



Adult Education at Grace Winter 2018

Sunday mornings, 9:45–10:45 a.m.

Faithful Learning, Faithful Living

Sunday morning faith formation classes at Grace encourage adults in faithful learning and in faithful living.

- Classes in the Faithful Learning track meet in the Seminar Room.
- Classes in the Faithful Living track meet in the 7th grade/German classroom.

**GRACE
LU⁺HERAN
CHURCH
& SCHOOL**

7300 Division Street
River Forest, Illinois 60305
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GraceRiverForest.org

Learning Faithfully

February 4 and 11

Old Testament Theology from an Ethnic Minority Perspective

Dr. M. Daniel Carroll R. (Rodas)

Blanchard Professor of Old Testament, Wheaton College Graduate School

The course is divided into two parts. The first will look at how the Old Testament has been used in negative ways in regards to ethnic minority populations in this country and around the world. The second will explore some recent positive uses of the Old Testament that have arisen from ethnic minority voices.

February 18 and 25

Color and Gender in the Early Church

Dr. George Kalantzis, Professor of Theology and

Director of the Wheaton Center for Early Christian Studies, Wheaton College

In his famous proclamation on the identity of the Christian community, Paul exclaimed that in Christ “there is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one.” Yet, even though contemporary Christians may rejoice in the hearing of Paul’s words, in the the world of the vast Roman empire, the world into which Christianity was birthed, questions of race and gender were different than ours. Ethnic and cultural identities as well as procreative and domestic relationships demarcated social distinctions in ways that may be foreign to us. In this two-week sequence we will explore the concepts of color, race, and gender in the world of the earliest Christians to understand more fully Christianity’s revolutionary social claims in the slowly transitioning world of Late Antiquity.

March 4 and 11

Ruth and Esther: Faith in Action

Dr. Michael Graves, Armerding Professor of Biblical Studies, Wheaton College

March 4: Ruth is a carefully crafted short story in which characters move from tragedy to redemption. God’s faithful love motivates people to act with faithful love toward one another, which spreads from person to person until everything turns out right. We will focus on key dialogues in the book of Ruth and the text’s ethical meaning.

March 11: Esther is a sensational narrative filled with extreme dangers and dramatic reversals. What does Esther have to say about what people should value, and how they should act? Where is God in this narrative? We will discuss these questions in the book of Esther and in our world today.

March 18 and 25

Frankenstein at 200: Remaining Human in a Post-Human World

Dr. Christina Bieber-Lake, Clyde S. Kilby Professor of English at Wheaton College

In 1818 a nineteen-year-old woman named Mary Shelley invented a new genre that would become known as science fiction. At the heart of her tale was a character so arrogant and destructive that his name has become synonymous with the monster he created. But in the 200 years since the publication of *Frankenstein*, have we learned anything? In the first session we will investigate how Victor Frankenstein's sins continue to propagate in our culture today. In the second we will discuss how to remain human in a post-human world.

Living Faithfully

February 4

The Hand, the Brain and God

Jim Kerns

We will explore the symbolic value of hands in religion, art, philosophy and science – and thus, their key role in our society and cultural life. The profound interconnections of the human hand and brain act as a “mirror of the soul” with respect to our body language (gestures), mood, and expression of empathy.

February 11 and 18

Why We Feed the Hungry, Welcome the Stranger, and Care for the Sick and the Poor

Ryan Cummings, ELCA Hunger Education, and Franklin Ishida, ELCA Global Mission

In this two-week series, participants will learn about the breadth of projects supported by gifts to ELCA World Hunger, the emphasis on accompaniment that shapes the ELCA's work, and the profound impact of this ministry. Rev. Franklin Ishida and Dr. Ryan Cumming will share stories from projects the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) supports in Asia, the Pacific region, and North America and discuss the “why” and “how” of ministry through ELCA World Hunger. As the ELCA's director for Asia and the Pacific, Rev. Ishida works closely with companion churches and partners overseas as they address hunger, poverty, and disaster in their communities. Dr. Cumming, ELCA World Hunger's program director for hunger education, develops resources congregations can use to learn more about hunger, poverty and how our faith calls us to respond to both.

February 25 and March 4

Living Faithfully, Dying Faithfully

Pastor Dave Lyle; Sue Ames, Parish Nurse

Faithful living includes being prepared financially, legally and spiritually for the end of life. These two sessions offer a guide to thinking about important issues and questions, with love and feeling, well ahead of time.

March 11 and 18

Questions We're Afraid to Ask

*Gordon Straw, Associate Professor and Cornelsen Chair of Spiritual Formation
and Coordinator of Candidacy, Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago*

This conversational, participant-driven series will explore the nature of theology, why everyone is a theologian, and the "rules" of theology. This is an opportunity to ask those questions you might feel you should already know the "correct" answer to: What does it mean to be incarnated (in birth or death)? Can I have doubts? What about miracles? What if my prayers "don't work"? Do better people have more prosperous lives? Where do we go when we die? What is heaven? What is hell?

Sunday Bible Study

Led by Bob Jandeska the Bible study group meets every Sunday morning at 9:45 a.m. in the Conference Room on the lower level. The group is currently studying books of the Old Testament.