

**Diakonia Program – Northern Illinois Synod ELCA**

**Christian Doctrine  
February - March 2009**

**Course Outline**

**Class Schedule:** Saturday Mornings, 9:30 AM - 12:30 PM, February 28, March 7, 14, 21, 28.

**Instructor:** The Rev. Dr. Timothy V. Olson, BA, M Div., STM, D. Min.  
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Course materials: [www.makingchristknown.org/clc/diakonia1](http://www.makingchristknown.org/clc/diakonia1)

**Purpose of Class:** To explore the central doctrines of the Christian faith in a way that is a) faithful to scripture and tradition and b) relevant to the context and culture.

**Required Texts:** The Bible (recommended translations: NRSV, NIV, CEV, NJB)

*God-The World's Future: Systematic Theology for a New Era, Second Edition*, Ted Peters, Fortress Press, 2000. ISBN 0-8066-3265-6

*Exploring and Proclaiming the Apostles' Creed*, Roger Van Harn, ed., Eerdmans Publishing, 2004, ISBN 0-8028-2120-0

**Suggested Texts:** *The Cross in Our Context*, Douglas John Hall, Fortress Press, 2003. ISBN 0-8006-3581-7 (Additional reading for some sessions is from this book)

*Faith Seeking Understanding: An Introduction to Christian Theology – Second Edition*, by Daniel L. Migliore, Eerdmans Publishing, 2004. ISBN 8-8028-2787-X

*The Essentials of Christian Theology*, William C. Placher, editor; Westminster John Knox Press, Louisville, 2003. ISBN 0-664-22395-8

*A New Handbook of Christian Theology*, Donald Musser & Joseph Price, eds., Abingdon Press, 1992. ISBN 0-687-27802-3

*Jesus Christ for Today's World*, Jurgen Moltmann, Fortress Press, 1994. ISBN 0-8006-2817-9

*Story & Promise* by Robert Jenson, Fortress Press

## **COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

1. Attend 5 sessions of class. Come to class prepared and ready to engage.
2. Read assigned material.
3. Complete Essay Reflection/Questions provided by instructor within one week of the final class. They may be submitted in print or electronically to instructor's e-mail address above or by mail.

## **OUTLINE**

<b><u>Date</u></b>	<b><u>Subject</u></b>	<b><u>Reading Before Class</u></b>
February 28th	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Introductions: Participants &amp; Course</li><li>2. Pre-Modern, Modern &amp; Post-Modern</li><li>3. Construction, De-construction, Reconstruction</li><li>4. Symbols of the Faith; Tools for Theology</li></ol>	Peters, Part One, Chapters 1 & 2 *Hall, Chapters 1-3
March 7th	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. The Trinity</li><li>2. Creation</li><li>3. God, Sin, &amp; Evil</li></ol>	Peters, Part Two, Chapters 3,4,5 Van Harn, Chapters 1,2,3 * Hall, Chapter 4
March 14th	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. The Person of Jesus Christ</li><li>2. The Work of Jesus Christ</li></ol>	Peters, Part Three, Chapters 6,7 Van Harn, Chapters 4 - 9 *Hall, Chapters 5 & 6
March 21st	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. The Holy Spirit</li><li>2. The Church &amp; Christian Life</li><li>3. Endings &amp; New Beginnings</li></ol>	Peters, Part 4, Chapters 8-10 Van Harn, Chapters 11-15 *Hall, Chapters 7-9
March 28th	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. One Faith in a Pluralistic World</li><li>2. Christian Ethics</li></ol>	Peters, Part 5, Chapters 11-12 *Hall, Chapter 10

\*Recommended additional reading, not required.