark Valeri, Eric Carlson, William Cahoy and Shawn Colberg.

Session 1: From Night to Dawn: the Stage is set for the Reformation

Session 2: From bondage to Freedom: Luther Rediscovered Grace

Session 3: From Scholar to Provocateur: Luther Takes on the Church

Session 4: From Priest to Outlaw

Session 5: From Heretic to Hero

Session 6: From Scholar to Father: The Domestic Luther

Session 7: From Simple to Complex: The New Church Finds Common Ground

Bonus Session 8: Luther's Legacy

Session 9: Swiss Reformation: A Rationalist's Revolt

Session 10: Radical Reformation: Revolution and Withdrawal

Session 11: English Reformation: The Political Reformation

Session 12: The Catholic Reformation: Reaction and Renewal

Details: Please do not make copies of this resource. The Synod pays Select Learning for each copy we make.

Lutheran Theology 1.0

Rev. Dr. Laurie Jungling, Instructor

Even though "theology" sounds like a scary word, it is actually something we all do every day as we explore questions about how God engages our lives. Lutheran Theology 1.0 will dig down to the roots of the basic Lutheran beliefs and understandings of God's activity in our lives as well how Christ and the Spirit work in and through the Church. We will explore central concepts of Lutheran theology like "justification by grace through faith," "gospel and law," the Word of God, and preaching and reading scripture through Lutheran lenses. This will be an introduction to Lutheran theology that is designed for a general audience. There will be some reading required, most of which will be provided to you by the program.

Text: *Lutheran Study Bible (Augsburg Fortress, 2009)*

Optional Recommended Text: *Lutheran Trump Cards* by Dave Daubert

Session 1 – Intro to Lutheran Theology: Definitions and Concepts

Optional Read: *Lutheran Trump Cards* by Dave Daubert

Session 2 – Basics of Lutheran Theology: Faith of a Child

Read: *Small and Large Catechisms* by Martin Luther

Session 3 – "Justification by Grace through Faith": What does this mean?

Read: *Paul's Letter to the Romans* (Lutheran Study Bible recommended)

Session 4 – Luther’s “Freedom of a Christian”: The Freedom Christ Gives

Read: “The Freedom of a Christian” Part 1, paragraphs 17-69

Session 5 – Luther’s “Freedom of a Christian”: The Freedom of Christ We Live

Read: “The Freedom of a Christian,” Part 2, paragraphs 70-125

Session 6 – Discipleship & Vocation: Following Christ into God’s World

Session 7 – The Church, Preaching, and Engaging Scripture Lutheran Style

Recommended Read: Lutheran Study Bible: pp. 9-32, 1521-1553

Session 8 – The ELCA and You: What does it mean (and not mean) to be part of the ELCA?

Read: ELCA Website, the “About” & “Faith” sections

Details: This is also included on the flash drive given to you during registration.

Exceptions: If a candidate has already taken a class equivalent to those offered here it may count toward the course requirements of this program. Please submit a transcript to the synod office or talk to the Bishop if you have questions.

This is the typical order of required Foundational Courses:

Year 1 – Oct-April: Intro to Old Testament

Year 1 – April-Oct: Intro to New Testament

Year 2 – Oct-April: History of Christianity (Reformation Roots)

Year 2 – April-June: Intro to Lutheran Theology

However, candidates are welcome to take classes in any order they choose. In some cases, it may take more than two years.