

# 33<sup>rd</sup> ANNUAL ND DISTRICT MEN'S WINTER RETREAT

January 13-14, 2023

Shepherd's Hill at the Crossroads, St. John, ND

## *Archaeology and the Bible – Can you believe it?*

*The use and abuse of archaeology in understanding the Bible, the world of Jesus, and earliest Christianity*

Presenter:

**Rev. Dr. Mark Schuler**

Professor Emeritus of theology, Greek, and archaeology  
Concordia University, St. Paul, MN



Rev. Dr. Mark Schuler, a field archaeologist and professor emeritus from Concordia University Saint Paul, discusses some of the "spectacular discoveries" of recent decades that claim to "shake the foundations" of Christianity. He will offer tips for distinguishing pseudo-science from the scientific archaeology that is helpful in understanding the world of the Bible.

Over the last several decades, archaeological excavations at Sepphoris, Nazareth, Tiberias, Magdala, Bethsaida, Gamla, Capernaum, and Hippos have shed new light on the world in which Jesus was active during most of his public ministry. What was it like to fish the sea, to live in a Jewish village, to face encroaching Roman power, to try and survive in malaria-infested areas? How does this experience help us understand the teaching, parables, and prayers of Jesus?

What was Jerusalem like at Passover in AD 30 during the reign of Pontius Pilatus? What does archaeology teach us about crucifixion in the Roman imperial period? What about the burial practice employed by Joseph of Arimathea in Jerusalem in the late second-temple period?

Hippos, likely the city set on the hill to which Jesus referred in the Sermon on the Mount, became the largest center of Christian practice on the Sea of Galilee in the Byzantine period. Dr. Schuler summarises his 20 years of work as director of the Northeast Insulae Project at the Hippos/Sussita Excavations of the Zinman Institute of Archaeology at the University of Haifa. In the insulae, his team uncovered an urban monastery and healing site centered on a revered woman.

Born in Wisconsin, Mark Schuler did his undergraduate work in classical Greek at Concordia Senior College in Ft. Wayne, IN. He trained for and was ordained into the pastoral ministry of the Lutheran Church–Missouri Synod, serving parishes in urban St. Louis and rural Iowa. He received a Doctor of Theology degree from Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, specializing in gospel studies. Since joining the faculty at Concordia Saint Paul in 1994, Prof. Schuler has pioneered classroom and other educational uses of information technologies. Schuler was the chairperson of the Department of Theology and Ministry at Concordia (2008-2019). He specializes in New Testament and Koine Greek. He was the co-director of the University Honors Program in litteris fideique. Since 1996, he has traveled frequently to Israel for research and teaching purposes. He has participated in the archaeological excavations at Ein Gedi and Tiberias sponsored by the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. He directed the Northeast Insulae Project (2002-2021) at the Hippos-Sussita Excavations of the Zinman Institute of Archaeology at the University of Haifa.

Rev. Dr. Schuler is professor emeritus of theology, Greek, and archaeology at Concordia University, Saint Paul, Minnesota. He is a member of ASOR and the Society of Biblical Literature, for which he served as the coordinator of the Upper Midwest Region from 2003-2008.

*For over 30 years men have enjoyed the camaraderie of these retreats—thought-provoking  
Scripture-based presentations, fellowship, music, good food, card games, etc.  
Father & son duos are encouraged to come.*

**Begins with supper Friday at 6:00 P.M. & ends about 2:00 P.M. Saturday**

**Cost – \$100**

**Includes: 3 meals, lodging, speaker, snacks, games, fireside chats, etc.**

**Bring: Bible, bed roll, personal items, warm clothing, & friends**

**Contact Corey Isaak to register:**

**Call 701-281-0240 or E-mail: [corey.isaak@gracefargo.org](mailto:corey.isaak@gracefargo.org)**