

Reformation Lutheran Church
13100 Warwick Blvd.
Newport News, VA 23602

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NEWPORT NEWS, VIRGINIA

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Dated Material

Address Service Requested

Learning and Living Course Catalogue



Reformation Lutheran Church and Childcare
With a heart for the city and beyond
13100 Warwick Boulevard
Newport News, Virginia 23602
757-249-0374
fax, 757-249-8478

rlc@reformationlc.org
www.reformationlc.org

The Rev. James P. Nickols, Pastor
The Rev. Cheryl Ann Griffin, Associate Pastor

Reformation's Learning and Living Center

Reformation Lutheran Church, 13100 Warwick Boulevard, Newport News, VA 23602
757-249-0374 www.reformationlc.org

Please review the offerings in the catalogue and select the courses that interest you.

Your response will help us to develop the offerings for 2006-2007. For a course to be offered, five or more people must register and participate in a course. Additionally, each course must have a discussion leader.

Please return the form by Mon., 6 November 2006.

Name _____ Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Home Phone _____ Work Phone _____

Home E-mail _____ Work E-mail _____

M _____ F _____

Please check your age group:

____ 16-18; ____ 19-24; ____ 25-30; ____ 31-40; ____ 41-50; ____ 50 plus

The offerings will be divided among the seasons of the church year during the week (morning, afternoon and evening), and between the 9:30 and 11 a.m. services.

Epiphany	January 7 to February 18
Lent/Easter	February 25 to May 20
Pentecost 1	May 27 to August 26
Pentecost 2	September 2 to November 25
Advent/Christmas	December 2 to December 30

Please turn over.

Please provide the course number, course title, and the day and time that works best for your schedule. Please print.

Course No.	Course Title	Day	Time
1.	_____		
2.	_____		
3.	_____		
4.	_____		

Please return the form by Mon., 6 November 2006. Thank you.

Wednesday Children's Program – WOW (Weavers on Wednesday)

FaithWeaver Friends™ is a new midweek program to start in September at Reformation. It is a family-friendly weekly program for children - kindergarten through 5th grade. Every Wednesday beginning at 2:30 pm, the children will sing catchy songs, play teamwork-building games, make tasty treats, create special projects, and explore Bible stories in wild and wacky ways.

This program will touch children's hearts and lives with God's love. As they embark on a faith-filled adventure leading them to a stronger faith, a faith that will be applied to their everyday life, a faith they can share with others.

FW Friends runs throughout the school year. Transportation is possible from local elementary schools for a small fee.

Vacation Bible School Children's Program

Vacation Bible School is an exciting time at Reformation Lutheran Church. Enthusiastic music, meaningful worship activities, fun filled activities, and biblical teachings make it memorable. We invite children from age 2 through Grade 6 to participate in this awesome opportunity to learn of God's love.

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

In 2003, the decision was made to name Reformation's Christian education program "Learning and Living" rather than referring to it as "Sunday School."

The thinking behind that change was two-fold: to move away from the word "school" which has an academic sound to it (homework, papers, tests, evaluations, etc.) and to embrace the concept that to live the Christian life we need to learn about the Christian faith by growing in our understanding of the Hebrew and Christian Scriptures, the history of the Christian Church, and how to apply the wisdom of the Scriptures and the lessons learned from history to our lives. We need to learn the faith to live the faith.

The catalogue represents hours of research. The words of the Fourth Evangelist come to mind, "But there are also many other things that Jesus did; if every one of them were written down, I suppose that the world itself could not contain the books that would be written" (Saint John 21:25, NRSV). Well, there is so much to learn about God, the Holy Spirit, Jesus, the Hebrew and Christian Scriptures, and the Church that it would consume tons of paper!

This is a selection based upon the perceived needs at this moment. You are invited to complete the enclosed survey form. Based upon your selection, we will build the Christian education program for 2007-2008. After reviewing the selections and you had something in mind but it was missing, let us know and we will include it in the educational plan.

Some thoughts to ponder: research indicates that parents have a profound impact either positively or negatively on their children. In a comprehensive survey on the religious and spiritual lives of American teenagers¹ – the first such survey – Christian Smith notes:

- The vast majority of teenagers tend to be quite like their parents when it comes to religion. If parents not only attend church, but also are involved in church, so will their children.
- The church is where teenagers make significant contacts with adults other than family members.
- Church is intergenerational.
- The more religiously involved teenagers are the better they do in life.

- The youth who are involved in a religious youth group are more likely than those who are not, to attend religious services without parents, more often.
- The more religiously serious and involved a teen is, the more their good friends seem to be.

Of course, the foundation for the Christian life begins with Holy Baptism and continues with a commitment to live the Christian life by gathering for worship, for learning, for service and for fellowship.

We invite you to learn about the faith so that you will be empowered to live the faith at home, in the marketplace and in the work place.

Please complete and detach the survey on the back page; and return it to the parish office.

Sincerely, in Christ

James P. Nickols
Pastor

Cheryl Ann Griffin
Associate Pastor

Linda Lamma
Director of Christian Education

¹Smith, Christian, Soul Searching: The Religious and Spiritual Lives of American Teenagers, New York: Oxford University Press, 2005.

WS 101 Women of Faith: Celebrating Friendship

Friendship is important to a person's well-being. Carving out time to nurture meaningful friendships by listening, caring, and sharing with others makes a person healthier and happier. This Study will help the participant to make the connection with others. If you are stressed-out, bored and lonely, looking for new friends, or struggling to keep up with longtime friends, this study will help the participant to cultivate woman-to-woman friendships.

WS 102 Creating Confidence in Women

Discussing the differences between assertiveness and aggression, Jennifer Beresford looks at the reasons churches have discouraged women, suggests ways forward, and emphasizes that women can be both confident and Christian.

WS 201 Just a Sister Away

This study by Renita Weems bring to life women in the Bible. It looks at their relationships. Connections will be made to the ways women today across class, culture, race and time

WS 202 Back to the Well

This study looks at women in the New Testament in light of their encounters with Jesus. Six Gospel texts are viewed through their language, structure, literary and socio-cultural contexts. Frances Taylor Gench, author of this book, includes discussion questions.

