



Troy M. Troftgruben
Curriculum Vitae

Associate Professor of New Testament
The William A. & John E. Wagner Professor in Biblical Theology
Wartburg Theological Seminary
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Education

- Ph.D. Princeton Theological Seminary (2009), Biblical Studies, focus in New Testament
- M.Div. Luther Theological Seminary (2003)
- B.A. Trinity Lutheran College, Seattle (1999), Biblical Studies

Teaching, Research, and Writing Experience

The William A. & John E. Wagner Professor of Biblical Theology (2022–present)
Associate Professor of New Testament, Wartburg Theological Seminary (2018–present)
Assistant Professor of New Testament, Wartburg Theological Seminary (2013–2018)
New Testament Book Review Editor, *Currents in Theology and Mission* (2014–present)
Adjunct Instructor of Religious Studies, University of North Dakota (2008–2013)
New Testament Greek Instructor, Princeton Theological Seminary (2007–2008)
Adjunct Instructor of Theology, St. Joseph’s University, Philadelphia (2007)
Graduate Student Teaching Fellow, Princeton Theological Seminary (2004–2007)
Teaching Assistant for Summer Greek, Luther Theological Seminary (Summer 2004)

Areas of Interest and Specialty

Luke-Acts, Dynamics of the Earliest Christian Communities, Matthew, Literary Closure and Biblical Literature, Culture and Background of the New Testament World, Ministry Issues and Interpreting Scripture, Biblical Models of Prayer, Exegesis as a Spiritual Practice.

Publications: Books, Study Guides, and Journal Issues

- Rooted and Renewing: Imagining the Church’s Future in Light of Its New Testament Origins.* Word & World Books. Minneapolis: Fortress, 2019.
- Bearing Witness in a New Day: A Fresh Look at Being Evangelical Today* (a project in process).
- Co-edited (with Craig Nesson) Journal Issue: “Salvation Revisited: Luke’s Dynamic Vision for Restoration, Reconciliation, and Transformation.” *Currents in Theology and Mission* 45.3 (July 2018).
- By Heart: Conversations with Martin Luther’s Small Catechism.* Facilitator Guide. Minneapolis: Augsburg Fortress, 2017.
- Matthew.* Books of Faith Series Adult Bible Studies. Leader and Learner Guides. Minneapolis: Augsburg Fortress, 2016.
- A Conclusion Unbindered: A Study of the Ending of Acts within Its Literary Environment.* Wissenschaftliche Untersuchungen zum Neuen Testament 2:280. Tübingen: Mohr Siebeck, 2010.

Publications: Articles

- “The Lenses We Use: Interpreting Scripture on the Side of Justice.” *Currents in Theology & Mission* (Spring 2023): forthcoming.
- “Exegesis as a Spiritual Practice.” *Word & World* 42.4 (Fall 2022): forthcoming.
- “The Acts of the Holy Spirit,” Deeper Understandings series in *The Living Lutheran* (April 2022): forthcoming.
- “Sea Travel and Shipwrecks in the Ancient World.” Bible Odyssey (www.bibleodyssey.org): forthcoming.
- “The Ending of Luke Revisited.” *Journal of Biblical Literature* 140.2 (2021): 325–46.
- “Collaborative Wikis as Final Exams.” *Wabash Center Journal on Teaching* 2.2 (May 2021): 49–64.
- “Prayer and Ethics in Matthew’s Sermon on the Mount.” *Word & World* 40.3 (Summer 2020): 227–35.
- “Being More Present Online Through Video.” Tips for Online Pedagogy Column, *Didaktikos: Journal of Theological Education* 4.2 (November 2020): 44–45.
- “How Not to Fall for the Next Big Jesus Exposé.” *Lutheran Forum* 52.4 (Winter 2018): 45–50.
- “Salvation ‘Today’ in Luke’s Gospel.” *Currents in Theology and Mission* 45.4 (October 2018): 6–11.
- “Toxic Theology: A Pastoral Response to Bible Passages Often Used to Justify the Abuse of Children or Prevent them from Seeking Care.” *Currents in Theology and Mission* 45.3 (July 2018): 56–60.
- “Decentered Online Bible Instruction: How Active Learning Enhances the Study of Scripture.” *Teaching Theology & Religion* 21.1 (January 2018): 33–46.
- “Slow Sailing in Acts: Suspense in the Final Sea Journey (Acts 27:1–28:15).” *Journal of Biblical Literature* 136.4 (2017): 949–68.
- “Finding and Forming Pastors the Pauline Way,” *Lutheran Forum* 49:4 (Winter 2015), 18–20.
- “Lessons for Teaching from the Teacher: Matthew’s Jesus on Teaching and Leading Today,” *Currents in Theology and Mission* 40.6 (Dec 2013): 387–98.
- “Left, Left Hand (Christianity),” Volume 16 of *The Encyclopedia of the Bible and Its Reception*. Edited by Christine Helmer et al. 30 vols. Berlin: De Gruyter, 2009–2018.
- “Luke as Historian” and “Luke as Female Author,” in *The Lection Bible Dictionary*. Edited by John D. Barry et al. Bellingham, Wash.: Lexham Press, 2015.
- “Acts for Lutherans,” *Lutheran Forum* 44:3 (Fall 2010), 13–15.

