CE023 The Gospel According to John the Pastor
Three major themes focus this study as the young and fearful Christian community is urged to "stay together in Christ", "love each other in humility" and "go out with forgiveness." The alternate translation of John's purpose "These are written that you may continue to trust that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God...." (John 20:31) is seen as the Gospel's primary emphasis.

CE033 Christian Spiritual Tradition
As Christians we have a rich heritage of foremothers and fathers to whom God has spoken and given divine knowledge and insight. Through reading and pondering their words, God invites us to learn from them and grow ourselves in knowledge and love of God. In this course we will study and discuss a number of these Christian spiritual writers and guides.

CE035 The Struggle for Faithfulness & Flexibility: From the Reformation to the Present
There is a continuing tension in the life and mission of the Church. On the one hand, the church must remain faithful to the unchanging truth of God revealed in and through Jesus of Nazareth, the Christ. On the other hand, the Church must proclaim this truth in meaningful and relevant ways in many different cultures and times. This course will look at church history as the story of the Church’s efforts, under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, to discern how it can be both faithful to the truth and engaged with the world in meaningful and relevant ways. This course begins with the Reformation of the Sixteenth Century and continues to the present.

CE040 Introduction to Theology: Grace in the Middle of Things
Commonly, theologies open by answering for where they have begun: God, the Trinity, Christ, creation, secular knowledge, the Bible, tradition, or human experience, for example. This course will introduce theology as a practice in media res (in the midst of things, of everyday realities). This might be characterized as something of an incarnational-sacramental-liberation approach that avoids oppositions to worldly experience and allows for the dynamism of Christ meeting us “in, with, and under” creaturely life. Course readings will be thematic selections of ancient and contemporary sources. Assignments will aim to merge theory and practice, emphasizing application for real-life ministry situations that come up in media res.

CE056 The Gathered – Scattered Church: Releasing God’s People for Ministry in the World
The church at its best is missional; our very nature and purpose are defined by our participation in God’s redemptive mission in and to the world. Yet we have not lived into that call because we have not been able to move beyond an understanding of church as a gathered, corporate entity. While we want to be God’s people at work in the world, our priorities, leadership and planning betray us. We are seemingly unable to talk about ministry in any terms except what we do in or through the congregation. This course will help congregations and their leaders find new meaning, vitality, purpose and even joy by letting go of our preoccupation with the vitality of the institution and re-forming ourselves as communities that prepare, support, encourage, equip and send people into their everyday lives as God’s partners in the care of all creation.

CE065 Introduction to Theologies of Worship
This course examines what we believe we are doing in worship and preaching, paying attention to how what we believe impacts how we engage in worship and preaching. Particularly, we will consider various aspects of the divine-human interaction within worship: is worship for us, for God, or for both? Students will have the opportunity to read several perspectives for how God is involved in worship and preaching, and what the role of the leader and congregation are in these events. Once students have a larger framework for understanding worship, we will examine theologically the task of preaching within the context of worship. At the end of the course, students will be asked to describe their own theologies of worship and preaching, and articulate how these theologies impact the preparation of and their participation in these events.

CE071 Connecting Faith & Daily Life
This course will provide ways to develop the congregation and other faith communities as “confirming communities” using Martin Luther’s Large and Small Catechisms in highly experiential ways. The group will be using a wide variety of methods; the content will be participants’ own lives and the foundations of the faith. Participants will gain skill in leadership in education among all ages.
CE075 Spirituality and Discipleship
This course explores Christian spirituality and discipleship in the midst of daily life. The course begins with a classic in Christian Spirituality: Dietrich Bonhoeffer’s *Life Together*. The course then turns to a range of traditional Christian practices — "hospitality, prayer, household economics, work (vocation), etc —" to explore faith as a way of life. Finally, the course explores insights from ordinary religious people from diverse background to explore how lived faith breaks through in even unexpected places: on walks with the dog, in the car on the way to work, in popular culture, etc. Students in the course will (a) commit to spiritual practice from the Christian tradition and document their learning-in-practice through weekly journaling and (b) learn to discern God’s presence in a range of everyday forms by reflecting on their own life stories, (c) develop ministry skills for cultivating spirituality in daily life among those they serve in ministry.

CE091 Re-Visioning Rural Mission: Leadership in Multi-Point Parishes
This course studies the changing patterns of Small Town and Rural (STA) ministry and the formation of multi-point parishes. In many regions, STA congregations cooperating with other congregations in various types of configurations is the norm rather than the exception. The area parish, a configuration of multiple congregations with a staff of pastors is a cutting edge and growing model for STA mission. This course addresses the challenges, the art, and the opportunities for ministry in these settings. Development, leadership, administration, and planning aspects of this type of ministry will be explored.

CE094 The Emerging Church
This course introduces the student to the emerging church period (1984 – 2014), its key influences, leaders and ongoing significance. The student is also introduced to late modern culture, which is a central component to the contextualization of the emerging church. Themes of narrative theology, imagination, storytelling and self-awareness are discussed to foster greater understanding of the emerging church’s faith, hope and love. This course is meant not only to inform students about the emerging church but offers a safe place to discuss their own experiences of transformation of mind and heart, which will lead them to more minister faithfully to this generation.