WS 301 Women of Faith: Growing in Prayer

Prayer brings us face-to-face with God and our families. In this study, the participant will look at prayers "uttered from the edge" in the Bible and learn that God listens and responds in visible and surprising ways.

WS 302 Women of Faith: Experiencing God's Presence

In this study, the participant will look at the biblical characters who find themselves nestled under God's wing through their praises, their time, their giving, their struggles, their humility, and their rejoicing in God's amazing grace.

- HC 102 Healthy Congregations Respond to Anxiety and Change**
Five sessions focus on responding to anxiety, managing Conflict, responding to change, acting flexibly and creatively and planning for a healthier future.
- HC 103 Leadership in Healthy Congregations**
These five session explore the marks of a healthy congregation, the self-differentiated leader, Healthy Leaders video, promoting health through presence and functioning, challenging people and providing immune capacities.
- HC 104 Relationships in Healthy Congregations**
In this series, sessions include forgiving, truth telling, connecting, *Healthy Helping* video and the difficult business of helping.
- HC 105 Healthy Congregations Develop Generous People**
Stewardship is the focus in these five sessions: *Life is All of a Piece*, *The Stewardship of All Believers*, *Money Talks*, *Anxiety*, and *Money and People are Resources*.
- HC 106 The Spiritual Care of Healthy Congregations**
Five sessions include *Holiness and Health*, *Hospitality*, *Helping People to Begin Again*, *Spirit of Spirits* video and *A Different Kind of Health*.

Women's Studies

- WS 100 Women of Faith: Finding Joy**
As a Christian woman, if you have asked, "Where's the joy? Join this study to get to know yourself and other women better. Discover God's secret to "an inexpressible and glorious joy" (I Peter 1:8). Interactive sessions include: Joy-busters; Don't Sweat the Small Stuff; Don't Sweat the Big Stuff, Either; Get a Grip on Gripping; Remember When; and Joy-boosters." (Six sessions)

Recognizing Those Who Teach Us, Care for Us and Protect Us

Reformation Lutheran Church and Childcare will recognize various departments in the City of Newport News. Representatives from the departments will be present in worship services, conduct information sessions during the Learning and Living Centers, provide handouts, and bring displays.

**October 22, 2006
Newport News Fire Department**

**November 19, 2006
Newport News Police Department**

**February 11, 2007
Newport News Department of Social Services**

**March 11, 2007
Newport News Sheriff's Department**

**April 22, 2007
Newport News Parks, Recreation and Tourism**

**June 3, 2007
Newport News Public Schools**

**July 8, 2007
Newport News Department of Public Works**

**September 16, 2007
Newport News Office of Emergency Management**

**October 14, 2007
Newport News City Administration and Council**

Reformation's Convocation: Ethics in Life Series

Ethics in Politics	Sunday, January 21, 2007 4 p.m.
Presenter:	The Honorable Mayor Joe S. Frank Mayor, Newport News
Ethics in Media	Sunday, February 4, 2007 4 p.m.
Presenter:	Dr. Terry Lee Associate Professor, English Department Christopher Newport University, Newport News
Ethics in Business	Sunday, March 18, 2007 4 p.m.
Presenter:	Mr. Mike Petters President, Northrop Grumman, Newport News
Ethics in Family Life	Sunday, April 22, 2006 4 p.m.
Presenter:	The Rev. Carl A. Jensen, M. S. Ed. Executive Director Peninsula Pastoral Counseling Center Newport News
Ethics in Health Care	Sunday, May 20, 2007 4 p.m.
Presenter:	The Rev. Dr. H. Douglas Watson Riverside Medical Center Newport News

the faithful of today. There are five sessions: Standing at the Crossroads; Wet Feet; First Fruits; Confronting Evil and the Iron of Culture.

FF 621 The Prophets and Kings of Israel

An examination of God's faithfulness to his people in the wayward times of the kings and prophets and now to us in our society today. There are six sessions: Innocent Blood, Part 1; Innocent Blood, Part 2; Who is God?; The Wages of Sin; The Lord is My Shepherd and God with Us.

FF 701 Parables of Jesus

Through this video study, the participant will see the Bible come alive, understand the customs and culture behind the parables, and feel the impact of Jesus' message into the seven short dramas portrayed through the lens of the Bible. The parables are: the Good Samaritan; The Unmerciful Servant; the Treasure and the Pearl; The Lost Son; The Midnight Visitor; The Dinner; and the Manager.

FF 705 In the Dust of the Rabbi

Participants take a journey through Galilee and Asia Minor.

FF 706 Walk as Jesus Walked

This study follows **In the Dust of the Rabbi** by continuing the journey through Galilee and Asia Minor. Participants what following the Way, like the Apostle Paul, meant in the first century.

Healthy Congregations

Dedicated to the belief that healthy functioning of leaders contributes immensely to the healthy functioning of a congregation, Healthy Congregations is a series of six workshops. The principles learned in this series can be applied to one's family system, too.

HC 101 Creating Healthy Congregations

Five sessions include an overview of systems thinking, the video *The Anxious Congregation and The Responsible Congregation*, accepting differences, focus on strength, and focus on mission.

Table of Contents

FF 407	Jeremiah
FF 501	Matthew for Everyone, Part 1
	N.T. Wright, the Bishop of Durham, Anglican Church of England, is renowned New Testament scholar and prolific author. He authored more than 30 books. Wright takes on the task of providing guides to all the New Testament books. Each New Testament study guide is 10 sessions.)
FF 502	Matthew for Everyone, Part 2
FF 503	Mark for Everyone
FF 504	Luke for Everyone
FF 505	John for Everyone, Part 1
FF 505	John for Everyone, Part 2
FF 506	Paul for Everyone: 1 Corinthians
FF 507	Paul for Everyone: 2 Corinthians
FF 508	Paul for Everyone: Galatians and Thessalonians
FF 509	Paul for Everyone: The Prison Letters
FF 510	Paul for Everyone: The Pastoral Letters
FF 511	Hebrews for Everyone
FF 601	Daily Discipleship
	<i>Daily Discipleship</i> is an online lectionary Bible study. Each session is available to be downloaded and copied for participants. This Bible study is designed for small or large groups as well as for personal devotion online (www.elca.org).
FF 620	The Promised Land
	This study focuses on how God marked people and their land – a Mark that God has extended through ancient Israel to

