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Education

Certificate of Study, Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago, 2009

Master of Divinity, University of Chicago Divinity School, 2007

Bachelor of Arts, University of Chicago, 2002

Associate of Arts, Deep Springs College, 1999

Professional Experience

January 2015-Present: Pastor of Worship and Education, Messiah Lutheran Church, Wauconda, Illinois

Fall 2014 and Fall 2012: Instructor, "Worship and Preaching," University of Chicago Divinity School

September 2011-December 2014: Associate Pastor, Messiah Lutheran Church, Wauconda, Illinois

September 2008-August 2011: Associate Pastor, Wicker Park Lutheran Church, Chicago, Illinois

July 2007-July 2008: Intern, Bethel-Imani Lutheran Church, Chicago, Illinois

September 2004-June 2007: Research Assistant, Civic Knowledge Project, Chicago, Illinois

Publications

i. Books

* ***Sacred Signposts: Words, Water, and Other Acts of Resistance***, (Grand Rapids: Wm. B. Eerdmans) 2018

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This book grew out of my writing, preaching, and teaching. It gives a pretty good idea of how I approach the ministry of the church. We've done preaching series and adult education around the topic of the "holy possessions" of the church and that's something I'd look to do at my next call.

"Called" Leader Guide: Hearing and Responding to God's Voice (Nashville: Abingdon) 2019

Chapter with Kerry Waller Dueholm in *When Kids Ask Hard Questions: Faith-Filled Responses for Tough Topics*, Bromleigh McCleneghan and Karen Ware Jackson, eds. (St. Louis: Chalice Press), 2020

ii. Essays and Reported Features

"An ancient journey, rediscovered," *Living Lutheran*, September 2018 <https://www.livinglutheran.org/2018/09/an-ancient-journey-rediscovered/>

*** "The Leadership Crisis at the End of the Megachurch Era," *Religion Dispatches*, August 31, 2018 <https://rewire.news/religion-dispatches/2018/08/31/the-leadership-crisis-at-the-end-of-the-megachurch-era/>**

This essay is about ministry, accountability, and the ways (some of them unhealthy) churches have coped with the decline in religious participation. It gets at a lot of what I consider important about my role as a pastor.

"Why I am a (moderate) prude," *The Christian Century*, April 11, 2018 <https://www.christiancentury.org/article/first-person/confessions-moderate-prude>

"Holy possessions in an anxious age," *Living Lutheran*, April 2018 <https://www.livinglutheran.org/2018/04/holy-possession-in-an-anxious-age/>

"Living by the Word: March 25, Palm Sunday B," *The Christian Century*, February 28, 2018 <https://www.christiancentury.org/article/living-word/march-25-palm-sunday-b-mark-111-11>

"Living by the Word: March 25, Passion Sunday B," *The Christian Century*, February 28, 2018 <https://www.christiancentury.org/article/living-word/march-25-passion-sunday-b-mark-141-1547-psalm-319-16>

"Living by the Word: March 15, Lent 5B," *The Christian Century*, February 28, 2018 <https://www.christiancentury.org/article/living-word/march-18-lent-5b-john-1220-33>

"Liberalism and memory," *The Christian Century*, September 13, 2017 <https://www.christiancentury.org/review/marilynne-robinsons-vision-for-democracy>

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"Garrison Keillor's Dark Americana," *The American Conservative*, July 8, 2016 <https://www.theamericanconservative.com/articles/garrison-keillors-dark-americana/>

* **"Why Pray?", *Aeon*, January 12, 2016 <https://aeon.co/essays/what-is-prayer-supposed-to-accomplish>**

This is an example of writing for a largely secular audience about a religious topic.

"Pulp Inequality," *The Christian Century*, August 6, 2015 <https://www.christiancentury.org/article/2015-07/pulp-inequality>

"Return of the King," *Aeon*, June 30, 2015 <https://aeon.co/essays/the-appeal-of-isis-isn-t-so-far-from-that-of-tolkien>

"The Host," *Aeon*, November 25, 2014 <http://aeon.co/magazine/culture/has-holy-communion-become-harder-to-swallow/>

* **"The War Against Rest," *The Christian Century*, November 26, 2014 <http://www.christiancentury.org/article/2014-11/war-against-rest>**

This is an example of writing for a largely religious audience about a supposedly "secular" topic. It's about society as much as it is about the church.

"After Prohibition: What will marijuana policy reform look like?", *The Christian Century*, July 23, 2014 <https://www.christiancentury.org/article/2014-07/after-prohibition>

* **"Why I Kiss My Stole," *The Christian Century*, June 16, 2014 <https://www.christiancentury.org/article/2014-06/why-i-kiss-my-stole>**

A brief essay on my embrace of an embodied, ritual, "catholic" approach to Christian prayer and worship.

