

From Jesus to Luther

Orientation week June 28, 2021

Course Sessions: July 2 – September 9, 2021

Pr. Adam Wutka, 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

Tuesday, June 29, 7:30 PM Central Time, Video Conference Call (1 hour). This call will be done with a video-conference tool called Zoom. You do not need to have an account 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 Pr. Adam Wutka. he has been serving ELCA congregations in central Kansas for the past sixteen years, currently at St. Mark Lutheran Church in Great Bend, KS. In addition to teaching in his own congregations, he has organized and taught in an area-wide Lutheran Confirmation ministry, taught Latin and basic electronics in the local homeschool co-op, has taught multiple classes to adult lay ministry students in his synod, and has previously facilitated this course and others through Select Learning. Since 2020, Pastor Adam also serves part time on the staff of the Central States Synod as the director of Lay ministry, overseeing the synod's Parish Ministry Associate program.

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 Tuesday evening at 7:30 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 September 23 two weeks after the completion of the course.

Course Sessions

Friday July 2	Session 1: Beginnings: the Fullness of Time
Friday July 9	Session 2: The First Great Preachers of the Faith
Friday July 16	Session 3: Persecution and Piety
Friday July 23	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 July 30	Session 5: Monasticism and the Fathers of the Church
Friday August 6	Session 6: Early Missionary Movements
Friday August 13	Session 7: The Church in Turmoil: West and East
Friday August 20	Session 8: The Papacy and the Empire

There will be a one hour Zoom call on Tuesday of this week.

Friday August 27	Session 9: Struggles, Theological and Political
Friday September 3	Session 10: Reforming Efforts before the Reformation