

The Devotional Writings of Martin Luther

The emphasis on Luther as the reformer, theologian and academic sometimes overshadows his cherished role as pastor. This course will explore this pastoral side of Luther, from the perspective of his devotional writings. In these writings, remarkably free from polemic that frequents his other works, Luther offers pastoral words and easy to understand expressions of evangelical piety. His reflections deal with prayer, the consolation of those who suffer — including women who suffer miscarriages, the reception of the Sacrament of the Altar, how to prepare for death, how to deal with temptations, and even what the role of a pastor is in times of crises in a community. This course will look at the practical advice and the theological underpinnings of Luther's advice, and then evaluate the appropriateness of his devotional writings for today.

Instructor:

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Time:

Class Seminar times will be from Monday, May 6th to Friday, May 10th 9:00am-12 noon, and 6:30pm-8:30pm, ending at noon on Friday. Students will also be expected to spend from 1:30-3:00pm each day in preparation of presentations and adult education component of class.

Objectives:

- To provide an opportunity for students to read and reflect upon Luther's devotional writings
- To discern and clarify the practical issues that Luther addresses from in his role as parish pastor
- To identify the theological issues and themes behind Luther's practical advice
- To help students become more deliberate and focussed on reflecting theologically on practical matters in the parish
- To encourage the process by which students learn to think theologically and act practically in ways that are consistent with their theology.

Evaluation:

The Student will be evaluated in this course on the following criteria:

<input type="checkbox"/>	Class participation	10%
<input type="checkbox"/>	Class discussion	20%
<input type="checkbox"/>	One sermon	25%
<input type="checkbox"/>	Adult Education class	25%
<input type="checkbox"/>	Devotion/Meditation	20%

Assignments in Detail:

Class Discussion: Each student will be required to prepare:

1. one question to assist the other students in their reading of Luther's writings.
2. questions for discussion in class of each of the devotional writing of Luther.
3. The student will also facilitate the discussion the chosen devotional writing of Luther, along with providing summary reflections and comments on the appropriateness of Luther's

theological approach and practical suggestions offered by him in these devotional writings.

Sermon: a sermon on a practical issue covered in Luther's devotional writings that would include appropriate pastoral and theological context, and which would give counsel, comfort or appropriate direction for the parish.

Adult Education A 45 minute adult class (or in conjunction with others, a multi-session adult study course) for congregational use that would provide instruction. This adult education experience will include a process of discernment, teaching, and experiential opportunities on a practical issue addressed in Luther's devotional writings.

Devotion/Meditation: a two page (double spaced) meditation or devotional that would reflect the theological approach and meditative writings of Luther

Note: All course assignments are due by June 28, 2002.

Course Schedule:

<u>Day</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Treatise or topic to be covered:</u>
<u>Luther's Writings on Prayer</u>		
May 6	morning	Introduction to the Course <i>An Exposition of the Lord's Prayer for Simple Laity</i> (1519)
	evening	<i>Personal Prayer Book</i> (1522)
May 7	morning	<i>A Simple Way to Pray</i> (1535) <i>On Rogationtide Prayer and Procession</i> (1519) <i>Appeal for Prayer Against the Turks</i> (1541)
<u>Luther's Writings Offering Comfort and Consolation</u>		
May 7	evening	<i>A Letter to Hans von Rechenberg</i> (1522) <i>Comfort for Women who Have Had a Miscarriage</i> (1542)
May 8	morning	<i>A Christian Letter of Consolation to the People</i> (1524) <i>To All Christians in Worms</i> (1523) <i>A Letter of Consolation to all the Christians at Halle</i> (1527) <i>A Letter of Consolation to All Who Suffer Persecution</i> (1522)
	evening	<i>A Sermon on Preparing to Die</i> (1519) <i>Fourteen Consolations</i> (1520)
<u>Luther's Writings on the Passion, Facing Temptation, and the Pastoral Role</u>		
May 9	morning	<i>A Meditation on Christ's Passion</i> (1519) <i>That a Christian Should Bear the Cross with Patience</i> (1530) <i>Comfort When Facing Grave Temptation</i> (1521)
	evening	<i>Whether One May Flee From a Deadly Plague</i> (1527) <i>To the Saxon Princes</i> (1545)
May 10	morning	<i>A Sermon on the Worthy Reception of the Sacrament</i> (1521) <i>Sayings in Which Luther found Comfort</i> (1550) Summary to the Course, Conclusion

Required Texts: (Note: Please read as much of these two volumes as possible before the class begins)

Martin Luther, *Devotional Writings I, Luther's Works*, Volume 42, Martin O. Dietrich, ed., Helmut T. Lehmann, general editor, (Philadelphia: Fortress Press, 1969).

Martin Luther, *Devotional Writings II, Luther's Works*, Volume 43, Gustav K. Wienke, ed., Helmut T. Lehmann, general editor, (Philadelphia: Fortress Press, 1968).

James M. Kittelson, *Luther the Reformer: The Story of the Man and His Career*, (Minneapolis: Augsburg Publishing House, 1986). **Note: This book is to be read before the course begins.**

Beginning Bibliography:

Arand, Charles P. "The Battle Cry of Faith: The Catechisms' Exposition of the Lord's Prayer." *Concordia Journal*. Volume 21 (January 1995). 42-65.

