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Please Note:

- All Sunday classes meet 9:15-10:15am (Great Hall) 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). A light lunch is available, with suggested donation of \$7.
- Teens are invited and encouraged to attend all Wednesday classes.

Dear Friends,

The Apostle Paul has been called the ‘founder of Christianity.’ He is responsible for the earliest documents in the Newer Testament and has shaped the bedrock of Christian theology and practice. Whether or not we can say that Paul ‘founded’ Christianity, his mission to the Gentile world took the Gospel beyond a localized Jewish community and set it on the path to becoming a world religion.

Education for Faith and Life continues our study of the Bible as Ancient Texts for New Times with an exploration of Foundations of our Faith in the Newer Testament. (The term ‘Newer’ reminds us that the Older Testament is a vital part of our Scriptures and is not superseded by the Newer, but precedes it chronologically.)

Paul’s letters precede the written Gospels by 20-50 years, and so with a primary focus on Paul’s life and letters, we go back to the beginning of the Christian movement as it happened.

We begin our year with a look at the world of the Newer Testament writers and the Jewish, Greek, and Roman influences that shaped it. We fast forward to the Reformation to see how Paul’s influence on Luther was the spark that ignited a whole new understanding of the doctrines of the church and produced the theological and intellectual legacy that is part of who we are as Presbyterians.

We will look at how the Newer Testament came into being, who decided, and how, what documents should be included and which left out, and why.

We will explore Paul as a passionate, controversial figure whose commitment to the Gospel consumed his life, made him enemies, and eventually got him killed.

As we look at Paul’s letters, Luke’s account of Paul’s life in Acts, and other letters in the Newer Testament, we will examine how this material has shaped our own thinking and presumptions, and even how it has caused splits in the church from the very beginning.

Dr. Richard Rohrbaugh will come from Portland, OR, for our Saturday Seminar in January to put the Newer Testament, and the Gospels in particular, into their cultural and societal context. Rohrbaugh’s work opens a new understanding for much of the Gospel material that we have historically read through the lens of modern, Western eyes, unfamiliar with the assumptions that shaped the text.

We will look at the Revelation to John, with a fresh view of the conflict between Christianity and the Empire of the 1st Century.

Movies of the Month will focus on Paul’s themes of redemption, transformation, forgiveness, and hope.

This year’s adult education classes invite us into the energy and urgency of the 1st Century church, and challenge us to claim both of those qualities for our own time.

Yours in Christ,

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: The World of the Newer Testament Writers

Speaker: Dr. Andy Overman

Dates: Sundays, September 11, 18, 25

Dr. Overman will introduce the cultural and political environment in which the Newer Testament writers lived and worked. The influence of Jewish, Greek, and Roman culture and ethos sheds light on how we interpret and understand the ancient texts of the Newer Testament.

- **September 11** (Coming Together Sunday) *Book, Temple, Lord: A Jewish World*
- **September 18** *Wisdom, Law, and Polis: A Greek World*
- **September 25** *Power, Empire, and Church: The Roman World*

Topic: The Apostle Paul, Martin Luther, and the Reformation

Speaker: Dr. Paul Capetz

Dates: Wednesdays, September 14, 21, 28

The Protestant Reformation was not merely a reform of abusive practices in the church, but also—and fundamentally—a reform of doctrine. Central to Luther’s convictions as a Protestant was his interpretation of the letters of Paul. In this course we will examine Paul’s influence upon Luther and Luther’s influence on the way we read Paul.

Topic: From the ‘Scriptures’ to Two Testaments: Formation of the Newer Testament in Early Christianity

Speaker: Dr. Michael Holmes

Dates: Sundays, October 2, 9

Whereas for Jesus and his early followers the “scriptures” were the holy writings of the Jewish faith, by about 200 CE, the “scriptures” of the emerging and expanding Christian movement comprised two testaments, one “old,” (the Jewish scriptures) and one “new,” consisting of a growing collection of early Christian writings. Where did these writings come from, and how did they coalesce into something called the “new” testament? When, by whom, and on what basis was an amorphous assortment of gospels, letters, acts, and apocalypses shaped into the now-familiar 27 books of the New Testament? These are the sorts of questions we will take up in a two-part look at the formation of the Christian scriptures.

Topic: What’s Love Got to Do with It? 1 and 2 Corinthians

Speaker: Dr. David Fredrickson

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

Beginning with Christ’s abduction of Paul (2 Corinthians 12), this course will explore erotic themes in the apostle’s Corinthian correspondence. Modern scholars have downplayed Eros in Paul’s thought and experience. Some Christian writers of the 12th Century, on the contrary, were enamored of Paul’s “sweetness” and their insights into his framing of theology in amatory terms will guide our investigation.

Topic: *Is Jesus Coming Back?—Studies in 1 and 2 Thessalonians***Speaker: Rev. Kathy Michael****Date: Sunday, October 16**

Christian groups and charismatic leaders have been predicting the ‘end times’ since the beginning of Christianity. May 21, 2011, was one of the more recent dates that warned of cataclysmic destruction accompanied by Jesus’ return. Such expectations were common in the 1st Century, but Paul encourages the Thessalonians to “live a life worthy of your calling,” and not be distracted by Jesus’ anticipated return. 1 Thessalonians, probably written around 50 CE, is the earliest document in the New Testament. This class will explore what wisdom these two letters might have for us today.

Topic: *The Quest for the Historical Paul, or, Will the Real Paul Please Stand Up?***Speaker: Dr. Calvin Roetzel****Date: Sundays, October 23, 30, November 6**

As the foremost thinker and writer of the early Jesus movement, Paul understood his call (not conversion) to be an apostle of Messiah Jesus to the Gentiles. His mission met fierce resistance and deadly peril, and it was in the crucible of this conflict that his thinking was worked out. His theology developed in a tense and conflicted relationship with his critics. His response to the hurt and slander heaped on him by opponents, often gave rise to Paul’s most radical insights. Over one-half of the New Testament canonical writings was devoted to this stormy figure and theological genius. Dr. Roetzel’s thesis is that he did not begin his ministry with a fully developed theological template that he simply imposed on every situation, but that his theology and his own self-understanding was a work in progress. In the undisputed letters, we can see Paul’s development.

