

CONTENTS

Classes	Page
SUNDAY CALENDAR <i>Classes begin September 7</i>	Inside front cover
WEDNESDAY CALENDAR <i>Classes begin September 17</i>	Inside back cover
SUNDAY/WEDNESDAY PULL-OUT CALENDAR	Center page
WELCOME	2
“WHO DO YOU SAY THAT I AM?” TAKING JESUS SERIOUSLY	
• Classes	3
• Movie of the Month	12
• Reading and Resource List	15
ONGOING OPPORTUNITIES	
• Virtues, Values, Ethics & Character	16
• Social Justice Forum	16
• Presbyterianism 101	16
• Weekday Opportunities: WOW, Men’s Bible Study, Moms Group, Living the Faith in the 21st Century	17
SEASONAL OPPORTUNITIES	
• Lenten Icon Writing Class	18
• Lenten Covenant Groups	18
• January All-Church Book Read	18
• Traveling Seminar	19
• Officer Training	19
FACULTY	20
GLOSSARY	31

Please Note:

- All Sunday classes meet 9:15-10:15AM, (Refectory), unless otherwise noted.
- All Wednesday classes meet 6:30-8:00PM, (Meisel Room), unless otherwise noted.
- *The Movie of the Month* is shown the last Sunday of each month, 11:45AM, (Meisel Room)
- Teens are invited and encouraged to attend all Wednesday classes.

He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?"

*Simon Peter answered, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God."
Matthew 16:15-16*

Dear Friends,

Christianity is centered in a Jewish peasant figure, Jesus of Nazareth, who lived in a small, Roman-occupied Middle Eastern country over 2000 years ago. The Gospels tell us that he healed the sick, forgave sinners, associated with the lowly, and even raised the dead. They tell us that he, himself, experienced a shameful death, but rose from the dead and appeared to his disciples.

As Jesus' followers organized and became institutionalized in the Church, they shaped the direction of Western culture. History itself has been designated as either before or after his birth. Great good and horrific evil have been done in his name. We who call ourselves 'Christian' say we believe in him, follow him, serve him, and seek to be like him.

Who is this Jesus we call "the Christ" the Anointed One of God? The quest for the historical Jesus began long ago and still piques the curiosity of our rational, western minds. In recent decades, the Jesus Seminar, a group of liberal scholars, has sought to discern the veracity of the Gospels and determine what can be stated unequivocally about Jesus. Christian fundamentalists regard Jesus in an exclusive way with narrow boundaries. The past few years have seen a rise in neo-atheism as some writers have argued against the existence of God, rendering irrelevant the question of Jesus' identity.

Many mainline Protestants have sought to 'rescue' Jesus from such extremes. But can Jesus be rescued? Does he need to be? If we are asked by our tradition and by our Scriptures to 'give our lives' to this peasant figure, considering the question he posed to his First Century disciples is still critical for us today: "Who do you say that I am?" What does it mean to take this Jesus seriously?

Education for Faith and Life addresses these issues in our adult programs for 2008-2009. We will explore the four Gospels in the Bible, parables of Jesus, theological and historical teaching of the Church, images and expressions of Jesus in art, the perspectives of Jesus from other World Religions and in pop culture, and much more. It is our prayer that these studies will give us greater understanding of the one we call Lord, and equip us to respond authentically and seriously to his question, "Who do you say that I am?" How we answer makes all the difference in how we live.

With hope for the journey,

Rev. Kathy Michael

Associate Pastor

If you have questions or need additional information contact
Rev. Kathy Michael, 612.332.3421 or kmichael@wpc-mpls.org.

Topic: *On Loving One's Neighbor in a Time of Fear: A Christian Response to Violence, Migration, and Poverty*

Speaker: Rick Ufford-Chase

Date: Coming Together Sunday, September 7 (Meisel Rm.)

Former Moderator of the PC(USA) General Assembly, Ufford-Chase will speak to the combined groups of the Social Justice Forum and Education for Faith and Life basing his remarks on Romans 13:8-14: "Owe no one anything, except to love one another..." following the theme for Social Justice Forum, "Loving God and Loving Neighbor."

See full description on page 15.

Special Event

Topic: *'Who Do You Say that I Am?—The History of Jesus as Messiah*

Speaker: Dr. Mark Goodacre, Duke University

Date: Saturday, September 13 (Sanctuary)

Time: 8:30am-3:00pm

Cost: \$5.00 for lunch for those from Westminster Presbyterian Church, Luther Seminary, United Theological Seminary; \$15.00 for general public includes lunch.

This day-long seminar will explore an historical view of Jesus as Messiah. Was he the fulfillment of Jewish expectation? How did his very un-kingly life satisfy the hope for a savior of Israel? How do we understand Jesus in the context of Messianic expectation? Dr. Goodacre, a gifted scholar and dynamic presenter, will inaugurate our Education for Faith and Life theme with this fundamental exploration of Jesus' identity.

Topic: *The Historical Jesus and Jesus of the Gospels: What Can We Really Know?*

Speaker: Dr. Mark Goodacre

Date: Sunday, September 14 (Meisel Room)

The Quest of the Historical Jesus has become something of a search for the holy grail, and books on Jesus continue to be published in the hundreds. But what do the Gospels actually say about Jesus, and what can a serious study of their similarities and differences tell us about who Jesus was? Join Dr. Goodacre as he takes a fresh look at the Gospels, and explores what they reveal about the historical figure of Jesus of Nazareth.

Topic: *Cursing, Cleansing, and Stilling Storms: Jesus in the Gospel of Mark*

Speaker: Rev. Kathy Michael

Dates: Wednesdays, September 17, 24, October 1, 8, 15

The urgency in Mark's Gospel, and its abrupt ending, bring a powerful and relevant message to the upheaval of the 21st Century. The earliest of the four Gospels, Mark was used as a source by both Matthew and Luke. What does this portrait of Jesus tell us about his work and what it means to be his disciple? What does it mean for us to follow this Jesus who is direct and explosive, passionate and sensitive? Mark's Gospel speaks to us as we seek to live the fullness of our humanity.

Topic: *Jesus as Prophet, Priest, and King*

Speaker: Dr. Lee Snook, Luther Seminary

Date: Sundays, September 21, 28

• **September 21:** *Jesus and the Arrogance of Empires*

The first generations of Christians were so inspired by Jesus as “prophet, priest and king” that they refused to worship the Emperor of Rome. They were persecuted, in part, for refusing to give their ultimate loyalty to the Emperor. Today, Christian citizens are challenged to look at their own national loyalty from the perspective of Jesus, the true prophet, priest and king.

• **September 28:** *Jesus and the Kingdom of God*

Jesus said that in Him the Kingdom of God was near. Ever since then, for twenty centuries, followers of Jesus have had to figure out for themselves how God's rule is related to the rule of human governments. What is the connection between God's rule and the rule of a government of, for, and by the people?

Topic: *Jesus in the Gospel of Matthew*

Speaker: Dr. David Fredrickson, Luther Seminary

Dates: Sundays, October 5, 12, 19, 26

Although the Gospel of Matthew was a best seller in the second century, Protestants have had a tough time warming up to it like they have the other Gospels, particularly John. What are the sticking points? The impossibly high moral bar of the Sermon on the Mount? The strong suggestion of anti-Judaism in the crucifixion scene? The righteous dead milling around the streets of Jerusalem after Jesus' death? These curiosities and more will challenge us to read carefully and rely on each other's wisdom in order to discover good news in this gospel.