Recognizing Those Who Teach Us, Care for Us and Protect Us	page 5
Reformation's Convocation: Ethics in Life Series	page 6

Arts and Faith

Music and Faith

Grace: Sing the Song	page 12
Hymns on Prayer	page 12
Hymns on the Presence of God	page 12
Hymns of Comfort	page 12
Spirituals	page 13
Carols of Christmas	page 13
Hymns of Lent	page 13
Hymns to the Creator	page 13
Hymns of Community	page 13
Hallelujah	page 14
Sowing Tears, Reaping Joy	page 14

Film and Faith

The Box Office: "Reel to Real"	page 14
The Box Office: "Reel to Real"	page 14
The Box Office: "Reel to Real"	page 14
Matrix: The Spiritual Film	page 14
The Passion of the Christ	page 14

Literature and Faith

The DaVinci Code – Decoded	page 15
Introduction to the Writings of C. S. Lewis	page 15
The Poetry of John Donne	page 15
Listening for God 1	page 15
Listening for God 2	page 16
Listening for God 3	page 16
Listening for God 4	page 16
Pontius Pilate	page 16

Care and Support

Grief Recovery	page 16
Divorce: Survival and Hope	page 16
Breaking the Cycle of Addiction	page 17

Christian Doctrine and Theology

Holy Baptism	page 17
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The Eucharist	page 17
The Creeds	page 17
The Incarnation	page 17
The Resurrection	page 17
The Study of Eschatology	page 18
The Atonement	page 18
Christian Ethics	
Introduction to Christian Ethics	page 18
Christian Attitudes Toward War and Peace	page 18
Christian Family	
Preparing for Marriage	page 18
PREP Workshop	page 19
Understanding the Love of Your Life	page 19
Active Parenting: Early Childhood	page 20
Active Christian Parenting	page 20
Communication with Your Child or Teen	page 20
Discipline with Children and Teens	page 20
Single Parenting	page 20
Your Family and Money	page 20
Handling Anger	page 21
Church History	
History of Israel	
Introduction to the History of Christianity	page 21
Introduction to the Reformation	page 21
The Life of Dr. Martin Luther	page 21
Introduction to the Augsburg Confession	page 21
Introduction to Lutheranism	page 22
Christian Life	
Akaloo	page 22
Living Together	page 22
The Cost of Discipleship	page 22
Stewardship	page 23
Faith and Money: Understand Annual Giving in the Church	page 23
Extraordinary Money! Understanding the Capital	
Campaign In Church	page 23
Creative Giving: Understanding Planned Giving and	
Endowments in the Church	page 23

FF 312 The Bible and Theology

An explanation of the basic tenets of the Christian faith: Trinity, Christology, Ecclesiology, Anthropology, Soteriology, Authority, Sacraments and Eschatology (26 parts, 4 books of 6-7 parts).

FF 320 Introduction to the Old Testament

A survey of the books of the Hebrew Scriptures, the authors, and the context in which the book was written, to be written, and more.

FF 330 Introduction to the New Testament

A survey of the political and religious history relating to the origins of Christian Scriptures. Emphasis is upon the historical and theological questions of each book.

FF 401 Genesis

A study of the first book of the Bible using ten key passages of the book. The study guide features maps, illustrations, definition of key terms, interesting biblical facts and features. (10 sessions)

FF 402 Exodus

A study of the second book of the Bible using ten key passages of the book. The study guide features maps, illustrations, definition of key terms, interesting biblical facts and features. (10 sessions)

FF 403 First and Second Samuel

Using ten key passages of the book, the study explores the "historical" books with maps, illustrations, definition of key terms, interesting biblical facts and features. (10 sessions)

FF 404 Esther and Ruth

Resource: Westminster John Knox Press

FF 405 Psalms

FF 406 Isaiah

	Lutheran Church is organized and their role in the mission and ministry of the church. Upon completion of this seminar, an individual, if he or she desires, may affiliate with Reformation.	Up for Discussion: Politics, Race, Truth Up for Discussion: The Simple Life, Selfishness, Work and Play	page 23 page 23
FF 301	Luther's Large Catechism As a result of visiting parish clergy affiliated with the Reformation movement, Luther discovered that many clergy needed to be refreshed in the basic tenets of the Christian faith. Luther wrote the <i>Large Catechism</i> to address that need. This course will explore the development of the <i>Large Catechism</i> and Luther's exposition of the Ten Commandments; the Creed; the Lord's Prayer; Baptism; the Sacrament of the Altar, and Confession.	Christian Life continued: Up for Discussion: Your Church, Doubt, Heaven Serious Answers to Hard Questions Stumbling Blocks to Faith	page 24 page 24 page 24
FF 302	The Augsburg Confession This course examines the <i>Augsburg Confession</i> in its historical setting, and especially its meaning and relevance to the Church today. This course is for any one who hungers for a much deeper understanding of the historic teachings of the Lutheran Church. (5 sessions: 1. The Center of the Augsburg Confession: Justification, Christology, and Atonement; 2. The Effect of this Confession: Law and Gospel, the Church; 3. The World of this Confession: The Two Realms and Government, Works, and Vocation; 4. Signs and Wonders: Baptism and the Lord's Supper, And 5. Applied Confessions: Articles in Dispute)	Christian Ministry Host Acolyte Usher Lector Communion Assistant Assisting Minister Altar Care With the Whole Church – A Study Guide for Renewing Worship Train the Trainer PREP Coach Training Lessons in Leadership Christian Reflections on Leadership Challenge	page 24 page 24 page 24 page 25 page 25 page 25 page 25 page 25 page 25 page 26 page 26 page 26 page 26
FF 310	Discovering the Bible An introduction to the Bible by exploring people, events, ideas and places through reading and discussion (30 parts). Recommend two 2 hour sessions during the week.	Christian Outreach Evangelism Evangelizing: The Lutheran Contribution The Inviting Church Making Your Church More Inviting In Search of the Unchurched Twelve Keys to an Effective Church Visiting in the Age of Mission	page 27 page 27 page 27 page 27 page 27 page 28 page 28
FF 311	The Bible in Depth Explore the entire Bible in themes and its meaning for living today. Two hour sessions (34 parts).	Christian Spirituality A History of Christian Spirituality Introduction to Christian Spirituality Monastics and Mystics Prayer: Finding the Heart's True Home Celebration of Discipline	page 28 page 28 page 29 page 29 page 29
		Christian World Families of Faith: An Introduction to World Religions	page 29

