

DAVID ROBERT WEISS

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Education

Wartburg College, 1978-1982 Waverly, Iowa	B.A., Psychology/Sociology, <i>magna cum laude</i>
Wartburg Theological Seminary, 1982-1986 Dubuque, Iowa	M.A., Theology
University of Notre Dame, 1992-2002 Notre Dame, Indiana	M.A., Christian Ethics (1995) Ph.D. Candidate (ABD, 2002)

Professional Experience

- Coordinator for Social Justice Ministry, Campus Ministry Center, St. Catherine University (St. Paul/Minneapolis, Minnesota), 2006-2009.
- Adjunct Instructor, Department of Theology, St. Catherine University (St. Paul, Minnesota), 2003-2009.
- Adjunct Instructor, Department of Religion, Hamline University (St. Paul, Minnesota), 2004-2006.
- Adjunct Instructor, Augsburg College (Minneapolis, Minnesota), 2002-2005.
- Instructor, Department of Religion/Philosophy, Luther College (Decorah, Iowa), 1998-2002.
- Graduate Instructor/Teaching Fellow, Department of Theology, University of Notre Dame, 1996-1997.

Other Work Experience

- Young Authors Conference (YAC) instructor, 2003-present. Each spring the YAC serves 4000+ 4th-8th grade students during its week-long set of writing workshops. I teach acrostic poetry.
- Regional Trainer, Lutherans Concerned/North America Reconciling in Christ (RIC) program, 2004-2006. Working to build a leadership network for grassroots organizing toward full participation of GLBT persons in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

Academic Presentations

- “We have this treasure: embodied ecstasy and good care for earth and others,” at the Upper Midwest Regional Meeting of the American Academy of Religion, Luther Seminary, St. Paul, Minnesota, April 5, 2002.
- “The Power of Naming Tactile Grace: Erotic Love Poetry and the Redemption of Sexuality,” at the Upper Midwest Regional Meeting of the American Academy of Religion, Luther Seminary, St. Paul, Minnesota, April 20, 2001.

“Faith Development and Lutheran Ethics: A Proposal for Those Justified by Faith,” at the 1997 Student Ethics Conference, The Divinity School at the University of Chicago, Chicago, Illinois, April 12, 1997.

“Beyond Ecological Security: Intimacy and Risk. *Imago Dei* as a Theological Resource for a More Creative Encounter with the Earth,” at the Wisconsin Institute, Ripon College, Ripon, Wisconsin, November 1, 1996. (Published in *Proceedings of the Wisconsin Institute*, May 1997, 190-200.)

Public Presentations

“Bodied Grace: Sexuality, Gender, and the Life of the Church,” at Missouri United Methodist Church in Columbia, Missouri, July 10, 2009.

“Reading Texts with a Lover’s Touch: Poetic Hermeneutics,” at Together in Toronto: Claiming an Open Spirit – the 2006 Biennial Assembly of Lutherans Concerned/North America, Toronto, Ontario, Canada, July 28, 2006.

“Faith, feast, and film,” Conversation around *Babette’s Feast* and *Chocolate* at St. Martin’s Table, Minneapolis, Minnesota, October 21, 2005 and November 18, 2005.

“Sown on Good Soil,” 4-day retreat on sexuality and spirituality for GLBT persons and their Allies, Holden Village, Chelan, Washington, September 30-October 3, 2005.

“Imagining the Mystery of Christmas: Poetry and the Incarnation,” poetry reading and discussion at St. Martin’s Table, Minneapolis, Minnesota, December 7, 2004.

“Discussing Gay Marriage: A Model for Ethical Discourse,” the 2004 Hope Forum (sponsored by University Lutheran Church of Hope, Lutheran Student Movement, and Lutheran Campus Ministry/University of Minnesota), October 19, 2004.

“Holding our Breath in the Face of Hate: Reading the Bible ‘Word by Word’ in the Spirit of Christ,” St. Frances Cabrini Catholic Parish to commemorate their 10th anniversary as a welcoming parish, Minneapolis, Minnesota, October 12, 2004.