Topic: *Jews, Muslims, and Buddhists: What Do They Say About Jesus?*

Panel: Rabbi Joseph Edelheit, Imam Hamdy Al-Sawaf, Lisa Ebert

Date: Wednesday, October 22

This class will introduce the presenters for the following three weeks who will help us understand what their religions—Judaism, Islam, and Buddhism—believe about Jesus.

Topic: *How Do Jews See the Jew in Jesus?*

Speaker: Rabbi Joseph Edelheit, St. Cloud State University

Date: Wednesday, October 29

Rabbi Edelheit, a New Testament scholar, will explore Jesus in the context of his Jewish heritage and reflect on how contemporary Jews see Jesus. This outstanding teacher will deepen our understanding of Jesus as a Jew.

Topic: *Who Does Luke Say Jesus Is? Taking Jesus Seriously in Luke's Gospel and Acts*

Speaker: Dr. Sarah Henrich, Luther Seminary

Dates: Sundays, November 2, 9, 16, 23

• **November 2:** *Trustworthy Teachers: Gabriel and the Holy Spirit in Luke 1-4*

Jesus and his role are described several times at the very beginning of the Gospel. We will look at the speeches of the angel Gabriel, Mary, Elizabeth, Zechariah, Simeon, and finally of Jesus himself. All these words are given emphasis by Luke's insistence that they are inspired by God's Holy Spirit. What do they tell us about Jesus?

• **November 9:** *A Prophet Like Moses and More than a Prophet*

Throughout Luke's gospel people identify Jesus as a prophet. What does this title suggest? How is Jesus a prophet like Moses and yet more? We will explore this theme in several passages.

• **November 16:** *“Truly this man is innocent.” Crucifixion and Resurrection*

The reasons for Jesus' death and the manner of his dying tell us a great deal about who Luke thinks that Jesus is. We will look at the final chapters of Luke's gospel for clues about Jesus' identity. Our focus will be primarily on how Jesus is described by the leaders, by the Roman centurion, and by himself. We will explore the scripture passages that Jesus chooses to quote for additional insight.

• **November 23:** *“Not done in a corner.” Inspired Descriptions of Jesus in Acts*

Throughout Acts in mission contexts around the Mediterranean, Peter, Philip, James, and others preach about Jesus to people who have not known him. How do they describe who Jesus is? What do they take to be important about his life, death, and resurrection? We will also take note of who Jesus is by seeing who he is not and who gets in trouble for their misunderstandings.

Topic: *Jesus in Islam***Speaker: Imam Hamdy Al-Sawaf****Date: Wednesday, November 5**

Muslims believe that Jesus was born of the Virgin Mary and was sent as a Prophet of Allah. Dr. El-Sawaf will present a full view of Jesus from the Muslim perspective and set him in the context of the line of God’s prophets culminating with Muhammad, the last Prophet in Islam. Come and discover what Christians and Muslims have in common and how they differ in their beliefs about Jesus.

Topic: *Buddha, Bodhisattva, or Suffering Being: a Buddhist Look at Jesus***Speaker: Lisa Ebert, Practice Advisor, Northfield Buddhist Meditation Center****Date: Wednesday, November 12**

While Buddhists have not traditionally held any particular view of Jesus, growing dialogue between Buddhists and Christians has moved such prominent Buddhist leaders as the Dalai Lama and Thich Nhat Hanh to speak and write about Jesus. Also, as Buddhism has spread in the West, many Christians (or those from Christian backgrounds) have begun to practice Buddhist meditation. In this session, we will examine how Jesus might be regarded within the framework of Buddhist practice and thought. We will also explore how a Buddhist understanding of Jesus might challenge and expand Christian thought. Ms. Ebert, a practicing Buddhist and former Christian minister and theologian, will also discuss how she now understands Jesus within her own spiritual life.

Topic: *Catholic Perspectives on Eucharist and Mission***Speaker: Dr. Catherine Cory, the University of St. Thomas****Date: Wednesday, November 19**

In this session, we will explore some biblical images of the Eucharist and the ways that Christians have employed these images better to understand and appreciate Jesus’ Last Supper command to his disciples, “Do this in memory of me.” Eucharist has as its core a movement toward mission, so we will also investigate how the Eucharistic mission of Christian churches is understood universally—“catholic” means “universal”—and also how it is understood within the Catholic Church.

Topic: *From the Jesus of History to the Christ of Faith—Was this Really a Good Idea?***Speaker: Rev. Bill Davnie****Dates: Sundays, November 30, December 7, 14**

Taking Jesus seriously, we’ve looked at him in the Gospels this fall. But soon in the early church Christians began to use words about Jesus that we don’t find in the Bible—words such as Incarnation and Trinity. Where did these terms come from, and why? Following the ancient Church’s conviction that the rule of prayer is the rule of belief, we will look at how Christians’ experience of Jesus led the Church to lay out its faith in these apparently abstract terms.

- **November 30** *Lex Oranda, Lex Credenda—The Path from Experience to Doctrine*

That “d” word has a bad reputation among modern Christians. We’ll talk about why early Christians came to understand their faith in doctrinal terms, about the problems in describing God in human words, and about ongoing, proper, and positive function of creeds and doctrinal statements.

- **December 7** *Incarnation—Does Anyone Understand Words that End in ‘-tion?’*

This foundational Christian belief almost wasn’t. Why did some early Christians object to this teaching, and would the church have survived if that position had carried the day? In this Advent season, we’ll look at how the early church understood the birth of Jesus and how that understanding shaped the early community of faith.

- **December 14** *Trinity—Sure We Believe It, But Does it Really Matter?* Far more than an abstract theological term, the Trinitarian understanding of God distinguishes the Christian faith, and explains why we gather in community, serve the world, and care for creation, just for starters. The God we know, we know as Trinity—and only that way of knowing can sustain a coherent view of the world and all of creation.

Topic: *Jesus and His Parables: Avenues of Insight into His Message***Speaker: Dr. Arland Hultgren, Luther Seminary****Dates: Wednesdays, December 3, 10, 17**

These classes will explore Jesus’ use of parables and what we learn about Jesus and the God to whom he points through his telling of stories.

- **December 3:** *Perspectives on the Parables*

What is a parable? How many do we have from Jesus? How should the parables be interpreted and why?

- **December 10:** *Parables about God’s Amazing Grace*

- **December 17:** *Parables about God’s Expectations of Us*

All-Church Book Read: Sundays, January 4, 11, 18, 25

The All-Church Book Read offers a selected novel which reflects the Education for Faith and Life theme for the year. This year we will look for themes of redemption, sacrifice, encounters with the Divine, or perhaps a novel about Jesus himself. Books will be available for purchase at a discount in November. Speakers and small group discussions will enhance our experience of the book selection. Watch the *Westminster News* for more information.

Topic: *The African Jesus***Speakers: Panel of Westminster's African Members****Date: Wednesday, January 7**

The global center of Christianity has dramatically shifted from the Northern Hemisphere to the global South. What do these countries have to teach us about Jesus without a Northern, Western cultural bias? Members of Westminster's African community will share their experiences of learning about Jesus while growing up in Africa and how Christianity is played out in African culture.

