

DEACONESS DR. RHODA SCHULER

Saint Paul, Minnesota 55104

<https://www.rhodaschuler.com/>

EDUCATION

Th.D. Historical Theology, Luther Seminary, St. Paul, Minnesota

M.A. Liturgical Studies, St. John's University School of Theology, Collegeville, Minnesota

B.A. Theology major (with honors), Valparaiso University, Valparaiso, Indiana

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Term Faculty Fall 2008 – Fall 2020

Concordia University, St. Paul, Minnesota

I taught in the Department of Theology and Ministry and in the University Honors Program in litteris fideque.

Adjunct Faculty Fall 2004 – Fall 2007; Fall 2001

University of St. Thomas, St. Paul, Minnesota

I taught "The Christian Theological Tradition," an introductory course required of all undergraduates that includes a general overview of Scripture, theology, and church history.

Visiting Assistant Professor of Religion 2002 – 2004

Concordia College, Moorhead, Minnesota

I taught "Christianity and Religious Diversity," the core introductory course required of all students. I also taught "Christian Tradition I: Communities and Rites," and "Christian Tradition II: Theologies and Ethics," both of which are 300-level courses.

Faculty Associate Spring 2002

Bethel Seminary, St. Paul, Minnesota

I taught "American Christianity," a theological and historical evaluation of the distinctive characteristics of American Christianity from the colonial period to the present.

Guest Instructor Spring 2002; Spring 2000; 1995 – 1998

Concordia University, St. Paul, Minnesota

I taught "Worship for Lutherans," an upper-level course examining early church patterns of worship, exploring Reformation teaching and its impact on worship, and evaluating contemporary practice.

Guest Lecturer Fall 1988

Concordia Seminary, Nagercoil, Tamilnadu, India

I co-taught a course for women on deaconess ministry.

PRESENTATIONS RELATED TO RESEARCH ON ADULT FAITH FORMATION

“Adult Faith Formation: A Prophetic Challenge to Religious Consumerism,” seminar at Institute of Liturgical Studies, April 9-11, 2024. Co-led with Kent Burreson.

LCMS Oregon Pastors Fall Conference, September 26-29, 2023. Co-led with Kent Burreson.

“From Font to Table: Welcoming the Stranger into Christ and Congregational Life,” Workshop co-sponsored by Concordia Seminary, St. Louis and Concordia University - St. Paul, MN, July 5-7, 2023. Co-led with Kent Burreson.

“The Six-Week ‘New Member’ Class: Repenting of This Sin,” breakout session at Best Practices Ministry Conference, Christ Church Lutheran, Phoenix, AZ, February 16-18, 2023.

“‘A Journey that Never Ends’: Lessons from Contemporary Lutheran Catechumenates,” presentation with Kent Burreson to the Christian Initiation Seminar at North American Academy of Liturgy Annual Meeting, Atlanta, GA, January 2-5, 2020.

“Remembering the Future: Exploring an Ancient Model of Making Disciples for the Twenty-First Century,” presentation with Kent Burreson, Annual Hoffmann Lecture, Concordia University - St. Paul, MN, October 15, 2019.

See the website, Forming Lutherans, for more details of my research work with Dr. Kent Burreson, Concordia Seminary, St. Louis: <https://www.forminglutherans.org/>

FELLOWSHIPS AND AWARDS

Alumni Achievement Award, Valparaiso University Fall 2022
The VU Alumni Achievement Award honors alumni who have demonstrated outstanding achievement in their chosen career or area of professional life. <https://www.valpo.edu/homecoming/alumni-awards/>

CSP Faculty Development Grant Spring 2020
Funds (\$500.00) were awarded to cover partial cost of a course release for fall 2020 to free up time to administer the Calvin Teacher-Scholar Grant.

Calvin Institute of Christian Worship Teacher-Scholar Grant 2020 - 2021
I was the recipient of this \$18,000.00 grant project designed to build on the work of the previous grant. For more information: <https://www.forminglutherans.org/>

CSP Faculty Development Grant Spring 2019
Funds (\$500.00) were awarded to hire a student worker to transcribe interviews that were done for the Calvin Institute of Christian Worship Grant.

