

Syllabus for the Yearly Intensive Series (2023-2024)

NE Minnesota Synod Lay Leader Network

Description: The Yearly Intensive Series is designed to provide adult participants the opportunity to grow in their knowledge of biblical and Lutheran theological skills while enhancing their ability to lead missionally within their context. Participants will have the opportunity to grow deeper in their faith, spirituality, and being in community with one another, through the four Saturday sessions along with readings and exercises/discussions between sessions.

Instructors: Rev. Dr. David Mesner, Rev. Dr. Mark Skinner

Meeting dates/locations:

Session 1	Oct. 21, 2023	Bethlehem Lutheran, Brainerd (in-person) <u>or</u>
	Oct. 28, 2023	Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd, Duluth (in-person) Duluth
	Nov. 9, 2023	<i>In-between discussion session (optional) Zoom meeting from 7:00-8:30 pm</i>
Session 2	Nov. 18, 2023	Meeting through Zoom
	Jan. 9, 2024	<i>In-between discussion session (optional) Zoom meeting from 7:00-8:30 pm</i>
Session 3	Feb. 3, 2024	Meeting through Zoom
	Feb. 17, 2024	LLN Annual Gathering (optional - Bethlehem Lutheran, Brainerd)
	Mar. 12, 2024	<i>In-between discussion session (optional) Zoom meeting from 7:00-8:30 pm</i>
Session 4:	Apr. 13, 2024	Bethlehem Lutheran, Brainerd (in-person) <u>or</u>
	Apr. 20, 2024	Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd, Duluth (in-person)

Format for our sessions together:

9:00 am	Gather/introductions/check-in
9:15 am	Engaging the Gospel of Mark presentation and discussion (and break)
11:30 am	<i>Reformation Roots</i> presentation and discussion
12:15 pm	Lunch
1:00 pm	<i>The Open Secret</i> presentation and discussion
1:45 pm	<i>break</i>
2:00 pm	<i>Jesus and John Wayne/Kingdom Come</i> presentation and discussion
3:00 pm	Wrap-up, evaluation, and departure by 3:30 pm

Bibliography: required texts for the Yearly Intensive Series

Du Mez, Kristin Kobes. [*Jesus and John Wayne: How White Evangelicals Corrupted a Faith and Fractured a Nation*](#). New York, NY: Liveright, 2021.

McNeal, Reggie. [*Kingdom Come: Why We Must Give Up Our Obsession with Fixing the Church – and What We Should Do Instead*](#). Carol Stream, IL: Tyndale, 2015.

Newbigin, Leslie. [*The Open Secret: An Introduction to the Theology of Mission*](#). Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 1995.

Thurston, Bonnie. [*The Spiritual Landscape of Mark*](#), Collegeville, MN: Liturgical Press, 2008.

Session 1: October 2023

Engaging the Gospel of Mark

Session 1 Advent October 21 and 28, 2023

Preparation Please read the Gospel of Mark in one sitting, noting structure and key words

Close Reading

Mark 1:1-8* Beginning 2nd Sunday of Advent B December 10, 2023

Mark 16:1-8* Afraid Easter Sunday B March 31, 2024

Prepare a teaching outline for Mark 1:1-8

Small Group/Sharing Share a copy of your teaching outline / Thurston application

Bonnie Thurston, *The Spiritual Landscape of Mark*, 2008

Introduction, pp. vii-xv

Chapter 1: The Wilderness and the Desert / Chaos and Comfort, pp. 1-15

Chapter 7: The Garden / Resurrection . . . Perhaps, pp. 71-79

We will be viewing and discussing, *The Swiss Reformation: A Rationalist's Revolt*, from the *Reformation Roots* video series. No prep. required.

Please read and be ready to discuss:

(1) *The Open Secret* vi through chapter 5 (pp. vi- 55)

(2) *Jesus and John Wayne* preface through chapter 8 (pp. xv-149)

Session 2: November 2022

Engaging the Gospel of Mark

Session 2 Epiphany November 18, 2023

Preparation Please read the Gospel of Mark in one sitting, noting discipleship theme development

Close Reading

Mark 1:9-11 Baptism Baptism of Our Lord B January 7, 2024

Mark 1:14-20 Calling 3rd Sunday after Epiphany January 21, 2024

Mark 1:21-28* Teaching 4th Sunday after Epiphany January 28, 2024

Mark 1:29-39* Healing 5th Sunday after Epiphany February 4, 2024

(Mark 1:40-45* Leper cleansed 6th Sunday after Epiphany)

Mark 9:2-9 Transfiguration Transfiguration of Our Lord February 11, 2024

Prepare a teaching outline for one of the Epiphany texts

Small Group Sharing Share a copy of your teaching outline / Thurston application

Bonnie Thurston, *The Spiritual Landscape of Mark*, 2008

Chapter 1: The Wilderness and the Desert / Chaos and Comfort, pp. 1-14

Chapter 2: The House and the Sea / Stability and Transition, pp. 15-25

Chapter 4: The Mountain / Vision and Mystery, pp. 36-43

Excursus: Icon of the Transfiguration, pp. 44-48

We will be viewing and discussing, *The Radical Reformation: Revolution and Withdrawal*, from the *Reformation Roots* video series. No prep. required.

