

MN 396W-L3 HOLDEN VILLAGE WINTER SOJOURN & SEMINAR: Worship, Wilderness, & Community

Wartburg Theological Seminary (Dubuque, Iowa) – ELCA Seminary Shared January Course

2 Semester Hours

Credit/No-Credit (pass/fail) grading only

January 14-22, 2025 (plus travel time to/from Wenatchee, Washington – see specific travel instructions below):

Instructor: Rev. Dr. Benjamin M. Stewart (former village pastor & WTS adjunct)

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

Enjoy an opportunity to spend one full week (7 days, Wednesday to Wednesday) at Holden Village for a winter spiritual sojourn, around the themes of *Worship, Wilderness, and Community*. We will join the Holden winter community in this beautiful and rugged setting in the Cascade Mountains of Washington state. The rhythm of daily life will mirror the rhythm of the Holden community, including worship, prayer, reading, conversation, work, play, and table fellowship. Our conversations and reading will explore the intersection of Christian worship, community, and the natural world. We will especially attend to our experience of village life and to the spirituality of the cardinal times of the day (sunrise, sunset, night) and seasons (how earth's seasons relate to our liturgical year). Our conversations about liturgy, ecology, and community life are enriched by texts that include poetry and spirituality of place.

OBJECTIVES

1. To reflect theologically on the experience of Christian life at Holden Village.
2. To describe appreciatively the relationship between natural cycles of days/seasons and the cycles of Christian worship, and to graciously lead others into these practices.
3. To experience personal and communal renewal through cycles of play, prayer, work, conversation, and rest in a wilderness retreat center community.

ABOUT THE INSTRUCTOR

Rev. Dr. Benjamin Stewart is Distinguished Affiliate Professor of Worship at the Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago and Pastor to Emmanuel Lutheran Church in Two Harbors, Minnesota. A former Village Pastor to Holden Village and an occasional adjunct instructor at WTS, Ben is author of *A Watered Garden: Christian Worship and Earth's Ecology*.

TRAVEL ARRANGEMENTS

You may choose your preferred mode of travel for this trip. Prof. Stewart will travel by train with the following general itinerary: departing from Lacrosse, WI on a Sunday evening (Jan. 12th), arriving into Wenatchee early Tuesday morning (Jan 14th), spend the day and overnight in Wenatchee, take the boat up Lake Chelan to Holden Wednesday morning (Jan 15th), arriving at Holden Village mid-day on Wednesday; leaving Holden mid-day on the following Wednesday (Jan 22nd), arriving back into Wenatchee Wednesday afternoon, boarding the train Wednesday evening (Jan. 22nd) for the return trip, arriving into Lacrosse, WI on Friday morning (Jan. 24th).

- Course dates are January 14th—22nd (*not inclusive of travel*).
- *If traveling by train*, twelve (12) days total; dates for this J-term offering are January 12th—

24th, 2025. If you choose other modes of travel, please see below.

- **Cost:** Estimated total cost of \$1,300—\$1,400 based on the following breakdown and dependent on your mode of travel (all costs approximate at this point):
 1. **Travel** (round trip): \$300-\$500 per person; rooms on the train incur added cost per person (rooms include meals in Dining Car, access to shower on board). Check Amtrack.com for current fare & room rates or your preferred airline.
 2. **Holden Village:** \$600 for the week (this reflects the revised, “post-pandemic” weekly rates set by Holden for J-term participants)
 3. **Lady of the Lake** (Lake Chelan boat/ferry): \$36.00 round trip
 4. **Wenatchee, WA:** one night hotel (shared) and meals; ≈ \$125.00
 5. **Misc:** you will need money for food/drinks as you travel, especially if you travel by train and do not have a sleeper (sleepers are nice and include meals, but are pricey); you can also bring food & drinks (within reason) on board the train; and they do have a store at Holden Village with all sorts of stuff for purchase—from candy bars to books to music to apparel.
- If you wish to travel **by train**, the route you will choose is the **Empire Builder**, originating at Chicago’s Union Station and terminating in Seattle, WA (but the *destination stop is Wenatchee, WA*).
- If you wish to travel by **air**, please plan on arriving in Wenatchee on Tuesday, January 14th and departing on Thursday, January 23rd. This will likely involve another overnight, whether in Wenatchee or close to SeaTac airport.
- If you choose to **drive**, please plan on arriving in Wenatchee on Tuesday, January 14th. We will return to the Chelan/Wenatchee area late afternoon on Wednesday, January 22nd.

Please feel free to contact Instructor Ben Stewart (bstewart@wartburgseminary.edu) with any questions – he’s glad to help with logistics and identify the best travel options for individuals.

EVALUATION

Based on active participation and reflective journaling.

PROPOSED BIBLIOGRAPHY

- Woodley, *Becoming Rooted: One Hundred Days of Reconnecting with Sacred Earth*
- Cole-Dai and Wilson, *Poetry of Presence: An Anthology of Mindfulness Poems*
- ELCA, *Evangelical Lutheran Worship & All Creation Sings*
- Pre-reading: Stewart, *A Watered Garden: Christian Worship and Earth’s Ecology*

