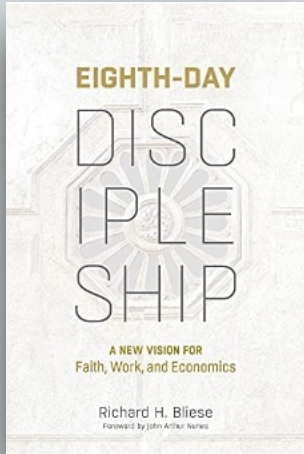


Christian Education at
Church on the Circle
St. Armands Key Lutheran Church
2023 Series

All classes meet in Ogram Hall and are held in-person, as well as online. The instructors will be teaching each class in-person. 90-minute classes include refreshments, breaks, discussion groups, and/or video presentations. Where books should be purchased in advance, this is noted below. Handouts for all other classes will be provided each week. Sign ups for these classes are appreciated. For more information, to join the livestream via Zoom, and to sign up to attend these classes, please scan the QR code below or visit www.saklc.com/online-christian-education/.



Eighth-Day Discipleship: **A New Vision for Faith, Work & Economics** *Taught by Richard H. Bliese*



Richard H. Bliese in his book, and in this class, “draws on the historic architecture of eight-sided churches to call attention to an important but often overlooked emphasis on the eighth day of creation. Early Christians were focused on God’s new creation that began in Christ’s resurrection on Sunday, the first day of the week. But these Christians understood resurrection as the continuation of God’s creative and redemptive activity. So the first day of the week became the eighth day of creation, and therefore the day of resurrection work and time to join with Christ in transforming the world. Christian disciples do this work by living out their baptismal vocations, especially in their daily work and through their ethical economic choices. The author turns to Martin Luther and the Reformation to outline an evangelical spirituality that invested in people and their vocations as worker-priests. Daily life, work, and family were underscored as the place where discipleship came alive. Bliese describes this as an architectural “design” for faithful living. He further draws on parts of Luther’s Small Catechism (Ten Commandments, Apostles’ Creed, and Lord’s Prayer) as keys to this evangelical design. Five additional architectural designs for eighth-day disciples are included. The final chapter describes how eighth-day disciples are called to live by faith in freedom and responsibility. Making disciples today needs to revolve around a gospel story that links one’s personal faith with one’s work and economic life. Such faith gives us ears to hear God’s unfolding drama and eyes to see the needs of the neighbor.”

Taught by Richard H. Bliese

“An accomplished leader, teacher, innovator, and visionary with extensive ministerial experience on three continents, forty years of church leadership, nonprofit and entrepreneurial experience in over fifteen different organizations, and deep teaching and consulting expertise nationally and internationally in theological education and congregational ministry. He is the editor, with Craig Van Gelder, of *The Evangelizing Church: A Lutheran Contribution*.”



When: Tuesdays, for six weeks, February 21-March 28, from 2:00pm-3:30pm

Preparation: Purchase and read Richard’s book, ISBN 978-1506478838, available on Amazon.

God's Twofold Kingdom: Lutheran Perspectives on Kingdom-Centric Ministry

Taught by Gabriel Morgan



“Our churches are facing major challenges today. In addition to many social, environmental, and political crises, we also have a basic division within our churches and our clergy that is unsustainable and needs to be resolved, namely that between a view which reduces the Gospel to a political or social message, and that which views the Gospel as having nothing to do with politics or social justice at all.

One of the most poorly understood aspects of the teachings of Martin Luther was his doctrine of God's two kingdoms. For Luther, just as God speaks to us in a voice of Law and Gospel, so God's kingdom also has an aspect of worldly justice and an aspect of heavenly grace. Unfortunately, Luther's thinking in this area remained undeveloped. Nevertheless, when faithfully reconstructed, it provides clarity and guidance for many of the church's most pressing problems in our present historical moment.”

In this presentation, Gabriel Morgan “will offer a basic summary of what Luther means by ‘two kingdoms,’ the problems in Luther's underdeveloped thinking here, important updates to this teaching from Dietrich Bonhoeffer, and how it can help guide the church on how to approach ministry in a Kingdom-centric way.”

Taught by Gabriel Morgan

Gabriel Morgan is a graduate of Union Theological Seminary in the City of New York, receiving the Master of Divinity degree in 2012, with the Hitchcock Prize for excellence in historical theology. He also holds a Doctor of Philosophy degree from the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia, which is now called United Lutheran Seminary. His dissertation was on Dietrich Bonhoeffer and Paul Ricoeur. Originally from Tampa, Gabriel is also an alumnus of the University of South Florida with a Bachelor's in philosophy. He and his wife Erin live in Southeast Seminole Heights.