- **October 23** *Paul: A Jew on the Margin or Anti-Semite?*
- **October 30** *Paul: Woman’s Liberator or Anti-Feminist?*
- **November 6** *How Pauline is the Christian Right?*

Topic: *Small Group Bible Study: Galatians, Philippians, Colossians: Little Letters with Big Ideas***Speaker: Dr. Eric Baretto and Small Group Discussion****Dates: Wednesdays, November 2, 9, 16, 30, December 7**

The brevity of these letters ought not disguise the depth of their theology. From the declaration of our unity in Christ (Galatians 3:28), and the power of Christ’s exaltation through humility (Philippians 2:5-11), and the assertion that Christ is “the firstborn of all creation” (Colossians 1:15), these three letters communicate incredibly influential theological notions. In each case, however, these notions are contained with larger arguments and contextual questions. What are the larger stories being narrated in these letters? Moreover, how do these epistles relate to one another? Dr. Baretto will offer a ½ hour presentation each week, followed by 1-hour small-group discussions.

Topic: *Luke’s Second Volume: The Acts of the Apostles***Speaker: Dr. Sarah Henrich****Dates: Sundays, November 20, 27, December 4** (*Class meets in the Refectory on Nov. 20*)• **November 20** *Luke’s Second Volume: Making a Bridge*

This class will provide an overview of the book of Acts, exploring Luke’s intention and how best to read the material. We will see how Luke connects Jesus to his earliest followers and then to a future of promise. While the outcome of God’s will is clear for Luke, it is also clear that the human journey is mostly carried out in modest steps and is a story of ups and downs.

• **November 27** *Luke’s Second Volume: The Big Steps*

In this class we’ll pay attention to Luke’s story of the church’s most radical step, inclusion of the Gentiles among God’s people. It’s a story of courage and hesitation, of bold action and second guesses. We’ll also see how Luke portrays Paul as an emissary primarily to the Gentiles.

• **December 4** *Luke’s Second Volume: His Story of Paul*

In this class we’ll follow the story of Paul as Luke tells it and compare Luke’s Paul with the Paul of the letters. In that way we’ll see more of Luke’s intention and patterns, as well as catch a glimpse of Paul himself. There will be overlaps and differences between the two. The joy of our Scripture is that both versions remain in the canon side-by-side for our fuller understanding of the beginning of the church.

Topic: *Paul and His Letter to the Romans***Speaker: Dr. Arland Hultgren****Dates: Wednesdays, January 4, 11, 18, 25**

Few books of the Bible have had more impact on the life of the church and the individual Christian than Paul’s Letter to the Romans. Probably the Gospels have had more, but after the Gospels, Romans is supreme. The importance of Romans through the ages is due to its message of the love and grace of God for the world, and the demand of God upon the believer. In these sessions attention will be given to 1) Paul as letter writer, 2) the church at Rome in his day, and 3) classic theological texts and 4) ethical texts in the letter itself. The letter provides good news and guidance yet today.

January All-Church Book Read**Dates: Sundays, January 8, 15, 22**

The 2012 All-Church Book Read selection is *Room*, by Emma Donoghue. Small-group discussions will take place on January 8, 15, in various rooms in the church. On January 22, Dr. Rob Brault, Associate Professor of English at Winona State University, will speak about the book and engage readers in conversation. Books will be available by October 2 at a reduced cost.

Saturday Seminar

Topic: *The New Testament in Cross-Cultural Perspective*

Date: Saturday, January 28

Time: 8:30am-2:30pm **Location:** Meisel Room

Cost: \$25 (includes lunch and snacks)

Reservations: by Jan. 23. Contact Claudia: 612-332-3421 or ckapitan@wpc-mpls.org

Speaker: Dr. Richard Rohrbaugh, Visiting Scholar

Session 1 *Jesus' Words in Changing Contexts*

Tracing the use of Mark 12 from Jesus to Thomas, to Mark, Irenaeus, Augustine, Cromwell, the Royalists, and up to modern times demonstrates how much the reader's context determines the way we read Scripture

Session 2 *The Ancient Context: Honor Claimed, Honor Vindicated*

In the ancient context the Zacchaeus story would have looked remarkably different than it does to contemporary Westerners. It was about honor, not repentance.

Session 3 *The Ancient Context: Was Jesus a Capitalist?*

We understand the first two slaves in the parable of the talents who increased what they were given as the heroes of the story. To ancient hearers, including early Christian theologians, they were villains as greedy as their master.

Topic: *The Ancient Context: 'Messiah' Talk in Mark 8—Who Did Jesus Think He Was?*

Date: Sunday, January 29

Speaker: Dr. Richard Rohrbaugh, Visiting Scholar

What did Jesus know and when did he know it? Did he know he was the Messiah? This class will explore these questions through the lens of ancient collectivist societies where one's identity was always determined by others, never by oneself.

Topic: *Journey into Faith with the Letter to the Hebrews*

Dates: Wednesdays, February 1, 8, 15

Speaker: Dr. Catherine Cory

The New Testament book identified as "To the Hebrews" is surprisingly unique and at times wholly enigmatic. Although it has been called a letter, it has few of the attributes typically found in letters. Some biblical scholars identify it as a theological treatise, a carefully reasoned argumentation about who Jesus is as the Christ and what his role is in God's plan of salvation. Its imagery is strange at times, and difficult to understand. Other scholars describe it as a sermon designed to encourage people to hold fast to the Jesus gospel and warn against the temptation to give up the faith. These sessions will give us an opportunity

to enter into the unfamiliar world of the Letter to the Hebrews, engage some of its arguments, and consider our own response to its call for greater faith.

Topic: *From Metro Ephesus: Words for Emerging Congregations*

Dates: Sundays, February 5, 12, 19

Speaker: Dr. Sarah Henrich

• **February 5** *A Closer Look at Ancient Ephesus*

Where was Ephesus? Who lived there? How does what we know about Ephesus connect with the messages of the letter to the Ephesians?

• **February 12** *A Closer Look at the Letter to the Ephesians*

What do we know about this letter, its date and its author? More importantly, what can we learn about Christian belief and communities of believers as we meet them in Ephesians?

Are there words for us? The focus of this class will be on the overall structure of the letter and the first two chapters.

• **February 19** *A Closer Look at the Letter to the Ephesians and Ourselves*

We will focus on the final chapters of Ephesians, try to summarize the theology and community-building of this letter and consider what messages, if any, we take from it.

Lenten Covenant Groups

Dates: Sundays, February 26-March 25 and Wednesdays, February 29-March 28

Small groups will gather to read and discuss the preaching texts during Lent. Registration information will be in the *Westminster News*, worship bulletins, and at ewestminster.org. See page 19 for more information.

