

***Curriculum Vitae* for Robert Saler**

**Executive Director, Center for Pastoral Excellence, Associate Dean, and Research Professor of
Religion and Culture**

Christian Theological Seminary
1000 West 42nd St
Indianapolis, IN 46208
x773-909-4984
rsaler@cts.edu

Education

Ph.D., with distinction, in Theology, Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago (2011)

Th.M., Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago (2009)

M.Div., Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago (2007)

Ordained to Ministry of Word and Sacrament in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
(October 2011)

MA, University of Chicago Divinity School (2003)

BA, *summa cum laude*, Valparaiso University (2001)

Additional study: “*Traditio*” summer seminar at the University of Notre Dame, 2001 (invited
participant, with full funding) and St. Vladimir Orthodox Theological Seminary, 2015

Teaching Experience:

Solo Courses taught at Christian Theological Seminary in Indianapolis

- “Augustine and His Legacy”
- “C.S. Lewis”
- “Gateway to the Christian Tradition”
- “The Reformation: 500 Years Later”
- “Clergy in Contemporary Literature”
- “Martin Luther: Life and Theology
- “Kurt Vonnegut and the Absurd God”
- “Atheism Old and New”
- “Guided Research: Heaven, Hell, Demonology”
- “Guided Research: The Lutheran Confessions”
- “Guided Research: 20th Century Catholic Ecclesiology”
- “Heaven, Hell, and Salvation in Theology and Popular Culture”
- “Guided Research: The Art and Theology of the Stations of the Cross
- “Dietrich Bonhoeffer”

Solo Courses taught at Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago

- “Paul and Political Philosophy” (Spring 2014) (w/Ray Pickett)
- “Systematic Theology II” (Spring 2014) (online)
- “Systematic Theology II” (Spring 2012)
- “Systematic Theology I” (Fall 2011)
- “Theologies of Creation” (January Term 2009)

- “Nature Writing in Theological Perspective” (May Term 2010)

Publications

Books

- *Planning Your Pastor’s Sabbatical: A Guide for Congregations* (St. Louis, MO: Chalice, 2019)
- *Theologia Crucis* (Eugene, OR: Cascade, 2016).
- *Between Magisterium and Marketplace: A Constructive Account of Theology and the Church* (Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2014).

Edited Works

- Co-editor, with Cynthia Moe-Lobeda and Whitney Bauman, of “Eco-Justice Reformation,” special issue of *Dialog: A Journal of Theology* Vol. 55, Issue 2 (June 2016).
- Pedagogy Content Consultant, *History of Christianity*, 2013 Inkling edition (Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2013).
- Contributing editor, with Richard A. Norris (ed.), *The Christological Controversy*, 2nd ed. (Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2012).
- Contributing editor, with William G. Rusch (ed.), *The Trinitarian Controversy*, 2nd ed. (Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2012).
- Co-editor, with Barbara Rossing, of “Faith and Earthkeeping: A Tribute to the Environmental Ministry of David Rhoads,” special issue of *Currents in Theology and Mission* Vol. 37, No. 2 (April 2010).

Book Chapters

- “Luther and Radical Orthodoxy,” “Schleiermacher and Luther,” “Luther and Contemporary Roman Catholicism,” and “Luther and Catholic Modernism” in Mark Lamport (ed.), *Encyclopedia of Luther and the Reformation* (New York: Rowman and Littlefield, 2017).
- “Theology of the Cross” in Derek Nelson and Paul Hinlicky (eds), *The Oxford Encyclopedia of Martin Luther* (New York: Oxford University Press, 2017).

- “Joseph Sittler and the Ecological Role of Cultural Critique: A Resource for Eco-Reformation” in Lisa E. Dahill and James B. Martin-Schramm (eds.), *Eco-Reformation: Grace and Hope for a Planet in Peril* (Eugene, OR: Cascade, 2016).
- W/Callie Smith, “The Practice of Sabbatical as Renewal” in Chad R. Abbott (ed.), *Sacred Habits: The Rise of the Creative Clergy* (Aurora, CO: Noesis Press, 2016).

Articles in Peer-Reviewed Publications

- W/Derek Nelson, “Reformation Resources for Contemporary Eco-Justice Theology,” *Dialog: A Journal of Theology* Vol. 55, Issue 2 (June 2016), 141-146.
- "Canon and Curation: What does the Completion of RPP Mean for North American Students of Theology, Church History, and Philosophy?" *Bulletin for the Study of Religion* (Volume 44, Number 3 (September 2015),
- “Paul Hinlicky’s Critical Dogmatics: Triune Redemption and Hope in the Beloved Community,” *Dialog: A Journal of Theology* Volume 52, Issue 2 (June 2013), 151-157.
- “Fate, Fortune, and Providence in William Tyndale’s *Obedience of a Christian Man*,” *Pro Ecclesia* Vol. XXI, No. 4 (Fall 2012), 375-391.