“Called to be Bodied: Sexual Ethics and the Vocation of Embodiment,” at Gather Us In – the 2004 Biennial Assembly of Lutherans Concerned/North America, Minneapolis, Minnesota, July 23, 2004.

“The Body as Burning Bush: A Fresh Christian Perspective on Sexuality and Spirituality,” a series of talks at St. Martin’s Table, Minneapolis, Minnesota, offered both Winter 2003-04 and Winter 2004-05.

“The Body as Burning Bush: Coming Out and Other Holy Acts of Human Sexuality,” Coming Out Week lecture, Luther College, Decorah, Iowa, October 26, 2003.

“GLBT Theology: a gift to the whole church,” a series of three presentations for the annual Quad Citizens Action for Diversity celebration at the First Unitarian Church, Davenport, Iowa and the First United Methodist Church, Rock Island, Illinois, March 30, 2003.

“Body Theology and Christian Sexual Ethics,” invited presentation to the “Issues in Lesbian and Gay Studies” class at Augsburg College, Minneapolis, Minnesota, October 31, 2002.

- “Christianity and the Challenge of Homosexuality: Where I’m at as a Christian—and Why I’m there,” on a Coming Out Week panel at Augsburg College, Minneapolis, Minnesota, October 9, 2002.
- “Listening for Love while Avoiding the Violence,” a poem cycle reflecting on the seven words from the cross, presented as a public reading in Hovde Lounge, Preus Library, Luther College Decorah, Iowa, March 18, 2002.
- “Spirituality and a Life of Service,” at the Upper Midwest Alpha Pi Omega Conference, Luther College, Decorah, Iowa, November 3, 2001.
- “Call Me Jonah: Reflections on Discerning My Vocation,” invited presentation to the *Diakonos* group at Luther College, Decorah, Iowa, September 20, 2001
- “Faith Development: Insights for the Parish,” at the ELCA Northeastern Iowa Synod Assembly, Luther College, Decorah, Iowa, June 9, 2001.
- “Survival & Salvation as a Sexual Minority in the Church,” at the Fall 2000 Church Youth Fest, Luther College, Decorah, Iowa, November 11, 2000.
- “Homosexuality and the Newness of God,” at a campus forum on Christian perspectives on sexual orientation, Luther College, Decorah, Iowa, November 18, 1998.
- “Consuming the earth in search of our worth,” keynote address at the Earth Day Greenfest, Fieldhouse Mall, University of Notre Dame, Notre Dame, Indiana, April 18, 1998.
- “Homosexuality and a God who does new things,” at a teach-in on gays rights, Center for Social Concerns, University of Notre Dame, Notre Dame, Indiana, April 2, 1998.

Books

To the Tune of a Welcoming God: lyrical reflections on sexuality, spirituality, and the wideness of God’s welcome.
Langdon Street Press, 2008.

Essays and other prose for the Public Community

(Essays except as noted otherwise.)

Monthly columnist for Q View Northwest serving the GLBTQA community of the Pacific Northwest, 2009.

Regular contributor to *Words of Life: Daily Reflections for Your Spirit*, a monthly devotional publication of Novalis Press (Montreal, Canada), 1998-2006.

“A Continuing Reformation,” *Minneapolis StarTribune*, November 4, 2009, A15.

“Marriage Equality & the Christian Church: Challenge & Opportunity,” *Q View Northwest*, 3:11 (July 2009), 9+.

“Those for whom I march,” *Q View Northwest*, 3:10 (June 2009), 9+.

“Discussing sexual ethics ... or trading recipes for hot dish,” *Q View Northwest*, 3:9 (May 2009), 3+.

“Removing the training wheels on sexual ethics,” *Q View Northwest*, 3:8 (April 2009), 5+.