Introduction to the Anglican Church	page 30
Introduction to Presbyterian Church USA	page 30
Introduction to United Church of Christ	page 30

Christian World

Introduction to the Reformed Church in America	page 30
Introduction to Judaism	page 30
Introduction to Islam	page 30
Introduction to Hinduism and Buddhism	page 31
An overview of the history and system of belief of Hinduism and Buddhism.	page 31
Introduction to Sects	page 31

Foundations of Faith

Holy Baptism: Let the Children Come	page 31
First Communion	page 31
Confirmation	page 31
Luther's Small Catechism	page 31
Journey Together	page 31
Luther's Large Catechism	page 32
The Augsburg Confession	page 32
Discovering the Bible	page 32
The Bible in Depth	page 32
The Bible and Theology	page 33
Introduction to the Old Testament	page 33
Introduction to the New Testament	page 33
Genesis	page 33
Exodus	page 33
First and Second Samuel	page 33
Esther and Ruth	page 33
Psalms	page 33
Isaiah	page 33
Jeremiah	page 34
Matthew for Everyone, Part 1	page 34
Matthew for Everyone, Part 2	page 34
Mark for Everyone	page 34
Luke for Everyone	page 34
John for Everyone, Part 1	page 34
John for Everyone, Part 2	page 34
Paul for Everyone: 1 Corinthians	page 34
Paul for Everyone: 2 Corinthians	page 34

CW 203 Introduction to Hinduism and Buddhism

An overview of the history and system of belief of Hinduism and Buddhism.

CW 204 Introduction to Sects

An overview of the Jehovah's Witnesses, Church of Jesus Christ and Latter Day Saints, and other groups.

Foundations of Faith

FF 101 Holy Baptism: Let the Children Come

Preparation for parents who desire to have their child(ren) baptized.

FF 102 First Communion

Preparation for a child or children to receive Holy Communion.

FF 103 Confirmation

This is the first of year of a two-year course of instruction in the essentials of the Christian faith. Using *The Lutheran Handbook*, the student will explore Hebrew and Christian scriptures in a year-long survey. Study of Luther's *Small Catechism* will comprise the second year.

FF 104 Luther's Small Catechism

Martin Luther offers insight into the meaning of faith and Life. Explore the five main sections: the Ten Commandments, Apostles' Creed, Lord's Prayer, Sacrament of Holy Baptism, and Sacrament of Holy Communion. The focus in on how these five components relate to daily life and to the life of the congregation. (6 sessions)

FF 201 Journey Together

This course explores the origins of the Lutheran Church, its theology, its teachings, its polity and its practices. Participants will learn how the

faithful to our faith while being respectful of other religions? Using Paul Varo Martinson's book, *Families of Faith*, we will learn about the major world religions and how we can respond to them.

CW 102 Introduction to the Anglican Church

A survey of Anglican Church including: Anglican consciousness, authority within the Church, how Anglicans read the Bible and how they understand the incarnation, the sacraments, the liturgy, the episcopacy, pastoral care, spirituality, mission, church and state, and prophetic witness.

CW 103 Introduction to Presbyterian Church USA

An introduction to the major beliefs of Presbyterians. The study is arranged according to three broad headings: the God Who Reveals, Creates and Guides; the Christ Who Saves People Like Us, and the Church Where Faith Begins, Is Nourished, and Grows.

CW 104 Introduction to United Church of Christ

A survey of the history of Congregationalism from the story of Plymouth Rock to the birth of the United Church of Christ (1957), exploring the theology, polity, worship, and mission of the church.

CW 105 Introduction to the Reformed Church in America

The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America is in communion fellowship with the Reformed Church in America (RCA). The participant will explore the history, polity, and theology of the RCA.

CW 201 Introduction to Judaism

The participant will examine Judaism's history, Scriptures, theology, and practices.

CW 202 Introduction to Islam

An overview of the history, structure and system of belief of Islam.

Paul for Everyone: Galatians and Thessalonians	page 34
Paul for Everyone: The Prison Letters	page 34
Paul for Everyone: The Pastoral Letters	page 34

Foundations of Faith

Hebrews for Everyone	page 34
Daily Discipleship	page 34
The Promised Land	page 34
The Prophets and Kings of Israel	page 35
Parables of Jesus	page 35
In the Dust of the Rabbi	page 35
Walk as Jesus Walked	page 35

Healthy Congregations

Creating Healthy Congregations	page 35
Healthy Congregations Respond to Anxiety and Change	page 36
Leadership in Healthy Congregations	page 36
Relationships in Healthy Congregations	page 36
Healthy Congregations Develop Generous People	page 36
The Spiritual Care of Healthy Congregations	page 36

Women's Studies

Women of Faith: Finding Joy	page 36
Women of Faith: Celebrating Friendship	page 37
Creating Confidence in Women	page 37
Just a Sister Away	page 37
Back to the Well	page 37
Women of Faith: Growing in Prayer	page 37
Women of Faith: Experiencing God's Presence	page 37

Wednesday Children's Program – WOW (Weavers on Wednesday)	page 38
Vacation Bible School Children's Program	page 38
Reformation's Learning and Living Center Survey	page 39

Arts and Faith

Music and Faith

AF 101 Grace: Sing the Song

Each session focuses on a single common popular traditional hymn and its biblical roots, background, and application to daily living. Participants will connect the bible to the hymns they sing in worship. The hymns are: “Amazing Grace,” “How Firm the Foundation,” “Children of the Heavenly Father,” “All Hail the Power of Jesus’ Name,” and “O Day Full of Grace.” (Five sessions)

AF 102 Hymns on Prayer

Each session focuses on a single common popular traditional hymn and its biblical roots, background, and application to daily living. Participants will focus on praise and adoration as a practice expressed in “What a Friend We Have in Jesus,” “Lord, Teach Us How to Pray Aright,” “Lord Jesus Christ, We Humbly Pray,” “Stand Up For Jesus,” and “Love Divine, All Loves Excelling.”