Topic: *God's Holy War?—Studies in The Revelation to John*

Dates: April 11, 15, 18

(Note: This class meets two Wednesdays and the Sunday in between.)

Speaker: Dr. Andy Overman

Dr. Overman will offer a fresh and relevant interpretation of perhaps the most misunderstood book in the Bible.

• **April 11** *The Canon's Book of Secrets: The Seer and his Congregations*

• **April 15** *The Canon's Book of Secrets: Christian Resistance and Violence—A Strategy Against Empire*

• **April 18** *Dangers in Visions and Daring to Dream Visions: Revelation Today and Tomorrow*

Traveling Seminar: Turkey Adventure: Pilgrimage in the Footsteps of Paul

April 20 - May 2 (see details on page 20)

Topic: *Slavery, Ethics, and Forging a new Christian “Family” in Paul’s Letter to Philemon*

Date: Sunday, April 22

Speaker: Dr. Matt Skinner

Philemon, this shortest letter from Paul—utterly unique among those we possess—has an odd history: Christians have used it to contend both for and against slavery. It is no stranger to “culture wars.” This letter shows us Paul trying to navigate the difficult intersections between deeply rooted cultural institutions and the new relationships brought into being among Christians, as those who are “in Christ.” The letter forces us to contend with the things that make people both attracted to and frustrated with Paul as a theological thinker and a shaper of the Christian life.

Topic: *A Later Chapter in the Biblical Story: Understanding the Theology, Ethics, and “Institutionalization” of the church in the Letters to Timothy and Titus*

Date: Sunday, April 29

Speaker: Dr. Matt Skinner

The letters of 1 Timothy, 2 Timothy, and Titus can provoke vastly different reactions among people. In them we find inspirational exhortations to live a life of faith, as well as shocking statements attempting to limit who can participate in public Christian leadership. Our understanding of these letters must take into account the circumstances under which they were written. What threats was the church facing? How was the church transitioning into a new kind of existence? How was it attempting to bear witness to Jesus while trying on certain cultural conventions? These letters remind us that Christianity never exists separate from a wider culture. They teach us about our past and force us to answer hard questions about the good, the bad, and the ugly that we can find in scripture.

Topic: *The Four Gospels and the Early Church*

Dates: Wednesdays, April 25, May 2, 9

Panel Speakers: Drs. Eric Baretto, David Fredrickson, Sarah Henrich, Matt Skinner

The four Gospels were written between 70 and 100 of the Common Era. As such, they become the second generation of documents in the Newer Testament. (Paul’s letters are dated between 50 and 60 CE.) What do we learn about the growth and development of the early church through these Gospels? How do they reflect or depart from Paul’s theology? What can we know about the purpose of their authors, what can we not know, and what do the Gospels tell us about the extension of Paul’s influence beyond his own lifetime? Our panel of Newer Testament scholars will lead us in a lively discussion of the impact and importance of Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John on the growing church in the 1st and 2nd Centuries, and how they continue to shape the church today.

Topic: *Cross-Currents and Continuing Conversations: Considering the Newer Testament Writings at the Conclusion of the “Apostolic Era”*

Date: Sunday, May 6

Speaker: Dr. Matt Skinner

The Newer Testament includes a variety of literary genres and theological perspectives. What holds it all together, with its four Gospels, various letters from Paul, and other literature? In some places the Newer Testament seems to host conversations, in other places various parts are in dialogue, while still other places offer us more isolated voices. What does this collection tell us about Christianity as it transitioned into the 2nd Century? What disagreements remained? What challenges was the church ready to face, and what was left unresolved? Which voices would dominate, and which would be eclipsed? Answering these questions makes us better equipped to be enriched by scripture now, in our own place in history.

Topic: *The Apostle Paul for Everyday Life*

Dates: Sundays, May 13, 20

Speaker: Rev. Kathy Michael

These two classes will provide the opportunity to process what we’ve been learning over the past eight months. We’ll look at some of Paul’s writings and how they speak to the ways we live out our faith in everyday life. Students are invited to submit their favorite texts for discussion. kmichael@wpc-mpls.org

Topic: *Small Group Book Study: The Rapture Exposed, The Message of Hope in the Book of Revelation*, by Barbara R. Rossing

Dates & Time: Wednesdays, June 6, 13, 20, 27, 7:15pm

The idea of “The Rapture”—the return of Christ at the end of times to rescue and deliver born-again Christians off the earth—is an extremely popular interpretation of the book of Revelation in the Bible and a jumping-off point for the best-selling *Left Behind* series of books. This interpretation guides the daily acts of millions of people worldwide. Rossing argues that this script for the world’s future is nothing more than a disingenuous distortion of the Bible, based on a psychology of fear. The truth is that Revelation offers a vision of God’s healing love for the world. *The Rapture Exposed* reclaims Christianity from fundamentalists’ destructive reading of the biblical story and back into God’s beloved community.

Movie of the Month

Movies are shown the fourth or fifth Sunday of the month at 11:45am in the Meisel Room. A light lunch is provided with a suggested donation of \$7 per person. Feature films are selected to reflect particular themes in the Newer Testament: redemption, grace, hope, forgiveness, transformation, and new life. Scholarly presentations take us deeper into the biblical texts to enrich our understanding.

Apostle Paul and the Earliest Churches

Date: September 25, (48 minutes)

This brilliant and illuminating documentary begins with Paul's conversion and reenacts Paul's missionary journeys on Anatolian soil (modern Turkey). The film contains an archaeological treasury: mosaics, frescoes, statues, amphitheaters, agoras, temples, and more. The historical, religious, and archaeological background of each Anatolian region in which Paul preached the gospel is explained. Yet *Apostle Paul* is more than an archaeological or historical survey; this production's reenactment of the difficulties Paul encountered and the persecution Paul faced beckons the viewer to experience with the Apostle himself the birth of the Christian Church. Filmed on location, we will see Antioch on the Orontes, Pisidian Antioch, Ephesus, Tarsus, and other cities important to Paul's ministry.

Walk the Line

Date: October 30, (135 minutes)

Singer. Rebel. Outlaw. Hero. With his driving freight-train chords, steel-eyed intensity, and a voice as dark as the night, Johnny Cash, the legendary "Man in Black," revolutionized music—and forged his legacy as a genuine American icon. In this true story of success, addiction, redemption, and transformation, Oscar nominated Joaquin Phoenix, and Oscar winner Reese Witherspoon star (and sing) as Johnny Cash and June Carter. They bring to life the inspiring story of one man's unwavering devotion to his sound, his message, and the greatest love of his life, and one woman's devotion to his well-being and their life together.

