

PR3530: Preaching and Worship for God's Mission in the World

Luther Seminary, Fall Semester 2009

David Lose (NW 242, x455, dlose@luthersem.edu);

Christian Scharen (NW 320F, x459, cscharen001@luthersem.edu)

Plenary Gathering: Fridays from 1:10-3:00 p.m. in Northwest 100

Labs: see separate sheet

Is preaching [and worship] in a crisis? Yes, and so it must always be if it is to respond to the changing world to which it seeks to proclaim the gospel!

–Joseph Sittler

Indeed, if learners feel that they can act only if they have reasons to guide them, this attitude will stunt their skill acquisition. A study of student nurses, for example, showed that those who remained detached and followed rules never progressed beyond competence, while only those who became emotionally involved and took to heart their successes and failures developed into experts.

–Hubert Dreyfus

I. CATALOG COURSE DESCRIPTION

Sunday worship is the weekly opportunity to focus the congregation's life and mission in the gospel. Students explore imaginative and varied ways to integrate liturgy, preaching, music, and the arts as the church prepares to worship in various contexts in our contemporary society.

II. NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION

This course is governed by two intertwined convictions. 1) Professional ministry is primarily about leadership, both eschatological (announcing God's promises) and temporal (leading God's church forward in mission). 2) Leadership is something that is learned over time and by experimentation, reflection, and experience. In this course we will have the opportunity to delve more deeply into the nature and exercise of pastoral leadership in a variety of settings and situations, particularly with regard to the public roles of preacher and worship leader. We will also have the opportunity to practice learning in ministry by reflecting on our experiences in the congregations we have attended and/or served before and while at seminary. The intention is that through its design and execution this course will provide a capstone for your work in the areas of preaching and worship by investigating a variety of ways to move beyond the traditional and foundational patterns for preaching and worship leadership examined in earlier classes. To borrow from the world of jazz, this course looks at the art of improvising now that you've mastered some of the fundamentals. In that spirit, we very much hope the class proves to be just as creative and enjoyable as some of the great jazz sessions we've heard!

III. COURSE OBJECTIVES

1. Reflect on the relationship between preaching and worship and the larger calling of the pastor to be a leader of a Christian community.
2. Reflect on, and gain experience in, preaching and worship leadership from a variety of contextual settings (e.g., rural, urban, multi-cultural, etc.) and in different liturgical situations (funeral, wedding, stewardship, congregational crisis, etc.)
3. Practice coordinating various elements of worship into a cohesive service, working as a group to draw on a rich variety of sources appropriate for a specific context.

4. Improve preaching skills – creative interpretation of the text, clear structure, and effective delivery.
5. Expand awareness of how God’s mission to the world is accomplished in and through the congregation’s worship and preaching.

IV. PEDAGOGICAL COMMITMENTS and COURSE REQUIREMENTS

- ◆ While teachers bring a certain amount of expertise and experience to any given course, it is finally the students who, with the assistance of the instructor and each other, teach themselves. Those students who take responsibility for their own learning will flourish.
- ◆ Learning – and particularly learning preaching and worship – is a communal activity. Given your course work thus far, your experience in contextual education and internship, and your life experience, you have much to teach each other, and the more successful we are at establishing an environment in which the diverse gifts we bring can be offered and valued the more each of us will learn. Through your work in Worship Planning Teams, in particular, you will have an opportunity to share, appreciate, and learn from each other’s distinct capabilities.
- ◆ More than learning a subject, through this course we are being further initiated into the distinct Christian practices of preaching and worship leadership. For this reason, we will spend a significant amount of time participating in those practices so that we may then critically reflect upon our endeavors.
- ◆ Learning is an on-going activity. The presentations and experiences that comprise this course are designed to assist you in your continuing development as a critically reflective practitioner. Your journey as a professional leader did not start here; nor will it end here.

The following structure and requirements of the course stem from these commitments:

Structure

The course is built around a) presentations by persons with insight and experience with creative worship and preaching, b) lab experiences devoted to preaching and working in Worship Planning Teams, c) one structured reflection on your experience as a leader, d) readings, and e) a final group project presented by the Worship Planning Teams.

Requirements

1. Class Attendance and Participation. Preaching and worship are inherently communal activities, and the success of the class is dependent on your active and engaged participation in labs and the plenary presentations. For this reason, missing more than three class periods (lectures and/or labs) will result in a Marginal. Missing more than four sessions will result in a failing grade.

2. If you want to be a good violinist, you have to play...a lot! If you want a good fastball, you’ll be spending a lot of time on the pitching mound. If you want to be a decent doctor, you’re going to see a lot of patients. If you..., well you get the idea. For this reason, in order to further your development as a preacher and worship leader, you will preach three sermons in Lab. For the first two assignments, you may choose either 1) an unsatisfactory internship experience to return to, describe, and rework or 2) be assigned a ‘hypothetical senario’ to work with.