Topic: *Jesus, Hope, and Pop Culture***Speaker: Dr. Andy Root, Luther Seminary****Dates: Wednesdays, January 14, 21**

This seminar will examine how hope, promise, and fulfillment are presented in pop culture. We will see how these pop culture perspectives connect with images of Jesus and whether they have anything in common with our theological understanding of the hope, promise, and fulfillment brought forth by the crucified Christ. Several Westminster youth will interact on week 2.

Education for Faith and Life Academy classes expect modest outside reading and active participation of those attending.

Topic: *Academy Study: Who Is Christ for Us?***Speaker: Rev. Kathy Michael****Dates: Wednesdays, January 28, February 4**

In the summer of 1933, Dietrich Bonhoeffer delivered powerful lectures that insisted Christians encounter Jesus Christ as a living person today, as well as in history and church life. Formulated in the face of the new Nazi regime, a decisive moment in Bonhoeffer's own commitment to the Confessing Church, his words drew attention to the living Christ as always the humiliated “man for others.” This class will explore Bonhoeffer's book, *Who Is Christ for Us?* as we continue to consider responsibly Jesus' question, “Who do you say that I am?” Students will be asked to purchase the book (under \$10), and complete short reading assignments for this class.

Topic: *Images of Jesus in Cross-Cultural Art***Speaker: Dr. Jann Cather Weaver, United Theological Seminary****Dates: Sundays, February 1, 8****• February 1: *The Life of Jesus in Cross-Cultural Art***

We will examine the portrayal of the life of Jesus as expressed through religious art from cross-cultural contexts and faith traditions. Through art, we will study the Annunciation, the Nativity, the various miracles, the Last Supper, the Crucifixion, and the Resurrection. The purpose of these classes is to explore through art how various ethnicities interpret the life of Jesus within their contexts. Bring your Bibles!

• February 8: *The Parables of Jesus in Cross-Cultural Art*

We will examine the depictions of Jesus' parables as expressed through Christian art from cross-cultural contexts. While studying the parables in cross-cultural art forms, we can see how various ethnicities interpret the parables of Jesus within their contexts. Bring your Bibles!

Topic: *Academy Study: Who Do You Say that I Am?***Speaker: Rev. Kathy Michael****Date: Wednesday, February 11**

This class will draw together the information from previous classes to stimulate discussion in response to Jesus' question to his disciples, “Who do you say that I am?” We will grapple with conflicting images and interpretations of Jesus as we seek to claim our own response to his identity, purpose, and meaning. While not a ‘mid-term exam,’ this class presupposes participation in expressing what we have learned in recent months.

Topic: *Iconography of Jesus: From Christ Triumphant to the Man of Sorrows***Speaker: Dr. Kimberly Vrudny, The University of St. Thomas****Date: Sunday, February 15**

Icons are somewhat of a mystery to many Protestants. Predominate in the Orthodox churches, icons have raised questions and created controversies through the centuries. Do they invoke worship of an idol, or do they draw one deeper into worship of Christ? This class will explore the history of iconography—the art of ‘writing’ an icon—and look at the current controversies around the expansion of the tradition. Several icons will be considered in depth for class discussion. (*This class and the class on February 22 will be preparation for an icon exhibit in the Westminster Gallery during Lent.*)

A six-week **Icon Writing Class** will meet during February and March. See page 17 of this catalog for more information.

Topic: *The Land of Jesus: Israel and Palestine***Speaker: Rev. Kathy Michael****Date: Wednesday, February 18**

This review of the Traveling Seminar, *Israel and Palestine: A Pilgrimage of Faith*, will bring to life the concrete context of Jesus and his disciples. What can we learn about him from his environment and society in the First Century? What clues are offered by recent archaeology? Slides will open our eyes to the past and to the realities of present day Israel and Palestine.

Topic: *Writing and Meditating with Icons***Speaker: Debra Korluka****Date: Sunday, February 22**

This class will explore the development of Early Christian Iconography from its birth to contemporary times, offering participants an introduction to the theology and spirituality of icons—particularly as it relates to the person of Jesus Christ. The class will address the activity of ‘writing’ an icon, and will also offer insights and experiences into the spiritual depth of icons and how they are used in religious practice and worship.

Lenten Covenant Groups: Tuesdays, February 24-March 24**Wednesdays, February 25-March 25****Sundays, March 1, 8, 15, 22, 29****Topic: *Academy Lenten Study—Christology: Who Is Jesus and Why Does it Matter?*****Speaker: Dr. Paul Capetz, United Theological Seminary****Dates: Wednesdays, March 4, 11, 18, 25**

This course will explore the theological topic called “Christology” (from Christ, meaning “messiah” and logos meaning “discourse” or “thought;” hence, thinking about Jesus as the Christ.) We will investigate the topic beginning with the biblical evidence, moving on from there to study of the great councils of the first five centuries that gave us our creedal affirmations about Jesus’ full divinity and full humanity, and concluding with discussion of the distinctively modern questions about “the historical Jesus and the Christ of faith.” This course will increase your historical knowledge as well as give you an opportunity to do your own Christological reflection in the company of other theological minds, past and present.

Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die.”

John 11:25-26

Topic: *The Word of Life: Jesus According to John’s Gospel***Speaker: Dr. Craig Koester, Luther Seminary****Dates: Wednesdays, April 15, 22, 29**

John’s gospel is known for its vivid portrayal of Jesus, the Word of God made flesh. Using imagery that captures the imagination, Jesus calls himself the Bread of Life, the Light of the World, and the Resurrection and the Life. As we focus on these and other images, and consider what they mean for the people Jesus meets, we discover some of the New Testament’s most memorable statements about who Jesus is and why Jesus matters.

Topic: *Crucifixion, Resurrection and Atonement***Speaker: Dr. Marilyn Salmon, United Theological Seminary****Dates: Sundays, April 19, 26, May 3****• April 19: *Crucifixion and Jesus***

For most Christians, the only sources for understanding Jesus’ death on a cross are the Passion Narratives in the New Testament. Other first-century sources give us a picture of the Romans’ frequent and indiscriminate use of crucifixion for suspected rebels and political threats, without trial or due process, hundreds at a time. This historical context invites inquiry into the circumstances of Jesus’ execution at the hands of the Roman imperial system.

• April 26: *Resurrection for Living*

The resurrection of Jesus Christ is victory over death and the promise of everlasting life. Put another way, resurrection means that, with the God of Israel, life always prevails over death. Resurrection provides a way to think about life-defeating and death-defeating experiences in our lives within the context of Christian faith.

• May 3: *Rethinking Atonement Theology*

The doctrine of atonement, that Jesus died to atone for our sins, has come under scrutiny in recent decades. Why are some critical of this doctrine? Should we abandon the doctrine? Renounce the criticisms? Is it possible to reinterpret atonement theology? When we take Jesus seriously, how do we talk about atonement?

John the Baptist sent messengers to Jesus asking, “Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?” Jesus answered the, “Go tell John what you hear and see: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them.”

