

Christian News

“Don’t push back the ancient boundary line your ancestors set up.”
Proverbs 22:28

VOLUME 57, NUMBER 02

Will Harrison Answer Questions with Poppe, Maier, Klinkenburg?



Explanation of Seal on Page 3.

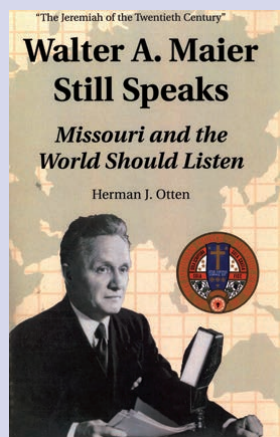
Christian News is suggesting that the Lutheran Concerns Associations (LCA), invite Lutheran Church Missouri Synod President Matthew Harrison whom the LCA has supported for President, David Maier, Tim Klinkenburg and Clint Poppe to participate in a presidential debate and answer questions. Harrison has repeatedly refused to answer the eight simple doctrinal questions, which Poppe and Maier answered. David Maier is Chairman of the LCMS’s Council of Presidents, and President of the LCMS’s Michigan District. Pastor Timothy Klinkenburg is pastor of St. John’s Lutheran Church, Orange, California—and the Largest Lutheran Christian Day School in America (800+). Clint Poppe is the pastor of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Lincoln, Nebraska—one of the few growing LCMS congregations—past First Vice-President of the LCMS’s Nebraska District, and the past Chairman of the Association of Confessional

Evangelical Churches.

Each candidate would be asked to present his program to slow down the rapid shrinking in the LCMS. Each would be asked where they stand on the vital theological issues now troubling the LCMS. During LCMS President Harrison’s three terms, little, if any doctrinal discipline has been practiced. The LCMS has become like most major denominations an anything goes, broadening and rapidly shrinking church. It has departed from the scriptural position of its founder, even though the present LCMS Bureacracy still gives lip service to LCMS founder CFW Walther. About the only thing growing in the LCMS Bureacracy is the salary of the Bureaucrats. Harrison receives about twice the salary of U.S. governors and more than U.S. senators do. Should the LCMS continue tolerating pastors and professors who insist the Bible is filled

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Will Harrison Answer Questions with Poppe, Maier, Klinkenburg?

Continued from Page 1 with many corruptions and say Luke 1:46 is in error when it says Mary rather than Elizabeth spoke the Magnificat. Should there be room in the LCMS for those who want the clergy/roster to be open for those who approve of same sex marriage, homosexuality, abortion, and the ordination of women?

Photographed in the next column is a letter sent to *Christian News* by a laymen whose family has long had deep roots in the LCMS, Robert Koehler, a champion of "Old Missouri".

January 3, 2018
Lutheran Concerns Association
149 Glenview Drive
New Kensington, PA 15-66-4921
Board of Directors

Dear Gentlemen: *Christian News* has just received your January 2019 *Lutheran Clarion*. This fine publication lists a circulation of 6,000. Such publications of the liberals as *Lutheran Forum* and *Forum Letter* now have only about 1,500 subscribers. *Dialog*, which lists an impressive number of Lutheran scholars around the world, as does *Logia*, on its masthead has about 200 subscribers. The many Lutheran bloggers who think they are reaching thousands are generally only speaking to the choir and not the 6,000 congregations which actually do the nominating.

The Lutheran Concerns Association could have a great influence on this year's LCMS presidential election. At the last such election, you enthusiastically supported Matthew Harrison for a third term. Now the Congregations Matter group is asking congregations to nominate David Maier and Tim Klinkenberg. The United Listers are again asking congregations to nominate Harrison. Based on the response to a simple doctrinal questionnaire *CN* sent the various candidates promoted by Congregations Matter and the United List, *CN* is suggesting that LCMS congregations consider nominating David Maier, Tim Klinkenberg, and Clint Poppe for LCMS President and Vice-President. The January 7 *Christian News*, which went on-line yesterday, has some 28 reasons why congregations should not nominate Harrison and reasons why they should rather consider Poppe, Maier, and Klinkenberg.

Christian News is suggesting that the Lutheran Concerns Association invite Harrison, Poppe, Maier and Klinkenberg to some sort of debate like America's presidential debates. Record the debate and send it to all LCMS congregations. Those congregations which want the LCMS to be open to officials who do not take any action vs. the evolutionist and supporters of same-sex marriage on the LCMS clergy roster as Fred Niedner, higher critics of the Bible such as Jeffrey Kloha, promoters of an anti-scriptural universalism as Herbert Hofer, and supporters of women's ordination, can then nominate Harrison. Those who want a president who insists that Dietrich Bonhoeffer, who denied

Robert Koehler <shirl744@msn.com> Jan 2 at 8:09 PM
To cnmail@fidnet.com

The Highly Paid Big Shots (Ed.)

Dear Pastor Otten,

Since the LCMS convention in Milwaukee, Wisconsin I have paid particular attention to what the denizens of St. Louis have been up to. Researching the LCMS going on since 1972 does not give anyone a very bright picture of the synod hierarchy. Ever since the 2013 convention when they stole the authority of the congregations to stop the congregations from exercising their authority over the St. Louis crowd, things have gone down hill.

When President Barry was leading the LCMS he spoke to a small group in our area and at the question and answer period a person asked why he could not rid the LCMS of some of those that did not want to follow the tenets of our church body, the BIBLE. His reply was, "The Council of Presidents won't let me". Already, at that time they had taken power to themselves. President Barry did ship out the worst one before the COP stepped in. Today they are equivalent to the swamp in Washington, D.C.

When President Harrison was first a candidate for president he made a video that was sent to all of the congregations and our congregation had a viewing which my wife and I attended. On the way home later we discussed what he said and we agreed that if he was telling the truth the LCMS was on the cusp of a new era. Unfortunately it turned out to be another illusion. This is illustrated by the loss of congregations in the LCMS and the St. Louis bunch sits there like the Roman Senate sat in their seats waiting for the Huns to show up so they could discuss things. The Huns killed them where they sat and Rome was destroyed.

The rewriting of the Bible, in several versions, is another egregious error of our LCMS leadership. Their arrogance has taken to the views of the devil concerning truth. The majority of the Bible reading people have turned their backs on the present versions of the Bible because it reads falsely. The majority, after all of these years, still selects the King James version as the true and reliable rendition of GOD'S Word. The rewriting of the hymnal is another error that boosts their self esteem, but has done little to please the congregations.

Recently, one of publications in our church body had an article concerning the homosexuality rampant within the Catholic Church Priests and the hierarchy in Rome. The theme seems to be that the LCMS should not act holier than thou, but this has been going on for decades in the LCMS also and the faithful leaders transfer the low lifes to another church. One in our area was not so lucky. The parents of the child notified the police, the minister was taken to court and went to prison. Another pastor had a couple of girl friends from the congregation and he was transferred, again.

This is what the LCMS has descended into and since the leaders in St. Louis have gathered all power to themselves nothing is done. They give themselves raises, fly all over the world, act like big shots and the missionaries must scrape their own money together if they go to a mission station in any part of the world. The synod has joined the world even though GOD has told us that this is evil.

Respectfully,
Robert Koehler
Andover, Ill
309-945-2427

the historicity of the Genesis creation account and the resurrection of Jesus Christ, as about the greatest Lutheran theologian since Martin Luther can vote for Harrison. Those who do not want the LCMS to be just another anything goes broadening American denomination, which practices no doctrinal discipline, may then consider nominating Poppe, Maier, or Klinkenberg.

Congregations must submit their ballots by February 20. If the Lutheran Concerns Association is not interested in an open and fair debate, then *CN* suggests that the LCA send Harrison, Maier, Klinkenberg, and Poppe the kind of simple questionnaire *CN* sent them. Do not ask only "What do you believe?" Ask do you believe the LCMS should be open to those who promote evolution, higher

criticism of the Bible, the notion that Elizabeth and not Mary spoke the Magnificat, etc.?

It is fine to publish such articles as Martin Noland's "Synod's Position on Creation and Evolution," in your January *Lutheran Clarion*. The important question is what should be done about officials who refuse to take action vs. those who reject the LCMS's scriptural position on evolution. Will the Lutheran Concerns Association continue to back bureaucrats who tolerate evolutionists, higher critics, supporters of women's ordination and homosexuality?

May you have a fruitful Lutheran Concerns Association conference in Ft. Wayne on January 14. God's richest blessings,
Herman Otten, editor
Christian News

MEYER AND THE MAIERS

Scott Meyer, a former chairman of the Board of Directors of the Concordia Historical Institution and a member of the Board of Directors of The Lutheran Concerns Association, had a high regard for August Suelflow, long-time director of the CHI and champion of LCMS founder C.F.W. and the rights of laymen and congregations which Walther promoted. Last week's *CN* commented on Edwin Suelflow, a relative of August Suelflow. *CN* has long promoted Suelflow's *Servant of the Word—The Life and Ministry of C.F.W. Walther* (\$20.50). Scott Meyer said his wife Eunice made it possible for the LCMS to produce and widely distribute a video on Walther and the Saxon founders of the LCMS. He deplored the "good old boys' club taking over the LCMS bureaucracy. He regretted that Harrison, the faculty of Concordia Seminary St. Louis and its Board of Regents said

they found no false doctrine in Kloha's published writings.

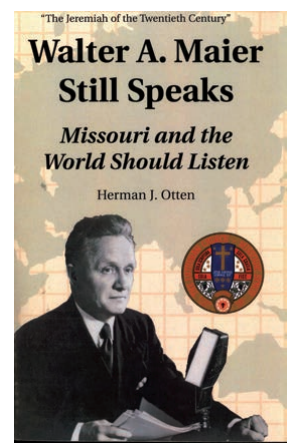
Scott Meyer regularly commended Kurt Marquart for his writing in the 10 Volume *Marquart's Works*. "Is Diversity in the Church a Good Thing" by Scott Meyer in the June 2, 2014 *CN* said: "And also as infrequently, *Christian News* by quotation of Dr. Kurt Marquart, who is one of Synod's greatest proponents of doctrinal unity: 'The single most crucial issue facing our Synod, in my view, is the loss of doctrinal unity. There is, for instance, the acceptance of evolution by the Concordia University System, LCMS President Harrison and the United List, again supporting him for president,

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Will Harrison Answer Questions with Poppe, Maier, Klinkenburg?

Continued from Page 2 insist evolution is not being promoted in the Concordia University System, and that Jeffrey Kloha's writings contain no false doctrine; they sharply disagreed with Scott Meyer. When *CN* asked some of those circulating the United List, who were seeking votes for Harrison, what they thought about the writings of Jeffrey Kloha and John Warwick Montgomery's critique of Kloha, they said they were so busy at their computers that they did not have time to read what Kloha wrote or Montgomery's critique of Kloha. When asked "Who is behind the secret United List?" the response was: "They are high up in the LCMS and do not want their names revealed."

Scott Meyer told *CN* that when he heard David Maier preach in Illinois, he reminded him of David Maier's grandfather, Lutheran Hour speaker Walter Maier I. As the editor was preparing this article, a close relative of Scott Meyer called to ask about the price of Elmer Hohle's *A Year With Jesus*. She told *CN* about the high regard the Meyer family had for Walter Maier. "None of us dared to talk when we sat around our large radio listening to the *Lutheran Hour*."



Reprinted here from *Walter A. Maier Still Speaks—Missouri and the World Should Listen* is the Foreword, Introduction and Explanation of the Seal of the LCMS on the books cover:

Published by *CN* 10 years ago, this book said on its dedication page: "Dedicated to the pastors seminarians and professors of the Lutheran

The Lutheran Witness June 15, 1926

The Faculty of Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, Mo.
Front row (left to right): Professors Theo. Graebner, F. Bente, D.D., F. Pieper, D.D., L. Fuerbringer, D.D., W. H. T. Dau, D.D.
Rear row (left to right): Professors M. S. Sommer, W. G. Polack, J. T. Mueller, W. A. Maier, J. H. C. Fritz, Dean, W. Arndt, P. E. Kretzmann, D. D., Ph. D., O. C. A. Boecker.

Dr. Maier was 29 years old when he was called to be a professor at Concordia Seminary, St. Louis. "... the youngest person ever to hold the rank of professor in the eighty-three year historical Concordia." Dr. Paul Maier's, *A Man Spoke - A World Listened*, p. 55. None of his fellow professors ever criticized him for not emphasizing the sacraments, or the work of the Holy Spirit in conversion in his *Lutheran Hour Sermons*.

Church-Missouri Synod. May they all follow Dr. Walter A. Maier and with great zeal, preach Jesus Christ, as dying men to dying people, and may they all remain faithful to God's word as this faculty of Concordia Seminary St. Louis."

Walter A. Maier Still Speaks - Missouri and the World Should Listen The Foreword

History in every century unveils a few selected men with incredible gifts who leave an indelible imprint on their era. In the lives of MOST of these men, their God-given genius is tainted and their impact for true greatness is dulled, by personal ambition that clouds clear vision and limits or destroys their influence for good.

Yet here and there God raises up a unique man, transformed from above in the waters of Baptism and nurtured and fed in the infallible Word of the Living God, whose character is shaped and whose ideals are refined by the Holy Spirit.

God equips such men for the spiritual warfare they are brought into this world to wage! In such a man there burns no vain desire for self-aggrandizement. On the contrary, by God's grace such men are gifted by God Himself and are destined to fulfill God's purpose!

Such a man was Martin Luther! The Scottish essayist and historian Thomas Carlyle says: "I will call this Luther a truly great man; great in intellect, in courage, affection and integrity ... a right spiritual hero and prophet ... for whom these centuries and many that are yet to come, will be thankful to heaven." The hymn writer and poet, James Montgomery, also waxes eloquent in praise of Luther: "Chief O'er all the galaxies of lights which stud the firmament of Christian fame, shone Luther forth — that miracle of men! A Gospel hero, who with faith sublime, fulmined the lightnings of God's flaming Word." Dr. Maier, if he could speak to us today, would be the first to disparage such words of ful-

some praise being applied to him. Yet for those of us, who from childhood heard this faithful servant of God deliver his fiery sermons over the airwaves, the comparison is appropriate.

Like Martin Luther, Walter Maier was gifted with bold, unwavering faith. Both men possessed great genius. Luther was the youngest man in his generation to receive his Doctorate of Theology in the year 1512 at the age of 29. That same year Luther began his lectures on the Psalms at the University of Wittenberg. Walter Arthur Maier was also 29 when he accepted the solemn call to become a full professor of Old Testament Interpretation and History at Concordia Theological Seminary in St. Louis. He was the

youngest man in the 83 year history of Concordia to hold the rank of professor. Five years later in 1927, he received his Ph.D. in the field of Semitics from Harvard University. He was only the twentieth man in a period of 291 years to receive that prestigious degree from Harvard.

Pastor Herman Otten has provided an invaluable service to the Church by compiling the materials in this book. It would cost hundreds of dollars and many months of time to gather these printed materials. In addition, the book offers a bibliography on pages 102-105 and again on page 248 referencing sources from the primary materials incorporated in the text. Additional writings of Dr. Maier can also be found in the five volume encyclopedia available from CHRISTIAN NEWS, New Haven, Missouri.

During the years of Dr. Maier's radio ministry, the program grew from the original two stations to more than one thousand two hundred worldwide, and was heard in fifty different languages. When Maier resigned as editor of the WALTHER LEAGUE MESSENGER, there were more than seventy thousand paid subscribers. In 1963 the WALTHER LEAGUE MESSENGER (later known as ARENA) had less than ten thousand subscribers.

Dr. Walter Arthur Maier entered eternal life to be forever with the Lord on January 11, 1950. He was never more alive than he is right now. He now reigns triumphantly with his Savior, Jesus Christ, and all the other ransomed saints who preceded him. Dr. Maier faithfully preached the alien righteousness of Jesus Christ. He knew and he believed that the righteousness which saves was outside of him, solely in the perfect life and completed work of redemption that Christ willingly provided for the rescue of our fallen world. Dr. Maier now lives and reigns in heaven NOT because of all the good he accomplished through his world-wide ministry, but solely by Grace through the completed work of his Savior.

"Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to everyone that believeth." Romans 10:4.

"Remove not the ancient landmark which the fathers have set." Proverbs 22:28.

Sola Deo Gloria!
William Bischoff Pastor Emeritus

Explanation of the Seal of the LCMS on the cover

The official seal of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod is a unique blend of symbols and words.

Dr. Walter Maier was a loyal "Missourian."

In the center is: A blue shield, representing the Christian's faith;

A prominent gold cross proclaiming that we preach Jesus Christ crucified and risen from the dead;

Latin words under the cross reading "Jesus Christ is Lord";

Three equilateral gold crosses symbolizing the Holy Trinity;

Three gold stars on the shield standing for the three Christian creeds: the Apostolic, the Nicene and

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1. *Christian News* is not an official organ of any church-body, but an independent publication designed to supply rank and file Christians with information needed to face the present crisis in Christendom.

2. *Christian News* is not a doctrinally neutral observer, but is committed to the full historic Christian faith, as it is authoritatively revealed in the written Word of God, the Holy Scriptures, and correctly set forth in the Confessions of the orthodox Church to wit, the Book of Concord in 1580.

3. *Christian News* is therefore unalterably opposed to the various fashionable “theological” systems which sacrifice the supernatural mysteries of the Christian Faith to the proletarian prejudices of “Modern Man’s” computerized mentality. *Christian News* holds that the continued use of Christian words and phrases, and the lip-service paid to “the Scriptures and the Confessions” by the practitioners of this new anti-Christian “theology” are totally dishonest and hypocritical.

4. Given the radical, indeed mortal nature of the doctrinal conflict and the need to reach and undeceive millions of rank and file Christians who have no idea of the fate being prepared for their churches under cover of pious-sounding slogans and platitudes, strong straightforward, and sustained criticism is to be expected. Those who decry this as “negativism” either do not understand the gravity of the crisis or are themselves in league with the enemy. Scripture is extremely “negative” whenever it deals with apostasy and hypocrisy! And these are dominant features of modern church life.

5. The writers of *Christian News* claim no sort of infallibility for themselves. They therefore invite readers to notify them of any errors of fact, judgment, or theology, which may occur from time to time, so that suitable corrections may be made.

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LCMS President and Vice-Presidents



Preus, Wohlrabe, Mueller, Harrison, Murray, Nour, Esget

Harrison’s Yes Men In This Issue

If Scott Meyers, “America’s Lutheran Lay Historian,” a former member of the Board of Directors of the Lutheran Concerns Association and chairman of the Board of Directors of the Concordia Historical Institute (p.7), were still living he would encourage the Lutheran Concerns Association to sponsor the kind of question and answer period with the leading candidates for the presidency of the LCMS that *CN* is suggesting (p. 1)

This is the kind of questioning LCMS President Matthew Harrison has been avoiding. How can any LCMS President insist that a theologian such as Dietrich Bonhoeffer, a pro-homosexual who denied the resurrection of Christ, was the greatest Lutheran since Martin Luther? Luther believed in the resurrection of Christ and insisted homosexuality is of the devil. Question: How can an LCMS president in his presidential column, in the January, 2019 *Lutheran Witness*, maintain that the LCMS today, no longer includes the kind of liberals, evolutionists, and supporters of abortion and women’s ordination which the LCMS had in the 1970s? Answer: Keep the clergy and laymen uninformed about what is really going on in the LCMS. Many are living in a fairytale land. “Ignorance destroys my people” Hosea 4:6. “There are none as blind as those who do not want to see.” Week after week, the truth is published in *Christian News* for those who want to see, and not be ignorant. At the last LCMS convention hardly 20% of LCMS congregations returned their ballots.

Apathy and Indifference Prevails

The Lutheran Concerns Association has the funds to send its *Lutheran Clarion* free to more than 6,000. In the past, it has widely circulated DVD’s of the fine speakers at its meetings. Will the LCA now send all the congregations of the LCMS a DVD of an event where Harrison, Poppe, Maier, and Klinkenberg present their program for the LCMS and answer questions on whether or not they maintain the LCMS clergy roster should continue to include higher critics of the Bible, evolution, abortion, supporters of the ordination of women and same sex marriage? Question for candidates: “If you are elected President or Vice President will you see to it that the proper evangelical disciplinary action be taken against the higher critics, universalists, evolutionists, supporters of the ordination of women, homosexuality, abortion and same sex marriage currently on the LCMS clergy roster?”

The Big Shot High Flying Bureaucrats

Robert Koehler, a well-informed Layman who

regularly sends *CN* helpful material, is correct (p. 2). The highflying big shot churchmen should stay home and do their homework by reading publications by the various sides in the LCMS including *Lutheran Forum* and *Forum Letter*. Have any of them read what LCMS Concordia Portland Professor Norman Metzler writes in the January, 2019 *Forum Letter* of the American Lutheran Publicity Bureau about approving abortion. Some years ago, *CN* published a report of a visit Harrison and LCMS Vice President Scott Murry took to Concordia, Portland and the LCMS’s liberal Northwest District. They had nothing but praise for the liberal school and district, which have long been open to evolution and theological liberalism.

Abolish the Council of Presidents

Larry Beane, an astute LCMS pastor in Gretna, Louisiana is calling for abolishing the Council of Presidents (p. 8). He has a high regard for his professor, Kurt Marquart, and what he said about “Bureaucratitis” taking over the LCMS. *CN* has for decades called for curbing the power of the COP, which includes no laymen, ending full time district presidents and sending these bureaucrats back to the pastoral ministry. Harrison’s salary of \$255,000 plus expenses and an entertainment allowance is simply absurd and harmful to true mission work in the LCMS. The bureaucrats should be paid what the salary guidelines of their district recommends for the average pastor. If the Lutheran Concerns Association sponsors a “presidential debate”, this matter should be argued.

Larry Peters and Forum Letter

The ALPB’s *Forum letter* is to be commended for publishing the article by the brilliant, Larry Peters. It is reproduced from the January issue on p. 15. This knowledgeable LCMS pastor, who has been around for a while, asks: “Missouri may have won the Battle for the Bible but at what cost... and have we really won the war?” *CN* has often said, that the Bible believers won the “Battle for the Bible” momentarily, in the 1970s, but because the elected leaders did not follow through on resolution 3-09 of the LCMS 1973 convention, which called for discipline. By allowing liberals to remain, the LCMS nearly lost the war. The esteemed theologian Kurt Marquart said much the same. If the organized conservatives, the *United Lister’s* and sacerdotalists succeed in getting Harrison elected, the rapidly shrinking LCMS will continue down the road of becoming just one more of Americas anything goes, broadening churches.

No More Space

There is no more room to comment on many other important stories in this issue. The pile of unpublished articles continues to grow because of the lack of space. I hope that next week there will be room for reviews of the latest *Christian Standard Bible* commended in the WELS January *Forward in Christ* and *Surviving the Storms: Memoirs of David P. Scaer*. Has Scaer revealed the entire truth?

**KEEP INFORMED AND SUBSCRIBE
TO CHRISTIAN NEWS!**

**LCMS CONGREGATIONS BE SURE TO
RETURN YOUR PRESIDENTS’ BALLOT
BEFORE FEB. 20TH**

Will Harrison Answer Questions with Poppe, Maier, Klinkenburg?

Continued from Page 3

the Athanasian.

Beneath the shield is Luther’s seal.

Three gold stars on each side of the shield stand for the six Lutheran Confessions that were published in one book, titled “Concordia,” in 1580. Grape vines fill the bottom white spaces, symbolizing Christ’s words in John 15:5.

Around the inner circle are the words on which Lutheranism is founded: *Sola Scriptura, Sola Gratia, Sola Fide* (by Scripture alone, by grace alone, by faith alone).

The exterior circle contains the proper name of the church and the year it was founded—1847.

The seal was designed by Rev. A. R. Kretzmann of Chicago; the drawing is by Walter Geweke, also of Chicago.

Introduction

To those who heard him, Walter A. Maier was “the greatest radio preacher of all time.” On the verge of a distinguished academic career in Old Testament studies, he stumbled upon radio in the 1920s, and through it achieved a world wide success as “the voice of the Lutheran Hour.”

Dr. Maier was addressing a weekly audience of some 20 million people in 1950 at the time of his death. His program was by then broadcast over 1,236 stations in 120 countries and in 36 languages – the largest regular broadcast in the history of radio. Among those who gathered around a radio in their Bronx, New York apartment each Sunday when they returned home from church was the family of the *Christian News* editor. All the children had to remain quiet. More than a thousand miles away, in St. Paul, Minnesota, the family of Grace Anderson, who became the wife of the *CN* editor, was gathering around their radio to listen to Dr. Maier. Grace in her grade school choir sang at a Lutheran Hour rally in Minneapolis where Dr. Maier preached.

While Dr. Maier was Lutheran Hour preacher, the program was receiving more than 25,000 letters a week. The mailroom at the Lutheran Hour informed *CN* on October 10, 2007 that now the Lutheran Hour receives about 20 letters a week. Sixty years ago the Lutheran Hour did not have much competition from radio, TV or the internet. None of Dr. Maier’s books are available from the Lutheran Hour, sponsored by the Lutheran Laymen’s League. Concordia Seminary, St. Louis and Concordia Seminary, Ft. Wayne informed *CN* that none of Maier’s writings are required reading at either seminary. Even most professors seem to be uninformed about what Maier had written in the *Walther League Messenger*, the Lutheran Church- Missouri Synod’s (LCMS) youth publication, and for Concordia Seminary, St. Louis’s *Concordia Theological Monthly*. Maier’s articles on a six day creation, the J-E-D-P source hypothesis, Messianic prophecy, Psalm 22, historical criticism, birth control, World War II, socialism, communism, the-

ological modernism, the Federal Council of Churches, marriage, patriotism, Russia, economics and labor are now virtually unknown in the LCMS. This editor noted in a 1957 thesis on Maier’s views that just seven years after his death, even on the campus of Concordia Seminary, where Maier taught, little was being said about him.

Truly Ablaze

Under the LCMS’s present administration a theme song is “Ablaze, Ablaze, the entire Missouri Synod and its sister churches all over the world are Ablaze.” The title of one of Maier’s sermons, reprinted in *Christian News* together with a story in the *New American* on the famous Peshtigo Fire, “the most disastrous fire in American history,” was “Fire! The Whole World on Fire!” (*The Airwaves Proclaim Christ*, pp. 163-181). The text was 2 Peter 3:7-9 where Peter writes about the fire on the Day of Judgment. Maier’s preaching, unlike his church’s present Ablaze program, had his church and others truly “ablaze.” Under the present administration of the LCMS, with all the talk about Ablaze, membership in the LCMS has been decreasing more than 25,000 a year. At least some of the growth of the LCMS during the years Dr. Maier was on the Lutheran Hour may be attributed to his preaching. LCMS churches all over the nation proudly placed in front of their church the sign: “The Church of the Lutheran Hour.” It did draw non-Lutherans who were listening to Dr. Maier.

