

RELIGION IN LIFE

Sundays, 10-10:50am in the Courtyard Room

January 8 and 15

Fundamentalism/Liberalism -

The Great Divorce in American Christianity

American Protestantism has long been divided into two camps. On the one hand are the denominational churches such as the ELCA, Episcopal, United Methodist and Presbyterian. On the other hand are the evangelical, Pentecostal and fundamentalist churches. How did this divide come about? These two presentations, by Dr. Nancy Koester who teaches church history at Augsburg College, will trace the split. She describes why the "great divorce" and what each group stood for back then. We will also explore how the playing field has changed in recent times and discuss how the "great divorce" still impacts American Christianity.

The role of women in our culture has changed dramatically over the last several decades, but what about in various religious traditions? Historically what has been the role of women in Judaism, Islam and Christianity? Has the role of women in these religious traditions changed and if so, why, and if not why not?

January 22

Women in Judaism

Today we welcome Rabbi Liberman from Beth Jacob Congregation to talk about the role that women play in Judaism.

January 29

Women in Islam

Today we welcome Dr. Fatma Reda, MD, PhD to talk with us about the role of women in Islam.

February 5

Women in Christianity

Today we welcome Mimi Haddad from the Christians for Biblical Equality to talk about the role of women in Christianity. Of her presentation Mimi Haddad says, "The biblical and historical

sources illustrate that the most unlikely people often possess the most extraordinary gifts. She describes her presentation as an "airplane ride" over the history of God's people from the Old Testament to the modern Missionary movement, stopping along the way to meet a few prominent women leaders who changed their worlds because of their Christian faith.

February 12

The Meaning Behind Various Holidays

Have you heard of St. Valentine? Have you ever wondered how we came up with Valentine's Day? Today we welcome back Dr. Bruce Forbes who teaches at Augsburg and Morningside Colleges to discuss the history and meaning of many of our holidays.

February 19

Citizen Empowerment for a Better Community -

Our Passive Society Needs Some New Nehemiahs

We welcome Dr. Harry Boyte, Director, Center for Democracy and Citizenship at Augsburg and Senior Fellow, Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs. He will discuss the need to move from a "Moses paradigm" of leadership and civic action, in which better educated, more affluent, more privileged people "help" or "rescue" the needy and unfortunate, to a "Nehemiah paradigm" in which we do public work, involving a call to rebuild the walls of our communities and our democracy, seeking to meet everyone's needs.

February 26

We Can't Change the Past

But We Can Shape the Future

Today, Leon Rodriques, Chief Diversity Officer and Special Assistant to the President at Bethel College, will be with us to talk about how we can shape the future of race relationships in a new way - a way that respects, honors and builds on the racial diversity present in our country.

March 4

Immigration and Faith

Though the economy has taken center stage in political conversation, immigration still remains a vital and hot button issue. Today we welcome John Gutterman, Director of Church World Service to help us think about the issues of immigration and how our faith might shape our response

March 11 and 18

Faith in a Secular World

There was a time when the culture "supported" the activities of the church - no stores were open on Sunday to interfere with worship, Wednesday evening was "church night". No longer! So how do we nurture and engage our faith in an increasingly secular world? This will be the focus of the presentation by Chris Scharen, Assistant Professor of Worship at Luther Seminary.

March 25 - to be announced

April 1

Ethics and Corporate Decisions

Today we welcome Dr. Kenneth Goodpaster, Professor of Business Ethics at the University of St. Thomas, author, and Executive Editor of *Corporate Responsibility in the United States: a History* which will be published by Cambridge University in 2012. His presentation will describe the principal hazards to, and remedies for, ethical decision-making in business.

April 15

The Politics of Stem Cell Research

Stem cell research holds promise to address many serious and deadly diseases. At the same time it poses important ethical questions and becomes a political hot button issue. Dr. Murray Jensen, professor from the University of Minnesota, will be with us to discuss the promise, peril, and potential pathways to appropriate use of stem cell research.

April 22, 29 and May 6

The Faith We Confess

Each Sunday we confess our faith using the words of the Apostle's Creed. But sometimes, because we are so familiar with the words, we don't even give a thought to what we are confessing. Or sometimes, if we do think about what we are saying we might confess, I don't believe that. For three weeks Pastor Hayes will be helping us take a closer look at the creed. How and why did the creed come into being? What is each phrase trying to communicate to us about God? How might it help give shape to our faith?

Faith in Daily Life

Take a break from the day for lunch and conversation about faith and life with other members of St. Michael's. We have three Faith in Daily Life groups. Each meets once a month. There is a group that meets the first Thursday of the month in Roseville at the Chianti Grill, another group meets the second Thursday of the month in the cafeteria of Thrivent in downtown Minneapolis, and a third meets the third Thursday of the month at Chammps, located on 35E and Larpenteur, just north of downtown St. Paul.

For the winter/spring months we will be reading and discussing the new book **God is Not One - The Eight Rival Religions that Run the World and Why Their Differences Matter**. Of the book reviewers say, "Enough of the dangerous peddling of the false and dangerous idea that all religions are the same! A very much needed book." "An urgently needed and very nicely done corrective to politically correct nonsense." "This book is ideal for anyone who wants a single book that captures the core ideals and values of the leading religious traditions." "A thoughtful study that challenges much of what we think we know about the great religions."

Our schedule of meetings will continue to be:

- Roseville - the first Thursday of the month
- Mpls. - the second Thursday of the month
- St. Paul - the third Thursday of the month

If you have any questions please contact Pastor Roland Hayes at roland@stmichaelselca.com. You are welcome and encouraged to invite colleagues.

Monday's Ministries

On the **first and third Mondays of the month** you are invited to gather at the church at 7am for a light breakfast and study. In the coming months we will be viewing and discussing the video series **God in America**. Our first gathering in 2012 will be Monday, January 16th.

Thursday Morning Study

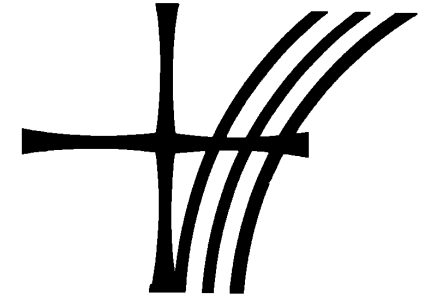
April 7 - May 12 at 9:30am

Please mark your calendar for the spring session of our Thursday Morning Bible Study. The topic of study will be announced in the March *Messenger*.

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*Winter/Spring
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