

Concordia Theological Seminary
Continuing Education

LUTHER AS PASTORAL THEOLOGIAN

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Course Description

This course will examine Luther's pastoral theology in light of his theology of the cross. Primary focus will be on Luther's letters of spiritual counsel with attention to selected sermons, catechetical and devotional materials.

Course Outline

1. Introduction and Overview of the Course
 1. What is Pastoral Theology?
 2. The Contours of Luther's Pastoral Theology
2. Theology of the Cross and Pastoral Care
 - 2.1. *Crux Sola Est Nostra Theologia*
 - 2.2. Heidelberg Theses 1-6
 - 2.3. Heidelberg Theses 7-12
 - 2.4. Heidelberg Theses 13-18
 - 2.5. Heidelberg Theses 19-24
 - 2.6. Heidelberg Theses 25-28
3. Luther's Catechisms as Pastoral Care
 - 3.1. Pastoral Roots of the Catechisms
 - 3.2. Praying the Catechism
 - 3.3. Baptism as Consolation
 - 3.4. Confession/Absolution
 - 3.5. Pastoral Care and Vocation
4. Luther's Understanding of the Shape of the Pastoral Life
 - 4.1. *Oratio*
 - 4.2. *Meditatio*
 - 4.3. *Tentatio*
5. Themes in Luther's Pastoral Care
 - 5.1. Comfort for Sick and Dying
 - 5.2. Consolation for the Bereaved
 - 5.3. Guidance for the Anxious and Despondent
 - 5.4. Instruction to the Perplexed and Doubting
 - 5.5. Admonition to Steadfastness and Courage
 - 5.6. Intervention for Those in Trouble or Need
 - 5.7. Encouragement for Persecuted and Imprisoned
 - 5.8. Advice in Time of Epidemic and Famine
 - 5.9. Questions of Sex and Marriage

5.10. Advice for Pastors

5.11. Pastoral Care of Secular Rulers

Required Texts:

Forde, Gerhard. *On Being a Theologian of the Cross*

Pless, John T. (editor). *A Reader in Pastoral Theology*

Tappert, Theodore. *Luther's Letters of Spiritual Counsel*

Suggested Texts:

Forde, Gerhard. *The Captivation of the Will*

McKim, Donald (editor). *The Cambridge Companion to Martin Luther*

Paulson, Steven. *Luther for Armchair Theologians*

Wengert, Timothy J. (editor). *Harvesting Martin Luther's Reflections on
Theology, Ethics, and the Church*