"Help Me Roll Away the Stone," *Killing the Buddha*, April 9, 2014 <http://killingthebuddha.com/mag/witness/help-me-roll-away-the-stone/>

"Sex, Love, and Commerce: The Debate over Prostitution," *The Christian Century*, January 8, 2014 <http://www.christiancentury.org/article/2013-12/sex-love-and-commerce>

"Hallowed Ground," *The Christian Century*, November 27, 2013 <http://www.christiancentury.org/article/2013-11/hallowed-ground>

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"How to Con a Pastor," *The Christian Century*, September 18, 2013 <http://www.christiancentury.org/article/2013-08/how-con-pastor>

"Discovering the Saints," *The Christian Century*, April 17, 2013 <http://www.christiancentury.org/article/2013-03/discovering-saints>

"Unnecessary Roughness," *The Christian Century*, September 19, 2012 <http://www.christiancentury.org/article/2012-08/unnecessary-roughness>

"Money Movers," *The Christian Century*, May 16, 2012 <http://www.christiancentury.org/article/2012-04/money-movers>

"Post-Wobegon Politics," *The Christian Century*, November 15, 2011 (<http://www.christiancentury.org/article/2011-10/post-wobegon-politics>)

* **"Taxing the Kindness of Strangers," *The Washington Monthly*, November/December 2011 (<http://washingtonmonthly.com/magazine/novdec-2011/taxing-the-kindness-of-strangers-2/>)**

This is the first piece I wrote about being a foster parent and the challenges that public policy creates for foster parents and children.

"Iftar in the Suburbs," *The National* (Abu Dhabi), September 18, 2011 <https://bendueholm.com/2017/09/11/my-back-pages-iftar-with-the-dupage-republicans/>

"Advice and Consent," *The Christian Century*, August 23, 2011 (<http://www.christiancentury.org/article/2011-08/advice-and-consent>)

* **"The Rules of Misbehavior," *The Washington Monthly*, March/April 2011 <http://washingtonmonthly.com/magazine/marchapril-2011/rules-of-misbehavior/>**

This was a big piece at the time that was controversial both among some Christians and among some fans of the person I wrote about. It's still fairly representative of how I approach topics like sexuality, family, relationships, and ethics generally.

"The Guy Who Came Into the Cold," *The National* (Abu Dhabi), February 12, 2009 <https://bendueholm.com/2017/08/17/my-back-pages-the-guy-who-came-into-the-cold/>

"The Public Square's New Clothes," *Lutheran Forum* no. 51 (Fall 2008).

"Separated by a Common Faith," *Let's Talk*, Summer 2005 <http://mcsletstalk.org/call-fidelity/separated-by-a-common-faith/>

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iii. Opinion Columns and Blog Posts

"Do Christians Resent Their Own Morality?", *Patheos: Irreverin*, October 20, 2018 <https://www.patheos.com/blogs/irreverin/2018/10/do-christians-resent-their-own-morality/>

"Sunday's Coming: The servant who perseveres," *The Christian Century*, March 23, 2018 <https://www.christiancentury.org/blog-post/sundays-coming/servant-who-perseveres-isaiah-504-9a>

"Sunday's Coming: What does a high priest do?", *The Christian Century*, March 16, 2018 <https://www.christiancentury.org/blog-post/sundays-coming/what-does-high-priest-do-hebrews-55-10-john-1220-33>

"Oedipus Complexity: Is it enough to fire men accused of sexual misconduct?", *Religion Dispatches*, December 11, 2017 <http://religiondispatches.org/oedipus-complexity-is-it-enough-to-fire-men-accused-of-sexual-misconduct/>

* "Indulge Me: The Heidelberg Theses and the Theology of the Cross," *Let's Talk*, October 10, 2017 <http://mcsletstalk.org/reformation-jubilee-500/indulge-heidelberg-theses-theology-cross/>

This is about my favorite work of Martin Luther and how it has shaped my approach to theology.

* "We don't erase history by pulling statues down. We do it by putting them up," *The Washington Post*, August 23, 2017 https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/posteverything/wp/2017/08/23/we-dont-erase-history-by-pulling-statues-down-we-do-it-by-putting-them-up/?utm_term=.a3d4900c683a

Here I was writing strictly as a citizen (as I am in much or most of my writing for secular outlets), but this op-ed was pretty widely discussed at the time and ended up being taught in a couple of high school and college courses (though I never learned what people said about it).

