PMM P261 PASTOR'S DEVOTIONAL LIFE

Spring Quarter 2004

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Class: Wyneken 5 MWF 2:00 -2:55 pm

I. Course Description

This course analyses and describes the devotional life of the Lutheran pastor. Attention will be given to the theology of prayer and the challenges of contemporary spirituality as well as classic devotional texts. The course seeks to deepen the students knowledge of resources available for reading, meditation, and prayer and assist him in establishing a regular practice for his own devotional life.

II. Course Credit

Elective course, three hours.

III. Course Objectives

A. In the area of knowledge and understanding

1. Understanding the biblical and confessional theology that serves as a foundation for the pastor's devotional life;
2. Knowledge of classical and contemporary devotional texts in the Lutheran tradition;
3. Knowledge of prayer books especially designed for use by Lutheran pastors;

A. In the area of skill

1. Gain competence in the ability to read and meditate on the Scriptures and pray on the basis of God's prior Word to us;
2. Grow in the ability to evaluate devotional materials;
3. Learn to "pray" the Catechism;
4. Learn to use devotional reading as a means of strengthening preaching and pastoral conversation;

A. In the area of attitudes

1. A deeper reverence for the Holy Scriptures as God's Word of truth and power;
2. An appreciation for the importance of a regular and disciplined routine of Word and prayer in the pastor's life.
3. Recognition of and appreciation for the linkage of the personal devotional life to the Divine Service and the rhythm of the church year;
4. Appreciation of the Small Catechism and the hymnal as prayer books of the church;
5. Appreciation of the rich Lutheran heritage of devotional and prayer literature.

I. Required Texts

Bonhoeffer, Dietrich. Psalms: The Prayer Book of the Bible

Doberstein, John. Minister's Prayer Book

Gerhard, Johann. Sacred Meditations

Pelikan, Jaroslav (editor). Luther's Works- Volumes 42-43 (Devotional Writings I & II)

II. Suggested Texts

Brokering, Herbert. Luther's Prayers

Peterson, Eugene. Answering God: Psalms as Tools for Prayer

Wengert, Timothy (editor). Harvesting Martin Luther's Reflections on Theology, and The Church

III. Course Requirements

A. Students are expected to attend class and be prepared on the basis of assigned readings for informed discussion.
B. Students will participate in giving short oral presentations as assigned by the instructor.
C. Each student will submit one of the following projects on the final day of class (May 19):

1. A paper of 12-15 pages on a topic relative to the devotional life of the Lutheran pastor. The topic will be selected in consultation with the instructor.
2. A translation of some devotional text (meditation, essay, chapter, sermon) not available in English that would be useful for the pastor's devotional life. The text will be selected in consultation with the instructor. The instructor will assist the student in having these translations published in appropriate publications.
4. An ongoing "journal" of reflections based on literature read (assigned readings and selected suggested readings) in connection with this course.
V. Grading

A. Class attendance, participation, and oral presentations will account for 50% of the grade.
B. The project will account for 50% of the grade.

I. Class Schedule and Units of Instruction

Week of March 8

- Introduction: Prayer and the Pastoral Office
- Historical Overview
- Resource Review: *Day by Day We Magnify Thee*

Assigned Reading:


Suggested Reading:


Week of March 15

- Contemporary Spirituality
- Word and Prayer: An Evangelical Discipline
- Prayer as Preparation for Ministry
- Resource Review: *The Pastor at Prayer* by George Kraus

Assigned Reading:


"Prayers of Preparation for Ministry" Doberstein, 127-175
Suggested Reading:

"Sermon on the Worthy Reception of the Sacrament" AE 42:171-186


Week of March 22

- *Oratio, Meditatio, and Tentatio*
- Resource Review: *Oremus* by Paul Strodach and *Collects and Prayers for Use in the Church*

Assigned Reading:

"Oratio, Meditatio, Tentatio: A Right Way to Study Theology" Doberstein, 287-289

"A Little Guide and Instructor for Future Pastors" Doberstein, 280-283

"The Ladder of Devotion or the Heavenly Ladder" Doberstein, 460-464

Suggested Reading:

Hein, Steven. "Tentatio" *Logia* (Eastertide 2001), 33-41


Pfeiffer, Andrew. "The Place of Tentatio in the Formation of Church Servants" *Lutheran Theological Journal* (December 1996), 111-119

Week of March 29

- The Place of Scripture in the Pastor's Devotional Life
- The Prayer Offices
- Excursus: Daily Lectionaries

Assigned Reading:

"Fourteen Consolations" AE 42:119-166

"A Simple Way to Pray" AE 43:187-211

"The Minister as Preacher" Doberstein, 395-437

Suggested Reading

Bayer, Oswald. "Luther as an Interpreter of Holy Scripture" in *The Cambridge Companion to Martin Luther* edited by Donald McKim, 73-85


**Holy Week/Easter Break (April 5-12)**

Week of April 16

• Praying the Our Father
• Excurcus: Devotional Writings of Bo Giertz
• Resource Review: *The Business of Heaven* by C.S.Lewis

Assigned Reading:

"An Exposition of the Lord's Prayer for Simple Laymen" AE 42:95-115

Giertz, Bo. *Liturgy* and *Spiritual Awakening*

Suggested Reading:


Brokering, Herbert. *Luther's Prayers*

Nestingen, James A. "The Lord's Prayer in Luther's Catechism" *Word & World* (Winter 2002), 36-48

Week of April 19
• Praying the Psalms
• Hymns as Devotional Texts
• Resource Review: The Pastor at Prayer by A.R. Kretzmann

Assigned Reading:

Bonhoeffer, Dietrich. Psalms: The Prayer Book of the Bible

Suggested Reading:

Aurelius, Carl Axel. "Luther on the Psalter" in Harvesting Martin Luther's Reflections on Theology, Ethics, and Church edited by Timothy Wengert, 226-239

Bayer, Oswald. "Toward a Theology of Lament" in Caritas Et Reformatio edited by David Whitford, 211-220

Peterson, Eugene. Answering God: The Psalms as Tools for Prayer


Week of April 26

• Praying the Catechism
• Excurcus: Lohe on Prayer
• Resource Review: The Daily Office by Herbert Lindemann

Assigned Reading:

Schild, Maurice. "Praying the Catechism and Defrocking the Devil-Aspects of Luther's Spirituality" Lutheran Theological Journal (August 1976), 48-56

"Personal Prayer Book" AE 43:3-46

Suggested Reading:

"Appeal for Prayer Against the Turks" AE 43:213-241

Nicol, Martin. "Catechism Meditation" (class handout)

Borreson, Glen. "Luther's Morning and evening Prayers as Baptismal Spirituality" Word & World (Winter 2002), 55-63

Week of May 3
• Prayer and the Life Under the Cross
• Excurcus: Sasse on Prayer
• Resource Review: For All the Saints (4 Volumes) by F. Schumacher

Assigned Reading:

"Meditation on Christ's Passion" AE 42:3-14

"That a Christian Should Bear His Cross with Patience" AE 43:179-186


Suggested Reading:

"A Letter of Consolation to All who Suffer Persecution" AE 43:57-70

Week of May 10

• Johann Gerhard
• Resource Review: Johann Gerhard, Meditations on Divine Mercy

Assigned Reading:

Gerhard, Sacred Meditations, 7-179

Suggested Reading

Steiger, Johann Anselm. "Pastoral Care according to Johann Gerhard" Lutheran Quarterly (Autumn 1996), 319-339

Week of May 17

• Johann Gerhard-Con't

• Resource Review: Robert Wright, Readings for the Daily Office from the Early Church

Assigned Reading:

Sacred Meditations, 180-302