

Equipping Leaders for Mission and Ministry

A ministry of the North/West Lower Michigan Synod ELCA

Daniel, Apocalyptic, and the Early Jewish Period

with Professor Kelly Murphy

Friday, 10/15/21, 6:00-8:00pm and Saturday, 10/16/21, 9:00am-3:00pm (via ZOOM)

Extreme violence, including death, was used against Jews who disobeyed Antiochus' edicts by reading the Scriptures, having their children circumcised, and worshipping the God of Israel. These dire circumstances raised profound questions for the people of God. How can God's people be faithful witnesses in the face of such a catastrophe? What does it mean to hope? And who is God?

Revelation with Professor Kelly Murphy

Friday, 11/12/21, 6:00-8:00pm and Saturday, 11/13/21, 9:00am-3:00pm

We recently took our initial plunge into apocalyptic literature and discovered that the stimulating world of apocalyptic symbols, colors, and numbers can be confusing. Revelation is the only entire book in the New Testament devoted to apocalyptic thought. It is an exciting and challenging book. Revelation has frequently been misused. It has been divorced from its historical setting and understood as a book of secret codes that program how God will act at the end of time. Revelation does tell us how the story will end: It will end with defeat of all evil with God united with God's people. The exact timetable, however, is not outlined in Revelation (or anywhere else in the Bible). In fact, the author tells us *not* to read his book as though it were a schedule. Jesus, despite all attempts to predict the end, will come like a thief. (16:15). What is painted in the stark colors of Revelation is a series of impressionistic paintings that witness to God's activity in the past, present, and future.



Professor Kelly Murphy

Kelly J. Murphy is a scholar of the Hebrew Bible and its reception. She is an Associate Professor in the Department of Philosophy and Religion at Central Michigan University, where she teaches courses on the Hebrew Bible, the New Testament, and apocalyptic thought. She is the author of *Rewriting Masculinity: Gideon, Men, and Might* (Oxford University Press 2019) and co-editor of *Apocalypses in Context: Apocalyptic Currents Through History* (Fortress Press 2016), and is currently working on a book on how the Bible has been used in discourses about poverty over time.

COST: \$50 PER WEEKEND

FORMAT: ZOOM

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