AF 103 Hymns on the Presence of God

Each session focuses on a single common popular traditional hymn and its biblical roots, background, and application to daily living. Participants will explore the presence of God in the hymns “Great is Thy Faithfulness,” “What a Fellowship, What a Joy Divine,” “Blessed Assurance,” “Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise,” and “Holy, Holy, Holy.”

AF 104 Hymns of Comfort

Each session focuses on a single common popular traditional hymn and its biblical roots, background, and application to daily living. Participants study the concepts of comfort expressed in five traditional hymns, and their connection with the biblical narrative. The hymns are “Comfort, Comfort Now My People,” “I Know that My Redeemer Lives,” “Precious Lord, Take My Hand,” “Oh God, Our Help in Ages Past” and “Come Gracious Spirit, Heavenly Dove.”

CS 103 Monastics and Mystics

Explore the nature and impact of monastic and mystic spirituality upon the Christian faith. The course will look at such as Anthony, Evagrius, Cassian, Claire, Bernard, Francis, Ignatius Loyola and such mystics as Hildegard, Julian of Norwich, Thomas a Kempis, Teresa of Avila, and Saint John of the Cross.

CS 201 Prayer: Finding the Heart’s True Home

Using Richard J. Foster’s book, Prayer: Finding the Heart’s True Home, the participant will learn about different styles of prayer and how each form can move us inward into personal transformation, upward toward intimacy with God, and outward to minister to others. “Nothing,” writes Foster, “feels more right, more like what we created to be and to do. Yet at the same time we are confronted with great mysteries. Who hasn’t struggled with the puzzle of unanswered prayer? Who hasn’t wondered how a finite person can commune with the infinite Creator of the universe? Who hasn’t questioned whether prayer isn’t merely psychological manipulation after all? We do our best, of course, to answer these knotty questions but when all is said and done, there is a sense in which these mysteries remain unanswered and unanswerable. . . .At such times we must learn to become comfortable with the mystery.” (12 sessions)

CS 301 Celebration of Discipline

Celebration of Discipline is designed to help Christians experience authentic transformation through engagement with classic Christian disciplines: meditation, prayer, fasting, simplicity, solitude, service, confession, worship and guidance. This study is based upon Richard Foster’s bestselling spiritual growth book of the same name. (13 sessions)

Christian World

CW 101 Families of Faith: An Introduction to World Religions

How are we to respond to other religions that surround us? How can we understand them? How can we respond in a way that is

congregations to reverse decline. The participant will discover how congregations have wrestled with the issues of ministry to current members, to ministry to the unchurched, worship, changing neighborhoods, and more.

CO 201 Twelve Keys to an Effective Church

Why do some churches thrive and others struggle to retain members and stay financially sound? How can churches today build on their strengths? Kennon Callahan identifies 12 essential characteristics of successful, growing churches. Callahan offers a way to unlock Reformation's potential for effective ministry.

CO 202 Visiting in the Age of Mission

Based upon Kennon Callahan's classic, *Twelve Keys to an Effective Church*, this study presents a practical guide to visiting, both within the congregation and the community at larger. Callahan outlines five steps that will help the participant grow in his or her visiting: discovering those whom God is inviting you to visit; choosing your ways of visiting, deciding the best time to visit, growing your gifts for visiting and building your mission. (5 sessions)

Christian Spirituality

CS 101 A History of Christian Spirituality

Using Urban T. Holmes classic work, *A History of Christian Spirituality*, the participant will discover the rich Christian heritage of devotion to God.

CS 102 Introduction to Christian Spirituality

Readings and discussion introduces the participant to the rich and varied streams of spirituality which nourishes the Christian church. This course will examine some of the significant figures and models of spirituality, e.g., Johann Tauler, Saint Francis of Assisi, Saint John of the Cross, Luther, Calvin, and others.

AF 104 Spirituals

Each session focuses on a single common popular traditional hymn and its biblical roots, background, and application to daily living. Participants explore the rich tradition of African American spirituals and their connection with the biblical narrative. Such great hymns as "Were You There When They Crucified My Lord," "This Little Light of Mine," "Swing Low, Sweet Chariot," "Let Us Break Bread Together on Our Knees," and "Shall We Gather at the River."

AF 105 Carols of Christmas

Each session focuses on a single common popular traditional hymn and its biblical roots, background, and application to daily living. Participants examine faith in hymns like "Joy to the World," "Silent Night," "Good Christian Friends, Rejoice."

AF 106 Hymns of Lent

Each session focuses on a single common popular traditional hymn and its biblical roots, background, and application to daily living. Participants explore the themes of Lent in some of the traditional hymns of the season.

AF 107 Hymns to the Creator

Each session focuses on a single common popular traditional hymn and its biblical roots, background, and application to daily living. Participants focus on God as creator of the world and considers nature as a pattern of our lives.

AF 108 Hymns of Community

Each session focuses on a single common popular traditional hymn and its biblical roots, background, and application to daily living. The participant will examine five hymns that reflect on community and what it means to be in unity.

AF 109 Hallelujah

Participants explore Handel's Messiah, with musical commentary. (10 Sessions)

AF 110 Sowing Tears, Reaping Joy

An examination of Brahm’s use of the Bible in his “German Requiem.” Exploring what it teaches us about death, grief, and everlasting life.” (7 Sessions)

Film and Faith

AF 201 The Box Office: “Reel to Real”

Using stories with familiar settings and characters is how Jesus caught his hearers’ attention and connected them with his message. By using the modern parables of the movies, participants in this discussion group will be able to connect faith to every day life.

AF 202 The Box Office: “Reel to Real”

CL 202 continues the discussion of applying film to life by using clips from great comedies and musicals.

AF 203 The Box Office: “Reel to Real”

CL 203 is the third in the series by using clips featuring Hollywood’s brightest stars.