Other Articles (*sample*)

- “Pastoral Care and Ecological Devastation: Un-Interpreting the Silence,” *Journal of Lutheran Ethics* Volume 16, Issue 2 (February 2016).
- Does the Symbol Really Function? What Theology Can’t and Can Do,” *The Cresset* Volume LXXVIII, No. 1 (Michaelmas 2014), 33-35.
- “Continental Philosophy in the Blogosphere,” *Dialog* Volume 53, Issue 1 (March 2014), 1-3.
- “Gift, Promise, and the Impure Economics of Grace: Gregory Walter’s *Being Promised*,” *The Cresset* Volume LXXVII, No. 2 (Michaelmas 2013), 42-44.
- “The Earth, The Road, and the Tomb: The Mortality of the Earth and Care for Creation,” *The Cresset* Vol. LXXVII, No. 3 (Lent 2013), 50-52.
- “Yes, There is such a Thing as a Part-Time Call,” *Lutheran Forum* (Winter 2012).
- “Gracing the Table: Food, Faith, and Truth-Telling,” *The Cresset* Vol LXXV, No. 3 (Lent 2012).
- “The Ecumenical Environmentalism of Joseph Sittler,” *Lutheran Forum* 44/2 (Summer 2010).

- “Creativity in Earthkeeping: The Contribution of Joseph Sittler’s *The Structure of Christian Ethics* to Ecological Theology,” *Currents in Theology and Mission* Vol. 37, No. 2 (April 2010).
- “The Transformation of Reason in Genesis 2-3: Two Options for Theological Interpretation,” *Currents in Theology and Mission* Vol. 36, No. 4 (August 2009).
- “Taking Baptism Seriously,” *The Cresset*, Vol. LXXII, No. 5 (Trinity 2009).
- “Longing for the Longest Creed,” *Lutheran Forum* 42/2 (Summer 2008).
- “Joseph Sittler and the Task of the Church” *The Cresset* Vol LXXI, No. 4 (Easter 2008).
- “Lutherans in the Marketplace,” *The Cresset*, Vol. LXX, No. 3 (Lent 2007).
- “The Lutheran Confessional Heritage and Contemporary Hermeneutics,” *Currents in Theology and Mission* Vol. 34, No. 1 (February 2007).

Reviews (*sample*)

- Review of Natalie Carnes, *Image and Presence: A Christological Reflection on Iconoclasm and Iconophilia*,” *Christian Century* (5/10/2018).
- Review of Patrick B. Reyes, “Nobody Cries when We Die: God, Community, and Surviving to Adulthood,” *Christian Century* (6/12/2017).
- Review of Adrian Pabst, “Metaphysics: The Creation of Hierarchy,” *Syndicate* Volume 2, Issue 2 (March/April 2015), 47-51.
- Review of James M. Child and Richard Lischer (eds.), “*The Eloquence of Grace: Joseph Sittler and the Preaching Life*,” *Journal of Lutheran Ethics* Vol. 15, Issue 2 (February 2015).
- “Review of Brad S. Gregory, *The Unintended Reformation: How a Religious Revolution Secularized Society*,” *Expositions* Vol. 6, No. 2 (2012), 41-47.
- “Review of Stephen D. Paulson, *Lutheran Theology*,” *Reviews in Religion and Theology*, Vol. 19, Issue 4 (2012).
- “Review of Paul R. Hinlicky, *Luther and the Beloved Community: A Path for Christian Theology after Christendom*,” *The Cresset*, Vol. LXXIV, No. 1 (Michaelmas 2010).
- “Review of Cabell King and David Albertson (eds.), *Without Nature? A New Condition for Theology*,” *Currents in Theology and Mission* Vol. 37, No. 2 (April 2010).
- “Review of Mark C. Taylor, *After God*,” *American Journal of Theology and Philosophy* Volume 30, No 3 (September 2009).

Other Writings (*sample*)

- “Mixed Constituency Classrooms in Theological Education: Some Thoughts from the Field” *Let’s Talk* Issue 20.2 (Lent 2016)
- “Deeper Understandings: Tradition” *The Lutheran* (April 2014).
- “Living by the Word: Sunday, August 18th, 2013,” *Christian Century* Vol. 130, No. 16 (Aug, 7, 2013).
- “‘Without’ Hope? Internality and Externality in Preaching Difficult Texts” *Let’s Talk* Issue 17.4 (Advent 2012).
- “Joseph Sittler as Theologian of the 21st Century” *Let’s Talk* Issue 18.1 (Lent 2013).
- “The Church’s Mission in a World Without ‘Nature’” *Let’s Talk* Issue 15.2 (Advent 2010).

