Please join the Science, Religion, and Lunch Seminars (SRLS) hosted by the Northern Plains Ethics Institute for:

Darrel Lindensmith
Pastor, Fargo Seventh-Day Adventist Church

The Seventh-Day Adventist Church’s Theological Uniqueness as It Relates to Apologetics

12-1 pm, March 24, 2020
Room of Nations, Memorial Union

Abstract: Lindensmith will speak on the Theological uniqueness of the Seventh-day Adventist Church as it relates to the field of Apologetics. Apologetics is the branch of Christian philosophy that deals with the defense of the rational arguments as to why the Christian worldview is true. The project is based on texts such as:

But sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts, always being ready to make a defense to everyone who asks you to give an account for the hope that is in you, yet with gentleness and reverence (1 Peter 3:15).

Adventist theology is unique in regard to several areas of “rational argument.” Three most salient points are considered:

1. Eternal Torment Unbiblical: It will be argued that the teaching of eternal torment is indeed inconsistent with a God of love who is the “greatest conceivable being” (Anselm). Much confusion and unbelief has been caused by the doctrine of eternal torment at the hands of a Creator who “loves” all people. It will be argued that eternal torment is not biblical. The “immortal soul” concept was brought into Christian theology via Greek philosophy, and through the Greek assumption of “immortal soul” certain statements in Scripture regarding the final punishment of evil have been misinterpreted.

"I can hardly see how anyone ought to wish Christianity to be true; for if so be [people] are everlastingly punished. And this is a damnable doctrine." (Charles Darwin)

2. Corruption of the church: It will be argued that the teachings of Jesus Christ have sometimes been poorly represented by “Christianity.” Biblical prophecy regarding this corruption confirms that God agrees with critics who point to church atrocities and spiritual abuse. God was the first critic of the institution church.

The Divine Comedy is an eloquent and unsparing commentary on Revelation 17’s predictions of Church corruption:
Of shepherds like to you, the Evangelist
Was ware, when her, who sits upon the waves,
With Kings in filthy whoredom he beheld,
She who with seven heads towered at her birth,
And from ten horns her proof of glory drew . . .
Of gold and silver ye have made your god . . .
Ah, Constantine! To how much ill gave birth,
Not thy conversion, but that plenteous dower,
Which the first wealthy Father gained from thee (Canto 19)

3. Prophecy: It will be argued that prophecy itself is a tremendous evidence of the reality of God and God’s care for humanity.

Bio: Darrel Lindensmith is Pastor the South Adventist Church in Fargo. He also volunteers as a Chaplain at the Cass County Jail, where he conducts groups in spiritual approaches to recovery and anger management. He is married with two grown children. Lindensmith began college with a degree in Biology in Missouri, and after becoming a Christian, he moved to Nebraska to major in Theology. In 1983, he went with his new wife to Osaka Japan for language training and began outreach ministry to Buddhists and Shinto believers for the next 7 years. During a sabbatical Lindensmith received his first master’s degree in New Testament theology, and then later his second in Counseling Psychology.

If you are interested in giving a seminar, then please contact Syed Ahmed at syed.ahmed@ndsu.edu or Dennis Cooley at dennis.cooley@ndsu.edu.