"Why Must Jesus Contain Gluten?", *Religion Dispatches*, July 31, 2017 <http://religiondispatches.org/why-must-jesus-contain-gluten/>

"Indulge Me: About the Lollards," *Let's Talk*, June 23, 2017 <http://mcsletstalk.org/reformation-jubilee-500/indulge-me-about-the-lollards/>

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"On the Way: The Last Enemy to be Destroyed," *Let's Talk*, Lent 2017 <http://mcsletstalk.org/death-and-dying/way-last-enemy-destroyed/>

"Obama's unprecedented voice," *The Christian Century Blog*, January 23, 2017 <https://www.christiancentury.org/blog-post/obamas-unprecedented-voice>

"Political Songs of Love and Hate," *The Christian Century Blog*, November 22, 2016 <https://www.christiancentury.org/blogs/archive/2016-11/political-songs-love-and-hate>

"To Know and not to Know," *The Christian Century Blog*, November 9, 2016 <https://www.christiancentury.org/blogs/archive/2016-11/know-and-not-know>

"Trump Alone," *The Christian Century Blog*, July 24, 2016 <https://www.christiancentury.org/blogs/archive/2016-07/trump-alone>

"On the Way: Poverty-Stricken Power," *Let's Talk*, July 3, 2016 <http://mcsletstalk.org/dealing-with-the-devil/way-poverty-stricken-power/>

"A Baptism in a World of Violence," *The Christian Century Blog*, June 13, 2016 <https://www.christiancentury.org/blogs/archive/2016-06/baptism-world-violence>

"After Trump's rise, will conservatives be Plato or Diogenes?," *The Christian Century Blog*, June 6, 2016 <https://www.christiancentury.org/blogs/archive/2016-06/after-trumps-rise-will-conservatives-be-plato-or-diogenes>

"God and Man in Trumpland," *The Christian Century Blog*, March 9, 2016 <https://www.christiancentury.org/blogs/archive/2016-03/god-and-man-trumpland>

"Trumpism Without Racism?," *The Christian Century Blog*, February 3, 2016 <https://www.christiancentury.org/blogs/archive/2016-02/trumpism-without-racism>

"Wheaton and the 'Same God' Controversy: A Theological Opportunity Squandered?," *Religion Dispatches*, December 21, 2015 <http://religiondispatches.org/wheaton-and-the-same-god-controversy-a-theological-opportunity-squandered/>

"Theological work to be done, but by whom?," *The Christian Century Blog*, December 14, 2015 <https://www.christiancentury.org/blogs/archive/2015-12/theological-work-be-done-whom>

"On the Way: After Jesus College," *Let's Talk*, November 15, 2015 <http://mcsletstalk.org/theological-education/on-the-way-after-jesus-college/>

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* **"On the Way: Starting Again," *Let's Talk*, Lent 2015** <http://mcsletstalk.org/catechumenate/on-the-way-starting-again/>

This tells the story of how and why we revamped our approach to adult faith formation and membership.

"The gap between moral norms and public policy," *The Christian Century Blog*, January 8th, 2015 <http://www.christiancentury.org/blogs/archive/2015-01/gap-between-moral-norms-and-public-policy>

"Theology's Return of the Repressed," *Bearings*, December 5, 2014 <http://collegevilleinstitute.org/bearings/theologys-return-repressed/>

"On the Way: Aggressive Hospitality," *Let's Talk*, Advent 2014 <http://mcsletstalk.org/communion-and-community/way-aggressive-hospitality/>

"Elections in unstable times," *The Christian Century Blog*, November 5, 2014 <http://www.christiancentury.org/blogs/archive/2014-11/elections-unstable-times>

"Why the NFL doesn't change," *The Christian Century Blog*, September 11, 2014 <http://www.christiancentury.org/blogs/archive/2014-09/why-nfl-doesnt-change>

"The politics of not defending Middle Eastern Christians," *The Christian Century Blog*, August 21, 2014 <http://www.christiancentury.org/blogs/archive/2014-08/politics-not-defending-middle-eastern-christians>

"On the Way: Bread Enough and to Spare," *Let's Talk*, Ordinary Time 2014 <http://mcsletstalk.org/food-and-justice/way-bread-enough-spare/>

"American Christianity in exile?" *The Christian Century Blog*, August 12, 2014 <http://www.christiancentury.org/blogs/archive/2014-08/american-christianity-exile>

"On the Way: Tell Me, Muse, of the Pastor of Many Ways," *Let's Talk*, Pentecost 2014 <http://mcsletstalk.org/growing-leaders/way-tell-muse-pastor-many-ways/>

