

About the Visiting Theologian Program

“Faith seeks understanding”—so said Anselm, Saint, Archbishop, and Theologian. Saint Mark’s Visiting Theologian Program seeks to promote understanding among the faithful, not only within the parish of Saint Mark, but also within the wider church as a gift to the entire Salem community.

Since the early 1970’s, Saint Mark has welcomed more than thirty distinguished theologians into the Congregation’s life of worship, learning and service.

Teachers of church history, ethics, Bible, culture, art, theology, liturgy and sacramental life have

enriched our community’s deliberation on what it means to believe in the God of Israel and live accordingly. The ecumenical community, including students at Willamette University, Western Oregon University and Mount Angel Seminary have participated.

By means of visiting teachers, Saint Mark hopes to encourage lively reflection and faithful action within the Congregation and all faith communities, inviting broad participation in the program for the sake of mutual appreciation, growth in common understanding and service.

Recent Visiting Theologians

2012 Mark Allan Powell

2008 Bishop Gomez

2011 Lisa Dahill

2007 Bishop David Brauer-Rieke

2010 Stephen Bouman

2006 Paul Wadell

2009 Martin Marty

2005 Kelly A. Fryer

2009 Bruce Bengtson

2005 Mark Brocker

2009 Phyllis Anderson



*“For with you is the well of life,
and in your light we see light.”*

—PSALM 36

EDUCATION & OUTREACH

VISITING THEOLOGIAN PROGRAM

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT:

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09.2013



Dr. Barbara Rossing

*Professor of New Testament at
Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago*

October 3rd–6th, 2013



All, Each, Together in Christ

Schedule of Events

All events are free & open to the public — All are welcome!

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 3

7:00PM **Lecture at Oregon State University**
@ OSU NATIVE AMERICAN LONGHOUSE
Sponsored by Lutheran Campus Ministry at OSU

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 4

7:00PM **Opening Keynote**
Doors open at 6:30PM

8:30PM **Fellowship Time**
Fireside Lounge

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 5

9:00AM **Morning Keynote**

10:30AM **Workshops**

11:30AM **Q&A with Dr. Rossing**

NOON **Lunch**

1:30PM **EcoTour Options**

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 6

8:30AM **Homilist at Celebration Service**

9:45AM **Adult Forum**

11:00AM **Homilist at Liturgical Service**

OSU LECTURE TOPIC:

St. Francis Goes Swimming with the Salmon: Ancient Wisdom for a Planet in Peril

Rossing's appearance coincides with the annual Christian observance of St. Francis of Assisi (Oct 4th) who is remembered, among other things, as patron saint of ecology. Known for her passion about care of creation and apocalyptic themes in scripture, Rossing will weave theological, environmental, scientific, and practical themes into her lecture.

FRIDAY OPENING KEYNOTE TOPIC:

Saints, Angels and Climate Change: St. Francis Vision for Creation's Healing

St. Francis' joyful kinship with creation empowers us to face the urgency of climate change and global ecological crises today. Explore Jesus' radical vision of the kingdom of God as renewal for all creation, as we join faith communities around the world commemorating St. Francis' legacy. Hope for healing—not destruction—is the biblical vision for our future on earth.

SATURDAY MORNING KEYNOTE TOPIC:

On Earth as in Heaven: Finding Apocalyptic Hope

How do we address climate change and other environmental issues without getting depressed? The apocalyptic book of Revelation, written as a daring critique of the Roman empire 2000 years ago, offers a radical vision of hope that can help us face our future today. Re-claim Revelation away from the *Left Behind* narrative of doom and destruction to see God's vision of hope. Revelation is not about what you think!

This Year's Visiting Theologian: **Dr. Barbara Rossing**

Barbara R. Rossing is Professor of New Testament at the Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago, where she also directs the seminary's Environmental Ministry Emphasis. She is the author of *The Rapture Exposed: The Message of Hope in the Book of Revelation* and *Journeys Through Revelation: Apocalyptic Hope for Today*, as well as articles and book chapters on the Bible and ecology.



She has participated in international Lutheran World Federation and World Council of Churches consultations on theology and climate change, including LWF delegations to the United Nations Climate Change summits in Copenhagen (2009) and Cancun (2010), and a WCC delegation to the Alberta Tar Sands in 2011. She is a frequent Bible study leader at synod assemblies and ecumenical gatherings, as well as in the public media.

She has served as chaplain at Holden Village and Harvard Divinity School. She loves to hike and ski in the Cascade Mountains. She is currently writing a book on ecology and apocalypse.

All events are **free** and **open to the public**.

Events are held at Saint Mark Lutheran Church in Salem, Oregon unless specified.