



westwood



SPRING/SUMMER CATALOG • APRIL-AUGUST 2018

RELATIONAL & HANDS ON CONFIRMATION AND CONGREGATIONAL LEARNING
WESTWOOD IS OPEN & AFFIRMING WELCOMING ALL WHO SEEK GOD.

WHAT IS WESTWOOD U?

Welcome to Westwood U!

Westwood U offers people of all ages the opportunity to gather for education, faith development, and mutual growth-

kids, parents, grandparents, friends...

Everyone is invited!

The purpose is to move beyond education to *formation* and *transformation*.

Westwood U is a way to nurture a whole culture – an ecosystem – of faith formation at Westwood.

We believe that *heart* and *hands* must accompany *head* in one's faith journey, so in addition to the classroom, Westwood U will create opportunities for faith mentoring, faith socializing, and even faith surfing by tapping into life *experience of multiple generations*, because we operate under the conviction that the content of faith has no traction outside of faith-based relationships.

What courses are offered?

There are 3 categories for the courses offered at Westwood U. Several courses from each category are offered throughout the year.

They are:

Know- hands on learning

Live- service to our neighbor and congregation

Grow- fellowship and faith nurturing experiences

How many of each should I take?

While completing the required number of Westwood U courses, students will need to take a minimum number of 3 courses in each category.

Of the 17 credits, 4 in each of the 3 categories will be required. The remaining 5 credits are up to you!

Example:

Year 1: 6 courses and Bible Milestone

Year 2: 6 courses

Year 3: 5 courses, mentoring and a faith statement.

HOW DOES IT WORK?

An email will be sent to you during the open registration period and you will also find the registration link in the e-news.

March 12-18 for confirmation students

March 19-25 for congregation

Visit the registration page , when you are there you will:

- Fill in your FULL name
- Give us an email address where the “professor” can reach you to let you know about any details, supplies, announcements and/or costs that may accompany your elective. Please make sure it is an email you will check regularly! (Parent email, probably the best!)
- Clarify your grade for recording purposes, or choose N/A if you are not looking for confirmation “credit”.
- Choose an elective for each month, and if you are opting out of a particular month, please choose “none” so that we know you have bypassed an elective for that period.
- If you see “_____ is full, please choose another” that means that it has filled, and we will repeat those electives in the next course catalog. Please choose an alternate option.
- When you are finished choosing an elective for each month, click submit and your registration will be cataloged with us.
- Be sure to check all the dates listed for your elective, some go outside the “month” they are listed under. To receive confirmation credit you may only have one absence for any given course.



SUNDAY MORNING EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES

April 8

What is stewardship?

Adam Copeland, Dir. of Stewardship,
Luther Seminary

April 15

Stewardship of our Talents

Kick off of "Challenge!"

April 22

Stewardship of Creation

Emilie Bouvier from the Minneapolis Area Synod

April 29

Stewardship of Time

Dorothy Bass from Valparaiso University

May 6

Stewardship of Money

Foundation Sunday - ice cream sundaes in GSH &
"fair" on where our offering goes, or other money
projects, games

May 13 (Mother's Day)

Stewardship of Relationships

Karen Stevensen

May 20 (Pentecost)

Celebration of Parable of the Talents Challenge

Pentecost Party between services in GSH

These are not listed in April or May, but Choose 4
Sunday morning options from this list. Then write down
which you attended and turn in 1-2 sentences about what
you learned in each session to receive a **Know** credit!



HAVE YOU TRIED WESTWOOD U YET?

Westwood U is designed to be a confirmation and congregational learning model. It's been a wonderful relational tool for those who have participated in our Westwood family, but we want to invite you to check it out if you haven't done so already! The intergenerational friendships, conversations and experiences have deepened the connections among generations in our large congregation and have fostered a deeper understanding of just who we are as a community of faith!

Here's what some are saying about their experience so far:

"I love that it's for all ages to engage with each other—not just teens—so teens are one part of a larger thing. There is something else here that's important about the society we live in today: When we are engaging in person, we put the phone away. These face-to-face moments, especially with teens, have gone from being normal to being precious. We need more of this kind of time, and why not make church the center of this kind of experience."

"We have loved having people of all ages as a part of our regular group meetings! It's fun to teach a new skill, and we love the energy it brings to our group!"

"I love all the ways that young people and older folks like me are engaging in the life of the congregation. The Advent wreath, window art, prayer practices and visuals were a highlight of Advent for me."

"The best part of Westwood U for our family is watching our son experience and grow his faith through seeing, doing, listening, playing, creating, sharing and giving. The Westwood U model of confirmation is exciting to our son, he looks forward to the various classes and experiences. These kids have a great time in all of these classes while seeds of faith formation continue to be planted. Raising children is a gift that comes with so much responsibility. The larger community involvement and relationship building that happens through the WWU courses "lifts the load" just a bit for parents. Our children are like a little community garden that is being tended by so many loving and knowledgeable gardeners."