Matthew 11:3-5

Movie of the Month

Movies are shown the last Sunday of each month at 11:45AM, in the Meisel Room. A light lunch will be provided for a small donation. All are welcome to attend these visual, artistic events to help us explore Jesus' question, "Who Do You Say that I Am?"

End of the Spear (111 minutes)

Date: September 28

Worlds collide and tragedy strikes as a missionary group journeys to the heart of the Amazon jungle in search of the Waodani, a tribe of fierce warriors completely isolated from civilization. When five of the missionaries are killed by tribesmen, their families are left husbandless and fatherless. Despite their tremendous loss, and as a testament to their faith, the families decide to remain in Ecuador and live among the Waodani as originally planned. But the effects of that first encounter have yet to subside: A young boy, determined to unlock the secret of his father's death, must learn to accept a tragedy he cannot remember in this powerful true story of sacrifice, courage and redemption. The sacrificial love of the Risen Christ permeates this remarkable story.

The Gospel According to St. Matthew (90 minutes)

Date: Sunday, October 26

Pier Paolo Pasolini's masterpiece comes to life in this beautifully told film about the life of Jesus Christ according to Matthew's gospel. The story begins with Jesus' birth and illustrates how his teachings attracted not only his disciples, but crowds of believers. When the Pharisees, chief priests and elders learn of Jesus, they conspire to have him arrested, tried, and executed. This classic film, nominated for three Academy Awards, is a beautiful interpretation of the greatest story ever told. Shown on the day of Dr. David Fredrickson's final class on the Gospel of Matthew, we will have the opportunity to view this film critically and share our observations in discussion.

Where Jesus Walked (91 minutes)

Date: Sunday, November 30

Produced by the Biblical Archaeology Society, this film takes us to Nazareth, Galilee, Capernaum, Bethsaida, Qumran, Sepphoris, and Jerusalem to visit the places where Jesus walked. Along the way, host Hershel Shanks meets with the world's most prominent archaeologists and biblical scholars to discuss the archaeological discoveries that link these sites to Jesus and the world of the first Christians. Their lively, in-depth conversations offer a clear picture of how current archaeology is illuminating the New Testament. A must see for any student of the Bible.

Movie of the Month

The Nativity Story

Date: Sunday, December 28

It was the cruelest of times. Under Herod's torturous reign, families struggled to survive and yet, in the midst of utter turmoil, a young woman's faith was put to the test. Join Mary and Joseph on an incredible journey of hope and discovery. Epic in its scope, yet intimate in its portrayal of this historical family, this wonderful film is a family feature, powerful, timeless, and visually magnificent.

Babette's Feast

Date: January 25

From celebrated storyteller Isak Dinesen comes this tale of Babette, a superb French chef living an anonymous life among a pious congregation on the desolate coast of Denmark. As housekeeper and cook to two elderly, religious women, she's never called upon to prepare anything more exciting than the traditional boiled codfish and ale-bread soup. Until one day Babette wins 10,000 francs and decides to spend it all by creating the most memorable, mouth-watering, magnificent meal ever consumed—even though her guests, the simple villagers, will have no idea what they're eating. Academy Award winner for Best Foreign Language Film, *Babette's Feast* invites us to contemplate the joyful generosity and abundance that Jesus promised and whether we are willing to receive God's gifts.

Simon Birch

Date: Sunday, February 22

Based on John Irving's award-winning novel, *A Prayer for Owen Meany*, this heartwarming and funny film earned critical acclaim with outstanding performances by Ashley Judd and Oliver Platt. A story of love, loyalty, and sacrifice, Simon Birch is also a story of secrets and destiny. Even though Simon Birch is the smallest kid in town, deep down he knows that he was born to do something big. He's on a constant search to discover his destiny, but somehow manages to find nothing but trouble. Meanwhile, his best friend Joe is searching for the identity of his father, a secret his beautiful mother has guarded Joe's entire life. As these two share the hilarious...and sometimes tragic...ups and downs that will forever bind them together, discover for yourself the undeniable charms of this uplifting and inspirational motion picture.

Movie of the Month

The Visitor

Date: March 29

In a world of six billion people, it only takes one to change your life. In *The Visitor*, a disillusioned Connecticut economics professor finds his life is transformed by a chance encounter in New York City. Sixty-two-year-old Walter Vale is sleepwalking through his life until a Syrian man and his Senegalese girlfriend enter his life. In a series of tests of the heart, Walter develops a relationship with the couple as they face the issues of undocumented citizens and the fear of deportation. Walter finds himself compelled to help his new friends with a passion he thought he had long ago lost. This story of chance meeting, kindness, and personal transformation will touch your heart and invite questions that have no easy answers. Where is Jesus in the midst of such real life events? This film is co-sponsored by the Social Justice Forum.

The Gospel of John (approx. 120 minutes)

Date: April 26

An epic film in quality and spirit, this widely acclaimed motion picture is a meticulous recreation of the turbulent era of Jesus and the events that changed the course of history. Narrated by Christopher Plummer, it is the bold and powerful story of Jesus as told by the author of John's gospel. The best-loved but least understood of the gospels, John presents a uniquely human portrait of courage and passion encompassing Jesus' entire three-year ministry, the final years of his life. Intimate and reflective, *The Gospel of John* offers an unparalleled opportunity to experience the incomparable life and times of Jesus Christ. This film coincides with Dr. Craig Koester's provocative Wednesday evening class on *The Word of Life: Jesus According to John's Gospel*.

Then he said to Thomas, “Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe.”
Thomas answered him, “My Lord and my God!”

John 20:27-28

Reading and Resource List

- Anderson, Leith, *Jesus—An Intimate Portrait of the Man, His Land, and His People*
- Bailey, Kenneth E., *Jesus Through Middle Eastern Eyes: Cultural Studies in the Gospels*
- Bonhoeffer, Dietrich, *Who Is Christ for Us?*
- Borg, Marcus J., *Meeting Jesus Again for the First Time*
- Borg, Marcus J.; Wright, N.T., *The Meaning of Jesus—Two Visions*
- Bruckberger, R.L., *The History of Jesus Christ*
- Buechner, Frederick; Boltin, Lee, *The Faces of Jesus*
- Cahill, Thomas, *Desire of the Everlasting Hills—the World Before and After Jesus*
- Crossan, John Dominic, *Jesus—A Revolutionary Biography*
- Crossan, John Dominic; Johnson, Luke Timothy; Kelber, Werner H., *The Jesus Controversy—Perspectives in Conflict*
- Crossan, John Dominic; Reed, Jonathan L., *Excavating Jesus*
- Crossan, John Dominic; Watts, Richard G., *Who Is Jesus*
- Dahl, Nils Alstrup, *Jesus the Christ, The Historical Origins of Christological Doctrine*
- Dawes, Gregory W., ed., *The Historical Jesus Quest*
- Grant, Michael, *Jesus—An Historian's Review of the Gospels*
- Hill, Brennan, *Jesus the Christ—Contemporary Perspectives*
- Horsley, Richard A., *Jesus and Empire—The Kingdom of God and the New World Disorder*
- Johnson, Luke Timothy, *The Real Jesus—The Misguided Quest for the Historical Jesus and the Truth of the Traditional Gospels*
- Knox, John, (20th Century author), *Jesus—Lord and Christ*
- L'Engle, Madeleine, *Bright Evening Star—Mystery of the Incarnation*
- Muggeridge, Malcom, *Jesus—The Man Who Lives*
- Nouwen, Henri J.M., *Behold the Beauty of the Lord—Praying with Icons*
- Ottati, Douglas, F., *Jesus Christ and Christian Vision*, 1996
- Pelikan, Jaroslav, *Jesus Through the Centuries—His Place in the History of Culture*
- Placher, William C., *Jesus the Savior, The Meaning of Jesus Christ for Christian Faith*
- Sanders, E.P., *The Historical Figure of Jesus*
- Sloyan, Gerard S., *Jesus in Focus—A Life in Its Setting*
- Thompson, William, G., *Matthew's Story—Good News for Uncertain Times*
- Trocme, André, *Jesus and the Nonviolent Revolution*
- Vermes, Geza, *The Resurrection—History & Myth*
- Wills, Garry, *What Jesus Meant*
- Yancy, Philip, *The Jesus I Never Knew*

