



Series B Courses
Saturday mornings via Zoom, 9 am-Noon

B1 – Introduction to the Old Testament Sept 12, 19, 26, Oct 3, 10

The aims of this course are: to give the students an overview of the structure and theology of the Hebrew Scriptures and present the varieties of forms used to communicate the truth of God's Word contained in them. Special attention will be given to covenant theology and to relating Old Testament theology and history to our understanding of the New Testament.

B2 – Christian Doctrine Oct 24,31, Nov 7, 14, 21

This course has several main objectives: to introduce students to Systematic Theology, present a vision of the coherence of Christian beliefs to each other, help identify foundational doctrines, give an understanding of orthodoxy and heresy, gain an understanding of the communal and historic nature of doctrines and their spiritual foundations, and to help students understand and express why disciplined thought and faithful confession is crucial for church leaders.

B3 – Faith in the American Context Dec 5,12, 19, Jan 9, 16

The purpose of this course is to provide an overview of the history of the Lutheran church in America over the last 385 years, comparing past struggles and themes with issues in our church today, paying special attention to themes of immigration and assimilation (inclusion/exclusion/language), mission and outreach, authority, and identity.

B4 – Practicing Ministry III: Communicating the Gospel Jan 30, Feb 6, 13, 20, 27

This class will explore the role of the parish community of Word and Sacraments as the context for ministry, the source from which the Christian witness flows. Attention will also be paid to identifying 21st century situations where communication of the Gospel is essential, and how this communication may occur. The focus of this course is to look at opportunities within the parish for communicating the gospel (Bible studies, teaching, youth ministries, etc.) as well as in the community (various forms of evangelism, welcoming visitors and new members, etc.). Students will share personal ministry experiences of how they uniquely communicate the gospel in their lives, and reflect on them both Biblically and theologically.

B5 – Christian Worship Mar 6, 20, 27, Apr 10, 17, 24

This course surveys major aspects of the Sacraments, Lutheran liturgical worship, and the seasons of the church year with special emphasis on the cultural settings in which worship occurs. The course provides a practical understanding of the words, actions, and items involved in the worship services by giving a close examination of what is in our service books. It also ties the content of the services to their Biblical roots. This course also looks at the wide diversity of Christian Worship practices within the ELCA from traditional to contemporary, multi-cultural differences, etc.

B6 – Christian Ethics, May 8, 15, 22, June 5,12

Students will reflect on the implications of the Ten Commandments for contemporary life. They will be introduced to concepts and systems by which the Christian tradition has taught personal and public morality, for example, the "Deadly Sins" and "Cardinal Virtues", the "Just War" theory vs. Christian Pacifism, human nature and human sinfulness, and Luther's "Two Kingdoms" theology. The course provides opportunity for disciplined reflection on vexing ethical issues such as sexual ethics, sanctity of life, political witness, and economic justice. This course presents the opportunity to review and study some of the ELCA's Social and Teaching Statements.



**South-Central Synod of Wisconsin
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America**
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