Not far from the editor’s home in the Bronx is Our Savoir Lutheran Church where Dr. Berthold von Schenk was the pastor. This Bronx pastor says in his autobiography, *Lively Stone*, published in 2006, that Dr. Walter Maier was the worst preacher heard in the New York area and Dr. Harry Emerson Fosdick, the speaker for the Federal Council of Church’s national radio program, the best. On some Sundays while the editor’s family would be listening to Maier, von Schenk would travel past them to Fosdick’s church to hear him. While von Schenk praised Fosdick and blasted Maier, the LCMS’s March 1, 1932 *Lutheran Witness*, (*Christian News Encyclopedia*, p. 1398), said that the FCC was “the most vicious agency in Protestantism.” Maier noted that its speaker rejected basic doctrines of the Christian faith. The FCC is the predecessor of the National Council of Churches. *Lively Stone*, von Schenk’s biography, is published and praised by the American Lutheran Publicity Bureau. Eastern leaders of Jesus First are associated with the ALPB. *Lively Stone* is available from *Christian News* for \$12.50 plus \$2.50 s/h.

“Old Time Religion Goes Global” by William F. McDermott in the May 6, 1944 Collier’s had this subtitle under a photo of Maier preaching before a radio mike:

“The Reverend Walter A. Maier blasts the sins and helps solve the problem of 15,000,000 people in twenty-six countries.” The story began:

“Every Sunday afternoon fifteen million people,

from Chile to Alaska, and from Occupied China to East Africa, listen to the fiery sermons of America’s ‘Billy Sunday of the Air’ the Reverend Walter A. Maier of St. Louis. During the week they write him more than 25,000 letters, enclose an average of \$10,000 to pay for the broadcast, ask his advice on everything from marriage to missions.”

Colliers said that “The time is paid for at regular rates, and though the appeal is limited to a single sentence, enough rolls in to meet all expenses. Those expenses include the salaries of 55 girls who open mail, ship out tiny gold crosses, Scripture calendars and prayer books, and acknowledge all gifts.”

\$75.00 A Week Salary

Colliers added: “Doctor Maier, founder and continuous broadcaster of the International Lutheran Hour, gets no salary for his radio labors – he lives on less than \$75.00 a week he receives from two other jobs; one as professor in Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, and the other as editor of Missouri Synod Lutheran young people’s paper, the *Walther League Messenger* in Chicago.” “It’s the ‘old fashioned gospel’ that man is a lost sinner who can obtain salvation only through faith in Christ that Doctor Maier hurls out into space Sunday after Sunday. With roaring impartiality he denounces divorce, racial discrimination, immorality, drunkenness, godlessness, unbelief, corrupt government, anti-Christian education, unfaithful churches and lack of good will in labor and industry. With his slogan of ‘Bringing Christ to the Nations,’ he pours vials of wrath on national as well as personal sins.”

“To date, the broadcast has brought in two million letters, which radio experts agree is moderately terrific.”

Collier’s noted that Maier had a Ph.D from Harvard. It concluded its 1944 article on Maier: “The radio parson, who preaches to the equivalent of the entire U.S. population every two months, figures that the world has gone spiritually cold; what is needed to warm it up is a fire, big fire in the church. He’s endeavoring to light the match.”

Lutheran Hour Ministries and the Lutheran Laymen’s League today does not reveal the salary of the Lutheran Hour Speaker to those they expect to support the ministries.

Only One Truth

“The Man of the Lutheran Hour,” an article by Hartzell Spence in the June 19, 1945 Saturday Evening Post, began with a photo of Maier playing the piano at a gathering in his home with the Lutheran Hour Chorus and their director. The subtitle was: “Divorce, birth control, liquor and sin are the targets for the gymnastic eloquence of Dr. Walter A. Maier, the radio preacher who conducts a \$1,250,000 a year program for a professor’s salary of \$240 a month.”

The Saturday Evening Post said in 1945: “Doctor Maier does hold something big, but it is not bigger than himself. He has grown with his idea

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Will Harrison Answer Questions with Poppe, Maier, Klinkenburg?

Continued from Page 5

until now his radio gospel encircles the globe in what has become one of the world's largest religious radio programs. . . ."

The Saturday Evening Post noted that "To Doctor Maier there is only one Truth. All else is false. In his sermons he sets up all the philosophies that are not founded on the Bible, bowls them over like tenpins, and leaves standing one kingpin, Holy Writ." "He has pulled 75,000 persons into Soldiers Field in Chicago, and has four times filled the Chicago Stadium.

"In Cleveland the crowd so overflowed the house that Doctor Maier was required to preach five times in a single afternoon, and he managed a different speech for each audience."

The Saturday Evening Post said in 1948: "Of his books, the only one of wide popular appeal is *For Better, Not for Worse*, a textbook for prospective brides and bridegrooms. In it he upholds the holiness of family, advocates large families, cautions against marriages between young people of different religious faiths, and says flatly that in any marriage the man must be the boss and the woman his helpmate.

"The staff at Concordia Publishing House, which has published all of Doctor Maier's books, was so convinced that the treatise on marriage would not be popular that the type was dispersed after one printing of 3500 copies. The 598 page book had to be set in type again and a new edition of 22,000 printed.

At the moment it is selling faster than the publisher can keep it in stock."

"Because of his modest income, Doctor Maier must watch personal expenses carefully, but all his life he has been short of cash and has been ingenious in raising it. While in school in Boston he became the Swiss acting consul, to scrape together a few dollars, for almost his only outside aid came from a sister who wrote him a daily letter enclosing a ten-cent coin. When he was studying at Concordia, he ended one year with only a railroad ticket home and a dime. He spent the money on penny post cards, addressed them to his friends along the route, mentioned he would be passing through and added, 'Tell your mother I'll be hungry.' His friends met his train with box lunches, and he ate very well all the way from St. Louis to Boston."

Maier Books No Longer Available from CPH

Concordia Publishing House informed *Christian News* on September 27, 2007 that all of Dr. Maier's some twenty books were out of print and that none were any longer available from CPH. This includes Dr. Maier's commentary on the book of Nahum and Dr. Paul Maier's *A Man Spoke, A World Listened - The Story of Walter A. Maier and The Best of Walter A. Maier*. The jacket of this book published by CPH says:

"Walter A. Maier was one of a kind in American

church history. He started broadcasting in pioneer style, over one low- power transmitter in a south St. Louis attic at a time when radio was in its infancy. But several decades later he was minister to the world's largest congregation through the 'miracle' of broadcasting.

"What made Dr. Maier, by 1950, 'the most heard preacher' in history? Probably the fact that he was so much more than a preacher, pursuing several collateral careers at the same time. As magazine editor he knew how to stay current, as seminary professor he could deliver depth, and as author he was able to craft words and phrases to convey the Gospel as effectively as possible. What resulted were sermons with substance and yet panache, intelligence and yet popularity. 'The soapbox delivery of a Harvard script,' someone once styled the Maier addresses.

"Some of his finest are included in these pages, but this is far more than a book of sermons. Much of this anthology focuses also on Dr. Maier's pungent editorials and fascinating articles, his astonishing 'prophecies' and their fulfillments, his discoveries in the Old Testament and sermon illustrations for the New, as well as his treasure-trove of devotional helps for the Christian family.

"The voice that was a Sunday institution in so many lives, then, was only part of an incredibly versatile man who delighted in serving his God with heart, soul, and mind.

"Dr. Maier's son, Paul L. Maier, has sifted through his father's 30 books and 900 articles, as well as several unpublished material, to provide this anthology. Much more than these samplings could have been included, but The Best of Walter A. Maier covers most aspects of Dr. Maier's facile voice and pen, easily demonstrating why Daniel Poling could call him 'the pre- eminent voice of Protestant faith and practice,' or Billy Graham style him as 'one of Christendom's greatest leaders.'

"Though written in the 1920-1950 era, Dr. Maier's messages have a timeless relevance also for the present age."

Dr. Paul Maier signed the copy of *The Best of Walter A. Maier*, which he sent *Christian News*: "For Herm, With thanks for your perennial appreciation for W. A. M. In Christ, Paul L. Maier, October, 1980."

The Outstanding Orator of the Century

Dr. Walter Kutch wrote in his *The Greatest Orator of the Twentieth Century - Dr. Walter A. Maier*:

"Walter A. Maier was one of a kind in the history of the ministry in America,' we read on the fly cover of the very popular Book, *A Man Spoke - A World Listened*, written by his son, Paul L. Maier, who is also a prolific writer and is now professor of ancient history at Western ichigan University at Kalamazoo, Michigan. The book is now in its 10th edition. To fully appreciate what is written in this book, Paul's book should be read by every clergyman of every denomination."

August W. Brustat, a member of the liberal "44," who later became a champion of conservatism in the LCMS, and regularly contributed

articles to *Christian News*, wrote in the introduction to *The Greatest Orator of the Twentieth Century - Dr. Walter A. Maier*:

"Dr. Walter E. Kutch, author of this brochure on the life and work of the great LUTHERAN HOUR preacher, Dr. Walter A. Maier, is eminently qualified for the task of preparing a biography of this well-known public figure.

"Not only was Dr. Kutch a student of Dr. Maier's at Concordia Theological Seminary in St. Louis, Missouri, but he is himself a pulpiteer of note and a silver-tongued orator in his own right. He had charge of all optimist oratorical contests at Central Catholic High School in Detroit for 13 ½ years and served as a judge of oratory at Wayne State University for his last few years in Detroit.

"Dr. Kutch's own oratorical ability prompted Dr. Maier to offer him the position of assistant at Concordia Seminary four years before Dr. Maier's death.

"This volume, THE GREATEST ORATOR OF THE 20TH CENTURY, will find a warm welcome in the hearts and homes of hundreds of Dr. Maier's former students and to thousands of his former listeners on the Lutheran Hour."

Newspaper Editorials At Maier's Death

The death of no LCMS leader, pastor or theologian received more nationwide publicity than the death of Dr. Walter Maier. The January 12, 1950 *St. Louis-Star Times* said: "In terms of regular listeners his pulpit was one of the largest of any Christian preacher. Certainly he contributed tremendously to the growth and influence of his Missouri Synod Lutheran Church. Few St. Louisians of any calling were ever as widely known. Church and community have lost a dynamic and colorful figure."

The January 11, 1950 *Milwaukee Journal* said: "The epitaph Dr. Walter A. Maier richly earned is this:

"He was a great Christian teacher. Great in every sense. He was a preacher, scholar and writer. And certainly radio's most successful evangelist." "Dr. Maier's death, at 57, has taken from the earth a beloved man. But we find consolation in knowing that the passion for truth and service which he inspired in his ministry will live long beyond him as an enduring monument."

The January 12, 1950 *St. Louis Globe Democrat* said: "Probably no St. Louisan of our time was more widely known or was more influential in his field than Dr. Walter Maier. . . . It is not an exaggeration to say that Dr. Maier was one of the great spiritual leaders of modern Protestantism." "Dr. Maier was a militant crusader. He preached what this generation sometimes refers to as the 'old fashioned gospel,' but he made it a living force in the lives of thousands of his listeners." "In a very real sense, St. Louis has lost one of its great citizens."

The January 12, 1950 *Cleveland Press* said: "His voice was one of the best known of any civilian non-ruler in the world." "Such a man was Dr. Walter A. Maier, perhaps the most

Continued on Page 7

Will Harrison Answer Questions with Poppe, Maier, Klinkenburg?

Continued from Page 6

powerful figure in the Lutheran Synodical Conference." "His was a pervasive voice against fascism and communism. He will be missed by the Missouri Synod, by his radio audience and his many friends in Cleveland."

The January 13, 1950 *Fort Wayne Journal-Gazette*, said: "He was a man of deep religious convictions, and he never compromised with his beliefs. He preached the truth as he saw it in an impassioned voice, and let the chips fall where they might." "Dr. Maier must be rated among the most influential clergymen of all time. His energy and message will live in the hearts of millions who heard him."

The Home - Going Of My Precious Husband

Mrs. Walter Maier during the editor's seminary days gave him a copy of the Dr. Walter A. Maier Memorial Booklet. It includes her "The Home - Going Of My Precious Husband." She writes in part:

" . . . I heard him whisper, 'Divine justice! Divine justice!' Shortly after that, he confessed clearly and distinctly, *All have sinned, and come short of the glory of God; being justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus.*' (Rom. 3, 23, 24) A little later he continued, again in a loud, clear voice, *If any man sin, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the Righteous: And He is the Propitiation for our sins: and not for our only, but also for the sins of the whole world.*' (I Jn. 2, 1, 2)."

"I realized that this was his last message to his radio audience. After the first verse, he exclaimed, 'Thank God, we have an Advocate!' At this point he was interrupted by a nurse's ministrations. After pausing for a moment, he asked, 'Now may I proceed?' and then he continued with the second verse. Lovingly and lingeringly, with a radiant smile, he repeated ' . . . and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world!'"

"Taking his hand, I exclaimed, 'How wonderful, Darling! . . . and that same Savior, who redeemed me and you is right here with you now, so you can go to sleep again and rest.' He repeated, 'Yes, now I can go to sleep!' With a smile on his lips, he went to sleep. Those were the last words I heard my beloved husband utter."

"At night, our son, Walter, Jr., spoke words of comfort to him on 'My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me: and I give unto them eternal life.' John 10, 27. Tuesday he slept most of the day. After his last attack at 1:30 P.M., his family never left his bedside and during the final hours of his life, prayed every ten to fifteen minutes, 'Lord Jesus Who Dost Love Me,' 'I Fall Asleep in Jesus' Wounds,' and 'The blood of Jesus Christ, His Son, cleanseth us from all sin,' I John 1,7. - Should our dear one be able to hear, he would know that our prayers accompanied him to the very gates of heaven. As his breathing became more halting, once more we re-

peated these prayers for him. With the last two, his eyes half opened and it appeared as if he were attempting to join in the 'Amen!' - with that the Lord called His servant, our beloved husband and father, HOME to everlasting glory, to receive the crown of life."



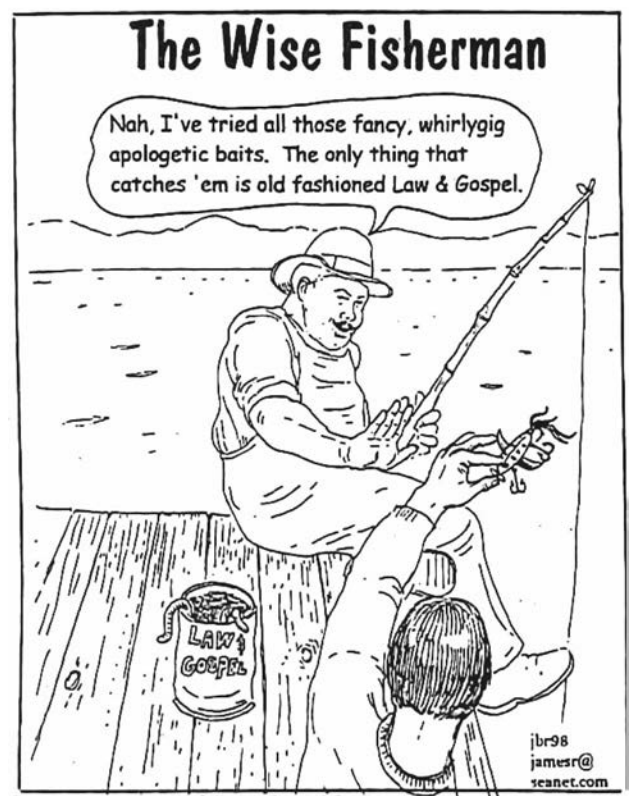
David Maier may not have the same talents as his famous grandfather, but he is also a great Bible scholar, speaker, and straightforward and not a two-faced churchman. What a vast difference between him and the two-faced

President Matthew Harrison, supported by the United Lister's and Sacerdotalist in the LCMS who consider ordination some kind of sacrament so they can chancel prance around with their fancy dress. Those who consider any of the Maiers some kind of "fundamentalists" should read *Walter A. Maier Still Speaks- Missouri and the World Should Listen*. The introduction to J.T. Muellers *Christian Dogmatics* a summary of Francis Piepers' three column Christian *Dogmatics* mentions that Walter Maier I encourage J.T. Mueller to write this book. True Lutherans like Walter Maier I, Walter Maier II, Walter Maier III and David Maier "out fundamentalize the Fundamentalists just like they are catholicizing the Roman Catholics."

Lutheranism's Lay Historian Called for Debate

"Attorney Scott John Meyer - A Faithful Soldier of the Cross, Lutheranism's Lay Historian," the lead story in the September 19, 2016 *Christian News*, said:

Scott Meyer heard Concordia Seminary Provost Jeffrey Kloha speak. He read many of the writings of Kloha and other professors who defended Kloha's position. Attorney Meyer in the spirit of true Lutheranism called for a free and open debate of the issues involved in the LCMS's current "Battle for the Bible". He had a high regard for Alvin J. Schmidt and his writings. Schmidt was with Meyer shortly before he died. Scott Meyer was a member of the editorial board of The Lutheran Concerns Association's *The Lutheran Clarion*. The last *Lutheran Clarion* which will be able to list him as a member of its editorial board includes "Theological Problems in Some of Dr. Kloha's Recent Publications" by Alvin Schmidt is on pp. 17-18 of this "book" on Attorney Meyer. Schmidt observes that, contrary to the LCMS bureaucrats defending Kloha, this St. Louis professor has never acknowledged or retracted any false doc-trine in his writings. Schmidt writes: "This recent change does not correct his former statement that clearly states Elizabeth said the Magnificat." Schmidt recognizes that the so-called Kloha revision the bureaucrats have been championing is an out- right deception to show Kloha is a confessional Lutheran. Kloha still says "The Greek text is in a constant state of revision and indeed plasticity." Schmidt asks: "Do we in the LCMS want to go back to the days that preceded the Seminex faculty walkout in February 1974?" According to Schmidt, "Kloha's ideas or conjectures are not just a matter of scholarly difference-of-opinion. By his



teaching and wrings, he is influencing students who will become pastors in the LCMS. Some of them will go on to do graduate studies and become professors in the Synod's colleges and seminaries."

Why Montgomery Is Right

This book also reprints from the September 2016 *CN*, "Why Dr. John Warwick Montgomery is Right" by Martin Noland. Since Noland urged delegates to vote for LCMS President Matthew Harrison, a leading Kloha defender, and took sharp issue with *Christian News* for opposing Kloha's position, some are asking "Will the real Martin Noland Please Stand up?" *CN* is thankful that now in the latest *Lutheran Clarion* article Noland supports Montgomery even though Noland is critical of the positon of J. T. Mueller and Francis Pieper. Contrary to the *Lutheran Clarion*, these LCMS theologians simply followed Scripture and Luther. See volume VIII of *Marquart's Works the Bible and Historical Criticism*, pp. 129-130 and "*Christian News* and Apologetics - It Is Written" *CN*, May 11, 2015. Reproduced above is a cartoon of "The Wise Fisherman" with this article. John Drickamer rightly observed (*CN*, January 12, 1998) "One who rejects the Gospel needs more Law, not more evidence or human argumentation. No human reason is essential to the proclamation of the Gospel."

Dietrich Bonhoeffer

Lutheranism's lay historian recognized that *CN* had long told the truth about Dietrich Bonhoeffer when *CN* noted that Bonhoeffer denied the historicity of the Genesis account of creation, the virgin birth, deity and resurrection of Christ. Today in the LCMS the myth that Bonhoeffer is the greatest Lutheran theologian since Martin Luther is accepted as fact by the LCMS bureaucracy and both LCMS seminaries.

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Will Harrison Answer Questions with Poppe, Maier, Klinkenberg?

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RSV, ESV, AAT

Already as a young man Scott Meyer had misgivings about the Revised Standard Version of the Bible of The National Council of Churches. In later years he recognized that the English Standard Version translates key passages just like the NCC's RSV does. He became a strong champion of William Beck's An American Translation of the Bible. This "book" includes an article he wrote on the translation of Psalm 8:5. Meyer, along with the author of Hebrews and Martin Luther insisted Psalms 8:5 refers to Jesus Christ and not some ordinary human. The LCMS's CTCR and CPH say Psalm 8:5 does not refer to Christ.

The New Testament with Psalms & Proverbs in the Language of Today

What Meyer wrote is on pages 583-585 in "A Comparison of Some Bible Translations." Today almost the entire LCMS follows the dictum of Paul McCain and CPH that the ESV is to be used even though a review of the ESV in the April 2005 *Concordia Journal* of the St. Louis seminary said that the "archaic English" of the ESV is not helpful and that "the AAT provides a more readable and understandable translation."

Pastor Larry Beane Calls for the Abolition of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod Council of Presidents

Beane is a pastor in Louisiana and an editor of *Gottesdienst*.—David Becker

(From Facebook)
Pastor Larry Beane

With each passing year, as I hear from more and more of my brothers in the office of the ministry in the LCMS, I am increasingly convinced that the Council of Presidents needs to be abolished. I believe it is an irredeemable institution, and that Lord Acton was absolutely right. The COP needs to be extracted by its roots. This is long overdue.

Episcopal oversight needs to be done by the finest theological minds in our synod - men who can read the scriptures and the confessions in their original languages, who know their church history, who are eloquent, and who could walk into a seminary classroom and teach.

These men should not be paid exorbitant salaries, and they need to actually be called to serve at an altar and pulpit, actually carrying out pastoral responsibility - as bishops have done for centuries upon centuries. Parish pastors need to be fully informed of any conversations or communications that happen between bishops concerning them and their availability of calls - under penalty of excommunication.

The Old Boy Network only serves the cause of distrust and cynicism. Like Carthage, it must be destroyed.

Rev. Fr. Larry L. Beane II, M. Div., Departmental Editor (Sermons), Online Editor

The Rev. Larry Beane has been pastor of Salem Lutheran Church in Gretna, Louisiana since 2005, and has served as an online editor since 2008 and departmental editor since 2010. He holds an MDiv (2004) from Concordia Theological Seminary in Fort Wayne, Indiana. He has taught Apologetics, Economics, and Government at Wittenberg Academy since 2013. He has served as the chaplain of the David Crockett Volunteer Fire Company in Gretna since 2011, and became a chaplain in the Civil Air Patrol in 2017. He was privileged to teach at Lutheran seminars in Siberia in 2011 and 2015. He lives in a historic shotgun house with his wife Grace, son Leonidas, and several feline friends. He loves living in South Louisiana, is a member of the Sons of Confederate Veterans, and appropriately rides a Honda Rebel.

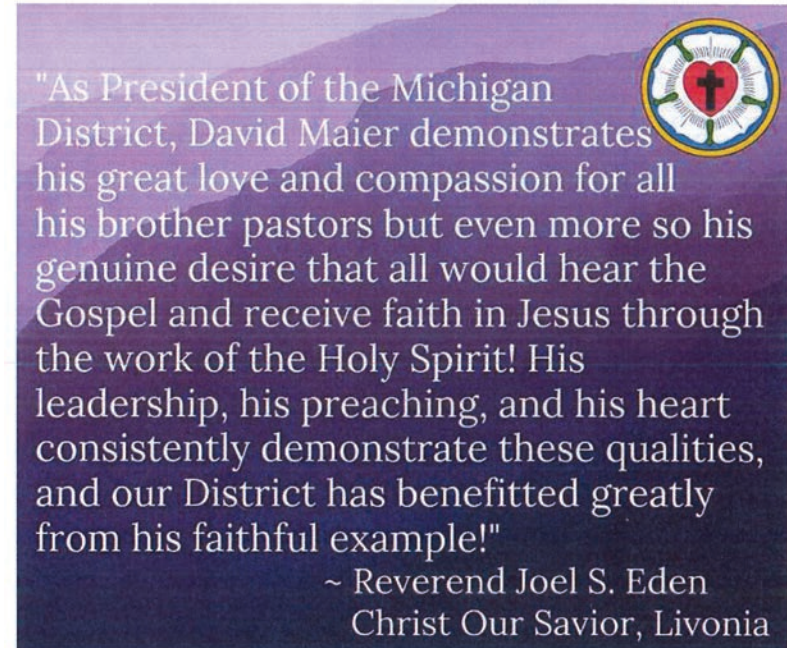
Eden, Klinkenberg Offer Good Words for Maier

(From the "Imagine LCMS" Facebook page)

Imagine Immeasurably More-We Support Pastor David Maier for LCMS President

November 27 at 5:09 PM

Thank you Reverend Joel for your support and vote of confidence in Reverend Dr. David Maier for President of our beloved LCMS. #imaginemorelcms #maierlcmspresident #lutheran #lcms



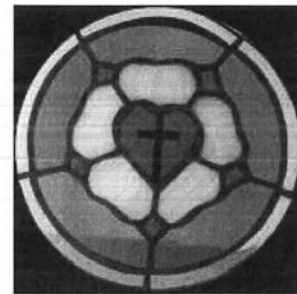
Imagine Immeasurably More-We Support Pastor David Maier for LCMS President

November 19 at 6:03 PM

You are invited...

Lutheran Society for Missiology Banquet

January 29, 2019 6:30 p.m. (Gather at 6:00.)



Koburg Dining Hall, Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, MO

Join friends with a heart for spreading the Gospel throughout the world; enjoy great food & fellowship.

The LSFM Banquet for 2019 will host two distinguished speakers: Rev. Dr. David Maier president of the LCMS Michigan District, and Rev. Dr. Todd Jones, mission director of the district. The theme of this year's banquet is "Faithful in Christ's Mission."



Rev. Dr. David P. E. Maier



Rev. Dr. Todd Jones

Please make your Banquet Reservations by January 25 since seating is limited.

Two Faced Bureaucrats ECONOMICAL WITH THE TRUTH

The first article in the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod's *Lutheran Witness* month after month is by LCMS President Matthew Harrison. This heavily subsidized official publication of the LCMS is sent free to all the congregations and pastors of the LCMS. In the past when an election of an LCMS president was about to take place, the *Lutheran Witness* would publish the answers from the candidates for president to a series of questions. Voters could then know at least something about where the various candidates stand on key issues. Now most know virtually nothing about any of them except what Harrison writes.

Harrison writes in "Let's Be Who We Are," the first article in the **January, 2019 LW**:

"Together, however, we do have a strong and clear confession of the faith. Every church worker and congregation pledges to uphold and be subject to the truth of Holy Scriptures as God's divine and inerrant Word, and to confess the Lutheran Confessions as a true exposition of Holy Scripture.