Sundays

Virtues, Values, Ethics, and Character

Leaders: Warren Hoffman, Will Larson, Rocky Rockenstein, Jack Terry

Dates: Sundays throughout the year

Time & Location: 9:15-10:15am, Founders Room (8:45am in the summer)

“Come, let us reason together...” This class provides weekly opportunities for dialogue and conversation around topics of faith and life. Participants share ideas and experiences as they grow together.

Social Justice Forum

Theme: *Loving God, Loving Neighbor*

Time and Location: Sundays, 9:15-10:15am, Meisel Room

This class is an outreach of the Social Justice Ministry Team of the Faith and Action Council with the mission of providing a faith context for social justice action and advocacy. Information on speakers and topics will be in the *Westminster News* and Sunday bulletins.

Opening Forum: September 7

Topic: On Loving One's Neighbor in a time of Fear: A Christian Response to Violence, Migration, and Poverty

Speaker: Rick Ufford-Chase, Presbyterian Peace Foundation

Jesus acted boldly to stand against the powers and principalities of his time. Following his example in our time is equally daunting. What does it mean to stand against the conventional wisdom of dominant culture and to act boldly in defense of Gospel values in our time? In our society, standing for peace in the midst of addiction to forces of fear and the lies of security-through-aggression is an act of courage. Standing with the undocumented people in our community demands that we must be clearly grounded on our convictions. Expecting a world in which everyone has enough will look like silly idealism. Still, this is clearly what it means to be a follower of Jesus.

Education for Faith and Life will join with the Social Justice forum for this class.

Topic: *Presbyterianism 101: Everything You Wanted to Ask About How and Why We Do What We Do*

Leader: Rev. Annika Lister Stroope

Dates and Time: Sundays, September 21-October 19, 9:15-10:15am

Location: Bates Room

Join us for a friendly and lighthearted class about the people (John Calvin, John Knox, and more), places (Scotland and Colonial America) and practices (we promise to make predestination easy to understand!) that came together to form the Presbyterian tradition. Class topics will include *John Calvin: Did He Really Say My Dog Won't Go to Heaven?* and *Why Are We Supposed to Like Bagpipes in Church?* Co-sponsored by WestConnection (Westminster's young adult fellowship group) and Education for Faith and Life.

Weekdays

WOW (Westminster on Wednesday) Bible Study for Women

Time & Location: Wednesdays, 9:30am, Meisel Room

Leaders: Rev. Bebe Baldwin, Rev. Liz Heller, Rev. Judy Kim

This class explores the Lectionary texts to be used the following Sunday for preaching.

Men's Bible Study

Time & Location: Wednesdays, 9:30am, Bates Room

Leader: Rev. Byron Thompson

This small group Lectionary study gives men the opportunity to discuss Scripture texts for the upcoming worship services, and integrate the Bible and life.

Living the Faith in the 21st Century

Leader: Dr. Chad Quaintance

Dates and Time: Wednesdays, 5:30-6:20pm, beginning September 17

Location: Thompson Room (lower level adult education room)

This class will explore various aspects of the theme: “*Who Do You Say that I Am?*”—*Taking Jesus Seriously*. The first topic is *Four Gospels, One Jesus*, a video conversation with internationally known New Testament scholar N.T. Wright; Joel Quie, Pastor of Eden Prairie Lutheran Church; and Kathy Michael, Associate Pastor at Westminster. This program includes time for group discussion. Later on, topics will include the Sermon on the Mount, and other subjects of interest to the class. You are invited to bring your dinner. Coffee and water will be provided.

Please note: This is a new addition to Education for Faith and Life programming

Moms Group

Time & Location: Thursdays, 9:30-11:00am, Nursery

Leader: Marie Kruskop

This group builds community among moms with children of any age, in an effort to learn together, and to support and affirm one another along the parenting journey. Through reading, discussion, and fellowship, the Moms Group attends to the spirituality of moms and children alike. Childcare available.

And pointing to his disciples, he said, “Here are my mother and my brothers! For whoever does the will of my Father in heaven is my brother and sister and mother.”

Matthew 12:49-50

Lent

Lenten Icon Writing Class**February 17, 24, March 10, 17, 24, 31****6:30pm-9:00pm, Room 209-210****Instructor: Debra Korluka**

Debra Korluka writes icons in the Orthodox Byzantine tradition. She has studied and shown her work nationally and abroad. A six-week evening course in writing icons will be offered beginning February 17, in conjunction with a series of adult education classes, and an icon exhibition in the Westminster Gallery. The fee of \$290 includes all materials; each student will write their own icon of the face of Jesus. For further information, or to register, contact Debra Korluka, Icon Art Studios, Inc., 13921 127th St. N., Stillwater, MN 55082, akorluka@aol.com or 651.439.4850.

Maximum of 20 students.

For more information, contact Rodney Allen Schwartz, 612.332.3421 or rschwartz@wpc-mpls.org.

Lenten Covenant Groups**Dates: Five weeks beginning February 24, 25, March 1****Times: Tuesdays 7:15PM Wednesdays 5:15PM & 7:15pm Sundays 9:15AM****Locations: Tuesdays, Second Floor Parents' Lounge; Wednesdays, Bates Room;****Sundays, Various locations** (Please see the Reception Desk for Sunday classroom assignments.)

The Lenten journey draws us together in small groups to study the preaching texts for each week, to grow in our sense of community, and to prepare ourselves for the Passion and Resurrection of Jesus Christ. Sign-up information will be in the *Westminster News* and worship bulletins.

January All-Church Book Read

The All-Church Book Read offers a selected novel which reflects the Education for Faith and Life theme for the year. This year we will look for themes of redemption, sacrifice, encounters with the Divine, or perhaps a novel about Jesus himself. Books will be available for purchase at a discount in November. Speakers and small group discussions will enhance our experience of the book selection. Watch the *Westminster News* for more information.

Dates: Sundays, January 4, 11, 18, 25

Traveling Seminar

Israel & Palestine: A Pilgrimage of Faith**Dates: January 11-22, 2009****Hosts: Rev. Tim Hart-Andersen and Rev. Kathy Michael**

This seminar is fully booked for 2009, but with sufficient interest will be repeated in 2010. We will visit sites of Old Testament and New Testament significance, learn lots of biblical history, experience in a new way the story of Jesus, and explore the current political issues between Israel and Palestine. If you want to be added to the 'interested list' for 2010, contact Rev. Kathy Michael, kmichael@wpc-mpls.org.

