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Marital Status and Children: Married to Tracy Kenyon Lischer, June 4, 1966; children: Sarah Kenyon, b. October 16, 1970, and Richard Adam, b. January 28, 1972, d. July 17, 2005

Assistant, Associate Professor, and Professor
The Divinity School, Duke University, 1979 -

Academy of Homiletics, President, 1997-1998

Teaching Areas

Homiletics, Ministry, Martin Luther King, Religious Autobiography

Publishing Awards

Concise Encyclopedia of Preaching selected as Book of the Year for 1995 by the journal *Preaching*
The Preacher King; Martin Luther King, Jr. and the Word that Moved America named Outstanding
Book 1995-1996 by the Religious Speech Communication Association
Anthologized, *Best Christian Writing 2002* (HarperSanFrancisco), *Best Christian Writing 2004*
The Company of Preachers, Awarded Best Book on Ministry/Leadership 2003, *Christianity Today*

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

Books

Marx and Teilhard: Two Ways to the New Humanity (Maryknoll, NY: Orbis Books, 1979).

A Theology of Preaching: The Dynamics of the Gospel (Nashville: Abingdon Press, 1981). 2nd, revised edition (Durham: The Labyrinth Press, 1992 [Baker Books]).
Korean translation, 1990, Japanese translation, 2004

Speaking of Jesus: Finding the Words for Witness (Philadelphia: Fortress Press, 1982).

Theories of Preaching: Selected Readings in the Homiletical Tradition (Durham, NC: Labyrinth Press, 1987 [Baker Books]). Korean translation, 2004

The Preacher King. Martin Luther King, Jr. and the Word that Moved America (New York: Oxford University Press, 1995). Paperback edition, 1997.

Concise Encyclopedia of Preaching, co-editor with William H. Willimon (Louisville: Westminster/John Knox Press, 1995). Japanese Translation 1998. Paperback edition, 2004

Open Secrets. A Spiritual Journey Through a Country Church (New York: Doubleday, May 2001)
Paperback edition, *Open Secrets. A Memoir of Faith and Discovery* (New York: Broadway Books, 2002)

The Company of Preachers. Wisdom on Preaching from Augustine to the Present, ed. (Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 2002)

The End of Words: The Language of Reconciliation in a Culture of Violence (Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 2005)

Journal Articles

"Humanism: A Basis for Marxist-Christian Dialogue?" *Listening*, Vol. IV, No. 2 (Spring 1969), 132-141.

"Karl Marx and the Christian Faith: Persecution or Dialogue?" *The Irish Theological Quarterly*, Vol. 37, No. 3 (July 1970), 223-234.

- "The Lutheran Shape of Marxian Evil," *Religion in Life*, Vol. 42, No. 4 (Winter 1973), 549-558.
- "An Old/New Theology of History," *The Christian Century*, Vol. 91, No. 10 (March 13, 1974), 288-290.
- "From Earth to Heaven: Teilhard's Politics and Eschatology," *The Christian Century*, Vol. 92, No. 13 (April 9, 1975), 352-357.
- "The Current Challenge to Lutheran Renewal," *Currents in Theology and Mission* Vol. 4, No. 3 (June 1977), 132-142.
- "Resurrexit: Something to Preach," *The Christian Century*, Vol. 97, No. 12 (April 2, 1980), 371-374.
- "Preaching as Theology," *Currents in Theology and Mission*, Vol. 8, No. 2 (April 1981), 86-98.
- "Predigt als Theologie," *Verkündigung und Forschung*, Heft 2, 1981, 58-72 (German translation of above).
- "Luther and Contemporary Preaching: Narrative and Anthropology," *Scottish Journal of Theology*, Vol. 36 (Fall 1983), 487-504.
- "'Story' in Luthers Predigten: Ein Beitrag zur Beziehung zwischen Rhetorik und Anthropologie," *Evangelische Theologie*, 43:6 (November-December 1983), 526-547 (a translation of an expanded version of the above).
Included also in in *Homiletischen Lesebuch*, Tübingen: Katzmann Verlag, 1986.
- "Zu wem spricht Luther?" *Evangelische Theologie*, 43:6 (November- December 1983), 504-512.
- "The Limits of Story," *Interpretation*, Vol. 38, No. 1 (January 1984), 26-38. Reprinted in a slightly abridged form in *International Christian Digest*, Vol. 1, No. 5 (June 1997), 10-13.
- "Preparation for Preaching: A German Model," *Homiletic* (June 1984), pp. 1-4.
- "Luther's Anthropology in Dialogue," *Currents in Theology and Mission*, Vol. 11, No. 5 (October 1984), 279-284.
- "Theology for Ministry: A Conversation with Edward Farley's *Theologia*," *Encounter*, Vol. 46, No. 2 (Spring 1985), 102-115.
- "Imagining a Sermon," *Word and World*, Vol. 5, No. 3 (Summer 1985), 238-247. (Anthologized in *A Reader on Preaching* (Ashgate Publishing, UK, forthcoming 2005)
- "The Pulpit's Promising Tradition," *Currents in Theology and Mission*, vol. 14, no. 2 (April 1987), 127-132.