Publications for Worship and Preaching

- Selected Lectionary Commentaries in *Sundays and Seasons: Preaching* (annual publications). Minneapolis: Augsburg Fortress, 2014–2022.
- Selected Entries in *Prophets and Promises: Devotions for Advent & Christmas 2022–2023*. Minneapolis: Augsburg, 2022.
- Selected Entries in *Grace Unbounded: Devotions for Lent 2022*. Minneapolis: Augsburg, 2021.
- Selected Entries in *Heaven and Nature Sing: Devotions for Advent & Christmas 2021–2022*. Minneapolis: Augsburg, 2021.
- Selected Entries in *Our Hope and Expectation: Devotions for Advent & Christmas 2020–2021*. Minneapolis: Augsburg, 2020.
- Commentaries on Selected Texts from Philippians, Sept–Oct 2017 and April–May 2015, www.workingpreacher.org.
- “The Year of Luke: An Introduction to Luke’s Gospel,” in *Sundays and Seasons: Guide to Worship Planning and Sundays and Seasons: Preaching*. Minneapolis: Augsburg Fortress, 2018.
- Preaching Helps, *Currents in Theology and Mission* 44:1 (January 2017): 44–46.
- “The Year of Matthew: An Introduction to Matthew’s Gospel,” in *Sundays and Seasons: Guide to Worship Planning and Sundays and Seasons: Preaching*. Minneapolis: Augsburg Fortress, 2016.

Presentations (Academic)

- “The Spirituality of Exegesis,” Service of Installation into the William A. & John E. Wagner Chair of Biblical Theology, Wartburg Theological Seminary, February 15, 2022.
- “The Ending of Luke Revisited.” Annual Meeting of the Society of Biblical Literature, Gospel of Luke Section. San Diego, California, November 2019.
- “Collaborative Wikis: Better than a Final Exam.” Annual Meeting of the Society of Biblical Literature, Academic Teaching and Biblical Studies Section. San Diego, California, November 2019.
- “Poll the Classroom: A Tool for Active Learning.” Annual Meeting of the Society of Biblical Literature, Academic Teaching and Biblical Studies Section. Denver, Colorado, November 2018.
- “Salvation ‘Today’ in Luke’s Gospel.” Annual Meeting of the Society of Biblical Literature, Gospel of Luke Section. San Antonio, Texas, November 2016.
- “Decentered Online Bible Instruction.” Annual Meeting of the Society of Biblical Literature, Academic Teaching and Biblical Studies Section. San Antonio, Texas, November 2016.
- “The Gravitas of Letters: Intra-diegetic Epistles in Jewish, Greek, and Christian Narratives.” Annual Meeting of the Society of Biblical Literature, Ancient Fiction and Early Christian and Jewish Narrative Section. Atlanta, Georgia, November 2015.
- “Having Our Cake and Eating It Too: The Conflicted Interests of Readers in Ancient Narrative Endings.” Annual Meeting of the Society of Biblical Literature, Ancient Fiction and Early Christian and Jewish Narrative Section. San Diego, California, November 2014.
- “Open Doors: The Legacy of an Ending.” Annual Meeting of the Society of Biblical Literature, Formation of Luke-Acts Section. San Diego, California, November 2014.
- “The *Deus Absconditus* of Acts: Rethinking a Prevailing Assumption.” Upper Midwest Regional Meeting of the Society of Biblical Literature, New Testament Section. St. Paul, MN, April 2013.
- “Slow Sailing in the Book of Acts: Suspense in the Final Sea Voyage of Acts (27:1–28:15).” Annual Meeting of the Society of Biblical Literature, Formation of Luke-Acts Section. Chicago, Illinois, November 2012.
- “The Ending of Acts: Handing on the Baton?” Upper Midwest Regional Meeting of the Society of Biblical Literature, New Testament Section. St. Paul, Minnesota, April 2010.