Spring Event from Spiritual Growth Ministry***Songs for the Earth—A Celtic Mass for Peace*****Leader: Philip Newell****Thursday, May 21, 10:00AM**

Professor Newell will be in the Twin Cities May 19-21, 2009. Watch the *Westminster News* and *Thin Places* newsletters for more information.

Called to Discipleship: Officer Training

While this class is not open to the congregation, newly elected officers—Elders, Deacons, and Trustees—spend more than five months from November through April, studying Bible, theology, mission, polity, worship, spirituality, and church history in preparation for their ordination/installation. Officers who have already completed *Called to Discipleship* will participate in *Nurturing Spiritual Leaders* which includes continuing Bible study and classes in Spiritual Leadership. You are invited to pray for these leaders as they respond to God's call in their lives.

If you think you would like to be a church officer sometime in the future, take advantage of Education for Faith and Life classes in this catalog to deepen your faith and broaden your understanding in preparation for leadership.

Surely he has borne our infirmities
And carried our diseases;
Yet we accounted him stricken,
Struck down by God, and afflicted.
But he was wounded for our transgressions,
Crushed for our iniquities;
Upon him was the punishment that made us whole,
And by his bruises we are healed.

Isaiah 53:4-5



Hamdy El-Sawaf, M.A., Ph.D., is a psychotherapist and Imam at Masjid Al-Ikhlās (Mosque of Sincerity), in Minneapolis. He received his degrees in psychology from Ain Shams University in Cairo, Egypt, and the University of Minnesota. El-Sawaf is General Secretary of the Islamic Jurisprudence Council of Minnesota, and a consult for the U.S. Court and legal system on Islamic perspective. He is co-founder and Professor at the Islamic University of Minnesota, and adjunct professor at Luther Seminary. He is a member of the Downtown Clergy Council,

and the Advisory Board Member of the Center for Religious Inquiry.

Jews, Muslims, and Buddhists: What Do They Say About Jesus?

Wednesday, October 22 *See course description on page 5*

Jesus in Islam

Wednesday, November 5 *See course description on page 6*



Bebe Baldwin



Liz Heller



Judith Kim

Bebe Baldwin, Liz Heller, and Judy Kim are retired ministers of the Presbyterian Church (USA), and experienced teachers and church leaders.

WOW Weekly Bible Study

Wednesdays, 9:30am

See course description on page 17

...[Jesus] asked his disciples, “Who do people say that the Son of Man is?” And they said, “Some say John the Baptist, but others Elijah, and still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.” He said to them, “But who do you say that I am?” Simon Peter answered, “You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.”

Matthew 16:13-16



Paul Capetz is Associate Professor of Historical Theology at United Theological Seminary. His areas of teaching and research are Protestant theology and modern religious thought, and historical theology. Dr. Capetz graduated from the University of California at Los Angeles, received his M.Div. degree at Yale Divinity School, and his Ph.D. from the University of Chicago. Capetz says, “I respect the rigors of serious conversation about and inquiry into matters of importance to our common life.” Among his publications are *God: A Brief History*

(Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2003), and *Christian Faith as Religion: A Study in the Theologies of Calvin and Schleiermacher* (Lanham, Maryland: University Press of America, 1998).

Academy Lenten Study—Christology: Who Is Jesus and Why does it Matter?

Wednesdays, March 4, 11, 18, 25 *See course description on page 10*



Catherine Cory, Ph.D., is Associate Professor at the University of St. Thomas. Her areas of expertise include the New Testament and the early church, the Gospel of John, the Revelation of John, and women in the early church. She received her M.A. degree in theology from St. John's University and her Ph.D. in Christianity and Judaism in Antiquity from Notre Dame. Dr. Cory teaches undergraduate and graduate courses in New Testament, the Synoptic Gospels, the Gospel of John, Women in the Early Church and the Book of Revelation. She

is author of numerous books and chapters, including *The Book of Revelation* and *Voyage Through the New Testament*.

Catholic Perspectives on Eucharist and Mission

Wednesday, November 19 *See course description on page 6*



Bill Davnie served as a Presbyterian pastor in North Dakota before joining the U.S. Department of State as a diplomat. He served in seven countries and Washington, D.C., over his 26 years in that career, from which he retired in 2007. During that time he also taught adult classes and preached in congregations abroad and in Washington. Davnie is a graduate of Wabash College, Vanderbilt University Divinity School, and National Defense University. His particular interests include history of theology, The presbyterian place among Christian traditions, and

Trinitarian doctrine. Davnie and his wife Charlotte are members of Westminster.

Trinity and Incarnation—Exploring Jesus' Identity

Sundays, November 30, December 7, 14 *See course description on page 7*



Lisa Ebert lives and works in Northfield, MN, where she serves as Practice Advisor at the Northfield Buddhist Meditation Center. She practices and studies within the Vipassana/Insight meditation tradition, and is currently a participant in the Integrated Study and Practice Program at the Barre Center for Buddhist Studies in Barre, MA. She received the M.Div., and S.T.M. degrees from Yale University, and previously taught graduate courses in Christian theology and science and religion. She also served congregations in the United Church of Christ.

Jews, Muslims, and Buddhists: What Do They Say About Jesus?

Wednesday, October 22 *See course description on page 5*

Buddha, Bodhisattva, or Suffering Being: A Buddhist Look at Jesus

Wednesday, November 12 *See course description on page 6*



Joseph Edelheit is Associate Professor of Philosophy and Director of Jewish Studies and Religious Studies at St. Cloud State University. He received his undergraduate degree at the University of California, Berkeley, his M.A. from Hebrew Union College—Jewish Institution of Religion, and the D.M. from the University of Chicago. He is Founder and Director with his wife Machel of Living India, which provides an orphanage for 50 children with AIDS in India, and sets up multi-faith AIDS education. Edelheit is a New Testament scholar and former senior rabbi at Temple Israel in Minneapolis.

Jews, Muslims, and Buddhists: What Do They Say About Jesus?

Wednesday, October 22 *See course description on page 5*

How Do Jews See the Jew in Jesus?

Wednesday, October 29 *See course description on page 5*



David Fredrickson is Professor of New Testament at Luther Seminary. Ordained in 1980, he was associate pastor of St. John Lutheran Church in Janesville, WI. Fredrickson received the M.A., M. Phil., and Ph.D. degrees from Yale University where he was teaching assistant to prominent scholars, Bruce Chilton, Wayne Meeks, Hans Frei, and A.J. Malherbe. Fredrickson has published several articles, including “Human Sexuality and the Christian Faith.” He says, “Christianity at its best is not about spiritual perfection, but whether my neighbor has

enough to eat.”

The Gospel of Matthew

Sundays, October 5, 12, 19, 26 *See course description on page 4*



Mark Goodacre is Associate Professor in New Testament in the Department of Religion at Duke University, Durham, N.C. He earned his M.A., M. Phil., and D. Phil. Degrees at the University of Oxford and was Senior Lecturer at the University of Birmingham (UK), before coming to the United States. His research interests include the Synoptic gospels (Matthew, Mark, and Luke), the Historical Jesus and the Gospel of Thomas. Goodacre is editor of the Library of New Testament Studies book series, and author of several books including *The Synoptic*

Problem: A Way Through the Maze, and *The Case Against Q: Studies in Markan Priority and the Synoptic Problem*. He is well known for the award-winning internet site, The New Testament Gateway, the web directory of academic New Testament resources. Goodacre appears regularly on television and radio to talk about religious matters, especially the New Testament. Through his avid interest in Jesus and film, he was consultant on *Passion*, a new film from the BBC.

