

FACULTY PROFILE



James W. Albers, Professor of Theology, Richard P. Baepler Distinguished Professor in the Humanities

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Biography

My three lifelong interests have been in persons and institutions, historical processes, and the Christian faith. When they converge, the focus is on the history of Christian faith and life. Individually each interest has led me in different directions over my professional career, including into several administrative responsibilities. My current research interests are in the relationship of individuals to institutions, particularly, congregations, denominations, and parareligious organizations. A related interest is in the renewed activity in oral history. Lutheran history has been the major focus of my scholarly interests. I am a member of the Lutheran Historical Conference, for which I help produce an annual bibliography.

Community Service

Occasionally I preach in area churches. My interest in the people and institutions of Northwest Indiana finds expression as a member of board of directors (past president and currently secretary) of Leadership Northwest Indiana. I also serve on the Education and Formation Committee of the Lutheran Deaconess Association.

Personal Interests

Fair weather golf remains alluring but too infrequent to impact my handicap. Gardening and home maintenance/improvement projects are visibly and tangibly satisfying, as is an occasional Saturday working for Habitat for Humanity.

Education

B.A. - Concordia Senior College
1959 M.Div., S.T.M., Th.D. - Concordia
Seminary, St. Louis 1963; 1964; 1972

Courses Taught

- Human Experience (CORE 110, 115)
- The Christian Tradition (THEO 200)
- Early Christianity (THEO 320)
- Reformation Theology (THEO 323/523)
- Christianity in America (THEO 324/524)

Current Research

Include: Articles on the development of handbooks of denominations in America, articles on two former Lutheran educators (Martin Guenther and Walter Wente), and the transition from pre-professional to liberal education within the institutions of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod.