

# St. Armands Key Lutheran Church

## *Christian Education Program 2026*



CHURCH ON THE CIRCLE  
ST. ARMANDS KEY LUTHERAN CHURCH

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# A Letter from Pastor

This year's Christian Education program takes a new and fresh approach. Rather than offering two or three classes, each with four-six sessions, we are offering significantly more topics with fewer sessions. We hope that the topics whet your appetite, while served in bite-sized portions. In this way, you can dip into topics that interest you, without a vast commitment of your time.

I will lead each class and they will be held in-person at SAKLC's Ogram Hall and online via Zoom. The classes are offered on different days of the week and times of day, for your convenience. A video archive of each class will be available on our website once completed.

Refreshments will be provided at each class, as will any handouts and study materials. Bathroom and stretching breaks will also be provided.

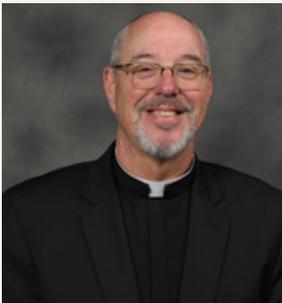
The following Zoom link covers all the classes offered:



The video archive will be located at:

<https://saklc.com/online-christian-education-archive/>

If you have any questions, reach out to the SAKLC office at 941-388-1234, or email [office@saklc.com](mailto:office@saklc.com)



**See you in class!**

*Pastor Ken*

# Class Schedule

**How the Bible Was Formed: Who decided what was in and what was left out; and what is Holy Scripture anyhow?**

January 6<sup>th</sup> & 13<sup>th</sup>, 10:00am-11:30am.

*Many Christians only know the Bible as the complete holy book we have in its current form. But how did this collection, written over several thousand years, by multiple authors, come together? Who decided what was in and what was out? And when was this decided? Besides which, what makes a document Sacred Scripture rather than just an interesting piece of writing?*

**The Council of Nicaea: An introduction.**

January 22<sup>nd</sup>, 6:00pm-7:30pm.

*This is an introduction to the council that gave us the Nicene Creed, which we confess in our worship services. (2025 was the council's 1700<sup>th</sup> birthday.) This class will examine why the Emperor Constantine called the council into session; what controversies it sought to settle; and what it ultimately decided about Jesus.*

**A Guide to the Christian Year: Its seasons, symbols, holy days, and colors.**

January 29<sup>th</sup>, 6:00pm-7:30pm.

*Every so often the banners in church change colors, and the liturgy changes a wee bit. And while some holy days fall on the same date every year, some move around quite a bit. Ever wonder why? This class offers an explanation and an overview of the Christian year.*

**The Early Church: The first few hundred years**

February 9<sup>th</sup> & 16<sup>th</sup>, 1:30pm-3:00pm

*While thinking of Church history, it is tempting to move from Jesus directly to the Reformation and then straight into the modern era. However, that means skipping over a crucial and formative period known as the Early Church. This class will provide an overview of our history from the resurrection of Jesus to the Council of Nicaea in 325AD.*

# Class Schedule

**Lutheran Belief and Practice: from Father Martin to Pastor Ken.**  
March 12th, 6:00pm-7:30pm.

*This class will take participants on a fast-paced journey through Lutheran belief and practice from the Reformation, through inter-Lutheran conflict, into Lutheran Orthodoxy, through Pietism, a wee look at Evangelical Catholicism, and then to the North American Lutheranism of today.*

## **A History of Lutherans in America**

March 17th, 24th & 31st, 1:30pm-3:00pm

Over three sessions, we will take a deep dive into the history of Lutherans in North America. We will trace our ancestry in Reformation Europe and Scandinavia; explore the streams of Lutheranism which led to the ELCA and the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod; discover how the Civil War affected our interpretation of Scripture; and begin to understand who we are today.

## **Hot Topics by The Cooler: Refreshing conversations over refreshments**

Beginning January 25th/SAKLC Meditation Garden/4:30pm-5:30pm

(This gives you the opportunity to have dinner on the Circle afterwards if you wish.)

*Join us in the SAKLC Meditation Garden on the last Sunday of each month as we dare to tackle topics other congregations avoid. (A wet/cold-weather alternative inside SAKLC will be available.) Bring a cooler with your favorite beverage and a camp chair, and sit awhile as we discuss such topics as:*

- *Christian Nationalism. What is it? Why is it controversial?*
- *The Role of the Church in a Polarized Nation?*
- *The rise and decline of mainstream Protestantism in America.*
- *Why the ELCA's Churchwide expression in Chicago has become controversial among its own membership.*
- *What the Lutheran World Federation actually is, and why it does/doesn't matter to us.*
- *Challenges in moving towards Christian unity.*

# Additional Programs

## **GriefShare Grief and Loss Support Group**

Every Wednesday from 1:30 - 3:00pm, in person only.

*Runs for 13 weeks starting January 7<sup>th</sup> until April 1st*

A GriefShare support group is a safe, welcoming place where people understand the difficult emotions of grief. Through this 13-week group, you'll discover what to expect in the days ahead and what's "normal" in grief. Since there are no neat, orderly stages of grief, you'll learn helpful ways of coping with grief, in all its unpredictability—and gain solid support each step of the way.

The group is open to those experiencing grief anew, as well as those whose grief is longer standing. A GriefShare workbook will be supplied, as will refreshments each week.

Pastor Ken, and SAKLC member Donna Emley will lead the group.

If you are interested, please scan the QR code to register



## **3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Jewish Christian Conversation Series: A collaboration between SAKLC and Temple Beth Sholom**

*Led by Pastor Ken Blyth and Rabbi Stuart Altshuler*

*Meets in person and on Zoom. Zoom link to follow.*

An opportunity to explore each tradition's worship rites and rituals; seasons and holy days; religious understandings of birth, childhood, marriage, divorce, and love; life journeys through aging, illness and death (mourning rites, afterlife, etc.); as well as our approach to religious conversion.

On the following Tuesdays from 2:00-3:30pm:

- January 20--at SAKLC
- January 27--at Temple Beth Sholom
- February 3--no class
- February 10--at SAKLC
- February 17--at Temple Beth Sholom

Temple Beth Sholom  
1050 S Tuttle Ave, Sarasota, FL 34237





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