An Unfinished Life

Date: November 27, (108 minutes)

Academy Award winners Robert Redford and Morgan Freeman star in this powerful story of risk and redemption. Stoic and heartbroken, Einar Gilkyson (Redford) quietly lives in the rugged Wyoming ranchlands alongside his only trusted friend, Mitch Bradley (Freeman). Then, suddenly, the woman he blames for the death of his only son arrives at his door broke, desperate, and with a granddaughter he's never known. But even as buried anger and accusations resurface, the way is opened for unexpected connection, adventure, forgiveness, and freedom. Also starring Jennifer Lopez and Josh Lucas.

Movie of the Month

Honor/Shame in the Ancient World with Richard Rohrbaugh

Date: January 22, (55 minutes)

Reading the New Testament through the lens of Western, modern and post-modern concepts and understanding seriously interrupts our ability to translate and interpret the New Testament texts. Richard Rohrbaugh elucidates the concepts of honor and shame, which he sees as core values in Mediterranean culture and thus of the biblical world. Drawing on his experiences of living in both the Mediterranean world and in the West, he concentrates on passages in the New Testament that are influenced by the culture of the region and highlights the important role of honor and shame in those verses. Rohrbaugh is Professor Emeritus of Religious Studies at Lewis and Clark College in Portland, OR. This film lays a foundation for Rohrbaugh's Saturday Seminar, January 28.

Peter and Paul

Dates: February 26 & March 4 (shown in two parts, approx. 97 minutes each)

Anthony Hopkins (Paul) and Robert Foxworth (Peter) give stunning performances in this epic mini-series which brings to life the precarious existence of early Christianity. The new movement is beset by violent opposition from without and constant turmoil from within. Two key leaders emerge—Peter and Paul—who struggle to keep the faith alive. This dramatic presentation follows the pair, together and separately, through three epochal decades. Included are the stoning of Stephen, the road to Damascus, their encounter in Jerusalem, their conflicts over how the word of Christ should be spread, Paul's travels to Asia Minor and Greece, Peter and Paul's clashes over Jewish law, and Peter's decision to follow in Paul's courageous footsteps. The drama concludes in Rome in approximately 64 of the Common Era with the beheading of Paul and the crucifixion of Peter under Emperor Nero.

Invictus

Date: March 25, (133 minutes)

He was imprisoned for 27 years for his heroic fight against apartheid. So what does Nelson Mandela do after he is elected president of South Africa? He rejects revenge, forgives his oppressors, and finds hope of national unity in an unlikely place: the rugby field. Clint Eastwood powerfully directs an uplifting film about a team and a people inspired to greatness. Morgan Freeman was nominated for best actor for his portrayal of Mandela who asks the national rugby team captain (best supporting actor nominee, Matt Damon) and his underdog squad to do the impossible and win the World Cup. *One team, one country.* The universal language of sports has never spoken so thrillingly as in Eastwood's *Invictus*.

Movie of the Month

Shawshank Redemption

Date: April 29, (142 minutes)

In 1946, a banker named Andy Dufresne (Tim Robbins) is convicted of a double murder, even though he stubbornly proclaims his innocence. He's sentenced to a life term at the Shawshank State Prison in Maine, where another lifer, Ellis "Red" Redding (Morgan Freeman), picks him as the new recruit most likely to crack under the pressure. The ugly realities of prison life are quickly introduced to Andy: a corrupt warden, sadistic guards, and inmates who are little better than animals, willing to use rape or beatings to insure their dominance. But Andy does not crack: he has the hope of the truly innocent, which (together with his smarts) allow him to prevail behind bars. He uses his banking skills to win favor with the warden and the guards, doing the books for the warden's illegal business schemes and keeping an eye on the investments of most of the prison staff. In exchange, he is able to improve the prison library and bring some dignity and respect back to many of the inmates, including Red. Andy's hope never wavers, and his ability to find freedom inside and outside prison is an inspiration to some, and an aggravation to others.

Of Gods and Men

Date: May 20, (122 minutes)

"Men never do evil so completely and cheerfully as when they do it from a religious conviction." The speaker is Luc, an elderly Catholic monk quoting a *pensée* of Pascal. He does it at a moment of crisis and ambiguity: does this thought apply to the Islamist mujahideen who are threatening to kill him and his brothers? Or should it rather apply to these future victims? This stunningly passionate and deeply moving film by the French director Xavier Beauvois, is based on the kidnapping and murder of monks in Algeria by Islamic fundamentalists in 1996. *Of Gods and Men* climaxes in a quite incredible "Last Supper" sequence, in which the monks share red wine to the accompaniment of Tchaikovsky's *Grand Theme* from *Swan Lake*, playing on an old tape machine in the corner.

Lambert Wilson plays Christian, the head of a Cistercian monastery in Algeria: a spartan order devoted to contemplation and prayer. Their community has developed a happy relationship with the local Muslim villagers, based partly on the free outpatient clinic they provide. They have a quiet, supportive respect for each other's traditions. But dark forces are gathering: intolerant jihadist forces have already murdered Croatian construction workers, and are rumored to have the Catholic monks in their sights as the ultimate prize. The monks must now decide: should they stay or should they go? Is going cowardice? Is staying arrogance? Is martyrdom their destiny?

Movie of the Month

The Iron Giant

Date: June 24, (86 minutes)

"Can a gun have a soul?" That's the question asked by the *The Iron Giant*. Director Brad Bird's award-winning feature animation debut pondered how a paranoid, post-war America might react to an overwhelmingly powerful interstellar invader. The cult classic stands as arguably the most intellectually and emotionally moving science-fiction tale in recent history. From lampooning McCarthyite government spooks and terrible sci-fi B movies to lionizing comic book heroes like Superman, *The Iron Giant* touches so many pop culture bases that it makes for dizzying cinema. Now, in a so-called post-9/11 era of empty-headed shooters like *Terminator Salvation*, the movie's pacifist spirit is needed more than ever. *The Iron Giant* is an intelligent and moving satire of paranoia, weaponry and innocence that is as decidedly antiwar as it is pro-tech. Its robot overlord - a giant, metal machine that falls from space during the height of the Cold War - is, after all, breathtakingly cool. *The Iron Giant* is beyond naiveté or political correctness. It's a hilarious, tear-jerking and sci-fantastic analysis of paranoia on parade, and how it can be stopped when everyone decides to lay down their arms and start using their hearts and minds.

