

BIBLICAL AUTHORITY IN MATTERS OF FAITH AND CONDUCT



October 4 and November 8, 2014

Lutherans maintain that the Bible is the Word of God and that it is their only authoritative norm for matters of faith and conduct. But what do we do when *everyone* seems to quote the Bible and claim that God is on their side? A few years ago, Mark Allan Powell produced a series of videos dealing with a Lutheran understanding of scripture and now, in this course, he will give us an opportunity to engage with him personally concerning important questions and issues that the widely viewed videos have raised. We will consider, first, what Lutherans mean when they say the Bible is “the word of God.” Then, we will look specifically at how the Bible can serve as an authoritative guide for knowing right from wrong. Finally, Powell will focus on the teaching of Jesus in the Gospel of Matthew to illustrate how timeless biblical teaching can be applied to ever-changing circumstances. According to Jesus, devout believers can get moral judgments wrong *either* by being too “liberal” (permissive with regard to modern society) or by being too “conservative” (strict and literal in their interpretation of scripture). Fortunately, Jesus offers some basic guidelines that help people of all perspectives to discern the will of God in the writings of scripture.

This course consists of 2 Saturday classes, October 4 and November 8 (9 a.m.-4 p.m.) plus 5 evening sessions of 2 hours each. The dates and location for small groups will be decided between the small group participants. The registration fee, which covers the course, lunch and breaks, is \$175 per person. The Rev. Dr. Mark Allan Powell will be LIVE at Grace, Waynesboro and it will be “same time” Skype at First, Norfolk and Ebenezer, Marion!

Registration costs are as follows:

- **\$25.00** for a rostered leader to attend the two large group meetings as continuing education.
- **\$87.50** per person if you are bringing a friend that is new to ACTS or if you have not participated in ACTS before. Name of new person you are bringing: _____
(Be sure they register to activate your special rate.)
- **\$175** per person is the ACTS course registration fee.
- **\$900** if you have a group of 6 or more from your congregation or parish.
(Registration information for each person will need to be sent in)

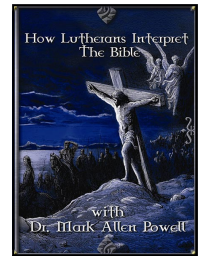
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The Rev. Dr. Mark Allan Powell is Professor of New Testament at Trinity Lutheran Seminary and an internationally known biblical scholar. He is editor of the *HarperCollins Bible Dictionary* and author of more than 30 books on the Bible and religion, including the widely used textbook, *Reading the New Testament* (Baker Academic). He has also written in the areas of spiritual formation (*Loving Jesus*), stewardship (*Giving To God*), and homiletics (*What Do They Hear?: Bridging the Gap between Pulpit and Pew*). Powell has taught at seminaries in Estonia, Russia, and Tanzania and is one of the editors of the *Lutheran Study Bible* (Augsburg Fortress).

The primary “textbook” for this course will be the DVD video series, “*How Lutherans Understand the Bible*” by Mark Allen Powell. Participants will have the option of purchasing the DVD video series but it is not required. Each small group will be provided with the DVD video series to use during their group sessions. Participants will be provided with the transcripts of what is presented on these videos.



If you are interested in purchasing a copy for yourself it is available from Augsburg Fortress for \$40.00. ISBN: 9786000255275

Registration Deadline is September 15, 2014

You may register online at vasynod.org/ACTS or below. Payments online are available on our website by clicking on the event tab and event registration payment.

Name _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Home phone (____) _____ Cell phone (____) _____
Email address _____
Home Church _____ City _____

I have enclosed a check for \$ _____ payable to the Virginia Synod.

My payment will be from my congregation/parish with the group discount. Congregation/Parish name _____

Amount Due \$ _____ Location Registering for: Waynesboro Norfolk Marion

Please send your registration to: Lenae Osmondson, 520 W 21st Street, Suite J, Norfolk, VA 23517 or by email to: Osmondson@vasynod.org. If you have any questions call 757.622.9421.