“Who Do You Say that I Am?”—The History of Jesus as Messiah

Saturday, September 13, 8:30am-3:00pm *See course description on page 3*

The Historical Jesus and Jesus of the Gospels: What Can We Really Know?

Sunday, September 14 *See course description on page 3*

Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, and saying, “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news.”

Mark 1:14-15



Sarah S. Henrich, is Professor of New Testament at Luther Seminary in St. Paul. She received her Ph.D. from Yale University, and is a member of the Society of Biblical Literature. In her teaching she focuses “on reading and interpreting the Bible for the sake of the mission of the Church. It’s the liveliness of that story as a present-tense engagement that we’re really interested in.” Henrich is author of numerous Bible studies including “Great Personalities of the New Testament” and “See God’s Grace in Action.”

Who Does Luke Say Jesus Is? Taking Jesus Seriously in Luke’s Gospel and Acts

Trustworthy Teachers: Gabriel and the Holy Spirit in Luke 1-4

Sunday, November 2

A Prophet Like Moses and More than a Prophet

Sunday, November 9

“Truly this man is innocent.” Crucifixion and Resurrection

Sunday, November 16

“Not done in a corner.” Inspired Descriptions of Jesus in Acts

Sunday, November 23

See course descriptions on page 5



Warren Hoffman is a business and leadership consultant and a former Presbyterian Pastor.

Virtues, Values, Ethics, and Character

Sundays, 9:15-10:15am, (8:45am on holidays and during the summer)

See course description on page 16

“Whoever welcomes this child in my name welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes the one who sent me; for the least among all of you is the greatest.”

Luke 9:48



Arland J. Hultgren is the Asher O. and Carrie Nasby Professor of New Testament at Luther Seminary. A Phi Beta Kappa graduate of Augustana College, Hultgren earned the M.A. degree from the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, and the M.Div. degree from Lutheran School of Theology, Rock Island, IL. He received the Th.D. degree from Union Theological Seminary, New York, and has done additional study at the Universities of Cambridge, England, and Uppsala, Sweden. Hultgren is a member of the Society of Biblical

Literature. One of his books, *Christ and His Benefits*, is used in seminaries throughout the United States. His newest book, *The Parables of Jesus*, provides a thorough-going study of 38 parables of Jesus. Hultgren says, “I try to answer the questions, ‘So what?’”

Jesus and His Parables: Avenues of Insight into His Message

Wednesdays, December 3, 10, 17 *See course description on page 7*



Craig R. Koester is Professor of New Testament at Luther Seminary, where he has developed a course which takes students through the whole Bible using music, drama, and hundreds of visuals to bring the text to life. Koester earned his Ph.D. from Union Theological Seminary in New York, and did advanced research at the Center of Theological Inquiry in Princeton, N.J.

A prolific scholar, Koester has published books on the Gospel of John and the book of Revelation, as well as many scholarly articles. He says,

“I feel called to make sure that my research and writing are at the highest level of academic accountability. Teaching and scholarship go together.”

The Word of Life: Jesus According to John’s Gospel

Wednesdays, April 15, 22, 29 *See course description on page 11*



Debra Korluka is an internationally renowned artist and Byzantine iconographer. She was the first American to exhibit in the former Soviet Union and has studied with the masters from Ukraine and Russia. Korluka teaches workshops in iconography and also offers instruction from her studio and gallery. Her work, which is displayed in museums around the world, has been commissioned by many churches and private collectors nationally and internationally.

Writing and Meditating with Icons

Sunday, February 22 *See course description on page 10*



Will Larson Westminster member, is a consulting psychiatrist for the Westminster Counseling Center.
Virtues, Values, Ethics, and Character
 Sundays, 9:15-10:15am, (8:45am on holidays and during the summer)
 See course description on page 16



Annika Lister Stroope Before coming to Westminster, Annika served as a chaplain at Macalester College in St. Paul, MN. She discerned her call to ministry while serving as a mission associate in Des Moines Presbytery's partner church in El Salvador in the 1990s, and she subsequently worked in various capacities as a Spanish interpreter. Annika holds a Master of Divinity degree, with awards in theology and preaching, from McCormick Theological Seminary in Chicago, and a B.A. with majors in history and religion, from Swarthmore College.

Presbyterianism 101: Everything You Wanted to Ask About How and Why We Do What We Do
 Sundays, September 21-October 19, 9:15-10:15am See course description on page 16



Katherine S. Michael is Associate Pastor at Westminster with responsibility for Adult Education and Leadership Development. She received the M.A. degree in Biblical Studies and the M.Div. degree from Luther Seminary where she initiated the Ecumenical Ministries program. Previously she studied at the Presbyterian School for Christian Education in Richmond, VA. Michael has developed Called to Discipleship, a training program for Presbyterian Church officers, and designs Education for Faith and Life programs for Westminster. She has

taught Bible classes in congregations for over 30 years.

Cursing, Cleansing, and Stilling Storms: Jesus in the Gospel of Mark

Wednesdays, September 17, 24, October 1, 8, 15 See course description on page 4

Academy Study: Who Is Christ for Us?

Wednesdays, January 28, February 4 See course description on page 8

Academy Study: Who Do You Say that I Am?

Wednesday, February 11 See course description on page 9

The Land of Jesus: Israel and Palestine

Wednesday, February 18 See course description on page 10



Dr. Chad Quaintance received his Ph.D. in Theology from Union-PSCE, the Presbyterian seminary in Richmond, VA. His studies in theology came after 30 years of practicing law in the Civil Rights Division of the Justice Department and in a private firm in Minneapolis. In 2002, Westminster commissioned Quaintance and his wife Lucy to go to Hanover, IN, where he taught theology for six years at Hanover College. He is particularly interested in how modern Christian theology can be nourished by our knowing the Bible and church history more deeply.

Living the Faith in the 21st Century, 5:30pm, Thompson Room

Four Gospels, One Jesus is the topic of the first six-week session for this class
 Wednesdays, 5:30-6:20pm, beginning September 17 See course description on page 17



Walter "Rocky" Rockenstein is Legal Counsel for Westminster. He is an attorney with Faegre & Benson, specializing in Environmental and Land Use Law.

Virtues, Values, Ethics, and Character

Sundays, 9:15-10:15 (8:45am on holidays and during the summer)

See course description on page 16



Andrew Root is Assistant Professor of Youth and Family Ministry at Luther Seminary. Previously he was an adjunct professor at Wesley Theological Seminary, Washington, D.C., and Princeton Theological Seminary, Princeton, N.J. Root received his M.Div. and M. Th. degrees from Fuller Theological Seminary, and his Ph.D. from Princeton Theological Seminary. Root's ministry experience includes being a gang prevention counselor in Los Angeles, youth outreach in a congregation, and staff member of Young Life. Root has published articles in the

Journal of Youth and Theology and *The International Journal of Practical Theology*.

