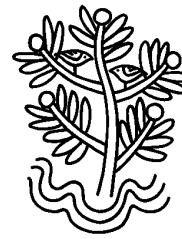


# Faith Formation Events

2010 – 2011

HOLY TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH,

Chicago, Illinois



## SECOND WEDNESDAYS

### Everyday Spiritual Practices

7:30 – 8:30 p.m.

*We gather on the second Wednesday of the month for discussions on topics related to spirituality and practices for everyday life. Held in the Annunciation Room on the first floor. A brief contemplative eucharist precedes the sessions at 7:00 – 7:25 p.m. in the nave.*

September 8: **Poetry as a Spiritual Discipline** – Karol Weigelt

Our culture has a great longing to stay on the outside of life, to focus on all that goes on "out there," and into the future. Poetry takes us inward, slows us down, and poets assist us in exploring the interior life--what lies there and what holds interest. In this short introductory session, poetry will be explored as a spiritual path to discover one's own interiority. Please feel free to bring a favorite poet's work, including your own.

October 13: **Finding Nature** – Barbara Wahler

Being in nature is a favorite way to find Spirit for some. Trees, especially, seem to urge us to slow down, be quiet, and listen – to that "still small voice of God," to our own inner Self. For many people today – especially those of us who are city dwellers – it's often hard to find nature, or to find time for nature. A psychotherapist and self-proclaimed "nature girl" will lead a discussion of ways people connect with nature in their everyday lives, including growing plants, visiting parks and other locales, and spending time on our own wonderful lakefront. You are invited to share your own experiences and special places with other participants, or just come to listen and learn.

November 10: **Spirituality in Motion** – Carol Schickel

Come for an introduction to the value of movement in spiritual practice. While we often associate spirituality with quiet prayer and meditation, movement can enhance and enliven our experience. We will try some simple Tai Chi and Yoga forms as well as some body prayers that invite an expanded awareness of how we can use our bodies to connect spiritually.

Saturday, December 4: **Advent Breadbaking Retreat**, 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

In the midst of Advent we wait together for the yeast of a new loaf to rise and bring hope to our world and our lives. We knead our prayers into simple ingredients from the earth, and this love is carried not only to our tables, but to a world waiting for peace to dawn. This Advent retreat provides an opportunity to bake bread (no experience needed), reflect and pray in a spirit of quiet waiting. In the midst of December schedules and stress, come away for a day of spiritual nourishment. Please bring a mixing bowl, wooden spoon, and apron, if you have one. We will fast until we share eucharist and a simple meal of vegetarian soup and fresh bread at the end of our time together. Leaders: Karol Weigelt and Pr. Craig Mueller. Sign-up by December 1.

January 12: **Tibetan Bowl Relaxation Session** – Terri Drummond

The resonate sound of a Tibetan bowl brings healing, relaxation, a sense of well-being, and a connection to the earth. Participants will be lying down for about 45 minutes; please bring a sleeping bag, yoga mat, comforter and pillows and/or a blanket. Terri Drummond, Cardiac Yoga® instructor and Reiki practitioner, will lead the session. The relaxation state that is created by the bowls activates the "internal physician" within each person and helps to heal and balance as needed. Please register in advance as there will be a limited number of spots available. Suggested donation: \$10-20.

February 9: **Drawing as a Way to Self-discovery** – Richard Bough

Drawing is a way to visually record not only what one sees externally but also what one experiences internally. We will have the opportunity to learn about and experiment with some drawing techniques and then share with others our response in a safe and nonjudgmental environment. Everyone is welcome, and no previous drawing experience is required. All drawing materials provided.

March 9: Ash Wednesday liturgy at 7:00 p.m.

April 13: **Photography** – Seminarian Cuttino Alexander

Photography is a great way to capture a moment in time, but can it also convey something spiritual? Photographers of all styles and skill levels will be invited to share their favorite photos that they have taken. The group will discuss ways in which photography can move beyond just Facebook and Flickr and become a deeply meaningful spiritual practice.

