

Special Bible Study Opportunity

How Lutherans Read The Bible: What's Law & Gospel Got to Do with It?

Dr. Hans Wiersma
Assistant Professor of Religion, Augsburg College, Minneapolis

NOVEMBER 13 and 14, 2009
Bethel Lutheran Church, Cupertino, CA

Dr. Hans Wiersma is Assistant Professor of Religion at Augsburg College, Minneapolis, where he teaches courses in theology, church history, and ministry. He is an ELCA pastor and has served three congregations, including St. Paul Lutheran Church in Lodi, CA. He earned his Ph.D. in 2005; his thesis advisors were late James Kittelson (author of *Luther the Reformer: The Man and His Career*) as well as by James Nestingen (author of *Martin Luther: A Life*).

Hans is co-author of *Crazy Talk: A Not-So-Stuffey Dictionary of Theological Terms* and the upcoming *Crazy Book: A Not-So-Stuffey Dictionary of Biblical Terms*. He is also co-author of *The Lutheran Course II* and has authored materials for the new People of Faith Bible Study. He is a contributor to the *Lutheran Study Bible*, as well as various handbooks, including the *The Lutheran Handbook* (vols. I and II), *The Lutheran Pastors Handbook*, *The Lutheran Handbook on Marriage*, and *The Christian Handbook*.

Dr. Wiersma will talk about Martin Luther's "breakthrough" regarding how the Bible is to be properly understood. He will apply this understanding to practices that have traditionally divided Christians, especially Baptism and the Lord's Supper.

Friday November 13, 7:00 to 9:00 PM

Session 1 – "What to Look for When You Read the Bible"

Saturday November 14, 9:00 am to 3:00 pm

including Lunch (Free Will Donation)

Session 2 – 9:00-10:15 – "All Wet: What Does the Bible Say about Baptism?"

Session 3 – 10:45-12:00 – "Eat, Drink: What Does the Bible Say about the Lord's Supper?"

Session 4 – 1:30-3:00 – "What Does the Bible Say about Getting Along with People Who Don't Read the Bible the Same Way You Do?"

Join Us in this Exciting Study! Cost - \$25.00

**This Bible Study is sponsored by Bethel Lutheran Church-Cupertino in
Cooperation with Lutheran Bible Institute-California**

For Information & Enrollment Contact

Bethel Lutheran – (408) 252-8500, Chuck Couchman

Or use Internet -- www.ilcsaratoga.org/lbic

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Hans Wiersma

Assistant Professor of Religion, Augsburg College

A lot of what I enjoy about teaching at Augsburg College stems from what I enjoyed about being a full-time pastor: teaching Bible, Theology, and Ministry. I appreciate the give-and-take involved between teacher and learner as they investigate biblical texts, analyze theological concepts, explore Christian history, and consider issues related to Christian vocation and ministry. And I like the occasional humorous, off-the-cuff remarks, like the one from the student who asked "What Would Jesus Drink?" during an interesting conversation about churches that use wine and churches that use grape juice for Holy Communion. Such comments lighten the load of what can otherwise be some pretty heavy subjects: religion and faith.

However, what I enjoy most about my role at Augsburg is working closely with students interested in ministry and church work. Although I remember my own days as a summer camp counselor, as a youth director, as a youth pastor, and finally as a "youth and family" pastor as if they were yesterday (or at least the day before yesterday), my reason for liking my present role is more than nostalgic. Put simply: I consider it a privilege to be a part of the biblical and theological formation of those who will be leaders in Christian ministry in the decades ahead.

My post-graduate work was in the area of church history, with a focus on issues related to ministry during the Reformation period. (My dissertation is a biographical study of a German pastor who worked closely with Martin Luther.) My on-going scholarship involves relating ministry themes in pre-modern Christian history to the doing of ministry in a (post-)modern context--especially ministry with those in their "first third" of life (ages 0-29).

In the end, I think I just enjoy working with the kinds of people who are curious about and involved in this odd little vocation called "Christian Ministry" (or, as it's often called these days, "Church Leadership"). I'm going on my third decade of involvement with ministry/leadership; over the years there have been many challenges and rewards, and many great people along the way. As a relative newcomer to Augsburg's faculty, I'm looking forward to many challenges and rewards in the years ahead, as well as many more great people along the way.