Jesus, Hope, and Pop Culture

Wednesdays, January 14, 28 See course description on page 8



Marilyn Salmon is Professor of New Testament Theology at United Theological Seminary in New Brighton, MN. An Episcopal priest serving as assistant at St. Clement's Church, she received her M.Div. degree from Luther Seminary, and her Ph.D. from Hebrew Union College, Jewish Institute of Religion. She says, "The central focus of my teaching is to make the language and images of the Scriptures a vital part of Christian life and spirituality." Salmon is author of *Preaching Without Contempt: Overcoming Unintended Anti-Judaism* (Minneapolis: Fortress

Press, 2006), and numerous Bible studies and articles.

Crucifixion and Jesus; Resurrection for Living; Rethinking Atonement Theology

Sundays, April 19, 26, May 3 See course description on page 11



Lee E. Snook is Professor Emeritus of Systematic Theology at Luther Seminary in St. Paul. He received his Master's and Ph.D. degrees from Union Theological Seminary in New York. Snook has spent extensive time teaching in Africa, first as Visiting Professor of Theology at the University of Zimbabwe, and then through a Luther Seminary student program in Harare. He is a passionate ecumenist and dynamic teacher. His books include *The Anonymous Christ: Jesus as Savior in Modern Theology* (1986) and *What in the World is God Doing? Re-imagining*

Spirit and Power (1999).

Jesus and the Arrogance of Empires

Sunday, September 21 See course description on page 4

Jesus and the Kingdom of God

Sunday, September 28 See course description on page 4



Jack Terry is a retired Presbyterian minister with expertise in Interim Ministry and Spiritual Direction and Formation. He received his Doctor of Ministry degree from San Francisco Theological Seminary in 1991. Terry has been a Kerygma Bible Study Instructor for 20 years and has served at the Presbytery and General Assembly levels of the Presbyterian Church (USA). Currently he serves on the Advisory Committee for Social Witness Policy for the General Assembly. *Virtues, Values, Ethics, and Character*

Sundays, 9:15-10:15am (8:45am on holidays and during the summer)

See course description on page 16



Rick Ufford-Chase is Executive Director of the Presbyterian Peace Fellowship, an organization with a 60 year history of supporting Presbyterians who take bold action for the cause of peace. Ufford-Chase worked on the US/Mexico border for twenty years where he founded and directed BorderLinks and worked in a variety of efforts to support migrants and refugees in the borderlands. He served the Presbyterian Church as Moderator of the 216th General Assembly, 2004-2006. He previously served churches in youth ministry, and

served as an elder in congregations in Philadelphia and Tucson. He serves on the national steering committee of Christian Peacemaker Teams, and works with The Samaritans, a faith-based organization that puts water stations in the desert for migrants in high risk areas. Ufford-Chase has served missions in Guatemala and Nicaragua. He received a Doctorate of Divinity from Hastings College, Hastings, NB.

Social Justice Forum: On Loving One's Neighbor in a Time of Fear: A Christian Response to Violence, Migration, and Poverty

Sunday, September 7 See course description on page 16

"The kingdom of God is not coming with things that can be observed; nor will they say, 'Look, here it is!' or 'There it is!' For, in fact, the kingdom of God is among you."

Luke 17:20-21

Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty."

John 6:35



Kimberly Vrudny is Associate Professor of Systematic Theology at the University of St. Thomas. She teaches courses in the Christian theological tradition, doctrine, aesthetics, and the arts. She is editor of the academic journal ARTS: the Arts in Religious and Theological Studies, and is author of several books, including *Visual Theology: Forming and Transforming the Community through the Arts*.
Iconography of Jesus: From Christ Triumphant to the Man of Sorrows
Sunday, February 15 *See course description on page 9*



Jann Cather Weaver is Associate Professor of Worship, Theology and the Arts, at United Theological Seminary. She received her M.Div. degree from Eden Theological Seminary and her Ph.D. from Graduate Theological Union in Theology and the Arts. She is an ordained minister in the United Church of Christ. Weaver was also Associate Dean of Students at Yale University Divinity School for eight years. Weaver is a frequent worshipper at Westminster.

The Life of Jesus in Cross-Cultural Art

Sunday, February 1 *See course description on page 9*

The Parables of Jesus in Cross-Cultural Art

Sunday, February 8 *See course description on page 9*

The woman said to him, "I know that the Messiah is coming"
...Jesus said to her, "I am he, the one who is speaking to you."

John 4:25-26

BCE—Before the Common Era—a scholarly designation of the more common B.C., or Before Christ, e.g. 587 BCE—the fall of Jerusalem to the Babylonians.

CE—Common Era—a scholarly designation of the more common A.D., *anno domini*, in the year of our Lord, e.g. 70 CE—the fall of Jerusalem to the Romans. BCE and CE facilitate speaking and writing in an interfaith world.

Christ—Greek for Anointed; Messiah is the Hebrew for Anointed.

Christology—from Christ/Messiah and 'logos' meaning 'discourse' or 'thought.'
(*See Capetz, p. 9*)

Eschatology—1. A branch of theology concerned with the final events in the history of the world or of humankind; 2. A belief concerning death, the end of the world, or the ultimate destiny of humankind; 3. May refer to the Second Coming of Christ, the resurrection of the dead, or the Last Judgment.

Essenes—a monastic brotherhood of Jews in Palestine from the 2nd Century BCE to the 2nd Century CE, who copied the Scriptures which we know as the Dead Sea Scrolls.

Historical Jesus—reconstruction of Jesus of Nazareth using historical methods—for bibliography, see Dr. Mark Goodacre's web site, ntgateway.com/Jesus.

Kingdom of God—refers to God's reign, God's sovereignty; this kingdom is not a place or a fixed time, but rather an affirmation of God's rule in the world. Matthew prefers the term Kingdom of Heaven to avoid using the name 'God,' a name too holy to be captured in human terms.

Pharisees—literally, separated. 1. A Jewish sect of the intertestamental period noted for strict observance of rites and ceremonies of the written law and for insistence on the validity of their own oral traditions concerning the law. Jesus was often 'arguing' with the Pharisees which was a common form of rabbinic dialogue.

Sadducees—A Jewish party of the intertestamental period consisting of a traditional ruling class of priests who rejected doctrines not in the Law, e.g., resurrection, retribution in a future life, and the existence of angels. The Sadducees challenged Jesus on these issues.

Synoptic—from synopsis (comprehensive view; seeing together) 1. Affording a general view of a whole; 3. Presenting or taking the same or common view; refers to the first three Gospels of the New Testament: Matthew, Mark, Luke—which have a similar approach in presenting Jesus' life, even though they each paint a different portrait. In contrast, the Gospel of John is very different in style and tone and includes material that the other three gospels don't contain.

Synoptic Problem—the Synoptic Gospels agree on much but also differ on certain information. How do we explain that? See Mark Goodacre's book, *The Synoptic Problem: A Way Through the Maze*.

*You are encouraged to obtain a good study Bible and bring it with you to this year's classes: New Interpreter's Study Bible and Harper Collins Study Bible are good ones. New Revised Standard Version (NRSV) is most often used at Westminster.
(Some definitions come from Webster's New Collegiate Dictionary.)*