AF 204 Matrix: The Spiritual Film

Neo, the main character in Matrix, is the one foretold by the prophets to reveal the truth that will free humankind. In order to free others, he gives up his life only to come back from the dead even more powerful than before. Toward the end of the movie, he even ascends into heaven. Explore the Christian themes in the Matrix trilogy. (6 Sessions)

AF 205 The Passion of the Christ

An examination of Mel Gibson’s blockbuster of the last 12 hours of Jesus of Nazareth’s life. How does the story board stack-up against the Gospels? Where are the differences? What are his sources? 14

Christian Outreach

CO 110 Evangelism

Using John P. Bowen’s book, *Evangelism for ‘Normal’ People: Good News for Those Looking for a Fresh Approach*, the participant will discover ways to witness one’s faith in everyday situations.

CO 111 Evangelizing: The Lutheran Contribution

Participants will explore how evangelism has functioned within Lutheranism and will discover the Lutheran theological perspective on evangelism and how it differs from other theologies of evangelism that are present today. The study will move from theology to practice.

CO 120 The Inviting Church

Learn how a congregation’s sense of mission and its internal life affect who comes to the church and who stays, what kind of place people are attracted to, and the processes other churches have found helpful in assisting newcomers to become part of their congregation. The study includes a self-study design for assessing assimilation processes and analyzing visitor’s perceptions—helping us to create a more inviting church (includes video tape). (8 sessions)

CO 121 Making Your Church More Inviting

Building on **The Inviting Church** (CO 101), the participant will study the congregation’s IQ (Invitation Quotient) with this workbook. The study will assist clergy and lay leaders in guiding committees through an exploration of how the congregation invites, welcomes, and incorporates new members with the goal of becoming better at every step of the member as simulation process. (15 sessions)

CO 122 In Search of the Unchurched

This study is to examine what is and is not working in our congregation in reaching the unchurched. The participant will explore the changing environment around the church, look at the facts about declining congregations, and the factors that inspired some

cludes an essay to read, discussion questions, and activities. This study is part of the Renewing Worship materials published by the ELCA.

CM 201 Train the Trainer

CM 203 PREP Coach Training

PREP – Prevention Relationship Enhancement Program – is an educational program that teaches couples communications skills, ground rules for managing conflict and promoting intimacy. The program’s aim is to prevent marital discord, including violence and divorce.

The coach’s role is to assist the couple in breaking poor communication patterns and replacing them with healthy ones. The coach’s task is to keep the couple focused and working on improving their communication skills.

CM 204 Lessons in Leadership

In this study, Peter F. Drucker presents inspirational portraits of five of the most exceptional leaders he’s known. He shows how dynamic leaders set standards and personal examples. How they stay task- and team-focused. How they encourage creative dissent to strengthen decision making. How they manage change and find the right people for the right jobs. This participant will sharpen his or leadership skills, discover which leadership methods are best, and discover his or her weaknesses and strengths.

CM 205 Christian Reflections on Leadership Challenge

This study will examine the insights of a collection of leaders who share their insights on faith and leadership. The participant will learn how Christian leaders put into place The Five Practices of Exemplary Leadership – Model the Way, Inspire a Shared Vision, Challenge the Process, Enable Others to Act, and Encourage the Heart.

What are the implications for evangelism? Deepening one’s spiritual life? (5 Sessions)

Literature and Faith

AF 401 The DaVinci Code – Decoded

Dan Brown’s book weaves history and fiction into a fascinating tale of conspiracy and spiritual discovery. Matthew L. Skinner, assistant professor of New Testament at Luther Seminary, St. Paul, MN, observes, “Despite the sly statement of “fact” on its first page, claiming descriptions are accurate, *The Da Vinci Code* is a novel, not history. Participants will explore “Who is Jesus?”, “The Canon,” “The Other Texts,” “Mary Magdalene,” “Women and Christian “Leadership,” and “The Divine Feminine.” (6 Sessions)

AF 402 Introduction to the Writings of C. S. Lewis

A look at the life and legacy of Clive Staples Lewis, who was an atheist worked to God at bay, but converted to Christianity and became an apologist (defender) of the Christian faith. Lewis is the author of *The Great Divorce*, *Mere Christianity*, *The Problem of Pain*, *The Screwtape Letters*, *The Chronicles of Narnia* and more. (12 sessions)

AF 403 The Poetry of John Donne

Explore the poetry of John Donne (1572-1631), who was born of a prominent Roman Catholic family but became an Anglican in the 1590’s. In 1615, Donne became an Anglican priest and in 1621, he was named dean of St. Paul’s Cathedral. The participants will examination of the life, theology, and poetry of one of England’s leading 17th century poets.

AF 404 Listening for God 1

This study examines the presence of God in 8 contemporary American author’s works. The study is supplemented by Author profiles, reflection questions, and a video. (8 Sessions)

- AF405 Listening for God 2**
A continuation of Listening for God 1 by looking at 8 more contemporary American authors.
- AF 406 Listening for God 3**
A continuation of the series Listening for God 1 by studying 8 more contemporary American authors.
- AF 407 Listening for God 4**
A continuation of the series Listening for God 1 by studying 8 more contemporary American authors.
- AF 408 Pontius Pilate**
The name “Pontius Pilate” is spoken every time the Apostles’ Creed or Nicene Creed is said. How much do you know about Pontius Pilate? Using Paul L. Maier’s documentary novel *Pontius Pilate*, learn about this pivotal person in the Passion of Jesus and the historical facts behind the trial, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. (6 sessions)

Care and Support

- CAS 101 Grief Recovery**
Loss and disappointment are part of our lives. We grieve not only for the loss of a loved one, but also for when we move, when we end one job, or when we end a relationship. Participants will learn how to define grief, process pain, wrestle with guilt, manage anger, and express forgiveness.
- CAS 102 Divorce: Survival and Hope**
Participants have an opportunity to share understanding, learning and companionship. Through study, conversation and reflection, participants will discuss divorce, the pain it causes, survival, moving on and the role of faith. (6 sessions)

