

BASIC SYSTEMATIC THEOLOGY: KEEPING THE FAITH

“Luther had a system, to be sure: a core understanding of the Gospel of God’s grace for sinners through faith in Christ Jesus along with a commitment to communicate that truth in such a way that people could hear it. But Luther’s writings took the form of ‘applied theology’ rather than a “systematics.” His tireless engagement with the issues of his day suggests Luther as the model of what today we call a public theologian, speaking not just to the church but engaging multiple publics on a wide variety of public matters.”

Why Seminary?

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Instructor: Pastor Dennis M. Bux
Class Hours: Saturdays, 9am – 12 noon
Class Days: April 4, 18, 25, May 9, 16
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Class Schedule

- April 4** Introduction to the Course
Read together in class Chapter 1 of **Keeping The Faith**
What is Law and Gospel?
What is the Theology of the Cross?
- April 18** Chapter 3, “Justice and Mercy”
Luther’s **Small Catechism** and Law/Gospel Theology
The Ten Commandments
- April 25** God (Chapter 2, **Keeping The Faith**)
Christology (Chapter 5, **Keeping The Faith**)
The Gospel (Chapter 4, **Keeping The Faith**)
Testing The Foundations: “The Masai Creed”
- May 9** Faith (Chapter 6, **Keeping The Faith**)
Church (Chapter 7, **Keeping The Faith**)
Confession and Absolution (Chapter 10, **Keeping The Faith**)
Testing the Foundations: “The Organized Church: An Oxymoron?”

May 16 Prayer (Chapter 8, **Keeping The Faith**)
Baptism (Chapter 9, **Keeping The Faith**)
Holy Communion (Chapter 11, **Keeping The Faith**)
Testing The Foundations: “Lay Leadership at the Lord’s Supper”

Course Objectives

- The student will study a brief summary of, and guide to Christian doctrines from a Lutheran perspective.
- This course will help the student in the work of tending the faith they hold, nurturing their understanding of the theology of the cross for their own day and time.
- This course will help the learner see that Christian doctrine is the instruction to the bearers of the Christian message about how to proclaim that message as good news; how to tell the Christian story so that Christ is glorified and sinners hear the gospel.
- This course will help the student examine the foundations for any theological claim according to the gospel.
- Finally, this class will help the student in the task of developing their own working theology.

Resources

1. The Bible (NRSV)
2. **Keeping The Faith** by David Truemper and Frederick Niedner, Jr.
3. Luther’s **Small Catechism**
4. Class Handouts