Invited Presentations (*sample*)

- “Orthodoxy in Ecumenical Perspective: Some Notes,” International Orthodox Theological Association (Jerusalem, Israel), 2018.
- “Fortune and Fate in the Tyndale-More Controversy,” International Medieval Congress, University of Leeds (Leeds, UK), 2017.
- “Presence, Absence, and the Ambiguities of Ambience: Theological Discourse and the Turn to Sound in Arvo Pärt Studies,” Fordham University (New York, New York), 2017.
- “Arvo Pärt and Theology” panel, St. Vladimir’s Orthodox Theological Seminary (Yonkers, NY), 2017.
- “Does Progressive Christianity need Satan?” Wild Goose Festival (Hot Springs, NC), 2016.
- “Liberal Protestantism and the Deconstructing Church: Like Ships in the Night?” Elmhurst College (Elmhurst, IL), 2016.
- “Public Atheism as Public Christianity,” Valparaiso University (Valparaiso, IN), 2016.
- “Atheism Old and New,” Lutheran School of Theology (St. Louis, MO), 2016.
- “Eberhard Jüngel’s Contribution to a Christian Grammar of Death,” Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion (Atlanta, GA), 2015.

- “Hope and Suspicion in 20th Century Theology,” Lutheran School of Theology (Chicago, IL), 2015.
- “Robert Duvall’s *The Apostle* and the Nicene Imagination after Elmer Gantry,” St. Vladimir’s Orthodox Theological Seminary (Yonkers, NY), 2015.
- “Between Magisterium and Marketplace: The Church and Theology,” University of Helsinki, (Helsinki, Finland), 2014.
- “Theological Education in a Time of Transition,” TEEM Consultation, Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary (Berkeley, CA), 2014.
- “Church History, Philosophy, and Theology in *Religion Past and Present*,” Panel on “Religion Past and Present,” Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion (Baltimore, MD), 2013.
- “Pastoral Care as Protest Theodicy,” Subverting the Norm II: Can Postmodern Theology Live in the Churches?, Drury University (Springfield, MO), April 2013.
- “Joseph Sittler and Theologies of Creation,” Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion, (Chicago, IL), 2012.
- “Ecology and Cultural Critique in the Theology of Joseph Sittler,” Carthage College, (Kenosha, WI), 2010.
- “Stewardship as Restoration,” Tithing and Stewardship Workshop, Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago (Chicago, IL), 2009.
- “Christian Ethics in Interfaith Perspective,” Southwest Interfaith Team Panel on “Ethics in Interfaith Perspective” (Tinley Park, IL), 2009.
- “Joseph Sittler and Chicago Religious Environmentalism,” Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion (Chicago, IL), 2008.
- “Response to Edward Soja,” Conference on “Without Nature? A New Condition for Theology,” University of Chicago Divinity School (Chicago, IL), 2005.
- “Response to Scott N. Dolf,” Conference on “Theology and the Gift,” Harvard University Divinity School (Cambridge, MA), 2002.

Administrative Experience

- Associate Dean for Assessment and Evaluation, Christian Theological Seminary (2018-present)
- Theologian in Residence, Christ the Savior Lutheran Church (2016-2018)
- Chair, Steering Committee, ELCA Association of Teaching Theologians (2016-present)

- Executive Director, Center for Pastoral Excellence, Christian Theological Seminary (2014-present)
 - Overseeing five Lilly Endowment-funded initiatives totaling over \$12 million in annual budget.
- Research Fellow and Director of the Lilly Endowment Clergy Renewal Programs, Christian Theological Seminary in Indianapolis (2012-2014)
- Pastor, Bethel Lutheran Church in Gary, IN (2010- 2012)
- Visiting Lecturer in Theology, Lutheran School of Theology (2011- 2012)
- Webmaster, Lutherans Restoring Creation (www.lutheransrestoringcreation.org) (2009-2011)
- Interim Pastor, Emmanuel Lutheran Church in Merrillville, IN (2009- 2010)
- Coordinator of “Earth Year at LSTC,” the seminary’s ecology-centered theme year (2009-2010)
- Writing tutor, Language Resource and Writing Center at LSTC (2003-2010)
- Joseph Sittler Graduate Fellow at LSTC: teaching, educational outreach, preparation of adult education materials, coordinating environmental advocacy events (2007-2010)
- Student Coordinator of “The Jews of Luthertown Wittenberg” Exhibit at the Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago (2006-2007)

Honors

Marshall Fellowship, Lutheran School of Theology (2009)
 Lutheran Confessions Prize, Lutheran School of Theology (2007)
 Christ College Alumni Association Award (Student Academic Achievement), Valparaiso University (2001)

Language competence

Reading: Hebrew, Greek, Latin, French, German

Professional Associations

Editorial Board, *Dialog: A Journal of Theology*
 American Academy of Religion
 American Theological Society of the Midwest

References

John Nunes (Concordia College, Bronxville)
 Peter Bouteneff (St. Vladimir’s Orthodox Theological Seminary)
 Elizabeth Lynn (Valparaiso University)
 Paul Hinlicky (Roanoke College)
 Monica A. Coleman (Claremont Graduate University)