

Lutheran Heritage Lecture 2017

A contemporary perspective on the Lutheran tradition



Becoming Human:

Dietrich Bonhoeffer's Theological Confrontation with White Supremacy

*Dr. Reggie Williams, associate professor of Christian Ethics,
McCormick Theological Seminary*

April 3, 12 p.m.

*Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago
East Conference Room
1100 East 55th Street, Chicago*

Free and open to the public. A soup lunch will be served.

Reggie Williams is associate professor of Christian ethics at McCormick Theological Seminary. He has taught ethics at Baylor University and Practical Theology at Azusa Pacific University in Azusa, Calif. His research interests are primarily focused on Christological hermeneutics, and Christian morality.

Dietrich Bonhoeffer was a Lutheran pastor, theologian, and political activist in Germany, during one of the world's most infamous political regimes. The context of his ministry included interaction with nostalgia for national greatness in post-WWI Germany. German Nazism was in its nascent stages and most non-Jewish Germans did not see it as dangerous. Yet, after spending a year as a student in Harlem, New York, attending a black Baptist church, and studying the writers of the Harlem Renaissance, Bonhoeffer saw racism as a Christian problem. Upon his return to Germany, Bonhoeffer recognized that white racist Christians there had turned Jesus into a representation of ideal humanity, which is historically catastrophic, distorting humanity in all aspects of human social interaction. Rather than the idealized humanity of white supremacy, Bonhoeffer advocated that we see ourselves and others in the concrete reality, enabling us to love and live in real community, with real human beings.

The Lutheran Heritage Lecture is designed to provide a contemporary perspective on the Lutheran tradition.



**Lutheran School of
Theology at Chicago**

For more information, contact Patti DeBias, assistant to the president at pdebias@lstc.edu or 773.256.0727