

IV. Interpreting the Scriptures in Translation

A. Course Description

Fundamental principles and methods that lead to a competent reading and understanding of the Bible in a vernacular translation. Practice in application of exegetical method to a Gospel text and to an Old Testament prophetic text for the preaching and teaching of God's Word from within the pastoral office.

B. Competencies

1. Display an attitude of:
 - a. humility before the Biblical text as a reader/interpreter limited by human reason
 - b. confidence in the inherent authority of the text as Word of God and in a competent reading of the text
 - c. enthusiasm for communicating God's Word with accuracy and clarity
 - d. a desire to grow in knowledge and skills
2. Display the knowledge of:
 - a. the importance of hermeneutical principles for competent Biblical interpretation
 - b. the "hermeneutical circle" between Scripture and doctrine
 - c. fundamental principles of Lutheran hermeneutics
 - d. sound exegetical methodology in light of a Confessional Lutheran doctrine of Scripture
 - e. the role of an orthodox community of faith in the interpretive task
 - f. the importance of communicating God's Word in vernacular languages
 - g. the limitations of Biblical exegesis based on a translation
3. Display the skill to:
 - a. interpret specific Biblical texts (one Gospel and one OT) using sound hermeneutical principles and exegetical methods
 - b. apply the interpretation of a Biblical text to the authoritative preaching and teaching of the pastoral office
 - c. move from the message of a text in its historical context to its application in contemporary context with accuracy and clarity.

C. Texts

1. Recommended
 - a. CTCR Documents: Gospel and Scripture
The Inspiration of Scripture
 - b. Either: Klein, Blomberg, Hubbard. Introduction to Biblical Interpretation (selected sections)
 - c. or: Terry, Milton. Biblical Hermeneutics
 - d. Appropriate Course materials provided by instructor (e.g., F.W. DELTO syllabus/manual)
2. Supplemental texts:
 - a. Voelz, James. What Does This Mean (selected sections)
 - b. Fee and Stuart. How to Read the Bible for All It's Worth
 - c. Maier III, Walter. Biblical Hermeneutics (CTS Print Shop)

D. Outline

1. Problems and principles of communication. Introduction of sample pericopes
2. Lutheran hermeneutical principles: circle of history (or appropriate subset of list of principles) applied to sample texts
3. Tools and method of translation: circle of language and literature (or appropriate subset of principles) applied to sample texts
4. Hermeneutical Circle: circle of theology (or appropriate subset of principles) applied to sample texts
5. Gospel text study: evaluated and discussed
6. OT/NT issues: prophecy as proclamation and fulfillment. Christological and historical principles.

7. OT prophetic text study evaluated and discussed
8. Scripture, canon, and the community of faith