

Church History – The 18th Century: The Life and Work of Count Nicolas Ludwig Zinzendorf (1700–1760) and the Moravian Brethren

Course Description:

This 2022 fall semester class will cover a brief survey of the life and work of Count Nicolas Ludwig Zinzendorf. Count Zinzendorf is credited among many to have had a tremendous influence on modern Christianity; having written over 200 Christian Hymns (e.g. Jesus Thy Blood and Righteousness) and being one of the main founders of the renewed Moravian Brethren Christian Church whose hallmark characteristics and achievements include placing an emphasis on the believers' subjective experience of the Spirit and the Lord's direct leading in matters of religious work and living. Together Zinzendorf and the Moravian Brethren furthered unity among believers (aka, brethren), held a "prayer meeting" that continued for over 100 years, and supported a practical outreach in the gospel that was blessed by the Lord resulting in hundreds of missionaries being sent out to bring the good news of God's salvation in Jesus Christ to previously untouched corners of the world. During this class, we will walk through the personal faith journey of the Count as well as consider the spiritual fruit and influences of Zinzendorf and the Moravian Church. They are often regarded as having a great and positive influence during the 18th century. These effects can surely be seen today, especially in regard to the modern missionary approach utilized among many Christian groups.

Instructor: Mike Samulak

Time: Thursdays 8:30 - 9:30 PM

Class Size: No limit

Syllabus (week by week)

1. Overview and Family History
2. His Upbringing, Youth, Education and Early Years
3. His Conversion and The Beginning of His life's Mission and Work
4. Enter the Moravian
5. The Next Stage of Church and Work
6. Missions around the World
7. Some Challenges
8. The Fruit of the Spirit in Life and Work
9. The Final Days and Epilogue

Course Material

All references will be made available online during the course of the semester.