**Living as a Christian in the world**

*(Based on Daily Life of Christian class & Biblical Images)*

Course Description:

Students will discuss and explore their role as a member of a Christian community and the community at large. This course allows students to explore their place in a community that is not necessarily predominately Christian. Begin discernment on future service and ministries in their congregations and communities.

Class Objectives:

1. Examine important images of the Christian Church
2. Apply images to congregational life & ministry
3. Explore various styles of worship & prayer
4. Explore implications for student’s baptismal vocation
   1. Explore how faith intersects with home, work and church
   2. Explore how to discern one’s gifts; how might I use my talents, gifts to serve God
   3. Examine what it means to live into baptismal vocation
5. Introduce how to be advocates/speak truth to power in 21st century (WWJD)

Course Content:

1. Biblical Images of the church reviewed relate to the objective of the course. A review of the concepts should be related to the bible and what it says about the baptismal call we all have.

Specific review of the following can be covered:

* Kerygma – To proclaim, preach, announce,
* Leitourgia – Worship in the life of the church,
* Koinonia – Fellowship in Christ,
* Diakonia – Personal rendering of service performed for another,
* Ecumenism – the Universal
* Ecclesia – Church
* Body of Christ
* Didache - teaching

B.     Using a spiritual gifts inventory, consider how each person’s gifts are used in service to Christ.

C. Explore ways to practice our faith.

Suggested Texts: Baptized We Live by Daniel Erlander

Life Together by Dietrich Bonhoeffer

Letter from Birmingham Jail, by MLK JR

Freedom of a Christian, by Martin Luther

Together by grace: Introducing the Lutherans, edited by Kathryn Kleinhans

Additional Resources: Practicing Our Faith, Dorothy Bass

Prayer, O. Hallesby

The Word is Very Near You, Martin L. Smith

Bible Dictionary, *Theological Word Book of the Bible*, Alan Richardson

Altar in the World, Barbara Brown Taylor

**Possible assignments:**

Weekly written assignments (1 page each)

**Sample Syllabus**

*(use as guide to help with development of your own course)*

**Class one: Koinonia – Sharing with one another in Christ**

Read before class Bonhoeffer chapter 1

Skim before class Erlander introduction

Assignment due at next class:

Based on class discussion & reading of 1 John:

Explain how Koinonia is seen in your congregation.

Is there a growing edge for your congregation or you personally?

**Class two: Kerygma – Proclaiming the Gospel**

Read before class Bonhoeffer chapter 5

Skim before class Erlander chapter 1

Assignment due at next class:

List ways you saw God this week.

Describe how God, and others, saw you this week.

Complete spiritual gifts assessment

**Class three: Leitourgia – Worship & Service of God**

Read before class Bonhoeffer chapter 2

(optional) Skim before class Erlander chapter 2

Review spiritual gifts assessment

Review different prayer practices

Assignment due at next class:

How your perception of, & participation in, liturgy changed over the years?

What parts of the service speak to and inspire you?

Are there certain prayer practices that speak to you more than others?

**Class four: Didache – Teaching the Gospel & Faith**

Read before class MLK, Jr and Luther

Skim before class Erlander chapter 3

Assignment due at next class:

Listen/participate in 3 services (1 can be your own congregation)

For each of the services:

Describe main teaching: Did it speak truth to power? Did it challenge you? How?

Compare styles of worship, same, different, how did they speak to you?

**Class five: Diakonia – God’s People Serving**

Read before class Bonhoeffer chapter 4

Skim before class Erlander chapter 4

Review essays in Faith Active in Love ch. of Kleinhans book

Review spiritual gifts & inventories

Assignment by next week

Describe how your congregation is being faithful in diakonia

*Speak with pastor, leaders, read constitution*

How are you using your gifts? Will anything change after this course?