Presentations (Church and Ministry), a sampling:

- “The Authority of Scripture in Lutheran Perspective,” Adult Catechism Class at Trinity Lutheran Church, Mason City, IA (online video presentation), Spring 2022.
- “2022 Lenten Text Study,” Rostered Ministers of the Allegheny Synod of the ELCA (by Zoom), February 17, 2022.
- “2021 Lectionary Study for Sundays in Advent,” Southeastern Synod of the ELCA (by Zoom), November 9, 2021.
- “Response to President Kristin Johnston Lagen’s Presidential Inauguration Address: Life Together in a New Day,” Wartburg Theological Seminary, Dubuque, IA, November 6, 2021.
- “On Being Evangelical in the Early Church and Today,” Midvale Community Lutheran Church, Madison, WI, September 26, 2021.
- “First and Second Thessalonians.” Northern Illinois Online Bible Study (by Zoom), July 19, 2021.
- “The Gospel of John,” Minneapolis Synod Interim Pastors Gathering, Minneapolis, May 2021.
- “Rooted and Renewing,” Adult Education Series at Christ Lutheran Church, Baltimore, MD, February–March, 2021.
- “How We as Church Have Changed – and Not Changed – in View of COVID,” First Lutheran Church, Cedar Rapids, IA, November 8 and 22, 2020.
- “Rooted and Renewing in an Age of Pandemic,” Rostered Leaders of the Western Iowa Synod (ELCA), May 26–June 9, 2020.
- “Rooted and Renewing,” Lay School of Theology, Silverdale Lutheran Church, Silverdale, WA, March 21–22, 2020.

- “On Bearing Distinctive Witness,” Midvale Community Lutheran church, Madison, WI, September 15, 2019.
- “One Bread, One Body,” Forum Bible Studies, Southeastern Iowa Synod Assembly, West Des Moines, Iowa, May 10–11, 2019.
- “We Are Church for the Sake of the World (Acts 1:8),” Western Iowa Synod Assembly Bible Study, Sioux City, Iowa, June 8–10, 2018.
- “Introduction to Luke’s Gospel,” Western North Dakota GIFTS Event, Bismarck, ND, October 8, 2018.
- “On the Way. . . Together,” Bible Studies, Rostered Leaders’ Gathering, Atlanta, August 7–10, 2017.
- “Reading the Book of Acts as Church Together,” Outlaw Ranch, Custer, South Dakota, July 2017.
- “How Lutherans Receive God’s Word in the Bible’s Words.” Atonement Lutheran Church, Overland Park, Kansas, January 20, 2016.
- “Stirred by the Spirit, Walking Together, Engaging the World with Love.” East Central Synod of Wisconsin Leaders Gathering, Door County, October 2015.
- “Filled with Fire, Gifted to Grow, Sent by the Spirit.” Eastern North Dakota Synod Assembly Bible Study, Fargo, North Dakota, April 2015.
- “A People of the Spirit.” Called Together in Mission Event (Southeastern Iowa Synod), Cedar Rapids, Iowa. March 2015.
- “The Spirit Sends Us: Exploring Acts Together.” Northwest Ohio Synod Rostered Leaders’ Retreat, January 2015.
- “The Beloved, Devoted, and Confused: Engaging the Disciples among the Four Gospels.” Fall 2014 Arkansas-Oklahoma Synod Rostered Leaders’ Theological Conference, September 2014.
- “The Spirit at Work in Church and Mission: Revisiting the Book of Acts Together.” Lutheran Academy of the Rockies Lecture Series, Meeker Park Lodge, Colorado, June–July 2014.

