

Lay Leadership Institute

Course Descriptions

Old Testament

This course is designed to give the student a basic understanding of the history and content of the Old Testament. Through this course the student will become familiar with the outlines and themes of each book of the Old Testament, the history of the people of Israel, the major figures of the Old Testament, and God's covenant promises of salvation for His people.

New Testament

The purpose of this course is to assist the student in gaining the basic understanding of the content and history of the New Testament. Through this course the student will become acquainted with the authors, outlines, and themes of each book of the New Testament, the life and times of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, major figures in the New Testament, and the general doctrinal content of the New Testament.

Interpreting the Bible in Translation

This course is devoted to an investigation into the art of interpreting the canonical texts of Scripture (Old and New Testaments) from an English translation of The Holy Bible. Through this course the student will learn about fundamental principles and methods that lead to a competent reading and understanding of God's Word from an English translation.

Christian Doctrine

This course presents a systematic study of the historic doctrine of the Christian Church and will allow the student to obtain a basic understanding of Christian doctrine. Special emphasis will be placed upon the Christian doctrine set forth in the Old and New Testaments and believed, taught, and confessed by The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod.

Church History I

This course introduces the student to the discipline of church history and summarizes the thought and life of the Christian church from its beginning through the Medieval period to the time just before the Reformation. The course focuses on the major trends, developments, figures, events, and heresies that impacted the Christian church in its first 1500 years.

Church History II

This course summarizes the thought and life of the Christian church from the time of the Reformation to the present day. The course will acquaint the student with major trends, developments, figures, movements, and events that have left their mark on the Christian church since the time of the Reformation. Special emphasis will be given to the Reformation of Martin Luther, the history of The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, and the diversity of Christian denominations in their historical context.

Lutheran Worship

The purpose of this course is to enable students to understand the theology, history, and practice of Lutheran worship. The student will be instructed in the biblical guidelines for Christian worship, the components of corporate worship in the Lutheran church, the church's liturgy and hymns, and the form and structure of the church year.

Teaching the Faith

This course is an examination of the principles and practices of Christian education at the parish level. Special attention will be given to a Lutheran perspective of education, the psychology of learning, the variety of teaching methods, and the art of teaching Christians in all age groups.

Fundamental Pastoral Care

This course is designed to provide the student with the knowledge, skill, and desire to apply God's Word to people experiencing a variety of situations. This course will focus on practical situations with an eye toward developing personal pastoral care techniques and practices that will incorporate both Law and Gospel in its approach.

Basic Preaching

This course will focus upon the "basics" of preaching, which includes: the theology of preaching, the purpose of preaching, the preparation of a sermon, rightly distinguishing between Law and Gospel, the delivery of a sermon, and the student's ongoing growth as a preacher. Through this course the student will not only learn how to prepare and deliver a sermon, he will also grow in his appreciation for the joyful privilege of proclaiming God's Word to God's people.

Mission Outreach in Context

This course examines current practices, methods, and trends in use today in the mission fields. This course will develop for the student the necessary knowledge, skills, and attitudes to understand, evaluate, and apply the theology of missions to any given context. Emphasis will be placed upon carrying out local evangelism efforts in various contexts (city, small town, rural, etc.)