

February 19 & 26

Biblical Wisdom Literature: Choosing the Right Path

Speaker:

Rev. Dr. Kathryn Schifferdecker

Professor and Chair of Old Testament
Chair of the Bible Division
Luther Seminary

Introduction:



The Bible's wisdom literature (Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Job) is not as well-known to many Christians as the prophets or Gospels, but it is valuable for our

life of discipleship. This two-part series will introduce the worldview and major themes of the Wisdom literature, with special attention to Proverbs, then briefly explore Ecclesiastes and Job, which arose out of wisdom literature but are skeptical about its claims. Come learn from ancient Israelite sages how to live a life of integrity and wisdom.

Speaker Bio:

Kathryn is a frequent contributor to the websites WorkingPreacher.org and EntertheBible.org, where she co-hosts a podcast called, "Everything You Wanted to Know about the Bible but Were Afraid to Ask." She lives in Lake Elmo with her husband and three children, and is delighted to teach again at Salem.

Adult Sunday School Ministry Team

Chuck Scott, Chair
chuck.scott@comcast.net

Gordon Anderson
anderson.gpagpa.gordon@gmail.com

Betty Brat
pauljbrat@aol.com

Dave Erickson
ericksondavid3@gmail.com

Bob Grant
rc.grant@comcast.net

Marilyn Leister
leis0021@gmail.com

Kathy Scott
kathryn.k2g@hotmail.com

Walter Sundberg
wsundber@luthersem.edu



salem
COVENANT CHURCH

2655 Fifth Street NW, New Brighton, MN 55112
651-633-9615 | salem-covenant.church

Adult Sunday School

*Do not conform
to the pattern of this
world, but be transformed
by the renewing of your
mind. Then you will be able to
test and approve what God's
will is—his good, pleasing,
and perfect will.*

Romans 12:2

Winter 2022-23

A Renewing of the Mind

December 11 & 18

Poetic Meditations of the Life of Jesus

The Harmony: What It Is/How I Used It
Advent and Christmas Sonnets

Speaker:

Gracia Grindal M.A., M.F.A.

Professor of Rhetoric, Emeritus
Luther Seminary, St. Paul

Introduction:



The history of the "Harmony of the Gospels" will be explained, plus how sonnets work. In writing these sonnets I wanted to explore the life of Jesus poetically and, as a practitioner of the

sonnet, use sonnets as my form. A number of sonnets will be read in class. The Advent and Christmas sonnets will be read and discussed.

Speaker Bio:

Gracia taught English and Creative Writing at Luther College, then homiletics and hymnody at Luther Seminary. She retired in 2013 and continues writing poetry and histories about Norwegian pioneers. Her latest are *Jesus the Harmony* and *Mindekirken: Against the Current*.

January 8–22

The Church in China Today: Beyond the Headlines

Speaker:

Joann Pittman

Vice President for Partnerships and China
Engagement at ChinaSource

Introduction:



This class will provide an introduction to the church in China, looking at key issues and challenges that Christians face. It will include gospel-centered stories of what God is doing among his people,

despite the challenging social and political environment. We will also consider things we can learn from our brothers and sisters in China.

Speaker Bio:

Joann spent 28 years in China, as teacher, student, program director, and cross-cultural trainer. She writes regularly for ChinaSource and has written articles for *Christianity Today* and *The Gospel Coalition*. She is the author of *The Bells Are Not Silent: Stories of Church Bells in China*. Her personal blog, *Outside-In*, can be found at joannpittman.com.

January 29–February 12

Christianity and Shakespeare

Speaker:

Dr. Keith Jones

Professor of English
University of Northwestern, St. Paul

Introduction:



Shakespeare is known for plumbing the depths of the human condition. His characters feel deeply, think carefully, and live deliberately.

We will look at these carefully-crafted characters to see what we can learn of ourselves and our relationships with God, evil, good, non-Christians, and fellow Christians. We'll explore what Christianity meant to people in Shakespeare's day and how Shakespeare's characters think about God.

Speaker Bio:

Keith Jones has had a lifelong interest in Shakespeare. Allusions in picture books led to reading abridged versions of the plays. That led to reading the plays in full and seeking out performances. And it doesn't look like he'll lose interest any time soon!