"The Synod went wobbly on the inspiration and inerrancy of the Bible from the late 1950s and into the 1970s. A whole host of issues began to be viewed by some as undecided and open questions—six-day creation and the existence of Adam and Eve, prophecies of Christ in the Old Testament, the historical truth of the Bible, the virgin birth of Christ, the nature of His resurrection, the presence of Christ's body and blood in the Sacrament, church fellowship, closed Communion, the church's mission work and more. The more these views—quite new to the Synod and at odds with what had been confessed from the beginning (1847)—were spread about in the Synod, the more disruption, disagreement, antagonism and worst of all, political rancor took hold. After the Synod re-asserted its confessional (e.g., A Statement of Scriptural and Confessional Principles), it was not but a decade before a new challenge arose in the so-called "church growth movement." Beginning in the 1980s, debates swirled about contemporary worship, the liturgy, the role of the pastor, the role of the laity, etc. Then came a decision to allow men to serve as pastors' long term, without actually being made pastors via call and ordination. That brought division and controversy, and as we have learned through the process of making the men pastors many suffered from bad consciences having to serve as pastors without a call and ordinations."

Harrison knows just what to say to get nominations from LCMS congregations who will be shortly submitting their ballots. If one is unaware of what is really happening in the LCMS, Harrison is their man.

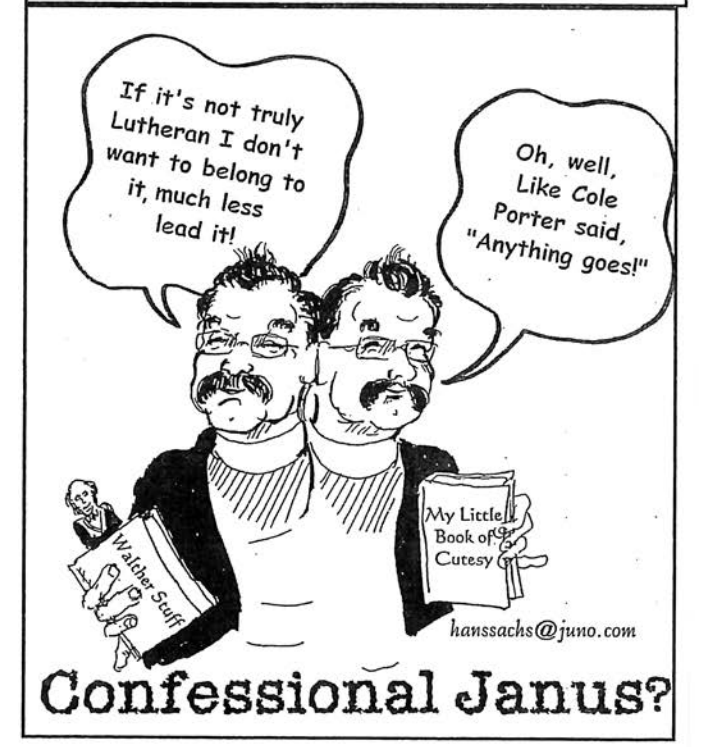
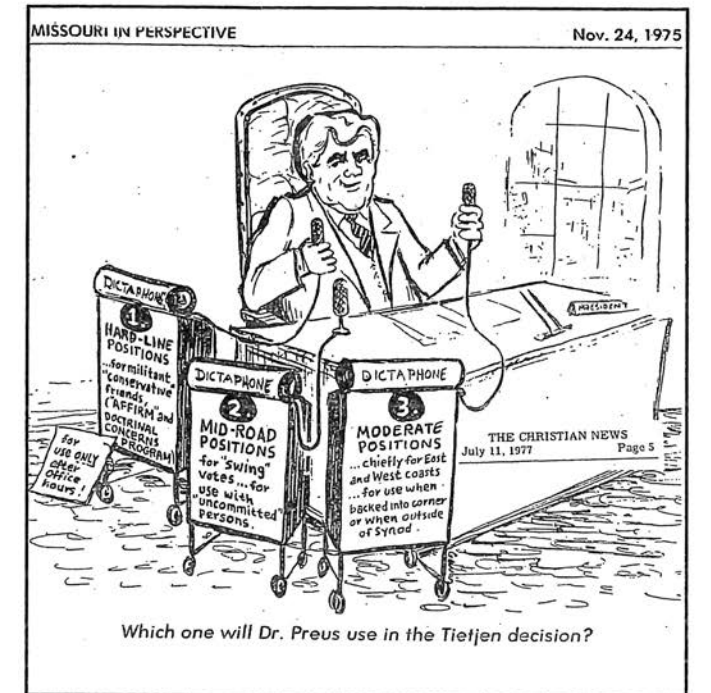
Time For Harrison To GO

If one knows the facts as revealed week after week in *CN*, it is time for Harrison to go and for a new man such as Clint Poppe, David Maier or Tim Klinkenberg to take his place. The lead story in the January 7 *CN* is "Why No To Harrison – Why Yes to Poppe, Maier, and Klinkenberg." This issue also published 28 reasons "why Harrison Must." *CN* sent these article to Harrison and invited him or someone in his office to show where *CN* had not told the truth. *CN* also told him that if he now decided to answer the simple doctrinal questions *CN* asked him, which other candidates answered, *CN* would publish his answers. *CN* has, again, not received a response.

According to Harrison's "From the president" in the January *Lutheran Witness*, the LCMS today, unlike the 1970s, takes a solid scriptural stand on the inspiration and inerrancy of the Bible. Those who have been reading *Christian News* know that in some respects today under Harrison the LCMS is rapidly becoming just one more of America's rapidly shrinking, anything goes, broadening churches. Fifty years ago, even the LCMS liberals who formed Seminex did not teach that the Bible (Luke 1:46) is in error when it says that Mary and not Elizabeth said the Magnificat. Yet today, Harrison insists that an LCMS professor who teaches this and says that the text of the Bible is "plastic" and is filled with corruption may not be guilty of false doctrine. During the 1970s Concordia Seminary, St. Louis never invited the long line of pro-higher criticism of the Bible, pro-evolutionists who have never repudiated the pro-abortion and pro-homosexual position of their denomination to lecture to faculty and students without at least inviting an informed orthodox Lutheran scholar to refute the liberal. Last week *CN* noted that the pro-lesbian universalist, Professor Daisy Machado, was just one of more than a dozen outspoken liberals the seminary Harrison praises as the best Lutheran seminary in the world who were invited to lecture on missions. Those who formed Seminex never invited so many rank liberals. They never invited an un-scripturally divorced speaker, or a ranking liberal who demands a 3 thousand dollar speaking fee plus expenses.

During the 1970s the homosexual Dietrich Bonhoeffer, who denied the resurrection of Jesus Christ, was not praised by the liberals who formed Seminex as the greatest Lutheran since Martin Luther. This is what the seminary, along with Harrison, now does. Even the liberal Jaroslav Pelikan, in the *World Book Encyclopedia* (1981 edition) said that Bonhoeffer rejected the supernatural God of Christianity. Raymond Surburg wrote in his "An Evaluation of Dietrich Bonhoeffer's Life and theology After Half a Century:" "While in prison Bonhoeffer came to the conclusion that mankind no longer needs God. What amounts to theoretical atheism was Bonhoeffer's assertion that God is teaching us to live as men who can get along very well without him." (*Apologetics and Evolution, Volum IV Sur-*

burg's Works, p.1638. This issue of *CN* quotes at some length from an article by Dr. Norman Metzler, former head of the religion department at Concordia University, Portland, published in the latest *Forum Letter* of the American Lutheran Publicity Bureau supporting abortion. *CN* has noted that Metzler has backed same sex "marriage." He was one of more than 75 LCMS leaders and professors who signed a statement-supporting evolutionist Matthew Becker. Harrison has highly praised the ALPB while he insists the editor of *CN* is a liar without providing evidence. Anyone who, like Harrison, claims proper doctrinal discipline is being practiced in the LCMS is either ignorant of the facts or economical with the truth. Faithful LCMS members should make certain their congregation does not nominate Matthew Harrison. *CN* has far more respect for an honest liberal than a two faced bureaucrat.



Thanks From Answers in Genesis

Dear Herman,

Thank you for kindly sending us the recent editions of your newspaper. I just shared with Ken how you have been using “CN” defending the AiG ministry in its dealings with President Meyer at Concordia Seminary.

Thank you also for promoting our Creation Museum and Ark, and also for mentioning Ken’s book “Six Days,” the “Lutheran Brain” Dr. David Menton,” and Dr. Faulkner’s new book “The Expanse of Heaven.”

I trust you remain in good health.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Mark Looy

CCO

More Homosexuals Found In Rome

“Investigation finds 500 more clergy accused of abuse across Illinois, a front page story in the December 20, 2018 *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*, begins:

“There are hundreds more clergy in the Roman Catholic Church in Illinois accused of sexual abuse than church officials ever acknowledged, according to a blistering report Wednesday by the Illinois attorney general.

“Attorney General Lisa Madigan announced that here investigators found allegations of child sexual abuse against at least 500 clergy across the state’s six dioceses that church officials knew about but never made public. The newly uncovered allegations bring the total number of accused clergy reported to Catholic officials to at least 690, Madigan said.”

Sexual Freedom or Sexual License?

By Haven Bradford Gow

Proponents of the Sexual Revolution insist the increase in cohabitation (or living together without being married) is a good benefit of sexual freedom. According to those who hold a Judeo-Christian perspective on sex, marriage, family, and human life, though, widespread cohabitation is a negative result of sexual license.

Scholar Jannessa Terraccino, in her book *The Princess Guide* (Servant), says, “People who cohabit are seeking to safeguard themselves, but in reality they are setting themselves up for destruction. They seek to live separate lives yet become bonded in body and heart...living together is immoral, and a statistically speaking, it turns out that those who cohabit before marriage actually have a higher rate of divorce, overall, the divorce rate of cohabitating couples is about 80, according to Bennett.”

An article in the June 25, 2014 *USA Today* pointed out that 28 percent is the “share of single pregnant women since 2000 who cohabit by the time of the child’s birth. In the 1970s, it was 8 percent.”

According to Breanna Lewis, a student/athlete at Central Missouri U, Warrensburg, MO, “A good friend helps you become a better person.” When true and good friends show kindness and make sacrifices for one an-



When thou sittest in thine house

Rev. Arie den Hartog, minister emeritus in the Protestant Reformed Churches

Perfect moral guidance for youth (1)

From the December 15, 2018 Standard Bearer

Excerpts

Perfect moral guidance for youth can only be found in the Word of God.

The instructors of morality in the world have no absolute standard. Their instruction is ever changing with each succeeding age and every culture. It follows the imagined wisdom of the world, which the apostle James in his letter calls earthly, sensual, and devilish (James 3:15). What was once condemned in past ages is today approved. Immorality of the grossest sort is promoted and glorified by the mass media and the entertainment industry. The world’s celebrities are among the most wicked and immoral, yet the youth of this world are enticed by their philosophy and captivated by their life style. They are willing to pay millions of dollars to these celebrities for the promotion of their wicked ways and life.

other, they come to understand the meaning of real love.

Joseph Gow, Lean Wong Yee and Simon Zhou, good family people concerned about the moral and spiritual well-being of the young, add: “If you really love someone, you would want to help stay pure before marriage.”

Get Out and Stay Out

“The Bush Legacy” in the December 24, 2018 *Christian News* documented what *CN* has said for decades about getting involved in wars all over the world. Get out and stay out.” Many, including LCMS President Ralph Bohlmann, took sharp issue with *CN*’s position. They supported the “Bush War.”



Patrick J. Buchanan, whom *CN* has quoted for decades, said in a column dated December 20, 2018 titled “Will Trump Hold Firm on Syrian Pull-out?”:

“We have defeated ISIS in Syria, my only reason for being there,” wrote President Donald

guidance is followed by the young men and young women of the covenant, they shall never fall. They will not finally be disappointed. They will be blessed and glorious forever. They will be led by God to everlasting salvation and perfect and unending joy and happiness.

This instruction of Psalm 119 may be the words of a covenant father concerned about teaching true spiritual orality to his children. Some have suggested that the author of Psalm 119, especially in light of verse 9, was himself a young man who desired to teach others like himself. However, there is not sufficient basis for such a conclusion. Perhaps it was composed by an instructor among God’s people who had the benefit of a long life of experience from which he had learned great wisdom.

Psalm 119 uses 22 synonyms referring to the Word of God and the law of God. Every one of its 176 verses, with only two exceptions, contains one of these synonyms. This indicates that the writer of the Psalm had great love for the Word of God and deep understanding of its great wisdom. He knew how many ways the Word of God, if followed, would be of greatest practical benefit.

Trump, as he ordered the withdrawal of all U.S. forces from Syria, stunning the U.S. foreign policy establishment.

“Trump overruled his secretaries of state and defense, and jolted this city and capitals across NATO Europe and the Middle East.

“Yet, Trump is doing exactly what he promised to do in his campaign. And what his decision seems to say is this:

“We are extricating America from the forever war of the Middle East so foolishly begun by previous presidents. We are coming home. The rulers and peoples of this region are going to have to find their own way and fight their own wars. We are not so powerful that we can fight their wars while we also confront Iran and North Korea and face new Cold Wars with Russia and China.

x x x

“Trump’s decision to pull out of Syria at least has assured us of a national debate on what it will mean to America to extricate our country from these Mideast wars, the kind of debate we have not had in the 15 years since we were first deceived into invading Iraq.”



The Smithsonian on Edgar Allan Poe

“The Imp of the Perverse” in the January-February Smithsonian has this subhead: “Two centuries after his birth, Edgar Allan Poe has become our era’s premier storyteller.”

“Poe was tuned to the modern age and its rejection of religious taboos against exploring the realms of horror and death. There sits the imp of the perverse with the most entertaining ghastly tales ever told. But he is also the perfect fit for our postmodern age, when each person makes of the daemon of mystery and fright what he or she will. ‘Annabel Lee,’ Poe’s ode to a woman loved so intensely the angels grew envious and killed her, is suggested as a reading at weddings, while on YouTube, ‘Goth Girl,’ her eyelids the green of grave rot, reads the same tale aloud in a cemetery.

“Poe has long had a reputation as a drunken mad genius, and bohemians, tormented

artists, struggling writers and even drug addicts embrace him as their own. More recently, though, the 2017 PBS American Masters film, *Edgar Allan Poe: Buried Alive*, downplayed the tortured image. ‘He comes off instead as a smart guy who wanted to become famous, changed jobs all the time and was fascinated with technology,’ the *Huff Post* wrote. ‘Maybe Edgar Allan Poe was the first millennial.’

“Poe’s death in 1849 was something the author himself might have written. Missing for nearly a week, he was found incoherent on the streets of Baltimore in clothes that did not belong to him; he died four days later at the age of 40. But as Poe famously wrote in *The Premature Burial*, ‘the boundaries which divide Life from Death are at best shadowy and vague,’ and his voice is still heard from beyond the grave. As Ocker puts it now, ‘Never RIP, Edgar Allan Poe.’”

Thanks for *Christian News*

Reverend Otten,
May your Christmas and New Year be filled with God’s perfect peace. Thank you Reverend Otten for your generosity in sending me the *Christian News*. I love it.”
“May 2019 fulfill you and your family’s fondest wishes! God bless all of you!
Prisoner

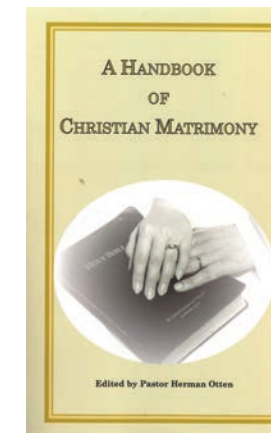
DOWN WITH COHABITATION

“Church Fights Rising Cohabitation Rates with Free Weddings” in the December 2018 *Charisma* has this subhead: “Nearly 2 in 3 Americans have lived together while unmarried.”

Charisma reports: “Bent Tree Bible Fellowship in Carrollton, Texas, may have found a creative solution to rising rates of cohabitation among young Americans. Americans are increasingly living with one another before getting married—or even in place of getting married at all. A report from the Institute for Family Studies found that as of 2015, roughly 16 percent of people were unmarried and cohabiting, and about 64 percent of people adult Americans have cohabited with a romantic partner before getting married.”

Chapter IV of *CN*’s *A Handbook of Christian Matrimony* includes “What’s Wrong with Living Together Before Marriage”, “Where We Stand” by Mark Braun, “Living Together: The Modern Trend,” by Glen Huebel, “Numbers Show Cohabiting Hurts,” by Cheryl Weinstein,” “The Sin of Cohabitation,” and “Why Wait,” Rose Publishing.

A Handbook of Christian Matrimony is available from *Christian News* for \$14.95.



GOSPEL-FOCUSED FUNERAL

“Bittersweet Early December” by World editor Marvin Olasky wrote: “The service on Dec. 5 at the Washington Cathedral was not indecisive. It had lots of teaching about Jesus Christ and the future for all who believe in Him: . . .”

The December 24 *CN* noted what the December 17, 2018 *Time*, which featured Bush on its cover said, praising Bush. *CN* also published a story titled “Brock, Preus, Kiesel Say Gospel Not Preached from the Pulpit at George H.W. Funeral.” Pastor Tom Brock wrote: “I am again reminded of the three pillars of liberal theology: 1. God is nice. 2. We too should be nice. 3. Isn’t that nice?”

“I pray that for your funeral and mine, we will not have a nice preacher who gives a nice sermon offending no one, but rather a loving preacher telling people of the necessity of Christ and how they may have a blessed eternity.”

Pastor Rolf Preus wrote: “It is clear that the preacher did not know what God put him into the pulpit to say. He likens his task as a Christian pastor to that of rabbis and imams, referring to pastors, rabbis, and imams as ‘he’ and ‘she’, which is not surprising, as much as women dressed up as pastors were featured in the service. The sermon was essentials a eulogy of President Bush. He did not proclaim the gospel.

Pastor Martin Kiesel commented: “it seems one’s ticket into heaven is by the Law –

Love God and your fellow man’. “How sad for all of the people who watched.”

“The Bush Legacy Documented in *Christian News*” on p. 10-14, showed that *CN* did not join in the general praise of Bush, primarily for getting the U.S. involved in an unnecessary war in Iraq, which led to the death of many.

UNIVERSALISM MARCHES ON

“The art of coexistence” in the December *Living Lutheran*, official publication of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, reports:

Practicing tolerance

“Many of us Tanzanians have grown up in mixed families,” said Shukuru Maloda, district pastor of Zanzibar for the ELCT Eastern and Coastal Diocese. “When the missionaries came, my great grandfather told his children: ‘you are free to join the Christians or Muslims, and if you want to remain a traditionalist, that is no problem.’ “Tolerance is a muscle that needs regular exercise. Lutheran ministries on Zanzibar flex it regularly. At the Upendo Center in Stone Town, the old city of Zanzibar, young Christian and Muslim women sew apparel side by side—part of a three-year program that equips them with marketable skills while strengthening the fabric of interfaith relationships.

“Above the school and its associated clothing store, the Zanzibar Interfaith Centre (ZANZIC) offers workshops and diplomas in interfaith dialogue. A joint ministry of the diocese and Danmission, a Danish Lutheran mission and development organization, ZANZIC’s interfaith youth soccer team begins each game with Christian and Muslim prayers and sports the slogan, “struggle for peace”, on its jerseys.

“ZANZIC coordinates and

Continued on Page 12

UNIVERSALISM MARCHES ON

Continued from Page 11

provides in-kind support for the Joint Committee of Religious Leaders, whose Muslim, Catholic, Anglican and Lutheran members support peaceful coexistence through regular meetings and by establishing local peace committees.

“These peace committees bolster amicable relations at times of stress or transition. Elections are particularly tricky, as the number of extremists of both faiths is increasing, Maloda said, adding, ‘Even a few extremists can be a challenge when something bad happens on our island.’”

The LCMS

In former years, the churches that formed ELCA in 1988 generally insisted that Christianity was the only saving faith and that non-Christians were going to Hell. Officially, the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod still says that Christianity is the only saving faith and that non-Christians are lost. However, the LCMS for decades has taken no disciplinary actions vs. universalists on the LCMS clergy roster, such as Herbert Hoefler and Frederick Niedner.

“Universalism Within the LCMS” reprinted a major part of an article appearing in the LCMS’s August, 1984 *Lutheran Witness* by Herbert Hoefler, a former missionary to India who also taught at Concordia University, Portland, Oregon. *CN* photographed a photo in the *Lutheran Witness* with this caption: “Rev. Herbert Hoefler (middle), with shaved head as a ‘Christian Lama,’ meets the Dalai Lama (Left), the spiritual and political leader of the Tibetan Buddhists in exile.” *Christian News Encyclopedia*, Volume IV, p. 3155. Hoefler was a delegate to the last LCMS convention. Both he and Niedner are

on the LCMS clergy roster.

**Harrison Recommending
No Discipline:
What will Lutherans for Life
Do?**

LCMS PROFESSOR: ABORTION AND EVOLUTION O.K.

“The sordid history of illegal abortions in our recent national history prior to *Roe v. Wade* alone should be sufficient grounds for keeping abortions legal and therefore medically safe and responsible,” writes Dr. Norman Metzler in “Sanctity of Life: A response to Speckhard” *Forum Letter*, January 2019, p 1-3. Metzler continues: “She may make this choice due to various problematic circumstances, such as the pregnancy caused by rape or incest, the pregnancy posing a threat to her life, or the fetus lacking a viable brain.”

Metzler, a member of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod clergy, is Professor of Theology emeritus, at Concordia University, Portland, OK. His article in the ALPB’s *Forum Letter* concludes:

In light of the above, it is misleading (if not emotionally manipulative) for anti-abortionists like Speckhard to refer to abortion as taking the life of a “child” or a “person,” equivalent, for example, to murdering a two-year-old-child. Such biblical references as the baby leaping in Elizabeth’s womb, an individual being known by God from the womb, or proscriptions against violence toward pregnant women, are poetic utterances or expressions of ancient Jewish law, and understandably reflect no awareness of the modern medical and moral complexities in the current abortion discussion. (Indeed, there are biblical references to God knowing us individually from all eternity, not just from the womb.) Thus these biblical passages do not justify using the terms “child” or “person,” as we understand them today, in reference to pre-natal human life. While the egg and sperm,

the zygote, the embryo, and the fetus all have the potential to develop into a child, an individual person, they do not yet have the status before they are actually born. At none of the stages of pregnancy does the potential human being possess those essential qualities we associate with actual personhood: an independently functioning mind and body, a fully defined unique physical appearance, a distinctive personality, and interaction with others in a network of human relationships.

Committed to life

Regardless of how Pr. Speckhard and I may differ on the legality of abortion, I trust we are agreed that Christians should reach out with compassion and support to women who, for whatever reasons, have had an abortion, just as we should deal pastorally with those who grieve the loss of a pregnancy due to a miscarriage. Furthermore, Christians who fight to make abortion illegal should feel particularly obligated to take the lead in providing long term support systems for those women who choose to carry to term but may be in a very difficult circumstances—unwed, poor, addictive, depressive, caught in a bad marriage or otherwise lacking family or community social networks to turn to in their struggles.

Finally, “pro-life” individuals and organizations that claim to be truly concerned about the sanctity of human life should take a hard look at the irony of their expending so much energy and resources on the narrow goal of preventing legal abortions, while expending relatively so little energy and resources on rescuing from death and deprivation the many millions of actual- not potential- living children who are full human persons with unique names, appearances, personalities and relationships. Just imagine how many of these children could be helped if the financial and political resources currently spent on fighting to make abortion once

again illegal were invested in these children’s survival.

Dr. Norman Metzler is professor of Theology, Emeritus at Concordia University, Portland, OR. He currently serves as pastor of River of Life Lutheran Church (LCMS) in Troutdale, OR; he lives across the river in Vancouver, WA. This is his first contribution to *Forum Letter*.

Supporter of Evolutionist Becker

Metzler has been a leading defender of his former colleague at Concordia University Portland, Matthew Becker, who championed evolution. “Many Liberals Defending LCMS Evolutionist and Supporter of Women’s Ordination,” the lead story in the February 23, 2015 included a list of more than 75 Lutheran clergyman, professors and leaders who signed a statement backing LCMS evolutionist Matthew Becker. “Rev. Dr. Norman Metzler” is one of the signers. “Becker Not Alone” in the February 23, 2015 *CN* noted: “Norman Metzler is another signer, a former head of the theology dept. at Concordia, Portland, defended Gay Marriage.’ LCMS President Matthew Harrison insists that the LCMS is theologically united and there should be room in the LCMS for such supporters of evolution, abortion and gay marriage as Dr. Norman Metzler and others. Harrison refuses to answer simple questions *CN* asked him about these issues. Some wonder whether Lutherans for Life will now insist that the LCMS take action vs. such a pro abortionist as Norman Metzler; Will Lutherans for Life charge files of false doctrine vs Metzler? “On Investigating Concordia Portland,” a June 1, 2001 letter *CN* sent to Metzler, Ruben Spanhaus and others was published in the February 23, 2015 *CN*. It concluded: “*CN* filed charges of false doctrine vs. Pr. Ruben Spanhaus for promoting abortion. *CN* provided the LCMS bureaucracy with plenty of documentation. The bureau-

cracy ignored the charges and Spanhaus told the editor to wake up and recognize abortion is O.K.”

Time to End the Secrecy

Ten years ago *CN* said in an editorial titled “Needed Soldiers of the Cross”: “The LCMS needs soldiers for the cross who deplore all secrecy in the church and sign their names to any statement they write or election guide they propose.” “Neumayr provides the facts pertaining to Pope Francis’s promotion of liberals, his demotion of conservatives, and his staking of the College of Cardinal to ensure a future for his far-left beliefs and agenda.”

Currently those behind the “United List” asking all Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod congregations to nominate LCMS President Matthew Harrison for a fourth term refuse to reveal who is behind this “United List.” Is it simply a group of Harrison’s cronies? Dr. John Pless, a close friend of Harrison who has worked with Harrison, is one of those who at times works in secrecy. He signed an article he wrote for the American Lutheran Publicity Bureau’s *Forum Letter* blasting *Christian News* with an “X.” Yet the anti-Walther sacerdotalists and hypereuros insist Pless is a courageous and bold Lutheran. He is the head of the anti-Walther Loehe society in the U.S.

