

**Reading List for  
the St. John Chrysostom Lutheran Preachers' Retreat  
An Exegetical Approach and Structure for preaching the Living God and His Living Word  
June 22-24, 2009 at St. Michael's Retreat Centre in Lumsden, SK**

This suggested reading list is not meant to be a definitive list of important homiletical works of for beginning preachers. Rather, it assumes that readers are discerning and practicing preachers who already have collections of Luther's sermons, 16<sup>th</sup> century sermons, and Patristic sermons, as well as classical works on homiletics, and a keen theological mind.

**Books about Preaching and Books that will improve Preaching**

Bailey, Kenneth A. *Poet & Peasant and Through Peasant Eyes: A Literary-Cultural Approach to the Parables in Luke*. Combined Edition. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1999.

Bailey, though a higher critic, demonstrates something of the exegetical approach that I will be advocating. Reading anything he writes would be good preparation for the seminar.

Fickenscher, Carl C. II. *The Relationship of Sermon Form to the Communication of the Proper Distinction between Law and Gospel in Lutheran Preaching*. Ft. Wayne: Concordia Theological Seminary Press, 1999.

Fickenscher is the Lutheran expert on sermon structure. This monograph of his PhD dissertation is available from the Ft. Wayne seminary bookstore. It is a bit dry but it is a good introduction to the world of homiletics beyond Lutheranism. I will talking a fair amount about sermon structures in the seminar.

Reardon, Patrick Henry. *Christ in His Saints*. Ben Lomond, California: Conciliar Press, 2004.

Reardon also uses the exegetical approach I will advocate. And His little essays makes the persons of Holy Scripture come alive while also looking through the classic lens of virtues.

Rossow, Francis C. *Preaching the Creative Gospel Creatively*. St. Louis: Concordia Publishing House, 1983.

I suspect that Rossow's books is well known, but I've listed it just in case it isn't. I suspect that this is the single best book about preaching from a Lutheran perspective.

Safire, William. *Lend Me Your Ears: Great Speeches in History*. Revised and expanded edition. New York: W. W. Norton & Company, 1997.

Safire only includes a few sermons. But the speeches he presents should be part of our vocabulary. At least as valuable as the speeches themselves is Safire's historical introduction to each and his highlighting of rhetorical techniques in each.

## **Modern and Creative Sermon Collections**

Bird, Chad. *Lutheran Sermons*. Emmanuel Press, 2005.

This out-of-print book is still available on Amazon.com

Cwirla, William. *On-line Sermon Collection*. <http://www.holytrinity.ms/sermons.htm>

Franzmann, Martin H. *Ha! Ha! Among the Trumpets*. St. Louis: CPH, 1994.

This book should be on every preacher's shelf.

Koch, Aaron. *On-line Sermon Collection*. <http://www.mountziongreenfield.org/SermonList.html>

McCoy, Michael and Tim Pauls. *On-line Sermon Collection*. <http://www.scholia.net/sermons.html>

Nagel, Norman Edgar, *Selected Sermons of Norman Nagel: from Valparaiso to St. Louis*. Edited by Frederick W. Baue. St. Louis: Concordia Publishing House, 2004.

Petersen, David H. *On-line Sermon Collection*. <http://redeemer-fortwayne.org/Sermons.php>

Peperkorn, Todd ed. *Historic Lectionary Web Source*. <http://historiclectionary.com/>

Peperkorn, Todd. On-line Sermon Collection. <http://www.messiahkenosha.org/sermons.htm>

Scaer, David P., *In Christ: The Collected Works of David P. Scaer*. Lutheran Confessor. Edited by Peter C. Bender, Susan E. Gehlbach, Lawrence R. Rast, and Ralph G. Tausz. Vol 1, Sermons. Sussex, Wisconsin: Concordia Catechetical Academy, 2004.

Weedon, William. *On-line Sermon Collection*.

<http://www.stpaulslutheranchurchhamel.org/SermonArchives.html>