

## **Dr. Markus Wriedt's Professional Vision**

Church history informs the conditions in which dogmatic and ethical documents have been put forward, and with that helps to understand the development of doctrine and piety as well as the development of churches. Within the broader context of Christian education and teaching theology, studies in church history help to develop methods for the inquiry of history and to develop a certain Christian hermeneutic to interpret history in the light of God's revelation. Simultaneously, historical studies help to find methods of critique to distinguish ideology and the truth of faith. With that historical studies in theology help to reflect one's conscience with regard to Christian doctrine(s) and piety. The time between the 13<sup>th</sup> to the 17<sup>th</sup> centuries is a crucial time in the history of faith, doctrine, and the church, and decisions made then continue to impact the present context. My research in this field is most closely connected to my teaching. The intensive exchange of results of research in class and the renewal of questions or the student's critique to my presentations stimulate ongoing research and vice versa.

One of the unique features of the Department of Theology at Marquette is its great ability for communication and the exchange of ideas. Because this is not something which lasts forever, I see one part of my being here to develop and continue the stimulating atmosphere of discussion. I try to do this with regard to my status as an internationally connected German scholar, in particular with my religious background in a Lutheran denomination of the church. My contract asks me to develop "Luther studies in a (Roman) Catholic context." That allows me to develop several features to support the identity of the department with regard to international studies and exchange, ecumenism as a lively experience of shared visions, ideas in research and daily life, and in particular my understanding of history as to develop a certain kind of Christian hermeneutics.