- ◆ The first will be a funeral or wedding sermon on a text of your choosing in response to a randomly assigned situation. You may choose whether a funeral or wedding situation would be more helpful to you at this point of your career. On the day you preach, you will also turn

in a bulletin prepared for the occasion to emphasize the need integrate preaching and worship, especially on such occasions.

- ◆ The second sermon will relate to an aspect of pastoral leadership. You will again be asked what type of situation (evangelism, stewardship, conflict, etc.) would be most helpful to you. You are encouraged first to consider the lectionary texts appointed for the Sunday of the week you are preaching, but you are also invited to exercise pastoral discretion and move beyond the lectionary if that seems appropriate. As always, but especially with sermons relating directly to pastoral leadership, it is wise to take into consideration the larger pastoral context; you are therefore encouraged to think deliberately about (and share with the class) what other elements of pastoral leadership you would exercise in addition to the sermon (especially thinking of the overall worship service for that day, but in addition, possible related adult education classes, forums, other church activities, involvement of outside agencies including the local synod, etc.). Additional instructions will be handed out in the plenary session devoted to leadership sermons.
- ◆ The third sermon will be for a Sunday in Advent, Epiphany, Lent or Easter and be coordinated with the work of your worship planning group.

With all three sermons, you are invited, but not required, to turn in your preaching materials (manuscript, notes, exegetical material, etc.) to the instructor for additional feedback. While you may preach from a manuscript, you are strongly encouraged to preach at least one of your sermons as an outline, graphic organizer, or partial manuscript.

3. There is no better way to draw persons more deeply into the worship life of the congregation while simultaneously coming up with more creative worship than by inviting persons from different quarters of the congregation to share their distinct gifts on a Worship Planning Team. In order to give you first hand experience in organizing, nurturing, and using well such a group, you will participate on a Worship Planning Team in your Lab and plan a season of worship (Advent, Epiphany, Lent or Easter). We encourage you to work creatively (visual arts, drama, music), and to imagine as vividly as possible how you would bring to life your particular season in a congregational setting. The collaborative results of the WPT's will be presented as the final examination in Lab #13. Further instruction about the worship planning teams and the resources available to them will be given in the plenary sessions.

4. One of the goals of the course is to help you develop as a critical practitioner; that is, as someone who is not only willing but eager to learn from his or her mistakes. To facilitate this, you will relate in a one-page document an experience from internship or contextual education where you believe you made a mistake and what you learned from it. On October 9 we will share and discuss these in small groups, so please bring 4 copies on that day. Professor Scharen's chapter from Bass and Dykstra, *For Life Abundant*, "Learning Ministry Over Time: Embodying Practical Wisdom," offers one model for such reflection.

5. There is a vast literature relating to preaching and worship available, and seminary provides one of the few stages in your career where you have the luxury to sample from those offerings. Therefore, you will read at least one book (200 pages minimum of material from the suggested readings) that is a) *new* for you and b) not required by another instructor this term. Although you are free to choose whatever you want, I would advise that you select pieces that either a) relate to one of your passions and/or b) treat a subject where you want further exposure. Submit an electronic version of your report of the books/articles and pages you have read for the class to Faculty Secretary Victoria Smith (with *brief* comments (1-2 pages) no later than Lab #13. These will be collated and posted electronically so that you may take with you a significant annotated bibliography to guide your further reading.

IV. BIBLIOGRAPHY OF SUGGESTED READINGS (on reserve)

Note: You may propose to the instructor additional titles that spark your interest as long as you have not or are not currently reading them for another class.