"On the Way: Called on Film," *Let's Talk*, Epiphany 2014 <http://mcsletstalk.org/religion-and-the-arts/on-the-way-called-on-film/>

"The Pontiff of No Return," *The Pacific Standard*, September 24, 2013 <http://www.psmag.com/culture/pontiff-return-catholic-church-pope-francis-vatican-66840/>

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"On the Way: City of God, City of Man," *Let's Talk*, Summer 2013 <http://mcsletstalk.org/grace-in-the-city/city-god-city-man/>

"On the Way: The Unwalled City," *Let's Talk*, Easter 2013 <http://mcsletstalk.org/honoring-the-body/way-unwalled-city/>

"Pope Benedict the Liberal," *The Pacific Standard*, February 12, 2013 <http://www.psmag.com/culture/pope-benedict-retires-catholic-church-rome-52649/>

"On the Way: Rise and Fall," *Let's Talk*, Advent 2012 <http://mcsletstalk.org/preaching-advent/way-rise-fall/>

"On the Way: Children of the Heavenly Father," *Let's Talk*, St. Michael and All Angels 2012 <http://mcsletstalk.org/faithful-parenting/way-children-heavenly-father/>

"A Tribute to Ruth E. VanDemark, 1944-2012," *Let's Talk*, St. Michael and All Angels 2012 <http://mcsletstalk.org/faithful-parenting/tribute-ruth-e-vandemark-1944-2012/>

"On the Way: Treading Out the Grain," *Let's Talk*, Pentecost 2012 <http://mcsletstalk.org/keeping-the-sabbath/way-treading-grain/>

"Flunking History," *The Daily*, May 20, 2012 <https://bendueholm.com/2017/08/04/my-back-pages-puritans-and-medievals/>

"Body and Soul," *The Daily*, May 6, 2012 <https://bendueholm.com/2019/02/27/on-junk-food-and-pornography/>

"Good Works," *The Daily*, April 29, 2012 <https://bendueholm.com/2019/02/27/what-are-local-churches-for/>

"Into the Fold," *The Daily*, April 8, 2012 <https://bendueholm.com/2018/04/05/my-back-pages-this-is-the-night/>

"On the Way: To Turn Again," *Let's Talk: Living Theology in the Metropolitan Chicago Synod*, Lent 2012 <http://mcsletstalk.org/17.1/dueholm/>

"You Are Dust," *The Daily*, February 19, 2012 <https://bendueholm.com/2019/02/27/you-are-dust/>

"The Good (Play-) Book," *The Daily*, January 8, 2012 <https://bendueholm.com/2019/02/27/that-time-i-wrote-about-tim-tebow/>

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"Words made flesh," *The Daily*, December 25, 2011 <https://bendueholm.com/2019/02/27/home-and-abroad-for-christmas/>

"We Didn't Know It Was You," *The Daily*, December 11, 2011 <https://bendueholm.com/2017/12/07/we-didnt-know-it-was-you/>

"Advent Amnesia," *The Daily*, November 27, 2011 <https://bendueholm.com/2017/11/29/my-back-pages-forgetting-advent/>

* **"On the Way: Confessions of a Failed Evangelist," *Let's Talk, Advent 2011*** <http://mcsletstalk.org/should-we-evangelize/confessions-of-a-failed-evangelist/>

This short piece offers my reflections on trying and largely failing to do "relational" evangelism.

"The saint as sinner," *The Daily*, October 30, 2011 <https://bendueholm.com/2017/11/06/my-back-pages-saints-and-sinners/>

"Rehab for the rest of us," *The Daily*, October 2, 2011 <https://bendueholm.com/2019/02/27/rehab-for-the-rest-of-us/>

"Other/None Nation," *The Daily*, July 31, 2011 <https://bendueholm.com/2017/08/04/my-back-pages-my-best-op-ed-was-about-mitt-romney/>

"Rehabilitating Mary," *The Daily*, July 17, 2011 <https://bendueholm.com/2018/10/17/rehabilitating-mary/>

"Tied Up in Knots," *The Daily*, June 12, 2011 <https://bendueholm.com/2017/08/09/my-back-pages-pastors-hating-on-weddings/>

"Fostering My Faith," *The Daily*, May 8, 2011 <https://bendueholm.com/2017/08/04/my-back-pages-foster-care-and-john-calvin/>

"'Religionless' Again for the First Time," *Let's Talk, Time After Pentecost 2011* <http://mcsletstalk.org/16.2/dueholm/>