- “Reading the Biblical Texts on Homosexuality on Homosexuality in the Spirit of Christ,” *The Network Letter*, Lent 2009.
- “‘Outing’ myself as an Ally,” *Q View Northwest*, 3:7 (March 2009), 9+.
- “Surprised by God,” *Q View Northwest*, 3:6 (February 2009), 9+.
- “Since when did you become such an ... advocate?” *Q View Northwest*, 3:5 (January 2009), 7+.
- “Sodomy and Civil Rights,” *Q View Northwest*, 2:4 (December 2008), 21+.
- “Sunday School and Same-Sex Marriage,” Lutherans Concerned/Twin Cities’ newsletter, Second Quarter 2006.
- “From Margin to Center: Holding our Ground,” Lutherans Concerned/Twin Cities’ newsletter, Third Quarter 2005, 1-3.
- “Only a Matter of Time Now?” Lutherans Concerned/ Twin Cities’ newsletter, Third Quarter 2005, 1-3.
- “Marked Forever with the Ambiguity of the Church,” *Minneapolis StarTribune* August 19, 2005.
- “Calling Down Fire,” posted on Goodsoil.org and offered as a webcast during the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America Churchwide Assembly, Orlando, Florida, August 2005
- “It’s Time to Close our Bibles for a Few Months,” *Concord* (Lutherans Concerned/North America newsletter), March 2005, forthcoming. Also appearing in Lutherans Concerned/ Twin Cities’ newsletter, First Quarter 2005, 2+.
- “Those Papers Belong to Me,” Lutherans Concerned/Twin Cities’ newsletter, First Quarter 2005, 1+.
- “Friends in High Places,” *Metro Lutheran*, November 2004, 8. Also appearing in Lutherans Concerned/Twin Cities’ newsletter, Fourth Quarter 2004, 2-3.
- “The Turning of Fred,” Lutherans Concerned/Twin Cities’ newsletter, Third Quarter 2004, 2-3.
- “Missing the Acts of God: a further commentary on Journey Together Faithfully,” Lutherans Concerned/Twin Cities’ newsletter, Second Quarter 2004, 2-4.
- “A Journey of Questionable Merit,” Lutherans Concerned/Twin Cities’ newsletter, First Quarter 2004, 2-4.
- “Body, Blood, and Salt: A Call to a Eucharistic Fast,” *The Network Letter* (Network for Inclusive Vision national newsletter), Lent 2004, 8-10
- “The Manger Looks Different This Year,” *Press-Citizen* (Iowa City, IA), December 24, 2003.
- “Put a Sword on Your Christmas List,” Lutherans Concerned/Twin Cities’ newsletter, Fourth Quarter 2003, 2.
- “Satire: Cleaning House in the Christian Church,” Lutherans Concerned/Twin Cities’ newsletter, Third Quarter 2003, 2-3.
- “To Know Me is to Love Me,” Lutherans Concerned/Twin Cities’ newsletter, May 2003, 2-3.
- “A Matter of Pride ... A Matter of Faith,” *Press-Citizen* (Iowa City, IA), June 24, 2003, 13A.
- “Not less than Pride ... and not less than Faith,” *Post-Bulletin* (Rochester, MN), June 24, 2003, 5A.

