

## Northwest Washington Synod Candidacy Committee Guided Reading Course: Lutheran Confessions, Theology, and History

Semester: Fall 2018

Professor: Rev. Erik Samuelson, M.Div., M.A.

Location: Central Lutheran Church, Everett, WA

This course is designed to meet the requirements for Lutheran Confessions and Lutheran History for the theological education component of the ELCA Candidacy requirements in the Northwest Washington Synod, as approved by Rev. Paul Hoffman, Candidacy Committee Chair.

### Course Format:

Guided reading, tutoring, and symposium meetings for discussion.

Six sessions: 1 introductory, 4 symposium, 1 final exam review. The 4 symposium sessions can be attended via Zoom, though in-person is preferred. Attendance at the first and last must be in person.

### Evaluation:

Students will demonstrate learning through a take home exam that covers:

- Definition, historical significance, and contemporary application of key Lutheran theological terms and concepts
- Analysis of contemporary issues in their ministry through the lens of Lutheran Confessions and Lutheran History
- Historical understanding of their congregation's polity, theological emphases, and use of the Lutheran Confessions based on history, predecessor body affiliation, and ethnic makeup.

### Required Books:

- *The Book of Concord: The Confessions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church*, Kolb, Robert and Timothy J. Wengert, ed. (Minneapolis: Fortress, 2000)
- Gassmann, Günther and Scott Hendrix. *Fortress Introduction to The Lutheran Confessions*. (Minneapolis: Fortress, 1999)
- Gritsch, Eric W. *A History of Lutheranism*, (Minneapolis: Fortress, 2003). Second edition is also acceptable.
- Samuelson, Erik T.R. *Five Types of Lutheran Confessional Theology: Toward a Method of Lutheran Theology In America for the Twenty-First Century*. (Everett, WA: Wittenberg Workshop, 2006).
- Other chapters and articles as assigned.

### Optional Books:

- Gritsch, Eric W. *Fortress Introduction to Lutheranism*. (Minneapolis: Fortress, 1994).
- Gritsch, Eric W. and Robert W. Jenson. *Lutheranism: The Theological Movement and Its Confessional Writings*. (Minneapolis: Fortress, 1976).

Sunday, Sept 30 <sup>th</sup> 4:00-6:00pm	Course Overview, orientation and initial conversation	
Sunday, October 14 <sup>th</sup> 4:00-6:00pm	Historical Introduction and Overview of Confessional Documents	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Gritsch "History," Chapters 1-3</li> <li>• Samuelson, Chapters 1-2</li> <li>• Gassmann and Hendrix, Chapters 1-4</li> </ul>
Sunday, November 11 <sup>th</sup> 4:00-6:00pm	Augsburg Confession, Smalcald Articles, and Catechisms	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Augsburg Confession in "Book of Concord" (BoC) pages 27- 105. Read either the German (even pages) or Latin (odd pages)</li> <li>• Smalcald Articles in "BoC" 295- 328</li> <li>• Small Catechism in "BoC" pages 345-375</li> <li>• Large Catechism in "BoC" pages 377-480</li> <li>• Gassmann and Hendrix, Chapters 5-6</li> </ul>
Sunday, November 25 <sup>th</sup> 4:00-6:00pm	Lutheran History Post Luther to 20 <sup>th</sup> Century and Deep Dive into Theological Areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Gritsch "History", chapters 4-6</li> <li>• Other "BoC" readings based on theological terms identified in previous class session (specifics TBD)</li> </ul>
Sunday, December 16 <sup>th</sup> 4:00-6:00pm	20 <sup>th</sup> Century Lutheranism and Contemporary Theological Application	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Gritsch "History" Chapter 7</li> <li>• Gassmann and Hendrix, Chapter 7</li> <li>• "Model Constitution for Congregations in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America 2013" <a href="#">Link here</a></li> <li>• Other readings TBD</li> </ul>
Sunday, January 6 <sup>th</sup> 4:00-6:00pm	Final Exam Review	Final Take Home Exam Due