May 11: **Memory Verse** – Seminarian Steven Dickens

Sometimes the best way to get through the day is to stop and "restart" it. By taking a quiet time to sit and be with God for a moment, we can center ourselves on God by using a memory verse to bring us back to what's really important.



## food4thought

**Sundays, 11:45 (following the 10:30 a.m. service)**

*With the challenges of busy schedules and getting around in Chicago these events are scheduled when the community is already gathered—following Sunday morning worship! Come upstairs to Passavant Hall after the liturgy for a meal and a thought-provoking presentation or discussion.*

*The meals prepared for food4thought support local farmers, educate volunteers from the congregation in healthful cooking, and help us care for creation through organic and sustainable food systems. Freewill donations accepted. Sponsors for the meals are also welcome. Contact the church office for more information.*

### November 7: ***New(er) Member Brunch with Table Talk***

New(er) members of Holy Trinity will take part in the "Voices" discernment program at Holy Trinity as we listen together for where God is calling this congregation and what is next for us in our life together. Come share your thoughts and get to know other members who have joined in the past several years. Facilitators will lead discussion around tables. Please RSVP for this event.

### December 5: ***Leap of Faith: A Journey from Marketing and Meetings to the Mountains of Montana*** – Sarah Hanson

What is it like to drop everything for a chance to follow a life dream? This spring Sarah Hanson decided to leave her marketing communications position to pursue her long-time passion for photography. Recently back from a five-month intensive training course in Missoula, Montana, she will share photos, stories and lessons learned from taking a leap of faith in the quest for a new career.

### January 16: ***Conversation around Tables – Listening to Voices***

As a part of our discernment process this year, there were conversations last fall in dinner groups and at the new(er) member brunch. Whether you participated in those or not, come for one more opportunity for conversation as we listen together to each other, and the Spirit. Where is God calling Holy Trinity at this time in our life together? What are the gifts and needs of our community? Facilitators will lead conversations around tables.

### February 27: ***Economy of the Kingdom: Jesus on the Practice of Grace*** –

Ray Pickett

The current economic crisis provides an opportunity to look at the market economy as a totalizing system that defines value and deforms desire. In this session we will discuss practical wisdom from the teachings of Jesus about how the practices that release us from captivity to an economic system that keeps us beholden can improve the quality of our life together. Ray Pickett is Professor of New Testament at Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago.

### May 15: ***How Can I Keep from Singing?*** – David Brackley

How does a closeted, gay, life-long conservative evangelical become an Episcopalian and end up in a Reconciling in Christ congregation like Holy Trinity? What part did hymnody play in this all-encompassing transformation? Come and find out as Holy Trinity's minister of music, David Brackley, shares some thoughts from his own history and from the hymnal.

## SUNDAY FORUM

**9:30 – 10:20 a.m.**

*Meets each Sunday between services in St. Mark's Room (upstairs) for a forum on either appointed scripture readings for the Sunday or another topic of interest. Sunday School for children is held concurrently.*

### September 12 – ***Jalal al-Din Rumi: Poet of the Whirling Dervishes—and More*** –Carol LaHurd

The 70,000 verses of mystic Sufi poems by Rumi (1207-1273) are the most read and most translated poetry in human history (yes, even more than Shakespeare and the Bible). Come and experience Rumi's distinctive vision of creation, human nature, and divine love through such poems as "Jesus on the Lean Donkey" and "Why Wine is Forbidden."

### September 19 – ***Poetry, Resistance and Faith in the New World*** – Joel Cruz

When is the pen mightier than the sword? When it's wielded by Sister Juana Inés de la Cruz, a seventeenth-century nun from colonial Mexico who used poetry and drama to explore faith, critique the Spanish Empire and give voice to the voiceless.