Book Reviews

- Review of *Luke 1–10 and Luke 10–24* (Wisdom Commentary Series), by Barbara E. Reid and Shelly Matthews, *Interpretation Journal* (forthcoming).
- Review of *Church Conflicts: The Cross, Apocalyptic, and Political Resistance*, by Ernst Käsemann, *Lutheran Quarterly* (forthcoming).
- Review of *Reading Romans with Eastern Eyes: Honor and Shame in Paul’s Message and Mission*, by Jackson W., *Review of Biblical Literature* (forthcoming).
- Review of *The Faithfulness of the Risen Christ: Pistis and the Exalted Lord in the Pauline Letters*, by David J. Downs and Benjamin J. Lappenga, *Review of Biblical Literature* (September 2021).
- Review of *The Letter to the Ephesians* (New International Commentary on the New Testament), by Lynn H. Cohick, *Currents in Theology & Mission* 49.1 (Jan 2022): 97–98.
- Review of *The State of New Testament Studies: A Survey of Recent Research*, by Scot McKnight and Nijay K. Gupta, *Review of Biblical Literature* (May 2021).
- Review of *Rereading Galatians from the Perspective of Paul’s Gospel: A Theological and Literary Commentary*, by Yung Suk Kim, *Currents in Theology & Mission* 48.1 (Jan 2021): 75–76.
- Review of *Acts* (Belief: A Theological Commentary on the Bible), by Willie James Jennings, *Currents in Theology and Mission* 47.3 (July 2020): 80–81.
- Review of *Toward Decentering the New Testament: A Reintroduction*, by Mitzi J. Smith and Yung Suk Kim, *Currents in Theology and Mission* 47.3 (July 2020): 87–88.
- Review of *The Gospel of Luke* (New Cambridge Bible Commentary), by Amy-Jill Levine and Ben Witherington III, *Review of Biblical Literature* (June 2019).
- Review of *A Companion to the New Testament: The Gospels and Acts*, by Matthew L. Skinner, *Word & World* 39.3 (Summer 2019): 287–89.
- Review of *Servant of All: Status, Ambition, and the Way of Jesus*, by Craig C. Hill, *Currents in Theology and Mission* 47.1 (Jan 2020): 67–68.

- Review of *A Companion to the New Testament: The General Letters and Revelation*, by Matthew L. Skinner, *Religious Studies Review* 45.2 (June 2019): 205.
- Review of *Pauline Hermeneutics: Exploring the "Power of the Gospel,"* by Eve-Marie Becker and Kenneth Mtata, eds., *Lutheran Quarterly* 32.1 (Spring 2018): 120–22.
- Review of *Luke* (Paideia Commentaries on the New Testament), by Mikeal C. Parsons, *Review of Biblical Literature* (June 2017).
- Review of *Paul in Athens: The Popular Religious Context of Acts 17*, by Clare K. Rothschild, *Review of Biblical Literature* (March 2017).
- Review of *Reformation Commentary on Scripture: New Testament VIII: Romans 9–16*, edited by Philip D. W. Krey and Peter D. S. Krey, *Lutheran Quarterly* 31.2 (Summer 2017): 205–06.
- Review of *Peter: False Disciple and Apostate according to Saint Matthew*, by Robert H. Gundry, *Currents in Theology and Mission* 44.4 (Oct 2017): 51–52.
- Review of *Into the World of the New Testament: Greco-Roman and Jewish Texts and Contexts*, by Daniel Lynwood Smith, *Review of Biblical Literature* (December 2016).
- Review of *The Gospel according to Luke* (Pillar NT Commentary), by James R. Edwards, *Currents in Theology and Mission* 43.4 (Oct 2016): 38.
- Review of *God and the Gay Christian: The Biblical Case in Support of Same-Sex Relationships*, by Matthew Vines, *Currents in Theology and Mission* 43.4 (Oct 2016): 37–38.
- Review of *The Story Luke Tells: Luke's Unique Witness to the Gospel*, by Justo González, *Currents in Theology and Mission* 43.3 (July 2016): 39–40.
- Review of *Genre and Narrative Coherence in the Acts of the Apostles*, by Alan J. Bale, *Religious Studies Review* 42.1 (March 2016): 43.
- Review of *Fruit for the Soul: Luther on the Lament Psalms*, by Dennis Ngien, *Lutheran Quarterly* 30.4 (Winter 2016): 473–74.
- Review of *2 Corinthians*, 2nd ed. (Word Biblical Commentary), by Ralph P. Martin, *Currents in Theology and Mission* 43.1 (Jan 2016): 28.
- Review of *Acts of the Apostles* (Catholic Commentary on Sacred Scripture), by William S. Kurz, *Review of Biblical Literature* (April 2015).
- Review of *Colossians* (Brazos Theological Commentary on the Bible), by Christopher R. Seitz, *Lutheran Quarterly* 29.4 (Winter 2015): 484–85.
- Review of *Singing the Songs of the Lord in Foreign Lands: Psalms in Contemporary Lutheran Interpretation*, by Kenneth Mtata, Karl-Wilhelm Niebuhr, and Miriam Rose, eds., *Lutheran Quarterly* 29.4 (Winter 2015): 475–76.
- Review of *The Gospel of Luke*. The Scholars Bible, by Richard I. Pervo, *Currents in Theology and Mission* 42.4 (Oct 2015): 313–14.
- Review of *Acts of the Apostles* (Fortress Biblical Preaching Commentaries), by Ronald J. Allen, *Currents in Theology and Mission* 42.4 (Oct 2015): 308.
- Review of *The Right Church: Live like the First Christians*, by Charles E. Gutenson, *Currents in Theology and Mission* 42.4 (Oct 2015): 311.
- Review of *Mediating Faith: Faith Formation in a Trans-media Era*, by Clint Schneklath, *Currents in Theology and Mission* 41:6 (Dec 2014): 422–23.
- Review of *King and Messiah as Son of God: Divine, Human, and Angelic Messianic Figures in Biblical and Related Literature*, by Adela Yarbro Collins and John J. Collins, *Koinonia* 21 (2010): 169–72.
- Review of *Early Narrative Christology: The Lord in the Gospel of Luke*, by C. Kavin Rowe, *Review of Biblical Literature* (December 2009).
- Review of *Acts for Everyone*, by N. T. Wright, *Koinonia* 20 (2009): 128–30.
- Review of *The Ending of Mark and the Ends of God: Essays in Memory of Donald Harrisville Juel*, edited by Beverly Roberts Gaventa and Patrick D. Miller, *Koinonia* 18 (2007): 125–28.

