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# HL 248

## *Confessional Lutheranism in the Canadian Context*

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**Time:** February 19- March 8, 2013  
Mondays-Fridays, 8:30am – 11:20am.

**Instructor:** Dr. Gordon Jensen      phone: 966-7866      [gordon.jensen@usask.ca](mailto:gordon.jensen@usask.ca)

### **Course Description:**

This course explores the how the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada (ELCIC) and its predecessor bodies have tried to be both confessionally Lutheran and Ecumenical. The first part of the course will cover the historical background of the ELCIC and the strength of its commitment to be confessionally grounded in the Lutheran tradition. This part of this course situates the development and commitment to the ecumenical involvements of the ELICC in its historical and confessional perspective, and in relationship to their ecumenical partners. In the second half of the course, the class will look at the ecumenical agreements and cooperative ventures that the ELCIC is, or has been, involved in. Students will discover how our history has shaped and affected our confessional self-understanding as a church, and it will help us to identify the gifts and the baggage which our church brings to the ecumenical scene within Canada and internationally.

### **Student Outcomes:**

By the end of the course, students will be able to:

1. Name and describe the important historical events in the Canadian churches and how Lutheranism developed in the Canadian context
2. Analyze and discuss our ecumenical contributions as a church, and the important role history plays in shaping this self-understanding.
3. State and explain to parishioners the main contents of three ecumenical dialogues and cooperative ventures in which the ELCIC is involved, either directly or through its membership in the Lutheran World Federation and the World Council of Churches, including their implications for them as members of ELCIC congregations.

## Required Texts:

Eric W. Gritsch, *A History of Lutheranism*. Second Edition. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2010.

Norman J. Threinen, *A Religious-Cultural Mosaic: A History of Lutherans in Canada*. Lutheran Historical Institute Monograph Series, Number 1. Vulcan, AB.: Today's Reformation Press, 2006.

Various ecumenical documents, which can be accessed on the internet or on the professor's website ( [www.gjlts.com](http://www.gjlts.com) ) An ID and password for access to documents will be given in class.

## Course Requirements:

1. Completion of all reading assignments at the time required; taking part in discussion in class, regular attendance. **10% of the grade**
2. Two 10-minute presentations in class on assigned topics: one in some aspect of one's own denominational history, and a second on some aspect of ecumenism. Each presentation is to cover the basic issues of the topic. A written report is to be handed in to the professor. The presentations will be strictly timed, and students will not be permitted to go beyond the 10 minute limit. This means that the student will need to be very clear and concise about their topic. **50% of the grade**
3. A 14-15 page final paper on some historical aspect of ecumenism in Canada. This topic is to be discussed with your professor, and is due by noon on March 15, 2013. **40% of the grade**

## Academic Integrity

Please note that, according to the 2012-1013 LTS *Student Handbook*, it states:

"Academic integrity requires that all ideas and materials quoted, borrowed or paraphrased whether from print or electronic media be given proper citation both when and where cited (either in the text or in a note) and in a bibliography.

Unacceptable practices include the deliberately false citation of a source, the submission of work done by someone else and the unauthorized submission of work to meet more than one academic requirement (i.e. submitting a paper for more than one course without permission).

Should an instructor ascertain that plagiarism has occurred; the instructor will first consult with the student and the Academic Dean before making a determination of the penalty. The first offense of plagiarism will be penalized either by the failure of the assignment (in the case of a minor assignment) or by the failure of the course (in the

case of a major assignment). In addition, in the case of plagiarism on a major assignment, the failure of the course will also lead to the student being placed on academic probation for the next semester of study. A second offense will normally be penalized by dismissal from the seminary.”

