

Equipping for Service

Lay School for Ministry

Michaelmas Term, 2022



St. Luke's Church

Blue Ridge, Georgia

Teaching Tuesdays

10:30 a.m. - In Person

Online option to be available for some sessions

The Genesis Story: Reading the Biblical Narrative

(Featuring videos from Hillsdale College)

Overview

Genesis is a book of fundamental importance for the Jewish and Christian faiths and has exerted a profound influence on Western Civilization. In addition to being a great religious text, it is also a literary masterpiece. This course explores some of the work's major narrative themes, including the complex relationship between God and man, the consequences of a rupture in that relationship, and the path towards reconciliation.

September 13 – Introduction

Facilitator: D.J. Fulton

Genesis will be explored through a tradition that views faith and reason as an integrity and affirms their capacity to discover truth about man's relationship to the divine.

September 29 – Adam and Eve

Facilitator: The Rector

Genesis is dominated by four types of relationships: God and creation, God and human, human and human, and human and creation. Adam and Eve's transgression in the Garden of Eden transforms the relationship between God and man and sets the stage for the remaining narratives of Genesis.

September 27 – Abraham, Sarah, and Hagar

Facilitator: Claudia Pound

The story of Abraham, Sarah, and Hagar illustrates the rivalry and pain that arise as humans struggle with divine

promises. In spite of their failings, God remains faithful to His covenant and responds to the suffering of mankind.

October 4 – Abraham and Isaac

Facilitator: Pat Dearing

The binding of Isaac is the Genesis passage that generates the most commentary—though it is frequently misunderstood. The narrative presents two acts of faith: Abraham offering his son to God and Isaac offering himself to his father. Abraham submits to God’s command, knowing full well that God will keep His promise.

October 11 – Jacob and Esau

Facilitator: Judy Brooten

Genesis is filled with sibling rivalries, beginning with the tragic story of Cain and Abel. The decades-long rivalry between Jacob and Esau demonstrates how such conflicts can be resolved and how the face of God is made visible through a beautiful act of forgiveness.

October 18 – Joseph

Facilitator: Ron Wikander

Genesis concludes with the long and complex Joseph story. Employing a series of parallel structures, this penitential narrative—a pinnacle of literary achievement in Genesis—serves as a fitting transition to Exodus.

* * * * *

In Spirit and in Stone: Architecture and Worship Overview

Jesus commands his followers to worship in spirit and in truth; nevertheless, Christians gather for worship at various locations and buildings. In the first session, students will learn how to ‘read’ an ecclesiastical structure. In the second, elements of corporate worship will be explored.

October 25 – Reading a Church

Facilitators: Dr. Kathleen Thompson and the Rector

Buildings say something about emphasis and beliefs of those who gather there for worship. Detecting what these are will be the focus of this session

November 1 – Worship and the Worshipper

Facilitators: Dr. Kathleen Thompson and the Rector

Worship is the major activity of what takes place in a church building. This session will focus on the components of corporate worship.

* * * * *

Reading and Understanding Luther Overview

The writings and teachings of Martin Luther resulted in a revolution of thought and life in Europe in the 16th century. Justification by grace through faith was Luther's key doctrine. *The Freedom of the Christian*, Luther's first public defense of this doctrine, will be the focus of this three-week study in which this book will be read and discussed.

November 8 - Introduction and group reflection

Facilitator: Pat Dearing

November 15 - Group reflection

Facilitator: Pat Dearing

November 22 - Luther insights for Today's Church with group reflection

Facilitator: Pat Dearing