APRIL ELECTIVES

Food Packing 100,000 Meals (Live) Friday, April 6 and/or Saturday, April 7, 2018 (multiple shifts available on registration page) It takes a village to set up and prepare for our annual Food Packing Event. Join us Friday night as we set up the food packing tables, fill the bins for the first shift, build over 400 boxes to be filled and then work at a table for packing. Then join people of all ages as they gather in Good Shepherd Hall on Saturday. With the help of many volunteers, we manage to package more than 100,000 meals and have fun doing so. Your 2-hour commitment will get you a bird's eye view of the packing operation and opportunity to help participants at each table fill the bags and pack the boxes of food that will eventually be delivered to our partner church in Dodoma, Tanzania, the Arusha Road Parish.

Parable of the Talents Challenge (Live) April 15-May 20. Kickoff April 15, 9:45am, Good Shepherd Hall
Beginning April 15, everyone is invited to participate in the congregation-wide Parable of the Talents Challenge! Hear about it in worship on the 15th and then the kickoff in Good Shepherd Hall between services to receive an envelope that contains a mystery amount of money. Like in the parable of the talents that Jesus told in Matthew 25, everyone who participates will think of a creative way to multiply their money—think as inside or outside the box as you want! Over the course of the 5-week challenge, we invite you to make a video telling the story of what you did to multiply your money. All our multiplied money will be donated to Dodoma Christian Medical Center Dental Program on May 20 when the challenge is over. We are excited for the whole congregation to participate in the challenge and see what our generous multiplying can do!

Cake Decorating (Know) Monday evenings April 9, 16, 23, 30, 6:30-7:30pm. Gene Olesen has turned his passion of cake decorating into a ministry of celebration! Do you watch "Cake Wars"? Fascinated with the creative art of cake decorating, and always wanted to learn how? In this course you will learn how to bake and decorate cakes like the pros. We will make cake and frosting, prepare decorating frosting with professional tools, and decorate cakes. \$12 for a set of professional decorating tools.

Family Faith Activity Leader (Live) Sundays, 9:30-11am. Enjoy crafts, service projects and kids? Come help families dig into activities between services that connect faith with fun! Beadwork, making sandwiches, playdough sculptures...you'll spend your time showing kids and parents how to complete their projects. Dress ready for glue and paint!

The Armor of God (Live) April 9, 16, 6:30-8pm and afternoon of April 28.

What does putting on the armor of God mean? What does it look like? How are those who have worn it different when they take it off? We will explore these questions and meet some amazing Westwood Veterans. Our time together will include discussion of faith, military and the Bible, interviews and discussion with Westwood Veterans from multiple conflicts and volunteering at the Vets Home on April 28.

Fish'n and Faith (Know) Thursdays - April 12, 19, 26, May 3, 10, 6:30-7:30pm. Taught by Dan Lovas.

An interactive gathering exploring a lifetime of Fellowship, Fishing, and Fun. Join us as we learn new fishing techniques, new and old knots, new lures & equipment and how NOT to spend a fortune! Most importantly, how we can all grow together in our faith while fishing! PLUS....a few surprises along the way!



MAY ELECTIVES

Adult Confirmation (Know) Sundays between services 9:50-10:40 April 8, 15, 22, 29, May 6, 13, 20, June 3 and 10th.

Are you a person with little or no history in the Lutheran church and would like to learn more? Are you a person who hasn't been confirmed but would like to do that now? Are interested in reengaging questions of what we believe? If you answered yes to these or for any other reason, we'd like to invite you to join us for the Adult Confirmation class. June 10th will be confirmation Sunday for those who choose to be confirmed. For more information contact Pastor Jason at j.vanhunnik@westwood.church. We will need a minimum of 5 people signed up for this class to proceed.

Worship Servants (Live) Training event Wednesday, May 9, 6-6:30pm in the Sanctuary, service dates TBD.

Become an integral part of worship life here at Westwood! We will talk about what worship means, why we do some of the things we do, and some of the roles that make us a worshipping community. We will be training in people to be ushers, communion servers, lectors, PowerPoint operators and more. Commitment involves a training event and then engaging in the area of your choice during a worship service one time per month for four months or more if you choose!

Family Faith Activity Leader (Live) Sundays in May, 9:30-11am Enjoy crafts, service projects, and kids? Come help families dig into activities between services that connect faith with fun! Beadwork, making sandwiches, playdough sculptures...you'll spend your time showing kids and parents how to complete their projects. Dress ready for glue and paint!

Organ encounter with Andrew Paulson (Know) May 12, 9am-10:30am.

Have you ever wondered how Westwood's organ works? Are you curious as to how it makes so many different sounds? Would you like the chance to play it? If your answer is yes to any of these questions, come to Organ Encounter with Andrew Paulson. In this two-hour session we will explore the balcony and organ, discover how the instrument works and learn about what makes Westwood's instrument one of the premier organs in the Twin Cities. Andrew will give a demonstration/mini-recital highlighting the organ's different sounds, and you will get the chance to play the organ!