CN continues to urge congregations not to follow the advice of some secret group in the LCMS but to vote on the basis of the actual position of the candidate. *Christian News*, on the basis of a questionnaire *CN* sent via first class mail with a self-addressed return envelope to all candidates, scored Clint Poppe and David Maier 100% and Harrison 0%. Harrison refused to answer any of the eight simple doctrinal questions. LCMS congregations should ignore the suggestions of the secret United List or any other secret organization.

Chronicles on Obama’s Pope

“Obama’s Pope” is the title of an article in the December 2018 *Chronicles* by Richard Mastio.

According to Mastio, “Pope Francis’s radical pontificate has in four short years set the Catholic Church on a course of broad politicizing and moral relativism.” “By word and action Francis has given his blessing to a gay priesthood.” “Neumayr provides the facts pertaining to Pope Francis’s promotion of liberals, his demotion of conservatives, and his staking of the College of Cardinal to ensure a future for his far-left beliefs and agenda.”

Blasé Cupich

“Francis’s objective seems to be a politicized church, as evidenced by his first major appointment, that of Blasé Cupich as ‘Chicago’s cardinal-archbishop. Cupich is a liberal who de-emphasizes the moral horror of abortion by lecturing Catholics on issues beyond abortion.”

The *Chronicles*’ article concludes, “It is time for accountability and reform: including, perhaps, the removal of this Pope by the College of Cardinals.”

When LCMS President Harrison and Cardinal Archbishop Cupich participated in an event commemorating the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation at the LCMS’s Concordia University, Chicago, *CN* published a photo of Harrison and Cupich high-fiving one another. Harrison said nothing about the fact that Rome today is much further away from Scripture than it was 500 years ago when it did not accept evolution, higher criticism of the Bible, and had not yet declared the Pope infallible, the immaculate conception of Mary and the Assumption of Mary.



Churchill And Roosevelt Were War Mongers Not Heroes

Imprimis, a Publication of Hillsdale College, has at times presented Winston Churchill as a great hero. *Imprimis* is sent to millions without charge. The latest *Imprimis* reports “Over 3,900,000 Readers Monthly.”

A leading supporter of Lutheran Church-Missouri synod, President Matthew Harrison, who claims to know how to publish a newspaper, urged *CN* to follow the pattern sent by *Imprimis*. “Use better paper rather than inexpensive newsprint, stick to a single issue and don’t publish so much from a wide variety of sources.”

Linn P. Arn, President, Hillsdale College, is the author of “Do We Need Our Country Anymore?” The article in the December 2018, Volume 47, number 12 *Imprimis*.

Arn writes: “Churchill spent much of his life trying to avoid the horrors of modern war and trying to erect structures to prevent them.’ The latest *Imprimis* announces that Volume 21 of the “Official Bibliography of Winston S. Churchill by Randolph S. Churchill, Sir Martin Gilbert, and Larry P Arn is now available for \$60.00. “Anyone who wants to know the truth about Churchill and thousands of others for about the same price should get the *CN Encyclopedia*. Check the index. It will lead the reader to what such historians and theologians as Alfred Re-

hwinkel, Walter Maier, Alexander Solzhenitsyn, David Irving and others said about Churchill. He was not a peace maker but a war monger. Check the facts. Find out about Churchills role in the sinking of the Lusitania which led to America foolishly entering the war which led to WWII. Read “Britain’s War in America” and “Churchills War” on p. 4188ff. Then read “Was Rehwinkel Wrong? Churchill ‘The Greatest Living Man’” (*CN* January 4th 2016). *CN* reported on what Erik Larson writes in his *Dead Wake—The Last Crossing of the Lusitania*. This book was reviewed in the July 13th 2015 *CN*. Arn refers to this war-monger Churchill “The Greatest Living Man.”

John Gehring

Baltimore Flop

ANOTHER DISAPPOINTING BISHOPS’ MEETING



Archbishop Jose H. Gomez of Los Angeles, vice president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, left; Cardinal Daniel N. DiNardo of Galveston-Houston, president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops; and Msgr. J. Brian Bransfield, general secretary, at the fall meeting of the U.S. bishops in Baltimore

Now Even Roman Catholic Liberals Concerned

CN has for decades quoted from conservative Roman Catholics who were concerned about the cover up of homosexual priests, bishops and even a Pope. Now even Roman Catholic liberals are no longer remaining silent. “Baltimore Flop” an article by John Gehring in the January 4, 2019 liberal Roman Catholic Commonweal has this subhead: “Another Disappointing Bishops’ Meeting.” Commonweal begins:

The highly anticipated national meeting of Catholic bishops in early November opened

with high drama, closed with a whimper, and in the end raised only more questions about the American hierarchy’s capacity to tackle the most profound threat to its moral credibility in the modern era.

“Bishops gathered in Baltimore expecting to vote on proposals addressing the lack of accountability measures for themselves, a telling reminder of clericalism’s stubborn durability sixteen years after Boston and the consequent approval of the Dallas Charter, which applied to priests but did not cover the actions of bishops. The urgency of implementing mechanisms that would cover abusive hierarchs, as well as those who send credibly accused priests back into parishes, was underscored by a Boston Globe and Philadelphia Inquirer joint investigation released a few days before the meeting on November 3. More than 130 bishops, the investigation found – nearly one-third of those still living—have been accused of failing to adequately respond to sexual abuse in their dioceses. Among them is Cardinal Daniel DiNardo of Galveston-Houston, who presided over the meeting as president of the bishops’ conference and who has been cited by abuse survivors for mishandling cases in Iowa, when he was a bishop in Sioux City, and more recently in Texas.”

CN has often said that far more destructive than the homosexual scandal in Rome is the toleration of evolution, higher criticism of the Bible, and theologians who deny the fundamental doctrines of the Christian faith, the virgin birth, deity, vicarious satisfaction, resurrection of Christ, along with a denial of the central Christian doctrine of justification by faith alone in the merits of Jesus Christ.

The Papal Visit Paul 6

“The October American Lutheran, edited by Missouri Synod Lutherans, said that ‘under certain circumstances it would be possible to be under the papacy and still be Lutheran.’ We wonder what these circumstances are. It appears to us that there is already too much centralized control in some Lutheran bodies.” (*CN* October 18th 1965) The American Lutheran of the American Publicity Bureau is now the ALPB *Lutheran Forum* and *Forum Letter*. Randy Engel, in the 1300

page *Right of Sodomy- Homosexuality in the Roman Catholic Church*, shows that Paul the 6th and other Roman Catholic Churchmen were homosexuals. Paul the 6th has now been canonized by Pope Francis.

Beck’s Obituary

Dear Father Herman Otten, how is everything? I am doing good. My name is Nolan Mattson and I want to thank you for sharing the Doctor William Beck translation of the Bible. I feel it is an accurate translation of the Bible. I used it in college. My only question... does Doctor William Beck have an obituary? Hope all is well and God Bless.

Ed. “Translator of Bible William F. Beck,” on page 1 of the October 31st 1966 *Lutheran News (Christian News)* includes Dr. Beck’s obituary. “William F Beck” “A Prince in Israel Has Fallen” by Louis Brighton in the November 28th 1966 *Lutheran News* included some photos of Beck and his family.

The section on the AAT in *The Christian News Encyclopedia* has information on Beck.

“Beck Bible Quite a Treat”

Dear Luke, you sent me a “Beck Bible, An American Translation.” And I thank you so very much, I bought one years ago and it’s in shreds. This is quite a treat! I used to subscribe to *CN* and my brother and law and I are talking a lot on the phone. So We’re discussing the rotten, lousy Catholic Priests and He Keep telling me what’s in *Lutheran News*. I have more time now to read and I’m really looking forward to *Lutheran News*. I can’t understand why these Catholic Priests are not in Jail. The Supreme Court in Pennsylvania decided 6-1 to keep these priests’ names and other information secret. This was in the News Sentinel (Ft. Wayne Newspaper) Dec. 4, 2018. I am so shocked—these children are in terrible danger! A total Satanic institution! Anyhow, thanks again for the Bible and I’m looking forward to the paper!

Gods Blessings to you!

LATEST NEWS FROM BETHANY

The December, 2018 *Bethany Magazine* of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod's Bethany College reports that former ELS President George Myron Orvick died on September 27, 2018 and former ELS President Wilhelm Peterson died on August 26, 2018. Both of the solid Lutherans graduated from Bethany in 1948.

"God's grace seen with increased enrollment," From the President column in Bethany Magazine by Bethany President Gene Pfeifer says: "We prayed that God would use Bethany, and his people, for His purpose. We are reminded of His promise in Isaiah 55, My Word will not return empty, but will accomplish what I desire, and achieve the purposes for which it was sent. That purpose chiefly is the saving of souls for eternity.

"And as sure as God's promises are — He answered abundantly! While the past few years Bethany witnessed a few of those blessings, recently He's opened the floodgates. So much so that this fall the class of new students is up 38% to a record of 225. Our full time, on campus enrollment is up 14%. That's 22% in the last three years.

"Consequently, more Bethany students are engaged in the Gospel message of Jesus as their Savior, and understand the importance of The One Thing Needful. That is the end goal

of a Bethany Lutheran College education."

1,525 Paid Subscribers LUTHERAN FORUM SEEKING NEW EDITOR

"So Long, and Thanks For All the Loaves And Fishes" by Sarah Hinlicky Wilson on the last page of the Winter 2019 *Lutheran Forum* of the American Lutheran Publicity Bureau concludes: "Although I will no longer be at the helm of LF, and although I am now living the farthest I've ever been from my homeland, I hope to remain a part of the church conversation in America, and I'd be glad to continue hearing from you, too."

Sarah Hinlicky Wilson is the daughter of Paul Hinlicky, a former editor of *Lutheran Forum*. He had been a member of the LCMS but left this at that time conservative Lutheran Church Missouri

Synod for the liberal Lutheran Church, now ELCA, a church body which rejects the inerrancy of the Bible, promotes the ordination of women, homosexuality, abortion and gay marriage. He is now a professor at ELCA's Roanoke College. Nether Hinlicky nor his daughter served as pastors of congregations very long. Sarah Hinlicky Wilson wrote in the winter, 2018 *Lutheran Forum*: "I began my editorship about halfway through a soul-wrecking first call" (4). "It was such a sickening prospect that by the time I resigned I had to take a few months off church altogether to uncurl from spiritual fetal position." "During our years in Strasbourg my family and I began attending the local Church of England parish" (4).

Mark Brown, pastor of St. Mark's Lutheran Church in West Henrietta, New York writes in "Beyond Augsburg—Reconciliation of The Reformation Churches": "Pope Francis's recent initiatives regarding marriage, divorce, remarriage, and holy communion are, in essence, a movement toward a Lutheran understanding of the office of the keys" (41). "But for me, Pope Francis's words are destabilizing. As a conservative Lutheran, I find myself supporting a Roman pope cheered on by mainline Protestants, I'm not swimming the Tiber anytime soon, probably not in my lifetime, but I could imagine such grace opening all kinds of wonderful possibilities in my children's future" (44).

"Statement of Ownership signed by Donna K. Roche, Business Manger and Treasurer, ALPB and Paul Robert Sauer, an LCMS pastor, and Executive Director, ALPB reports that *Lutheran Forum* has 1,525 paid subscribers. *Lutheran Forum* was formerly termed the American Lutheran. It had about 5,000 paid subscribers. *CN's CN Encyclopedia* documents the theological position of the ALPB. Some of what is in the CNE is in "A History of the ALPB: 1914-2014- A CENTURY TOWARD APOSTOCY AND VICTORY" (*CN*, October 6, 2014) is *CN's* report of the first 100 years of the ALPB. President Matthew Harrison sharply disagrees with what *CN* has written about the ALPB. When the ALPB celebrated its 100th anniversary at a hotel in Bronxville, New York Harrison sent his assistant Jon Viker to the banquet to deliver a letter of congratulations.

What Does It Take to Light a Fire in "Confessional" Men?

From David Becker



(From Lutherquest)
Rev. Brandt Klawitter (Revklawitter)
Post Number: 30
Registered: 10-2017

Posted on Wednesday, December 12, 2018 - 5:31 am:

This is in response to some of the questions posed

by Rev. Preus. Inasmuch as the "conservatives/confessionals" of the LCMS are perpetually silent and will not wager to rock the boat and upset the apple cart of synod, I do judge them as complicit in the LCMS' descent into the category of an "errant church body." Granted, I myself was part of this while I served as a military chaplain of the synod and I also justified my presence there with the oft-repeated phrase: "as long as I can serve in good conscience." The problem was, when we moved to Norway it WAS NOT POSSIBLE to do so. This was a direct result of the church fellowship agreement brokered by our current "confessional" leadership. These individuals knew that the fellowship agreement being hammered out was not in fact fellowship by historic standards. They furthermore blocked me from potential service with LCMS OIM when others had encouraged me to apply because of my qualifications and international experience. Why? Because I had written an article protesting that the fellowship agreement with the LCN was not fellowship and that the LCMS leaders knew better. I had/have reached out to any number of persons and even "confessional" organizations for help in addressing these matters. BJS, ACELC, seminary professors, synodical officials, etc. The responses: sorry to hear about this, lame excuses for inaction, self-justification, and generally crickets otherwise. These are not the actions of orthodoxy if you ask me. Politics? Certainly. Cowardice? Perhaps. Indifference? Quite possibly. At the very least, they are certainly not the actions of brotherly love. My personal opinion is that these are much closer to the actions of apathy towards doctrine and coldness of love.

If I were your son, Rolf, I suspect you would take it all seriously and my plight (and those like me) would be problematic in your eyes. I'm not, though, and so you can continue to justify the waywardness of Missouri with the idea that it's just fine on paper. Moreover, this fellowship issue was ratified at the synodical level at convention in 2016. That gives it something of an official status (along with the LWF issues, etc.) How much more official do Missouri's errors need to be? Why are these things not problems worth fighting about and over which one should even draw a line in the sand? Why are these things not addressed and corrected? What does it take to light a fire in "confessional" men so that they can finally realize that the problems their brothers experience will one day be their own and that they should have been their brothers' keepers (I know I am not alone in what I experienced from synod)? For my part, I never expected Missouri to be perfect. I did hope to find a pulse in her supposedly confessional men and congregations.

This I did not find and had I found anything of the kind, any reason whatsoever for hope and to fight on, I would not have taken my name off of the clergy roster. In response to the "problem" posed to Pr. Bolland about the church and ministry questions with WELS/ELS/etc. and that there are no perfect synods, that might well be. Nevertheless, I think there can be a synod where apathy and indifference do not prevail. For me, it was the utter indifference to these issues that convinced me that enough is enough. I have yet to be proven wrong in my judgment, though then as now I would gladly change my views on the matter.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE ALPB AND LARRY PETERS

Congratulations to the American Lutheran Publicity Bureau for publishing "Lutheranism and the ALPB, Past and Future: a reflection" by Larry A. Peters in the January 2019 *Forum Letter*. The brilliant and perceptive Peters asks: "Missouri may have won the battle for the Bible, but at what cost and have we really won the war." The entire *Lutheran Forum* article is photographed here. All LCMS bureaucrats and those recommending their congregation nominate Harrison to a fourth term should read the article. Diversity now reigns under Harrison even though he insists the LCMS is united and his United List supporters contend the LCMS is better off

than it has been in a century. Do the Harrison promoters read *Forum Letter*?

ALPB's FORUM LETTER PROMOTES FLAMING LIBERAL

"Go forward boldly by the light we have" The lead article in the January 2019 *Forum Letter* is taken from Understanding the Christian Faith (Abingdon Press, 1947) 19-20, written by Georgia Harkness.

The ALPB's *Lutheran Forum* and *Forum Letter* has published some scriptural articles. But it has also promoted publications that promote such outspoken modernists as Geor-

gia Harkness. Methodist theologian Harkness was a modal Monarchianist who denied the Trinity (Baal or God, Herman Otten, Leader Press, 1965, p 32-33), the deity of Jesus Christ (p 42-43), the vicarious satisfaction of Christ (p. 63), and the inerrancy of the Bible (p. 149).

Even though *CN* told those responsible for the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod's *Lutheran Service Book* about the non-Christian theology of such liberals as Harkness and Harry Emerson Fosdick they insisted on placing Hymns by Harkness (690) and Harry Emerson Fosdick (850) into the LCMS's *Lutheran Service Book*. Those responsible for the LSB removed more than 300 hymns from the *Lutheran Hymnal* to make room for hymns by such liberals as Harkness and Fosdick. Even though the English Standard

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Lutheranism and the ALPB, past and future: a reflection by Larry A. Peters

Most of my adult life has included an anticipatory wait for the latest from the American Lutheran Publicity Bureau's *Lutheran Forum* and its monthly supplement *Forum Letter*. I've subscribed since 1972, when the package was a vital source of information on the subjects of liturgy and worship, Lutheran unity, and, of course, Neuhaus's "As Missouri Turns." No matter what side of those issues you were on, these publications were must-reads. Before the advent of the information age, the internet, and a 24-hour news cycle, we were left pacing to see what was the latest from New York City or New Haven, MO. We knew the names by heart—Richard Koenig, Richard John Neuhaus, Glenn Stone, Larry Bailey, Leonard Klein, et. al. We read while Missouri blew up, the AELC, ALC and LCA came together, and the world marched on by, caring little about any of it.

I have to admit that I developed a certain fondness even for articles with which I was prone to disagree. When I lived for a year on Long Island and, later, as a Lutheran pastor between Albany and New York City for some 13 years, I met some of the names in the annals of its history. The sainted Richard John Neuhaus was in the pews of my parish a few times.

The glory days are gone

There was a time when I would stop whatever I was doing to read the ALPB publication that came in the mail. Not so much anymore. In fact, days go by before I bother to open the quarterly journal or peruse the newsletter. The world has changed. Lutheranism is far different than it was in 1972 or even a decade or two later. Many of the glory names of its history, and especially that of the ALPB, are now either Roman Catholic or dead. The ALPB's attempt to focus its mission as pan-Lutheran has left it without many subscribers—LCMS or otherwise. It is not the first organization to struggle along while others packed it in.

After reading Richard Johnson's history of the ALPB (*Changing World, Changeless Christ*), it is clear to me that there are things the *Forum* folks got wrong—dead wrong. Though often the target of many within and without, Missouri's stand for "dead orthodoxy" has left it as the last remaining

hope for confessional Lutheranism in the USA (and the key player in its future beyond). Missouri is not in great shape, but at least it has not committed wholesale abandonment of its Lutheran identity by crawling into bed with every other dying mainline Christian denomination in America or embracing the latest LGBTQ position as its own.

Betting on the wrong horse

In some respects, Neuhaus and others put their money on the wrong horse in the church wars of the 1960s-1980s. The ordination of women has led to the ordination of openly LGBTQ clergy—whether by accident or intention, it does not matter. The skeptical view of Biblical history and its message has led to a distance between the Scriptural witness and what is believed, confessed, and taught, as well as a growing gulf between leaders and pews, seminaries and congregations. The renewal of Lutheranism got derailed and the Preus brothers cannot be blamed for the sham and shell that is much of Lutheranism in America today. Bleeding people and red ink, Lutheranism bears little witness to the admiring story *Time* magazine foretold of its future back in 1958. The American Lutheran Publicity Bureau has fared no better; I have as many readers per day on my meager blog as ALPB has subscribers. This is not as much a credit to me as it is a sign of the grand decline of the once great effort to equip LCMS pastors with practical help toward a resurgent Lutheran identity.

Richard Johnson is a credible editor and writer for the *Forum Letter*, but he worships at an Episcopal congregation, and that says as much about the shape of Lutheranism as it does about Pr. Johnson. Despite being several steps to the right of the current leadership of the ELCA, he remains in that body. Who would have thought that the ALPB would lead to this? The editorship of *Lutheran Forum* is still open when this is being written, and there is probably no chance in hell that the new editor will be LCMS—nor that his or her affiliation might make any difference at all.

A lament for how things turned out

Lutheran ecumenism has been eclipsed by an ELCA that will marry nearly anyone but Missouri



Fear Not

Pastor Elder McCants

God tells us not to fear or worry. The phrase "fear not" is used at least 80 times in the Bible. God knows that the Devil uses fear to keep us afraid and uneasy. Isaiah 43:1, God said, "Don't fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name. You are mine." God gave His only son, Jesus, who was born to take our place in death on a cross to pay the penalty for our sins and to earn eternal life for us in heaven. The resurrection of Jesus gives us victory over the power of the devil who causes us to fear. We know by the gift of Christian Faith in Jesus' death and resurrection that we are God's loved children cared for and loved by God forever.

When we in faith meditate on God's love and His Word like the 23 psalm, John 14:1-6 and Psalm 46, it is hard to remain fearful about our trials we face this year. Fear not, God is always with us! Lord, please help us to know that you are with us every moment we live. In Jesus' name, amen.

Version removes the deity of Christ in its translation of such Psalms as Psalm 8 the LCMS Bureuocrats insisted on using the ESV rather than the KJV

used in *The Lutheran Hymnal* or the AAT. CPH published Becks AAT New Testament 1965.

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Forum Letter

and by a Missouri whose brightest prospects for a marriage partner probably lie with Lutherans in Africa. We have Lutherans in name who insist they believe like Lutherans while acting like liberal Methodists and Episcopalians. We have Lutherans who worship like evangelicals but claim they still hold to the *theory* of what it means to be Lutheran, insisting that practice does not matter so much. We have Lutherans who have recovered their catholic liturgical identity and Lutherans who insist that whatever works to pack them in is best practice. We have diversity which has become the goal of nearly every Lutheran group, but Lutheranism is just as white as ever (especially on the tops of their heads!). We have a great tradition of Lutheran education, but most Lutheran colleges and universities see their Lutheran identity more as legacy and heritage than guiding force or influential reality for who they are and what they do. We have a ton of Lutheran seminaries but not so many Lutheran seminarians. I could go on.

In the end, I guess, I lament how so many things turned out, and I am probably not alone. I wish that Missouri had taken on the theological questions directly instead of relying on bylaws to deal with an expanding gulf between her professors and her people. I wish that Missouri and the ALC had gotten together long before Missouri was entering the fight for its soul and the ALC had already begun to ordain women. I wish that the LCA was more prominent in the ELCA—at least the old kind of LCA from the 1960s. I wish that it were still possible to realign Lutheranism into people who wanted to be Lutheran and those who did not care about it all that much. Missouri may have won the battle for the Bible, but at what cost and have we really won the war? The ecumenists got a Lutheran merger, but at what cost? Were two new denominations worth it? Lutheran seminaries wanted to do more than train pastors, but at what cost and where are the seminarians? All around us Lutheranism is in decline, forgetting its history to pursue relevance, or to mimic the evangelicals, or to be accepted by main-

line churches. The greatest shock of all is that many of those who once were thought to be Lutheranism's future leaders are now Roman Catholics.

The future of renewal

So, you are thinking, what else is new? Could it have turned out worse? I suppose so. But I would rather have tried simply to be Lutheran and seen the same failure than to have tried to be somebody else and failed, which seems to be what most Lutherans have done. Strange, isn't it, that where Lutheranism is still vital is where Lutherans are still Lutheran! I wonder if there is a lesson there. I wonder if the American Lutheran Publicity Bureau and its twin publications of *Lutheran Forum* and *Forum Letter* are paying any attention. If there is a future for us, it will not be because we minimize our Lutheran identity or trade it away for our fifteen minutes of fame. I think you can take that last bit of wisdom to the bank. This has been my cause and purpose, unevenly manifested to be sure, and it is my hope and prayer that I am not alone.

If there is a future for the ALPB and its publications, it will be a future remembering that its core mission is to fight for the renewal of Lutheran confessional identity and not its death, for the renewal of Lutheran's catholic doctrine and liturgical identity and not its demise, for the essential task of preaching Christ crucified and risen and not some message of the moment, and for the high and noble unity that is forged not by what we can accept but what we believe, confess, and teach. Speculative theology, liturgy, and morality has proven itself to be the death wish for Lutherans and for every other Christian body that has tried it. If the ALPB can recapture this energy and mission, I may well return to the days of opening *Lutheran Forum* and *Forum Letter* first and reading them cover to cover.

Larry A. Peters is Senior Pastor at Grace Lutheran Church (LCMS) in Clarksville, TN. This is his first contribution to *Forum Letter*.

PRODUCT OF SOLID CHRISTIAN EDUCATION A Christian Martyr Still Speaks

Last week CN received a note titled "Phyllis Ann (ZOOK) Coey, March 15, 1927 – December 21, 2018."

A newspaper article titled "Phyllis Ann Coey" says: "She was a Christian activist who believed that Christian values are essential for the survival of America. She was active in the promotion of veterans and the

right to life of unborn children." The article concluded: "In lieu of flowers memorial contributions may be made to *Christian News*, 684 Luther Lane, New Haven, Mo, 63068."

The editor went to CN's Files and the *Christian News Encyclopedia* to find out what CN had from Phyllis Coey and what CN had published about her son

John. Photographed here from p. 48, in the section on Africa CNE titled "The Hero' Eagle Forum Presents." An editorial note mentions that John Coey had been a member of St. Paul Lutheran Church, St. Paul, Ohio. John Lang had been the pastor of this large A.L.C. church. This conservative pastor led the congregation out of the ALC. He was a good friend of CN. "Lang Reports No Real Opposition to Liberalism at ALC Convention," front-page story in the November 2, 1964 Lutheran (now Christian) News included a photo of St. Paul's Lutheran Church, where the Coeys had

been members. This faithful pastor taught the Coeys, Leithards and thousands of others well. He was also professor at the ALC's Capital University in Columbus.

JESUS CHRIST THE ONLY WAY TO HEAVEN

The three-page statement CN just received about Phyllis Coe says in part:

"The point here is that the blood of these Christian pioneers was strong in Phyllis's veins. Their vision of a Christian America was her vision of a Christian America. Their heritage was her heritage."

"The point here is that the blood of these Christian martyrs was strong in Phyllis's veins. When calamity struck, she always relied on the verse:

The Lord is our refuge and our strength, a very present help in the time of trouble."

"Phyllis is descended from at least seven men known to have served in the American armed forces during the Revolutionary War. This is not to boast of Phyllis's ancestors. What matters is not what our ancestors did, but how we live our lives. The point here is that the blood of American, Christian patriots was strong in Phyllis's veins. Their

vision, sacrifice and love of country was her vision, sacrifice and love of country."

"Phyllis and George had two sons, George Edward Coey (1-12-1947-) and John Alan Coey (11-12-1950-7-19-1975). John regarded the countries of the Christian West as an organic entity, a family of nations. In the early 1970s, Communist forces from Zambia and Mozambique invaded one of those nations, the small country of Rhodesia. In 1972, he volunteered and served for three years as an airborne (parachute) combat medic for the Rhodesian Light Infantry. During that time, he made more

than 50 parachute jumps into combat zones and helped save many lives. On July 19, 1975 he attempted to rescue soldiers caught in an ambush and was killed in action."