Calvin Institute of Christian Worship Grant 2018 - 2019
I was the assistant project director of the grant project “Making Disciples: Exploring the Formative Impact of the Adult Catechumenal Process,” awarded to Kent Burreson, Concordia Seminary, St. Louis.

Concordia University Service Learning Award 2012
I received the award in May 2012 from Concordia University, St. Paul; the award is given annually to a full-time member of the faculty in recognition of commitment and dedication to service-learning.

Seminars@Calvin participant Summer 2011
I was one of 16 participants in the seminar titled “From Worldview to Worship: The Liturgical Turn in Cultural Theory” directed by Dr. James K.A. Smith.

Dovre Center Faculty Study Grant 2003 - 2004
I was awarded a grant by Concordia College, Moorhead, Minnesota to do research on the development of the crash site of United Flight 93 on 9/11 in Shanksville, Pennsylvania as a place of pilgrimage within American civil religion.

Word & World Editorial Fellowship

1999 - 2000 and 2000 - 2001

I was awarded a competitive fellowship for Luther Seminary doctoral students by Word & World, a quarterly journal published by Luther Seminary; my work included initial review of articles, occasional editing of articles, abstracting of the journal, and proofreading.

Goethe Institut Scholarship Award

Summer 2000

I was awarded a competitive scholarship for eight weeks of German language study, Goethe Institut, Dresden, Germany.

PUBLICATIONS

Articles

“From My Head to My Toes, I Felt like a New Body Was Created’: Lessons from Contemporary Lutheran Catechumenates.” *Worship* 97 (April 2023). Authored with Kent Bureson.

“Voyage to Belonging and Renewal through the Adult Catechumenate.” *Currents in Theology and Mission* 49, no. 2 (April 2022): 42-48. <http://currentsjournal.org/index.php/currents/article/view/351/385>

“Askew, Anne” in *Encyclopedia of Martin Luther and the Reformation*, ed. Mark Lamport. Lanham, MD: Rowman & Littlefield Publishers, 2017.

“Charles V” in *Encyclopedia of Martin Luther and the Reformation*, ed. Mark Lamport. Lanham, MD: Rowman & Littlefield Publishers, 2017.

“Confirmation” in *Dictionary of Martin Luther and the Lutheran Tradition*, ed. Timothy Wengert, Robert Kolb, Jonathan Strom, Mary Jane Haemig, Mark Mattes, and Mark Granquist. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic, 2017.

“Luther, the Lord’s Prayer, and Luther’s Liturgical Reform.” *Studia Liturgica* 46, no. 1-2 (2016): 195–207.

“On the Veneration of Saints and Martyrs, Ancient and Modern.” *Word & World* 28, no. 4 (2008): 373-380.

“Confirmation” in *Encyclopedia of Protestantism*. Edited by Hans Hillerbrand. New York: Routledge, 2003.

“Worship among Lutherans: A House Divided.” *Studia Liturgica* 25, no. 2 (1995): 174–191.

Book Reviews

Review of *Liturgy and Biblical Interpretation: The Sanctus and the Qedushah* by Sebastian Selvén (University of Notre Dame Press, 2021) in *Lutheran Quarterly* 36/2 (Summer 2022): 252-253.

Review of *Ever Ancient, Ever New* by Winfield Bevins (Zondervan, 2019) in *Lutheran Quarterly* 34/1 (Spring 2020): 113-115.

Review of *Liturgy and Secularism: Beyond the Divide* by Joris Geldhof (Liturgical Press, 2018) in *Horizons* 46/2 (December 2019): 389-390.

Review of *The Virtual Body of Christ in a Suffering World* by Deanna A. Thompson (Nashville: Abingdon Press, 2016) in *Lutheran Quarterly* 33/3 (Autumn 2019): 356-358.

Review of *Sister Elisabeth Fedde, “To do the Lord’s will”: Elizabeth Fedde and the Deaconess Movement among the Norwegians in America* by Gracia Grindal (University Lutheran Press, 2014) in *Lutheran Quarterly* 30/1 (Spring 2016): 86-88.

Review of *Wounded Vision: Unity, Justice, and Peace in the World Church after 1968* by Jonas Jonson. Translated by Norman H. Helm. (Eerdmans, 2013) in *Lutheran Quarterly* 28/3 (Autumn 2014): 328-330.

