



**Lutheran School of Theology
St. Louis**

Volume 2

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EPIPHANY TERM 2009

PERSONAL DISCOVERY COURSES

A pair of new and exciting courses appears this term!

“SAINTS FOR TODAY: Exploring Famous Saints and their Models of Spirituality.” Their ways of reading, meditating on and praying the scriptures will unfold for the participants.

From the writings of the most popular saints to the more obscure mystics, Rev. Dr. Warren Crews will help us grow in our lives of faith.

Classes meet at Christ Lutheran Church, 1 Selma Ave., Webster Groves, January 13, 20, 27 and February 3, 10 and 17 from 7:00 to 9:30 p.m.

Required text: “God Seekers” by Richard Schmidt (\$17.60).

Course tuition is an economical \$81.00.

Dr. Crews is a familiar professor at LST, having taught with us for a number of years. He is both priest and teacher, holding a PhD. in American Church History.

Rev. Dr. John Bracke, Professor of Biblical Studies at Eden Seminary is offering “ISRAEL IN EXILE: A Crisis of Faith.” This course investigates the parallels of God’s People during the time of Jeremiah, Ezekiel and some minor prophets with our own uncertain circumstance as God’s People at the dawn of the 21st century.

We meet six Thursdays from January 8 through February 12, at Trinity Lutheran Church, 14088 Clayton Rd., Chesterfield from 7:00 to 9:30 p.m.

Required text: Hebrew and Christian scripture (NRSV preferred). At an inexpensive \$81.00, this course is a “must” for those interested in grace working through history.

PRACTICAL MINISTRY COURSE

“HOW TO HANDLE CONFLICT IN THE CONGREGATION.” Want to know what to do when some parishioners grind teeth at the pastor? How about when the pastor or cliques act poorly?

You will want in on this course!

Taught by Rev. Dale Kuhn, Executive Director of Care and Counseling St. Louis, and himself both pastor and counselor, the nitty-gritty of “grace under pressure” will be the focus of this course.

Taught on 2 Saturdays, January 17 and 31 from 9:00 – noon at the Care and Counseling Center, 12141 Ladue Rd., Creve Coeur.

Tuition is only \$33.00.

PROFESSIONAL GROWTH COURSE

For clergy and professional church workers everywhere, “CHURCH HISTORY PART I”, a survey of church life from Pentecost to the Reformation, is a superb opportunity to learn (again) the grand and not so grand tale of the People of God.

Rev. Robin Morgan will be holding forth on this monumental topic five Saturdays, January 10 & 31, February 14 & 28 and March 14, 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Classes convene at St. John Lutheran Church, 2477 W. Washington St., Springfield, IL.

Tuition is \$150.00. This course is a requirement for church workers seeking to be licensed by the church.

REGISTRATION BLANKS ARE AVAILABLE ON LINE AND AT ELCA LUTHERAN PARISHES.

TUITION FOR ALL COURSES IS DUE PRIOR TO THE FIRST SESSION.

PLEASE GO TO GOOGLE MAPS FOR DIRECTIONS.

**LST RECEIVES THRIVENT
“GIVINGPLUS PROGRAM” STATUS**

This “matching funds” program is available to individuals (minimum age 16) who wish to donate to LST and are benefit members of Thrivent Financial for Lutherans, Thrivent Asset Management, and Thrivent Life Insurance Company.

Thrivent will add \$1.00 for every \$2.00 donated, up to \$300.00.

Application forms for this program are available from the LST office. The one-page form must accompany donations made to LST.

LST depends on the generosity of students, congregations and kind donors to keep our school solvent.

Your help is a continuing necessity for providing a catholic, Lutheran Confessions based program to area Christians.

Did you know....?

On the Feast of Epiphany, it is customary among many Christians to mark the front doors of homes with this inscrip-

tion: C+M+B 2009. The letters refer to the traditional names of the three Kings: Caspar, Melchior and Balthazar, along with this prayer: "Christus, Mansionem Benedicat", "Christ, bless our home".

Chalk is given to parishioners who wish to inscribe their front doors and continue this 6th century tradition.

A MEMOIR



Cathy Lessman with Rev. Dr. Bob Bertram of happy memory

I'll never forget the first LST class I was in because of the shock on Dr. Robert (Bob) Bertram's face when he walked in.

Actually, it wasn't even an LST class then, but I like to think that was the beginning of our school. Here's what happened:

A handful of individuals here in St. Louis felt a calling to ministry but couldn't just pick up and go to an out-of-town seminary.

Since they knew that LSTC (Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago) had some retired professors in town, they asked the Academic Dean if those retired professors could teach them some courses for academic credit. The Dean agreed and arranged for Dr. Robert Bertram and Dr. Fred Danker to teach.

At the time there were also ten ELCA pastors in the St. Louis area working on the Doctor of Ministry degree from LSTC. They asked for the same arrangement. Again, the Dean said yes. Eventually the groups were combined.

Concurrently the Parish Ministry Associate program was being organized in the Central States Synod. Enrollees also approached these professors to teach them. Again, the answer

was yes and they joined the group above.

Then, because some of the PMA students were coming from western Missouri, Dr. Bertram asked my pastor, Art Going of Trinity Lutheran Church in Chesterfield, whether the class could be held at Trinity. He agreed.

Finally, without Dr. Bertram knowing it, Pr. Going called the Academic Dean and asked whether members of his congregation could attend the class as auditors. He was thinking it would be a good adult education class. Once again, the Dean said yes.

I wasn't the only member of Trinity who realized what an unbelievable opportunity this was. We were thrilled! Many of us signed up.

And so it happened that about twenty Trinity folks showed up at the first class, joining the dozen or more PMAs, seminary-bound and D. Min. students. Bob walked in, stopped short, stunned, his jaw dropping.

Later Dr. Bertram said that his first reaction was to be upset with Pr. Going for surprising him, but after a few weeks he became impressed with this serendipitous mixture.

That planted the idea for a school of theology that joins seminary-bound students, post-seminary students and lay people together, a combination, he discovered, that was a "distinct educational asset."

I continued taking advantage of the school's courses, even when it had to charge for classes. But frankly, paying \$13. per session was the bargain of the century, especially considering the caliber of professors.

I became more and more interested until I finally decided to take full advantage of the situation and earn a master's degree myself. That never would have happened without LST. I am forever grateful!

--Cathy Lessmann

LUTHERAN SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY ST. LOUIS

Founded in 1994 by Rev. Dr. Robert Bertram, LSTStL is an important ministry of the Metro Coalition of St. Louis area congregations of the ELCA (Evangelical Lutheran Church in America).

LSTStL has served 3600 students. More than 90 people have served as teachers and lecturers.

Co-Directors of our school are husband and wife team, Pastors Penny and Keith Holste. They are also co-pastors at Christ Lutheran, Webster Groves.

They bring useful expertise to our school. Keith previously served on the faculty of the Lay School of Ministry, Northwest Synod of Wisconsin. Penny is trained as a high school teacher and taught at Lutheran High South and in the Normandy School District.