"She loved God and sought to seek His Will for her life. She believed and accepted that the redemptive work of Jesus Christ on the cross as the sacrifice for our sins is the only way to Heaven. She would ask everyone hearing or reading this to open your hearts to the Gospel message as the one certain way to salvation. She knew that God's Word is our Great Heritage."

"Phyllis passed from this world in time to celebrate her first Christmas before the magnificent throne of the Lord, Jesus Christ in paradise. She leaves us asking that we stand strong for the Faith of Our Fathers until our own times to meet the Lord arrive, and we join the Camp of the Saints."

"The Peace of the Lord be with you all. Depart in His Peace."

A Christmas note from "The Coey Family" dated Dec. 20, 1988 said: "We are so very grateful to you for all the space you have given in *Christian News* to help us get the word out on A

MARTYR Speaks – the journal of our beloved son and brother. "The publisher chose the title as martyr means, 'witness' and we feel it fit John well. John would want no personal glory from the book, nor do we want personal gain or glory—only that the book be to the glory of God and for Truth."

"We praise the Lord for New Puritan Library and *Christian News*."

"We wish you and your family a joyous, Christ-centered Christmas and much increased support for *Christian News* in the new year- you are truly a voice of truth in a vast wilderness."



Theodore Martin and Paul E. Gramit

ETLC — Pastor T. Martin

From: Rev. Paul E. Gramit

Friday 12-28-2018
Dear Brothers and Sisters in the Lord,

Greetings in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ!

Early last evening, Thursday, December 27, it was our Lord's good and gracious will to call to Himself our pastor emeritus, Rev. Theodore Martin. As many of you know, he was called to serve Ev. Trinity Lutheran Church of Clinton, Mass. as its pastor in 1948, answered that call, and remained with ETLC the rest of his life, serving as resident pastor 1948 until mid-1985 (retiring at age 70), and remaining as pastor emeritus since — a total run of just over 70 years. He'd turned 103 years old in June. He'd graduated Concordia Seminary of St. Louis in 1939, initially serving as dean of students at what is now Concordia University of Austin, Texas, then serving as associate pastor of First Lutheran Church of Holyoke, Mass. for several years, then arriving at ETLC.

Visitation and funeral arrangements are pending. Romans 8:1 (one of his favorite verses), "There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit." Also, the end of the same chapter, Romans 8:38-39, "For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor

Continued on Page 18

"The Hero"

March 2, 1981

Eagle Forum Presents

By Ellen Campbell



Cpl. John Alan Coey

EAGLE FORUM is Phyllis Schlafly's national pro-family, anti-ERA organization. Those interested may write Miss Campbell directly at P.O. Box 4753; Jackson, MS 39216.

There is one thing above many other things that my generation has never really known. Even though we are supposed to be brighter and smarter and live in a world that is technically more advanced and less 'barbaric' than the one our ancestors (recent and not-so-recent) came from, there is something missing from the pages of history that we are writing now. That 'something' is the hero.

Recorded history, as has been the case in the last few years, will probably not reveal the heroic deeds of the little-known patriots of our present age. Instead, one can almost rest assured that history writers will boast of the Jerry Rubins, Joan Biazs, Jerry Browns and Jane Fondas as the heroes and heroins of the hour. Intelligent future readers of history, however, (listen, little sister!) will realize that branding such persons as 'heroes' is a misnomer in itself — that they were instead revolters, revolutionaries, anarchists in a world (and



world to be) they never made. Readers of history, in assessing who the true heroes of this generation really were, will have to look beneath the rubble and ashes to find true heroes in the true sense of the word. They will have to rely on legend and folklore and the personal experiences of those who tell the tales of our unsung heroes. Someone once said (in defining the true meaning of the word) that "The hero is good. Cast him not away." The following is an attempt to give an account of such a hero, unknown and unsung by his generation — my generation. It is not so much a record of what he did as of what he was, for character is what makes great heroes. The writer would not have known of, or have been moved by, the life and death of this hero had not his brother been a friend, for this is not the sort of thing you read in the newspapers nowadays.

John Alan Coey died at the hands of communist terrorists in the dangerous bush country of northern Rhodesia. But, John was an American. This was not Vietnam — he didn't have to be there. He chose to fight in Rhodesia, because he believed that Western civilization all faced the same enemy. Listen to John's own words:

"The enemy that threatens the West most is not the terrorist, the street or campus revolutionary, the Viet Cong, or even the Soviets with their alleged nuclear arsenal, but the international conspiracy that has made and sustained communism. This is an enemy that usurps power, corrupts and controls governments, monetary and education systems and the news media. Because of that diabolic influence, Southern Africa may yet succumb to black majority rule."

John Coey was a victim of his generation's inability to deal with corruption in high places. One might say — in viewing the moral decline of the last several years — that John was born out of his time, for he was a believer in 'our ancient Christian code of chivalry'. This is evident as John continues to write:

"Now it seems one cannot be a soldier these days without being used to further the goals of the internationalists, the liberals, the Zionists, or the U.S. Council on Foreign Relations. I can't help but wonder: Why do military service if Western governments betray the



June, 1975 — Mt. Darwin area in Rhodesia where John was killed a month later.

Christian News Encyclopedia Africa 48

civilization you fight for, and if you aren't allowed to get at the real enemy?

"One must be a warrior and crusader for one's God and country. It is a Christian's duty to oppose the enemies of his civilization. It has been said that freedom is God-given and is given only to those willing to fight for it, even if that means opposing the corrupt oligarchies that control many Western nations."

"The world must not be thrust back into a new dark age of terror and slavery. If we are worthy of our ancestors who gave us liberty, and if we are to pass it on to another generation. We must, as Burns wrote, 'Lay the proud usurper low...'"

John Alan Coey was only 24 years old when he was killed on July 19, 1975, in northern Rhodesia. His was the supreme sacrifice for Freedom — his life. John, no doubt, felt frustrations that many of us in this mortal battle sometimes feel. But, his frustration was compensated by a willingness to do something about the situation. He personified his beliefs. John could have been like most of his peers in the United States with high-paying jobs, abundant education, and no responsibility. But John chose sacrifice instead. He knew that some had to give of themselves so that others would be awakened to the battle:

"I find that when one tries to motivate and activate complacent people to wake up from their own little worlds and to start fighting for their country, civilization and way of life, they will not listen to you unless you yourself have committed yourself fully to the effort, and they can see your example."

John Coey, the hero, was good. Let's not cast him away, rather lift up his example of sacrifice for this lost generation to see. His example is one we must follow if life as we know it is to survive. Thanks be to God for the good hero!

Ed. The Coey family has permitted us to read the diary of John Coey. He had been a member of the St. Paul Lutheran Church, Columbus, Ohio. We hope the family will find a publisher for the diary. Unfortunately CN does not have the means to publish this and other fine manuscripts sent to us.



Cpl. John Alan Coey in center training "troopie" for snake bite.

30-SPOTLIGHT January 15, 1990

Christians Called to Action

EXCLUSIVE TO THE SPOTLIGHT BY PAT BROOKS

Pat Brooks is a Christian author and lecturer.

Who among us has not been rebuffed by Christian people whom we try to alert to the Red danger and imminent loss of all our freedom? Their rejection of our warning is usually explained by this astounding comment: "Oh, I cannot worry about that, because we won't be here."

That comment is a dead giveaway. It tells us that the person who makes it has been brainwashed under a theological system known as "dispensationalism."

In my book *A Call to War* I defined it this way: "Dispensationalism is a system of theology which has man judged by God in different ways in different ages (i.e., dispensations). It stands in marked contrast to covenant theology, which regards both Old Testament and New Testament saints the same way: saved by the blood atonement of Christ."

Two beliefs of dispensationalists are litmus tests:

1) That believers will be removed from the Earth in a "pretribulation rapture";

2) That the Jews are God's chosen people Israel, and that the Zionist state of Israel is the fulfillment of Biblical prophecy.

Thus, dispensationalists think they "will not be here" during the period they expect soon, the great tribulation ruled over by a worldwide anti-Christ (or beast of the book of Revelation). Prominent dispensationalists are Hal Lindsey, Jerry Falwell and Jack Van Impe. Surprisingly, even Pentecostal and charismatic leaders embrace their eschatology, especially Point No. 2 above. This is a glaring inconsistency, because dispensationalists believe the gifts of the spirit ended when the apostolic age did, whereas Pentecostals and charismatics believe they are for today.

Emphatically dispensationalism is not the faith once delivered to the

saints but a clever counterfeit. The fountainhead of dispensational teaching in America is Dallas Theological Seminary in Texas. Its most famous graduate and purveyor of the deception is Hal Lindsey, author of the 30 million-copy best-seller *The Late Great Planet Earth*.

This book, produced in 31 foreign-language editions, predicted that the Lord Jesus Christ must return within a 40-year interval of May 14, 1948, when Zionist Israel became a nation.

Another dispensational date-setter, Edgar Whisenaut, sold 4.5 million copies of his books, *88 Reasons* and *On Borrowed Time*. He predicted Christ would return during the Jewish New Year in September of 1988; then, failing that, by September, 1989.

NO APOLOGY

Clearly these men and a multitude like them are in error, but there is no repentance, no apology for their lies. Indeed, they strut with the insufferable arrogance we have come to recognize as the trademark of dispensationalists. Whisenaut even admitted in a wire service interview in September of 1989 that he was being treated for paranoid schizophrenia, but felt that neither his illness nor his medication interfered with his right to speak out.

Almighty God is working to bring man into agreement with Him, not false prophets who dare to speak lies in His name. Our conviction at New Puritan Library (NPL) is that His judgments on America, the whole world and the church in the final decade of this century will fully change the minds of that remnant which survive it.

For that reason, we are making our No. 1 priority the publishing of books that blow dispensationalism

out of the water. *Rapture?* by Dave MacPherson, and *The Budding Fig Tree* by the late Roy Newman and myself are now waking up many. By March *Freedom or Slavery?* will be released by NPL. It has some powerful material by Dale Crowley Jr., Des Griffin, myself and the late Haviv Schieber.

But perhaps the most magnificent apologetic against dispensationalism now in print is the late John Coey's journal *A Martyr Speaks*.

Coey often ran into the escapist, cop-out attitudes of dispensationalists during his many contacts with missionaries of their number in Rhodesia (now communist Zimbabwe). He knew his Bible and had no dispensational myths to unlearn. Perhaps our top priority at NPL is in reaching young people of our time with truth that will enable them to think as Coey thought. Then, perhaps, those who must make the ultimate sacrifice, as he did, will be ready to glorify God and defend freedom in its baptism of fire ahead.

TRUE ROLE MODEL

Dr. Arnold Burrton, host of Denver's most popular talk show and professor of education at the University of Northern Colorado, told me: "John Coey's journal moved me more than any other book in years. I want both my son and son-in-law to read it."

I felt the same way when I worked on editing it from the original 500 pages down to its present 246 pages. There is an unmistakable anointing of God's presence on the book, as well as a refreshing courage and dedication to Christian freedom. Truly the late John Coey is a magnificent role model for an age that has few. Here are some snatches from his extraordinary book:

**A Martyr Speaks*, by John Coey, \$7 from Liberty Library, 300 Independence Ave., SE Washington, D.C. 20003. *A Martyr Speaks, Rapture and The Budding Fig Tree*, \$12 for all three.



JOHN COEY
... Christian fighter.

"America and all the Western nations are in a civilization crisis manifested by the confrontation between Christianity and communism. . . [E]ach must choose either to fight for the liberty of this republic or serve the corrupt oligarchy that intends to destroy it. . . ."

"I believe it is a Christian's duty to oppose the enemies of his civilization, just as much as it is to save souls. I have heard it said that freedom is God-given, and given only to those willing to fight for it, even if it means opposing the state."

When one ponders what an incredible force for evil the late Elvis Presley was, luring a whole generation into rock music, drugs and illicit sex, think what good could come from the widespread reading of John Coey's journal.

ETLC — Pastor T. Martin

Continued from Page 17

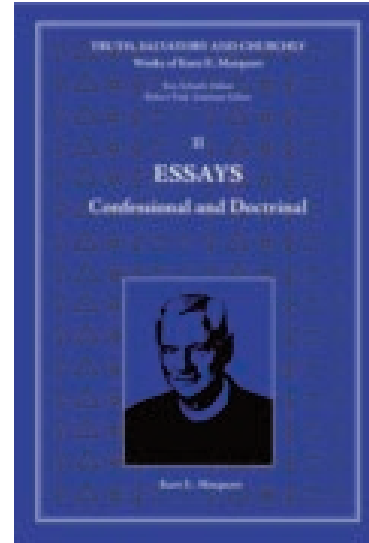
things to come, nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.” And, the words of our Lord Jesus Christ Himself, John 11:25-26, “I am the Resurrection, and the Life: he that believeth in Me, though he were dead, yet shall he live; and whosoever liveth and believeth in Me shall never die.”
Peace of the Lord,
Pr PG

Rev. Paul E. Gramit, Pastor

Ev. Trinity Lutheran Church (LCMS-UAC), Clinton, Mass.

We (Confessional Lutherans), on our part, stand for the supreme and sole authority of Holy Scripture. . . . And we do not ask men to bear with us for taking this position; we insist that it is the only position one may take. — Rev. Dr. Francis Pieper, *Sainted LCMS President*, 1924 (Quoted in “Christian Dogmatics,” v. 1, p. 4)

Ed. The October 26, 2015 *CN* published “Remain Steadfast – New England Church Sets Noble Pattern for LCMS Congregations.” It concluded, “Pastor Martin has been at Evangelical Trinity Lutheran Church, as either active pastor or retired pastor, for 67 of its 100 years.” Pastor Martin was long the editor of the *NELC. CN* often reprinted his articles. He, like John Baur, another New Englander, were LCMS Easterners but of “old Missouri.” Both were still writing perceptive articles even as they approached 100. Above all both knew they were sinners and Jesus Christ was their only Savior.



New Luther Academy- Published Book of Essays from Kurt Marquart

From: David Becker

Apparently Logia/Luther Academy just released a new book of essays by the late Kurt Marquart. Larry Rast wrote the foreword to the new book. I probably won't purchase this one. (I did purchase the Scaer book, which has a massive amount of information. I'm assuming you'll find a way to get a copy of that one yourself.) There seems to be the "organized conservative" Kurt Marquart, and then there is the "*Christian News*" Kurt Marquart. Would Marquart (or Robert Preus) have supported "Harrison Rock" or bringing in universalistic ELCA Professor Joshua Miller as an outside speaker at the seminary? In Scaer's book, he says that contrary to some belief, he had some noticeable differences with Marquart.—David Becker

(From Logia/Luther Academy)

ESSAYS: CONFES-
SIONAL AND DOCTRINAL,
VOLUME II (PDF)
20.00

As a seminary professor for over 30 years, Kurt Marquart taught Systematic Theology. He stood out as a



Religion Without Doctrine Is Superstition

by John Kuhn Bleimaier

specialist in Christian doc-

An acquaintance of mine, associated with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, recently told me that his church was very important to him but that he rejected the notion of rigid ecclesiastical doctrine. In our contemporary society there are probably a fair number of churchgoers who share this attitude. Perhaps they are folks who have become accustomed to the lifelong routine of Sunday services, or they are attracted to a simplistic, comforting message of a happy hereafter. But they do not wish to be constrained by a Christian code of conduct in their personal lives.

Some 21st Century Christian denominations appear to affirmatively cater to this segment of the population. The church service includes prayer, hymns and perhaps communion. There is a sermon which emphasizes a happy ending for life's journey. Superficially, this fits the traditional stereotype of Christian worship. However, the missing component is doctrine. Nothing in this iteration of religion is either instructive or aspirational. The congregation is not reminded of God's law and His affirmative instructions pertaining to human behavior beyond a general recommendation to "be nice." This type of church service does not admonish the communicant to abstain from fornication, adultery or sodomy. Far from it, this religion teaches that God created us with the lusts which we experience, so He must want us to gratify them.

It is my considered opinion that this brand of religion is nothing more than superstition. The "believer" is encouraged to observe a certain ritual on Sundays which will

magically result in contentment and a peaceful afterlife. This is neither more nor less than an irrational, abject attitude of mind toward the supernatural. That is the definition of superstition. It is just like carrying a rabbit's foot or hanging a horseshoe over the front door. The clergy who have fashioned this perverted form of Christianity are either themselves superstitious or just plain cynical. Indeed the cynical man or woman of the cloth associated with this sort of church may well satisfy themselves that they are providing harmless entertainment, diversion or a form of psychotherapy.

Doctrinless Clergy

But for those of us who look to the Scriptures as our sole source of spiritual guidance, we must recognize that the churchmen without doctrine are precisely the ravenous wolves about whom we were forewarned. *Matthew 7:15; Acts 20:29*. Their seeming feel-good, no burden message is in fact false doctrine. Nominal Christianity, divorced from Christian doctrine, leads astray simple minded members of the flock. Recognizing the bipolar nature of our world, these doctrineless clergy are in fact the servants of the opposition, working against our triune God.

We recognize that we are saved, not by works, but by faith through grace. But that does not mean that our deportment is irrelevant. Our Savior has redeemed us from inequity and purified us, rendering Christians a unique people, zealous of good works. *Titus 2:14* Indeed, it is by the fruits of our labors that we shall be known as Christians. Lip service alone is unavailing. *Matthew 7:20-21*.

While God's grace is sufficient to save the repentant thief on the cross, those of us who believe and accept our Savior in the mid course of our temporal lives are obliged to strive to live in accordance with God's directives. The body of these directives is what we call Christian doctrine. It is the function of the church to teach that doctrine and to support the believers in their efforts to live the Christian life.

The Nicene Creed

Some of the churches which do not teach doctrine, nevertheless, recite the Nicene Creed during service. A skeptical person could be tempted to wonder if folks who reject God's admonitions in the Scriptures might yet believe in the virgin birth, the Resurrection and the Trinity. Be that as it may. Even if parishioners accept the declarations of the Creed, if they reject God's moral directives they are on shaky ground, on shifting sand. Faith without concomitant action is dead. *James 2:26*. Enunciation of the Nicene Creed and participation in a liturgical service is no more than repetition of a mantra if it is unsupported by the whole of Christ's doctrine, as set forth in the Scriptures. We have been admonished against vain repetitions. *Matthew 6:7*. Repetition in prayer and liturgy is precisely vain when it is not grounded on a faith which compels action. The requisite action is not only omission but positive commission. We are called upon to love our neighbors, to address the needs of others. We are also called to omit wickedness, to abstain from iniquity. The Scriptures unequivocally define wickedness and iniquity. That is the doctrine which the church is called upon to preach without fail. "Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers,

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nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind, nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God." *1 Corinthians 6:9-10*. God's directive as found in the Scriptures is our Christian doctrine. Religion without doctrine is superstition, a vain repetition of

THOUGHTS ABOUT EVOLUTION and The Foolishness of Man



By Gary Ray Branscome
"Hasn't God made the wisdom of
this world foolish?"
(1 Corinthians 1:20)

One of the biggest lies spread through our society is the totally false, but often repeated, claim that all scientists believe in evolution. Actually there are thousands of scientists worldwide who reject evolution. In order to be a member of the Creation Research Society, a scientist must believe that God created the world in six days just as the Bible says. And, to be a voting member of that organization, a scientist must have at least a master's degree in one of the Creation-related sciences. At present, over six-hundred of their members have a doctorate. And, that is just one organization. To contact them go to <https://creationresearch.org/>

Although you rarely hear it mentioned, modern science originated with Christians and is an outgrowth of the Christian worldview. In fact, the very thing that sets modern science apart from ancient attempts to acquire knowledge is the scientific method [i.e. observation and experimentation] which was first proposed by Francis Bacon (1561-1626). A man, who, like all of the great scientists of that era, was a Bible-believing Christian. However, that fact raises an important question. If modern science originated with Christians who believed that God created the heavens and the earth and who saw intelligent design in everything that was created, why does modern science deny all evidence of God's design? The only answer to that question that I have been able to come up with is found in Romans 1:22, "Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools".

EVOLUTIONISTS REFUSE TO USE THEIR REASON

The advocates of evolution like to belittle Christians, and often accuse us of refusing to use our reason. They want the world to believe that their point of view is the only reasonable one. However, nothing could be further from the truth. For example: As-

words. Clergy who would propagate a message devoid of the strictures of doctrine are no better than sorcerers.

It is my opinion that the churches of superstition which do not hold aloft the torch of moral truth, have not really been pandering to an existing segment of nominal Christians. These churches have actually created their own audience, albeit a dwindling one. While many innocent parishioners were doing in the pews, some church

leaders and seminary faculty were growing entangled in the wisdom of their own conceits. Spiritual blindness was the inevitable result.

Rudderless Churches

The rudderless churches without doctrine are bound to founder of their own accord. The "feel good" Sunday message is destined to appeal to an ever shrinking audience. The number of people who were accustomed to a church going routine are a declining demographic group. The ulti-

mate "feel good" is to sleep-in and engage in secular distractions on a Sunday. Furthermore, parishioners ultimately do see the emptiness of the doctrineless service. Additionally, there are more compelling superstitions advanced by the prince of this world. The television convincingly presents pagan fantasy and glitzy science fiction. Our secular educational institutions have promulgated a superstition of

mental evidence has consistently shown that this is not the case. For example: At one time it was widely believed that maggots would spontaneously generate in meat. In order to test that "hypothesis," Francesco Redi (in 1660) devised an experiment, consisting of two jars that both contained meat. One jar was open the other jar had a piece of cheesecloth stretched across the top. Maggots not only did not appear in the meat covered by cheesecloth, but flies were actually observed laying maggots on the cheesecloth. Two centuries later, there were still scientists who believed that bacteria would spontaneously generate in broth. In order to test that hypothesis, Louis Pasteur (in 1859) devised an experiment that utilized several long-necked flasks containing beef broth. After the broth was boiled, the necks on some of the flasks were heated and bent in an s-curve. As predicted, bacteria only infested the broth that was in flasks with straight necks. When the flasks had curved necks, the bacteria stuck to the side of the neck, and could not get to the broth. Those experiments, coupled with the invention of a dust-free box at the end of the nineteenth-century, convinced the scientific community that life does not come from non-life. Moreover, since the idea that life comes from non-life contradicts science, it is in the same class with belief that the world is flat.

Today, the idea that life comes only from pre-existing life is so well established that it is known to science as the law of biogenesis. What the Denver museum was promoting was not science but atheist religion. And, that religion is being financed and promoted by our government.

RECOGNIZING DOUBLE TALK

In his book, "The Descent of Man" Darwin said that people evolved from "old world monkeys". That led those who disagreed with him to ask. If monkeys evolved into people why do we still have monkeys? The evolutionists knew that was a good argument, so they stopped saying that people evolved from monkeys, and started saying instead that people and monkeys have a common ancestor. Of course there is absolutely no scientific evidence to support such claims, they just assert that it is true and hope that you will not notice.

Recipe for Life
carbon, hydrogen
sulphur, oxygen
nitrogen, phosphorus
Mix together in a warm moist environment.
Dry out occasionally.
Add time and energy.
Allow to combine in orderly, patterned ways.

In case you do not realize it, that statement is totally unscientific. Before the scientific method was in use, many people believed that it was possible for nonliving matter to come to life. However, experi-

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THOUGHTS ABOUT EVOLUTION

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When I visited the Denver Museum of Nature and Science they had one display case with large letters saying, “PEOPLE DID NOT EVOLVE FROM MONKEYS!” followed by the words, “Instead, modern monkeys, apes, and humans share a long-ago common ancestor”. [Again, they just make that assertion without any evidence to support it.] However, when I looked at details of the display, they also had a picture of an extinct tail-less monkey (which they called “Proconsul”) along with this caption, “One of the common ancestors shared by modern apes and humans was Proconsul, a tree dweller that lived in tropical forests”. But, the picture of “Proconsul” is clearly the picture of a monkey. One caption in the display says people did not evolve from monkeys, but the picture they give is the picture of a monkey. Is it any wonder that God says, “the wisdom of this world is foolishness” (1Corinthians 3:19).

LEARN TO RECOGNIZE DECEPTION

The visitors’ center, in Badlands National Park in South Dakota, contains a small museum. One of the display cases in that museum contains some fossil remains found in that park. One fossil is a tortoise shell, and the caption says that it is similar to tortoises living in the South West today. Another is an alligator skull, and the caption says that it is similar to the alligators living in the southeastern United States. Now, the fact that the tortoises and alligators have not changed since the fossils were formed is clear scientific evidence that animals are not evolving. However, that display case also contained the fossil remains of an extinct animal, known to science as Hesperocyon. Because that an-

imal is extinct they make up a story about it being the ancestor of all modern dogs. Here is what they say, “This beast was the first true dog and ancestor of all canids (the dog family, including wolves, foxes, and dogs). About the size of a fox, this hunter probably ate rodents and other small prey.”

What you need to realize is that everything they say about that animal is pure conjecture. Hesperocyon was actually more like a civet-cat or raccoon than a dog. They do not know what animals, if any, are descended from it. They do not even know what it ate! The claim that it was a hunter is pure speculation, which they admit by adding the word, “probably”. Now the point that I want to make is this. They do not make up any stories about what animals the tortoise or alligator evolved into because we could expose such claims by simply holding up a live one and saying, “come out of your dream world, they haven’t evolved into anything. They are still here”. However, when they find an extinct animal they just make up any story they want to, confident that there are no live ones that we can use to prove them wrong.

THE IMPORTANCE OF REJECTING COMPROMISE

The history of the Christian church is a history of the struggle between truth and error, between those who believe the Bible and those contradict it and explain away whatever does not agree with their own ideas. The Apostle Paul dealt with a number of those errors in his Epistles, and we have to deal with a number of them today, including those who are trying to undermine what the Bible says about Creation and the Fall. The following statement by Dr. Don Batten, explains the importance of rejecting all compromise.

“Church leaders who compromise the Word of

God can be far more effective at destroying faith than an atheist professor railing against God. This is because one can easily recognize the wiles of the enemy when it comes from self-professed opposition. It is not as obvious when the deception comes from within. Veterinarian Dr. Jean Lightner shared how destructive this was to her:

When I was having doubts, one of the most damaging things for my faith was when I read a respected Christian teacher who basically said that the Bible does not really mean what it says, particularly the creation account. That was probably more detrimental to me than the evolutionary teachers insisting that they were right. It was devastating to hear a Christian leader basically say, ‘God doesn’t mean that; you don’t have to believe that’.