- “Threatened with Resurrection,” *The Network Letter* (Network for Inclusive Vision national newsletter), Summer 2003, 1.
- “Haunted Heads: Is God just a trick our minds play on us?” *Press-Citizen* (Iowa City, IA), April 20, 2003.
- “The Cross and the Queer,” Lutherans Concerned/Twin Cities’ newsletter, March 2003, 2-3.
- “Is ‘the wisdom of Gamaliel’ enough?” Lutherans Concerned/Twin Cities’ newsletter, February 2003, 2-3.
- “MLK: The Dream . . . and the Fury,” *Pioneer Press* (St. Paul, MN) January 20, 2003, 9A. Also appearing in *Press-Citizen* (Iowa City, IA), January 18, 2003, 11A; *La Crosse Tribune*, (La Crosse, WI), January 19, 2003, J-4; *Wisconsin State Journal* (Madison, WI) January 20, 2003, A8; and *The News-Dispatch* (Michigan City, IN), January 20, 2003, A4.
- “Christians need to cultivate healthy sense of sexuality,” *Press-Citizen* (Iowa City, IA), January 9, 2003, 11A.
- “And the Word Became Flesh, Part 2,” Lutherans Concerned/Twin Cities’ newsletter, January 2003, 2-3.
- “And the Word Became Flesh, Part 1,” Lutherans Concerned/Twin Cities’ newsletter, December 2002, 2-3.
- “National Coming Out Day Sermon” Lutherans Concerned/Twin Cities’ newsletter, November 2002, 2-3.
- “Spirituality & Coming Out,” Lutherans Concerned/Twin Cities’ newsletter, October 2002, 4.
- “Pentecost: The Season of Anything but ‘Ordinary Time,’” Lutherans Concerned/Twin Cities’ newsletter, September 2002, 2-3.
- “Why pacifists can oppose even this war,” *Des Moines Register* (Des Moines, IA), November 15, 2001, 9A. Also appearing in *Wisconsin State Journal* (Madison, WI), October 24, 2001, A8; *Luther College Chips*, (Decorah, IA), November 8, 4; and *Post-Bulletin* (Rochester, MN), November 23, 2001, 9A.
- “Operation Infinite Justice,” *Seek: A Journal of Grassroots Spirituality* (Mounds View, MN), October 2001, 8.
- “The Mourning After: Reflections of an Unrepentant Nader Supporter,” *La Crosse Tribune*, (La Crosse, WI), November 16, 2000, A-4.
- “Ralph Nader and the Politics of Fear,” *Post-Tribune* (Gary, IN), November 1, 2000.
- “Margaret and the Magi,” as “From home, abroad, tales of Minnesotans who care,” *StarTribune*, (Minneapolis, MN), December 25, 1999, B8. Also appearing in *Post-Tribune* (Gary, IN), December 24, 1999, B9.
- “Faith, Learning, and the Pursuit of Conviviality,” *Agora* (Decorah, IA), Fall 1999, 7-8.
- “Spirituality and coming out as an ally of g/l/b/t persons,” *The Mustard Seed*, (Decorah, IA), October 13, 1999, 2.
- “A brief autobiographical history of womyn’s herstory,” *The Mustard Seed*, (Decorah, IA), March 17, 1999, 3.

