

Trinity Lutheran Church (LCMS), Palo Alto, and
Christ on Campus / Lutheran Student Fellowship at Stanford
welcome you to our 2009 Spring Lecture Series:



Justifying Myself Through Science

The dark side of the commitment to
naturalistic explanations in popular
science and among some scientists

A lecture series featuring
the Rev. Dr. James Bachman
Concordia University in Irvine, CA

April 17-19, 2009, at Stanford University and Trinity Evangelical
Lutheran Church, Palo Alto

The Creation of the World, by Gustave Dore (engraving, 1865), accessed Feb. 19, 2009, http://www.biblical-art.com/artwork.asp?id_artwork=11&showmode=Full.

Many well-known scientists have claimed that through the scientific method, one can find the answer to every question of the universe. Dr. Bachman will have us explore two different strategies Christians and other theists are using to oppose the claim that science, in its use of naturalistic explanations, is omniscient. Along the way we will notice that Thomas Aquinas already understood a key feature of this contemporary debate. We will also discuss how responsible science and responsible reading of Genesis 1-3 can come into fruitful dialog.

The Rev. Dr. James V. Bachman is Professor of Philosophy and Ethics and Dean of the School of Theology at Concordia University, Irvine, CA. Dr. Bachman was educated in math and philosophy at Valparaiso University, IN. He holds an M.A. in Theology at Cambridge University, England and a Ph.D. in Philosophy at Florida State University, Tallahassee. He has been a visiting scholar at the Hastings Center for Bioethics and is a regular consultant on health ethics for religious and secular institutions.



Trinity Lutheran Church (LCMS)
1295 Middlefield Road – Palo Alto, California

Session One

Friday, April 17, 7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

Stanford University Main Quad, History Corner (Bldg. 200)

Room 107

Naturalism in Science

We will explore the power of Science's commitment to naturalistic explanations along with some scientists' temptation to claim omniscience for this commitment. We will compare two different strategies for opposing this temptation and will discuss in detail the strategy that does not require introducing non-naturalistic "intelligent design" into our explanatory arsenal.

Session Two

Saturday, April 18, 9:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Stanford University Main Quad, History Corner (Bldg. 200)

Room 107

What's to be done about Genesis?

People are well aware of the alleged conflict between Genesis and modern Science. G. K. Chesterton described the conflict as a "clumsy collision of two very impatient forms of ignorance"! (in his book *St. Thomas Aquinas*, 1933, 98). In this session we will examine Genesis 1-3 on its own terms as a significant holy writing in Judaism and Christianity. Then we'll discuss some of the challenges and opportunities that arise in encounters between Genesis and modern Science.

Maps and further information are available at our web site:

www.paword.com (Click on the Lutheran Student Fellowship site)

Session Three

Saturday, April 18, 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Stanford University Main Quad, History Corner (Bldg. 200)

Room 107

Intelligent Design?

We will begin with a brief review of Friday evening's discussion of use and misuse of Science's commitment to naturalistic explanations. The two strategies for opposing misuse will be reviewed, and we will discuss in detail the strategy that recommends adding non-naturalistic "intelligent design" to Science's explanatory arsenal. Our discussion will include a look at Thomas Aquinas' Aristotelian deployment of this strategy in the thirteenth century.

Session Four

Sunday, April 19, 9:45 a.m. – 10:45 a.m.

Trinity Lutheran Church, 1295 Middlefield Road, Palo Alto

(You are welcome at the Divine Service at 8:15 or 11:00 a.m.)

Higher Education and the Church

What is the relationship between higher education and the Church? God has given mankind the gift of reason for the use of explaining and understanding the created order around us. But we run into problems when it is used in matters of faith. We will discuss the advantages and pitfalls of reason for Christians.

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Finding the Friday and Saturday lectures at Stanford

The Friday and Saturday lectures will be located in the History (Northeast) Corner of the Stanford Main Quad, just northeast of Memorial Church. Parking is available either to the North on the Oval (at the end of Palm Drive) or to the South in the Tressider Lot (L-39) off Mayfield Avenue (access from Campus Drive East). See the web site below for maps indicating the parking lots and talk location, and feel free to contact the Vicar if you need directions.

Finding the Sunday lecture at Trinity, Palo Alto

Trinity Lutheran Church is located at 1295 Middlefield Road in Palo Alto, just northwest of Embarcadero Road—only a short drive or bike ride from the Stanford Campus.

Maps and further information are available at our web site:
www.paword.com (Click on the Lutheran Student Fellowship site)

For further information, please contact:

Vicar David Solum

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