We need to be careful that we do not allow ‘nice’ people to influence us not to believe God’s Word. Anyone who does that is doing Satan’s work, no matter how nice they might appear to be. 1 Peter 5:8 warns: Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. Yes, Satan can be like a roaring lion, but he can also be like a subtle serpent with his ‘angels of light’. One day Satan will no longer be able to destroy, but for now we also need to be alert to the subtle ways that he tries to undermine the Gospel.” (from the newsletter of Creation Ministries International.)

CONCLUSION

The so-called “theory” of evolution is atheist religion, not science! The proponents of that “theory” have the same evidence that we do. However, they choose to interpret that evidence in accordance with their worldview, even when their interpretation contradicts known facts of science.

and Director of Field Education Concordia Theological Seminary

CN is reprinting from the September 21, 2009 *CN* the comments *CN* made about Albrecht Peters’ Ten Commandments.

Creed has a long list of books in its bibliography. Orthodox theologians like Francis Pieper, Hermann Sasse, C.F.W. Walther are never mentioned.

The neo-orthodoxy of Karl Barth is promoted. Instead of promoting the work of such German liberals as Albrecht Peters and Dietrich Bonhoeffer, CPH should be publishing the writings of Kurt Marquart, Henry Koch, Walter Maier, and Peter Krey. *CN* published Krey’s Devotion on the Apostle’s Creed. It should be listed in CPH’s catalog. Peter Krey’s helpful se-

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Nonsense from CPH Commentary on Luther’s Catechism - Creed & Lord’s Prayer

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ries on The Lord’s Prayer is a

TEN COMMANDMENTS

Christian News, September 21, 2009

Ten Commandments. Commentary on Luther’s Catechism. By Albrecht Peters. Concordia Publishing House, 3448 S. Jefferson Ave., St. Louis, Mo 63118- 3968. 333 pages. 2009.

“New CPH Commentary on Luther’s Catechism a Waste of Time and Money” in the August 31 *Christian News* said that “when space permits *CN* will publish a review of CPH’s latest promotion of unhelpful nonsense for both laymen and pastors. (“Challenging LCMS’s Sacred Cow - CPH”) in the August 31 *CN* documented some of the liberal anti-scriptural nonsense CPH has published in the past. This is a commentary on Luther’s Catechism by Albrecht Peters, who rejects the inerrancy of the Bible and viewed Christianity as the end result of some evolutionary process rather than being founded on the directly revealed inerrant Word of God known to prophets such as Moses.”

Whoever is responsible for the decision to publish this series of new CPH commentaries on Luther’s Catechism should be dismissed from CPH and sent back to the pastoral ministry to get some much needed experience. CPH would do him a great favor by getting him away from behind his computer and out into the real world.

The back cover of *Ten Commandments*, the first in CPH’s new series of commentaries on Luther’s Catechism, says:

The German edition of *Commentary on Luther’s Catechisms* by Albrecht Peters has long been the gold standard of research on the catechetical texts of the great reformer. This translation makes the wealth of research available in English for both the researcher and the catechist. Separate volumes address the Decalogue, the Creed, the Lord’s Prayer, the Sacraments, and Confession with the Table of Duties, Prayers, and the Marriage and Baptismal Booklets.

This definitive and comprehensive study of Luther’s catechetical writings places Luther’s catechism in the full context of his broader theology and writings, as well as within the history of Christian catechesis and theology. It is an essential handbook for students of Luther and the Reformation and a valuable resource for those entrusted today with the ministry of catechesis according to these most durable products of Luther’s pastoral heart and pen.

Christopher Boyd Brown

far more important book for CPH to publish than a book on the Lord’s Prayer by a higher critic of the Bible.

The publisher’s preface speaks of “a Lutheran middle way” when it comes to historical criticism. Pure nonsense. “The Historical Critical Method and Lutheran Pre-

suppositions” by Kurt Marquart was published in the January 13, 1975 *CN* and is available in *CN*’s archives at www.christiannewsmo.com. It is also in The *Christian News Encyclopedia*, pp. 232-236.

While Albrecht Peters has a high regard for Karl Barth,

Olav Valen Sendstad in his CPH published *The Word Shall Stand*, shows that Barth rejected the doctrine of the Trinity.

Reprinted here from the September 21, 2009 *CN* is *CN*’s report on Albrecht Peters’ CPH published *Ten Commandments*. Last week

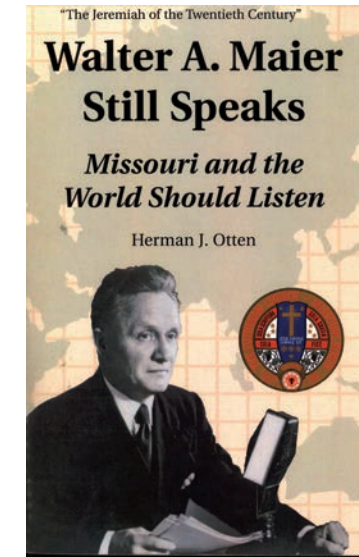
Assistant Professor of Church History Boston University

This English translation will contribute to the ongoing discussion concerning the content, purpose, and use of catechisms and instruction in the Christian faith, both in the Reformation era and today.

Mary Jane Haemig Associate Professor of Church History

Luther Seminary, St. Paul, Minnesota

One of the most insightful interpreters of Luther and the theological tradition of the Lutheran Church in the latter half of the twentieth century, Peters places Luther’s texts before readers in the context of the reformer’s



‘...what Maier said about the J-E-D-P source hypothesis promoted by Peters...’

“It is a theory which is built upon a vicious and impossible principle, the evolution of religion, according to which the religion of the Israelites has been a gradual and natural growth from the lower to the higher, and which leaves no room or reason for the supernatural, the divine, the revealed. Such premises are repudiated by every conception of Bibliology and of God which Scriptures contain.”

own time and of the catechetical tradition that he inherited, put to use, and transformed. Accessible to a broad audience, this volume will significantly enrich the teaching of all who use it to deepen their understanding of two of the most precious gems from Luther’s pen: the Small and Large catechism.

Robert Kolb

Missions Professor of Systematic Theology and Director of the Institute for Mission Studies Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, Missouri

The bibliography is loaded with the writings of such Christ denying scholars as Rudolph Bultmann, Karl Barth, and Gerhard von Rad.

Here is what CPH’s new commentary says about the “Ten Commandments:” “The ‘ten words’ (Exod. 34:28; Deut. 4:13; 10:4) are inserted in Exodus 20 and Deuteronomy 5 in two slightly different versions into, respectively the inauguration and the renewal of the covenant between Yahweh and Israel through Moses. Alongside these well-known series of commandments we find other lists that

are also formulated in the style of apodictic participles. Outstanding examples of these are, on the one hand, the ‘cultic Decalogue; in Exod. 34:10-28, which was probably handed down by the Yahwist, and, on the other hand, the series of twelve curses in Deut. 26:15-26, the so-called ‘Schechemite dodecalogue’ of the divine curses that the Levite priests ‘in the great amphitheatre between Mound Ebal and Mount Gerizim at the Pass of Shechem were called to lay upon the tribes returning home from the sanctuary.

“These four series are closely connected to the establishment of the covenant that according to Joshua 4 and Deuteronomy 7 might have been renewed and represented as the Festival of Booths/Festival of Covenant of the Yahweh-Amphictyony at Shechem. By pointing to Joshua 24, Gerhard von Rad, in his study on the form-historical problem of the Hexateuch, has outlined the consummation of the covenant and its cultic representation as follows. . .” (56).

“Nonetheless, the Decalogue seems to have been added only later to the theophany of God. This makes any assessment of its origin and age difficult” (58).

A publisher’s preface does say:

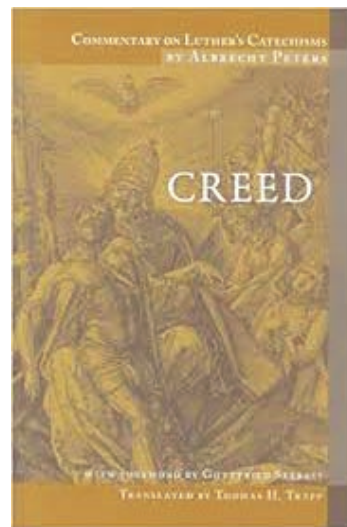
“The reader will notice that historical-critical exegetical methods are used throughout the series, but the use remains less extreme than that of some formerly within the LCMS. Peters does look for a Lutheran middle way when he speaks of a Lutheran orthodox ‘confessionalist hardening’ on the right and a humanist tradition on the left, with Luther in the center. He does not embrace the same view of confessional theology long held by the LCMS. Peters does not support the Mosaic authorship of Scripture” (10).

“This work by Albrecht Peters sheds needed light on Luther’s catechisms. At the same time it brings a different set of presuppositions to the table. It allows individuals within the LCMS to examine how people outside the LCMS may view, study, and use Luther’s catechisms. It will doubtlessly create points of friction with readers who reject higher-critical approaches. Nevertheless it remains a translation that seeks to uphold the responsibility to be faithful to the author’s texts and viewpoints yet also provide material usable by a faithful Church. We pray that it succeeds to that end” (11).

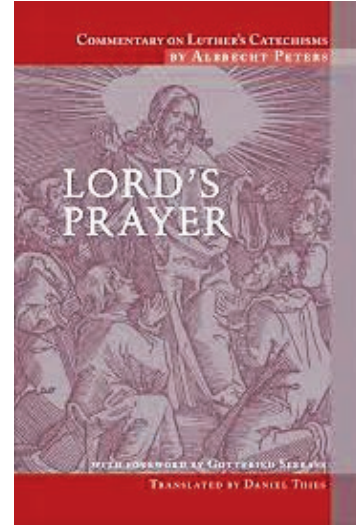
Paul McCain at CPH refused to publish Walter Maier Still Speaks - Missouri and the World Should Listen.” This book has a chapter on “The Old Testament. The Documentary Hypothesis, Genesis Creation, Evolution, Nahum Commem-

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Liberal Promoted in Latest CPH Catalog (Christmas 2018)



Commentary on Luther’s Catechism - Creed, by Albrecht Peters. Foreword by Gottfried Seebass. Translated by Thomas H. Trapp. Charles P. Schaum, General Editor, English Edition. Concordia Publishing House. 2011. 344 pages.



Commentary on Luther’s Catechism -Lord’s Prayer, By Albrecht Peters. Foreword by Gottfried Seebass. Translated by Daniel Thies. Charles P. Schaum, General Editor, English Edition. Concordia Publishing House. 2011. 236 pages.

Nonsense from CPH Commentary on Luther’s Catechism - Creed & Lord’s Prayer

When *CN* reviewed CPH’s publication of Albrecht Peter’s Ten Commandments (*CN* 8- 3-2009; *CN* 9-21-2009). *CN* said: “New CPH Commentary on Luther’s Catechism a Waste of Time and Money.” The same can now be said for the next volume in the series, “Creed, and Lord’s Prayer.”

CPH’s Publisher’s Preface to the English Edition remains the same in all three commentaries. The statement on the back cover is the same. Most of the testimonials are the same for all three volumes. The commentary on the Creed has a testimonial from John Pless.

Pless says:

“Albrecht Peters’ work is indispensable for any scholarly treatment of Luther’s Cate-

chism . . . Peters sets the Catechism in the catholic context of the history of dogma, demonstrating the Reformer’s brilliance in the evangelical confession of the threefold work of the Triune God . . . Peters unfolds the biblical and doctrinal themes vividly distilled in Luther’s simple catechetical prose. The careful study of this volume will yield bountiful fruit in deepened teaching and preaching in the congregation. I know of no other book that comes close to this volume in English. It should be read and regularly consulted by pastors and catechists.”

John T. Pless

Assistant Professor of Pastoral Ministry and Missions

TEN COMMANDMENTS

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tary.” It includes from Maier’s “Notes on Genesis” what Maier said about the J-E-D-P source hypothesis promoted by Peters. The former Lutheran Hour speaker, who earned his Ph.D. in Semitics at Harvard University, wrote about the theory promoted by Albrecht Peters: “It is a theory which is built upon a vicious and impossible principle, the evolution of religion, according to which the religion of the Israelites has been a gradual and natural growth from the lower to the higher, and which leaves no room or reason for the supernatural, the divine, the revealed. Such premises are repudiated by every conception of Bibliology and of God which Scriptures contain” (61). *CN* first published these “Notes on Genesis” by Maier in 1963 when the J-E-D-P source hypothesis was being taught as fact

at Concordia Seminary, St. Louis and when the faculty refused to certify the *CN* editor for the ministry because he insisted that professors who accepted the source hypothesis and other critical views of the Bible were guilty of false doctrine.

The translators of the Revised Standard Version of the National Council of Churches accepted the J-E-D-P source hypothesis with its “evolution of religion.” The ESV, now being promoted by CPH is 91% the work of the liberal Christ denying scholars of the RSV. Yet CPH and the LCMS’s Worship Commission says that the RSV and ESV are both reliable translations by Christian scholars.

Dr. Kurt Marquart in his “In the Name of God. . . What ‘False Doctrine?’” showed that the kind of historical critical views of the Bible promoted Albrecht Peters in the new CPH commentary on Luther’s Catechism are incompatible with Lutheranism and historical Christianity. This Marquart essay was first published in the April 5, 1976 *Christian News* and then again in a special issue of

Christian News (August 16, 1976) sent to all Lutheran congregations in the U.S. This issue was a call for realignment of all of Lutheranism. CPH would be doing all of Lutheranism and Christendom a far greater service by publishing all of the Marquart writings which have been published in *Christian News* and the *Christian News Encyclopedia* in a series of volumes rather than wasting money and time now publishing this new commentary on Luther’s Catechism, since it is highly praised by some over-paid bureaucrats at CPH.

The special *CN* “Call for Realignment” sent to all Lutheran congregations in the U.S. included a story titled “Luther’s Small Catechism Now Available With the Text of An American Translation.” This is the catechism which CPH should be promoting rather than any catechism which uses the RSV or ESV, products of theological liberals.

Ed. The January 23, 2012 *CN* published “A Church Bureaucrat Becomes an Unelected Ruler.” Paul McCain wrote that over 500,000 people in 220 countries visited his Cyberbrethren blog. *CN* said that McCain “is a good example of what can happen to even a conservative churchman once he gets a highly paid position in a church bureaucracy. The salaries of the top leaders of CPH are at least twice that of the average LCMS pastor. Once in the bureaucracy many clergymen have no desire to return to the pastoral ministry even though the LCMS has long said the pastoral ministry is the highest office in the church.” *CN* documented McCain’s duplicity. After using *CN* to get his high position in the LCMS, McCain accused the *CN* editor of being a liar. See “CPH’s Paul McCain says: ‘Otten Makes Up Fairy Tales’”. He wrote that “Otten has been

printing lies for years.” McCain has been able to get the LCMS to use the ESV in almost all of its publications. Unlike *CN*, he has the support of the Schwan Foundation and Harrison administration. Most organized conservatives support McCain while they avoid the *CN* editor like a plague.



Will The Lutheran Witness And Reporter Publish A Questionnaire and Answers

In the past the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod’s *Lutheran Witness* and *Reporter* published a questionnaire and answers which was reprinted in *CN*. This showed what candidates for LCMS president believed.

Here is a brief report of recent issues of the *Lutheran Witness* sent free to all LCMS congregations:

Lutheran Witness – May, 2018

“Surrogacy Goes Pro (and other news worth knowing?” by Dr. Gene Edward Veith pp. 4-5.

“The Gift of Children” by Trevor and Elizabeth Sutton pp 6-7.

“Then Comes Marriage” by Peter Scaer, pp. 16-17. Dr. Peter Scaer, associate professor exegetical theology and director of the M.A. program at Concordia Theological Seminary, Ft. Wayne, wrote:

“But a strange thing has happened in our culture today. We have forgotten what marriage is and what it means for us. We see this clearly in the many common distortions of God’s perfect plan – Gay marriage, serial marriage, pornography,

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Will The Lutheran Witness And Reporter Publish A Questionnaire and Answers

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polyamory, single-parent families and the like. However, even more, we see it in the redefinition of marriage as imply our best and most important relationship, an intense and emotional bond that includes and encompasses sexual pleasure. Even Christians have lost sight of marriage’s intrinsic link to children – and as that link fades to nothingness, we cannot help but notice that the less children play a part in it, the less marriage really matters.

“Perhaps, in a nation where a million children are aborted each year, this should not be surprising. However, the roots of this problem go back further than *Roe v. Wade*. Before abortion became the law of the land, Margaret Sanger and those like her pushed a radical birth control agenda, and they did so under the banner of sexual liberation. In her book *The Pivot of Civilization*, Sanger promised that through sex, mankind may attain the great spiritual illumination which will transform the world, which will light up the path to paradise.” For Sanger, large families were the ultimate taboo. She wrote, “The most serious evil of our times is that of encouraging the bringing into the world of large families.”

“As we look around we see that our world has been taken captive by Sanger’s vision. Increasingly, young couples are putting off having children, with some even choosing not to have children at all. Small families are the norm. Birth control and abortion have taken on an almost sacred aura for those who rely on them. We can see clearly, too, the effects of these shifts in our churches, in grayning populations and smaller Sunday schools.”

Brandt Klawitter, who will soon be receiving a PH.D. in Norway, wrote much the same thing as Scaer now writes. What Klawitter wrote is in section II of *CN*’s *A Handbook of Christian Matrimony* published in 2011. The subtitle of this book is “*The Blight of Birth Control and a Fifty Year Battle for Church Growth – Back to Luther on the Family and Birth Control on the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation*.” Hopefully, Klawitter’s doctrinal dissertation on Luther, the family and children will be published for wide distribution. Others besides *CN* have said that he is both a real scholar and a good writer.

Scaer vs. Harrison

What Peter Scaer now writes and what *CN*’s book on Christian matrimony documents show LCMS President Mather Harrison was rather economical with that truth when he testified in Washington D.C. that the LCMS has never opposed birth control. How can anyone, much less the LCMS president— who has read what the LCMS’s *Lutheran Witness*, *Concordia Theological Monthly*, John H.C. Fritz’s *Pastoral Theology* and Walter Maier’s CPH published *For Better Not For Worse* said decades ago— make such a statement?

“The Gift – Not Given” by Rev. Michael Schuer-

mann, pastor of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Sherman, Illinois. Comforting article for those not blessed with children (pp. 18-19).

Promotion of Craig Parton’s excellent *Religion On Trial – Cross-Examine Truth Claims*.

Lutheran Witness, July, 2018

“An Open Letter to Single Ladies” by Rev Hans Fiene has good advice for single women. He concludes: “So, dear single Christian woman, if you want a husband who will pray and worship with you, a husband who will read Bible stories to your children and help you raise them in the fear of the Lord, it is best to start by marrying a man whom the Holy Spirit has already brought saving faith, a man who is ‘equally yoked’ (2. Co, 6:14) with you to Christ” (p. 28).

Lutheran Witness, August, 2018

Under “Official Notices” on p. 25 is this item:

“2019 SYNOD CONVENTION

The 67th regular convention of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod will be held July 20-25, 2019, at the Tampa Convention Center in Tampa, Fla. For complete information about the election of voting delegates, selection of nonvoting advisory delegates, submission of overtures, nominations for president and first vice-president, nominations for regional vice-presidents and nominations for regional board members, visit [blogs.lcms.org/2018/official-notice-2019-synod-convention.](https://blogs.lcms.org/2018/official-notice-2019-synod-convention/)”

Lutheran Witness, September, 2018

“Doctrine Divides and other news worth knowing”, by Dr. Gene Edward Veith (pp. 4-5).

Who are the real Episcopalians?

“The Episcopal Church in the United States of America (ECUSA) has become so theologically liberal in recent years that a number of its congregations have broken away to form a more conservative Anglican body: The Anglican Church in North America (ACNA).

“The ECUSA now has 6,473 congregations and 1.7 million members, having lost about a third of its members since 1980. Since its formation in 2009, the ACNA has amassed some 1,000 congregations and 130,000 members.

“But the organization of Anglicans from Africa and other developing nations – the Global Anglican Future Conference (GAFCON) – has now recognized ACNA, not the Episcopalians, as the legitimate Anglican body in the United States, despite the fact that the new church body still has no official standing within the worldwide Anglican Communion” (p. 5).

“Reading the Bible in its entirety, out loud and at a leisurely pace, reportedly takes 70 hours and 40 minutes. (The New Testament takes 18 hours, 20 minutes.) Even average readers can thus read through God’s entire revelation in a single year by devoting just 12 minutes per day – surely a worthwhile investment of time” (p. 5).

Martin Luther

“*The Daily Life and Work of Martin Luther- IN GOD’S TIME*” by Gerhard Bode, professor at Concordia Seminary, St. Louis.

“In most years, Luther preached more than 100 times. In 1528 alone, he gave nearly 200 different sermons. Over the course of his career, Luther preached approximately 4000 sermons. Preaching, teaching at the university and writing books, treatises and letters consumed much of his time, even before his marriage to Katharina von Bora.”

“At any given time, the Luther’s had a lot of people living with them, mostly relatives. Along with Martin, Katie and their children, there were up to eight nieces and nephews living in the home, and one grandniece. Katie’s Aunt Lena, a former nun who had escaped the Nimbschen convent in 1523, was also there. There was a lady teacher and tutors for the children, at one time numbering six. These and at least one dog were the permanent members of the household. Then there was a constant stream of students, pastors, former nuns and priests and other guests coming and going. The Black Cloister was a busy place.

A Task to Complete

“Later in life, Luther wanted to withdraw. He was tired of fighting against Reformation opponents. Yet he never did. He knew God had called him and given him a task to complete. Luther believed that because of his call as a doctor—a teacher of the Church – he had an ongoing duty to search the Scriptures and to teach and preach what he found there.

“Luther restored the teaching of God’s Word to the Church of his time, and he did so in a way that helps us see what is important in our lives today. Faith in Christ and in His Gospel were at the heart of both Luther’s message and his daily life in Christ. He found that daily life rich and fulfilling, but never easy. Even as he preached salvation by grace through faith – not by works – he spent his days laboring tirelessly for the sake of the Gospel.

“Luther died in 1546 at the age of 62, his strength utterly spent, yet confident that he rested, in life or death, in God’s good time” (p. 11).

Lutheran Witness, October, 2018

“Luther’s Dark Days – Anfechtung, affliction and clinical depression” by Todd Peperkorn, pastor of Holy Cross Lutheran Church in Rocklin, California, and author of *I Trust When Dark My Road: A Lutheran View of Depression*.

“As a pastor who has battled clinical depression for years, I’ve often faced questions like this from confused and hurting people. While I can’t speak to every situation – and I know that personal suffering never comes with easy answers – I can say that I have come to view clinical depression as a helpful lens through which we can see how Satan tries to use any illness against us and how God can and does use it for our good.”

Beverly Kay Yahnke

“Mental Health and Pastoral Ministry” By Beverly K. Yahnke, executive director for Doxology, The Lutheran Center for Spiritual Care and Counsel.

“The Holy Ministry does not bubble wrap pastors and insulate them from challenges or spiritual trials. In one 2018 survey of Protestant

Continued on Page 24

CHRISTIAN NEWS August 6, 2012 Page 10

CHURCH GROWTH IN THE LCMS

Increasing the size of office buildings to make room for more bureaucrats. Increasing the number of bureaucrats from 154 in 1962 to 753 in 2007 while the LCMS shrinks by more than 300,000 members. Tripled the size of the Lutheran Annual.

The Lutheran Annual 1964

LCMS 1964 Lutheran Annual
416 pages, 12 ounces, and 5 1/4"x8 1/4" pages

Shows that in 1962 the LCMS had 154 Pastors not serving congregations but "serving Synod, District, and others." In 1962 the LCMS had 2,611,659 baptized members, a growth of 41.51% over the previous decade.

The small Lutheran Building, 210 North Broadway St. Louis, Missouri, 1951

Lutheran Annual 2009

2009 Lutheran Annual of LCMS
776 pages, 46.3 ounces, and 8 1/2"x11" pages

Shows that in 2007 the LCMS had 753 pastors not serving congregations but "serving Synod, Districts, and others." In 2007 the LCMS had 2,353,094 members, a loss of 8.45% over the previous decade.

The huge LCMS's International Center Kirkwood Missouri-Suburb of St. Louis, 1983 \$10,000,000 not including land, furnishings and equipment

Solution for the LCMS's Economic Woes

Before selling KFUCO, Concordia Seminary, St. Louis and Concordia Seminary, Fort Wayne as some bureaucrats have suggested, sell the LCMS's International Center. Send the bureaucrats back to serving congregations. Even district presidents and the synodical president should also be serving as pastors or assistant pastors. Total salary of bureaucrats at the International Center should be in accord with the salary guidelines recommended by the district in which the bureaucrat resides.

Will The *Lutheran Witness* And Reporter Publish A Questionnaire and Answers

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clergy, 23 percent of pastors reported dealing with some kind of personal mental illness.”

“Official Notice – Nominating Ballots and Voter Registration”

Official nominating ballots for the offices of President, First Vice-President and regional vice-presidents have been mailed October 1, 2018, to every member congregation of the Synod according to the list of member congregations maintained by the Synod’s Department of Rosters, Statistics and Research. Congregations are reminded that Wednesday, February 20, 2019, will be the absolute deadline for the receipt of those nominating ballots. Only official ballots that are properly signed and received by that date will be honored.

“Each congregation and parish will also receive an LCMS President Election Voter Registration form with which to register a pastoral and a lay voter for each congregation or parish (to be mailed on October 25, 2018). Voter registration forms can only be accepted by the Office of the Secretary until Sunday, March 24, 2019” (p. 26).

“Walther’s Breakdown” by LCMS President Harrison

“Mental illness is common. Depression is common, and very treatable when diagnosed. Great Christians have been afflicted with depression.

“The father of the Missouri Synod, our own C.F.W. Walther, was overwhelmed with work and tragedy when he succumbed in 1859. His close friends and LCMS leaders intervened and convinced him to step away from his mountains of work and responsibility to rest. His beloved congregation sent him on a sabbatical to Germany. It’s comforting to know that even the greatest of Christians suffer from mental illness.

“I pray that this letter by Walther to his congregations, describing his clinical depression and the beginning of a respite for healing, will embolden church workers, congregations and individuals to take action for wellness, to seek treatment and to rest confident in the love of Jesus.”

