



January 2, 2024

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Dear Chief Academic Officer:

I am pleased to announce that the Roth Prize will once again be offered by the Mercersburg Society for the best student paper on Mercersburg Theology done during this academic year. Your students are invited to participate in the competition. The Roth Prize is named for Jeffrey Roth, a founding member of the Mercersburg Society. It aims to promote the study of Mercersburg Theology from a variety of angles, and so papers pertaining to any aspect of this tradition, historical or contemporary, are eligible for the \$750 prize.

Mercersburg Theology developed in the German Reformed Church in the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century, under the leadership of theologian John Williamson Nevin and historian Philip Schaff. This tradition takes the incarnation as its theological starting point and stresses the importance of the universal Church as the body of Christ developing through history. The Mercersburg theologians took a special interest in sacramental worship and produced a liturgy for both pulpit and pew. Radical in its time and both valued and contentious today, this theological tradition continues to animate the life of the ecumenical Church and generate new scholarly endeavors from editions of primary sources to articles and monographs.

Students taking courses in Theology, Church History, American Christianity, Religion and Society, or Worship might well find the Mercersburg tradition a fruitful topic for in-depth study. Papers submitted for the prize may be written in a regular seminary course or arise from independent study. Doctoral students are welcome to participate. It is expected that papers will be approximately 15-20 pages in length, complete with appropriate documentation.

The recipient of the prize will be invited to present the winning essay at a future Mercersburg Society event. At the decision of the editors, the paper may also be published in the *New Mercersburg Review*.

Submissions should be sent to me by May 17, 2024. I will be glad to receive email inquiries: [athayer@lancafterseminary.edu](mailto:athayer@lancafterseminary.edu).

Would you please let your faculty and students know about this opportunity? Thank you very much.

Sincerely yours,

Anne T. Thayer

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