- Anderson, Herbert and Edward Foley. *Mighty Stories, Dangerous Rituals: Weaving Together the Human and the Divine* (San Francisco: Jossey-Bass, 1998).
- Baker, Jonny and Doug Gay with Jenny Brown. *Alternative Worship: Resources from and For the Emerging Church*. (Grand Rapids: Baker, 2005).
- Bonneau, Normand. *The Sunday Lectionary: Ritual Word, Paschal Shape* (Collegeville, Minn.: Liturgical Press, 1998).
- Brueggemann, Walter. *Cadences of Home: Preaching Among Exiles* (Louisville: Westminster/John Knox, 1997).
- Childers, Jana. *Birthing the Sermon: Women Preachers on the Creative Process*. (St. Louis: Chalice Press, 2001).
- Collier-Thomas, Bettye. *Daughters of Thunder: Black Women Preachers and their Sermons, 1850-1979*. (San Francisco: Jossey-Bass, 1997).
- The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America: *Principles for Worship* (Minneapolis: Fortress, 2002); see, also, individual volumes on *Holy Baptism and Related Rites* and *Life Passages: Marriage, Healing, Funeral*.
- Eunjoo Mary Kim, *Preaching the Presence of God: A Homiletic from an Asian American Perspective*. (Valley Forge, PA: Judson Press, 1999).
- González Justo L. and Catherine G. González. *The Liberating Pulpit* (Nashville: Abingdon, 1994).
- González, Justo L. and Pablo Jimenez. *Pulpito: An Introduction to Hispanic Preaching* (Nashville: Abingdon, 2005).
- Hughes, Robert. *A Trumpet in the Darkness: Preaching to Mourners* (Philadelphia: Fortress, 1985).
- Keifert, Patrick. *Welcoming the Stranger: A Public Theology of Worship and Evangelism* (Minneapolis: Augsburg, 1994).
- Lathrop, Gordon and Timothy Wengert. *Christian Assembly: Marks of the Church in a Pluralistic Age* (Minneapolis: Augsburg, 2004).
- Long, Thomas. *Beyond the Worship Wars* (Alban Institute, 2001).
- Long, Thomas. *Preaching from Memory to Hope*. (Louisville: Westminster/John Knox, 2009).
- Lose, David. *Confessing Jesus Christ: Preaching in a Postmodern World* (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2003).
- Lundblad, Barbara. *Marking Time: Preaching Biblical Stories in the Present Tense*. (Nashville: Abingdon, 2007).
- Lundblad, Barbara. *Transforming the Stone: Preaching Through Resistance to Change*. (Nashville: Abingdon, 2001).
- Maynard-Reid, Pedrito. *Diverse Worship: African-American, Caribbean & Hispanic Perspectives*. (Downers Grove, IL: Intervarsity, 2000).
- Nieman, James, *Knowing the Context: Frames, Tools, and Signs for Preaching* (Minneapolis: Augsburg Fortress, 2008).

Nieman, James, "What Is Preaching?" pp.6-13 in "What Is Changing in Eucharistic Practice?" vol. 5 in *Open Questions in Worship*, Gordon Lathrop, series editor (Minneapolis: Augsburg Fortress, 1995).

Pfatteicher, Philip. *In Love and Faithfulness: Planning for Marriage* (both a Pastor's guide and Couples booklet)

Preaching on Death: An Ecumenical Resource.

Proctor, Samuel D. *The Certain Sound of the Trumpet: Crafting a Sermon of Authority* (Valley Forge, PA: Judson Press, 1994)

Ramshaw, Gail, *Treasures Old and New.*

Rollins, Peter. *How (Not) To Speak of God* (Brewster, MA: Paraclete 2006).

Satterlee, Craig, and Lester Ruth, *Creative Preaching on the Sacraments.*

Scharen, Christian. *Faith as a Way of Life: A Vision for Pastoral Leadership* (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2008).

Schattauer, Thomas H., editor. *Inside Out: Worship in an Age of Mission* (Minneapolis: Fortress, 1999). See especially the articles by Jann E. Boyd Fullenwieder, "Proclamation: Mercy for the World," 23-38; Mons A. Teig, "Holy Baptism: Promise Big Enough for the World," 39-58; Mark P. Bangert, "Holy Communion: Taste and See," 59-86; and Mark W. Oldenburg, "Liturgical Year: Within the World, within Its Time," 87-105.

Schlafer, David. *What Makes This Day Different? Preaching Grace on Special Occasions*, (Boston: Cowley, 1998).

Searle, Mark. *Liturgy Made Simple.*

Stauffer, S. Anita, and Walter Huffman. *Where We Worship* (Leaders & Participants booklet)

Storey, Peter. *With God in the Crucible: Preaching Costly Discipleship.* Foreword by Desmond Tutu. (Nashville: Abingdon, 2002).

Sundays and Seasons: 2003 (Year C)

Taylor, Barbara Brown. *An Altar in the World: A Geography of Faith.* (New York: Harper, 2009).

Tisdale, Leonora Tubbs, *Preaching as Local Theology and Folk Art* (Fortress, 1997)

Vanstone, W. H. *The Risk of Love* (Oxford: OUP, 1978)

Webb, Joseph, *Preaching Without Notes*

Webber, Robert, Ed. *The Complete Library of Christian Worship.*

Note: There are eight volumes in this ecumenical set, so it is placed on two-hour reserve. Most of the articles are quite short, so it should not take you long to read them. It may prove to be a good resource to have on your congregation's library shelf.

West, Fritz. *Scripture and Memory: The Ecumenical Hermeneutic of the Three-Year Lectionaries* (Collegeville, Minn.: Pueblo Books, 1997).

Westermeyer, Paul. *The Church Musician* (Minneapolis: Augsburg, 1997).

Williams, Rowan. *A Ray of Darkness: Sermons and Reflections* (Cowley, 1995).

Willimon, Willian, and Richard Lischer, *Concise Encyclopedia of Preaching* (Louisville: WJK, 1995).