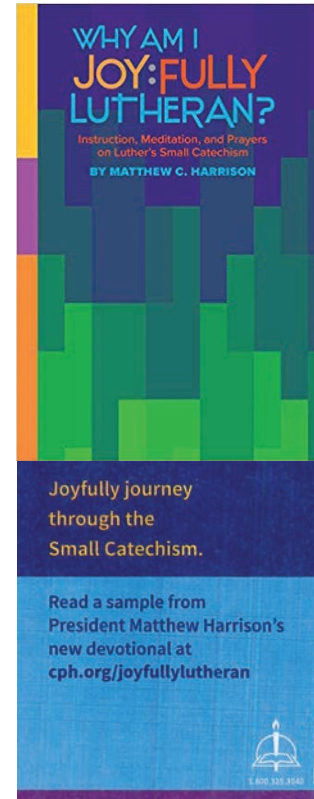
Lutheran Witness, November 2018 So Many Blessings by LCMS President Matthew Harrison

“For three convention cycles in a row now, I’ve visited about 25 of the 35 district conventions. All told, I’ve been to about 75 district conventions. In our reinstatement of district visitations, the Synod’s vice-presidents and I have also visited every district for multiday visits, more than once. It is a deep honor and privilege to carry out this work. This year especially I thought about how very few individuals are afforded the opportunity to see so much of the Missouri Synod or to meet so many of its people. I am overcome with thankfulness!

“I’ve been with you in Florida and Oregon, New England and Southern California, and everywhere

in between. Yes, you are all unique, but together we are remarkably similar. We are all animated by the Gospel of Jesus Christ, and the beautiful confession of its based solely on the Bible and succinctly summarized in Luther’s Small Catechism. I’m thankful for you, and thankfulness always breaks into joy!

“Be assured: God is not done with the Missouri Synod...not by a long shot! I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ’ (Phil. 1:6). I pray for you, too.”



Reproduced here is a notice with Harrison’s column in the November *Lutheran Witness* promoting his latest book “Why I am Joy:Fully Lutheran?”

Gene Edward Veith

“Confessional Lutheranism Council (ILC) is a global organization of confessional Lutheran church bodies, including the LCMS. In September, the ILC admitted 17 new churches (11 as full members ,six as ‘observer members’), bringing with them more than 4.5 million members combined.

“Joining the ILC were three new conservative Lutheran denominations in Scandinavia (in Norway, Sweden and Finland); four in Asia (in Indonesia, Taiwan, Sri Lanka and Myanmar); one in South America (in Uruguay); and nine in Africa (in Benin, Burkina Faso, Liberia, Madagascar, Rwanda, South Africa, Sough Sudan, Togo, Uganda).

“These new member churches more than double the total number of Lutherans in the ILC, which now represents 7.15 million congregants in 54 church bodies” (p. 4).

Millennials

“Millennial Study Shed Light On Retention Challenges and Opportunities – Why They Leave , Why They Stay” (pp. 10,11) reports: “The survey identified around a 1-in-3 retention rate after confirmation.

“Low retention in previous generations has led to fewer Baptisms and confirmations in proportion to overall birth rate” (p. 10).

“24,000+ are expected to attend the Youth Gathering in 2019)” (p. 10).

A Church Drawing Conservative

“Joyfully Witnessing” by Kevin Golden, pastor of Village Lutheran Church in St. Louis (Ladue), which such confessional Lutherans as Al and Carol Schmidt and Joyce Bischoff along with President Harrison have joined, writes:

“Joyfully Witnessing on Campus

“Washington University in St. Louis has been declared to be part of the ‘New Ivy League.’ Our Lutheran Student Fellowship (a chapter of LCMS U) serves students so that, as they are challenged academically, they remain steadfast in the faith. Whether gathering for weekly Bible study, attending Divine Service with the saints at Village, enjoying fellowship or engaging other students who do not know Christ, joy abounds among the students and the supporting congregation.”

New U.S. Administration Good for Religious Liberty

“Free to be Lutheran/Five Questions With Gregory Seltz,” executive director of the Lutheran Center for Religious Liberty (lcrfreedom.org) in Washington, D.C. says; “This particular administration has been very good for our religious liberty concerns. Whatever people think about the guy that’s running the show right now, one thing he’s done is to essentially say to churches, ‘It’s your job to be the church in the public square, and we’ll protect you to do that’” (14).

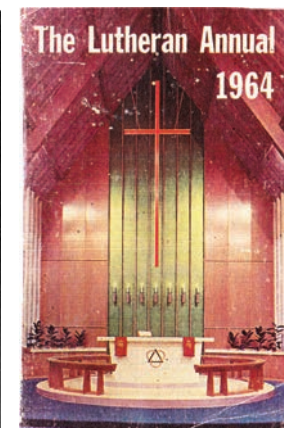
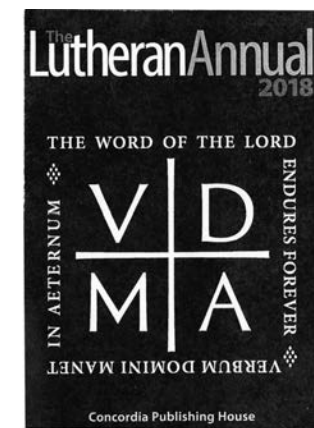
LCMS, Inc. Annual Report (pp. 15-17)

“Special thanks to Thrivent Financial, by whose generous support this Annual Report has been made possible.” “This 8-page insert – a long with supporting documents, financial statements, board minutes and other information – is available as a no-cost, downloadable PDF on the LCMS website at lcms.org/giving/transparency.”

Lutheran on Campus (pp. 25-26)

“9.7% of the students attending the colleges in the LCMS’s Concordia University System ‘identify as LCMS.’ “Concordia College New York enrollment is up approximately 9 percent for the year – a record for the year-a record setting enrollment for the CUS’s easternmost institution.”

Nine students at Concordia New York are “preparing for church vocations.” 1,341 of the 35, 484 students in the Concordia University System are preparing for church vocations. Bronxville and the other schools now in CUS were founded by confessional Lutherans to prepare students to become solid Lutheran confessional pastors or teachers.



Rosters and Statistics (p. 32)

The LCMS’s total baptized membership: 1,968,641 a drop of almost a million since the

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Will The *Lutheran Witness* And Reporter Publish A Questionnaire and Answers

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1960s. “Children baptized last year: 21,087.”

The 1964 *The Lutheran Annual* reported: “Children Baptized, 83,604.” “Baptized members, 2,611,696.”

The 1964 *Lutheran Annual* on a page titled “Two Decades of Church Growth” reported: “Pastors Serving Synod, District and others, 154. The 2018 *Lutheran Annual* reports on page 793 in a table titled “Two Decades of Change”: “Pastors – Serving Synod, District and Others”, 517. The size of the *Lutheran Annual* has grown about four times since 1964, the number of pastors not serving congregations but the bureaucracy has quadrupled and the size of the headquarters of the LCMS in 2018 is many times the size of the small LCMS headquarters at 210 North Broadway where the *CN* editor met with LCMS President John W. Behnken and where the LCMS’s Board of Appeals gathered several times to hear testimony from professors, students and others and consider documentary evidence in the Concordia Seminary, St. Louis vs. Otten case.



is indeed good all the time, even when His will does not connect with my will or your will.

“Those who love Alabama Lutheran Academy and College, Concordia College Selma and now Concordia College Alabama are certainly saddened by the news that an institution that has been the home for so many –and I don’t use that world ‘home’ lightly...—this institution that we call ‘home’ will no longer exist in a few days from now...”

Concordia Seminary, St. Louis

The back page of the May to December issues of the *Lutheran Witness* all have a fundraising appeal for Concordia Seminary, St. Louis.

Lutheran Witness, December 2018

This issue begins with LCMS President Harrison’s regular “from the President column.” Harrison starts out by quoting the English Standard Version’s erroneous translation of Phil. 2:5-8.

“The Bible has many stunning, life-changing passages about Christ taking on our human flesh to fulfill the Law, suffer in our stead, open heaven and give us eternal life. How I love Paul’s comments in Philippians 2!

“Have this mind among yourselves, which is

yours in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped [as did Satan!] but made himself nothing, taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross (Phil. 2:5-8).

“Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus...You want to be a Christian? You believe in Jesus? Then be His disciple! So often I fail. I have negative thoughts when I am harassed by the world, or slandered and even lied about. It’s hard to forgive and overlook even minor mistakes or perceived slights.”

Here is what the Bible comparison chart in The New Testament with Psalms & Proverbs (Beck) says about Philippians 2:5,6:

Philippians 2:5,6

AAT: “Think just as Christ Jesus thought: Although He was God: He did not consider His being equal with God as a prize to be displayed...”

ESV, RSV, NIV, NASB: “Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped.”

These translations make “Equality with God” something that Jesus did not have; it is “a thing to be grasped” in the future. There is no future in the text, which clearly states that Jesus is equal with God without reaching for such equality.

C.T. Craig, one of the RSV translators, reports that all nine translators of the New Testament agreed on this rendering without a discussion, and he comments on this passage, “Jesus is Lord’ – not God.” William Beck, We Need A Good Bible, *Christian News*, December 1, 1975.

CPH published Beck’s New Testament (AAT) in 1963 and supported Beck’s correct translation of Phil. 2:5,6. Now “new Missouri” under Harrison and McCain rejects Beck’s translation and supports the RSV-ESV translation, which undermines the deity of Jesus Christ.

Americans and Abortion

Gene Edward Veith writes in “Religious Liberty Wins British CAKE-Off (and other news worth knowing)”:

American’s complicated (and conflicted) views on abortion

A Recently *Hill.TV*HarrisX poll has drilled down into what Americans believe about abortion, finding good news and bad news for both sides of the issue.

The study found that, although 60 percent of Americans do not want *Roe v. Wade* to be overturned, only 18 percent believe that abortion should be legal ‘under all circumstances.’

At the other extreme, only 14 percent of Americans believe abortion should be illegal “in all circumstances.” But 41 percent believe that abortion should only be allowed in limited cases, such as rape, incest and to save the life of the mother. This means that a majority of Americans, 55 percent,

believe abortion should be restricted.

Even the 27 percent of Americans who accept abortion in “most circumstances” draw the line at third-trimester abortions, when a prenatal child is viable and can survive outside the womb. A full 82 percent of Americans oppose late-term and “partial birth” abortions.

New Age-y “Nones” – and Christians, too

The assumption has been the “nones,” those who say they have no religion, are materialistic secularists, but a study from Pew Research has found that a majority of Nones hold to New Age beliefs. So do a surprising percentage of Christians.

Researchers asked Americans if they believed in objects with spiritual energy (e.g., crystals), psychics, reincarnation and astrology. A whopping 78 percent of Nones expressed belief in at least one of these tenets of New Age spirituality (spiritual energy in objects; 61 percent; psychics: 52 percent; reincarnation: 51 percent; astrology: 47 percent). Nones had the highest rate of new Age beliefs of all demographics.



Great Story in *Lutheran Witness* On Naether

Excerpts

“Theodore Naether – Planting Seeds of

LCMS International Missions” is the title of a great informative story in the January, 2019 *Lutheran Witness*. The author is Heather C. Smith, married to the Rev. Sean Smith and resides in southern Illinois. She is the author of a chapter in the book *He Restores My Soul* available from Emmanuel Press.

The Story in the *LW* says in part: “The start of LCMS international missions 125 years ago was neither in the place initially planned, nor with the results immediately hoped for. Nevertheless, the faithful labors of the LCMS’s first missionary, Theodore Naether, foreshadowed the tireless service and devotion to the Gospel that would characterized thousands of his successors.” “Another month of traveling brought 21-year-old Naether to Madura, India, where he zealously began work for the Leipzig Mission. Naether was deeply commit



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Great Story in Lutheran Witness On Naether

Continued from Page 25

ted to Lutheran missions, but over the next years he also became deeply disturbed by certain teachings within this group. When his concerns drove him to write forthrightly in defense of the verbal inspiration of Scripture, Naether and several like-minded colleagues were expelled from the Leipzig Mission at the end of 1893. He thus lost his pastoral calling, his salary and the fellowship of many friends.

The beginning of LCMS international missions

“Meanwhile, the LCMS in its 1893 convention resolved to begin foreign mission work. Although the Synod had first expected to send a Japanese seminarian to start such labors in his home country, plans changed when the plight of Naether and his colleague, Franz Mohn, came to the attention of Synodical leaders. The two men were invited to the United States by the LCMS, and after meet-

ings, discussions and an intensive two-day colloquy examination, Naether and Mohn were commissioned to return to India as missionaries of the Missouri Synod. At the commissioning service, Mission Board chairman C. M. Zorn exhorted the men to carry out their evangelism through the three-fold work of preaching, establishing schools and writing tracts, while never departing from the true, pure Word of God.”

God gave the growth

“By the numbers, Naether’s Missionary service for the LCMS is not especially impressive. He served for only nine years, and at the time of his death the entire India mission counted a mere 38 baptized Christians, most not even pagan converts, and of whom only a handful could be credited directly to Naether’s efforts.

“Even so, his faithful labors prepared the ground for much fruitful mission work. Over the next century, scores of LCMS missionaries would come to India. In 1958 the India Evangelical Lutheran Church was established, and today this partner church of the LCMS serves over 100,000 Christian

brothers and sisters in hundreds of congregations and nearly 80 schools. Theodore Naether did not personally reap the fruits of his labors, but he would certainly conclude, as must we:

“So neither he who plants nor he who waters is anything, but only God who gives the growth.”

During the editor’s student days in the 1950s at Concordia Seminary, when some profs. were denying the inerrancy of the Bible, he and such friends as David Scaer and Kurt Marquart mentioned Nathan and Mohn to show that true Lutherans who defend the inerrancy of the Bible also champion real mission work.

Carl Manthey Zorn, who was also a member of Leipzig society, which prepared missionaries for India, experienced the same difficulties in India prior to Naether and Zorn. This story is told in “The Life and Writings of Carl Manthey Zorn” Volume II of *Surburgs Works-Bible* pp. 701-711. Zorn is the author of *Manna*, which the editor and his wife are again using for devotions each evening before going to bed. Grace says we should give a copy to each one of the children. Some missionaries have also been great theologians with a pastoral heart.

JOHN EIDSMOE: AN AMAZING LUTHERAN THEOLOGIAN FROM AN AMAZING FAMILY

“Lutheranism and War” was the lead story in the November 19, 2018 *Christian News* reporting on the 100th anniversary of the end of WWI. It had a photo of the editor’s grandfather who served in the Red Cross in Yugoslavia during WWI. The editor and his wife just received a Christmas card from Dr. John & Marlene Eidsmoe, which included a photo *CN* would have used in its issue on “Lutheranism and War.” The photo and caption is reproduced on this page.

The section on Dr. Eidsmoe reporting the year’s activities of the members of his family concludes:

John’s travel highlights included Okinawa speaking for the All Asia Creation Conference, South Korea teaching for Handong International Law School, the Oak Brook College of Law conference at Lake Tahoe, teaching for Noah Webster College in Albuquerque, the Big Sky Worldview Conference in Montana (also skiing), and many others. As Senior Counsel for the Foundation for Moral Law, he has filed 12 *amicus* briefs with the U.S. Supreme Court this year. He pastors two Alabama churches, teaches for Oak Brook and the Institute of Lutheran Theology, and is a



Chaplain (Colonel) for the Miss. State Guard. No plans to retire yet; he is only 73!

John & Marlene Eidsmoe, Pike Road, AL

CN has commended some of Dr. Eidsmoe’s great books. “Columbus- the NCC-*CN*” in the October 15, 2018 *CN* said: *Christian News* has long promoted John Eidsmoe’s book *Columbus and Cortez – Conquerors for Christ*.” “Teutoberg Forest: The Battle That Saved the West” by John Eidsmoe was the lead story of the September 28, 2009 *CN*. It had photos of “Hermann the Liberator” in Hermann, Missouri, New Ulm, Minnesota, and the Teutoberg forest in Germany. Eidsmoe wrote that Luther “revived the memory of Arminius and called him by the Germanized form of his name, Hermann the Liberator,

and cultivated him into a national hero.” Eidsmoe wrote, “Arminius and his German warriors (in 9 A.D.) had won a resounding victory. Of the 15,000-20,000 Roman soldiers, fewer than 1,000 survived. German losses were about 500 dead, 1500 wounded.” *CN* has often promoted some of the books and lectures of John Eidsmoe.

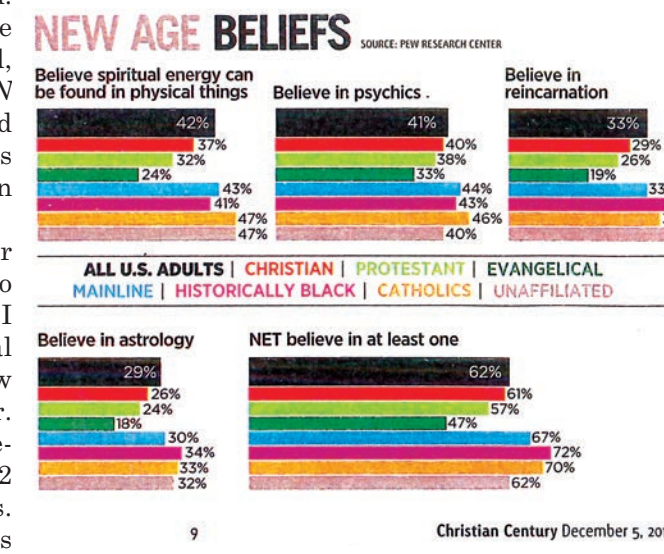
The September 28, 2009 *CN* also noted, “HERE I STAND” a Biblical worldview for a new millennium” by Dr. John Eidsmoe-DVD- contains 12 half hour lectures. Fifty dollars plus

shipping and handling.

Few Lutheran theologians have as much knowledge of history and what is currently going on in the world as John Eidsmoe.

As we commemorate the centennial of the Armistice that ended World War I, we present this photo, taken 100 years ago on Christmas 1918 in Beresford, South Dakota.

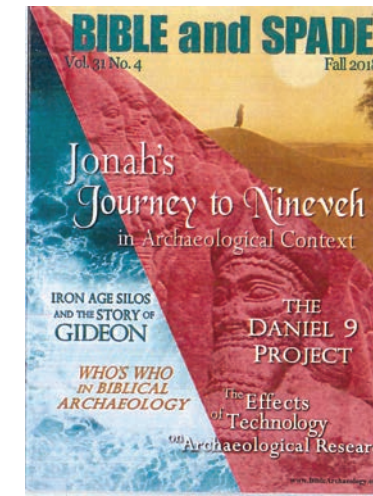
Upper: John’s uncles, Clark & Lester Eidsmoe
Seated: John’s uncles, Spencer & Marble Eidsmoe
Middle: John’s Dad, Russell Eidsmoe, age 13 in Boy Scout uniform.



The Importance of Archaeology Jonah Is Not Fiction

“Jonah’s Journey to Nineveh in Archaeological Context” is the cover story of the fall 2018 (Vol. 31 No. 4) issue of *Bible and Spade*. Author Titus Kennedy holds a doctorate and two master’s degrees in Biblical Archaeology and Near Eastern Archaeology. He writes:

“Regardless of the exact location, ancient inscriptions demonstrate that Tarshish was a distant place known at the time of Jonah, reached by ship, and associated with the Phoenicians. Instead of going northeast to Nineveh, Jonah attempted to flee to the western edge of the known world on a ship probably sailed by Philistine or Phoenician traders who were polytheists that believed Yahweh existed but believed in and worshiped many deities (Jon 1:3-



16). While enduring a storm that the ship could not safely navigate, the sailors threw Jonah overboard at his request, and he was swallowed by a ‘great fish,’ remaining in its stomach three days and three nights (Jon 1:17). Many hypotheses have been put

forth about what kind of sea creature this could have been and its implausibility, but the Mediterranean Sea is a habitat of the massive sperm whale, which could easily swallow a man and hold him in its stomach with room to spare. In ancient times there was no distinction between fish, whale and shark, as all were referred to with the same general word, but only whales breathe oxygen and only the largest of these whales would fit the narrative in the book of Jonah.

“After being spewed out of the fish onto land, Jonah finally proceeded to Nineveh, a ‘great city,’ which was probably the largest city in the world at that time (Jon 3:3).”

CN’s Baal or God published by the Leader Press in 1965 documented the fact that the Sunday School literature of such major denominations as the Lutheran church in America and the United Church of Christ taught that Jonah was fiction and not fact. Chapter 11 in *Baal or God* is on “The Old Testament.” It has a section on “The Historicity of Jonah” (pp.182-183). The words of Christ in Matthew 12:40-42 and Luke 11:20-32 settle the matter. During the 1950s, the *CN* editor took issue with some of the professors at Concordia Seminary, St. Louis who were questioning the historicity of Jonah and referring to it as a parable. *CN* has often commended *Bible and Spade* for brilliantly and bravely championing the inerrancy and history of the Bible. Every seminary in the nation should be urging its students to read this non-Lutheran publication, just like the works of *Answers in Genesis*, it has far more good to offer than more official publications of U.S. denominations and seminaries.

Volume II on the Bible of *Surburg’s Works* includes The Contributions of Biblical Archaeology to Biblical Studies” pp. 740-750. Surburg quotes

from many archeologists. He concludes with this quote from Francis R. Steele, (Archaeology and the Bible, *Christianity Today*, November 25, 1957): “The results of archaeological research show the firm support that exists for revelation accept and for theology which derives from it” (750). *CN* has often said that while archaeology has not proven everything in the Bible, no archeological finding has ever discredited anything in the Bible.

Nelson Gluck, a ranking Jewish archaeologist who was featured twice on the cover of *Time*, wrote his *Rivers in The Desert* (New York: Farrar M. Straus, Gudahy, 1959) p. 31:

“It may be stated categorically that no archeological discovery has ever controverted a biblical reference.” Seventy years later *Bible and Spade* has shown the same thing *CN* said.

Sexual Abuse in Independent Baptist Churches - The Hurt, the Heartache and the Harm

(From The Sword of the Lord)
<https://www.swordofthelord.com>

Sexual Abuse in Independent Baptist Churches - The Hurt, the Heartache and the Harm.

December 17, 2018
Dr. Shelton Smith

Although I have addressed the issue of sexual scandal twice in the past year I feel that it is important that I do so again.

In early December the Fort Worth Star-Telegram issued a four-part series of articles entitled, “Hundreds of Sex Abuse Allegations Found in Fundamental Baptist Churches Across U. S.”

Since the #MeToo movement began rolling, there has

been an unending string of sordid stories hit the news. Scores of network executives, political figures, business tycoons, and Hollywood celebrities have been confronted with major accusations of a sexual nature. Some were forced out of their position. Others have stepped aside in the midst of the furor.

The sexual abuse scandals in the Roman Catholic church have been unfolding for a number of years. Many hundreds of priests have been accused and charged with their misdeeds.

Now the Fort Worth Star-Telegram has done an exposé on Independent Baptists in which they cited over 400 cases of moral failure and in a number of cases in which crimes were committed, allegedly perpetrated by someone in the leadership of an Independent Baptist Church. They also allege that there have been cover-ups and the shuffling of guilty pastors to another church even when it was known that they were guilty of sexual misconduct.

Earlier this week (December 12) the evangelical publication *Christianity Today* called and asked me to comment on the charges being made against Independent Fundamental Baptists. I agreed to the interview without hesitation. The reporter was very fair and quoted me precisely.

This expose has created quite a stir in our circles and has also made national headlines, but I want it to be clear. Those allegations have not escaped our notice through the years.

In the last year I have written two articles. The first one was entitled “Harassment and Abuse Scandals” and was published in the December 29, 2017 issue of the *Sword of the Lord*.

The second one was entitled, “How to Respond Properly to Scandalous Allegations” and was published in the June 15, 2018 issue of the *Sword of the Lord*.

Continued on Page 28

DIGGING FOR TRUTH

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From the back page of the Fall 2018 Bible and Spade

Independent Baptist Churches

Continued from Page 27

Both articles are available in their entirety at swordforthelord.com.

Since the national headlines broke this month some folks

Williams Again Exposes the Truth

“The Worst Enemy of Black People,” by Walter Williams photographed here from the January 2, 2019 Missourian, shows that columnist Williams has again boldly exposed the truth. *CN* has often quoted Williams. He says, “75 percent of blacks are born to single, often young, mothers.”

Through the years, *CN* has often quoted conservative Blacks. The editor’s *Bonhoeffer and King* include articles about such conservative blacks as George S. Schuvler, the author of *Black and Conservative* (p.162). When the editor was asked to speak on “Ministerial Students and Their Role in Community” on May 12, 1969, at Concordia Seminary College, Ft. Wayne Indiana after mentioning King, he quoted Uriah Fields, a black churchman who had served as King’s secretary, Julia Brown, a Negro who had served as an undercover agent for the FBI, Rev. C. Fain Kyle. Bonhoeffer and King pp. 171-178.

The Worst Enemy Of Black People

By Walter Williams



January 2, 2019 Missourian

Malcolm X was a Muslim minister and human rights activist. Born in 1925, he met his death at the hands of an assassin in 1965. Malcolm X was a courageous advocate for black civil rights, but unlike Martin Luther King, he was not that forgiving of whites for their crimes against black Americans.

He did not eschew violence as a tool to achieve civil and human rights. His black and white detractors accused him of preaching racism and violence. Despite the controversy, he has been called one of the greatest and most influential black Americans.

Many black Americans have great respect for Malcolm X. Many schools bear his name, and many streets have been renamed in honor of him, both at home and abroad. But white black Americans honor Malcolm X, one of his basic teachings goes largely ignored. I think it’s an important lesson, so I will quote a large part of it.

Malcolm X said: “The worst enemy that the Negro have is this white man that runs around here drooling at the mouth professing to love Negroes and calling himself a liberal, and it is following these white liberals that has perpetuated problems that Negroes have. If the Negro wasn’t taken, tricked or deceived by the white liberal, then Negroes would get together and solve our own problems. I only cite these things to show you that in America, the history of the white liberal has been nothing but a series of

trickery designed to make Negroes think that the white liberal was going to solve our problems. Our problems will never be solved by the white man.”

There’s a historical tidbit that those much younger than I (almost 83 years old) are ignorant of. In black history, we have been called — and called ourselves — several different names. Among the more respectable have been “colored,” “Negro,” “blacks,” “Afro-American” and “African-American.”

I recall when Mrs. Viola Meekins, when I was a student at Stoddard-Fleisher Junior High School in the late 1940s, had our class go page by page through a textbook and correct each instance in which Negro was printed with a lowercase “n.” In Malcolm X’s day, and mine, Negro was a proud name and not used derisively by blacks as it is today.

