



Adult Forums – Winter/Spring 2020

Sundays, 9:30 a.m., Chapel Lounge

January 12

The Pietist Impulse in Christianity, Part 1

Christian T. Collins Winn

Post-Reformation Protestantism was faced with two dynamics: institutionalization and continued reform. In the context of Germany and Scandinavia, the reforming impulse arose especially from the Pietist movement, which was an eclectic and ecumenical movement of surprising vitality. Join us as we discuss some of the key figures and developments in Pietism to see what can be of use for today.

Christian T. Collins Winn is associate professor of theology and chair of the Theology Department at the Global Center for Advanced Research College, Dublin. From 2005 to 2018 he was professor of historical and systematic theology at Bethel University, St. Paul. He is the author of ten books, including *Reclaiming Pietism: Retrieving an Evangelical Tradition* (co-authored with Roger E. Olson).

January 19

The Pietistic Impulse in Christianity, Part 2

Christian T. Collins Winn

January 26

Seeing Gender Diversity in Scripture

Austen Hartke

Have you ever heard someone say that the Bible condemns transgender people? Have you ever wondered if it's true? Let's journey through Scripture, taking a look at some of those verses, and digging into the stories of some of Scripture's gender non-conformers.

Austen Hartke is the author of *Transforming: The Bible and the Lives of Transgender Christians*, a book on theology and personal narratives published by Westminster John Knox Press in 2018. Austen is a graduate of Luther Seminary's Master of Arts program in Old Testament/Hebrew Bible Studies and is the winner of the 2014 John Milton Prize in Old Testament Writing from the same institution. Austen is a 2019 Bush Foundation Fellow and is currently researching the use of online ministry as support for gender-expansive Christians. As a transgender person of faith, Austen's greatest passion is helping other trans and gender-non-conforming people see themselves in Scripture.

February 2

Welcoming Our Transgender Siblings

Austen Hartke

While labels like “gay” and “lesbian” are now pretty familiar to most people, words like “nonbinary,” “gender-expansive,” or “agender” can feel strange and mysterious. Who are our transgender siblings, and how can we create a faith community that loves and affirms them? Come hear more about what we can do, as individuals, and as churches.

February 9

A Taste of India

Missions Committee

The team from Mount Olive who visited Bethania Ministries sites in India share their experiences and insights.

February 16

Affordable Housing and Mount Olive

Jim Bargmann

There is a shortage of affordable housing in the Twin Cities metro area. Mount Olive has established a housing task force to explore how we can make an impact on the shortage of housing in our area. This forum will look at the housing shortage in the Twin Cities and share the multiple ways Mount Olive and other church bodies are working to make a positive impact in our community in the area of housing accessibility and affordability.

Jim Bargmann is the coordinator of Neighborhood Ministries at Mount Olive Lutheran Church.

February 23

Effective Citizenship

State Senator John Marty

The most important role in our democracy is that of citizen. How can we be more effective citizens in building a better society?

March 1

The Art of Space

Aaron Hodge Greenberg Silver

Artist *Aaron Hodge Greenberg Silver* shares the craft and art of his creative process relating to his current exhibit of papercuttings at Mount Olive.

March 8

TBA

March 15

Bach: A Musical Theologian

Arthur Halbardier

Luther’s friend, Johann Walther, wrote, “Music and theology are the gift of God. God has finely clothed music in the outer-garment of theology.” Bach pursued a mirror reflection of that idea: “theology finely clothed in the outer-garment of music.” Though he never wrote a book or scholarly essay about theology, theology lives inside much of his music. This forum will explore Bach's amazing skill for wrapping theology with his marvelous music.

March 22

The Human Christology of the Gospel of Mark, Part I

Deacon Charles A. Bobertz

Mark's gospel is intended to provide a new understanding of reality for its readers and hearers: humanity and creation have been redeemed as a new humanity and a new creation. He advances this understanding through his treatment of the ritual experience of the Lord's Supper. Including Gentiles, slaves, and women in the ritual meal, the setting becomes a new Jerusalem, which provides a social and spatial location for the body of Christ.

Deacon Charles A. Bobertz received his BA from St. John's University in 1980 (history and German) and his master of theological studies degree (Scripture) from Harvard University in 1983. He received MA, ThM, and PhD degrees (New Testament and early Christianity) from Yale University in 1988. He was ordained to the diaconate for the Roman Catholic Diocese of St. Cloud in 1997. Deacon Bobertz has taught scripture and early church history at St. Michael's College (VT) and Loyola College in Maryland, and since 1993 has been professor of New Testament, patristics and homiletics at St. John's School of Theology and Seminary (MN). His book on the Gospel of Mark, *The Gospel of Mark: A Liturgical Reading*, was published in 2016 by Baker Academic Press.

March 29

The Human Christology of the Gospel of Mark, Part II

Charles Bobertz

April 5 (Palm/Passion Sunday)

No forum

April 12 (Easter)

No forum

April 19

Nonviolent Action in the World

Al Bostelmann

April 26

"Cantor": What Does This Mean?

Chad Fothergill, Sabbatical Cantor

Throughout the sixteenth, seventeenth, and eighteenth centuries, thousands of Lutheran cantors served villages and cities as teachers, song leaders, composers—and as pastors, rectors, doctors, lawyers, mayors, poets, too! Drawn from ongoing dissertation research, this forum takes a closer look at the development of the cantor's office through several lenses, among them: vocation; their social and professional networks; and contemporaneous literature. What lessons from the past continue to shape this "high and holy calling" in the church today?

May 3

Topic TBA

Vicar Bristol Reading

May 10

Young People's Recital

May 17

God's Word? Who Says So? Do the Scriptures Speak to You?, Part I

Pastor Joseph Crippen

A two-week look at the question of biblical canon (including the Apocrypha), divine inspiration, translation, and interpretation of Scriptures.

May 24

God's Word? Who Says So? Part II
Pastor Joseph Crippen

May 31 (Pentecost)

One liturgy at 10:00 a.m.