

Liturgical Hermeneutics

Convener: Ron Anderson (Ron.Anderson@garrett.edu) is Styberg Professor of Worship and Associate Dean for Institutional and Educational Assessment at Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary in Evanston, Illinois.

Members in Attendance: Ron Anderson, Michelle Baker-Wright, Brian Butcher, Virgil Funk, Gordon Lathrop, Jennifer Lord, Hwarang Moon, Melinda Quivik, Kathryn Rickert, Don Saliers, Tom Schattauer, David Stosur, Allie Utley, Michelle Whitlock

Visitors: Julia Canonico, Seyeom Kim, Lorenzo Penalosa, Sean Thomas, Michael Wilke

Description of Work: The Liturgical Hermeneutics seminar focused the first part of its work on a conversation about liturgy and imagination, using a short article by Tom Schattauer ["Training Liturgical Imagination," *Living Lutheran* (December 31, 2019)] as a reference point.

Various members, including Schattauer, presented chapters or papers related to this theme and engaging the different types of imagination Schattauer set out in his article: scriptural, sacramental, ecclesial, eschatological, contextual, ritual. Schattauer noted that these categories emerged from his seminary teaching, in which he regularly asked students to talk about the liturgical practices and piety, worshiping communities, and understandings of worship, that had shaped them—a "liturgical genealogy," the formative factors in their understanding of Christian worship. Chapters and papers by Anderson, Lathrop, Quivik, Schattauer, and Whitlock then engaged this theme in some way. Stosur led a discussion of two chapters from Erin Kidd and Jakob Karl Rinderknecht, eds., *Putting God on the Map: Theology and Conceptual Mapping* (Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2018) to explore the place of metaphor and conceptual mapping in liturgical imagination. Additional papers were present by Moon, Rickert, and Thomas.

Papers and Presentations:

- Thomas Schattauer: "Training Liturgical Imagination," *Living Lutheran* (December 31, 2019) and "Loeche's Liturgical Legacy: Imagination for Identity and Mission" (slated for publication).
- Gordon Lathrop: *Saving Images: The Presence of the Bible in Christian Liturgy* (Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2107), chapter 2.

- David Stosur: Discussion of Steven Shaver, “Eucharistic Spirituality and Metaphoric Asymmetry” and Jakob Karl Rinderknecht, “Conceptual Mapping and Reception in Ecumenical Theology” in Erin Kidd and Jakob Karl Rinderknecht, eds., *Putting God on the Map: Theology and Conceptual Mapping* (Minneapolis: Fortress, 2018), 127-188.
- Michelle Whitlock: “Narrative Imagination.”
- Ron Anderson: “Hymnody and/as a Social Imaginary.”
- Melinda Quivik: “Michael Polanyi and Personal Knowledge.”
- Kathryn Rickert: “A Tongue Understood of the People.”
- Hwarang Moon: “The Ten Commandments in Public Worship: A Liturgical Perspective.”
- Sean Thomas: “The (Extra)-Ordinary Theology of TLM-goers and its Implications for Mainstream Liturgical Aesthetics.”

Other Work and Plans for the Future: The 2025 seminar will focus the first part of its work discussing the 2023 statement developed by the Seminar on the Way “On the Way to Full Communion: Thinking About Christian Unity from Liturgy” (<https://www.naal-liturgy.org/seminars/seminar-on-the-way/>) to continue exploring Christian unity from the perspective of the liturgy and considering whether there is a liturgical ecumenical hermeneutic that can be applied in our churches. We may also draw on recent keynote papers from the 2023 session of Societas Liturgica, which focused its meeting on liturgy and ecumenism.

Reading and discussion of other publications may also be considered, including a chapter by Brian Butcher on music and hermeneutics from the *Oxford Handbook of Music and Theology*, Christina M. Gschwandtner’s recent book *Reading Religious Ritual with Ricoeur*, and David White’s *Tending the Fire that Burns at the Center of the World*, which explores the role of aesthetics in Christian spiritual formation.