Bachmann, C Charles. "Luther as Pastoral Counselor." *Pastoral Psychology*. Volume 3 (1952). 35-42.

Bayer, Oswald. "Luther's Ethics as Pastoral Care." *Lutheran Quarterly*. Volume 4 (Summer 1990). 125-42.

Begalke, M. Vernon. *An Introduction to Luther's Theology of Pastoral Care*. (Doctoral Dissertation) Ottawa, 1979.

Brecht, Martin. "Gelebte Taufe nach Martin Luther," *Das Sakrament der Heiligen Taufe*. Veröffentlichungen der Luther-Akademie Ratzeburg. Vol 27. Ed. Joachim Heubach, 21-39. Erlangen: Martin Luther-Verlag. 1997. English translation (excerpt) found in *Luther Digest*, Volume 8 (2000), 52-58.

Carter, Lindberg. "The Liturgy after the Liturgy: Welfare in the Early Reformation." *Through the Eye of a Needle: Judeo-Christian Roots of Social Welfare*. ed. Emily Albu Hanwalt and Carter Lindberg, 177-91. Kirksville, MO.: The Thomas Jefferson University Press, 1994.

Childs, James M. "Lutheran Perspectives on Ethical Business in an Age of Downsizing," *Business Ethics Quarterly*. Volume 7, No. 2 (March, 1997), 123-131.

Cousins, Peter James. "Luther's Poor Reform and Christian Liberty." *Vox Scripturae* Volume 6 No. 2 (December, 1996). 263-75.

Davis, Thomas J. "'His Completely Trustworthy Testament': The Development of Luther's Early Eucharistic Teaching, 1517-1521." *Fides et Historia: Official Publication of the Conference on Faith and History*. Volume 25 (Summer 1993). 4-22.

Gritsch, Eric W, ed. "Luther, Prayer, and Pastoral Care." *Lutheran Theological Seminary Bulletin*. Volume 67 (Winter 1987). 1-59.

Hillis, Bryan V. "Spirituality and Practice: Luther and Canadian Lutheran Spirituality." *Consensus*. Volume 19, No. 1 (1993). 53-76.

Jensen, Gordon A. "Some Help From Luther in Dealing With Suffering." *Touchstone: Heritage and Theology in a New Age*. Volume 9, No. 2 (May 1991). 3-6.

Johnson, Donald W. *Praying the Catechism*. Winnipeg: Wallingford Press (ELCIC), 1995.

Keller, Rudolf. "Luther als Seelsorger," *Lutherische Kirche in der Welt*. Jahrbuch des Martin Luther-Bundes 44 (1979). 101-18.

Kelly, Robert A. "Oratio, Meditatio, Tentatio Faciunt Theologum: Luther's Piety and the Formation of Theologians." *Consensus*. Volume 19, No. 1 (1993). 9-27.

Kolb, Robert. "God's Gift of Martyrdom: The Early Reformation Understanding of Dying for the Faith." *Church History*. Volume 64 (1995). 399-411.

- _____. "Luther the Master Pastor: Conrad Porta's *Pastorale Lutheri*, Handbook for Generations." *Concordia Journal*. Volume 9 (1983). 179-187.
- Kolden, Marc. "Christian Vocation in Light of Feminist Critiques." *Lutheran Quarterly*. Volume 10 (1996). 71-85.
- Krispin, Gerald S. "A Study in Luther's Pastoral Theology." *Logia*. Volume X, No. 2 (2001).
- Leaver, Robin A. "Luther's Catechism Hymns: 'Lord, Keep us Steadfast in Your Word'." *Lutheran Quarterly*. Volume 11, no. 4 (Winter, 1997). 397-409.
- Leaver, Robin A. "Luther's Catechism Hymns: Ten Commandments," *Lutheran Quarterly*. Volume 11, no. 4 (Winter, 1997). 410-21.
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- Nagel, Norman. "Luther and the Priesthood of All Believers," *Concordia Theological Quarterly*, Volume 61, no. 4 (1997), 277-98.
- Nebe, August. *Luther as spiritual adviser*. tr. Charles A. Hay and Charles E. Hay. Philadelphia: Lutheran Publication Society. 1894.
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- Prichard, Rebecca B. "Health, Education and Welfare in the Protestant Reformation.: Who Cared?" *Encounter*. Volume 55, No. 4. (Autumn 1994). 359-73.
- Schaaf, James L. "The Large Catechism: A Pastoral Tool." *Trinity Seminary Review*. Volume 1, No. 1 (Spring 1979). 16-22.
- Schwarz, Hans. "Martin Luther's Understanding of Vocation in the Light of Today's Problems." *Lutheran Theological Journal*. Volume 30 (May, 1996), 4-12.
- Tinder, Galen. "Luther's Theology of Christian Suffering and its Implication for Pastoral Care." *Dialog*. Volume 25, No. 2 (Spring 1986). 108-113.
- Wengert, Timothy. "'Fear and Love' in the Ten Commandments." *Concordia Journal*. Volume 21 (January 1995). 14-27.
- _____. "Forming the Faith Today through Luther's Catechisms," *Lutheran Quarterly* Volume 11, no. 4 (Winter 1997) 379-96.
- Ziemke, Donald C. *Love for the Neighbor in Luther's Theology: the Development of his Thought, 1512-1529*. Minneapolis: Augsburg Publishing House, 1963.