Reading List

- Bailey, Kenneth E., *Poet and Peasant and Through Peasant Eyes*
- Bailey, Kenneth E., *Jesus Through Middle Eastern Eyes: Cultural Studies in the Gospels*
- Barth, Karl, *The Epistle to the Romans*
- Crossan, John Dominic, Jonathan L. Read. *Excavating Jesus: Beneath the Stones, Behind the Texts*
- Elliott, Neil, *Liberating Paul, The Justice of God and the Politics of the Apostle*
- Fretheim, Terence E., & Froehlich, Karlfried, *The Bible as Word of God in a Postmodern Age*
- Goodacre, Mark, *The Synoptic Problem: A Way Through the Maze*
- Horsley, Richard A., ed., *Paul and Empire*
- Horsley, Richard A., ed., *Paul and Politics*
- Johnson, Luke Timothy, *The New Testament, A Very Short Introduction*
- Keefer, Kyle, *The New Testament as Literature, A Very Short Introduction*
- Koester, Craig R., *A Beginner's Guide to Reading the Bible*
- Koester, Craig R., *Revelation and the End of All Things*
- Koester, Craig R., *The Word of Life: A Theology of John's Gospel*
- Malina, Bruce J. and Jerome H. Neyrey, *Portraits of Paul: An Archaeology of Ancient Personality*
- Meeks, Wayne A., *The First Urban Christians, The Social World of the Apostle Paul*
- Peterson, Eugene H., *Reversed Thunder, The Revelation of John & the Praying Imagination*
- Roetzel, Calvin J., *The Letters of Paul, Conversations in Context*
- Roetzel, Paul, *A Jew on the Margins*
- Rohrbaugh, Richard L., *The New Testament in Cross-Cultural Perspective*
- Roessing, Barbara R., *The Rapture Exposed, The Message of Hope in the Book of Revelation*
- Sanders, E.P., *Paul, A Very Short Introduction*
- Skinner, Matthew L., *The Trial Narratives: Conflict, Power and Identity in the New Testament*
- Stourton, Edward, *Paul of Tarsus, A Visionary Life*
- Wangerin, Walter, *Paul: A Novel*
- Interpretation Bible Commentary Series
- Westminster Bible Commentary Series
- New Interpreter's Study Bible*

Books are available in the Lowe Library or for purchase from the Luther Seminary bookstore, 651-641-3440, www.luthersem.edu/bookstore

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 (lower level)

8:45am Memorial Day through Labor Day

"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. Theme for this year is *Ideas that Matter and Make a Difference*.

Social Justice Forum: *Building and Sustaining Justice Amid Uncertainty*

Time & Location: 9:15-10:15am, Meisel Room

I know that the Lord secures justice for the poor and upholds the cause of the needy.

Psalm 140:12

Even in challenging times, God expects us to participate in ways that ensure justice for the poor and care for those who are in need of housing, healthcare, education, justice and freedom. The 2011-12 Social Justice Forum's Speaker's Series is designed to help us understand local, national, and global social issues. On "Action Sundays" speakers offer ideas that lead to actions that each of us can take to transform the lives of those most in need—just as the writer of the Psalm encourages us to do!

This series addresses a variety of issues including the following:



September 11 Coming Together Sunday

Creating Hope and Futures for Victims of War, Violence and Human Trafficking: A Personal Journey with Patrick Atkinson

Learn how we can break the bitter chains of poverty and inequalities through formation and education.

Atkinson is the founder and executive director of The God's Child Project, an international program that cares for, educates, and provides health services to 12,000 poor families in Central America, Africa,

India, and the U.S. He is the creator of the Bismarck Educational System for developing nations, a model now widely used in both Central America and Africa. In 2000 and 2001, Patrick was invited by the United Nations to develop residential, health, and educational programs for rural widows and street children affected by the rampaging AIDS crisis in East and South Africa.

September 18 Challenging Inequality in the Land of Opportunity

Speakers address concerns in healthcare, education and housing—learn what we can do locally to make a difference.

September 25 ACTION SUNDAY Learn ways you can impact your community!

October 2-16 *Rebuilding a Nation: Series on Native American Development and Sustainability.*

October 23 *Understanding the birthplace of religion—The Middle East*

Learn about international organizations striving for peace and justice amid an ever-changing landscape.

October 30 *Islam & America*

National leaders offer insight into understanding and acceptance. Meet the local Council on American Islamic Relations and learn what it means to be Muslim in America.

November 6 ACTION SUNDAY Panel discussion with representatives from Jewish Voice for Peace, Israeli Coalition Against Housing Demolitions and U.S. Campaign to End the Occupation. How and why we can join these efforts to ensure justice for all.

Monday, November 7 *Creating a Multi-cultural Democracy: Religion, Culture and Identity in America* featuring Winona LaDuke.

As Program Director of the Honor the Earth Fund, Duke is a Native American environmental activist who has achieved national prominence advocating, raising public support, and creating funding for frontline native environmental groups. She was twice Ralph Nader's vice-presidential candidate for the Green Party. Co-sponsored by Westminster and Plymouth Congregational Church. 7:00PM at Plymouth Congregational Church, 1900 Nicollet Ave S. Reception to follow in Guild Hall.

November 20 Fair Trade Gift Fair

Choose hand-made fairly traded arts & crafts from around the world to give to your loved ones this holiday season, and you will give a gift of sustainability to families throughout developing nations.

December 4 *The Principle of "The Commons"*

What is it and how does it impact our lives?

December 11 ACTION SUNDAY

The Principle of "The Commons" Working to Save God's Earth for the Common Good!

January 8, 2012 *Understanding the Dynamics of Immigration in Minnesota*

January 15 *How Do We Sustain a Strong Economy and Justice for All?*

January 22 ACTION SUNDAY Speakers from HIRED and other local nonprofits offer tips and ideas to action steps to improve the quality of life for all Minnesotans.

Feb. 5 *Education: A Moral Imperative for Social Justice and Equity*

This class addresses the broad issue of education as a social justice imperative and provides audience members with the current state of education at both the national and state level.

Feb. 12 ACTION SUNDAY

Learn ideas to action from Parents United, a state-wide education advocacy organization on how to become an advocate for public education.

February 19 *The Precautionary Principle* What is our social responsibility to protect the public when science tells us there is a potential risk?

April 15 *The Four R's: Rethink, Reduce, Reuse, Recycle*

Join Westminster's Eco-Justice Team Members and learn the "new mathematics" to green living!

