**Adult class on the topic: “How Lutherans Interpret the Bible”.**

A video-based, seven-session course. **The presenter is Mark Allen Powell**, an ELCA pastor who is a professor of New Testament at Trinity Lutheran Seminary in Columbus, Ohio.

Pastor Kim and Pastor Art will be the facilitators of the discussions as noted in the schedule below

Schedule:

**April 8**  Session One:  The Word of God (20 min. video)  Facilitator:  Pr. Art

               The goals of this lesson are

                              - to develop a theological understanding of the Bible as the Word of God

                              - to encounter the three-fold way that Lutherans understand the Word of God.

                              - to recognize the Bible as telling us what God wants to say to us.

                              - to appreciate that Lutherans do not have a *peculiar* understanding of the Bible                     but they do have a *particular* understanding.

**April 15**  Forum Sunday

**April 22**  Session Two:  What Lutherans Say About the Bible  (27 min. video)  Fac.: Pr. Art

               The goals of this lesson are:

                              -To develop a particularly Lutheran understanding of the Bible.

                              - To understand the Lutheran theological concepts of Law and Gospel, *sola                                              scriptura,* the Plain Sense and Public Interpretation.

                              - To identify the plain sense of scripture as the meaning most obvious to the original readers.

                              - To understand that the Bible is not a private magic book but the church’s public                   witness.

**April 29**  Session Three: Where the Bible Comes From  (24 min. video)  Fac.: Pr. Kim

               The goals of this lesson:

                              - To explore the question, “Where does the Bible come from?”

                              - To investigate the dynamics of understanding and misunderstanding the Bible.

                              - To understand 5 key principles for interpreting scripture:

                                             - Lutherans interpret scripture contextually;

                                             - Lutherans apply scriptural teaching to the present through a principle of                                       analogy;

                                             - Lutherans interpret “scripture in light of scripture”;

                                             - Lutherans believe some things in scripture are more important than others;

                                             - Lutherans believe that the Church has the responsibility to determine the

                                             Extent to which biblical teaching applies to present day.

**May 6**  Session Four:  Interpreting the Bible in Context  {29 min. video)  Fac.:  Pr. Kim

               The goals of this lesson:

                              - To understand the historical context of the Bible as the circumstances any                               writing in the Bible was intended to address: when was it written, where was it

                              Written, what was the author trying to say and why?

                              -To understand the literary context of the Bible as the variety of literary forms                               found in the Bible: psalms, letters, epistles, prophetic oracles, apocalyptic, legends                               and folk tales, etc.

                              - To explore how some Lutherans understand different stories (such as Adam and                       Eve and Jonah and the Whale) and different books such as Revelation.

**May 13** Session Five:  Determining Right from Wrong  (27 min. video)  Fac.: Pr. Kim

               The goals of this lesson:

                              - To understand the Bible as a Living Word that reveals Christ and draws us into

                              relationship with Christ.

                              - To understand the principle of binding and loosing laws in the Bible.

                              - To keep justice, mercy and faith central to the discussion of ethics and morality.

                              - To ask not what we ought to do but what is God doing *for us.*

**May 20**  Forum

**May 27**  Memorial Day Weekend

**June 3**  Session Six:  The Many Meanings of the Bible (27 min. video)  Fac.: Pr. Kim (& Art?)

               The goals of this lesson:

                              - To appreciate that the Bible means different things to different people.

                              - To wrestle with the idea that the Bible has more than one right meaning.

                              - To understand the nature of social location and that every human being has a                            social location: age, race, gender, career, income, education, marital status, etc.

                              - To explore the human capacity for empathy.

                              - To understand that being Lutheran means being a part of the one, holy, catholic                               and apostolic church.

**June 10**  Session 7:  Devotional Bible Reading (26 min. video)  Fac.:  Pr. Art

               The goals of this lesson:

                              - To encourage regular Bible reading as a planned spiritual practice.

                              - To recognize God’s promise to be present in devotional Bible reading.

                              - To support spiritual growth through regular Bible reading