



OUR SAVIOUR'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

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For Immediate Release

Our Saviour's Offers Seminars on 'The Da Vinci Code'

Arland Hultgren, Noted Biblical Scholar, To Lead February 3 and 4 Events

FAIRFIELD, Conn., January 9, 2006 – *The Da Vinci Code*, the bestselling fictional thriller by Dan Brown, and soon to be a movie starring Tom Hanks, has stirred debate over a host of questions, including the divinity of Christ, whether Jesus was married to Mary Magdalene, the origins of the Bible, and the legitimacy of Christian history.

For those seeking answers to these questions, Our Saviour's Lutheran Church in Fairfield is offering two one-day seminars on February 3 and 4, led by the noted theologian, the Rev. Dr. Arland J. Hultgren. The seminars address such questions as: How was the New Testament formed? Why were the Gnostic Gospels excluded from it? What were the differences in beliefs among Christians? When did Orthodoxy become dominant within the Church?

The first seminar, "Unity and Diversity in Early Christianity: Alternative Christianities and the Rise of Orthodoxy," is intended for clergy, lay ministers and anyone interested in the topic. It will take place on Friday, February 3, from 1:30 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

The second seminar, "Answering Questions Raised by *The Da Vinci Code*," is intended for the general public, and will take place on Saturday, February 4, from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. It includes three modules: "How the Bible Came to Be: A Sketch"; "The Gospels That Didn't Make It"; and "The Gospels and Jesus."

Both seminars will take place at Our Saviour's Lutheran Church, 160 Hill Farm Road (corner of Duck Farm Road) in Fairfield. Cost for the February 3 seminar is \$5, or \$10 for registrations after January 20, while the fee for the February 4 seminar is \$10, or \$15 for registrations after January 20. A catered lunch (chicken dish) will be offered during the Saturday event for an additional charge of \$10, or participants are invited to bring their own lunch. For more information, contact the church at (203) 255-0545.

"It's important that Christians and non-Christians alike learn to separate fact from fiction when it comes to *The Da Vinci Code*," said the Rev. Mark Christoffersen, pastor of Our Saviour's. "To set the record straight, we are blessed to have a Biblical scholar of the stature of Professor Hultgren visit Fairfield and help explain the Gospels and Jesus in their proper historical context."

The Rev. Dr. Arland J. Hultgren is Asher O. and Carrie Nasby Professor of New Testament at Luther Seminary, St. Paul, Minn. Professor Hultgren received his Th.D. in New Testament studies at Union Theological Seminary, New York, N.Y., and has done additional studies at Cambridge University in England and Uppsala University in Sweden. He is the author of several books, including *The Parables of Jesus: A Commentary* (2000), *The Rise of Normative Christianity* (1994) and *Christ and His Benefits: Christology and Redemption in the New Testament* (1987).

Note to editors: To download a print-quality photo of Professor Hultgren, go to http://www.luthersem.edu/photos/facultypublish/hultgren_arland.tif

About Our Saviour's

Our Saviour's Lutheran Church, a congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA), reaches out to the world and to its local communities with the Good News of the Gospel of Our Lord Jesus Christ. The congregation receives strength for this mission through Worship, Christian Education, Service, Benevolent Giving, Witness, Mutual Support and a commitment to grow in faith and participation. Our Saviour's is guided in the belief that, "As God Gives to Us, So We Give to Others."

Holy Communion is celebrated during worship services at 8:30 a.m. and 10:45 a.m. each Sunday. The church also offers Sunday School and Adult Forum programs at 9:30 a.m. For more information, please call (203) 255-0545 or visit us at www.oursaviours.net.

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