



Adult Education

Grace Lutheran Church
Winter-Spring 2017
Sunday mornings
9:45–10:45 am

Adult Education

Sunday mornings, 9:45 a.m. in the lower-level Seminar Room

Why History and Historical Thinking Are Vital to Christian Discipleship

January 15 and 22

Tracy McKenzie, Professor, History, Wheaton College

Professor McKenzie, who has taught Grace classes on "The First Thanksgiving" and "The Faiths of our Founding Fathers," will speak on "faithful remembering."

Why Don't My Children or Grandchildren Go to Church—and What Can I Do?

January 29

The Rev. Dr. David J. Lose, President, The Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia

Most of us know there is a great disparity in church affiliation and attendance between our senior generation and our emerging generation. What makes this realization painful is that the emerging generation includes many of our children and grandchildren. Come to discuss together why these younger generations are not attending church and how we can encourage them in their lives of faith.

Women in the Bible

February 5, 12, 19

Pauline Viviano, Associate Professor Emerita, Theology, Loyola University

What does the Bible have to say about women to women? Feminist interpretation of the Bible has broadened over the years to include Latin American, African, and Asian women, who have brought the distinctive insight of their post-colonial cultures to biblical interpretation. This series includes three classes:

February 5: "It's All Interpretation." Where we have come from in the interpretation of the Bible and why it matters that we are here now.

February 12: "Why Do the Women of the Bible Always Get Blamed?" A look at the history of the treatment of women in the interpretation of the Bible

February 19: "It's All about Liberation." The voices of Third World women in interpreting the Bible.

Do Low-Income Students Have Equal Access to Effective Teachers?

February 12

Eric Isenberg, Senior Researcher, Mathematica Policy Research

A recent federal study surprisingly shows that, despite a large student achievement gap, low-income students have teachers who are as effective as those of high-income students. This talk is given by the study's principal investigator (and Grace member) on the economic issues in American public education and what can be done to address them.

Jesus and the Renewal of Community Life**February 26, March 12***Ray Pickett, Professor, Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago*

This two-part series focuses on Jesus' Galilean ministry in its turbulent political context. The Gospels describe Jesus leading a prophetic renewal movement responding to adverse social and economic effects of Herod Antipas' project of urbanization. In contrast to individualistic interpretations of Jesus' ministry, we will explore how Jesus is restoring community life from the margins.

How a Chicago Public School Teacher Changes Lives**March 19***Ellie Anderson, Roberto Clemente Community Academy social science teacher*

Ellie Anderson discusses her most moving classroom experiences and how they were informed by her faith and philosophy.

Ecology and Worship**March 26, April 2***Ben Stewart, Gordon Braatz Professor of Worship, Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago*

What do Christian worship and ecology have in common? Literally *everything*. Both worship and ecology extend our vision in wonder to see how the entire cosmos — everything — is interconnected and works together for good, even “very good.” This two-week series explores the ways in which Christian worship links the songs of earth and heaven

**The Complexities of Addressing God as Father
in the Epistle to the Hebrews****April 23***Amy Peeler, Professor, New Testament, Wheaton College*

The Epistle to the Hebrews stands as one of the great theological documents of the New Testament. This powerful sermon-letter provides pithy phrases and deep theological principles that have shaped the thought and life of the church. This first session introduces the epistle, including its possible historical setting (“Who wrote Hebrews?” is an age-old question) and outlines its logic and major themes.

**The Complexities of Addressing God as Father
in the Epistle to the Hebrews****April 30***Amy Peeler, Professor, New Testament, Wheaton College*

Part two of the series focuses on the often ignored, but vital theme in Hebrews of the Fatherhood of God. Because the author introduces God as the Father of Jesus Christ and the Father of the Epistle's readers, Hebrews provides insight into the paternal character of God. This second class addresses the challenges and blessings for contemporary believers in addressing God as our Father, with Hebrews as our guide.

The Grace Memorial Garden**May 14***Wesley Wilkie, Emeritus Instructor, Theology. Concordia University Chicago*

This talk discusses the history and unique features of Grace's beautiful Memorial Garden, with a focus on remembrance for Mother's Day.

Spirit and Therapy**May 21***Annie O'Connor, Rehabilitation Institute of Chicago; Clinical Manager, River Forest Spine and Sport*

Our world places much emphasis on physical training and fitness, but spiritual training may be even more important to your physical health. When your discipline prioritizes spiritual exercises, it may bring you closer to God and may help you to become more Christ-like in your character and behavior. Come and learn the importance of the balance between spiritual and physical training in your continued walk with God.

Syrian Humanitarian Crisis**May 21***Suzanne Akhras Sahloul, Executive Director, Syrian Community Network*

This talk describes local services that are addressing the challenges of one of the great humanitarian crises of our time. The Syrian Community Network is a nonprofit group organized to support the anticipated influx of Syrian refugees scheduled for resettlement in the Chicago area, building bridges between the newly arrived refugees and local communities.

There are no Adult Education programs on the following Sundays:

March 5, Benevolence Fair
April 9, Palm Sunday

April 16, Easter Sunday
May 7, Confirmation Sunday

**GRACE
LU⁺HERAN
CHURCH
& SCHOOL**

7300 Division Street
River Forest, Illinois 60305
708-366-6900
www.graceriverforest.org