- “Of Liturgy and Little Ones,” *King’s Herald*, (South Bend, IN), August 1998, 4.
- “Weapons and Wealth,” *Post-Tribune* (Gary, IN), June 7, 1998, H3.
- “Homosexuality and a God who does new things,” *Common Sense* (Notre Dame, IN), 12:6 (May 1998), 11+.
- “The quality of our conversation,” *The Observer* (Notre Dame, IN), April 29, 1998, 16.
- “Father Garrick: A Case of Déjà Vu,” *The Observer* (Notre Dame, IN), April 15, 1998, 11.
- “A PBS Easter,” *Indianapolis Star* (Indianapolis, IN), April 6, 1998, A5. Also appearing in: *Observer* (Notre Dame, IN), March 31, 1998, 9; *South Bend Tribune* (South Bend, IN), April 3, 1998, A9; and *The News-Dispatch* (Michigan City, IN), April 4, 1998, C1+.
- “Toys for Tots?! ‘Black souvenirs’ indict policies on Iraq,” *National Catholic Reporter*, April 24, 1998, 19. Also appearing in: *The Observer* (Notre Dame, IN), March 17, 1998, 11.
- “Singing creation’s praises with the apes,” *National Catholic Reporter*, March 20, 1998, 19. Also appearing in: *The Observer* (Notre Dame, IN), February 24, 1998, 8; and *The News-Dispatch* (Michigan City, IN), February 28, 1998, C1.
- “Eschatology and the Olympic Games,” as “Bombing Iraq during Olympic Games would ruin vision,” *South Bend Tribune* (South Bend, IN), February 12, 1998, A11. Also appearing in: *Observer* (Notre Dame, IN), February 10, 1998, 9.
- “In Memory of John Yoder: Scholar, Professor, Friend,” *The Observer* (Notre Dame, IN), January 27, 1998, 9. Also appearing in: *The News-Dispatch* (Michigan City, IN), January 10, 1998, C1.
- “Chris Farley and the comedy of excess,” *National Catholic Reporter*, January 16, 1998, 14. Also appearing in: *The News-Dispatch* (Michigan City, IN), December 23, 1997, A6; *Capital Times* (Madison, WI), December 24, 1997, 9A; *Star Press* (Muncie, IN), December 27, 1997, 4A; and *South Bend Tribune* (South Bend, IN), December 28, 1997, B7.
- “Table grace at the manger,” *Indianapolis Star* (Indianapolis, IN), December 21, 1997, D3. Also appearing in: *The News-Dispatch* (Michigan City, IN), December 13, 1997, C1+; and *Post-Tribune* (Gary, IN), December 24, 1997, A7.
- “Frog Experiments are Heading in Wrong Direction,” *The Observer* (Notre Dame, IN), December 2, 1997, 8. Also appearing in: *The News-Dispatch* (Michigan City, IN), November 15, 1997, C1+.
- “Grad Students, Medical Care and Meatless Fridays,” *The Observer* (Notre Dame, IN), November 20, 1997, 9.
- “Those Stripes are Meant for Me,” *The Observer* (Notre Dame, IN), November 4, 1997, 8.
- “Putting the Rich on Notice,” *Sojourners*, 27:1, January/February 1998, 34-35. Also appearing in: *The Observer* (Notre Dame, IN), October 16, 1997, 11; and *South Bend Tribune* (South Bend, IN), November 5, 1997, A13.
- “Viktor Frankl on Being Human—and Imaging God,” as “Remembering Viktor Frankl,” *Perspectives*, 13:1, January 1998, 3. Also appearing in: *The Observer* (Notre Dame, IN), September 30, 1997, 11; *Capital Times* (Madison, WI), October 6, 1997, C1; *Indianapolis Star* (Indianapolis, IN), October 9, 1997, A15; *South Bend Tribune* (South Bend, IN), October 12, 1997, B9; and *The News-Dispatch* (Michigan City, IN), October 25, 1997, C1.

- “Embracing the Spirit: A Commentary in Rhyme,” (op-ed poem) *The Observer* (Notre Dame, IN), September 16, 1997, 10.
- “Keeping the Moon in the Window,” *The Observer* (Notre Dame, IN), September 2, 1997, 9.
- “Beyond Ecological Security: Intimacy and Risk. *Imago Dei* as a Theological Resource for a More Creative Encounter with the Earth,” *Proceedings of the Wisconsin Institute*, May 1997, 190-200.
- “Cloning and a Crisis of Divine Identity,” *Common Sense* (Notre Dame, IN), 11:6 (May 1997), 12+. Also appearing in *South Bend Tribune* (South Bend, IN), April 4, 1997, A7.
- “The cross revisited: Commitment to change,” *The Observer* (Notre Dame, IN), April 22, 1997, 7.
- “Words offered at the end of the day to an unknown friend living in fear” (poem/essay), *Scholastic Magazine* (Notre Dame, IN), 138:14 (February 27, 1997), 3.
- “Bible addresses animal treatment,” *South Bend Tribune* (South Bend, IN), April 21, 1996, A21.