April 22 *Sustainability 101: "We are called to be Eco-Stewards of God's earth."* with Ron Olson, retired VP of Sustainability, General Mills

April 29 ACTION SUNDAY *On the Mississippi*

Friends of the Mississippi River offer tips on Eco-Action at the source.

May 6 *Are you a member of the Sandwich Generation?* Caring for your immediate family and caring for your parents is a common challenge for baby boomers. Speakers address programs and services available to help families cope.

May 13 *The Aging of America—Are We Ready?* Speakers address housing, health and other concerns older Americans face as we are living longer.

May 20 ACTION SUNDAY *Older Americans—Connecting with Community!*

Speakers share the many ways in which older adults bring inspiration and continuity to the fabric of our communities, and highlights how technology is helping older Americans live longer, healthier, and more engaged lives.

Weekdays

WOW (Westminster on Wednesday)

WOW meetings include time for coffee and fellowship, men's and women's Bible studies, and a weekly program featuring a wide variety of topics and speakers.

WOW Bible Study for Women

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

Leaders: Rev. Bebe Baldwin, Rev. Liz Heller, Rev. Judy Kim, Suann Nichols, Rev. Ethel Kay Livingston

This group uses the Presbyterian women's publication *Horizons Bible Study*. This year's theme is *Confessing the Beatitudes*.

WOW Bible Study for Men

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

Leader: Rev. Stephen Robertson

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

Living the Faith in the 21st Century**Time & Location:** Wednesdays, 5:30-6:20pm, Bates Room (begins September 14)**Leader:** Dr. Chad Quaintance

This class provides Scripture and book studies to explore what it means to live out our faith in contemporary society. Fall study begins with *The Meaning of Jesus*, by Marcus Borg and N.T. Wright. Books will be available at the church by August 1. You are invited to bring your dinner to the Bates Room; coffee and water will be provided. (Dinner in the Refectory begins at 5:15pm)

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. Our goal is to provide an opportunity for conversation and fellowship as well as a place to be mindful of our spirituality—not only as mothers, but also as women. Participants provide their own books for study. Childcare is provided at no cost. For more information and to register, contact Marie Kruskop, mkruskop@wpc-mpls.org.

Small Group Communities and Book Groups

Book lists and Bible study materials are available for groups to form independently, gathering in homes or at scheduled times at the church. Contact Rev. Kathy Michael for more information, 612.332.3421 or kmichael@wpc-mpls.org.

Lent**Lenten Covenant Groups****Dates:** Five weeks in February & March**Times:** Tuesdays 7:15pm, beginning February 21**Wednesdays 7:15pm**, beginning February 22 (Meet at 7:30 on Feb. 22 only)**Sundays 9:15am**, beginning February 26**Thursdays 9:30am**, (Moms Group) beginning March 1

Locations: Groups will receive location information the week prior to first meeting.

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. Registration information will be in the *Westminster News* and Sunday worship bulletins.

**If preferred, groups are encouraged to meet in homes or other locations at a desired time. Materials will be provided. Contact Claudia in the church office for more information. Wednesday evening groups precede and follow the 6:30 Taizé worship in the Great Hall.*

January All-Church Book Read**Dates:** Sundays, January 8, 15, 22, 29, 9:15am

The All-Church Book Read offers a selected novel which reflects the Education for Faith and Life theme for the year. This year's selection is *Room*, by Emma Donoghue. Books will be available for purchase at a discount in October. A speaker and small group discussions will enhance our reading experience.

Speaker: Dr. Rob Brault, Associate Professor of English, Winona State University, will discuss the book on January 22, Great Hall. Watch the *Westminster News* 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 5½ 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* participate in *Nurturing Spiritual Leaders*, which includes continuing Bible study and a book study with a focus on spiritual leadership.

Traveling Seminar

Education for Faith & Life provides Traveling Seminars to places of biblical, theological, and historical importance to complement the year's study theme.

Turkey Adventure: Pilgrimage in the Footsteps of Paul is the seminar for 2012. We will trace Paul's missionary journeys and visit sites of the churches of Revelation. We will meet with Christians to learn about the expression and challenges of their faith in a Muslim country. We will learn about the important role that Turkey plays in the politics of the Middle East. This journey promises to be a powerful experience of learning, community, and growth in our understanding of our Christian identity.

Rev. Kathy Michael and Dr. Sarah Henrich from Luther Seminary will co-lead this seminar.

Dates are April 20-May 2.

Contact Rev. Kathy Michael for information and space availability, kmichael@wpc-mpls.org.



Bebe Baldwin



Liz Heller



Judith Kim



Suann Nichols



Ethel Kay
Livingston

Bebe Baldwin, Liz Heller, Judy Kim, Ethel Kay Livingston, and Suann Nichols are retired ministers, leaders, and teachers of the Presbyterian Church (USA).

WOW Weekly Bible Study

Wednesdays, 9:30am

See course description on page 17



Rob Brault, Associate Professor of English at Winona State University, grew up in Green Bay, Wisconsin, and attended Marquette University in Milwaukee. He graduated from Macalester College in Saint Paul in 1984 with a B.A. in English and a minor in biology. His first career was teaching high school English and coaching football and wrestling in Saint Croix Falls, WI and Cambridge, MN. Brault earned his Ph.D. in English from the University of Minnesota in 2000, specializing in ecofeminist literary criticism of nineteenth-century American literature.

His work has appeared in *New Directions in Ecofeminist Literary Criticism* and in *Extrapolation*, a journal devoted to science fiction literary studies. He has also co-authored an article on travel study that appeared in *Schole: A Journal of Leisure Studies and Recreation Education*. Brault works extensively with the English Department's Communication Arts & Literature Teaching (CALT) program.

All Church Book-Read Reflections

Sunday, January 22

See course description on page 5 (under the listing for the January All-Church Book Read.)



Eric Barreto is Assistant Professor of New Testament at Luther Seminary. He holds a doctorate in New Testament from Emory University in Atlanta, and holds a Master of Divinity from Princeton Theological Seminary. Barreto has received numerous academic honors, including the George W. Woodruff Fellowship, the Emory Minority Fellowship Grant, and several grants from the Hispanic Theological Initiative. He is a member of the Society of Biblical Literature and the National Association of Baptist Professors of Religion. His most recent

publications include two entries, “Puerto Ricans” and “Hispanic Theological Initiative,” in the forthcoming *Hispanic American Religious Cultures*. Barreto finds that his students learn best while reading the text together. “My goal isn’t to tell students what the text is, or to tell them what Paul’s message is or what Jesus’ message is. My goal is to ask the right questions, show them the right paths in order that together we can come up with answers to the questions.”

