

III. Christian Doctrine - Our Living Faith

A. Course Description

The course presents a systematic study of the historic doctrine of the Christian Church on the articles of creation and redemption in the context of the present.

B. General: Students will

1. Develop skills

- a. in the application of the Biblical message to currents in contemporary thought and life and the relation of historic Christian concerns and insights to the modern scene;
- b. in the interpretation of Christian and other analyses of the relationship between God and his human creatures;
- c. in the communication of one's own insights regarding the teaching of the church to others.

2. Develop understanding

- a. of the essential outline and the chief contents of Christian doctrine, particularly as it has been conveyed within the Lutheran tradition;
- b. of the approaches to issues in Christian theology which have been and are being raised by theologians;
- c. of the ways in which Christian principles are related to every day life.

3. Foster attitudes

- a. of appreciation for the tasks of the person who teaches the Christian faith and the methods which are used in the task;
- b. of awareness of the various elements at work in formulating meaningful expressions of Christian teaching;
- c. of thankfulness for the presence of the Holy Spirit in the teaching process of the church.

C. Suggested Texts

1. Recommended Texts

- a. Koehler, Edward W. A., A Summary of Christian Doctrine
-or-
- b. Robert Kolb, Speaking the Gospel Today
- c. Martin Luther, Small Catechism

1. Supplemental or Optional Texts:

- a. David Schmiel, The Word of God and How It Came To Us
- b. Dietrich Bonhoeffer, Creation and Fall, Temptation
- c. Gerhard O. Forde, Justification by Faith -- A Matter of Death and Life
- d. W. Walther, God's No and God's Yes
- e. Robert Benne, Ordinary Saints
- f. CTCR, LCMS, The Nature and Implications of the Concept of Fellowship
- g. CTCR, LCMS, The End Times

D. Competency Exam

All students, whether or not they have a formal course dealing with Christian Doctrine, must pass the synodical entrance-level competency exam with a 70% or better score in order to fulfill the requirements of this syllabus.