### September 26 – ***Religion and Science in The Lost Symbol*** – Kerry Tupper

Dan Brown's most recent bestselling novel, *The Lost Symbol*, makes a fascinating starting point for a discussion of the relationship between religion and science. Join us as we review the main points in the religion-science dialog, take a look at the perspective Dan Brown espouses in the novel, and consider another way of approaching the issue. Reading the book beforehand is not required; the presentation will include a summary.

October 3 and 10 – *Exploring the Journey of Undoing Racism through Scripture* – Claire Evans

Evidence of continuing racial injustice persists all around us – from the astronomical incarceration rate of young African America men, to reactionary immigration policies, to our country's decision to wage war against "the other" in various countries around the world. Whether you think we're almost to the goal of eradicating racism or you think it is a never-ending struggle, most of us would agree that racism is a sin that violates God's plan for a peaceful world. Can exploring scripture through an anti-racist lens help unmask institutionalized racism and white privilege and lead us to break down these sinful structures?

Led by Claire Evans, who through her work with Christian Peacemaker Teams has been on the journey of undoing racism for the past three years and is eager to encourage members of Holy Trinity along the way. Everyone is welcome, no matter where you are along the path; congregational leaders and council members are especially encouraged to attend.

October 17 – *This Sunday: Reflecting on the Scriptures of the Day* – Seminarian Cuttino Alexander

October 24 – *Calvin* – Joel Cruz

Was he the petulant preacher of predestination? The joyless foe of religious tolerance? The brilliant torch that helped ignite the Reformation across Europe and the North America? Come discover the man some hail as Luther's best disciple and how John Calvin's distinct contributions as theologian and pastor can inspire our own faith.

October 31 – *This Sunday: Reflecting on the Scriptures of the Day* – Seminarian Steven Dickens

November 7 – *Christians and Muslims Part 1* – Joel Cruz

From looking at the news one might think that Muslims and Christians have always been at each other's throats. Yet has this always been the case? This introduction to Christian and Muslim relations will take us from the beginnings of Islam to the riches of Medieval Spain to the battlefields of the Crusades.

November 14 – *Christians and Muslims Part 2* – Carol LaHurd

Are modern-day Muslim-Christian relations truly a "clash of civilizations" between Islam and the West? We will assess this claim as we review 19<sup>th</sup> century Christian missionary encounters in such contexts as Egypt and Palestine and current conditions for the substantial Muslim minorities living in the United States and Europe.

November 21 – *Lutheran Social Services of Illinois* – Pastor Denver Bitner

LSSI is a social service agency of the three Illinois synods of the ELCA. LSSI brings healing, justice and wholeness to people and communities. Pr. Denver Bitner, president of LSSI, will be with us to share more about the many services of LSSI, which include foster care, adoption, pregnancy counseling, residential programs for adults with developmental disabilities, substance abuse treatment, and much, much more. See: [www.LSSI.org](http://www.LSSI.org).

November 28 – *This Sunday: Reflecting on the Scriptures of the Day* – Seminarian Cuttino Alexander

December 5 – *This Sunday: Reflecting on the Scriptures of the Day* – Seminarian Steven Dickens

December 12 – *Icons: Touching the Sacred* – Ryan LaHurd

Unlike most other Lutheran churches, Holy Trinity displays a series of religious paintings called icons as a part of our worship life. Icons are common in the Eastern branch of Christianity and represent the oldest form of Christian religious art. In this forum we will discuss why icons look the way they do, how they have historically functioned in devotion and liturgy, how they differ from the kind of art more familiar in the West, and how they can deepen our experience of the sacred.

December 19 – *Annunciation to Joseph* – Josh Judd-Herzfeldt

We're all very familiar with Luke's account of an angel visiting Mary, but much less with Matthew's similar account of Joseph. We'll look at why Matthew is so concerned with the lineage of Jesus and how Joseph fits into this story, as well as Old Testament parallels which help us understand what's going on.

