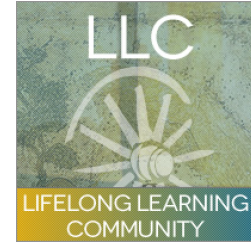


# BASIC E-COURSE INFORMATION

## AR – The Advent of God’s Word: *A Devotional Retreat in Preparation for Christmas and the New Year*



### COURSE DESCRIPTION

As the event of Jesus’ birth dawns in the midst of humanity, and into the New Year this online advent retreat provides opportunities for hearing, seeing and entering into the wooing love song of God as God whispers new life to the soul. Through the creative arts and ancient prayer practices participants will have the opportunity to experience the birthing of Jesus as a way of opening to God’s surprises in the midst of everyday life. The opportunity to set a foundation of devotional retreating for the New Year will also be offered. Whether you are just beginning a relationship with God or have walked lovingly with Jesus for many years, this online retreat will allow possibilities for new life to dawn within you.

### COURSE FOCUS

The course will be a guided daily retreat through spiritual direction with the Instructor. The advent wreath is the focal illustration of the spiritual journey, as participants travel with a host of characters to Bethlehem to meet Jesus at his birthing. These characters include, Mary, Jesus’ mother, her cousin Elizabeth, Zechariah, Elizabeth’s husband, Jesus’ cousin John, shepherds and others from Jesus birth narrative. The landscape of the human heart will be explored on this *adventure* with prayer practices of *Lectio Divina* (with the written word, along with visual and audio experiences), *Icon Gazing*, *Daily Examen*, *Meditative Movement* and *Silence*. Daily Mandalas will be created to express the beyond word experience of inspiring encounters with God.

### COURSE FORMAT

**AR** is a six-week facilitated online course that takes place in Moodle (our online learning platform). Participation in the course primarily takes place asynchronously (that is, not “live” at the same time); however, for five of the six weeks some or all of the class will meet “live” via web conference (dates and times TBD). Each week includes, at a minimum, a combination of readings and/or video viewing and active participation in the threaded (Forum) discussion(s). More importantly, the course is designed to appropriate the contents for practical and concrete application to one’s life and ministry.

### REQUIRED TEXT

Buckwell, Brenda K. 2015. *The Advent of God’s Word: Listening for the Divine Whisper*. (Woodstock, VT: Skylight Paths Publisher). ISBN #978-1-59473-576-9

## Recommended Texts

Garner, Sharon Seyfarth. 2017. *Mandalas, Candles and Prayer: A Simply Centered Advent*. (Upper Room Books: Nashville.) ISBN # 9780835817226

Suter, Judith, OSB. 2010. *Advent and Christmas: Wisdom from St. Benedict*. (Liguori Publications: Liguori, Missouri). ISBN # 978-0-7648-1883-7.

**Note:** There will be other supplementary resources for the course in the form of excerpted essays, articles, audio/video clippings, etc.