

**Essentials of the Christian Faith**  
(or Confirmation for Adults)  
Jan-May, 2023

We will explore principal parts of the Christian faith and engage stories of scripture.

On the 1st and 3rd Sunday of each month we will utilize the full class time to explore a new topic, looking to see how that topic has resonance with an episode recounted in the Gospel of Mark.

On the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday we will utilize half the class time to discuss a Biblical story focusing on the questions:

- Where do we see the evidence of human brokenness?
- Where do we see resistance?
- Where is the mending, or the grace?
- How does this speak to our experiences in life now?

For the other half of the class time on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays, we will discuss something else related to the ministry of First Lutheran; e.g. Reconciling in Christ process, refugee resettlement, etc.

Tentative Schedule

Jan. 8 Topic: Overview to Scriptures, the Word of God, and the Kingdom of God (Mark 1)

Jan. 15 Story: Mark 2:1-12 "Hole in the Roof"

Jan 22 Topic: Creation stories and God's overarching aim to mend a broken creation (Mark 2)

Jan 29: Story: Mark 5:1-20 "Gerasene Demoniac"

Feb. 5 Topic: Exodus and lessons of the manna in the wilderness. (Mark 2-3)

Feb. 12 Story: Mark 5:21-43 "Healing of the woman and the girl"

Feb 19: Topic: Judges and Kings; power, politics, and systems (Mark 3)

Feb 26: Congregational retreat to Camp Calumet, no adult Forum

Mar. 5 Topic: Prophets and the call for justice and righteousness (Mark 4)

Mar. 12 Story: Mark 6:30-44 "Feeding of the Five Thousand"

Mar. 19 Topic: The Ten Commandments; right relationship with God and neighbor (Mark 4)

Mar. 26 Story: Mark 6:45-52 "Jesus stills the storm"

Apr. 2 Topic: Apostles Creed and Lord's Prayer; Jesus at the center (Mark 11)

Apr. 9 Easter, no adult forum

Apr. 16 Topic: Baptism and Communion; inclusion and grace (Mark 8-10)

Apr. 23 Story: Acts 8:26-40 "Ethiopian Eunuch"

April 30: Special event - TBD

May 7 Topic: Salvation and Justification by grace through faith (Mark 12)

May 14 Story: Luke 17:11-19 "The story of the 10 lepers"

May 21 Topic: The cross of Christ and the Gospel (Mark 14, 16)

May 28 Story: Luke 24:13-35 "The road to Emmaus"