"On the Way: Goldilocks Ecclesiology and the New Lutheranism," *Let's Talk, Advent 2010* <http://mcsletstalk.org/environmental-theology/goldilocks-ecclesiology-and-the-new-lutheranism/>

"On the Way: Concerning the Manufacture of Buggy-Whips," *Let's Talk, Easter 2010* <http://mcsletstalk.org/15.1/buggy-whips/>

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"Questions for Critics of the Statement and Recommendations," *Let's Talk*, Pentecost 2009
<http://mcsletstalk.org/human-sexuality-and-the-elca/questions-for-critics-of-the-statement-and-recommendations/>

"The Limits of Faith and the Limits of Politics," *Let's Talk*, Christmas 2008 <http://mcsletstalk.org/ministries-word-services-2/the-limits-of-faith-and-the-limits-of-politics/>

"A Wing and a Prayer," *The National* (Abu Dhabi), August 9, 2008

"On the Way: Teen Sex, Urban Ministry, and *Missio Passiva*," *Let's Talk*, Pentecost 2008 <http://mcsletstalk.org/ministries-word-services/teen-sex-urban-ministry-and-missio-passiva/>

"Filling the Crater," *Let's Talk*, Reformation/All Saints 2007 <http://mcsletstalk.org/churchwide-assembly-2007/filling-the-crater/>

"Summer Church Convention Round-Up," *Let's Talk*, Reformation/All Saints 2007 <http://mcsletstalk.org/churchwide-assembly-2007/summer-church-convention-round-up/>

"Anxious Exegesis and Immigration," *Let's Talk*, Summer 2007 <http://mcsletstalk.org/hispanic-latino-theology-ministry-2/anxious-exegesis-and-immigration/>

"On the Way: High Church, Low Church, "Long-Tail" Church?", *Let's Talk*, Pentecost 2007
<http://mcsletstalk.org/hispanic-latino-theology-ministry/high-church-low-church-long-tail-church/>

iv. Reviews

"Zora Neale Hurston brings us the voice of a former slave" [review of *Barracoon* by Zora Neale Hurston], *The Christian Century*, October 24, 2018 <https://www.christiancentury.org/review/books/zora-neale-hurston-brings-us-voice-former-slave>

"The Talented Tara Isabella Burton" [review of *Social Creature* by Tara Isabella Burton], *The Christian Century*, July 18, 2018 <https://www.christiancentury.org/review/books/talented-tara-isabella-burton>

"But seriously, folks," [review of *Al Franken: Giant of the Senate* by Al Franken], *The Christian Century*, September 27, 2017 <https://www.christiancentury.org/review/books/earnest-hilarious-al-franken>

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"How does it end?" [review of *How to Survive the Apocalypse* by Robert Joustra and Alyssa Wilkinson], *The Christian Century*, June 7, 2016 <https://www.christiancentury.org/reviews/2016-06/how-does-it-end>

"Stories Behind Stories" [review of *Friday Was the Bomb* by Nathan Deuel], *The Christian Century*, August 201, 2014 <http://www.christiancentury.org/reviews/2014-07/friday-was-bomb-nathan-deuel>

"Does Obama Lack LBJ's Cunning?" [review of *The Passage of Power* by Robert Caro], *The Washington Monthly*, May 2, 2012 <https://washingtonmonthly.com/2012/05/02/does-obama-lack-lbjs-cunning/>

"Calvin vs. Hobbes" [review of *When I Was a Child I Read Books* by Marilynne Robinson], *The Washington Monthly*, March/April 2012 (<http://washingtonmonthly.com/magazine/marchapril-2012/calvin-vs-hobbes/>)

"Unconformed" [review of *Absence of Mind* by Marilynne Robinson and *Reason, Faith, and Revolution* by Terry Eagleton], *Let's Talk*, Advent 2010 <http://mcsletstalk.org/environmental-theology/unconformed-a-review-of-reason-faith-and-revolution-by-terry-eagleton-and-absence-of-mind-by-marilynne-robinson/>

"Fifty-Seven Varieties of Religious Experience" [review of *God is Back* by John Micklethwait and Adrian Wooldrige], *The National* (Abu Dhabi), June 19, 2009 <https://www.thenational.ae/arts-culture/books/fifty-seven-varieties-of-religious-experience-1.514957?videoid=5766484581001>

Community Activities

Member, University of Chicago Divinity School Alumni Council, 2013-2019

Panelist, Festival of Faith and Writing 2014

Member, editorial board of *Let's Talk: Living Theology in Metropolitan Chicago* (<http://mcsletstalk.org>)

Former Member, Seminary Consortium for Urban Pastoral Education board of directors (<http://scupe.org>)