Compassion in Action for ALL Ages! (Know) May 6, 12-4pm.

Bring \$5 for a pizza lunch followed by movie and discussion. It's easy to talk about the need to be 'nice,' but how hard is it to put that value into action? What do you do when you, or someone you care about is being bullied? How do you react to the individual who is just a bit *different* than you, your family and friends? We will explore these daily challenges by viewing the recent movie, "Wonder." It's the story of 11 year old Auggie who is entering public school for the first time. A bright young boy, Auggie has had 53 surgeries for Treacher Collins Syndrome, a genetic condition that affects facial features. This powerful movie, appropriate for ALL ages, addresses how we deal with fear, individual differences, bullying, and how we treat each other every day.



JUNE ELECTIVES

ELCA Youth Gathering (Grow) Every three years, 30,000 high school youth and their adult leaders from across the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America gather for a week of faith formation known as the ELCA Youth Gathering. Through days spent in interactive learning, worship, Bible study, service and fellowship, young people grow in faith and are challenged and inspired to live their faith in their daily lives. In 2018 the gathering will be held in Houston, TX. The dates of the trip are June 24-July 2. You likely are already signed up for this, but if you or someone you know would like to attend, please let Dannica know asap! The cost is \$950

Bible Camp (Grow) We encourage you to send your children to Wapo in Amery, WI because it is a great place for young people to grow in their faith. The days are filled with music, prayer, Bible study, recreation, active learning, worship, water activities, etc. Register via Westwood U, but also register yourself with Camp Wapo by using the following link!

<http://lwlbci.com/westwood> **June 22-24:** SEEDS Camp - 2 & 3rd Grade \$160 **June 24-29:** Youth Camp - 4-5th Grade \$430; Ox Lake Camp- 6-8th Grade; \$430 Senior High- 9-12th Grade \$430

Fun and Games (Live) June 13 & 14: varied times. Board games have been a favorite pastime for generations, and there are some of us who were around when they originally came out! This is a chance to gather with Westwood members in two of our senior communities for some wonderful fellowship and a great time of connection while playing Sorry, Monopoly, Chutes and Ladders, or another game of your choice. Be there to slide ahead, or go back two spaces. You won't be Sorry!!! June 13 we will travel together to Park Shore from Westwood. Please arrive at Westwood by 1:30. We will return to Westwood by 3:45. June 14 we will travel together to Tower Light. Please arrive at Westwood by 1pm, and we will return to Westwood by 3:30pm.

S'more & Sing (Grow) June 6th, 7 - 8:30 pm S'more & Sing, June 10, 10:45 am Sing in Worship

A Wednesday night of s'mores, singing, camp songs, and a campfire led by Westwood musician Elsa Lee. Bring your voice, your appetite and any acoustic instruments such as ukuleles and guitars. Then we'll share music we learned the following Sunday in 10:45am worship.



JULY ELECTIVES

Musical camp (Know) July 16-20, (M-T full day 9-4, F 9-12)

Calling all musicians, creatives, actors, and generally awesome kids to help out at Musical Camp this summer! Do you want to spend the week with Andrew and a bunch of awesome kids singing, learning instruments, dancing and doing activities? Sign up for this class! It is sure to be a fun time!

Bible Journaling (Know, Live, or Grow) Wednesdays, July 18 & 25 from 10am-Noon

You want me to create art in my Bible? Yes! Bible art journaling has become a phenomenon nation-wide as people engage with God's Word through doodling, paint, markers and more. This two week course will include an introduction to Bible art journaling and new techniques as we dive into God's Word together. Taught by Dannica Olsen, you'll discover a beautiful and fun new way to grow in faith. \$10 fee for materials. Bring your own Bible!

Organ encounter with Andrew Paulson (Know)

July 14, 9-10:30am.

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AUGUST ELECTIVES

BWCA Canoe Trip-(Grow) August 1-5

For over 10 years, Westwood has offered canoe trips to the BWCA. No experience needed, just a desire to participate in an amazing journey. Trip leaders work with you to adjust to your skill level and help along the way. This August trip will move every day through the BWCA and is planned to begin at Moose River North and exit at Mudro Lake. \$240 per person. You must be 18+ to participate in this trip and a \$60 non refundable deposit is due by June 1.

Vacation Bible School (VBS) Helpers . (Grow) M-F August 13-17, 9-4pm.

Do you like working with kids, doing crafts, acting, playing games and teaching kids about God? Join us as a volunteer for VBS and Service camp! This year VBS will be a morning camp from 9-noon and SPARK Service Camp will be in the afternoon. The morning's VBS lesson coordinating to the afternoon's service work! We will need volunteers for all aspects of the camp so please join us if you are able!

S'more & Sing (Grow) August 8, 7- 8:30pm S'more & Sing; August 12, 10:45 am Sing in Worship.

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