

From Jesus to Luther

Orientation week Sept. 10, 2019

Course Sessions: Sept. 13-Nov. 21, 2019

Dr. Troy Pflibsen, facilitator

This course provides an overview of the history of the Christian church from its beginning until the dawn of the Reformation. In addition to the video lectures, the primary textbook is *The Story of Christianity, Volume I* by Justo L. Gonzalez.

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 weeks that there is a live chat that will be the interface. Other weeks the facilitator will be responding to either essays or to the key question forum or give a general written response to the issues of that week.

Course Schedule

Thursday, September 12, 8:30 PM Central Time, Conference Call (1 hour). 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. This time will be used to acquaint you with the class website and how to use it, to become acquainted with each other, as well as to establish your covenant as a class. The facilitator for this course is Dr. Troy Pflibsen. Troy is a full-time pastor in rural Minnesota. He has more than 20 years of parish experience, mostly in rural areas. His doctorate is in Church History. His education and parish experience make him a great facilitator for building the links between history and life in the parish

Weekly course guide:

Sometime Friday through Monday...

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

Tuesday through Thursday

- 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 Friday evening 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 8

In these 2 sessions instead of the second forum, there will be a Zoom call for 1 hour on Thursday evening at 8:30 PM Central Time. Instructions will be in the class website.

Final Paper

For those taking this course for any certification, the final paper is due Dec. 6, 2019, two weeks after the completion of the course.

Course Sessions

Friday September 13	Session 1: Beginnings: the Fullness of Time
Friday September 20	Session 2: The First Great Preachers of the Faith
Friday September 27	Session 3: Persecution and Piety
Friday October 4	Session 4: Establishing the Faith of the Church

During this week there will be a one hour Zoom call instead of a threaded discussion.

Friday October 11	Session 5: Monasticism and the Fathers of the Church
Friday October 18	Session 6: Early Missionary Movements
Friday October 25	Session 7: The Church in Turmoil: West and East
Friday November 1	Session 8: The Papacy and the Empire

During this week there will be a one hour Zoom call instead of a threaded discussion.

Friday November 8	Session 9: Struggles, Theological and Political
Friday November 15	Session 10: Reforming Efforts before the Reformation