

**November 19–December 3**

## *Healing in the Bible*

**Speakers:**

**Rev. Kelley E. Bergeson  
& Steven C. Bergeson, MD**

**Introduction:**



Healing narratives in the Old and New Testaments will be examined, including the role of faith, the costs of healing and differences between being healed and being well. We'll explore together if one can be well even if one is not healed? We hope to leave the class with strategies for being well.

**Speaker Bio:**

**Rev. Kelley E. Bergeson** is a graduate of Luther Theological Seminary and served as director for Spiritual Care at Lyngblomsten Care Center for 14 years. **Steven C. Bergeson, MD** served as a Family Physician at Allina Shoreview for 39 years and also led quality improvement efforts across Allina Health.

### Sunday Lecture Series Ministry Team

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# Sunday Lecture Series

## Fall 2023



**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 good will is—his good, pleasing, and perfect will.**  
**Romans 12:2**

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**September 17–October 1**

## *The Mourning After: Grief, Humor and Purpose*

**Speaker:**

**Dr. Melissa Mork**

Professor of Clinical and Forensic Psychology  
University of Northwestern, St. Paul

**Introduction:**



The unfortunate reality is that we will ALL grieve at some point in our lives, but we can navigate all kinds of difficulties with resilience and humor. In this class series, we will discuss patterns, processes, and obstacles to grief and the value of humor in the process. We will also explore resilience factors, methods of coping, and finding purpose in our pain.

**Speaker Bio:**

Dr. Mork hosts the podcast, “Mental Health with Dr. Melissa Mork.” She is author of *Bounce: From Surviving to Thriving Through Loss*, and is a Certified Humor Professional and Director of the Humor Academy (HA), a 3-year college program (Association for Applied and Therapeutic Humor).

**October 8–22**

## *Christ Through Four Gospel Portraits*

**Speaker:**

**Dr. Juan Hernandez**

Professor of Biblical & Theological Studies  
Bethel University, St. Paul

**Introduction:**



This particular class will explore the distinct historical, literary, and theological contributions of Matthew’s Gospel to the question of the identity and mission of Jesus for its earliest Christian readership. Detailed and extensive comparisons will be made with the other Gospels to cast Matthew’s contribution into bold relief.

**Speaker Bio:**

Dr. Hernandez’s expertise is New Testament and early Christianity, with a special interest in New Testament Textual Criticism. He is an author and editor for the Society of Biblical Literature’s *Text-Critical Studies* series and serves on the Editorial Boards of three journals.

**October 29–November 12**

## *Humor, Theology, and the Christian Faith*

**Speaker:**

**Dr. Rolf Jacobson**

Dean of the Faculty and Professor of Old Testament,  
Luther Seminary, St. Paul

**Introduction:**



Dr. Jacobson will help us explore where humor is found in the Bible, the role it plays in theology, and the role it plays in daily Christian life. For those who say there is no humor in the Bible, the joke is on them. But it isn’t a mean joke! It is the joyful laughter of the saints and angels over the repentance and salvation of every sinner.

**Speaker Bio:**

Rolf’s book, *Divine Laughter: Preaching and the Serious Business of Humor* (with his brother Karl), forms the background for this series. With his brother and others, he has also written *Invitation to the Psalms* and *Crazy Talk: A Not-So-Stuffey Dictionary of Theological Terms*, and *Crazy Book: A Not-So-Stuffey Dictionary of Biblical Terms*.