## Worksheet on Context of Lutheran Confessional Writings

### Three Ecumenical Creeds (Apostles, Nicene, Athanasian)

Dates Written:

Political/Religious Context:

Purpose and Tone:

Example that illustrates purpose and tone:

### Small Catechism and Large Catechism

Date Written: 1529

Political/Religious Context: *Evangelical theology was spreading in Germany. Luther and others visited churches and realized the theology being taught and the methods being used were poor.*

Purpose and Tone: *Pedagogical. To help pastors and parents educate their children, and ensure that good theology is being taught in churches.*

Example that illustrates purpose and tone: *The Lord's Prayer, article 1: "Our Father, you who are in heaven. What is this? Answer: With these words God wants to entice us, so that we come to believe he is truly our Father and we are truly his children, in order that we may ask him boldly and with complete confidence, just as loving children ask their loving father. (BOC, 356)*

### Augsburg Confession

Date Written:

Political/Religious Context:

Purpose and Tone:

Example that illustrates purpose and tone:

Apology to the Augsburg Confession

Date Written:

Political/Religious Context:

Purpose and Tone:

Example that illustrates purpose and tone:

Smalcald Articles

Date Written:

Political/Religious Context:

Purpose and Tone:

Example that illustrates purpose and tone:

Treatise on the Power and Primacy of the Pope

Date Written:

Political/Religious Context:

Purpose and Tone:

Example that illustrates purpose and tone:

Formula of Concord

Date Written:

Political/Religious Context:

Purpose and Tone:

Example that illustrates purpose and tone:

## Lutheran Confessions and History Final Exam

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Topic: Sin

How do Lutherans understand this? (aka What does this mean?)

What are the key theological elements?

Why was this important in the 16<sup>th</sup> Century context?

Why is (or could) this be important in your context?

Topic: Law and Gospel

How do Lutherans understand this? (aka What does this mean?)

What are the key theological elements?

Why was this important in the 16<sup>th</sup> Century context?

Why is (or could) this be important in your context?

Topic: Justification and Sanctification

How do Lutherans understand this? (aka What does this mean?)

What are the key theological elements?

Why was this important in the 16<sup>th</sup> Century context?

Why is (or could) this be important in your context?

Topic: Election and Free Will

How do Lutherans understand this? (aka What does this mean?)

What are the key theological elements?

Why was this important in the 16<sup>th</sup> Century context?

Why is (or could) this be important in your context?

Topic: Faith and Good Works

How do Lutherans understand this? (aka What does this mean?)

What are the key theological elements?

Why was this important in the 16<sup>th</sup> Century context?

Why is (or could) this be important in your context?

Topic: The Church

How do Lutherans understand this? (aka What does this mean?)

What are the key theological elements?

Why was this important in the 16<sup>th</sup> Century context?

Why is (or could) this be important in your context?



Topic: Baptism

How do Lutherans understand this? (aka What does this mean?)

What are the key theological elements?

Why was this important in the 16<sup>th</sup> Century context?

Why is (or could) this be important in your context?

Topic: Confession and Absolution

How do Lutherans understand this? (aka What does this mean?)

What are the key theological elements?

Why was this important in the 16<sup>th</sup> Century context?

Why is (or could) this be important in your context?

Topic: The Holy Supper (Communion)

How do Lutherans understand this? (aka What does this mean?)

What are the key theological elements?

Why was this important in the 16<sup>th</sup> Century context?

Why is (or could) this be important in your context?

Topic: The Ministry and Priesthood of All Believers

How do Lutherans understand this? (aka What does this mean?)

What are the key theological elements?

Why was this important in the 16<sup>th</sup> Century context?

Why is (or could) this be important in your context?

Topic: Adiaphora

How do Lutherans understand this? (aka What does this mean?)

What are the key theological elements?

Why was this important in the 16<sup>th</sup> Century context?

Why is (or could) this be important in your context?

Topic:

How do Lutherans understand this? (aka What does this mean?)

What are the key theological elements?

Why was this important in the 16<sup>th</sup> Century context?

Why is (or could) this be important in your context?

Topic:

How do Lutherans understand this? (aka What does this mean?)

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