- CM 103 Lector**
The lector is the ministry of proclaiming the Word of God in the Liturgy. This training is to assist you in developing certain skills to proclaim God’s Word well. The training will invite your reflection on scripture, liturgy, public presence and public speaking. (4 sessions)
- CM 104 Communion Assistant**
The Communion Assistant assists the pastor in distributing Holy Communion. The volunteer will learn the history and structure of the Lutheran liturgy, Holy Communion, and the procedure for distributing Holy Communion through the seasons of the church year.
- CM 105 Assisting Minister**
The Assisting Minister serves with the Pastor in leading the liturgy. As an Assisting Minister, you will learn the structure and history of the Lutheran liturgy, the terms used to describe the worship garments, the architecture of the church and more. (2 sessions)
- CM 106 Altar Care**
The Altar Care is a group of men and women who serve as “ministers of God’s people as well as ministers of God” by preparing the worship space with furnishings, appointments, vessels, elements, linens, and paraments used in the liturgy. You will learn about the worship space, the history behind the liturgy, vestments, Holy Baptism, Holy Communion, Rites (e.g., Healing, Marriage, the Burial of the Dead, etc.), the Liturgical Year, and the structure of the Altar Care. (6 Sessions)
- CM 120 With the Whole Church – A Study Guide for Renewing Worship**
With the Whole Church, a 7 session study, is intended for individuals and congregations, pastors and lay people, worship leaders and other members of Christian faith communities. The study “reflects the conviction that we all have a stake in what happens when we worship and a stake in understanding why” (p.4). Each session in

CL 204 **Up for Discussion: Your Church, Doubt, Heaven**

CL 300 **Serious Answers to Hard Questions**

Ten theologians address 10 obstacles to faith such as the existence of evil, other religions, resurrection, forgiveness, and the relationship between religion and science. (10 sessions)

CL 301 **Stumbling Blocks to Faith**

Some people say they would like to become a Christian but cannot because of stumbling blocks. This study presents some of the most common reasons given: hypocrisy; intolerance; other religions; science and faith; suffering and sacrifices. (5 sessions)

Christian Ministry

CM 100 **Host**

Learn how to be an effective host to Reformation's guests. The participant will learn why the first 11 minutes are the most crucial moments for any guest to return or not, how to make the church more inviting, and more.

CM 101 **Acolyte**

The first record of acolytes assisting clergy in worship is in 251 B.C.E. (Before the Common Era). As an acolyte, you work closely with the pastor. You will learn about the structure of Lutheran worship, the architecture of the church, and your role as an "helper" to the pastor.

CM 102 **Usher**

The usher's religious heritage reaches back into the Hebrew culture. There were "doorkeepers," "gatekeepers," and "keepers of the threshold." You will learn about the duties of an usher, the order of service, how to collect the offering, the presentation of the offering, how to assist our guests and members, what to do in special circumstances, and more. (1 session)

CAS 102 **Breaking the Cycle of Addiction**

Exploring the roots of addiction, the pain it causes, and the path to recovery.

Christian Doctrine and Theology

CDT 101 **Holy Baptism**

Wouldn't it be odd if God accomplished our salvation through Christ, yet provided no way to distribute the benefits? Along with the Lord's Supper, we call baptism a "means of grace" – a specific, tangible way of bringing salvation and life to his people. Through water and the Word, baptism makes the promise of salvation a specific gift to a specific person – you.

CDT 102 **The Eucharist**

On the evening, according to the Synoptic Gospels (Matthew, Mark, and Luke), Jesus gathered with his disciples for one final meal – the Passover. Or was it? This course will explore the origins of the Lord's Supper, its significance to the Christian Church, and its meaning for today.

CDT 103 **The Creeds**

Exploring the historic context that inspired the development of the creeds: Apostles', Nicene, and Athanasian. The participant will learn about the theological turmoil of the early church and how that turbulence shaped modern Christian thought.

CDT104 **The Incarnation**

A survey of the Hebrew and Christian Scriptures in order to understand the genesis of the incarnation – God becoming a human being in the person of Jesus.

CDT 105 **The Resurrection**

Paul, in his First Letter to the Corinthians (15:12, NRSV), writes, "Now if Christ is proclaimed as raised from the dead, how can some

of you say there is no resurrection from the dead?" The resurrection is one of the pivotal tenets of the Christian faith. Yet, even today, it is challenged. This study will explore the Hebrew and Christian scriptures to discover, uncover, and recover the meaning and significance of this important teaching of the Christian faith.

CDT 106 The Study of Eschatology

The end time. The last days. Rather than anxiously focusing on when the end will come, since no one but God knows, we are more faithful to focus on the joy and certainty of our salvation. Left behind? Nope! Waiting and longing, but with joyful eternity. Our eternal life is certain through faith in Christ's resurrection.

CDT 201 The Atonement

Exploring the implications of Christ's death for the forgiveness of humanity's waywardness (i.e., sin).

Christian Ethics

CE 101 Introduction to Christian Ethics

First there was ENRON, followed by WORLDCOM, TYCO, and Arthur Anderson – certified public account firm – nearly collapsed under the weight of greed. The participant will examine how a Christian's conduct is shaped by the Scriptures. How does one make ethical decisions?

CE 201 Christian Attitudes Toward War and Peace

Using Roland H. Bainton's book, *Christian Attitudes Toward War And Peace*, the participant will survey the history of how Christian men and women responded to the issues of war and peace. This topic is relevant to our involvement in Iraq. (6 sessions)

Christian Family

CF 101 Preparing for Marriage

For couples seeking to lay a strong, healthy foundation in their marriage. Using Prepare/Enrich materials, the couples will complete an

and "costly grace." "Cheap grace," writes Bonhoeffer, "is the grace we Bestow on ourselves...grace without discipleship... again and again, the gift which must be asked for, the door which a man must know....It is costly because it costs a man his life, and it is grace because it gives a man the only true life."