Review of *Responding to Secularization: The Deaconess Movement in Nineteenth-century Sweden* by Todd H. Green. (Brill, 2011) in *Lutheran Quarterly* 27/1 (Spring 2013): 100-102.

Review (online) of *Hoping for More: Having cancer, talking faith and accepting grace* by Deanna Thompson. (Cascade, 2012) on *Lutheran Forum* website (August 2013).
<http://www.lutheranforum.org/book-reviews/review-of-hoping-for-more-having-cancer-talking-faith-and-accepting-grace-by-deanna-a-thompson/>

Review of *Welfare and Religion in 21st Century Europe: Volume 1 Configuring the Connection* edited by Anders Bäckström et al. (Ashgate, 2010) in *Lutheran Quarterly* 26/1 (Spring 2012): 101-103.

Review of *Social Ministry in the Lutheran Tradition* edited by Foster R. McCurley (Fortress, 2008) in *Lutheran Quarterly* 24/2 (Summer 2010): 211-212.

Review of *Mission and Migration* by Dana K. Nelson (Lutheran University Press, 2007) in *Lutheran Quarterly* 22/2 (Summer 2008): 247-248.

Review of *Deacons and Deaconesses through the Centuries* by Jeannine E. Olson (Concordia, 2005) in *Lutheran Quarterly* 21/4 (Winter 2007): 489-493.

Review of *The Yes of the Heart* by Grace Adolphsen Brame (Augsburg, 1999) in *Dialog* 42/4 (Winter 2003): 392-393.

Review of *Confirmation: Engaging Lutheran Foundations and Practices* (Fortress Press, 1999) in *Lutheran Quarterly* 15/3 (2001): 368-371.

Editorial Work

Saying and Doing the Gospel Today: Mass, Ministry, Mission. Edited and with an introduction by Rhoda Schuler. Institute of Liturgical Studies Occasional Papers 12. Valparaiso, IN: Institute of Liturgical Studies, 2007.

Liturgy in a New Millennium. Edited and with an introduction by Rhoda Schuler. Institute of Liturgical Studies Occasional Papers 11. Valparaiso, IN: Institute of Liturgical Studies, 2006.

Worship, Culture, and Catholicity. Edited and with an introduction by Rhoda Schuler. Institute of Liturgical Studies Occasional Papers 10. Valparaiso, IN: Institute of Liturgical Studies, 2005.

PRESENTATIONS & LECTURES

“The Stones Cry Out: Archaeology and Spirituality in the Holy Land,” co-presenter with Dr. Mark Schuler at ALOA (Adult Lutherans Organized for Action) Ironwood Springs (MN) Lutherhostel, October 2-6, 2023.
Session 2: “Honoring the Saints among Us: Saints, Tombs, and Relics (joint presentation)”
Session 3: “Reflections of a Reluctant Digger: The Spirituality (or not) of Digging”

“A Bruised Reed, a Dimly Burning Wick: Two Cases of Clergy Sexual Misconduct and Pastoral Care of Victims,” plenary presentation at LCMS Theology Professors Conference, River Forest, IL, May 23-26, 2022.

“God Creates Amidst Chaos: The Radical Hope of the Gospel,” plenary co-leader with Drs. Mark and Kara Koschmann, Annual Meeting of the Lutheran Deaconess Conference (virtual), July 15-18, 2021.

“So Happy Together: Interdisciplinary Teaching by the Ninja Turtles of Art and Theology,” sectional presentation with Keith Williams at Association of Lutheran College Faculties Conference, St. Paul, MN, September 21-22, 2018.

“Faith Formation for Millennials/Mosaics: From Catechesis to Font to Table,” sectional presentation with Kent Burreson at the LCMS Theology Professors Conference, Milwaukee, WI, May 21-23, 2018.