Please read and be ready to discuss:

(1) *The Open Secret* chapters 6 through 8 (pp. 56-120)

(2) *Jesus and John Wayne* chapters 9 through conclusion (pp. 150-304)

Session 3: February 2023

Engaging the Gospel of Mark

Session 3	Lent	February 3, 2023
Preparation	Please read the Gospel of Mark in one sitting, noting passion theme development	
Close Reading		
Psalm 51	Ash Wednesday in Lent B	February 14, 2024
Mark 8-10		
Prepare a teaching outline for Mark 8:31-38		
Small Group Sharing	Share a copy of your teaching outline / Thurston application	
Bonnie Thurston, <i>The Spiritual Landscape of Mark</i> , 2008		
Chapter 3: The Valley / Journey and Pilgrimage, pp. 26-35		
Chapter 5: The City / Temptation and Corruption, pp. 49-59		
Chapter 6: The Cross / Suffering, Solitariness, and Solidarity, pp. 70-79		

We will be viewing and discussing, *The English Reformation: A Political Reformation*, from the *Reformation Roots* video series. No prep. required.

Please read and be ready to discuss:

- (1) *The Open Secret* chapter 9 (pp. 121-159)
- (2) *Kingdom Come* chapters 1 through 4 (pp. 1-84)

Session 4: April 2023

Engaging the Gospel of Mark

Session 4	Easter / Pentecost		April 13 and 20, 2024
Preparation	Please read Mark 2-13 in one sitting, noting development of Pentecost themes		
Close Reading			
Mark 16:1-8*	Afraid	Resurrection of Our Lord B	March 31, 2024
Mark 2:23-3:6	Sabbath	2P / Lec 9	June 2, 2024
Mark 3:20-35	Beelzebul	3P/ Lec 10	June 9, 2024
Mark 4:26-34	Parables	4P / Lec 11	June 16, 2024
Mark 4:35-41*	Storm	5P / Lec 12	June 23, 2024
Mark 5:21-43	Daughters	6P / Lec 13	June 30, 2024
Mark 6:1-13	Rejection	7P / Lec 14	July 7, 2024
Mark 6:14-29*	John killed	8P / Lec 15	July 14, 2024
Mark 6:30-34, 53-56*	Rest	9P / Lec 16	July 21, 2024
(John 6: Bread of Life Discourse)			
Mark 7:1-23	Tradition	15P / Lec22	September 1, 2024
Mark 7:24-37*	Faith	16P / Lec 23	September 8, 2024
Mark 8:27-38	Passion #1	17P / Lec 24	September 15, 2024
Mark 9:30-37*	Passion #2	18P / Lec 25	September 22, 2024
Mark 9:38-50*	Temptation	19P / Lec 26	September 29, 2024
Mark 10:2-16*	Divorce	20P / Lec 27	October 6, 2024
Mark 10:17-31*	Rich Man	21P / Lec 28	October 13, 2024
Mark 10:35-45*	Passion #3	22P / Lec 29	October 20, 2024

Mark 10:46-52 Bartimaeus 23P / Lec 30

October 27, 2024

Mark 12:38-44* Scribes/widow 25P / Lec 32

November 10, 2024

Mark 13:1-8 Temple 26P / Lec 33

November 17, 2024

Prepare a teaching outline for one of the Pentecost texts

Small Group Sharing Share a copy of your teaching outline / Thurston application

Bonnie Thurston, *The Spiritual Landscape of Mark*, 2008

Chapter 7: The Garden / Resurrection . . . Perhaps, pp. 71-79

Chapter 3: The Valley / Journey and Pilgrimage, pp. 26-35

We will be viewing and discussing, *The Catholic Reformation: Reaction and Renewal*, from the *Reformation Roots* video series. No prep. required.

Please read and be ready to discuss:

(1) *The Open Secret* chapter 10 (pp. 160-189)

(2) *Kingdom Come* chapters 5 through 8 (pp. 85-180)