Poetry, hymns, and other creative works

- “Hearts on Fire” (hymn), first performed, St. Mark Lutheran Church, San Francisco, California, at the 2008 Lutherans Concerned/North America Biennial Assembly, July 3, 2008; published in *To the Tune of a Welcoming God* (2008).
- “Behold, I Gather All to Me” (hymn), first performed at Mount Olive Lutheran Church, Minneapolis, Minnesota, at the Twin Cities Reconciling in Christ Festival Worship, January 27, 2008; published in *To the Tune of a Welcoming God* (2008).
- “Touching Jesus” (hymn), first performed at Messiah Lutheran Church, Mountain Iron, Minnesota, April 23, 2006; published in *To the Tune of a Welcoming God* (2008).
- “In the Shadow of Your Cross” (hymn), first performed at St. Paul-Reformation Lutheran Church, St. Paul, Minnesota, March 29, 2006; published in *To the Tune of a Welcoming God* (2008).
- “O Christ Who Came” (hymn), first performed at Bethel Lutheran Church, Minneapolis, Minnesota, at the Twin Cities Reconciling in Christ Festival Worship, January 22, 2006; distributed with 2006 Reconciling in Christ Sunday Resources by Lutherans Concerned/North America; later published in *To the Tune of a Welcoming God* (2008).
- “We are your soil” (hymn), first performed at the Goodsoil worship service, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America Churchwide Assembly, Orlando, Florida, August 2005; published in *To the Tune of a Welcoming God* (2008).
- “The Welcome in the Wooden” (hymn), first performed at St. Paul-Reformation Lutheran Church, St. Paul, Minnesota, December 24, 2004; published in *To the Tune of a Welcoming God* (2008).
- “Shall We Harken to the Kin-dom?” (hymn), first performed at St. Paul-Reformation Lutheran Church, St. Paul, Minnesota, January 23, 2005; distributed with 2005 Reconciling in Christ Sunday Resources by Lutherans Concerned/North America; published in *To the Tune of a Welcoming God* (2008).

- “Our God’s a River” (hymn), first performed at the ordination *extra ordinem* of Jay Wiesner at Plymouth Congregational Church, Minneapolis, Minnesota, July 25, 2004; published in *To the Tune of a Welcoming God* (2008).
- “Now the Welcome” (hymn), first performed at St. Paul-Reformation Lutheran Church, St. Paul, Minnesota, May 29, 2004 (Pentecost); published in *To the Tune of a Welcoming God* (2008).
- “It was Upon a Moonlit Night” (hymn), first performed at St. Paul-Reformation Lutheran Church, St. Paul, Minnesota, April 8, 2004 (Maunday Thursday); published in *To the Tune of a Welcoming God* (2008).
- “Word of Welcome” (hymn), first performed at St. Paul-Reformation Lutheran Church, St. Paul, Minnesota, January 25, 2004; distributed with 2004 Reconciling in Christ Sunday Resources by Lutherans Concerned/North America; published in *To the Tune of a Welcoming God* (2008).
- “How I spent my day” (poem), *Lyrical Iowa* 2002, 96.
- “Our Coming Home” (poem), *Talking Leaves*, 12:2 (Summer 2002), 10.
- “Listening for Love while Avoiding the Violence,” (unpublished poem cycle reflecting on the seven words from the cross), presented as a public reading in Hovde Lounge, Preus Library, Luther College Decorah, Iowa, March 18, 2002.
- “Butterfly Wings” and “The Land Where Poets Dwell,” (poems), *Talking Leaves*, 11:3 (Winter 2002), 57.
- “When God was a Little Girl” (short story), *The Mustard Seed*, (Decorah, IA), October 11, 2001, 2-3.
- “Trembling beside you” (poem), published as the interpretive text for *Common Sense Common Ground*, a dance presentation at the Nobel Peace Prize Forum, Luther College, Decorah, Iowa, March 9-10, 2001.
- “Tuesday, 10 a.m.” (poem), *Luther College Chips* (Decorah, IA), March 25, 1999, 4.
- “Gone Fishin’” (poem), *Common Sense* (Notre Dame, IN), 11:6 (May 1997), 5.
- “With this splashing” (poem), *Lutheran* 5:3 (March 1992), 28.
- “Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way” (poem), *Common Sense* (Notre Dame, IN), 11:4 (February/March 1997), 8.
- “Memories of the Meal” (Lenten chancel drama), performed at St. Mark’s Lutheran Church, Madison, Wisconsin, Spring, 1992.