

Getting Down to Basics: The Augsburg Confessions and Small Catechism

Monday Sept. 11, 8 PM Central Time, orientation conference call

Sept. 15 – Nov. 30, 2017, class sessions

Dr Phil Ruge-Jones, facilitator

This course analyzes the history and development of the theology of *The Book of Concord*, especially the Augsburg Confession and Small Catechism, with a view to establishing the importance of their contents for the ministry of pastors, teachers, and congregations.

More specifically the student will:

- Become thoroughly familiar with the Augsburg Confession and Small Catechism;
- Understand the historical and theological context out of which they speak;
- Discover new ways to apply these teaching to life in today's parish.

Facilitator as Resource

The class facilitator will be familiar with the lectures and reading material, read student postings, and will be rotating the type of interface he uses with the student each week. The week that there is a live chat, the chat will be the interface. Other weeks the facilitator will be responding to either essays or to threaded discussions or give a general written response to the issues of that week.

The facilitator for this course is Dr. Phil Ruge-Jones who served as a professor at Texas Lutheran University for nearly two decades. Currently he is in a call process in Eau Claire, Wisconsin, where he is also a writer and speaker.

Orientation Monday September 11: You will be enrolled in the course site the weekend proceeding the orientation phone call. Please take the following week to explore the course site. There are a number of tasks to do during the orientation time: update your profile, introduce yourself in the "Getting to Know You" forum, and indicating your choice about "Why are you taking this course?" You can't hurt anything, click around the course homepage and explore! The orientation call with the course facilitator is on **Monday September 11 at 8 PM Central Time**. This call will be done with a video conference tool called Zoom. You do not need to download any software in advance and instructions will be in the class site. If you do not have a camera and microphone connected with your computer you may call in by phone instead.

Weekly course guide:

Sometime Friday through Sunday...

- Watch the lectures for the session
- Read any assigned readings
- Post your thoughts in the discussion essay forum

Sunday through Tuesday

- Read the forum postings
- Respond to 2 of your classmates in the discussion essay forum with a 1-3 sentence response
- Post your thoughts in the key question forum

By Wednesday through Thursday of each week

- Read the forum postings
- In the key question forum respond to at least 2 other participants with 1-3 sentences.

Variation: Sessions 4 and 9

In these 2 sessions instead of the second forum, there will be a Zoom call for 1 hour on Monday evening at 8 PM Central Time.

Schedule

September 15 Session 1: Confessing Justification (Augsburg Confession articles II, IV, XX)

September 22 Session 2: Law and Gospel; theology of the Cross (III, V, XII)

September 29 Session 3: God's Two Hands (XVI, XVIII)

October 6 Session 4: Good Works and Christian Vocation (VI, XVI, XX, XXVI)

During this week there will be a one hour Zoom call on Monday instead of a key question forum.

October 13 Session 5: the Sacraments (IX-XII; XII, XXIV)

October 20 Session 6: Church and Ministry (V, VII, XIV-XV, XXVIII)

October 27 Session 7: Other Confessional Documents

November 3 Session 8: The Small Catechism: 10 Commandments and Creed

November 10 Session 9: The Lord's Prayer, Baptism, and Confession

During this week there will be a one hour Zoom call on Monday instead of a key question forum

November 17 **Thanksgiving Break!**

November 24 Session 10: The Lord's Supper with Luther's Preface, The Household Chart of Bible Passages, and Liturgies for the Christian Household

Final paper: due December 15, two weeks after the completion of the course sessions.