### **Starting Bibliography:**

- E. Theodore Bachmann, *The United Lutheran Church in America, 1918-1962*. Minneapolis: Augsburg Fortress Press, 1997.
- Carl R. Cronmiller, *A History of The Lutheran Church in Canada*, Evangelical Lutheran Synod of Canada, 1961.
- George O. Evenson, *Adventuring for Christ: The Story of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Canada*, Calgary: Foothills Lutheran Press, 1974.
- Walter Freitag, *Prospect and Promise of Lutheran Unity in Canada*. Calgary: Foothills Lutheran Press, 1974.
- \_\_\_\_\_, *The Ordination of Women: Challenge For Canadian Lutheran Unity*. Saskatoon: Mr Zip Printing, 1978.
- John Webster Grant, ed., *The Churches and the Canadian Experience: A Faith and Order Study of the Christian Tradition*. Toronto: The Ryerson Press, 1963.
- \_\_\_\_\_, *The Church in the Canadian Era*. Updated and Expanded. Burlington, ON.: Welch Publishing Company Inc., 1988.
- James E. Griffiss, *The Anglican Vision*. The New Church's Teaching Series, Volume 1. Toronto: Anglican Book Centre, 1997. *Part 1 covers the origins of Anglicanism*.
- Eric W. Gritsch, *A History of Lutheranism*, Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2002. (a more detailed treatment of Lutheran Church history than is found in *Fortress Introduction to Lutheranism*).
- Fred W. Meuser, *The Formation of the American Lutheran Church*. Columbus: The Wartburg Press, 1958.
- John S. Moir, *Church and State in Canada: 1627-1867*. Toronto: McClelland and Stewart Ltd, 1967.
- E. Clifford Nelson, *Lutherans in North America*, Philadelphia: Fortress Press, 1972.
- Douglas J. Wilson, *The Church Grows in Canada*. Toronto: Canadian Council of Churches, 1966.
- Richard C. Wolf, *Documents of Lutheran Unity in America*, Philadelphia: Fortress Press, 1966.

## Course Schedule:

**Note: readings marked with an asterisk (\*) can be found on Professor Jensen's website, [www.gjlts.com](http://www.gjlts.com)**

### Day 1: Tuesday, February 19, 2013

#### Introduction & Setting the Framework: Ecumenism

*-Readings:*

- The Growth and Development of the World Council of Churches\**
- Ellen A. Macek, *The History of The Ecumenical Movement \**
- Phyllis Anderson, "Formation of an Ecumenical Consciousness" *The Ecumenical Review* 57, No. 1 (January 2005), 3-11.\*
- *The Churches and the Canadian Experience*, 1-93. (on reserve)

*-Topics:*

- Expectations of the course
- The development of the study of history
- How our contributions to Ecumenism are shaped by our history as a church
- Introduction to the background to, and the development of, Ecumenism
- Common approaches to ecumenism
- The English Church Experience in Canada
- The French Church Experience in Canada
- Immigrant Church Experience in Canada

### Day 2: Wednesday, February 20:

#### -Lutherans after Luther

*-Readings:*

-*Gritsch 71-94.*

*-Topics:*

- Lutheranism after the death of Luther
- the development of Lutheranism in Europe
- Orthodoxy and Piety
- Rationalism and Mission
- the role of the Lutheran Confessions

### Day 3: Thursday, February 21:

#### -Lutherans Come across the Atlantic

*-Readings:*

-*Gritsch 166-94*

*-Topics*

- Beginnings of Lutheranism - Muhlenberg and the Pennsylvania Ministerium
- the beginnings of synodical affiliations; Seminaries, and theological debates
- the Galesburg Rule
- Predestination Controversy

**Day 4: Friday, February 22:****-The Lutheran Experience in Atlantic, Eastern and Central Canada in the 18-19<sup>th</sup> Centuries***-Readings:**-Threinen, 1-68**Topics:*

- the early struggles of the church
- the role of the church in Canadian society
- theological debates, development of seminaries
- interactions with other denominations

**Day 5: Monday, February 25****-The Lutheran Experience in Western Canada to 1930***-Readings:**-Threinen, 69-125**-Topics:*

- ‘development’ of the West through immigration
- role of the church in society
- theological debates, beginnings of “mergers,” development of seminaries
- interactions with other denominations,

**Day 6: Tuesday, February 26****-The Lutheran Experience in Western Canada after 1930***-Readings:**-Threinen, 127-47**Topics:*

- movement towards use of English in worship
- Refugee resettlement – formation of the CLWR
- Missionaries of the Lutheran Churches in Canada
- movement toward visible unity amongst Lutherans
- missionaries, relief agencies and social justice movements
- theological controversies
- affect of the ‘baby boom’ and other social factors upon the church

**Day 7: Thursday, February 28:****-The Movement toward an Independent Canadian Lutheran Church***-Readings:**-Threinen, 149-82*

(all readings below are on reserve shelf)

-William Hordern, “Canadian Culture and the Gospel,” *Consensus* 1 No. 2 (1975), 7-14;

-\_\_\_\_\_, “Canadian Lutheranism, Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow,” *Consensus* 13 No. 2 (1987), 5-66:

-Walter Freitag, *The Ordination of Women: Challenge for Canadian Lutheran Unity*, 34-67, 94-105.

-:H. Frederick Reisz, Jr., “The Authority of the Bible in the Lutheran Tradition” \*

-Handout: "The understanding of Scriptures" \*

*Topics:*

- Lutheran church mergers in the USA and their effect on the church in Canada
- the quest for a "made in Canada" church for Lutherans
- theological issues
- struggles along the way

### **Day 8: Friday, March 1:**

#### **-Our Recent Past and Outlook for the Future**

*-Readings:*

- Threinen, 183-96*
- Statement on Sacramental Practices* \*
- Study of Ministry\** (DTEL, 1991)
- Statement on Abortion\** (1989, 1991)
- The Evangelical Declaration\** (1997)
- *ELCIC Social Statement on Human Sexuality\** (2010)

*-Topics:*

- The ELCIC from its merger in 1986 to the present
- Theological, Social and Structural Issues:
  - theological debates; sacramental practices, orders of ministry,
  - social issues and challenges: blessings of same-sex couples; homosexuality,
  - structural challenges: 'downsizing, structural renewal,
- Developing disunity among Lutherans? The formation of 'conservative' groups; the North American Lutheran Church, the Canadian Association of Lutheran Churches, etc.

### **Day 9: Monday, March 4:**

#### **-Growth in Agreement: Settling Doctrinal Issues Together: Canadian Dialogues**

*-Readings:*

- Alan P.F. Sell, "The Role of Bilateral Dialogues within the One Ecumenical Movement," *Ecumenical Review* 46 (Oct 1994), 453-60
- The Waterloo Declaration*
- To Love and Serve the Lord: Diakonia in the Life of the Church\** (ALIC)

*-Topics:*

- Approaching Bilateral Dialogues with Integrity
- The Waterloo Declaration* – ACC and ELCIC

### **Day 10: Tuesday, March 5:**

#### **-Working it Out Together: Coalitions, Covenants, and Convergences**

*-Readings:*

- *Ecumenical Considerations for Interfaith Dialogue* (WCC) \*
- Other readings, TBA

*-Topics:*

- the KAIROS coalition; other coalitions involving churches on national level; chaplaincies; working together on the local level; local coalitions
- Prairie Centre for Ecumenism

- covenants among denominations on local levels
- ecumenical shared ministries
- denominational educations and shared ministries

**Day 11: Wednesday, March 6:****- Growth in Agreement: Settling Doctrinal Issues Together: Bilateral Dialogues (North American and International)****-Readings:**

-*The Joint Declaration on the Doctrine of Justification* and related documents (Annex, Official Common Statement, Action Taken on JDDJ by LWF Council 1998; Vatican Response to JDDJ, 1998) \*

-*Mary: Grace and Hope in Christ* (ARCIC) \*

**-Topics:**

- Lutheran and Roman Catholic dialogue, especially on the topic of justification
- Anglican and Roman Catholic Dialogue (ARCIC)

**Day 12: Thursday, March 7:****- Addressing Doctrinal Issues Together: Bilateral and Multilateral Dialogues and Obstacles****-Readings:**

-*Healing Memories: Reconciling in Christ\** (Lutheran Apology to Mennonites, 2010)

-*Baptism, Eucharist, Ministry* \*

**-Topics:**

- Lutheran and Mennonite dialogue
- Baptism, Eucharist, Ministry **or your choice of dialogues**
- Evolving nature of the CCC, the WCC, and denominational international alliances

## Presentation Topics - History Section

Date:	Lutheran Church History Topics	Student:
Friday, February 22	1. The Development of Lutheranism in Atlantic Canada	
Friday, February 22	2. The Development of Lutheranism in Eastern Canada	
Monday, February 25	3. The Importance of the Manitoba Synod	
Tuesday, February 26	4. The Development of Canadian Lutheran World Relief	
Thursday, February 28	5. Attempts at a three way merger in Western Canada	
Thursday, February 28	6. The Ordination of Women in the Lutheran Church	
Friday, March 1	7. <i>ELCIC Statement on Sacramental Practices</i>	
Friday, March 1	8. <i>ELCIC Study of Ministry</i>	
Friday, March 1	9. <i>ELCIC Social Statement on Human Sexuality</i>	Aneeta



## Presentation Topics – Ecumenical Section

<b>Date:</b>	<b>Ecumenical Topic:</b>	<b>Student:</b>
Monday, March 4	1. <i>The Waterloo Declaration: Review of the Agreement,</i>	
Monday, March 4	2. <i>To Love and Serve the Lord: the Anglican Lutheran International Consultation discussions since 2001 - practical implications of Full Communion</i>	
Wednesday, March 6	3. <i>The Joint Declaration on the Doctrine of Justification: Review of the Document and its reception</i>	
Wednesday, March 6	4. <i>The Joint Declaration on the Doctrine of Justification: its reception since 1999</i>	
Thursday, March 7	5. <i>Baptism, Eucharist, and Ministry: Review of the Document and its implications</i>	
Thursday, March 7	6. <i>Healing Memories: Reconciling in Christ</i>	Aneeta