- "The Sermon on the Mount as Radical Pastoral Care," *Interpretation*, vol. 41, no. 2 (April 1987), 157-169 (reprinted in *The Theological Interpretation of Scripture*, ed. Stephen E. Fowl, Blackwell, 1997), pp. 294-306.
- "'What Language Shall I Borrow?' The Role of Metaphor in Proclamation," *Dialog*, vol. 26 (Fall 1987), 281-286.
- "Preaching and the Rhetoric of Promise," *Word and World*, Vol. 8, No. 1 (Winter 1988), 66-79.
- "The Word that Moves: The Preaching of Martin Luther King, Jr.," *Theology Today*, Vol. 46, No. 2 (July 1989), 169-182.
- "Martin Luther King, Jr. und die Vollmacht der Predigt," (a translation of the above), *Glaube und Lernen*, 5:1 (June 1990), 52-71.
- "Before Technique: Preaching and Personal Formation," *Dialog*, Vol. 29, No. 3 (Summer 1990), 178-182.
- "Other Voices in Homiletics," *Homiletic*, Vol. 16, No. 1 (Summer 1991), 1-4.
- "Martin Luther King, Jr.: forkynnelse som "fremførelse," *Halvårsskrift for Praktisk Teologi*, Heft 2 (1993), 3-12, a translation of "Martin Luther King: 'Performing' the Scriptures," in *Papers of the Annual Meeting of the Academy of Homiletics*, Washington, D.C., 1993, pp. 58-68.
- "Embarrassed by God's Wrath," *Dialog*, Vol. 33, No.4 (Fall 1994), 259-62.
- "Martin Luther King Jr.: Performing the Scriptures," *Anglican Theological Review*, Vol. 77, No. 2 (Spring 1995), 160-72.
- "'Performing' the Scriptures: Die Schrift 'darstellend,'" *Pastoral-Theologie*, 84, Heft 4 (April 1995), 136-49.
- "Jasper, John," *Concise Encyclopedia of Preaching*, ed. Richard Lischer and William Willimon (Louisville: Westminster/John Knox Press, 1995), 277-79.
- "King, Martin Luther, Jr.," *Concise Encyclopedia of Preaching*, 288-90.
- "Taylor, Gardner C.," *Concise Encyclopedia of Preaching*, 465-69.
- "The Interrupted Sermon," *Interpretation* vol. 50, no. 2 (April 1996), 169-181.
- "How the Preacher King Borrowed Sermons," *The Christian Ministry*, Vol. 28, No. 1 (January-February 1997), 9-21.

"Martin Luther King, Jr.," *Dixionario di Omiletica*, ed. Manlio Sodi and Achille Triacca (Turin: Elle Di Ci, 1998), 740-42.

"Preaching/Homiletics," *The Oxford Companion to Christian Thought*, Oxford University Press, 1999.

"Cross and Craft," *Concordia Journal* (Spring 1999).

'*Blessed are the Debonair*': James Cleland as Preacher and Homiletician. *An Inaugural Lecture by Richard Lischer*, 31 pp., Mary Duke Biddle Foundation, 2000.

"How Do You Read?" *The Princeton Seminary Bulletin*, Vol. 22, No. 2 (Summer 2001), 172-84.

"The Called Life: An Essay on the Pastoral Vocation," *Interpretation*, Vol. 59, No. 2 (April 2005), 166-75.

