If you read history, you will find that the Christians who did most for the present world were precisely those who thought most of the next. It is since Christians have largely ceased to think of the other world that they have become so ineffective in this.

C. S. Lewis

The course readings, video recordings, class lectures, and discussion will provide a sweeping survey of twenty centuries of church history in two parts, spring and fall. Two thousand years in two 10-week sessions provides time for a brief survey and a few deeper explorations at important junctures. The course will look at major theological developments as well as events and personalities. Effort will be made to provide a sense of how the present diversity within the Christian tradition came into existence. The class is offered by LMC and it provides no credit from any institution. Registration is limited.

Books
Students select their level of involvement by the textbook they select to read during the two-part study, ranging from over 1000 pages to less than four hundred pages.

Seven Sacraments triptych, van der Weyden 1445.

Students are responsible to purchase their own text.

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Access
Access to the class is by Zoom and Google Classroom. Students who pay the fee receive a Google Classroom invite, which requires a Gmail account, and a ZOOM link. In-person class will be considered on a week-by-week basis.

Schedule

Part 2: Continues Part 1 from the Fall. Covers the 5 centuries from the Reformation up to but not including the 21st century, from March 4 to May 6. The Class Meeting runs for 10 Thursdays from 6:30-8:00 pm.

Three Student Expectations

1. Watch video lecture on Google Classroom and attend Class Meeting in person or by Zoom.
2. Read one author of the student’s choice. The selected book will define the level of engagement by a student.
3. Create a history timeline over the course of the classes for personal use.

Registration fee goes to STEP Study Award. Google Classroom and ZOOM will deliver the course to students. An internet connection is required and a gmail address is needed for Google Classroom access. See front for registration and payment details.

Instructor
Brinton Rutherford works for LMC as a resource staff person. His primary contact with Anabaptism occurred during his theological training in California at Fuller Theological Seminary in the 1990s, where he completed an MDiv and PhD. As a convinced Anabaptist, his journey traveled along Lutheran, Presbyterian, Pentecostal, and now Anabaptist paths. His work includes five years at the Lancaster Mennonite Historical Society and many years as adjunct instructor at Messiah College and Eastern Mennonite Seminary.

10 Reasons to Study Church History

1. It’s all around us.
2. It’s liberating.
3. Experience is a slow, cruel teacher.
4. Been there, done that!
5. Some great people have led the way.
6. History is people and people are interesting.
7. It is the great equalizer.
8. History is for the curious.
9. It reminds us of God’s mission.
10. Christianity is a historical religion.