Honors and Awards

The William A. & John E. Wagner Chair in Biblical Theology (February 2022–present).
Association of Theological Schools Roundtable Seminar for Midcareer Faculty (April 2019).
Promotion to Associate Professor (tenure), Wartburg Theological Seminary (June 2018).
Association of Theological Schools Roundtable Seminar for Newly Appointed Faculty (Oct 2014).
Doctoral fellowship in New Testament studies, Princeton Theological Seminary (2003–2007)
G. M. and Minnie Bruce Prize in New Testament, Luther Theological Seminary (2003)
John Milton Prize in Old Testament, Luther Theological Seminary (2003)
Presidential Scholarship, Luther Theological Seminary (1999–2003)
American Bible Society Award, Trinity Lutheran College (1998)

Ordination

Evangelical Lutheran Church of America, June 8, 2008, Park River, North Dakota
Currently rostered in the Western Iowa Synod

Church and Ministry Service

Western Iowa Synod (E.L.C.A.) Candidacy Committee, 2019–present.
Pastor, Calvary Lutheran church, Grand Forks, North Dakota (2008–2013)
Adult Forum Instructor, Abiding Presence Lutheran church (E.L.C.A.), Ewing, NJ (2005–2006)
Intern Pastor and Young Adults Ministry Coordinator, St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran (E.L.C.A.),
Minneapolis (2000–2003)
Assistant Program Director, Park River Bible Camp, Park River, North Dakota (2000)

Professional Affiliations

Society of Biblical Literature, 2003–present
E.L.C.A. Association of Teaching Theologians, 2013–present
Book of Faith Think Tank Group (E.L.C.A. churchwide office), facilitated by Brenda Smith, 2018–2021.

Courses Taught (a selection)

Romans, Wartburg Seminary, 2021.
The Acts of the Apostles, Wartburg Seminary, 2014–present.
Paul's Corinthian Correspondence, Wartburg Seminary, 2015–2019.
Teaching the Bible to Youth (with Nate Frambach), Wartburg Seminary, 2020.
Ministry in a Digital World, Wartburg Seminary, January 2021.
Spiritual Practices (course coordinator), Wartburg Seminary, 2015–present.
Preaching Luke's Gospel, Wartburg Seminary, Fall 2015 and Spring 2022.
New Testament Greek, Wartburg Seminary, 2014–present.
Engaging the NT Narratives (hybrid M.Div., online TEEM), Wartburg Seminary, 2013–present.
Engaging the NT Letters (hybrid M.Div., online TEEM), Wartburg Seminary, 2014–present.
The New Testament World, 2014–2016.
Readings in Ecclesiastical Latin, Wartburg Seminary, 2014–2015.
Death and Dying, University of North Dakota, 2009–2012.