

2025-2026

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Kenneth H. Sauer Luther Symposium

**“Sources and Ends in Early Lutheran
Educational Thought”**

Ralph Keen, Ph.D.

**Author and Historian of Early
Modern Europe**

Monday, March 16, 2026

Ness Auditorium, Hollenbeck Hall





Ralph Keen, Ph.D.

**AUTHOR AND HISTORIAN OF
EARLY MODERN EUROPE**

An author and historian with expertise in early modern Europe and religion, Ralph Keen, Schmitt Chair in Catholic Studies and Professor of History at the University of Illinois Chicago (UIC), currently serves as the Dean of the Honors College at UIC. Trained in the classics and philosophy as an undergraduate, Keen later examined the history of Christianity at the graduate level, eventually becoming a historian of Reformation-era thought. His research in the latter area includes *Divine and Human Authority in Reformation Thought* (1997), *Luther's Lives* (2003), *The Christian Tradition* (2008), and *Exile and Restoration in Jewish Thought* (2011), as well as editions of works by Thomas More and Johannes Cochlaeus.

Keen, who received his bachelor's degree in Greek from Columbia University, his master's in classics from Yale University, and his Ph.D. in the history of Christianity from the University of Chicago, is a co-editor of the monograph series *Catholic Christendom, 1300-1700* published by Brill. In 2018, he led the American Society of Church History as its president. Before joining the staff at UIC, Keen taught in the religious studies department at the University of Iowa, where he was also director of undergraduate studies and an honors advisor. Additionally, he has been a visiting professor at the Harvard Divinity School.

PROGRAM

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION OF THE SPEAKER

Christian M. M. Brady, DPhil (Oxon.)
President

ADDRESS

“Sources and Ends in Early Lutheran Educational Thought”
Ralph Keen, Ph.D.

QUESTION AND ANSWER SESSION

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ABOUT THE SYMPOSIUM

The Kenneth H. Sauer Luther Symposium is made possible by an endowment established in honor of The Rev. Dr. Kenneth H. Sauer, Wittenberg Class of 1952, at the time of his retirement as bishop of the Southern Ohio Synod, ELCA, in 1996.

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Southern Ohio Synod, ELCA

Carter Lindberg,
Luther Scholar and Theologian

1999-2000

James M. Kittleson,
Reformation Scholar

2000-2001

L. DeAne Lagerquist,
Religion Professor

2001-2002

Robert Benne,
Theologian and Ethicist

2002-2003

The Rev. Dr. Ted Peters,
Systematic Theologian

2003-2004

The Rev. Dr. Bradley Hanson,
Theologian

2004-2005

Mark U. Edwards,
Educator and Historian

2005-2006

The Rev. Dr. Darrell Jodock,
Theologian

2006-2007

The Rev. Dr. Martin E. Marty,
Professor and Author

2007-2008

The Rev. Dr. Mark Swanson,
Professor and Pastor

2008-2009

The Rev. Dr. Gary Simpson

2009-2010

Deanna Thompson,
Theologian

2010-2011

David Yeago,
Theologian

2011-2012

Christine Helmer,
Theologian

2012-2013

Mark R. Schwehn, Ph.D.,
Provost and Executive Vice
President for Academic Affairs,
and Professor of Humanities,
Valparaiso University

2013-2014

Stephen Haynes, Ph.D.,
Professor of Religion,
Rhodes College

2014-2015

The Rev. Cheryl M. Peterson,
Theologian

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Dr. Larry Rasmussen

2016-2017

Euan Cameron,
Theologian

2017-2018

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Theologian

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Author and Theologian

2019-2020

Gilbert Meilaender,
Author and Theologian

2023-2024

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Executive Director, HopeWood
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