



ADULT ED SUMMARY - APRIL, 2008
Sundays, 9:45AM - 10:45AM

“Jesus in My Life This Week” – led by Larry & Annette Friday in the Adult Meeting Room adjacent to the Great Room. An opportunity to share how God and Christ have been in our lives this week.

“The Powers That Be: Theology for a New Millennium” – taught by Cliff Smith in the Seminary Room. Come to study and discuss this reader-friendly summary of the highly acclaimed work of Walter Wink on the nature of spirituality, and on the nature of evil, through a modern day reinterpretation of the ancient biblical view of a world filled with angels and demons, powers and principalities. Copies of Wink’s book, with the same title, may be found in the narthex or purchased in the class.

“Inquirer’s Class” – led by Pastor Fred Melton and Terry Olsen, in the Great Room. Learn about St. Mark’s and about the opportunity to join our church.

The Powers That Be: Theology for a New Millennium

“ . . . neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor principalities . . . nor powers . . . will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus.”
(Rom. 8:38-39)

Come to study and discuss this reader-friendly summary of the highly acclaimed work of Walter Wink on the nature of spirituality, and on the nature of evil, through a modern day reinterpretation of the ancient biblical view of a world filled with angels and demons, powers and principalities, which will be taught by Cliff Smith.

We will consider that every created thing, every human being, every form of social reality—the family, the church, the sports team, the corporation, the nation—is a combination of aspects both visible and invisible, outer and inner, physical and spiritual. Every created form has God at its core, imprinted with a divine vocation: to serve lovingly the general welfare and the well-being of all individuals. Thus “systems” are necessary, useful, and good. Yet, like humans, they rebel against God’s call and vocation; they do both good and evil. We then come to understand: The Powers are good. The Powers are fallen. The Powers must be redeemed.

We will consider that the paramount Power that has organized human life for millennia is what Wink calls “The Domination System.” This Power commands faith in violence, and still represents the deepest “religion” of our time, its “spirituality,” because people believe violence “saves” and that it seems to be inevitable. This “Myth of Redemptive Violence” is the real and guiding myth of our world today.

Let’s consider that the gospel of Jesus and his “third way” of active, nonviolent resistance is the most powerful antidote to the enslaving “Myth of Redemptive Violence” the world has ever known. “It is the way God has chosen to overthrow evil in the world.”

Come and study. Perhaps you will learn some forms of spiritual practice aimed at redeeming the Powers. Perhaps you will be inspired to work to help realize the Kingdom of God here on earth, that is, God’s domination-free order in which violence gives way to love, compassion, communion, and justice. Perhaps, even in these dark and despairing times of increasing hate and violence, you will find reason to hope.

JESUS IN MY LIFE THIS WEEK

Led by Larry & Annette Friday, Adult Meeting Room

How was your week? Did you have the same daily aggravations as usual or were you blessed with a moment when you clearly knew you were walking side by side with Jesus? Do you have faith questions? Is it sometimes difficult to see God’s presence in your life? Well, you are not alone. No matter where we are in life, we all have difficulties that we struggle with, as well as unexpected blessings. Join us on Sunday mornings when we share the challenges we face, give encouragement, and together seek ways to walk closer with Jesus in everything we do. **EVERYONE** is welcome because we are all on this journey together.

INQUIRER'S CLASS

Sundays, April 20 – May 18, 9:45am

If you have been visiting St. Mark's and would like to learn more about our church, and even desire to join, **YOU** are invited to attend our next Inquirer's Class. They are scheduled for 5 consecutive Sunday mornings. They begin on Sunday, April 20, at 9:45am. To participate, please contact the office (764-7488) or Terry Olsen, our class coordinator, 656-4933. Come and learn about Christ's ministry at St. Mark's . . . and consider joining!!