Malcolm X was absolutely right about our finding solutions to our own problems. The most devastating problems that black people face today have absolutely nothing to do with our history of slavery and discrimination. Chief among them is the breakdown of the black family, wherein 75 percent of blacks are born to single, often young, mothers. In some cities and neighborhoods, the percentage of out-of-wedlock births is over 80. Actually, “breakdown” is the wrong term; the black family doesn’t form in the first place. This is entirely new among blacks.

To find out more about Williams, visit the Creators Syndicate webpage at www.creators.com.

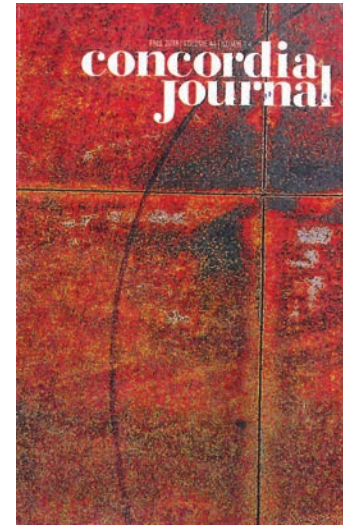
A Great Champion of Old Missouri Today The LCMS Needs Men Like Schmelder

Fall 2018 *Concordia Journal* of the St. Louis seminary has a fine tribute to William Schmelder (1933-2018). Seminary Professor Andrew Bartlet writes:

“He served the church-at-large in various ways, as author, speaker, and assistant to President Bohlmann, first in the latter’s role as seminary president and then as synodical president. His Bible Class teaching at Immanuel, Olivette, went on for years after retirement from the seminary faculty and became another part of near-legendary lore. He loved theologically rich hymnody, especially those of Martin Franzmann, and penned several of his own, including “Light from Above,” based on the seminary motto. His final contribution brought him full circle to his roots, his love for Delle, and his respect for John Behnken as pastor, churchman, theologian, preacher, and father-in-law. His “Postscript” to the republishing of *This I Recall* (CPH, 2018) has brought to renewed life the insights and wisdom of that era that can serve us well in the present and into the future generation.

“Our dear friend and colleague Bill, concluded that Postscript with the poignant prayer, ‘Lord let at last Thine angels come.’” Now they have come also for William J. Schmelder. We rejoice for baptismal life confirmed into eternal life, for the blessings of God to and through his servant William, for comfort and peace to Delle and their children and grandchildren, and for all whose lives he touched with the power of God’s Word of Law and Gospel for the salvation of souls. Another line from one of his beloved Franzmann hymns grounded in the text of Jeremiah 1:18 and 15:20 and cited also in the funeral sermon for this child of God, both strong and frail, is a fitting, final tribute:

“O speak to us Thy Potent Word, that we may say, “Thus says the Lord.” That in our



frailty we may be, a wall of brass that echoes Thee.

“Well done, good and faithful servant” (p. 10).

The front page of the February 5, 2018 *Christian News* published the cover of *This I Recall* by John W. Behnken. *CN* began a story titled “Congratulations to CPH and Schmelder for book on Behnken.” It began: “John W.

Behnken was president of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod when it was still of Old Missouri faithful to the Word of God. Reprinted in this issue is “The Bible the Inspired Word of God” by John W. Behnken. This is the kind of article which should now be appearing in the publications of the LCMS and its seminaries during the Battle for the Bible now going on in the LCMS. CPH and John W. Behnken’s son-in-law Bill Schmelder should be commended for bringing Behnken again to the light of day in the LCMS.” “After attending Behnken’s funeral, the editor published a special issue on Behnken including some of his most important writings and doctrinal statements he championed.”

Camp Trinity has a “Behnken Pavilion” to get more to appreciate the legacy of the man who was LCMS President from 1935-1962. Bill Schmelder walked in the footsteps of his father-in-law. The February 8, 2018 *CN* reprinted a review of Behnken’s *This I Recall*, which appeared in the Winter, 2017 *Concordia Historical Institute Quarterly*.



Professor William Schmelder and his wife, Helen, the youngest of Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod President John W. Behnken’s children at the wedding of a granddaughter. Behnken lived with the Schmelders for 10 years. Delle is the last surviving member of Behnken’s children. “John W. Behnken – A Hero of ‘Old Missouri’” was the lead story of the February 12 *Christian News*. The February 26 *CN* published excerpts from the latest edition of Behnken’s book *This I Recall* with helpful footnotes and comments by son-in-law Schmelder. *CN* noted that John W. Behnken, unlike some other churchmen, was “A Great Family Man and Model.” He had eight children and twenty-four grandchildren. All of his children entered full-time service in the church. “By any evaluation the family story of John Behnken is a remarkable testimony of how the Lord works through His people to keep the gospel moving to the end of the earth.”



Schmelder Called Home

Christian News, June 25, 2018

Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod Pastor and Professor William Schmelder was called to his eternal home in heaven on June 18. His wife Delle told *CN* that their children were with him at his death. The funeral service would be on Saturday, June 23 at Immanuel, Olivette in St. Louis after the interment.

The *CN* editor and Schmelder were choir tour roommates at Concordia College, Bronxville, New York, in 1952. *CN* commended Schmelder for his helpful footnotes and additions to John W. Behnken’s *This I Recall*. Behnken, president of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod from 1935-1962, was Schmelder’s father-in-law.

Reproduced on page 28 from the March 5, 2018 *CN* is a photo of Schmelder and his wife at a family wedding and the caption published in *CN*. The latest edition of Behnken’s *This I Recall* includes the 28 doctrinal questions LCMS President Behnken asked the faculty of Concordia Seminary and which the seminar declined to answer. During the last conversation *CN* had with Schmelder it was noted that today the St. Louis seminary faculty is following the same pattern of not answering simple doctrinal questions. Robert Preus urged Schmelder to teach at the St. Louis seminary after the liberal professors walked off the campus. Schmelder was long a champion of the theology of “old Missouri” as expressed in the LCMS’s Brief Statement. Behnken defended this statement. Schmelder told *CN* during their last conversation that he

strongly opposed the writings of Professor Jeffrey Kloha now being defended by the seminary faculty and LCMS administration. The late Scott Meyer, who had been chairman of the Concordia Historical Institute, told *CN* that he greatly appreciated

Schmelder’s sermons at Immanuel, Olivette and the Bible class Schmelder taught.

If only the LCMS had more pastors, professors, and fathers as faithful to the Bible and Jesus Christ as Bill Schmelder was.

The Last Newspaper

Dr. David Scaer: “Some USED TO Check *Christian News Weekly*”



Dr. Gene Veith reports, as have others, that the newspaper is now basically an outdated form of communication, which is a problem because reporters who put things out on the Internet, mostly accessible for free currently, need to be paid somehow.

Dr. David Scaer, a decades long Lutheran professor, comments in his new book, *Surviving the Storms*, “Her- man Otten’s theology is still left to be analyzed. It may have more Reformed and Evangelical elements than he, others and we were aware, but with the broad appreciation for the evangelist Billy Graham (1918–2018) among the synod’s membership, he was certainly not alone. A retired Australian professor once called *Christian News* the Missouri Synod’s bulletin board in providing information not available elsewhere, at least until the advent of Facebook. Otten is no longer alone in wanting to be heard. Some used to check it weekly to see who made the pages.” (p. 49)

The key terminology there is “USED TO,” which is the attitude of many today. Used to.—David Becker

(From Gene Veith’s blog) **The Last Newspaper December 20, 2018 By Gene Veith**

We got word a few days ago that the Oklahoma City newspaper will no longer deliver to our town, an hour and a half away. So my long-time habit of reading the newspaper during my morning coffee will come to an abrupt end. I realize that I

am among the last Americans to actually read newspapers, so I will probably survive, but I am mourning the fast-approaching end of a medium.

The paper will still deliver in its city, of course, and it will be online, for a subscription fee. The *Daily Oklahoman* was bought by a big national corporation that holds lots of other papers, and I have watched as it has gotten thinner and thinner, its corporate masters squeezing it down to try to make it profitable. Now it has taken the step of saving newsprint, transportation, and delivery expenses by not sending it to the hinterlands.

But it is only a matter of time when the city itself no longer has physical newspapers either. And why should they? Why have floppy paper objects at all, which have to be physically manufactured and transported, when it’s possible to just post the stories online and let people have access to them instantaneously?

I enjoy my hard-copy, tactile newspaper, but of course I get much of my news online. We are all used to getting our news free that way, so why pay for a subscription at all?

The problem is, most of the news we get from the internet—Google News, Apple

News, Drudge Report, etc.—is from news aggregators. That is, sites that link to *news-papers*. And while we don’t need the news to be actually printed on paper, the stories need to be written by someone, who needs to be paid for doing so. Gathering news and writing it up is hard work, and few people would do it without being paid.

Can newspapers migrate online while charging a subscription fee? Some of the big ones — the *New York Times*, the *Wall Street Journal*, the *Washington Post*—are doing this, with, I am told, quite a bit of success. The smaller ones, not so much, though I’ll probably try with the *Oklahoman*. There have been some online news and information ventures, which paid their writers, but those are in **financial trouble too**.

The whole promise of the internet was the decentralization of information, but it seems like it is centralizing all over again. What I’ll miss is the local news, which can hardly attract any kind of national following that could be profitable.

And if all newspapers go under and journalists can’t get jobs, news on the internet will be reduced to gossip, hearsay, and “fake news.” Oh, wait. That is already happening.

Journalists haven’t been doing themselves any favors for their profession by their flagrantly biased coverage and patronizing stance towards their readers. No wonder the reputation of the news media has become so negative.

But we do need reporters and news media. Otherwise, how can citizens be informed enough to participate in the democratic process?

The internet wants to be free, as they used to say. That is, we want everything on the internet to be free. So far the business model has been for sites to make money from advertising. This has led directly to the violations

of privacy that we are complaining about today, as technology is used to learn everything about us so that ads can be effectively targeted. I wonder if other revenue models might be possible. For example, perhaps a Netflix-like system could be developed, where people could subscribe for various packages of sites.

Time Magazine’s Person of the Year for 2018 are “the Guardians”; that is, the persecuted journalists of the world. That’s fine. Saudi Arabia’s murder of Jamal Khashoggi was indeed outrageous. Dictators and authoritarian governments—such as those of Russia and China—do try to silence journalists and control the information that gets to the people. (Conflict of American journalists with Donald Trump doesn’t compare to what those journalists go through, though American journalists make that comparison.)

At any rate, what could reform the profession of journalism? What could make news ventures profitable?

And will I be able to read the news on a computer or Kindle over coffee in the morning, as I did with a newspaper?

One Of The Comments The General

Speaking as someone who worked in the publishing industry my entire career, I do feel a certain attachment to the tangible, three-dimensional forms of books, magazines, and papers. When we bought our current house 22 years ago, the day started off with familiar plop, plop, plop of the paper carrier tossing a newspaper into almost every driveway on the street. Now there isn’t ONE household taking the paper.

Time marches on. There were probably lots of Europeans in the 1400s who started seeing printed books and said, “They’re just not as good as those wonderful hand-copied books I always loved.”



U.S. Birth Rates May Plummet to Lowest Levels Ever: Report

(From The Christian Post)
<https://www.christianpost.com>

US birth rates drop sharply, may plummet to lowest levels ever: report
 By Brandon Showalter, CP Reporter | Friday, December 21, 2018

New research reveals that fertility rates in the United States have declined significantly and could fall to their lowest rates ever.

The study, "Declining Fertility in America," which was released this week by the American Enterprise Institute, a conservative think tank in Washington, D.C., shows that birth rates have fallen in America to one of the lowest recorded levels of population growth, and could drop even further to record low levels.

"This decline is led by falling birth rates for women under 30, but in recent years, even women in their 30s have seen falling birth rates. These declines will almost certainly result in millennial women ultimately having fewer children than previous generations had," the report's author, Lyman Stone, explains in the executive summary.

Yet most of these drops in birth rates are a result of changing marital habits, mainly young people delaying marriage. This trend cannot be reversed by efforts to change Americans' ideals for children because they already desire them and continue to, he argued.

"The problem, then, is not about Americans not valuing childbearing, but about barriers to childbearing," Stone said.

Those barriers include high debt levels from student loans, decreased home ownership as a result of high housing costs, more time spent enrolled in higher education, higher costs of childcare, and changing cultural expectations of parents.

Policy responses are unlikely to effectively address the many challenges young people face regarding childbearing and a significant recovery in birth rates is not likely, Stone predicts.

"Rather, fertility will likely remain below the historic average until the next recession, when it will plummet even lower."

Declining birth rates, described as the Western "baby bust," has been the subject of considerable public analysis in recent months in light of what it says about American and Western European societies.

The Economist noted last month that religious conservatives in the United States fear that "a broad cultural shift is underway," especially with the rise of the "nones" — those who don't identify with any particular religious affiliation.

"According to Gallup, a pollster, the share of Americans who never go to church has risen from 10 percent to 27 percent since 2000. That could be connected to falling fertility. Churches tend to be in favor of children — more so than the other places where people hang out on the weekend, such as gyms and bars."

In a separate but related essay published Monday on the blog of the Institute for Family Studies, Stone notes along with IFS senior fellow W. Brad Wilcox, that while the baby bust is indeed bad news regarding fertility, encouraging signs exist among the statistics about marriage and family life.

Even with declining birth rates, "more kids are being

born in married-parent families, and, overall, more kids are living in households with married parents," Wilcox and Stone write.

"Divorce is down, which is another good portent for kids in married families. This is good news for child development and family patterns in America."

Yet this is a recent development, the authors go on to say and the future remains unclear.

"But, for now, we're living in a time that looks hopeful for the well-being of families. Births increasingly occur to married moms, and kids are increasingly being raised by married parents. Whatever the future may hold, today looks pretty bright."

Battle over securing border is about whether the U.S. can defend its borders at all

By Rick Manning
 Americans for Limited Government

The battle over securing the southern border is bigger than any wall. It is about whether our nation will actually defend its borders against an unconventional invasion — one designed to play on our heartstrings through the inclusion of women and children — but also fundamentally transform our nation from a constitutional republic to a permanent socialist majority.

This isn't just about a wall or fence line, it is about the basic right of the United States to have borders. It has already been established that those who enter our nation illegally our costing the country approximately \$338 billion annually according to a just released study by the Center for Immigration Studies. These costs will only increase as Medicare, Social

Security, welfare, health care, housing, food stamp and education budgets get further strained by the thousands who flow across the border illegally each month.

That is the backdrop for the current fight in Washington, D.C. over whether funding should be provided to build a wall and provide for other key security measures along the border.

And the funding fight is relatively isolated with the Department of Defense already fully funded, along with the Veteran's Administration, Labor Department and Health & Human Services. Soldiers are getting paid, veterans are receiving checks, Social Security and Medicare payments are being sent on time. But agencies like the Interior, EPA, Transportation, HUD and others are operating using only essential personnel whose paychecks will be delayed until after Congress and the President agree on funding priorities.

Another 300,000 plus federal employees whose jobs are classified as 'non-essential' are not working, and will not be paid unless Congress and the President pass legislation authorizing back pay.

The funding fight is currently focused solely on the Democrats' refusal to provide funds for securing the southern border which would include building a wall. A week before Christmas, the House of Representatives passed legislation which would provide about \$5.7 billion for the wall, other border security measures, as well as emergency relief spending for California fire and hurricane victims in Florida.

House Democrats now have a plan that would allow the \$1.3 billion already authorized for border security to be spent. While details of the proposal are unavailable, past descriptions of this plan predict that no money would be allowed to be used for new wall funding, instead allowing fixing existing fencing among other items.

Continued on Page 31

With the Democrats now in control of the House of Representatives, it will be a battle of wills between the new House majority and the President with the GOP Senate majority rendered relatively meaningless as seven Democrats are needed to pass any meaningful wall funding due to the filibuster rules requirement that 60 votes be obtained. Given this recipe for gridlock which the voters decided to create in November, the nation should prepare for at least a month more of this logjam.

However, in one very important respect, the upcoming new Congress actually changes everything in terms of the government appropriations. While those agencies like the Defense Department are fully funded through September 30th (end of federal fiscal year), those without current funding are subject to renegotiation on spending levels agreed to by the previous Congress. Spending levies that reflected a continuation and expansion of President Obama's spending priorities due to the willingness of Senate Democrats to shut down the government if their government expansion spending priorities were not accepted.

The irony that Senate Democrats cemented these priorities by using their willingness to shut down the government if they did not get their way as a cudgel can now come back to bite them since they no longer can hold fear of a shutdown over the collective heads of the GOP.

Now much of that national debt spiraling spending is subject to renegotiation without the cudgel of the government shutdown threat since those portions under discussion are already not funded.

With the previously passed funding bills defunct on January 3, the President and Senate Republicans should insist upon funding cuts to those agencies whose budgets are still awaiting approval focusing upon Democrat spend-

Continued on Page 31

Battle over securing border is about whether the U.S. can defend its borders at all

Continued from Page 30

ing priorities.

Now, that we are in a partial shutdown anyway, the President needs to use his constitutional power to veto any funding bill which not only fails to fully fund border security (\$15 billion rather than the rejected compromise amount of \$5 billion), but also which don't reflect his other spending priorities.

With the deficit approaching \$1 trillion for this fiscal year, the new Congress gives the President and Senator Majority Leader McConnell the ability to rewrite the script and force some small level of fiscal austerity on the new, tenuous, House Democratic majority for those agencies under shutdown. Every week that the Democrats refuse to open the government through funding adequate protection for the nation's border, the President and Majority Leader should whack one percent from the budgets of the shutdown agencies — focusing upon programs that are Democrat priorities.

Additionally, beyond the announcement that the President is stopping all federal worker raises for FY19 through Executive Order, Trump and McConnell should jointly agree that the 300,000 laid off, non-working federal workers, will not be paid for time off. While it might seem harsh, the truth is that in the private sector workers idled by a labor dispute or a work slowdown due to the economy don't get back pay for time lost. From a practical perspective, these public employees who Chuck Schumer and soon to be Speaker, Nancy Pelosi are holding hostage by their refusal to fund the basic function of the federal government — protecting our

national borders — will soon be screaming at Schumer and Pelosi to fund the wall because the Democrats almost exclusively represent the Washington, D.C. metro area where a preponderance of them work.

Ultimately it is that pressure on Democrats from both the funding cut demands that the GOP Senate and the President can force along with a determination not to pay those who have not worked, which will force a resolution that meets basic security requirements.

Today, the Democrats are getting all of their priorities funded with zero political downside to obstructing building a southern border wall. However, if the GOP holds firm, the political table will shift and it will be Democrats begging for a deal.

And that is how the President and Senate Majority Leader can lead the nation to overcome those who view the southern border as an open door for their future voters to help them establish a permanent socialist majority in America.

Rick Manning is the President of Americans for Limited Government.

Glowing Report on the Concordia University System

Sounds terrific based on this article. Hopefully things truly are that good. When I was college age, I went to Lawrence University instead of a CUS school like my parents did. Maybe my life would have turned out differently had I attended a CUS school. A family friend was disappointed that I didn't go to Valpo.—David BeckerEd. "Lutherans on Campus" on page 26 of the November *Lutheran Witness* (State of the Church) issue reports a

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200th Anniversary of Silent Night

“Silent Night! Holy Night!” a feature story in the December 26 Missouriian by Barbara Gibbs Ostmann, had this subhead: “This Year Marks the Beloved Carol’s 200th Anniversary.” The highly informative article concluded: “When you sing ‘Silent Night’ on Christmas Eve this year, just think: you’ll be joining some 2.5 billion people around the world as they lift their voices in 300 languages, dialects, and variations in this timeless anthem of peace, hope, and love.”

May all those who sing “Silent Night” truly believe what it says: Jesus Christ was born of a virgin, is the Son of God and the world’s only Savior. Reproduced here from pp. 459-460 of *The Handbook to the Lutheran Hymnal* by W. G. Polack of Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, published in 1942 is what this important book says about “Silent Night – Holy Night.”



This stained-glass window in the Silent Night Chapel in Oberndorf shows Joseph Mohr, the village priest and lyricist of “Silent Night.” The other window shows Franz Xaver Gruber, composer of the music for the song. Photo by Barbara Gibbs Ostmann.

Silent Night! Holy Night!

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1. Silent night! Holy night!
All is calm, all is bright,
Round yon Virgin Mother and Child,
Holy Infant, so tender and mild,
Sleep in heavenly peace,
Sleep in heavenly peace.

2. Silent night! Holy night!
Shepherds quake at the sight;
Glories stream from heaven afar,
Heavenly hosts sing, Alleluia,
Christ, the Savior, is born!
Christ, the Savior, is born!

3. Silent night! Holy night!
Son of God, love's pure light,
Radiant beams from Thy holy face,
With the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth,
Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth.

Stille Nacht, heilige Nacht!
Allen schlaft, einsam wacht
Nur das heilige Elterngemach,
Das im Stalle zu Bethlehem war
Bei dem himmlischen Kinde,
Bei dem himmlischen Kinde.

Stille Nacht, heilige Nacht!
Hirten erst kundgemacht;
Durch der Engel Halleluja
Tönt es laut von fern und nah:
Christ, der Retter, ist da!
Christ, der Retter, ist da!

Stille Nacht, heilige Nacht!
Gottes Sohn, o wie lacht
Lieb' aus deinem göttlichen Mund,
Da uns schlägt die rettende Stund'
Christ, in deiner Geburt!
Christ, in deiner Geburt!

This is one of the most popular Christmas carols in America. It was written by Joseph Mohr, in 1818, for the Christmas celebration in his church that year. The tune “Stille Nacht” was composed by Franz Gruber, organist, who was schoolmaster at Arnsdorf, a village not far from Oberndorf, where Mohr had his parish.

A brochure on “Silent Night” was prepared several years ago by Frederick H. Jänicken in which the circumstances of its origin are told. According to Mr. Jänicken it was first played on a guitar in the church study of Joseph Mohr at Oberndorf, where Pastor Mohr, who wrote the text and, in a sense, provided the poetic impulse for the music, was the vicar. Pastor Mohr and Gruber had been friends for a long time. Gruber was the organist and choir-master in the neighboring village of Arnsdorf, and they often visited each other, usually for the purpose of singing hymns and sometimes, when other singers could be brought in, the more difficult motets. On one of these occasions, just a week or two before Christmas of 1818, Gruber had said to Mohr, “Do you know, Pastor, the true Christmas song is yet to be written?” Gruber was looking out into the deep, serene, snow-clad Alpine reaches when he spoke, and Mohr, following his gaze, agreed. Pastor Mohr, pondering the thought of a perfect Christmas song, was called on Christmas Eve to the hut of a wood-chopper whose wife had just borne a child. Face to face with the mystery of life, Pastor Mohr, after performing appropriate offices for the family, returned through the snow-drifts to his house and almost automatically began to write since that was the most effective way he could think of to give expression to his mood and his sensibilities. According to the story he stopped writing at 4 o'clock on Christmas morning—and the poem of “Silent Night” had been written. After a few hours' sleep he arose at 9, hurried to the home of his friend Gruber in Arnsdorf, presented him with the text, and returned to his own home. Later in the day Gruber came to Oberndorf with the notes sketched in. The organ in the pastor's study was broken, so Gruber took a guitar from the wall, played the music through once, and then the two sang it together in thirds. It was then not more than half an hour before the Christmas services were to begin; but Pastor Mohr quickly assembled his choir, Herr Gruber sang the tune, they followed, and by the time the congregation had filled the church, they were ready to give it to the world. In 1897 a memorial tablet was placed on the schoolhouse in Arnsdorf with this inscription:

Silent night! Holy night!
Who composed thee, hymn divine?
Mohr it was who wrote each line,
Gruber found my tune sublime.—
Teacher together with priest.

The translation is by an unknown writer. According to Julian it first appeared in C. L. Hutchins's *Sunday School Hymnal*, 1871. Our copy, which is Edition A, 1889, has a different translation. The *Sunday School Hymn Book* of the General Council, 1873, carried this translation, and thus it came into common use among American Lutherans.

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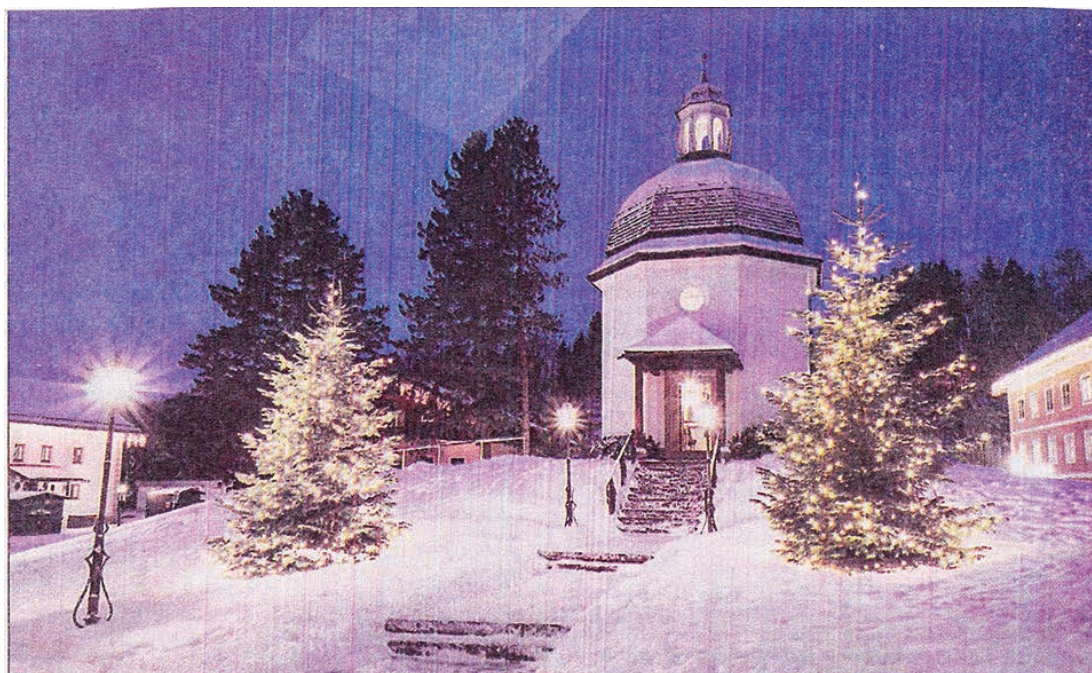
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The Silent Night Chapel in Oberndorf is on the site of the first performance of the beloved Christmas carol.

Photo by Austrian National Tourist Office