Galatians, Philippians, and Colossians: Little Letters with Big Ideas

Wednesday Small Group Studies, November 2, 9, 16, 30, December 7

See course description on page 4

The Four Gospels and the Early Church

Wednesdays, April 25, 2, 9

See course description on page 8



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 from Yale Divinity School, and his Ph.D. from the University of Chicago. A brilliant and accessible teacher, 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*, and *Christian Faith as Religion: A Study in the Theologies of Calvin and Schleiermacher*.

Paul and the Gospel: The Fire of the Reformation

Wednesdays, September 14, 21, 28

See course description on page 3



Catherine Cory earned her Master of Arts degree in theology from St. John's University and her Ph.D. in Christianity and Judaism in Antiquity, an interdisciplinary study of the Bible, Judaica, and Early Christian theology, at the University of Notre Dame. She came to the University of St. Thomas in 1991, where she has been teaching undergraduate and graduate courses in theology. Her area of specialty is the New Testament. In addition to teaching, she has held a number of administrative positions at the University of St. Thomas and is currently

serving as the chair of the History Department and Director of the Murray Institute, a collaboration between the University of St. Thomas and the Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis that administers and funds graduate degree programs for people who serve in the educational ministries of the archdiocese.

Journey into Faith with the Letter to the Hebrews

Wednesdays, February 1, 8, 15

See course description on page 6



David Frederickson is Professor of New Testament at Luther Seminary. Ordained in 1980, he was associate pastor at St. John Lutheran Church in Janesville, WI. Fredrickson received the A.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.”

What's Love Got to Do with It?

Wednesdays, October 5, 12, 19, 26

See course description on page 3

The Four Gospels and the Early Church

Wednesdays, April 25, May 2, 9

See course description on page 8



Sarah Henrich is Professor of New Testament at Luther Seminary in St. Paul. She received her Ph.D. from Yale University, and a Master's degree in Art History from the University of St. Thomas. She is a member of the Society of Biblical Literature and a docent at the Minneapolis Institute of Art. 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 *Acts: See God's Amazing Grace*.

Luke's Second Volume: The Acts of the Apostles

Sundays, November 20, 27, December 4

See course description on page 5

From Metro Ephesus: Words for Emerging Churches

Sundays, February 5, 12, 29

See course description on page 7

Turkey Adventure: Following the Footsteps of Paul, Traveling Seminar, co-leader

April 20-May 2

See description on page 20

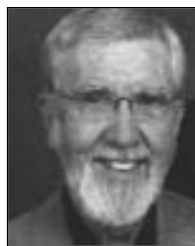
The Four Gospels and the Early Church

April 25, May 2, May 9

See course description on page 8



Warren Hoffman



Will Larson



Walter Rockenstein



Jack Terry

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

Will Larson is a consulting psychiatrist for the Westminster Counseling Center.

Walter "Rocky" Rockenstein is a retired attorney and serves as Legal Counsel for Westminster.

Jack Terry is a retired Presbyterian minister who 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 15



Michael Holmes is Professor of Biblical Studies and Early Christianity at Bethel University. He was previously on the faculties of Trinity Evangelical Divinity School and Princeton Theological Seminary. He received his B.A. in history from the University of California at Santa Barbara, an M.A. in New Testament from Trinity Evangelical Divinity School, and the Ph.D. from Princeton Seminary. His publications include several books and over thirty articles, essays, or chapters in books. He has presented papers and invited lectures in the U.S.,

Canada, England, Germany and France. His primary research interests are New Testament textual criticism and the Apostolic Fathers (a collection of early Christian writings.)

Current projects include an introduction to the Apostolic Fathers, and the formation of the New Testament canon.

From the 'Scriptures' to Two Testaments: Formation of the Newer Testament in Early Christianity

Sundays, October 2, 9

See course description on page 3



Arland Hultgren 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. A member of the Society of Biblical Literature,

Hultgren's books include *Christ and His Benefits*, *The Parables of Jesus*, and a commentary on Romans. Hultgren says, "I try to answer the question, 'So what?'"

Paul and His Letter to the Romans

Wednesdays, January 4, 11, 18, 25

See course description on page 5



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, 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

leads retreats and workshops and has taught Bible classes in congregations for 35 years.

Is Jesus Coming Back? - Studies in 1 and 2 Thessalonians

Sunday, October 16

See course description on page 4

Turkey Adventure: Following the Footsteps of Paul, Traveling Seminar, co-leader

See description on page 20

The Apostle Paul for Everyday Life

Sundays, May 13, 20

See course description on page 9



Andrew Overman is Harry M. Drake Distinguished Professor in the Humanities and Fine Arts at Macalester College. He specializes in religion, culture, and ethnicity in the Greco-Roman world. Overman has written widely on the development of Christianity and Judaism in the Roman world, the interaction between cultures and races in the Roman Empire, diaspora Judaism, and archaeology of the Roman world. He is an archaeologist who is currently the director of the Omrit dig in Israel. Each summer students accompany him to this site in the Middle East

to conduct excavations of a Roman temple.

The World of the New Testament Writers

Sundays, September 11, 18, 25

See course description on page 3

God's Holy War? Revelation—the Canon's Book of Secrets

Sundays, April 11, 18, Wednesday, April 15

See course description on page 7



Dr. Chad Quaintance received his Ph.D. in Theology from Union-PSCE 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 private practice. Before retirement, Quaintance taught theology at Hanover College in Indiana. He is particularly interested in how modern Christian theology can be nourished by knowing the Bible and church history more deeply.

Living the Faith in the 21st Century

Wednesdays, 5:30pm, Bates Room

See course description on page 18



Calvin Roetzel received his B.A. degree from Hendrix College in Conway, AR, his B.D. from Perkins School of Theology, and his Ph.D. from Duke. He served as an Air Force Chaplain and a pastor for ten years. Following graduate school, Roetzel joined the Macalester College Religious Studies department where he served as the first Arnold Lowe Professor of Religious Studies for over 20 years. After retirement from Macalester, he joined the University of Minnesota Department of Classical and Near Eastern Studies as the Sundet

Professor of New Testament, then retired again in 2010. He failed retirement once more when he became a visiting professor of New Testament at the University of Chicago Divinity School. Roetzel is author and editor of eight books, and anchor pieces on Paul in four biblical dictionaries. His *Letters of Paul, Conversations in Context* is now in its 5th edition. His *Paul, the Man and the Myth* was awarded the 1998 prize for the best book on the New Testament given by the Biblical Archaeology Society. He has studied and lectured in Israel, at the University of Tübingen in Germany, at Oxford University, and throughout the U.S. His lifelong scholarly focus has been on Paul and his world, and his passion for his subject, his knowledge, and his wit have earned him teaching awards.