When: A morning workshop. Saturday, March 11, from 9:00am-12:00pm.
Refreshments and breaks will be provided.

The Holy Land: Reflections on Pilgrimage

Taught by Rev. Kenneth Blyth



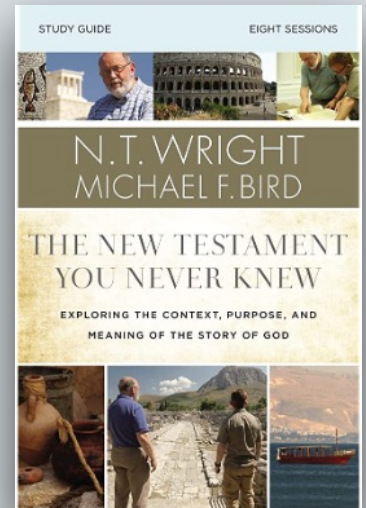
Pastor Ken will be in the Holy Land from February 6-16. He will return with photographs, memories, and reflections on his pilgrimage. Join him as he leads us on a fast-paced journey through that holiest of lands and its profoundly holy sites.

When: Tuesdays, for three weeks, April 11, 18, 25, from 6:00pm-7:30pm.

The New Testament You Never Knew: Exploring the Context, Purpose, and Meaning of the Story of God

Taught by Rev. Kenneth Blyth

“A tour of the story behind the explosive story of the New Testament. You will discover things you never knew about Jesus’ baptism and journey into the wilderness, the meaning behind his parables and miracles, the significance of his death and resurrection, the incredible expansion of the early church into the Greco-Roman world, and how the transforming mission of Jesus can still turn the world upside down today. Through reading the New Testament we continually discover that God indeed keeps his promises, but those promises don’t always look like what people expected. Especially when it comes to Jesus. So, come join... the journey [that will] help you understand the New Testament you never knew.”



Taught by Rev. Kenneth Blyth, using video presentations and workbook by N.T. Wright, Bishop Emeritus of Durham, England, and until recently Chair of New Testament and Early Christianity at the University of St. Andrews, Scotland. N. T. Wright is a prolific and award-winning author.

When: Thursdays, for eight weeks, May 4-June 22, from 2:00pm-3:30pm. Participants will benefit from attending all eight classes, but each is a separate topic which will be undertaken individually.

Preparation: Purchase and read Wright’s study guide, ISBN 978-0310085263, available from Amazon.

We Must Plant the Church: The Story of Lutherans in America

Taught by Rev. Kenneth Blyth

“When Lutherans came to America, they brought with them Martin Luther’s belief that people of faith engage the big questions of the day. This story is characterized by the tension between honoring the European roots of the church and adapting to the new realities of American life. The Lutheran church, from its earliest days, faced religious pluralism, intolerance, racism, war, lack of state support and diversity of languages and traditions. It wasn’t easy then, and it isn’t easy now. Understanding American Lutheran history can change the way we see ourselves and our future.

This class on the history of Lutherans in America transports learners through four centuries of the planting of the Lutheran church in this new land. Henry Muhlenberg provides the title for this series. His motto was *Ecclesia Plantanda*: “We must plant the church.”

Taught by Rev. Kenneth Blyth, using video and handout materials from SELECT Learning, part of the Lay School for Ministry Network of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA).

When: Mondays, for six weeks, August 7-September 11, from 6:00-7:30pm.



How Lutherans Interpret the Bible


Taught by Rev. Kenneth Blyth

How Lutherans Interpret the Bible “invites you to explore seven important questions about Lutherans and the Bible. The class will not prescribe ‘the Lutheran way’ to read the Bible nor will it dismiss the way you may have come to understand the Bible. Instead, the class will present a variety of Lutheran perspectives for interpreting the Bible, through which you will discover answers to questions you have always had about the Bible.” Come with an open heart and an open mind.

Taught by Rev. Kenneth Blyth using video and handout materials from SELECT Learning presented by Dr. Mark Allan Powell, a Lutheran pastor and Bible professor at Trinity Lutheran Seminary, and a prolific and popular author.

When: Thursdays, for seven weeks, October 5–November 16, from 2:00pm–3:30pm.





Church on the Circle
St. Armands Key Lutheran Church
40 N Adams Drive
Sarasota, FL 34236
941-388-1234
www.saklc.com