



Series A Courses
Saturday mornings, 9 am-noon

A1 – Introduction to the New Testament Sept 11, 18, Oct 2,9, 16

The goals of this course are to understand the gospel message as revealed in the New Testament; to explore the life and faith of the Christian church in the first century; to understand how the Bible came down to us in its present form and to understand and use a variety of tools for interpreting the Bible. Throughout the course, students will reflect on how the New Testament Gospel has shaped our Christian lives.

A2 – Church History: The First 400 Years Oct 30, Nov 6,13,20, Dec 4

The purpose of this course is to help students understand the doctrinal, liturgical, and organizational development of the Christian tradition in its first four centuries. The internal and external political, cultural and religious forces which shaped our church and our statements of faith are covered. The course concludes with the unification of Christian thought in the Creeds.

A3 – Practical Ministry 1: Biblical Images of the Life of the Church Dec 18, Jan 8, 15, 22, 29

In this course, each Biblical image is examined for its meaning and usage in the New Testament. Students will consider the implications for the life of congregations and their ministries. These concepts are related to the ongoing work of preaching, teaching, counseling, worship, social ministry and acts of mercy carried out individually and corporately by the Church and her servants. They are studied in their interrelatedness, all centered in the "Great Commission" given to us by Christ. This course also introduces the idea of Baptismal vocation, the priesthood of all believers, and that we all have gifts that may be used. Teachers may spend time helping students discern their own possible gifts for ministry and service to the church and world.

A4 – Lutheran Creeds and Confessions Feb 12, 19, 26, Mar 5, 19

The history and content of the Book of Concord are at the heart of this course. Special emphasis is placed on the Augsburg Confession and Apology, the Catechisms and Smalcald Articles, as well as the New Testament books of Romans, Ephesians, and Galatians. Topics include: God and Sin, Justification by Grace Alone, Church and Ministry, Sacraments, and others. Parish constitutions may be studied to show the relation of confessional documents to modern Lutheranism.

A5 – Practical Ministry II: Visitation: The Sick, the Homebound, the Grieving Apr 2, 9, 23, 30, May7

This course has two components. First, students will be provided the opportunity to make at least one supervised visit in an institution and/or to the homebound. Class sessions will deal with understanding the needs of patients and loved ones, as well as issues relating to this ministry. This course will also provide opportunities to relate visitation ministry to the theology and worship life of the Church. The role of the Eucharistic Minister may also be explored. During this course, students may discern whether or not they have a gift for visitation.

A6 – The Daily Life of the Christian May 21, June 4, 11, 18, 25

This practical theology course will explore the meaning of Christian discipleship in daily life. The course will help the student to balance their baptismal vocation and calling in Christian life with family and personal life, church-related service and the world of work. Special attention will be given to the theology of sanctification, the Reformation and Luther's understanding of baptismal vocation, as well as the relation of the justified life of faith to good works, financial stewardship, and the disciplines which support discipleship such as daily prayer.



South-Central Synod of Wisconsin
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
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