CL 120 Stewardship

Contrasts popular views of stewardship with the bold stewardship of Jesus. (8 sessions)

CL 121 Faith and Money: Understand Annual Giving in the Church

CL 122 Extraordinary Money! Understanding the Capital Campaign In Church

CL 123 Creative Giving: Understanding Planned Giving and Endowments in the Church

This study will explore the theology, philosophy and ethical questions concerning the stewardship of the resources that God places at our disposal to use. "Creative giving," writes Michael Reeves, Rob Fairly, and Sanford Coon, the authors of *Creative Giving*, "giving from one's accumulated resources, provides a unique opportunity to mature. The church will need to maintain the building, replace volunteer staff with paid staff, and establish new areas of ministry. But it is not the church's need for our gifts that is important; it is our need to give – our need to spiritually mature." (12 sessions)

CL 201 Up for Discussion: Politics, Race, Truth

This course is for people who enjoy exploring current topics in the news, and who are able to respect differences of opinion. Bible texts relate to topics. Included are recommended resources to delve deeper into the topics of politics, race, and truth.

CL 203 Up for Discussion: The Simple Life, Selfishness, Work and Play

document known as the Schwabach Articles, to spell out the beliefs and practices of the churches in Saxony, Germany. The document, called the Augsburg Confession, because it was presented to the Holy Roman Empire, Charles V, at the Diet convened in the city of Augsburg. This confession is the foundation document of the Lutheran Church. Learn about its history and its teachings. (7 sessions)

CH 300 Introduction to Lutheranism

Exploring not only the roots of Lutheranism, but also the big sweep of Lutheran history in Europe, American, and around the world. Today, there are more than 70 million Lutherans world-wide.

Christian Life

CL 101 Akaloo

Akaloo, an intergenerational program for the whole congregation to grow as disciples, is based upon the radical call to discipleship by Jesus when he said, "Follow me. Drop your nets. A new life awaits you." The word "Akaloo" is inspired by the Greek verb "to follow (akolouthein). Throughout the year, each age group will focus on five areas of discipleship: Bible, God, Disciple, Church, and World.

CL 110 Living Together

Life Together emerged from Dietrich Bonhoeffer's experience of living together in an "underground" seminary in Germany during the Nazi years. Bonhoeffer offers practical wisdom on how life together in Christ can be sustained in families and groups. Bonhoeffer touches upon the role of personal prayer, worship in common, everyday work, and Christian service

CL 111 The Cost of Discipleship

What did Jesus mean to say to us? What is Jesus' will for us today? What can the call of discipleship, the adherence to the word of Jesus mean for the employee, the employer, the military member or the politician? Drawing upon Jesus' Sermon on the Mount, Dietrich Bonhoeffer seeks to address these questions and more by addressing the dichotomy between "cheap grace"

extensive inventory covering all the facets of what makes for a successful relationship. (6 Sessions)

CF 102 PREP Workshop

The inability of couples to communicate in their relationship is the number one reason for divorce. PREP – Prevention Relationship Enhancement Program – teaches couples communication skills, ground rules for handling conflict and promoting intimacy. (7 Sessions or a 12-hour weekend workshop).

CF 204 Understanding the Love of Your Life

God uniquely created the husband and the wife for one another - to complement each other, to overcome the problem of individual aloneness, and to experience a vital, shared intimacy - teamwork at its best! Too often, however, the very characteristics that drew couples together before marriage can become sources of conflict after the vows have been taken. That is where Understanding the Love of Your Life can help.

Instead of growing together over the years, couples find themselves drifting emotionally as they focus more on activities, children, and their own personal pursuits. Understanding the Love of Your Life offers a refreshing opportunity for husbands and wives to rediscover how God made them especially for each other. This seminar focuses on improving compatibility, deepening communication, and increasing versatility through humor and practical insights.

Using a fun and insightful personality discovery tool, couples will soon be on the road to greater understanding of each other, and ultimately a more joyful, fulfilling marriage. God gave husbands and wives strengths and weaknesses in different areas so that together they could be complete as a team. By understanding the love of your their lives, couples will experience marital teamwork at its best!

CF 205 Active Parenting: Early Childhood
Parents will learn the ages and stages of development, building the bond between the you and your child (between ages of 1 and 4), how to use non-violent discipline skills, tips on avoiding accidents and problems, choices and consequences, the power of encouragement and more. (3 Sessions, 90-minutes each).

CF 206 Active Christian Parenting
Teaching parenting skills from a Christian perspective. Parents gain the tools they need to improve their family relationships while nurturing their children's faith development.

CF 207 Communication with Your Child or Teen
Participants learn to be better listeners and to model good communication techniques. Sessions cover recognizing barriers to good communication, stages of childhood development, learning your child's communication style, and how to become an effective listener.

CF 208 Discipline with Children and Teens
Here is help for parents to develop reasonable boundaries, limits, and consequences for their children at each stage of development. Sessions cover setting limits, determining consequences together, parenting as a team, and empowering your children.

CF 209 Single Parenting
Explores parenting from the perspective of a single parent. Learn how to develop support systems, manage time, multiple households, and forgiveness.

CF 301 Your Family and Money
Develop ways that you can help your children develop money management skills and values at an early age. Learn to talk about money, allowances, promoting independence, saving and good credit habits.

CF 302 Handling Anger
Learn how to manage your feelings and help your children your children to manager their feelings. Learn the difference between anger and rage, where our negative feelings come from, handling negative emotions in a positive manner, and helping your children to deal with anger appropriately.

Church History

CH 100 History of Israel
Using Mark S. Smith's book, *The Memoirs of God: History, Memory, and the Experience of the Divine in Ancient Israel*, we will explore the history of the Hebrew people and gain an increased understanding of the Hebrew Bible (Old Testament).

CH 120 Introduction to the History of Christianity
Using Martin E. Marty's book, *A Short History of Christianity*, the participant will gain a working knowledge of the history of the Christian faith from it birth in Judah to the modern day. (6 sessions)

CH 240 Introduction to the Reformation
Discover the factors leading up to the Reformation and learn how Dr. Martin Luther found himself in the vortex of controversy leading to the formation of the reform movement that became named for him.

CH 250 The Life of Dr. Martin Luther
Get to the person behind the Reformation and the church that has come to bear his name. Luther was a complex person. He was a priest, teacher, preacher, hymn writer, theologian and translator. He wrote volumes – many of his writings remain to be translated.

CH 260 Introduction to the Augsburg Confession
On June 25, 1530, the Wittenburg theologians, who consulted Luther by correspondence, prepared a statement, based on