

Adult Education at All Saints – Early Spring 2008

We currently offer three options for adult learning every week:

Option 1 - Sunday 9:45 am

Augsburg Bible Study: God, the People, and the Covenant (1,2 Chronicles, Daniel, Haggai, Nehemiah). (March/April/May)

Join us in studying the Bible's First Testament, the one Jesus studied and lived by. We will be studying Chronicles, Daniel, Haggai and Nehemiah from their historical context, prophetic voices, and meaning to modern life. We will explore the founding of the Covenant, the rise and fall of the North and South Kingdoms and the Imperialism that surrounded Israel. Are we not challenged by imperialism today? Are important parts of our society at high risk? What can we do personally and as a congregation? We will touch on the creation of and struggle to keep God's covenant from the time of David through the Assyrian and Babylonian conquests to today, where we find ourselves battling in that same part of the world. Has nothing changed?

No experience necessary! We learn and have fun. See Dr. John Laughlin or Sven Allenbach-Schmidt for more information.

Option 2 - Sunday 9:45 am

Christians and Trade Justice. (March 2 - April 6)

While trade is clearly a moral issue, we don't often discuss it in our churches. Trade agreements and other issues of international finance strongly affect economic equality or disparity, both in the U.S. and around the world. What is our role as Christians and as a church? We will discuss articles from Sojourners magazine on this topic, together with other resources. Contact Ruth Ann Killion or Nathan Rich for details.

Stewardship as the Christian Lifestyle. (April 13 - 20)

As part of its year-round program, the Stewardship Committee will present a two-part study during the Adult Forum on Sundays April 13 & 20. The theme of the study is the Biblical basis for "Stewardship as the Christian Lifestyle." Part 1 will focus on God's gifts to us; the second session will discuss our response to God. Norma Allenbach-Schmidt will facilitate this study.

Entering the School of Your Experience (April 27 - May 18)

This will be a four-part exploration into spiritual formation and transformation through Contemplative Living. This series is based primarily on the writings of Thomas Merton and other spiritual writers: Eckhart Tolle, Wilkie Au, Psalmist and Karen Armstrong. There will be questions for dialogue and a chance to practice what we are learning.

In our busy world we yearn for closeness with God, but what can one hear amid the noise and distractions of the over-busy and demanding day? We are so distracted by choices and interruptions that some now refer to a new diagnosis: "Cultural Attention Deficit Disorder."

We will read, discuss, and practice a nearly lost prayer form which has been making a slow return through the work of Thomas Keating in what he calls "Centering Prayer." Ultimately, Contemplative Living leads us to a sense of well-being, profound gratitude, and a clearer understanding of our purpose in life. This course will be facilitated by Dr. John Laughlin.

Option 3 - Tuesday 10:00am

Bible Study: 1 Samuel

Most Tuesdays Pastor Gary is leading a Bible study on the book of 1 Samuel. See <http://www.allsaintsbowie.org/news.htm> for the upcoming week.

--Nathan Rich, Adult Education Coordinator

CMEP Annual Conference

ELCA Presiding **Bishop Mark Hanson** is the keynote speaker at the Opening Gathering and Plenary of the Middle East advocacy conference sponsored by Churches for Middle East Peace. This event is open to the public and will be at 6:45pm on Sunday, April 20 at the Kellogg Conference Hotel at Gallaudet University, 800 Florida Ave, NE in Washington, DC. If anyone is interested in car-pooling, please contact Nathan Rich at 240-441-8724. For details about the conference, visit www.cmep.org.

Proposed ELCA Social Statement On Human Sexuality Available

The 2001 Churchwide Assembly of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America mandated that this church engage in studies on human sexuality. The second effort in this process was to lead to the development of a social statement on sexuality. On March 13, a draft of a proposed social statement on human sexuality became available for review, feedback and response from the ELCA Web site (<http://www.elca.org/faithfuljourney/>). Responses will be gathered from a comment form attached to the draft booklet, hearings in the synods and other venues. It is anticipated that the 2009 ELCA Churchwide Assembly will discuss and make a determination about the social statement. Contact Nathan Rich if you are interested in further discussion at All Saints on this topic.