
Topic: History of Christian Doctrine

In every period of church history, there were forces at work from inside and outside the church which led theologians to speak and write as they did. Some doctrinal (or dogmatic or creedal) statements defended and promoted Bible truths, while others obscured or undermined these truths.

Also, language changes. Terminology that previously served the church well might not be sufficient when facing a new enemy of revealed truth. More might need to be written and defined in one age and circumstance than at a previous time.

Here we will focus primarily on the fertile Reformation period. But we will also give some attention to pre-Reformation thought and doctrinal development (e.g., the medieval scholastics and mystics) and post-Reformation theology (e.g., the period of orthodoxy, counter-Reformation, pietism, the rise of rationalism).

Primary goals are to grow in appreciation for our Lutheran heritage, see the inevitable need to face religious error and give adequate answers, and equip ourselves to contend for the faith that has been passed on to us.

Secondary goals are to increase our familiarity with theologians and thinkers who have contributed significantly to church history, and to be all the more prepared to deal with thoughts and concepts that may be expected to resurface inside and outside the church.

Recommended Reading

- Justo Gonzales, *A History of Christian Thought*, Vols. II, III
- Otto Heick, *A History of Christian Thought*, Vol. II
- E.H. Klotsche, *The History of Christian Doctrine*
- J.L. Neve, *A History of Christian Thought*, Vol II
- Robert Preus, *The Theology of Post-Reformation Lutheranism*
- Paul Tillich, *A Complete History of Christian Thought*



For questions, comments, or more information, contact Pastor Rob Guenther, Registrar at 907-690-1660 or pastorguenther@gmail.com.



2017 Pastor's Institute

History of Christian Doctrine:
Pre-Reformation, Reformation,
and Post-Reformation Periods



Pacific Northwest
DISTRICT
Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod

June 6-7, 2017

At Evergreen Lutheran High School
7306 Waller Road East, Tacoma, WA 98443

Our Presenter:

Forrest (a.k.a. Frosty) Bivens was born and reared in Tucson, AZ, and, after receiving schooling in both public and synodical schools, was ultimately graduated from Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary in 1971. He served as a parish pastor in San Jose, CA, and Saginaw, MI, for 22 years and then served for 22 years as classroom instructor at Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary in Mequon. He also had the privilege of serving in various district offices (CA and MI) and synodical positions. He retired from fulltime public ministry in 2015 and now serves as part-time administrator for the Pastor Partners mentoring program, supply preacher for St. Jacobi in Greenfield, WI, and adjunct teacher for Asia Lutheran Seminary when needed.

Since 1970 Frosty has been blessed through his marriage to Sue nee Leyrer. Sue is a retired prep school and LES teacher. The Lord has blessed them with six children and eighteen grandchildren. They live in Greendale, WI, and their home church is Victory of the Lamb in Franklin.



Professor Forrest "Frosty" Bivens

Registration:

Cost for the Institute is \$50/person.
(\$65 per couple.)

Early Bird Special: Register and pay by June 1st and pay only \$40!
(\$55 per couple)

Register online at welspnw.weebly.com
(and pay with check, credit, or debit card).

Or send a check payable to
PNW District WELS along with a note
with your name and the name of the
congregation you're from.

Mail to: 2017 Pastor's Institute
47585 Ciechanski Road
Kenai, AK 99611

For more information, contact Pastor Rob
Guenther, Registrar at 907-690-1660 or
pastorguenther@gmail.com.

Location:

The Pastor's Institute will be held at
Evergreen Lutheran High School
7306 Waller Road East, Tacoma, WA.



Schedule:

Tuesday, June 6th

8:45 - 9:15 am Coffee & Check-in/Opening
9:15 - 10:30 am Session One:
Introduction (Methods, Terms, Goals, Etc.)
10:30 - 10:45 am Break
10:45 - Noon Session Two:
Factors and Forerunners Favoring Reformation
Noon - 1:15 pm Lunch Break
1:15 - 2:30 pm Session Three:
The Theology and Influence of Martin Luther
2:30 - 2:45 pm Break
2:45 - 4:00 pm Session Four:
Lutheran, Reformed, and Radical Reformations
5:30 pm Supper (on your own)

Wednesday, June 7th

9:00 - 10:15 Session Five:
Period of Orthodoxy and Counter Reformation
10:15 - 10:30 am Break
10:30 - 11:45 am Session Six:
Notable Movements, Changing Landscape
Noon Lunch