Paul: Jew on the Margin or Anti-Semite?, ... Women's Liberator or Anti-Feminist? How Pauline is the Christian Right?

Sundays, October 23, 30, November 6

See course descriptions on page 4



Richard Rohrbaugh is is the Paul S. Wright Professor Emeritus of Religious Studies at Lewis and Clark College in Portland, Oregon, where he has taught for the past 28 years. He holds a B.A. degree in chemistry from Sterling College, KS, an M.Div. from Pittsburgh Theological Seminary, and an S.T.D. from San Francisco Theological Seminary. He is ordained in the Presbyterian Church (USA). Rohrbaugh is a James Purdy Scholar, a Rockefeller Foundations Fellow, a member of the Society of Biblical Literature, the Catholic Bible

Association, and the American Schools of Oriental Research, under whose auspices he was an area supervisor in archaeological excavations at Tel Aroer and Tel Dan in Israel. He is a specialist in the social/cultural world of the New Testament, is the Chair of the national SBL section on the Social Scientific Criticism of the New Testament and past President of the Pacific Northwest Regional AAR/SBL. Rohrbaugh is author, co-author or editor of nine books, including *The New Testament in Cross-Cultural Perspective* and numerous articles in scholarly journals. His work is now published in five languages and a dozen countries.

Saturday Seminar: *The New Testament in Cross-Cultural Perspective*

January 28, 8:30am-2:30pm, Meisel Room *See course descriptions on page 6*

The Ancient Context: 'Messiah' Talk in Mark 8—Who Did Jesus Think He Was?

Sunday, January 29 *See course description on page 6*



Matthew Skinner is Associate Professor of New Testament at Luther Seminary. He earned his M.Div. degree and Ph.D. degree in Biblical Studies (New Testament), from Princeton Theological Seminary. He has served as Editorial Associate for the *Princeton Seminary Bulletin* and *Theology Today*. His first book, *Locating Paul: Places of Custody as Narrative Settings* in Acts 21-28, explores the literary settings in the narrative of Paul's prolonged imprisonment in Acts. Skinner suggests that Paul's proclamation of the word in settings of Roman control constitutes a powerful confrontation and manipulation of social and religious powers. Ordained in the Presbyterian Church (USA), Skinner and his family worship at Westminster.

Slavery, Ethics, and Forging a New Christian "Family in Paul's Letter to Philemon

Sunday, April 22 *See course description on page 8*

A Later Chapter in the Biblical Story: Understanding the Theology, Ethics, and "Institutionalization" of the Church in the Letters to Timothy and Titus,

Sunday, April 29 *See course description on page 8*

Cross-Currents and Continuing Conversations: Considering the New Testament Writings at the Conclusion of the "Apostolic Era"

Sunday, May 6 *See course description on page 9*

The Four Gospels and the Early Church

Wednesdays, April 25, May 2, May 9 *See course description on page 8*

Apostle "One who is sent out;" a personal messenger or envoy, commissioned to transmit a message. Usually refers to Jesus' 12 disciples. Paul considered himself an Apostle based on Jesus' revelation of himself to Paul on the road to Damascus (Acts 9).

Atonement A process of making amends for a wrong done, or a reconciliation between a person or group and God.

BCE or CE "Before the Common Era" or "Common Era," which have replaced the Latin term *Anno Domini* (A.D.), meaning "year of the Lord," and B.C., meaning "Before Christ." BCE and CE are now the accepted common abbreviations used in scholarship.

Canon A norm or list. Refers to a list of writings considered to be normative and sacred for a particular religious group. A canon is considered authoritative and binding for religious practice and doctrine. (Used especially by Christians and Jews to refer to their sacred Scriptures.)

Church English translation of Greek word *ekklesia*, meaning assembly or gathering; the people whom God has formed; assembly of forgiven sinners. (Jacobson, et al)

Forgiveness Wiping away, sending away guilt and sin; God's mercy; human mercy toward others; reconciliation, renewal.

Gentile A non-Jew, whether an individual, group, or nation.

Gospel English translation of the Greek *euangelion*, which means "good news;" also, God's love for the world shown in the death and resurrection of Jesus the Christ; also, the coming of the Kingdom or Reign of God.

Grace Among other definitions, grace connotes God's favor shown sinners through Jesus Christ; free gift of God's unmerited love and mercy. (see Romans 3:24; 5:15)

Greek (*Koine or Hellenistic Greek*) The written language of the New Testament, distinguished from Classical Greek and modern Greek; also, non-Jew.

Holy Spirit (Spirit translates Hebrew *ruach* and Greek *pneuma*, words denoting wind, breath, a life-giving element.) The mysterious power or presence of God in nature or with individuals and communities, inspiring or empowering them with qualities they would not otherwise possess; 3rd Person of the Trinity.

Hope Prevalent in Paul's writings; hope emanates from faith; hope belongs to the process of new life in Christ which includes faith and love; hope provides the essential link between the already/not-yet of the salvation event in Christ; hope assures the believers that what was begun in baptism will be completed at their resurrection.

Glossary continues on next page

Justification Being made 'right with God,' in harmony with God, through faith in Jesus Christ; Paul: justified by faith, not by works of law.

Righteous/Righteousness State of being in the right, or being vindicated; also refers to God's saving actions; quality of righteousness is quality of making just decisions; justice.

Sanctification Process of being made holy; consecrated; transformed into image of Christ.

Resources: Achtemeier, Paul, ed., *Harper's Bible Dictionary*; Jacobson, Rolf, ed., *Crazy Talk*

ADULT EDUCATION COUNCIL MISSION STATEMENT

*In response to the grace of God through Jesus Christ,
the mission of the Adult Education Council of Westminster Presbyterian Church is:*

- To proclaim and celebrate the Good News of Jesus Christ
- To nourish personal faith and commitment through study, prayer, and fellowship
- To provide opportunities through dialogue and learning for people to receive the gift of spiritual wholeness so that they can live the gospel in action and words
- To explore a wide range of practical and theoretical subjects related to living a Christian life

**Education for Faith and Life classes are recorded and posted online,
www.ewestminster.org/adult_education**