Chapters in Books

"Die Funktion des Narrativen in Luthers Predigt. Der Zusammenhang von Rhetorik und Anthropologie," trans. Albrecht Haizmann (a retranslation of the original English version). In *Homiletisches Lesebuch*, ed. Albrecht Beutel, Volker Drehsen, and Hans Martin Muller (Tuebingen: Katzmann Verlag, 1986), pp. 308-329.

"Die Homiletik in der Wissenschaftskrise der Theologie," *Die Predigtanalyse als Weg zur Predigt*, ed. Rudolf Bohren and Klaus-Peter Joerns (Tuebingen: A. Franke Verlag, 1989), pp. 33-51.

"Preaching About Race Relations--The Hope of Reconciliation " in *Preaching In and Out of Season*, eds. Thomas G. Long and Neely Dixon McCarter (Louisville: Westminster/John Knox Press, 1990), pp. 17-27.

"Preaching as the Church's Language." In *Listening to the Word. Studies in Honor of Fred B. Craddock* (Nashville: Abingdon Press, 1993), pp. 113-130.

"The Sermon on the Mount as Radical Pastoral Care." In *The Theological Interpretation of Scripture*, ed. Stephen E. Fowl, (Oxford: Blackwell, 1997), pp. 294-306.

"What Language Shall I Borrow?"; "Before Technique"; "Embarrassed by God's Wrath." In *Preaching*, issued by *Dialog*, 3.5 high-density disk.

"The Music of Martin Luther King, Jr." in *This Is How We Flow: Rhythm in Black Cultures*, Angela M. S. Nelson, ed. (Columbia: University of South Carolina Press, 1998), pp. 54-62.

"Resurrection and Rhetoric" in *Marks of the Body of Christ*, ed. Carl Braaten and Robert W. Jensen (Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 1999), pp. 13-24.

Preface (approx. 22 pp.) to *Faith and Freedom: An Invitation to the Writings of Martin Luther, Vintage Classics of Spirituality*, ed. John F. Thornton and Susan Varne (New York: Vintage Press [Random House], 2002)

"Sermon Analysis" (on Pentecost sermon by Barbara Brown Taylor) in *Preaching: Creating Perspective, Studia Homiletica* 4, eds. Gerrit Immink and Ciska Stark (Utrecht, The Netherlands, 2002), 139-147.

"A Week of Signs" from *Open Secrets: A Memoir of Faith and Discovery* anthologized in *Best Christian Writing 2002*, ed. John Wilson (San Francisco: HarperSanFrancisco, 2003).

"Help Me, Jesus" from *Open Secrets* anthologized in *Pastor: A Reader for Ordained Ministry*, ed. William Willimon (Nashville: Abingdon, 2002), 151-56.

"The Ebenezer Gospel" from *The Preacher King* anthologized in *Pastor*, 46-69.

"Imagining a Sermon" in *A Reader on Preaching*, ed. David Day, et al (Aldershot, UK: Ashgate Publishing, 2005), 179-84.

"Martin Luther King, Jr.'s Preaching as a Resource for Preachers, *A Reader on Preaching*, 146-50.

Selected Sermons, Homiletical Studies, Occasional Pieces

"Time as Decision," *Your Church*, Vol. 26, No. 1 (January-February 1980), 16-18.

"The Seventh Sunday After Pentecost," *Word and Witness*, Vol. 4, No. 6 (July 13, 1980), 1-4.

"Orientation for Ministry," *The Duke Divinity School Review*, Vol. 45, No. 3, (Fall 1980), 60-63.

"On Temptation," *The Christian Century*, Vol. 97, No. 7 (March 4, 1981), 231-234.

"Redeem the Time," *The Christian Century*, Vol. 98, No. 43 (December 30, 1981), 1374-1375. Also printed in *The Minister's Manual*, ed. James W. Cox (San Francisco: Harper and Row, 1987), pp. 330-332.

"Altar or Table?" *The Christian Century*, Vol. 99, No. 12 (April 7, 1982), 410-411.

"Then Comes the End," *Dialog*, Vol. 21, No. 2 (Spring 1982), 144-146.

"Cruciform Kingship," *Augsburg Sermons II* (Minneapolis: Augsburg Publishing House, 1982), pp. 266-270.