- “Lessons from the Catechumenate: Shaping a Catechumenal Process That Births and Forms New Christians,” with Kent Bureson; seminar session at Institute of Liturgical Studies, Valparaiso University, April 9-1, 2018.
- “The Lord’s Prayer as Interpretative Lens for Martin Luther’s Liturgical Reforms,” workshop session at Institute of Liturgical Studies, Valparaiso University, April 24-26, 2017.
- “Luther, the Lord’s Prayer, and Luther’s Liturgical Reforms,” sectional presentation at the LCMS Theologians Conference, Irvine, CA, May 23-25, 2016.
- “The Blood of Life: Dracula and the Christian Eucharist” presented with Mark Rosenwinkel at Concordia University First Friday College of Arts and Sciences Scholars Series, October 2, 2011.
- “Damned Demas: Establishing Boundaries and Maintaining Social Control through Confirmation Homilies on the American Frontier,” presented at AAR/SBL Upper Midwest Regional Conference, Luther Seminary, St. Paul, MN, March 28-29, 2008.
- “Let the Servant Church Arise: Waters for the Thirsty, Supper for the Hungry,” plenary address presented at the Institute of Liturgical Studies, Valparaiso University, April 24-26, 2006.
- “High Priests and Holy Ground: Pilgrimage to Shanksville, Pennsylvania,” presented at Concordia College, Moorhead, Faculty Colloquium, February 24, 2004 and at the AAR/SBL Upper Midwest Regional Conference, April 1-2, 2005.
- “Pilgrimage to Shanksville, Pennsylvania: Where Heaven and Earth Meet in American Civil Religion,” presented to the liturgical theology seminar at the North American Academy of Liturgy Annual Meeting, January 3-6, 2004.
- “The Rite of Confirmation in The Lutheran Church–Missouri Synod Examined on the Basis of Liturgy and Preaching,” presented to the Lutheran Caucus at the North American Academy of Liturgy Annual Meeting, January 3-6, 2002.
- “Three Victims, One Offender: The Problem of Secrecy, the Power of Disclosure,” workshop presentation at the Interfaith Sexual Trauma Institute National Conference, St. John’s University, Collegeville, MN, June 8 - 10, 1998.
- “From Kitchen to Classroom to Boardroom: Pushing the Boundaries of the Service of Women in The Lutheran Church–Missouri Synod,” presented at AAR/SBL Upper Midwest Regional Conference, Luther Seminary, St. Paul, MN, April 17-18, 1998.
- “*Lex Orandi, Lex Credendi*,” presented at Luther Theological University, Seoul, South Korea, August 26, 1997.
- “*Lex Orandi, Lex Credendi*: Thomas Aquinas on the Eucharist and the Feast of Corpus Christi,” presented at AAR/SBL Upper Midwest Regional Conference, Luther Seminary, St. Paul, MN, April 4-5, 1997.

CURRENT MEMBERSHIPS

Institute of Liturgical Studies Advisory Council, 1995-2008; 2021-present

International Loehe Society, 2005-present

Lutheran Diaconal Association and Lutheran Deaconess Conference, 1977 - present
LDA Board of Directors, 1988 - 1993; various LDA committees, 1984 - 1993

North American Academy of Liturgy, 2002 - present

From March 2012 through February 2020: I served as convener for the Lutheran Caucus of NAAL; duties included organizing the schedule for the day-long meeting, maintaining the email distribution list, and communicating regularly with the Lutheran NAAL members.

SERVICE TO CHURCH AND SOCIETY

Pro Bono Liturgist, Jehovah Lutheran Church, St. Paul, Minnesota, Advent 2006 - Summer 2021

I coordinated worship planning for the weekly Eucharist services, occasional special services, and Holy Week services. I scheduled and train lay worship leaders. During the Pandemic (March 2020 through June 2021), I coordinated recording schedules for our online services and prepared the PowerPoints that are part of each recording.

Contributor in

Evangelical Lutheran Worship Pastoral Care. Minneapolis, MN: Augsburg Fortress, 2008.

I wrote prayers for infertility, foster care, children at time of separation or divorce, imprisonment, shame, and families with addictions which are included in this volume.

Evangelical Lutheran Worship. Minneapolis, MN: Augsburg Fortress, 2006.

I worked on the "additional prayers" (pp. 72–83), reviewing and revising LBW prayers, researching sources for new additions, and writing some new prayers.

Sundays and Seasons 2000, 2001, 2002, 2004, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2012, 2020, 2026. Minneapolis, MN: Augsburg Fortress, 1999, 2000, 2001, 2003, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2013, 2019, 2025.

I have written weekly intercessions and seasonal texts, such as the Advent wreath blessings and Confession and Forgiveness rites.

Election Judge, Ramsey County, Minnesota

I have worked regularly as an election judge since 2004 and have served as head judge of a precinct since 2008.