**December 26 and January 2 – No Forum (Christmas break)**

January 9 – *The Old Testament in Jesus* – Joel Cruz

Sometimes we have the idea that the Old Testament is not important for Christians but the author of Matthew's Gospel has other ideas. Come explore this most Jewish of the Gospels and how seeing Jesus as the culmination of Israel's stories can change the way we perceive of the Hebrew Scriptures.

January 16 – *Sallie McFague's The Body of God* – Kerry Tupper

In September we used a current bestselling novel as a starting point for a discussion of various approaches to the religion-science dialog. Join us now as we examine a theological system that embodies one of the most exciting contemporary approaches to the issue. Sallie McFague's *The Body of God* (published by the ELCA's Augsburg Fortress Press and mentioned in Pastor Mueller's Easter sermon in 2007) brings the author's perspective on religion and science to the global ecological crisis and suggests that the church needs to take bodies very seriously, including seeing the Earth as God's body. This will be an introductory presentation and discussion; familiarity with the book is not necessary.

January 23 and 30 – *Broken Vows*– Pastor Michelle Miller

*Broken Vows*: a candid discussion about domestic violence. Join for a two part series that includes basic information on domestic violence, as well as concrete ideas about how to become involved in prevention and provide support to those who need it.

February 6 – *Light of the World* – Josh Judd-Herzfeldt

As Lutherans, we tend to get nervous when we talk about "works." In today's lesson, Jesus tells us to "Let our light shine before others," and we should! Come discuss how we deal with the doing of "works" in light of God's grace.

February 13 – *How to View a Movie from a Religious Perspective* – Ryan LaHurd

It is obvious that films like *The Ten Commandments* or *The Last Temptation of Christ* invite us to pay attention to their religious aspects. But what about films that have no overtly religious characters or story line? How might we experience them better by examining them using our religious sensibility? In this forum we will watch a short, award-winning film together and discuss its religious implications.

February 20 – *This Sunday: Reflecting on the Scriptures of the Day* – Seminarian Steven Dickens

February 27 – *Economy of the Kingdom: Do Not Worry* – Ray Pickett

In light of the current economic crisis, Professor Ray Pickett from Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago will lead a study of the appointed gospel for today in which Jesus invites his followers to not worry, but trust in God's providence. The forum will be a wonderful preparation for the food4thought presentation which will follow the 10:30 a.m. service.

March 6 – *This Sunday: Reflecting on the Scriptures of the Day* – Seminarian Cuttino Alexander

March 13 – April 17 – *Rediscovering Values* – Pastor Craig Mueller

During Lent we discuss themes from Holy Trinity's 2011 book for Lent, *Rediscovering Values: On Wall Street, Main Street, and Your Street*. Getting back to "the way things were" is not an option. Author Jim Wallis invites us to use our economic uncertainty to find moral clarity. Too often we have been ruled by the maxims that greed is good, it's all about me, and I want it now. Those can be challenged only with some of our oldest and best values—enough is enough, we are in it together, and thinking not just for tomorrow but for future generations. Wallis challenges us to wrestle with the questions of values together: as families, friends, churches, mosques, synagogues, and entire communities.

April 24 – **No Forum (Easter)**

May 1– *This Sunday: Reflecting on the Scriptures of the Day* – Seminarian Steven Dickens

May 8 – *This Sunday: Reflecting on the Scriptures of the Day* – Seminarian Cuttino Alexander

May 15 – *Jesus and the 'I am' of John's Gospel* – Carol LaHurd

More than any other gospel, John sees Jesus through the eyes of the late First Century church. In John 10 Jesus declares, "I am the good shepherd." The various "I am" statements in John help us understand Jesus as the light of the world, the bread of life, the true vine, and one with the God who says "I am who I am" to Moses in the Exodus.

May 22 – *The Way, the Truth, and the Life* – Josh-Judd Herzfeldt

Christians today acknowledge that through Jesus, one finds God. Join in conversation as we explore different ways in which scholars have reconciled the fact that much of the world is not Christian, and what that means given Jesus' words in John that no one comes to God except through him.

## HOLY TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

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