"Money Makes the World Go Around," *The Concordia Pulpit* (St. Louis: Concordia Publishing House, 1983), pp. 237-241.

"The Lazarus at Our Gate," *The Concordia Pulpit* (St. Louis: Concordia Publishing House, 1983), pp. 241-245.

"To A Sleeping God," *Augsburg Sermons II* (Minneapolis: Augsburg Publishing House, 1984), pp. 173-177.

"No Handicapped Ministers Need Apply" (with Tracy Kenyon Lischer) *The Christian Century* (July 14-20, 1985), 670-71.

"Authors' Response" (with Tracy Kenyon Lischer), *The Christian Century*, Vol. 102, No. 28 (Sept. 25, 1985), 836-38.

"Acknowledgement," *Best Sermons* ed. James Cox (San Francisco: Harper Collins: 1992), pp. 16-21.

"How Law and Gospel Work in Preaching," *Concordia Pulpit Resources*, Vol. 3, No. 3 (June-Sept. 1993), 5-7.

"What Shall I Borrow? Is It Tradition or Plagiarism?" *Circuit Rider* 17, no. 8 (October 1993), 7-8.

"After Babel," *Journal for Preachers*, Vol. 17, No. 4 (Pentecost 1995), 7-9.

"Graduating into Hope," *Durham Herald-Sun*, A (Op-ed), April 16, 1995.

"Response" (to Scott Black Johnston, "Who Listens to Stories?") in *Insights*, Vol. III, No. 2 (Spring 1996), 28-29.

"The Great Chain of Preaching," Vol. 12, No. 5 *Preaching* (March-April 1997), 40-42.

"'The Word is Near You': Homiletics as a Vocation," *Journal for Preachers*, Vol. 21, No. 2 (Lent 1998), 31-34.

"Living by the Word" (a series of 6 columns on the appointed lessons for Lent, *The Christian Century*).

"The Journey Begins," *The Christian Century*, "Living by the Word" series, 116:4 (February 3-10, 1999), 109.

- “Pick It Up, Read It!” *The Christian Century*, “Living by the Word” series, 116:5 (February 17, 1999), 179.
- “Strangers in the Night,” *The Christian Century*, “Living by the Word” series, 116:6 (February 24, 1999), 213.
- “Acknowledgement,” *The Christian Century*, “Living by the Word” series, Vol. 116: No. 7 (March 3, 1999), 245.
- “A Sense of Ending,” *The Christian Century*, “Living by the Word” series, Vol. 116: No 8 (March 10, 1999), 277.
- “We Have Seen the Lord,” *The Christian Century*, “Living by the Word” series, 116: 9 (March 17, 1999), 307.
- “Why I Am Not Persuasive”, *Homiletic* (Fall 1999), 13-16.
- "Martin Luther King, Jr.'s Preaching as a Resource for Preachers," *Journal for Preachers*, Vol. 23, No. 3 (Easter 2000), 18-22.
- “A Week of Signs,” *The Christian Century* (May 9, 2001), 14-17 (excerpted from *Open Secrets*)
- “The Seven Gifts of Preaching,” *Circuit Rider* (September-October 2001), 8-11.
- “Open Secrets” excerpted in *Leadership* (Fall 2001), 108-13.
- “The Company of Pilgrims” (sermon on 75th Anniversary of Duke Divinity School), *Divinity News and Notes*, 17:2 (Winter 2002), 28-32.
- “Repeat Performance,” *The Christian Century*, Vol. 119: No. 18 (August 28-Sept 10, 2002), 22-25
- “Our Greatest Speech” (on 40th anniversary of “I Have a Dream”), *The Christian Century*, Vol. 120: No. 17 (August 23, 2003), 8-9.
- Introduction, *Preaching for Adult Conversion* by Frank Honeycutt (Nashville: Abingdon, 2003).
- “Odd Job,” *The Christian Century*, Vol. 121, No. 7 (April 6, 2004), 24-25.
- “God Has Gone Up with a Shout!” in *Exploring and Proclaiming the Apostles’ Creed*, ed. Roger Van Harn (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2004), pp. 173-77 .
- "I Have Seen the Future" in *Sermons from Duke Chapel: Voices from 'A Great Towering Church'*, ed. Willam H. Willimon (Durham, NC: Duke

University Press, 2005).

