

Speaker Profiles
Passing the Word Conference
and
Raoul Wallenberg Tribute

Dr. Philip Cunningham is Professor of Theology and co-director of the Institute for Jewish-Catholic Relations of Saint Joseph's University. He is the immediate past president of the International Council of Christians and Jews and secretary-treasurer of the Council of Centers on Jewish-Christian Relations, as well as webmaster of its Internet resource, *Dialogika*. He has authored many books, most recently, *Seeking Shalom: The Journey to Right Relationship between Catholics and Jews* (2015). He has advised the US Conference of Catholic Bishops and the Vatican Commission for Religious Relations with the Jews, and has guided the recent international research projects producing *Christ Jesus and the Jewish People Today: New Explorations of Theological Interrelationships* (2011) and the forthcoming *Enabling Dialogue about the Land: A Resource Book for Jews and Christians* (2019).

Dr. Adam Gregerman is Associate Professor of Jewish Studies and co-director of the Institute for Jewish-Catholic Relations of Saint Joseph's University. His scholarship focuses on biblical interpretation and religious polemics, especially about theologies of the land of Israel and experiences of suffering and loss. He is a member of the Committee on Ethics, Religion, and the Holocaust at the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum and Reviews Editor for *Studies in Christian-Jewish Relations*. He is the author of the book *Building on the Ruins of the Temple: Apologetics and Polemics in Early Christianity and Rabbinic Judaism* (Mohr Siebeck, 2016). His most recent articles are: "Is the Biblical Land Promise Irrevocable?: Post *Nostra Aetate* Catholic Theologies of the Jewish Covenant and the Land of Israel," *Modern Theology* 34/2 (April 2018): 137-158 and "Superiority without Supersessionism: Walter Kasper and 'The Gifts and the Calling of God are Irrevocable on God's Covenant with the Jews,'" *Theological Studies* 79/1 (2018): 36-59.

The Rev. Dr. Scott S. Ickert is a pastor (retired) of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. He is a graduate of George Mason University, Lutheran Theological Seminary at Gettysburg, and The Catholic University of America (Ph.D. in Church History, 1985). He served three parishes, all in Virginia, and was the Lutheran World Federation-sponsored Lutheran tutor at Mansfield College (also on staff part time at Ripon College Cuddesdon) in Oxford, UK, 1990-1995. He was, and continues to be, actively involved in ecumenical relations, and had served as the Lutheran co-convenor of a local Washington, D.C. area Lutheran (Metropolitan Washington DC Synod ELCA)-Jewish (Washington Chapter of the American Jewish Committee) dialogue.

The Rev. Dr. Darrell Jodock is a professor emeritus at Gustavus Adolphus College, where he was the first to hold the Drell and Adeline Bernhardson Chair in Lutheran Studies. In addition to serving in a parish in Washington, D.C., he has also taught at Luther Seminary, Muhlenberg College and St. Olaf College. At Muhlenberg he founded the Institute for Jewish-Christian Understanding. Currently, he chairs the ELCA Consultative Panel on Lutheran-Jewish Relations and represents the ELCA at the inter-religious "convening table" of the National Council of Churches. He also chairs the board of the Collegeville Institute for Ecumenical and Cultural Research and serves on the planning committee for the annual Vocation of a Lutheran College Conference. Raised on a farm in North Dakota, he received a Bachelor of Arts from St. Olaf College, Master of Divinity from Luther Seminary, and a doctorate from Yale University.

Dr. Ruth Langer is Professor of Jewish Studies in the Theology Department at Boston College and Associate Director of its Center for Christian-Jewish Learning. She writes and speaks on the development of Jewish liturgy and ritual; and on Christian-Jewish relations. She is a past chair of the Council of Centers on Jewish-Christian Relations and co-editor of the online, peer-reviewed journal, *Studies in Christian-Jewish Relations*. Her books include *Cursing the Christians? A History of the Birkat HaMinim* (Oxford 2012) and *Jewish Liturgy: A Guide to Research* (2015) and co-edited the forthcoming *Enabling Dialogue about the Land: A Resource for Jews and Christians* (2019).

Dr. Amy-Jill Levine is University Professor of New Testament and Jewish Studies, Mary Jane Werthan Professor of Jewish Studies, and Professor of New Testament Studies at Vanderbilt Divinity School and College of Arts and Science. She is an internationally prominent public speaker on Christian-Jewish relations, an instructor in the Great Courses series, and a consultant to the Vatican and the World Council of Churches. Her books include *The Misunderstood Jew: The Church and the Scandal of the Jewish Jesus* and *Short Stories by Jesus: The Enigmatic Parables of a Controversial Rabbi*. She is the co-editor, with Marc Z. Brettler, of the *Jewish Annotated New Testament*.

Kathryn Mary Lohre is Assistant to the Presiding Bishop, Executive for Ecumenical and Inter-Religious Relations & Theological Discernment for the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. She carries primary responsibility for stewarding the ELCA's six full-communion ecumenical partnerships, bilateral conversations with five other Christian churches, and dialogue with the Jewish and Muslim communities and with other religious groups. Lohre was the lead staff person in the development of the church's proposed 2019 policy statement, "A Declaration of Inter-Religious Commitment." In 2012-2013, she was the president of the National Council of Churches of Christ in the USA, the only ELCA member and the youngest woman to hold that office. Lohre also formerly was assistant director of the Pluralism Project at Harvard University.

The Rev. Dr. Jesper Svartvik receives the 2019 Raoul Wallenberg honors at Muhlenberg College in recognition of his substantial contributions to Jewish-Christian relations and, in particular, his courageous moral action on behalf of others. He has been a stalwart friend of both the Jewish and Palestinian communities throughout his career. Jesper remains dedicated to the church and to its ministry of reconciliation with the Jewish people in his current position as Diocesan Theologian at the Diocese of Karlstad, Sweden.

From 2008 to 2018 Jesper Svartvik held the Krister Stendahl Chair of Theology of Religions at Lund University and the Swedish Theological Institute in Jerusalem. (The chair is named for the long-time dean of Harvard Divinity School and erstwhile bishop of Stockholm, a giant of the Christian-Jewish relations movement, Krister Stendahl.)

His teaching and research include interreligious studies, especially Jewish-Christian relations, and biblical studies, especially the New Testament in its contemporary Jewish contexts. He was a theological consultant on the Church of Sweden's major statement on relations with the Jewish people, *Guds Vägar (The Ways of God, 2001)*, and edited a volume of international responses to it. He has authored nine books, including *Skriften ansikten (The Faces of Scripture, 2001)* and *Ordet (The Word, 2004)*, and co-authored several others, including *Christ Jesus and the Jewish People Today* (2011), *Religious Stereotyping and Interreligious Relations* (2013), and the forthcoming *Enabling Dialogue about the Land: A Resource for Jews and Christians* (2019).