

FACULTY PROFILE



Matthew L. Becker, Associate Professor of Theology

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Biography

Before coming to Valparaiso in 2004 I taught at Concordia University, Portland (1994-2004). My academic interest is modern Christian theology, although I teach courses that attempt to engage the Christian tradition in its breadth and scope, including especially the history of Lutheran theology.

I have published a book-length treatment of one of the most important Protestant theologians of the 19th century, Johannes von Hofmann, *The Self-Giving God and Salvation History* (T&T Clark, 2004). In addition I have written monographs on several important 20th-century theologians and have contributed articles on Lutheran theology to *The New Westminster Dictionary of Christian Theology* (forthcoming).

I currently serve as the director of Valparaiso University's study center in Reutlingen, Germany. Here I teach a course on Martin Luther and J. S. Bach and one on German life and culture. I am also writing a book on the history of Lutheran theology.

The epigraph to the published edition of the Jefferson Lecture by the most famous person to have taught at Valparaiso University, Jaroslav Pelikan's *Vindication of Tradition*, is a quote from Goethe's *Faust* (here translated): "What you have inherited from your fathers, acquire it in order to

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make it your own." Following Pelikan's
own example, I have tried to make
this aphorism the motto of my work as
teacher and scholar.

Personal Interests

My wife, our 8-year-old son, and I
enjoy traveling in Europe. The photo
(below) of my son and me was taken
last summer on the Neckar River in
Tübingen.



Education

B.A. - Concordia University, Portland
1984 M.Div. - Concordia Seminary
1988 M.A.; Ph.D. - University of Chicago
1990; 2001

Courses Taught

- The Christian Tradition (THEO 200)
- Religion and Literature: Tragedy
- Modern and Postmodern
Theologies
- Luther and Confessional Theology
- Luther and Bach
- Reformation Theology (THEO
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