"Stick with the Story," *The Christian Century*, Vol.122, No. 15 (July 26, 2005), 10-11.
(Excerpted from *The End of Words*)

Selected Review Articles

"Recent Books on Preaching" (a review essay), *Word and World*, vol. 7, no. 1 (Winter 1987), 91-98.

The Question of Meaning by Gerhard Sauter (a major review), *Theology Today*, Vol. 54, No. 3 (October 1997), 398-400.

"Preaching to America" (review essay on *American Sermons*, ed. Michael Warner), *The Christian Century*, Vol. 116: No.16 (May 19-26,1999), 587-88.

"People as Property" (review essay on *In the Image of God: Religion, Moral Values, and Our Heritage of Slavery* by David Brion Davis), *Books & Culture*, 8:4 (July-August 2002), 28.

"Peculiar People" (review of *Godly and Righteous, Peevish and Perverse* by Raymond Chapman), *The Christian Century*, Vol. 120: No 20 (October 4, 2003), 38

Representative Scholarly Presentations and Named Lectureships

Consultation on Luther's Anthropology and Contemporary Theology, "The Function of Narrative in Luther's Preaching: The Relation of Rhetoric and Anthropology," University of Bonn, Bonn, Germany, May 24, 1983.

"Homiletics and the Crisis of Theology," Keynote Lecture, International Wissenschaftsforum: Predigtforschung, University of Heidelberg, Germany, September 8, 1986.

Atlantic Seminar in Theology, "Biblical Preaching," 4 lectures and 2 sermons, , Truro, Nova Scotia, June 5-9, 1988.

"Martin Luther King: 'Performing' the Scriptures," *Societas Homiletica*, Det Teologiske Menighets-fakultet, Oslo, Norway, June 4, 1993. Appears in *Papers of the Annual Meeting of the Academy of Homiletics* (Georgetown University, Washington, D.C., 1993), pp. 58-68.

Institute of Theology, Princeton Theological Seminary, "The Language of Preaching" (4 lectures and a sermon), Princeton, NJ, June 28-July 2, 1993.

Colloquium: "The Preacher King," Department of Theology, Africa University, Mutare, Zimbabwe, October 13, 1993. Sermon October 13, 1993.

"Our Best Voice," speech, Lutheran Theological Seminary, Gettysburg, PA, January 15, 1996.

Sprunt Lecture, "The Interrupted Sermon," Union Theological Seminary, Richmond, VA, January 30, 1996.

Guest Professor, Seminar on Nordic Homiletics for all Ph.D. students and selected professors, Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway, Sweden; Oslo, Norway, August 20-26, 1996.

"The Resurrection and Rhetoric: How to Get from the Risen Christ to the Sunday Sermon," Lecture sponsored by the Center for Catholic and Evangelical Theology, Lancaster, PA, October 20, 1997.

Wenshel Lecture, "Cross and Craft," Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, MO, April 1, 1998.

Sprinkle Lectures (3), "Faith and Form," Barton College, Wilson, NC, March 15-16, 1999.

Lyman Beecher Lectures in Preaching, "The End of Words," (3), Yale Divinity School, New Haven, CT CT, October 11-13, 1999.

Inaugural Lecture: "'Blessed are the Debonair': James T. Cleland as Preacher and Homiletician," Duke Divinity School, April 11, 2000, inaugurating the James T. and Alice Mead Cleland Chair in Preaching (Printed as booklet by Mary Duke Biddle Foundation, 2000)

Macleod Lectures (3), "Preaching as a Risky Vocation," Princeton Theological Seminary, Princeton, NJ, October 16-17, 2000, and 1 sermon, Short Hills Community Congregational Church, Short Hills, NJ, October 15, 2000.

Yost Lectures, "Formation for Ministry and Preaching," (2) Lutheran Southern Theological Seminary, Columbia SC, April 24, 2003.

Gray Lectures, "The Art and Soul of Preaching" (2), Duke Divinity Fall Convocation, Duke University, October 13-14, 2003.

Christian Century Lectures, "The Art and Craft of Preaching" (2 lectures and 1 sermon), Chicago, IL, September 24, 2004.