

30

PROCEEDINGS

of the

19th Annual Convention

Concordia Lutheran Conference

June 20, 21, and 22, 1969



St. John's Lutheran Church

M. L. NATTERER, Pastor

6th and Tangent Street — Lebanon, Oregon

The work of our hands establish Thou it!

- Psalm 90:17.

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R E G I S T E R O F A T T E N D A N C EPASTORAL

Bloedel, P. R.
 Mehlberg, E. L.
 Mensing, H. D.
 Natterer, M. L.
 Schaefer, O. W. (absent and excused)

REGISTER OF LAY DELEGATES

<u>Congregation</u>	<u>Delegates</u>
Peace Lutheran Church Tinley Park, Illinois	Daniel Mensing David T. Mensing
Christ Lutheran Church Milwaukee, Wisconsin	Julius Schmitt Victor Bloedel
St. Stephen's Lutheran Church Wilmot, South Dakota	Carl Palmquist Victor Reil
St. Luke's Lutheran Church Seattle, Washington	Martin R. Luedtke Paul F. Luedtke
St. John's Lutheran Church Lebanon, Oregon	David Greiner Henry Fischer
St. Paul's Lutheran Church Coos Bay, Oregon	John Dirksen Ted D. Fischer

SERMON DELIVERED AT THE OPENING SERVICE

By The Rev. E.L. Mehlberg
Milwaukee, Wisconsin

Psalm 90:12-17: "So teach us to number our days, that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom. Return, O Lord, how long? and let it repent thee concerning thy servants. O Satisfy us early with thy mercy; that we may rejoice and be glad all our days. Make us glad according to the days wherein thou hast afflicted us, and the years wherein we have seen evil. Let thy work appear unto thy servants, and thy glory unto their children. And let the beauty of the Lord our God be upon us: and establish thou the work of our hands upon us; yea, the work of our hands establish thou it."

In Christ, beloved Conference brethren, especially the lay and pastoral delegates assembled for this Convention:

It has been the custom in our Conference for the President to preach the sermon at the opening service of a convention. This year the Lord has incapacitated our beloved president. Therefore President Schaefer has requested me to substitute for him. I have gladly consented to do this with the prayer that the Lord may graciously bless my efforts.

Under the gracious and undeserved blessings of the Lord we have been able to assemble again for another important Convention of our Conference, its 19th. We thank the Lord for this His loving kindness and tender mercy!

We earnestly pray the Lord to grant us the grace to make the best possible use of this opportunity to glorify His name and further the work of His Church in and through our congregations here represented and also through us individually everywhere here on earth! To that end and in harmony with our Convention Motto, we beseech Him:

PRESERVE THY WORD AND PREACHING!

To accomplish this the Lord also earnestly exhorts His Church of all times by His Apostle Paul in these words:

"The things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also."

2 Timothy 2:2

We humbly and repentantly accept this His Word! We therefore plead with Him to grant our supplication that His Word and preaching may be preserved among us, in order that we may be preserved in the true saving faith and that our dear children and all their succeeding generations may also continue to remain as a faithful remnant, believing and confessing His Word in its full truth in this wicked world for the salvation of lost sinners until the number of God's elect has been completed which will usher in the final and glorious coming of our dear Lord and Savior Jesus Christ!

Since the fulfillment of this most desirable and God-pleasing objective is dependant on the Lord's grace alone and not at all on our own abilities and efforts, I invite you to consider with me a Word of God which can very fittingly serve us in our Christian efforts to attain this most coveted goal. My sermon text is found in the oldest known Psalm in the Bible, the 90th, which opens with this explanatory note: "A prayer of Moses the Man of God."

Moses, indeed, was a man of God! He was God's chosen prophet to deliver the Children of Israel out of the oppressive and idolatrous land of Egypt and to lead them to the promised land of Canaan, "a land flowing with milk and honey," Ex. 3: 8, where they were able to serve the Lord in the full truth of His Word and enjoy the full truth of His Word and enjoy the full measure of His grace. Yes, Moses,

that great prophet of God, was even designated by the Lord to be a type of the coming Messiah, who is the greatest Prophet and the only Savior of all men (Deut. 18:15,18; Acts 3:22)!

The occasion which prompted Moses by the Holy Spirit to bring this outstanding petition to the Lord was the tragic spiritual condition of God's people, the Children of Israel. After the Lord had graciously and miraculously brought them through the Red Sea, making it possible for them now to proceed to take possession of the promised land, there occurred a great falling away from God among the people! Most of the Israelites rebelled against the Lord and His servant Moses' leadership! God was therefore ready in His righteous anger to destroy them all (Num. 14:11-39)! Through the earnest intercession of Moses, however, the Lord granted Israel further grace. And while the older, unbelieving generation was destroyed in the wilderness by His curse because of its persistently rebellious attitude, a remnant, a new generation of believers, sprang up who were faithful to the Lord, making it possible for Israel, as the people of God, to inherit the promised land!

Conditions in the Christian Church of our day are very similar to those which prompted Moses to cry to the Lord for grace for his people in that day. That once faithful segment of Christianity, the Evangelical Lutheran Synodical Conference, during the past years has, like Israel of old, rebelled against the Lord and His Word, so that today we see this once orthodox Christian fellowship lying in a state of complete chaos and shambles as the result of the backsliding ways of its members! All praise to God's grace, we, a small, insignificant, and despised remnant, remain who have not bowed the knee to the golden calf of liberalism! But also our ranks have been thinning out through the brief period of our existence as a Conference because of the backsliding ways of our own people! This has made it progressively more difficult for us to carry on the Lord's work as He has commanded us to do it. Unless the Lord rescues us from our backsliding ways, we, too, will all abandon the saving Word of our God and the orthodox confession of our faithful fathers and become guilty of selling our precious spiritual birthright in the Lord for a miserable pot of liberalism, which will finally land us all in the eternal pit of hell with the devil and his angels!

What shall we do, brethren, under these terrible circumstances in which we presently are living? What is going to happen to us, to our dear children, and to succeeding generations? When Moses was faced with these same awful conditions, he promptly proceeded to go for help from the only One who can give it, the Lord of heaven and earth! Let us follow his godly and humble example, dear brethren! Let us make use therefore of the prayer which that great prophet by the inspiration of the Holy Ghost penned also for our imitation and use, that we and ours after us may not perish eternally!

With the gracious help of that same Holy Ghost, who guided Moses in composing this prayer and delivered him and his people, let us therefore on the same basis present, and let this be our theme:

OUR FERVENT PRAYER TO THE LORD FOR HIS GRACE
IN BEHALF OF OUR OWN AND OUR CHILDREN'S WELFARE

It is a threefold petition:

1. That He teach us His divine wisdom;
2. That He satisfy us with His tender mercy; and
3. That He establish us in His appointed work.

The first petition in our fervent prayer to the Lord for His grace which we would place before our God, following Moses' example and the Holy Spirit's guidance, is:

I.

That He teach us His divine wisdom.

This is the opening plea of Moses' prayer: "So teach us to number our days, that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom."

Indeed, divine, eternal, saving wisdom, that is what we, in the first place, most desperately need: that we may rightly know who our God is, who we really are, and what our true needs may be.

To rightly know God is, indeed, our most important need! In the opening words of this Psalm, Moses describes God as the Creator of heaven and earth and of all things in them, who is from everlasting to everlasting, who rules all things in heaven and earth by His perfect wisdom and almighty power. God thus had directly revealed Himself to Moses; He was, indeed, the God to whom to go when in need of help! Through Moses and the Prophets of the Old Testament and through the Evangelists and Apostles of the New Testament God has now fully revealed Himself to us and all men here on earth. With the Formula of Concord: "We receive and embrace with our whole heart the Prophetic and Apostolic Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments as the pure, clear fountain of Israel, which is the only true standard by which all teachers and doctrines are to be judged." (Trigl. page 851.) In the words of the Concordia Cyclopedia we therefore rightly confess "the verbal inspiration of the Bible, that is, its plenary inspiration in the full sense of the word, absolute in phrasing and in particular words. By virtue of its inspiration we have in the Scriptures the book of God, wherein God would infallibly and with divine authority tell us what to believe in matters of faith, what to do and what to forbear in matters of life and practise, what to reject as error or falsehood." With the Brief Statement we also hold that: "Since the Holy Scriptures are the Word of God, it goes without saying that they contain no errors or contradictions, but that they are in all their parts and words the infallible truth, also in those parts which treat of historical, geographical, and other secular matters, John 10,35." In these Holy Scriptures God proclaims Himself to us as the Triune God: Father, Son, and Holy Ghost; three distinct Persons in one divine Being or Essence, even as He had revealed Himself also to Moses. The Holy Scriptures especially ascribe to the Father the work of creation, to the Son the work of redemption, and to the Holy Ghost the work of sanctification. Moses in the Psalm before us addresses His prayer to this Triune God. To Him also we must go in our search for divine wisdom, as He has revealed Himself in His Word, that we may rightly know Him.

From Him and His Word we also learn to know who we really are. In this Psalm Moses describes us as God sees us and knows us to be. On account of Adam's fall we and all men by birth and by nature are corrupt sinners, who therefore can do nothing but sin against God and His Word. Therefore God is angry with us, as Moses declares: "Thou hast set our iniquities before thee, our secret sins in the light of thy countenance. For all our days are passed away in thy wrath.... The days of our years are three score years and ten," that is, seventy; "and if by reason of strength they be fourscore," that is, eighty, "yet is their strength labor and sorrow; for it is soon cut off, and we fly away." Indeed, in the midst of life, therefore, we sinners are surrounded by death: "For the wages of sin is death," Rom. 6:23, explains His Apostle. God's Word also teaches us that whoever dies in this his sinful condition, with God's wrath resting upon him, must not only experience physical death on account of God's judgment of wrath, but he must then also suffer God's judgment of everlasting condemnation in hell!

Since, according to God's Word, we all are lost and condemned sinners by birth, who are living under God's wrath, doomed to physical death and eternal condemnation, our greatest need is the forgiveness of our sins. If we are to be helped, God's anger must be changed. He must be reconciled to us, and we to Him, that we may stop being His enemies, and that here on earth we may love and serve Him all our days and at death escape hell and be received into heaven!

This is also possible because the same Apostle of the Lord who declares that "the wages of sin is death," also immediately informs us: "But the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord," Rom. 6:23. Indeed, we need a Savior

to help us! And Jesus, God's Son, who came here on earth for that purpose, declares: "For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved," John 3:16-17. Yes, indeed; "God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them," 2 Cor. 5:19. This universal salvation God in mercy has accomplished for us and all men! This salvation is the supreme need of our life!

Our fervent prayer to the Lord for His grace in behalf of our own and our children's welfare is, therefore, that He may thus teach us this His divine wisdom: that we may rightly know who our God is, who we really are, and what our true needs may be. This wisdom we need that we may be able to prepare ourselves properly for the inevitable day of our death! "For he that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned," Mark 16:16. If we know that, then and then alone will we be able to number our days in a God-pleasing manner and apply our hearts to wisdom!

And, in the second place, according to Moses' prayer here before us, we need to pray:

II.

That He satisfy us with His tender mercy.

For Moses now more fervently pleads with the Lord in these words: "Return, O Lord, how long? and let it repent thee concerning thy servants. O satisfy us early with thy mercy; that we may rejoice and be glad all our days. Make us glad according to the days wherein thou hast afflicted us, and the years wherein we have seen evil. Let thy work appear unto thy servants, and thy glory unto their children."

In other words, Moses intercedes for his people that the Lord would graciously grant them His gift of pardon, bestow upon them His peace and joy, and restore them with His blessing.

Indeed, we, too, all need to repent of our sins and cry to the Lord for mercy and pardon! For why are we continuing to experience such great difficulties in our work for the Lord? Why has dissention continued to plague us down through the years, so that we keep on being thinned out by the loss of pastors and laymen in our congregations? Yes, finally, why must we go down to the grave, why are our days so fragile, fleeting, and few! Beloved, it is on account of our sinful flesh! For that reason we are inclined to be more concerned about our own personal, earthly comforts, about a pleasant life here on earth for ourselves and our children, than of wholeheartedly dedicating our lives to the Lord and His service that eternal life may be secured for ourselves and our children. Like the Children of Israel who murmured and complained against the Lord, we, too, are daily tempted to relax in our efforts in upholding the full truth of God's Word in doctrine and practice. We, too, are tempted to look with envy upon the apparent success and prosperity of the heterodox round about us! We are tempted also to hold back our personal talents and offerings, all of which belong to the Lord, and use them primarily for our earthly welfare, meanwhile giving the Lord and His kingdom second place in our lives. When these temptations overcome us, then our sinful flesh is ruling our hearts instead of God's own gracious spirit!

Indeed, those same evils which corrupted and destroyed most of the Children of Israel are daily also seeking to gain the control over us to rule us! And, alas, must we not all confess it? Before we are aware of it, we too are brought to a fall; and that not only once but repeatedly! The history of our Conference shows that this has also happened among us, causing, in some, the complete loss of faith, in others, offensive separations, thus greatly hindering the gracious work of our Lord!

Why do we continue to do such things which anger our God and cause Him to withdraw His blessings from us? As we have just heard from God's Word, it is because of our woeful, sinful corruption! So corrupt are we all, brethren, that nothing good dwells in us: "For out of the heart," says our Lord Jesus, "proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies," Matt. 15:19. Yes, even when we Christians put forth our very best efforts at serving the Lord, we must confess with Isaiah: "We are all as an unclean thing, and all our righteousnesses are as filthy rags," Is. 64:6. We therefore justly deserve the plagues we have been and presently yet are experiencing from the Lord! Our sins testify against us! We therefore deserve to be cast off by the Lord into the damnation of hell! For that reason we need to feel our sinful corruption of heart, be stricken in our conscience over it, be deeply grieved about it, and heartily bewail our miserable and lost condition! With Moses, therefore, let us cry to the Lord to graciously grant all of us the true spirit of repentance, that He may in mercy turn from His anger and comfort our hearts with pardon!

God also in mercy greatly desires to pardon us and that "early" and immediately, beloved! For He tells us in His Word: "God will have all men to be saved and to come unto the knowledge of the truth," 1 Tim. 2:4. "The Lord... is not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance," 2 Pet. 3:9. For that reason we can with Moses confidently cry to the Lord that He mercifully grant us pardon for Jesus' sake, whose blood was shed for our redemption and reconciliation with God! Jesus Himself invitingly assures each of us: "Him that cometh unto me I will in no wise cast out," John 6:37. And again He assures us: "This is the will of him that sent me, that every one which seeth the Son and believeth on him, may have everlasting life: and I will raise him up at the last day." John 6:40.

But how may we actually and personally receive this His merciful pardon, so that true peace with God and abiding joy may come into our souls and lives? That is the work of God's gracious Holy Spirit, who converts us to the Lord through the Word of God. Jesus explains that also in these words: "It is the Spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing: the words that I speak unto you, they are Spirit, and they are life," John 6:63. When these life-giving words of God have converted us to the Lord, giving us true sorrow over our sins and a trusting faith in our Savior, then we can also confidently apply to ourselves personally this saving Word of God and comfort ourselves with the assurance that "The blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin," 1 John 1:7. Peace and joy in God then fill our converted souls and renewed hearts!

Oh, may we all, therefore, truly humble ourselves before the Lord, truly repent of our sins, and believe in the Lord Jesus Christ! Let us do this in order that our sinful flesh, the wicked world, and the deceitful devil may not overpower us, rule us, and destroy us! Let us seek the Lord's merciful forgiveness and deliverance from these, that for Jesus' sake we may receive His peace and joy with restored souls, being assured of a new life of the Spirit in Him and at death eternal salvation!

Yes, in order that this blessing may truly rest upon us and our children, let us with Moses, repentantly and in Jesus' name cry to God for such grace: "Return, O Lord, how long? and let it repent thee concerning thy servants. O satisfy us early with thy mercy; that we may rejoice and be glad all our days. Make us glad according to the days wherein thou hast afflicted us, and the years wherein we have seen evil. Let thy work appear unto thy servants, and thy glory unto their children!" Beloved, if that is the honest, earnest cry of each of us out of the depth of our soul, God cannot but hear us! For He cannot deny Himself and the merciful promises of His Word, when, for example, He declares to us: "Seek ye the Lord while he may be found, call ye upon him while he is near: let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him return unto the Lord, and he will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon." Isaiah 55:6-7.

When we, dear brethren, therefore notice the spirit of lukewarmness stealing over us, when we perceive how the love of God is cooling in our souls, when our deceitful hearts are becoming filled with the love of this world and its passing riches and honor, and when the spirit of unbelief keeps pulling us away from Christ and His saving Word, then let us in the name of Jesus resist and crucify our sinful flesh! When we notice that we cannot do the good and upright things the Lord would have us do for His kingdom, according to His Word; when, as the Apostle Paul, we have to complain about ourselves that we have the will to do good but do not find the power to perform it, then let us follow also his example and repentantly by faith hold fast to God's grace in Christ, who has won the victory for us over sin, Satan, world, flesh, death, and hell! Trusting in Him, we will obtain the victory and also remain the victors to our blessed end! For, as the Apostle points out, no man is able to glory in his own righteousness before God but alone in Christ, whom God has given to save us. For the Apostle writes: "But of him are ye in Christ Jesus, who of God is made unto us wisdom, and righteousness and sanctification, and redemption: that, according as it is written, He that glorieth, let him glory in the Lord." 1 Cor. 1:29-31.

Having earnestly petitioned the Lord that He satisfy us with His tender mercy by granting us His gift of pardon, bestowing upon us His peace and joy, and restoring us with His blessing, there remains one more important need which we pray God may graciously grant us and our children, namely this:

III.

That He establish us in His appointed work.

For Moses closes his prayer with these words: "And let the beauty of the Lord our God be upon us: and establish thou the work of our hands upon us; yea, the work of our hands establish thou it."

When the Lord by His grace has converted us completely to Himself by His Spirit, so that we despair of our own righteousness and works and look alone to Him for pardon, righteousness, peace, and joy by the cleansing blood of Jesus, then the beauty of the Lord our God is resting upon us! Yes, brethren, when we have thus been created into new, sanctified people, who love God above all things and our neighbor as ourselves, who in all things seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness by the Spirit's power, out of love to Jesus and gratitude to our Heavenly Father, then we are also willing and able by God's grace to carry out the work He would have us do during this our short span of life here on earth! For that is the precious and necessary fruit which springs forth from the Lord's gracious beauty which rests upon all His true Christians by faith in Jesus!

What this work is, God has also plainly told us through His Son, our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, in His Word where we read: "All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore and teach," that is, make disciples of, "all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world," Matt. 18:17-20. Jesus has summed up this His blessed work for us also in these words: "Go ye into all the world and preach the Gospel to every creature. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned." Mark 16:15-16.

This work then of bringing life and salvation to a lost and sinful world is the calling in which each of us Christians has been placed by the Lord through our conversion. That He would establish us, that is, that He would enable us to proceed according to His Word, sure and certain in all we do without doubting and wavering; and that He would then advance and prosper this our faithful work in His kingdom, that is our fervent, earnest prayer, even as Moses also prayed! If we are going to experience success in our labors for the Lord, His grace alone will have to supply it; for Moses prays: "Establish thou the work of our hands upon us; yea, the work of our hands establish thou it!"

That has always been the attitude of God's true and faithful people. They have not looked to themselves for their sanctification and salvation. They have not trusted in their own faithfulness and success in the Lord's work, but they have looked alone and always to the Lord, whose grace alone must and can supply all these needs! Even as the prophet Isaiah confessed: "Lord, thou wilt ordain peace for us: for thou also hast wrought all our works in us," Is. 26:12. And the Apostle confesses: "For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: not of works, lest any man should boast. For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them." Ephesians 2:8-10. This grace our merciful God for Jesus' sake by His Spirit freely offers each of us, desires to bestow upon each of us, and seal in each of us by His gift of a living faith to us through the means of His revealed Word and the Holy Sacraments of Baptism and the Lord's Supper!

Therefore, beloved brethren, since God thus mercifully grants us His grace, and since--all praise and thanks to God--we have received it in believing hearts, let us make full and wholehearted use of it in the appointed work in which He has lovingly placed us as congregations of our Conference, that His Word and preaching in their full truth may be preserved to us and our children! For the devil, the world, and our own sinful flesh are daily seeking to rob us and our children of this our rightful heritage! Are we going to quietly sit still and idly stand by and permit such a calamity to befall us and our children and forsake our gracious God and His salvation?! For our encouragement let us hear a faithful voice out of the past, to whom the Lord would have us hearken because it is the voice of Christian dedication and experience. I quote now from Krauth's Conservative Reformation:

"Had a war of three hundred years been necessary to sustain the Reformation, we now know the Reformation would ultimately have repaid all the sacrifices it demanded. Had our fathers surrendered the truth, even under that pressure to which ours is but a feather, how we would have cursed their memory, as we contrasted what we were with what we might have been.

And shall we despond, draw back, and give our names to the reproach of generations to come, because the burden of the hour seems to us heavy? God, in His mercy, forbid! If all others are ready to yield to despondency, and abandon the struggle we, children of the Reformation, dare not. That struggle has taught two lessons, which must never be forgotten. One is, that the true and the good must be secured at any price. They are beyond all price. We dare not compute their cost. They are the soul of our being, and the whole world is as dust in the balance against them. No matter what is to be paid for them, we must not hesitate to lay down their redemption price. The other grand lesson is, that their price is never paid in vain. What we give can never be lost, unless we give too little.... If we maintain the pure Word inflexibly at every cost ... we shall conquer ... through the Word; but to compromise on a single point, is to lose all, and to be lost."

Oh therefore, beloved, let our redeemed hearts trust continually in God's grace! Let our enlightened understanding be guided alone by His revealed Word of eternal, saving wisdom! Let our sanctified hands fully occupy themselves with the liberal bounty of His heavenly blessings which it is our privilege to receive freely from His loving hand! And let us use these His gracious blessings in carrying out the blessed work He has placed before us, gladly and faithfully applying ourselves to the work which He has given us to do, and in which He promises to establish us, "while it is day: the night cometh, when no man can work!" John 9:4.

That is our fervent prayer to the Lord for His grace in behalf of our own and our children's welfare. And since we present it sincerely and repentantly in Jesus name, according to the Lord's own good will, it has been granted! For He has commanded us so to pray and has promised to hear us! Yea, yea, by His grace it shall be so! Let us then now at this Convention go forward in the Lord's

name, in the power of the Holy Ghost, and experience the fulfillment of all these His promises, even as Moses, the man of God, and the faithful of Israel of old also experienced it! God grant it for Jesus' sake! Amen.

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SERMON PREACHED AT THE SUNDAY SERVICE
by the Rev. H. David Mensing
Tinley Park, Ill.

10

Text: 1 Peter 3:22

In the Name of Jesus Christ, our only Lord and Savior, my dear fellow Christians and fellow hearers of His Word:

At this convention of our conference, we are in the very midst of all the work which the Lord Jesus gave us Christians to do for Him here on earth when He committed to us, -- to all of us individually, to all of us together, and particularly to every church or congregation, the Office of the Keys. Both here and at home we are confronted with very great and arduous tasks and duties, which at times can become to us very taxing, trying, and even discouraging. Furthermore, we are living and working for our Lord in the midst of a world which today is topsy-turvy with sin and wickedness and godlessness, a world in which our own observation and experience may often tempt us to think, with fear and trembling, that not Christ but the devil and all his wicked angels are supreme. Therefore, in the face of all our work under these trying conditions, let us Christians, for our comfort and joy, for strength and courage in the Lord, now turn to the Word of God, the text before us, which brings us this wonderful, all encouraging, all-glorious theme:

Jesus Christ is Gone into Heaven
and Is on the Right Hand of God,
Everything being Subject to Him.

I.

This message is a very plain and simple one. It is easy for us to understand and to take with us and keep within our hearts not only today at this convention but throughout our life and work here on earth: Jesus Christ is gone into heaven and is on the right hand of God, everything being subject to Him.

He, the Son of God and Son of Man, our Lord and Savior, went up into heaven after He had finished the work of His public ministry on earth, -- to heaven, that wonderful place beyond the confines of this material universe, where God is upon His heavenly throne, and where He shows Himself face to face to all His holy angels, and to the departed and triumphant Christians. There our Lord and Savior has gone, and there He is at the right hand of God the Father; that is, the place of supreme honor and glory and majesty and power. And from there He rules mightily, with supreme authority, over all things that are in heaven and that are in earth and that are under the earth; even as the Apostle Peter tells us so plainly, so simply, and so wonderfully in these inspired words of God: "Jesus Christ is gone into heaven and is on the right hand of God, everything being subject to Him."

Although this is in itself such a simple message, let us for our fuller profit and richer blessing now view more closely the various things in our text over which the exalted Lord Jesus exercises supreme authority.

"Angels are subject to Him," writes the Apostle. Ten thousand times ten thousand, and thousands of thousands of these holy spirits are subject to our Lord Jesus. They are obedient to His Word and will. And these angels of God are not only very numerous. They are also so powerful that, as Scripture records, one angel of God, in one night, slew 185,000 wicked Assyrian soldiers in order to protect His own people. And to think of it! All these many, mighty angels of God are subject to our Lord Jesus Christ! They do His will, carrying out His commands, hearkening unto the voice of His Word. He sends them forth throughout all the earth to minister for them who shall be heirs of salvation, to serve His dear Christian people here on earth, to protect them from all harm and danger of body and soul. He sends forth these holy angels also to carry the souls of the departed Christians into the glorious heavenly home. And at the Last Day these wonderful angels of God will accompany the Lord Jesus when He returns to judge the quick and the dead and to take all of His faithful people, by His grace, home to

heaven.

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When therefore we see in our day and time, in these last days of sore distress, the many physical dangers that confront us and our loved ones; when we view with fear and trembling all the terrible temptations to our souls that today confront us on every hand; when we contemplate our own last hour of strife and the fiery destruction of this present world; oh then, how wonderful, my fellow Christians, how glorious to know that all the holy angels of God are subject to our exalted Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, who is at the right hand of God, to Him who loved us and gave Himself for us to redeem us and make us His own for time and for eternity! Surely, according to His Word and promise, He will give His angels charge over us to keep us as we walk in His ways.

Besides this, the Apostle Peter tells us that "authorities" are subject to our exalted Lord Jesus. This word authorities refers here to all the governments of every kind that are in this present world. All the governments, whether they be a democracy, a republic, a monarchy, or even a dictatorship, all these individual governments, and all the possible forms and combined forms of government that now exist or may still come into being in the future, all these authorities here on earth are subject to our exalted Lord Jesus Christ.

Whatever therefore may be the outward, human, moral, economic, political, or social cause of peace and war, of adversity or prosperity; our Lord Jesus Christ, in His supreme rule and authority over everything, enthrones and dethrones, prospers and restricts, allows and hinders all these governments according to His own will; and He will see to it that all these, in the end, serve only the one supreme purpose of His good and gracious will, namely the ingathering of all His people, the elect and chosen of God. For, remember how the Lord Jesus prayed to His heavenly Father, John chapter 17, on the night before His crucifixion: "Father, the hour is come; glorify Thy Son, that Thy Son also may glorify Thee. As Thou hast given Him power over all flesh, that He should give eternal life to as many as Thou hast given Him." Remember, too, how, just before His ascension to heaven, He spoke to His dear disciples and told them: "All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth;" (Matt. 28:18) and again, how His Apostle writes, after the Ascension, in Ephesians chapter one: "God (the Father) set Him at his own right hand in the heavenly places, far above all principality and power and might and dominion, and every name that is named not only in this world but also in that which is to come, and hath put all things under His feet, and gave Him to be the Head over all things to the church, which is His body, the fulness of Him that filleth all in all."

Now therefore, my beloved fellow Christians, when we observe in our day and time the utter helplessness of the various nations, governments, and combined governments of this world to find solutions of peace and harmony for their respective problems; when we look at our own beloved country in which we live and work day by day, and we observe with great alarm the threatening destruction of our nation by godlessness, lawlessness, and disorders of all kinds; when in all particular we view with alarm that long arm of human tyranny reaching out even into the very church of Jesus Christ as if to substitute human authority and human wisdom for the authority and wisdom of God's Word, and we Christians cry out to our Lord: "Oh Lord, how long?" -- oh may we then find comfort and joy and peace and security and strength and courage, as His Christian people, in this blessed fact of our text that Jesus Christ is gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, all authorities in church and state and everywhere being subject to Him.

Our text tells us, moreover, that "all powers" are subject to the exalted Lord Jesus. The powers of heaven, the so-called "laws of nature," the decrees of God by which this whole universe is governed in all its vastness, and by which we also as individuals live and move and have our being; the good weather and the bad weather, the sun, the moon, the rain, the winds, the storms, and all those various powers in the world that God has given, on which we depend for our natural

resources, for our daily food and drink, for our medicines, for industry and work, for peace and war; all these powers are in the hands of and at the absolute disposal of our great, majestic, glorified, ascended and exalted Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

And all the powers of darkness, furthermore, are subject to our Lord Jesus. The devil and all his wicked angels. And all the wickedness and godlessness that he uses in this world, going about on earth like a roaring lion, and yet one that we cannot see, seeking whom he may devour. The spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience, Satan, and all his wicked angels, and all his wicked servants among the children of men who do his will. All these are subject to our great Lord Jesus Christ, exalted at the right hand of the Father in heaven. And He will permit all these to function here on earth only in such a way that all things will work together for good, as He has promised, to them that love God, to them who are the called according to His purpose, the elect and chosen of God. (Romans 8:28ff.) And so, my dear Christians, we don't even have to be afraid of the devil himself, with all his wicked temptations and devices, and with all his wicked threats and claims over our souls and our bodies, as long as we cling in confident, childlike faith to our exalted and all-glorious Lord Jesus Christ, the Savior and Head of His church.

II.

Jesus Christ is gone into heaven and is on the right hand of God, angels and authorities and powers being made subject unto Him!

Oh, let us therefore, my Brethren, put our unflinching, unfailing confidence in this precious Savior and Lord; who came into this world to redeem us from all our sins by His precious blood, and who rose again for our justification, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life; and who is now exalted in heaven at the right hand of God. And let us glorify and praise Him in His glorious majesty! "Crown Him with many crowns, the Lamb upon the Throne!" May we sing psalms and songs and hymns of praise to His holy Name, making a joyful noise unto the Lord! May we honor Him with the first-fruits of our hands, our most generous gifts and sacrifices; may we work for Him relentlessly and joyously in His Kingdom; letting our light so shine before men, that they may see our good works and glorify -- not us -- but the Father in heaven through our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. And let us learn better and better, by His grace, to walk day by day in the way of His commandments, like the holy angels hearkening unto the voice of His Word. Let us live henceforth not unto ourselves but unto Him who died for us and rose again, who is now at the right hand of God in heaven, angels and authorities and powers being subject unto Him! Yes, to Him, in whom we have the victory, be glory and majesty and power and dominion forever and ever, world without end! Amen.

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P R E S I D E N T I A L R E P O R T

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To the 1969 Convention

Dear Brethren:

Before giving you my resume of Conference activities for the past year, I should like to offer a few remarks by way of a preface to this Report. At last year's convention the delegates elected me as President of our Conference. During the past twelve months I have endeavored, as God gave me grace, to serve you faithfully, and where I have failed, I ask the Lord, for His sake, to pardon me. It has been a distinct challenge to occupy the Presidency and fulfil its duties, and I know that without God's help I would not have been able to face up to the serious responsibilities placed upon me. I greatly looked forward to this convention and to serving you as its chairman. However, because of major dental work which only recently was completed and requires time for adjustment before public speaking is resumed, it is impossible for me to be with you. Under these circumstances I ask you kindly to excuse me. I will, of course, be with you in spirit, praying that the Lord would guide you all in what you say and in the decisions which you make. May every session and every resolution be to His glory! I am confident that the convention will be conducted in a God-pleasing manner, and I know that the chair will be occupied most ably by the Vice-president. I thank him for substituting for me at this time. With these opening remarks I now shall proceed to my Annual Report.

"Not unto us, O Lord, not unto us, but unto Thy name give glory, for Thy mercy, and for Thy truth's sake!" Ps.115:1. With these words of the psalmist we declare our gratitude to God for His manifold blessings to us during the past year as a Conference of congregations and as individual Christians. His mercies have indeed been new to us every morning, and His faithfulness toward us has continued with each passing day. For our many failings we humbly ask His pardon, for Jesus' sake! In a world filled with tension and strife, marked by economic and political problems, fraught with moral upheaval, lawlessness, and unrest, and beset with doctrinal confusion, our Conference under the sustaining hand of God and under the influence of the pure Word and Sacraments has continued to walk in the old paths. While round about us religious mergers take place and others are being planned despite doctrinal disunity among the church bodies involved, we hold fast to the principle that unless full agreement in doctrine and practice exists, union with others is contrary to Holy Writ, Rom. 16:17-18. 1 Cor.1:10. We are, however, not isolationists, but welcome every opportunity to meet with those who sincerely desire to resolve differences on the basis of God's Word and establish a fellowship that is truly Scriptural. In that spirit we shall continue, knowing that in God's sight the important thing is not size, but adherence to Scriptures in their truth and purity. May God help us all to abide by His Word, and may He preserve it unto us and our children and children's children! The theme of our convention reflects these thoughts most wonderfully.

The first official act which I carried out as your President, in conjunction with the Vice-president, was sending an official letter to the chairman of the Arrangements Committee for the 5th Lutheran Free Conference, informing him of our Tinley Park resolution not to attend the meeting of this group in Minneapolis because we felt that its proposed discussions were not in harmony with the stated purpose and ultimate objective of these Free Conferences, especially since unity on the previous topic (Church and Ministry) had not been achieved. This letter, together with the resolution, was sent on June 27, 1968. A response was received on July 19, 1968, from the chairman of the Arrangements Committee, indicating his regret over the absence of our Conference representatives and expressing the hope that we would reconsider our resolution regarding participation in future Free Conferences. The Committee on Lutheran Union will take this under advisement.

The next official act of your President was sending out the REFERENDUM concerning our Seminary as authorized by last year's convention. This was done on August 1, 1968. Two propositions were to be voted on: 1) that the Milwaukee Seminary Plan be declared no longer in effect; and 2) that the Committee on Theological Education set up a more adequate Seminary plan and visit the member-congregations during the year to present the new plan in detail, to solicit their endorsement and support in the form of financial pledges, and to encourage the building up of the Seminary Fund in order to implement the entire plan as soon as possible. In about 6 weeks responses were received from all our congregations with the result that both Propositions were approved. Two congregations added qualifying statements regarding financial support. Since there were NO dissenting votes, your President declared the Milwaukee Seminary Plan discontinued as of October 1, 1968, and the C.T.E. was instructed to proceed with its work on a new Seminary plan. Pastor Mehlberg, our former instructor, was officially thanked for his faithful and dedicated service through the years, and the C.T.E. was commended to the guidance and blessing of the Lord in seeking a better plan of providing for a future ministry in our midst. For the fine cooperation of the congregations in this referendum I am deeply grateful.

This now leads me to speak of the faithful work which the Comm. on Theol. Education has performed throughout the past year. While other committees in our midst have also been busy, none has labored so hard and long as the C.T.E. Its members are to be commended for their untiring efforts. They have consulted with each other by correspondence and telephone. When their plans were ready, they met with all our congregations to present them in detail, and the Committee members were graciously received by each one. The results of these edifying and instructive meetings, including congregational reaction, nominations for professorships, tentative applications of students, and pledges of financial support will be given in the report of the C.T.E. Because this proposed venture is of such significance among us, your President has allowed almost three hours on the Convention Agenda, that is, about one hour each in three separate sessions. I trust that each delegate will participate wholeheartedly so that together we might arrive at a God-pleasing decision. Your President firmly believes that our Conference MUST GO FORWARD in this matter, or in a few years, perhaps sooner than we think, our various flocks will be scattered for lack of a shepherd. Romans 10: 13-17. Let us act NOW, it may be our last opportunity!

May I make a recommendation in this connection: since the present membership of the C.T.E. is so well informed on the new Seminary Plan, and since their faithful labors are invaluable not only for the present, but also for the future carrying out of this venture, I recommend that the delegates seriously consider retaining the same pastors and laymen on the C.T.E. for the coming year. Should one or more members accept calls as Seminary professors, an adjustment could be made at that time.

Since we are separated by great distances and yet find it necessary to consult with one another on various phases of Conference work, your President, in addition to much official correspondence, made considerable use of the telephone to advise as well as to seek counsel from the brethren. In particular, I am most grateful to Vice-president Mensing for all the Christian counsel and guidance which he gave me and which helped to ease the burdens of my office. His assistance was frequently sought and generously offered, especially in times of pressing problems. I thank him as well as all others who remembered me in their prayers and gave aid and counsel in the performance of my duties.

I also take this opportunity to thank all officers and committees for their faithful labors during the past year. The details of their activities will be given in reports to this convention. Let us listen to them carefully and act wisely upon any recommendations which they offer! I am also grateful to the Lord for the generous support of our treasury by our Conference members so that once again we were able under God to end the fiscal year "in the black." May God

continue to bless our gifts brought in His name and improve the grace of giving in our midst!

At the request of Pastor Mehlberg I call to the attention of the delegates an inadvertent error which is found in his sermon in the 1968 Proceedings, page 5, last paragraph, sentences four and seven. The passage in question is Isaiah 49: 4 (not 3 as given). This does not speak of Isaiah's ministry but of that of the Messiah, who speaks in prophecy through the mouth of Isaiah with regard to His labors for the salvation of souls. The paragraph in the sermon can easily be corrected by deleting sentences four and seven, for the thought content will not be disturbed. Pastor Mehlberg regrets the unintentional error and is grateful for the opportunity to acknowledge and correct it. The Lord indeed pardons our weaknesses and frailties and aids us in being careful in our use of His Word.

It is with regret that a note of sadness must be injected into this report. This is being done because according to our Constitution (Art.VIII,1,H) I am to report at the annual conventions the administration of my office. One of the important duties of this office is "personally to lead the Conference in guarding its confessional position and in stemming public offense." (Art.VIII,1,B) During the past year it became necessary, in accord with this requirement, to deal with a brother pastor concerning whom there was evidence of public violations of Holy Scripture in the administration of his pastoral office. He also for several years had shown a separatistic attitude toward his fellow pastors. In an earnest attempt to rectify and resolve those offenses against God's Word and against brethren in the Conference your President, during a period of almost six months, endeavored to arrange a meeting with this pastor, Rev. A.J. Cordes, Coos Bay, Oregon, and with two other pastors as my representatives, Rev. M.L. Natterer and Rev. P.R. Bloedel. My correspondence was of no avail, for Pastor Cordes repeatedly refused to meet and remained uncooperative to my proposal. A final attempt for a meeting on April 8, 1969, was made, but this also was rejected. During the previous month it came to my attention that another pastor in our Conference, Rev. E.L. Mehlberg, was also engaged in controversy with Pastor Cordes on doctrinal matters. A layman from California, interested in our Conference as one whose doctrine and practice he shared and through correspondence with Pastor Cordes finding him to hold positions in doctrine and practice contrary to Scripture, wrote to Pastor Mehlberg and requested him to contact Pastor Cordes and seek to restore him to the truth. This also proved in vain. (Copies of all this correspondence are in the Presidential files.)

On March 31, 1969, Rev. Cordes, in a letter to me, resigned from membership in our Conference, stating, "I believe that I can, as God gives me the grace, use my God-given time, talents, and treasures to the glory of God more faithfully outside the membership of the C.L.C."

With regard to the resignation of Pastor Cordes, your President has given this most careful thought and comes before you with this recommendation:

- a) Since his reasons for resigning do not in fact express but disguise the real situation underlying and culminating in his termination of membership in our Conference, and
- b) since the resignation came at a time when official and unofficial attempts were being made for a meeting to resolve the issues in question, which attempts were constantly repudiated, and
- c) since to resign under such circumstances is the sinful act of separation from brethren whose Christian admonition he refused to accept and with whom he would not be reconciled contrary to the requirement of God's Word, Matt. 5: 25, Matt. 18: 15-17,

therefore I recommend that this resignation be accepted under protest and be recorded by the Conference in its official Minutes as an unScriptural severance and that Pastor Cordes receive official notice of this action through the President. This defection of a former brother grieves us all deeply and should move us to pray more fervently that God would help us to abide by His principles,

ESSAY

Dear Conference Brethren:

Because of the heavy work schedule and the late date on which the Essay topic was assigned, insufficient time was available to the essayist adequately to prepare for and complete the work involved in a careful and polished treatment of the subject: "The Importance for an Orthodox Church Body to Provide Adequate Training and Preparation for a Future Ministry." The President of our Conference and the Board of Directors recognized the inability time-wise for the essayist to complete his task, and the Board suggested that it would be profitable and edifying for all to hear as a body, with discussion and comment, the excellent translation by Rev. E. L. Mehlberg of Dr. Luther on "The Problem of Maintaining the Church and the Ministry." This article is from Luther's Sermon on John 20:19-31, and is found in the last 4 quarter issues of The Concordia Lutheran (Vol. XIII, Nos. 3 and 4; Vol. XIV, Nos. 1 and 2).

Rev. P. R. Bloedel

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REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON SUNDAY SCHOOL MATERIALS

18

Dear Brethren:

Sunday School Bible Lessons and worksheets were again provided for the congregations of our Conference during the past fiscal year. The Sunday School Leaflets for the last quarter of Series I and all but one lesson for Series II were supplied from the stock on hand from the first printing. A new leaflet on "Jesus and the Children" was printed to make it possible for Series II to be adjusted to the new Church Year. This has been the first repeat of the Series II leaflets since the first printing in 1966-67 during which time all but the last quarter leaflets were printed. We are now in the process of printing these leaflets, the first two of which have already been printed and are presently being made available to our congregations.

Page one of the mimeographed worksheets has been reworked on all the Sunday School material to date and has been correlated more carefully with the material in the printed leaflets. Printed review lesson leaflets were not provided for the past quarters.

It will be the endeavor of the committee to provide review lesson leaflets for all four quarters. The present leaflets and worksheets will be revised as the supply is exhausted and the needs require. May the Lord continue to bless the work of this committee in providing Scriptural material for the Sunday School children of our Conference and to this end the committee suggests a readoption of the same fine resolution (#3) to this matter which was adopted at our last convention!

Respectfully submitted,

Rev. P. R. Bloedel, Chairman

CONFERENCE PUBLISHING HOUSE REPORT
to the 1969 Convention

Dear Brethren:

Under the Lord's gracious blessings the Conference Publishing House Committee is able to report some progress. While it has not been possible to put into operation the proposed plan adopted by the Conference in 1964, there has been decided improvement of the facilities of the Print Shop which was brought about especially by St. Luke's purchase of a parsonage for its Pastor. This property provides the much needed, more adequate quarters for the Print Shop.

Your Committee also is glad to report that the Publishing House Fund has also grown somewhat during the past year. This indicates that our brethren have not lost sight of the need in the future, the Lord willing, of putting our Publishing House plan into full-scale operation, that it may provide for the needs of our Conference in its efforts to serve the Lord and His Church in the best manner possible in the area of the printed Word.

We raise grateful hearts to the Lord for these His past favors, thanking Him also for the blessings He has permitted to rest on the labors of our printer during this past year. For Pastor Bloedel was able to take care of all our Conference printing needs in an efficient manner despite the great limitations and handicaps he has continued to have to work under.

The Committee recommends that Pastor Bloedel continue to operate the Print Shop in its service to the Conference in the areas approved by the 1964 Convention, such as: The Concordia Lutheran printing, Sunday School materials, and tracts; and that our congregations be encouraged to beseech the Lord to bless our continued prayerful efforts towards the eventual establishment of our own publishing house and to that end help build our Conference Publishing House Fund.

May the Lord graciously bless this important undertaking according to His will!

Respectfully submitted,
Rev. E. L. Mehlberg, Chairman
Rev. P. R. Bloedel

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REPORT OF THE EDITORIAL COMMITTEE

--Preserve Thy Word and Preaching

The Printed Word in our Conference Publication, The Concordia Lutheran, was by the grace of God, published in four (24 page) Quarterly issues during the past year. A variety of articles based on the pure teachings of Scripture was presented for the edification, instruction and admonition of our membership as well as for those who, although not one in faith with us, desire earnestly to follow the Savior and His Word. Throughout the year eleven photographs were used. In order to present these photographs to our readers in as sharp a form possible, the offset press was used exclusively for these reproductions.

The Committee wishes to remind those who submit articles for The Concordia Lutheran to send their material to the editor no later than one month before the quarter begins: December 1st should then be the deadline for the first quarter, March 1st the deadline for the 2nd quarter, June 1st the deadline for the 3rd quarter, and September 1st the deadline for the 4th quarter. If these dates are kept in mind and the materials sent to the editor on time--The Concordia Lutheran should be dispatched no later than the second week of the quarter for which it is designated.

If subscriptions in a congregation are dropping off without renewal, the Committee suggests that a congregation appoint one member through whom the new or renewal subscriptions are to be sent to our Business Manager. This individual should be responsible for knowing whose subscription has lapsed in the congregation and in a Christian, brotherly manner should encourage delinquent or non-subscribers to subscribe to provide their household with the rich spiritual benefits our paper provides. Many of our brethren include the reading and discussion of The Concordia Lutheran articles in their family devotions. Pastors may write to our Business Manager for a list of subscribers in their respective congregations and areas.

Much money is earmarked for the publication of The Concordia Lutheran and if it is not used faithfully by our members its purpose and effectiveness is thwarted, the time and effort involved is, to a great extent, in vain, and the monetary outlay for publication is poor stewardship.

Let our prayers for our official periodical be that this published Word continue richly to bless each of us as individuals, our households, and those whom it reaches outside of our fellowship for Jesus' sake!

Respectfully submitted,
Rev. P. R. Bloedel

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REPORT OF THE TRACT COMMITTEE

In Resolution 2 of our 1968 Convention at Tinley Park, our Conference resolved "that the pastors of our Conference discuss the need for tracts with their respective voters' assemblies and solicit from them suggestions for tract topics and that these suggestions for tract topics be sent by the pastors to the Tract Committee of the Conference for its consideration."

Tract Committee - 2

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Our Committee was also authorized by the Conference then to "select two topics for publication during the coming year and appoint authors to write these tracts.

During the course of the year no tract topics were submitted to our committee and the committee held no formal meeting.

Suggestions for some tracts did present themselves at our recent Pastoral Conference. One on "The Authority of the Christian Woman in the Church, in Secular Matters, and in the Home", another on "The Modern Kinds of Dancing." Informally suggested topics included family devotional material and devotions for the sick and shut-in.

It is hereby suggested that the same resolution be readopted for re-emphasis among us so that the committee may have a good list of topics for prospective tracts for use in our Conference from which a variety of good tracts may be developed and put to good use among us.

Regarding the printing of a Children's Christmas Service, the committee is planning to have two such leaflets available for use this fall, God willing.

May the Lord also bless this phase of our endeavour in the use of the printed Word to His glory and for the eternal benefit of souls purchased by His blood!

Respectfully submitted,

Rev. P. R. Bloedel

AUDITING REPORT OF THE CONCORDIA LUTHERAN AND THE TRACT COMMITTEE

We have examined the books of the Business Manager of The Concordia Lutheran and of the Treasurer of the Tract Committee and have found them to be in good order.

Respectfully submitted,

Rev. M. L. Natterer, Chairman

Victor Reil

Ted D. Fischer

THE CONCORDIA LUTHERAN

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Report of the Business Manager for the fiscal year from
June 1, 1968 to May 31, 1969

Cash on Hand June 1, 1968		\$ 215.35
Cash receipts		
3 New gift subscriptions 1 year @ 2.00	6.00	
5 Gift renewal subscriptions 1 yr. @ 2.00	10.00	
13 New subscriptions 1 year @ 2.00	26.00	
34 Renewals 1 year @ 2.00	68.00	
7 Renewals 2 year @ 4.00	28.00	
1 Renewal 3 year @ 6.00	6.00	
Received for back copies	28.00	
For Complimentary copies	1.00	
From C.L.C. Reimbursement (postage)	<u>11.58</u>	
62 TOTAL RECEIPTS	184.58	
TOTAL CASH ON HAND		399.93
Cash Payments		
Bank charges	.20	
Addressograph plates	.71	
Postage Deposits	20.00	
Postage (Packages to Pastors)	9.88	
Mailing permit renewal	30.00	
Postage (S.S. Material & Proceedings)	<u>11.58</u>	
TOTAL PAYMENTS	<u>72.37</u>	
CASH ON HAND May 31, 1969		\$ 327.56

CONCORDIA LUTHERAN CONFERENCE PUBLICATIONS

Report of the Business Manager for the fiscal year from
June 1, 1968 to May 31, 1969

Cash on Hand June 1, 1968		\$ 70.69
Cash Receipts	17.23	
TOTAL CASH ON HAND	87.92	
Cash Payments (Postage)	<u>.80</u>	
CASH ON HAND May 31, 1969		\$ 87.12

Respectfully submitted,
Martin R. Luedtke, Business Manager

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON MISSIONS

22

Dear Brethren:

That the Lord commands us to do mission work is so plainly set forth in the Holy Scriptures that it cannot justifiably be denied. There is the command which the Lord Jesus gave to His disciples, "Go ye into all the world, and preach the Gospel to every creature" (Mark 16:15). And in the Gospel of Matthew, "Whosoever therefore shall confess Me before men, him will I confess also before My Father which is in heaven. But whosoever shall deny Me before men, him will I also deny before My Father which is in heaven" (Matthew 10:32,33).

On the basis of these and similar passages every Christian is obligated to show forth the praises of Him Who hath called us out of darkness into His marvelous light. For out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh. Individually we have the privilege of testifying to those who still grope about in the darkness of sin, whether that be in our home, in the place of our employment, or in the circle of our friends and acquaintances.

This mission work is also conducted by the local congregation in its various missionary programs, such as canvassing, Scriptural witnessing via the local newspapers, etc.

This work is also carried on in our Conference jointly by the congregations. In fact, in Article III of our Conference Constitution, it is specifically stated that this is one of the objects of our Conference, namely, "Joint extension of the Kingdom of God through cooperative mission work of our congregations (Matthew 28:19, 20; Mark 16:15,16; Luke 24:47; Acts 1:8)."

The Seminary graduates that have not been called to be regular, full-time Pastors may be utilized in this joint mission effort. Suggested guidelines for a congregation's mission program with graduate students called to be "Assistant Pastor-Missionaries" are herewith proposed. (These are, of course, merely suggestions for the congregations, which would make their own decisions in each case.)

Respectfully submitted,

Rev. M. L. Natterer, Chairman
Walter F. Fischer
Glen A. Frerichs

SUGGESTED MISSION GUIDELINES FOR SEMINARY GRADUATES OF
THE CONCORDIA LUTHERAN CONFERENCE

1. It is our fervent prayer that each graduate of the Seminary will be duly called to be a regular Pastor by a member congregation of the Concordia Lutheran Conference, or by a congregation in fellowship.
2. If, however, no such vacancy would exist, member congregations will be encouraged to call a graduate as an assistant pastor.
3. The congregation's salary to the assistant pastor may be supplemented by a subsidy from the Conference, so as to provide him full and adequate financial support.
4. The assistant pastor whose salary is subsidized by the Conference will be expected by the Mission Committee to promote mission work in a designated area. He would then be required to submit quarterly and annual mission reports to the Committee on Missions through his pastor and an annual report to the Conference.

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON THEOLOGICAL EDUCATION

23

On October 1st the President of our Conference, on the basis of a Referendum authorized by last year's convention, declared the Milwaukee Plan discontinued and the Committee on Theological Education was instructed to proceed with its work on a new Seminary Plan. On October 22nd letters were dispatched to all of the congregations of our Conference in care of their respective pastors to arrange suitable dates for meetings with our Committee on plans for the initiation and continued operation of a future Seminary. The Committee also expressed the possible desirability of a preliminary meeting with any of the congregations for the purpose of sharing thoughts prior to the time when the Committee's plans would be drawn up in final form. Two such preliminary meetings were held with the congregations in Seattle and Milwaukee respectively. Later our Committee was able, by the grace of God, to produce a document entitled: "Presentation Of A Plan To Go Forward In Providing For A Future Ministry". This document was then presented personally by members of the Committee on Theological Education to our congregations upon their invitation. The chairman of the Committee and committee member, Mr. Martin R. Luedtke, made the presentation to the members of St. Luke's Lutheran Church of Seattle on the 2nd of February, 1969; to the members of St. John's Lutheran Church in Lebanon on the 10th of February, 1969; and to the members of St. Paul's Lutheran Church of Coos Bay on February 11th. The other two members of our Committee, Pastor H. D. Mensing and Mr. David T. Mensing presented the same document for discussion to Peace Evangelical Lutheran Church of Tinley Park on February 23rd and April 27th; to St. Stephen's Lutheran Church at Wilmot, South Dakota on April 8th; and to Christ Lutheran Church in Milwaukee on April 10th. The cordial reception extended to our Committee's representatives and the encouraging response in the form of attentiveness and discussion on the part of these congregations was greatly appreciated. The congregations were urged to review the plans carefully in their voters' assembly and to inform the Committee at the earliest possible date as to their action in the form of a monetary pledge in order that our Committee might determine prior to this Convention the possibility of our Conference to put into effect one or the other Seminary plan. Copies of the "Presentation Of A Plan To Go Forward In Providing For A Future Ministry" which includes these two plans will be distributed to the delegates of this Convention and incorporated in our proceedings as a part of this report. PLAN I you will recall, or note at this time, includes a Conference-owned professorage while PLAN II has the professor-president providing his own home. Both plans allow for a professor-president and an associate professor as well as the use of the two classrooms in the Tinley Park church building temporarily for Seminary instruction. Our Committee noted through our personal contact and in correspondence a general preference on the part of our congregations for PLAN II.

The monetary pledges submitted to our committee to date are as follows: St. Paul's Lutheran Church of Coos Bay, \$55.00; St. Luke's Lutheran Church of Seattle, \$185.16; Peace Evangelical Lutheran Church of Tinley Park, \$140.00; St. Stephen's Lutheran Church of Wilmot, \$254.50; and St. John's Lutheran Church of Lebanon, \$98.00. An early preliminary pledge was received from Christ Lutheran Church of Milwaukee in the amount of \$75.00. Later, however, Christ congregation reconsidered the matter of a pledge and reported to our Committee the following resolution which was drawn up and unanimously approved at the regular meeting of their Voters' Assembly on April 14, 1969: "In view of the conditions in our Conference, namely, the shortage of pastors and the need of a Seminary Professor, as well as the rejection in Milwaukee of true orthodoxy, we the voters of Christ Lutheran Church have resolved, under the Lord, to dissolve our congregation. At least \$4000.00, under the Lord's blessing, will be available as a gift to the Conference Seminary Fund. These moneys are to be restricted in their use to insure the salary of the called professor and/or held in escrow for the general support of the seminary project. The donation of this money will be contingent on the establishment of a seminary this year."

In accordance with our Constitution as authorized by the member congregations

of our Conference and to alleviate a problem of delay in the establishment and operation of our Seminary a Call for Nominations of a President-professor and also of an Associate Professor was issued in The Concordia Lutheran, First Quarter, Vol. XIV, p 21, by our Committee through the President of our Conference, this call for nominations, of course, being contingent upon the decisions to be made at this convention. The Rev. E. L. Mehlberg and the Rev. O.W. Schaefer were nominated for Professor-president of our Seminary and the Rev. H. David Mensing of Tinley Park was the only nominee for the office of Associate Professor. These results were reported in the Second Quarter, 1969 issue of The Concordia Lutheran. It was noted by the Committee that the congregations of our Conference through their nomination of Pastor Mensing exclusively for the office of Associate Professor indicated a preference for the location of the Seminary in Tinley Park.

To determine, to some extent, the number of young men interested in our prospective Seminary at this time tentative applications for admission to the Concordia Lutheran Conference Theological Seminary were drawn up, duplicated, and sent to the pastors of our congregations to give to young men who expressed an interest in studying for the ministry. Six of these applications have been completed and returned to our Committee. One university student has expressed his desire to enroll for full-time study at our Seminary; three university graduates have indicated a desire for part-time study at our Seminary and two high school boys have signed tentative applications in which they express an earnest desire to enter our Seminary as soon as they are able to meet the necessary educational qualifications. In connection with the enrollment at our Seminary the Committee on Theological Education has discussed, but as yet has reached no decision on, the matter of charging a tuition fee later to be refunded to those students who are graduated and enter into the Holy Ministry in our conference. A year of vicarage for each student is also being considered.

Now may the Lord, whose we are and whom we serve, who is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, bless our deliberation on the matters presented in this report and help us in brotherly unity and out of love for our dear Savior and His pure Word to resolve upon that which will redound to His glory and for the spiritual benefit of generations to come!

Respectfully submitted,

Rev. P. R. Bloedel, Chairman

Rev. H. David Mensing

David T. Mensing

Martin R. Luedtke

PRESENTATION OF A PLAN TO GO FORWARD IN PROVIDING FOR A FUTURE MINISTRY 25
(Committee on Theological Education)

I. The Need. . .

- A. No prospective pastors.
 - 1. inadequate facilities
 - 2. insufficient professorial staff
 - 3. no promise of a call and support of future pastors
- B. All pastors are above 40 years old.
 - 1. An age when, except by the grace of God any one of our pastors could be summoned to his eternal rest.
 - 2. Far above the average age of the membership of our Conference.
- C. What would you do if the Lord took your pastor from you now?
- D. What would happen to our Conference if the Lord took 2 or 3 of our pastors during the next 3 years? (no pastors for our congregations and no older pastors to teach young men to be pastors!)
- E. What kind of spiritual heritage are we leaving for our children and their children?
 - 1. We do much for their future in terms of insurance
 - 2. We do much for them when it comes to education so that they might attain suitable employment
- F. Certainly our need also includes more fervent prayer to God through our Savior Jesus Christ
 - 1. For wisdom in the use of that which He gave to each one of us as individuals.
 - 2. To help us as a Christian congregation to recognize the urgent need for the training of a future ministry.
 - 3. To guide us as a Conference of Christian congregations jointly to work together toward a God-pleasing solution to our problem to go forward in our plans toward that end, and to lend every effort and to sacrifice freely and willingly that the Lamp of the pure Word of God may be held aloft by those coming after us and that the vines which the Savior has planted at Coos Bay, Lebanon, Seattle, Milwaukee, Wilmot, and Tinley Park may not wither and die--that the sheep in these various flocks be not scattered for lack of a shepherd.
- G. ~~_____~~
~~_____~~
~~_____~~

In less than 2 decades - by 1988 - what changes in our conference and congregations! If no future ministry is provided - those of us who are old will have no pastor to sustain us with God's Word in the evening of our lives. Our children and grandchildren will have no shepherd to give them a thorough instruction in the Word of God.

One may say, "Just pray." But mere praying without the desire and effort to do our own part faithfully for the things we pray would not be a heartfelt prayer but the vain repetitious praying which our Lord Jesus condemns, Matt. 6:7.

Again, one may say, "Just have faith that God will provide." Here we must remember that Christian faith is based upon God's Word. That Word does not place the work of missions into God's hands. It places that work into our hands, and then it leaves the gracious blessing of that work in the hands of the Lord. When we do our Christian duties faithfully to the best of our ability and then believe that the Lord will surely bless our labors according to His promise, Isaiah 55:10-11, that is Christian faith. If, however, we do not do our duty and yet claim to trust the Lord for His blessing, that is a false and a dead faith, as it is written: "Faith without works is dead." (James 2:20).

II. And now, dear brethren, with the firm desire to do the work which our dear Savior has committed to us, let us join together in praying to our Lord, that He may graciously bless our labors in His Name:

P R A Y E R

Lord God, dear heavenly Father, we praise Thee that Thou hast called us out of darkness into the marvelous light of Thy salvation, and that Thou has preserved Thy saving Word and preaching to us in its truth and purity. Since we know that Thou wouldst have all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth, and that Thou has entrusted to us in these last, perilous times that saving truth which alone can make men free from sin, death, and the power of the devil, bringing them to faith in Thy beloved Son, our only Savior: We beseech Thee, dear heavenly Father, send us Thy Holy Spirit in Jesus' Name. So fill our hearts with love to Him who first loved us and to all the souls which He redeemed with His precious blood, that we may look upon all this work and sacrifice which Thou hast set before us as much more of a high privilege than the solemn duty it is; and give us a rich measure of Thy grace in Christ, so that we may lovingly, willingly, and cheerfully take up and day-by-day strive to carry out these duties of our high calling in Christ Jesus. Then grant to our humble but faithful labors, dear Lord, Thy gracious blessing. Let not Thy Word return unto Thee void, but let it accomplish that which Thou pleasest and prosper in the thing whereunto Thou hast sent it. And whereinsoever our ability to do for Thee is limited, we pray Thee forgive us, dear Lord, and do for us, according to Thy Word and promise, exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, in order that, among us, through the work of Thy Holy Ministry and the spreading of Thy Gospel, Thy Name may be hallowed, Thy kingdom come, and Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Hear us for Jesus' sake. Amen.

III. THE PLAN. . .

What are we to do? What can we do!? Each age has its solemn task and obligation for which it will be called upon to answer to the Lord. That which calls us to act is the Word of God and the needs of our time. We must do the very best with the talents and gifts which the Lord has given us--even though these talents may be mediocre and our gifts limited. If we dedicate them to the service of the Lord we will reap bountifully!--beyond our fondest expectations. What misery and heartache was caused among the Children of Israel when they failed to heed the encouraging words of Caleb and Joshua to go forward and to take the land which the Lord had promised them (Numbers 13:30; 14:6-9). So we are to move forward enthusiastically and energetically--knowing that the providing for a well-trained future ministry is pleasing to the Lord--so that our children and their children after them do not wander aimlessly in the wilderness of this world, blown about by every wind of doctrine, but are well-provided for with the milk and honey of God's pure Word. We have this privilege and opportunity by God's grace, NOW!! It may be our last opportunity! Within the 7 years which it takes to train a young man out of High School for the public ministry, what can happen to our spiritual leadership in our congregations and conference; . . . in 6 years? . . . in 5 years? . . . in 4 years? . . . in 3 years at the very minimum for a college graduate? This is the task which the Lord has given us to accomplish before we reach a state of decay and our congregations must close the doors of their church for lack of a pastor and no older, seasoned pastors are available to train our younger men for the ministry, and amalgamation of our congregations will finally prove the only way for those of us who still desire to be nourished with the bread and water of life to maintain a God-pleasing Christian fellowship and religious work and worship.

We have been informed by the secretary of Peace Evangelical Lutheran Church, Tinley Park, Illinois, that the congregation unanimously decided to "offer the Concordia Lutheran Conference the use of our two classrooms for seminary instruction for two consecutive calendar years beginning in September of 1969 and that this period may be extended upon such official request of the Conference and by the resolution of our congregation approving the request."

In the light of this kind offer from Peace Evangelical Lutheran Church, your committee places before you two specific plans which should be possible for our Conference to put into operation at this time. Plan I includes a Conference-owned professorage and the use of the two classrooms in the Tinley Park church building for temporary Seminary instruction. Plan II makes it possible for the professor/president of the Seminary to own his own home. The monetary needs for these plans are as follows:

PLAN I. (with a Conference-owned professorage and the use of the two classrooms in the Tinley Park church building for temporary Seminary instruction)

A. Initial Costs:

Down payment on professorage	\$ 3,600.00
Closing costs on professorage (included in principal for figuring purposes)	
Moving costs for professor (distance variation)	750.00
<u>TOTAL Initial Costs</u>	<u>4,350.00</u>

NOTE: These initial costs will have to be available at the time of the 1969 C.L.C. Convention so that at this convention the delegates will be able to put this plan into effect. Many factors (the recruitment and enrollment of students, the calling of a professor, his moving and preparation for teaching, the development of the curriculum, etc.) require time and it is urgent that classes begin in the fall or else some of our prospective students may no longer be able to attend.

B. Salaries:

Professor/president	\$ 4800.00
Associate professor	600.00
<u>TOTAL Salary Expenses</u>	<u>5,400.00</u>

C. Operational Costs:

Principal and interest on professorage	\$ 1,380.00
Property and Liability Insurance for professorage	120.00
Heat, Electricity, and Maintenance for professorage	600.00
Books and supplies for seminary	100.00
Heat, Electricity, Maintenance, and Cleaning for seminary rooms in church building	50.00
<u>TOTAL Operational Costs</u>	<u>2,250.00</u>

D. Seminary Building Reserve Fund,

to reach \$3,000 over a 2-year period	\$ 1,500.00
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E. SUMMARY for Plan I:

Initial costs (needed by the end of this fiscal year	\$ 4,350.00
Operational Costs and Salaries(per year)	7,650.00
Seminary Building Reserve Fund (per year)	1,500.00
TOTAL continuing costs (per year)	9,150.00
*Approximate TOTAL continuing costs per voting member	127.09
. . . per month	10.50
. . . per week	2.45
**Approximate TOTAL continuing costs per voting member	205.00
. . . per month	17.00
. . . per week	4.00

* Figured on the basis of 72 voting members.

** Figured on the basis of 45 voting members.

N O T E S:

PLAN II. (with the professor/president providing his own home by either renting or purchasing and the use of the two classrooms in the Tinley Park church building for temporary Seminary instruction)

A. Initial Costs:

Moving costs for professor (distance variation)	\$ 750.00
*Relocation Allowance for professor	1,000.00
<u>TOTAL Initial Costs</u>	<u>1,750.00</u>

* Allowance to be made available to the prof./pres. as an interest free loan to assist him in making a down payment on a home in the Tinley Park area.

NOTE: These initial costs will have to be available at the time of the 1969 C.L.C. Convention so that at this convention the delegates will be able to put this plan into effect. Many factors (the recruitment and enrollment of students, the calling of a professor, his moving and preparation for teaching, the development of the curriculum, etc.) require time and it is urgent that classes begin in the fall or else some of our prospective students may no longer be able to attend.

B. Salaries:

Professor/president	\$ 6,600.00
Associate professor	600.00
<u>TOTAL Salary Expenses</u>	<u>7,200.00</u>

C. Operational Costs:

Books and supplies for seminary	\$ 500.00
Heat, Electricity, Maintenance, and Cleaning for seminary rooms in church building	50.00
<u>TOTAL Operational Costs</u>	<u>550.00</u>

D. Seminary Building Reserve Fund,

to reach \$3,000 over a 2-year period \$ 1,500.00

E. SUMMARY for Plan II:

Initial Costs (needed by the end of this fiscal year)	\$ 1,750.00
Operational Costs and Salaries (per year)	7,350.00
Seminary Building Reserve Fund (per year)	1,500.00
<u>TOTAL continuing costs (per year)</u>	<u>\$ 8,850.00</u>
*Approximate TOTAL continuing costs per voting member	\$ 122.98
. . . per month	10.24
. . . per week	2.40
**Approximate TOTAL continuing costs per voting member	\$ 196.67
. . . per month	16.39
. . . per week	3.78

* Figured on the basis of 72 voting members.

** Figured on the basis of 45 voting members.

NOTES:

Handwritten calculations:

$$\begin{array}{r} 9,250.00 \\ 5,750.00 \\ \hline 4,500.00 \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{r} 8,850.00 \\ 400.00 \\ \hline 9,250.00 \end{array}$$

IV. The Call and Adequate Support of Graduate Students in the Work of the Ministry.

The primary purpose of training future pastors, as already stated under our consideration of "The Need," is to fill vacancies which occur in conference congregations due to the death or necessary retirement of their pastors. Moreover, in view of Christ's Great Commission, or general mission command, it is the duty of every Christian to further the spreading of the Gospel also to people who are outside of his own locality. Through the work of our seminary, each and every member of our conference congregations has the opportunity personally to see to this duty by helping to prepare faithful laborers for the harvest of the Lord.

and supporting (Romans 1:13-17). In view also of this important work according to God's Word, conference should begin working up such an active mission

V. A Question: How Can We Do This?

How can we do this, namely, initiate such a plan, with the Lord's blessing when some of our pastors are still working and must supplement their income because they are not being fully and adequately supported by their congregations at this time?

The norm, or guide, for Christian sanctification is God's Word. God's Word requires us, as Christians, both to give adequate support to the local ministry and to provide adequate training for a future ministry. God's word requires us, as Christians, to strive to do the whole will of God to the best of our ability. We are not, in the spirit of fanatics, to concentrate all our attention upon one Christian duty to the exclusion of others. Moreover, we are not to expect every Christian to have the same degree of sanctification in carrying out the will of God; neither have we the right to stand in judgment over one another's sincerity because of such differences. We are, however, required to provoke or urge one another to love and to good works, because of Christ's great love for us.

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON LUTHERAN UNION

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To the 1969 Convention

Dear Brethren:

During the past conference year, your Committee on Lutheran Union has continued to be alert to opportunities for discussion with representatives of other conservative Lutheran church bodies in the interest of a God-pleasing union based upon the true unity of the Spirit in the Word of God.

While several individual Christians have inquired as to the doctrinal position of our Conference, and we have cheerfully given answer to the inquirers either through the committee directly or through the brotherly assistance of individual pastors, no opportunity was afforded your committee this year to confer officially with any of the church bodies.

In the previous conference year, it had been mutually agreed to leave the door open between our committee and the Board of Doctrine of the Church of the Lutheran Confession for possible future discussion of the Doctrine of the Church and Ministry. There has been, however, since then, no evidence shown by that group of a return to the truly Scriptural Doctrine of the Church and Ministry, namely that in Holy Scripture the local church or congregation is ordained by God together with its pastoral office, while such groups of Christians as synods and conferences are formed and operated in Christian liberty. (Titus 1:5, together with its context beginning with verse 3; Acts 20:28; and compare other Scripture references in our Theses — "This Scriptural Position We Still Hold".) But they continue to contend that no specific outward form of the church on earth, not even the local church and its pastoral office, is prescribed in Scripture, but that congregation, synod, and any assembly of Christians "is Church," all of these being on the same plain as forms of the church devised and operated in Christian liberty, according to circumstances and need, and that these sundry forms are equally empowered with the public administration of the Office of the Keys. They arrive at this unscriptural position by basing their doctrine on an improper emphasis of those Scripture passages which treat of the invisible church, while disregarding many passages which treat of the local church and its pastoral office. They teach that the form of the church and its practical operation is governed only by those Scriptures which require, in the church, decency and order, in love, and that the Christians are led to devise the proper form in each case by the Holy Spirit, who works in them through their common faith. They assured us that their position on The Church and Ministry is essentially the same as that of the Wisconsin Synod (WELS).

While our meetings with them last year were held in an atmosphere of mutual Christian friendliness and cordiality, there seems, because of the above reasons, to be nothing to warrant a further meeting with the Board of ~~Doctrine~~ of the Church of the Lutheran Confession at this time.

As to the possibility of a meeting with the Commission on Doctrine and Practice of the Lutheran Churches of the Reformation, we deem it important first to recall to you the report of our Committee on Lutheran Union to last year's convention, given as follows: "Early last fall (1967) your chairman of the Committee on Lutheran Union wrote to Rev. C. A. MacKenzie, the chairman of the Commission on Doctrine and Practice of the Lutheran Churches of the Reformation, informing him and Rev. H. Romoser that the undersigned was now the newly-elected chairman of the Committee on Lutheran Union. He assured them, 'We want you to know that we, on our part, stand ready to meet with you to discuss those things which separate us. We are willing to put forth every effort, as the Lord grants us grace, to bring about a reunification in harmony with God's Word.' No response was ever received to this letter. It is to be noted, however, that in 1966 Rev. C. A. MacKenzie informed Pastor Schaefer, who was then Chairman of the Committee on Lutheran Union, that as soon as some definite conclusions were reached concerning their relationship with the Wisconsin Synod they would get in touch with us about the possibility of holding meetings with our group relative to doctrinal agreement." (Cf. our

Proceedings, 1968, p. 30.) Still today we have no official reply from the Lutheran Churches of the Reformation apparently because they are still dealing with the Wisconsin Synod, as we note from their Journal of Doctrine and Defense, The Faithful Word.

Since it has come to our attention through a report in the Christian News of May 27, 1968, as well as in The Faithful Word, the fall issue of 1968, that there are apparently certain unionistic practices being tolerated in the Lutheran Churches of the Reformation, it will be necessary also to include a discussion of these matters in a contemplated and much hoped-for meeting with this group.

It is our earnest hope and fervent prayer to the Lord of the Church that proper opportunities may soon be given us to meet with the Commission of the Lutheran Churches of the Reformation and to meet again with the Board of Doctrine of the Church of the Lutheran Confession, to the glory of our Lord and Savior.

The Rev. Armin W. Schuetze, chairman of the annual Lutheran Free Conference, has announced that the Sixth Lutheran Free Conference, to be held July 29-31, this summer, at Davenport, Iowa, will concern itself with the subject of The Means of Grace, and that five essays will be presented under the general theme: God, the Holy Spirit, Acts. Since this subject, like that of last year's Free Conference, is not presently in controversy among conservative Lutherans and is not in keeping with the ultimate objective of these free conferences as stated in their original PROSPECTUS of 1964, namely, "to obtain full unity in the understanding of the Lutheran Confessions and in their application in practical church life;" and since this continued by-passing of the doctrinal disagreements still separating conservative Lutherans is not in harmony with the Word of God which beseeches Christians to try the spirits, whether they be of God, and to beware of, to mark, and to avoid the false prophets (1 John 4:1; Matt. 7:15; Romans 16:17); therefore your Committee recommends that, again this year, our Conference abstain from sending representatives to the Sixth Lutheran Free Conference for the reasons noted above; that, for the same reasons, our Conference earnestly request the Program Committee of the Lutheran Free Conference please, for Jesus' sake, to return without delay to their originally stated, God-pleasing objectives; and that our President be authorized so to inform the chairman of the Lutheran Free Conferences by letter.

Respectfully submitted,
Rev. H. David Mensing, Chairman
Rev. M. L. Natterer
Mr. David T. Mensing

CONCORDIA LUTHERAN CONFERENCEFinancial Report1968-69

F U N D S

	<u>General</u>	<u>Seminary</u>	<u>Sunday School</u>	<u>Pub'l House</u>
Cash Balance, June 1, 1968	\$768.66	\$ 103.63	\$ 390.93	-
Add Cash Receipts:				
Peace, Tinley Park	357.35	845.65	213.00	-
St. Stephen's, Wilmot	1306.85	531.00	156.00	-
Christ, Milwaukee	365.00	975.00	60.00	50.00
St. Paul's, Coos Bay	130.00	10.00	78.00	
St. Luke's Seattle	-	1080.75	120.00	-
St. John's, Lebanon	125.00	50.00	25.00	-
1968 Convention Service	81.60			
Memorial Wreaths		40.00		
Interest Income		71.38		
Transfer from General Fund (Convention Resolution)				400.00
Sunday School Materials Sold			63.50	
Total Receipts	2365.80	3603.78	715.50	450.00
Total Cash Available	\$ 3134.46	\$ 3707.41	\$ 1106.43	\$ 450.00
Less Disbursements:				
Concordia Lutheran Printing	1383.60			
Traveling	141.75			
Telephone	299.38			
Miscellaneous Expenses	91.18			
Sunday School Leaflet printing			108.16	
Sunday School Worksheet supplies & mailing			148.36	
Professor's Salary		200.00		
Publishing House Fund	400.00			
Total Expenditures	2315.91	200.00	256.52	-
Cash Balance, May 31, 1969	\$ 818.55	\$3507.41	\$ 849.91	\$ 450.00
Other Funds, Cash Balances:				
Equalization Fund	\$ 130.55			

V. K. Bloedel, Treasurer

REPORT OF THE AUDITING COMMITTEE

Having examined the books of our Conference Treasurer, Mr. Victor Bloedel, the Auditing Committee is pleased to report that we have found them in good order. The balance in the various funds are such as are reported in the Treasurer's Report and are verified by a reconciliation of the bank statement and reported balances.

Respectfully submitted,
Rev. M. L. Natterer, Chairman
Victor Reil
Ted D. Fischer

MINUTES OF THE NINETEENTH ANNUAL CONVENTION
Concordia Lutheran Conference
at St. John's Lutheran Church
Lebanon, Oregon June 20-22, 1969

The opening service of our 19th Annual Concordia Lutheran Conference Convention began at 9:30 a.m. on Friday, June 20th, 1969, with a divine service in which Rev. E.L. Mehlberg preached an instructive sermon on the basis of Psalm 90:12-17, using as his theme: "Our fervent prayer to the Lord for His grace in behalf of our own and our children's welfare." Rev. E.L. Mehlberg preached the opening convention sermon at the request of President O.W. Schaefer, who was not able to be present due to extensive dental work just completed. Rev. M.L. Natterer, the local pastor, served as the liturgist for the service. The offerings from the service were placed into the General Fund of the Conference treasury.

At 11:30 a.m. Vice-president Mensing officially opened the morning session of our convention. He presented the agenda to the delegates for their approval. The motion was carried to accept it.

The Credentials Committee reported that there were 12 delegates and 4 pastors present, making a total of 17 votes. The motion was carried that they be officially seated at this convention.

The preliminary report of the Registration and Excuse Committee took note of the fact that our President, Rev. O.W. Schaefer, asked to be excused from the convention because of extensive dental work just completed. This report also indicated that there were 4 pastors, 12 delegates, and 45 visitors present. The motion was carried to accept this preliminary report.

The Press Committee report was given by Rev. M.L. Natterer, who stated that an invitation to attend this convention had been given to a group of independent conservative Lutheran pastors in California. The motion was carried to accept the report.

The noon hour followed.

FRIDAY AFTERNOON SESSION - June 20, 1969

This session began at 1:15 p.m. with a devotion conducted by Pastor H.D. Mensing. Hymn 390 was sung, Matthew 21: 28-32 was read, followed by a prayer.

Due to the absence of our President, the Secretary was requested to read the Annual Report of the President. The motion was carried to accept this report subject to the report of the Review Committee. Carried. The Vice-president then appointed Pastor Mehlberg, Mr. Julius Schmitt, and Mr. Daniel Mensing to this committee. The motion was also made and seconded to submit the recommendations urged in the President's Report to our Resolution's Committee for final disposition. Carried.

Vice-president Mensing explained to the convention that because of the heavy work schedule and the late date on which the Essay topic was assigned, it was not possible for Pastor Bloedel to present the assigned Essay: "The Importance for an Orthodox Church Body to Provide Adequate Training and Preparation for a Future Ministry." The convention graciously accepted these reasons and agreed to substitute the excellent translation by Rev. E.L. Mehlberg of Dr. Luther on "The Problem of Maintaining the Church and the Ministry." This article is from Luther's sermon on John 20:19-31, and is found in the last 4 quarter issues of the Concordia Lutheran. Pastor Bloedel then began the reading of the Essay.

The Essay provoked a stimulating discussion in which we were urged not to place our trust in our material wealth, but rather to recognize that all we have belongs to God and that we, as God's children through faith in Christ Jesus, should strive with the aid of the Holy Spirit to use our earthly goods to the glory of God being constrained by the love of Christ. It was pointed out that

while God's mercy is so evident and we are surrounded on all sides by manifestations of His goodness, how sad that we take all these things simply for granted, and that we are so negligent in thanking and praising Him by not using our material wealth in the interest of His Kingdom as we should.

Recess followed.

The Conference Treasurer, Mr. Victor Bloedel, gave the financial report. Mimeographed copies of the Annual Financial Report (1968-69) and May, 1969 were distributed to the convention to assist the delegates in following his report. Motion made and seconded to accept this report subject to audit. Carried.

The next item on the Agenda was the election of officers.

The following pastors were nominated for PRESIDENT: H.D. Mensing, O.W. Schaefer. Elected: O.W. Schaefer.

The following pastors were nominated for VICE-PRESIDENT: E.L. Mehlberg, H.D. Mensing, P.R. Bloedel, M.L. Natterer. Elected: H.D. Mensing.

The following pastor was nominated for SECRETARY: M.L. Natterer. Elected: M.L. Natterer.

The following laymen were nominated for TREASURER: Victor Bloedel, Walter Fischer. Elected: Victor Bloedel.

The following layman was nominated by ballot for BOARD MEMBER-AT-LARGE from the Far West: Walter Fischer. Moved and seconded to dispense with further balloting since the vote was unanimous. Carried.

The following laymen were nominated for BOARD MEMBER-AT-LARGE from the Middle West: Howard Wenck, David Mensing, Glen Frerichs. Elected: Howard Wenck.

The following slates were presented for the EDITORIAL COMMITTEE:

<u>Slate A</u>	<u>Slate B</u>
P. Bloedel	E.L. Mehlberg
M.L. Natterer	H.D. Mensing
M. Luedtke	John Dirksen

Elected: Slate A

The following slates were presented for the COMMITTEE ON THEOLOGICAL EDUCATION:

<u>Slate A</u>	<u>Slate B</u>
P. Bloedel	E.L. Mehlberg
H.D. Mensing	M.L. Natterer
M. Luedtke	Glen Frerichs
David Mensing	Paul Luedtke

Elected: Slate A

The following slates were presented for the COMMITTEE ON MISSIONS:

<u>Slate A</u>	<u>Slate B</u>	<u>Slate C</u>
M.L. Natterer	E.L. Mehlberg	P.R. Bloedel
W. Fischer	Victor Reil	Paul Luedtke
Glen Frerichs	Henry Fischer	Carl Palmquist

Elected: Slate B

The following laymen were nominated for LAY MEMBER of the committee on Lutheran Union: David T. Mensing, Ted D. Fischer, Victor Bloedel, Julius Schmitt, Glen Frerichs. Elected: David T. Mensing.

Moved and seconded to elect by acclamation the present incumbents of the Committee on the Sunday School materials. Carried.

It was moved and seconded to make the elections unanimous and to express our thanks to the Nominating Committee for the efficient manner in which they carried out this task. Carried.

Next followed the report of the Editorial Committee presented by Pastor Bloedel. Because of the supper hour it was moved and seconded to re-convene at 6:15 p.m. and continue with this report. Carried.

The supper hour followed.

FRIDAY EVENING SESSION - June 20, 1969

Pastor Bloedel continued his Editorial report. Moved and seconded to accept his report. Carried.

Mr. Martin Luedtke, the business manager of our Concordia Lutheran, gave his report for the fiscal year from June 1, 1968 to May 31, 1969. Moved and seconded to accept this report subject to audit. Carried.

The Tract Committee report was given by Pastor Bloedel. The motion was carried that this report be accepted.

Following the report of the Tract Committee its recommendation was considered, that the convention adopt again as resolution I, the 2nd resolution of the 18th Annual Convention regarding the solicitation of tract topics, appointment of authors, and preparation of tracts. (See pages 44,45 of '68 Proceedings) The motion was carried to adopt the resolution.

Next followed the report of the Sunday School Material Committee by Pastor Bloedel. The motion was carried to accept this report. This Committee moved that Resolution 3 from the 1968 Convention be adopted also by this Convention with the following deletions: "As outlined in its report to the Convention".... "as these have been shown during a trial period this year to be of significant value in our Sunday School Classes." The motion was seconded and carried. (See page 45, Resolution 3, 1968 Proceedings)

It was moved and seconded to submit the matter of preparing an index of our proceedings and a handbook of resolutions to our Resolution Committee for consideration. Carried.

The Publishing House Progress Report was presented by Pastor Mehlberg. Moved and seconded to accept this report. Carried.

Moved and seconded to refer the recommendation included in this report to our Resolutions Committee for their consideration. Carried.

Pastor Mensing presented the report of the Committee on Lutheran Union. The motion was carried that this report be accepted. It was also moved and seconded that the recommendation in this report regarding the Lutheran Free Conference to be held in July, be referred to the Resolutions Committee for final wording and submission in the form of a resolution. Carried.

Adjournment followed at 8:20 p.m. with the Lord's Prayer.

SATURDAY MORNING SESSION - JUNE 21, 1969

The opening devotion was held by Pastor Bloedel. Hymn 485 was sung, 2 Timothy 2: 1-26 and a prayer were read. This opening devotion began at 9 a.m.

The first order of business was the reading of the minutes of the previous (Friday) day's sessions by the Secretary. It was moved and seconded to adopt the minutes as read. Carried.

Pastor Bloedel, the chairman of the Committee on Theological Education, began his report. Moved and seconded to accept this report. Carried.

Moved and seconded to confine our discussion to Plan II as given on page 5 of "Presentation of a Plan to go forward in providing for a future ministry." Carried.

Next followed the report of the Auditing Committee concerning our Concordia Lutheran, the Tract Committee, and the books of our Conference Treasurer. The motion was carried to accept this report.

Recess followed.

Discussion continued on Plan II as submitted by the Committee on Theological Education. The items under this Plan II were discussed point by point.

Motion made and seconded to adjourn for lunch. Carried.

SATURDAY AFTERNOON SESSION - JUNE 21, 1969

This session began at 1:15 p.m. with a devotion led by Pastor Natterer. Hymn 427 was sung and Isaiah 40: 18-31 and a prayer were read.

Pastor Bloedel continued reading the essay entitled: "The Problem of Maintaining the Church and the Ministry." Discussion followed. It was moved and seconded to accept the essay with thanks to Pastor Bloedel for the reading and to Pastor Mehlberg for having translated this sermon of Luther. Carried.

Discussion then continued on the Seminary Plan as submitted by the Committee on Theological Education. It was moved and seconded to change the \$100.00 for books and supplies for seminary to \$500.00. (See page 25, part c). Carried.

A motion was made and seconded that we submit the matter of incorporation of our Conference (because of the relocation of our Seminary from Milwaukee to Tinley Park) to our Resolutions Committee for final disposition. Carried.

Moved and seconded to take care of the preliminary report of the Budget Committee, Committee to Review President's Report, recommendations of Board of Directors, and initial report of Resolutions Committee after recess before we continue with the report of the Committee on Theological Education. Carried.

Recess followed.

The preliminary report of the Budget Committee was given by our Conference Treasurer, Mr. Victor Bloedel.

The following recommendation from the Board of Directors was read to the convention:

Whereas, the present Synodical Catechism is in many areas in need of clarification, and

Whereas, our Conference is in need of its own Catechism, therefore be it

Resolved, that the matter of revising the Catechism be delegated to the faculty of our Seminary and that the faculty submit copies of their suggested revision section by section to the pastors of our Conference for review and approval in the Pastoral Conference and subsequent adoption in its final complete form by the Conference at a convention.

Moved and seconded to adopt this recommendation. Carried.

The motion was carried to hold an evening session beginning at 7 p.m.

The supper hour then followed.

SATURDAY EVENING SESSION - JUNE 21, 1969

Moved and seconded to hear the report of the Committee to review the President's Annual Report on Sunday afternoon. Carried.

It was then moved and seconded to accept Seminary Plan II as we have revised

it. This motion was unanimously carried. In grateful acknowledgement of God's mercy and grace in granting us His marvelous help in this matter the convention joined in singing Hymn 33: "The Lord hath helped me hitherto."

Pastor Bloedel, chairman of the Committee on Theological Education, then proceeded at the request of the convention to read the Call which had been prepared by Pastor H.D. Mensing at the request of the Committee on Theological Education for the Seminary professors. Pastor Bloedel also informed the convention that the Committee had received tentative applications from six (6) young men desiring to enter our Conference Seminary.

Motion made and seconded that each student pay a token tuition, the money to be held in escrow with interest until his graduation from the Seminary at which time the accumulated amount be returned to him contingent upon his acceptance of a Call into the Ministry of our Conference. Any details of this plan are to be worked out by the C.T.E. Carried.

It was also moved and seconded that vicarage be considered in the curriculum of our Seminary. Carried.

The Resolutions Committee as authorized by the convention brought forth its recommendation rejecting the proposal made from the floor that the Sunday School and Tract Committees be made standing committees of the Conference by constitutional amendment. Adopted. (See paragraph 1, page 42.)

The Resolutions Committee continued with its report. The third resolution expressed thanks to those who assisted the Editorial Committee with their clerical talents. Carried.

The fourth resolution requested Pastor Bloedel to continue serving the Conference as its printer in the areas approved by the 1964 Convention. Carried.

The fifth resolution stated that we abstain from sending representatives to the Sixth Lutheran Free Conference. Carried.

The sixth resolution requested that the President of our Seminary serve as a member of the Committee on Lutheran Union for the present fiscal year ending May 31, 1970. Carried.

Adjournment followed with the blessing.

SUNDAY MORNING - JUNE 22, 1969

At 10:30 a.m. a divine service with Holy Communion was held. Pastor H.D. Mensing preached the sermon on the basis of 1 Peter 3:22. The local pastor served as liturgist. The offering went to the local congregation to assist them in the expenses incurred in hosting the convention.

SUNDAY AFTERNOON SESSION - JUNE 22, 1969

This afternoon session began at 2 p.m. with a devotion led by Pastor Mehlberg. Hymn 224 was sung, and Romans 10: 8-17 and a prayer were read.

The minutes of the previous day, Saturday, were read and approved.

It was moved and seconded to accept the revised afternoon agenda as suggested by Vice-president Mensing.

The Mission Committee's Report was given by Pastor Natterer. It was moved and seconded to re-commit this report to the Committee for revision. Carried.

Recess followed.

Pastor Natterer then gave the revised report of the Committee on Missions. The motion was carried to accept this revised report.

The Committee to review the President's Report was read by Pastor Mehlberg. Moved and seconded to accept this report. Carried.

The final budget report was presented by our treasurer, Victor Bloedel, for the convention's action. Moved and seconded to adopt this report with the change "leaflet printing" from \$200.00 to \$300.00. Here is the budget which the convention adopted:

TOTAL GENERAL FUND.....	<u>\$ 2175.00</u>
Concordia Lutheran.....	1400.00
Traveling.....	150.00
Telephone.....	100.00
Miscel. (Bank chgs., Suppl., Postage).....	100.00
Contingencies.....	100.00
Tracts.....	100.00
Publishing House.....	200.00
Periodicals.....	25.00
TOTAL SEMINARY FUND.....	<u>\$1100.00</u>
Professor's salary.....	6600.00
Associate Professor.....	600.00
Moving Costs.....	750.00
Relocation Allowance.....	1000.00
Library and Operation.....	550.00
Building Reserve.....	1500.00
TOTAL SUNDAY SCHOOL FUND.....	<u>450.00</u>
Leaflet Printing.....	300.00
Work Sheets & Supplies.....	150.00
GRAND TOTAL.....	<u>\$13625.00</u>

Moved and seconded to submit the offer of St. Luke's Lutheran Church, Seattle, Washington, to duplicate the Proceedings of the 1969 Convention to the Resolutions Committee. Carried.

Mr. David Mensing, a delegate from Peace Ev. Lutheran Church, extended an invitation as authorized from that congregation to have the 1970 convention of our Conference in Tinley Park, Illinois. It was moved and seconded to accept this invitation with thanks. Carried.

It was also moved and seconded to have the minutes of the Sunday sessions committed to the Praesidium as usual, but because of the President's absence, request the Secretary to assist in this matter. Carried.

The Committee on Registration and Excuses gave their final report which showed that there were 12 delegates, 4 pastors, and 45 visitors present. The motion carried to accept this report.

The Resolutions Committee continued their report.

The seventh resolution requested an index of all the Proceedings. Carried.

The eighth resolution asked that the Treasurer of the Conference be authorized to transfer the incorporation of our Conference from the State of Wisconsin to the State of Illinois. Carried.

The ninth resolution pertained to the resignation of Rev. A.J. Cordes from our Conference. Carried.

The tenth resolution referred to the mimeographing of our Proceedings by St. Luke's Lutheran Church, Seattle, Washington. Carried.

The eleventh resolution thanked those who provided the secretarial services for the convention. Carried.

The twelfth resolution thanked the officers and committees for their faithful service in the Lord's Vineyard. Carried.

The thirteenth resolution expressed the convention's gratitude to the host congregation, St. John's Lutheran Church, for their hospitality, and to the organists, and for the choral selections. Carried.

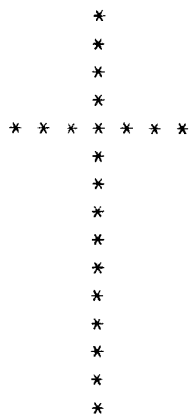
There being no further business to transact, the 1969 convention was brought to a close with the singing of the Common Doxology, the Lord's Prayer, and the Benediction.

Adjournment was at 4:50 p.m.

Soli Deo Gloria!

Respectfully submitted,

M.L. Natterer, Secretary



RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED AT THE CONVENTION

In view of the fact that the 17th annual convention of the Concordia Lutheran Conference adopted the recommendation of the Board of Directors that the Committee on Sunday School Materials and the Tract Committee be considered sub-committees of and under the supervision of the Editorial Committee of the Conference, and in view of the fact that this arrangement has proved over the last two years to be a most practical and efficient one, the Resolutions Committee recommends that no revision of the Constitution, making these sub-committees permanent standing committees of the Conference, be made at this time.

Resolution 1:

WHEREAS we recognize the importance of making available to our congregations tracts containing topics of a timely and useful nature, as well as material which will help testify of our Scriptural doctrine and practice to those outside our fellowship; and

WHEREAS the preparation of tracts is time-consuming and demands the utmost care in the selection of topics on the basis of current applicability and probable demand on the part of our congregations;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the pastors of our Conference discuss the need for tracts with their respective voters' assemblies and solicit from them suggestions for tract topics and that these suggestions be sent by the pastors to the Tract Committee of the Conference for its consideration; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Tract Committee then select two topics for publication during the coming year and appoint authors to write these tracts; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the initial printing of these tracts be done by letterpress and that proofs be pulled for photographing for the preparation of offset plates for future runs.

Resolution 2:

WHEREAS we recognize with praise to the Lord that our congregations have derived much spiritual benefit from the Sunday School materials published by our Conference; and

WHEREAS the Sunday School Materials Committee and, in particular, its chairman, Pastor Bloedel, have under the gracious hand of God maintained a great deal of Christian foresight in planning the program for the best possible educational value to children and teachers alike;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Conference officially authorize the Sunday School Materials Committee to proceed with its projected program, namely, 1) to effect revision of present leaflets and worksheets as the supply is exhausted; 2) to prepare leaflets of a more advanced nature for older children; 3) to continue on a regular basis to publish review leaflets each quarter; and 4) to undertake the preparation of exegetical study helps for Sunday School teachers.

Resolution 3:

WHEREAS the Editorial Committee of our Conference has again this year regularly supplied the congregations of our fellowship with well-written and edifying Scriptural materials for group as well as individual study; and

WHEREAS the clerical work involved in the preparation, assembling, and mailing both of the Concordia Lutheran and of the Sunday School leaflets and worksheets is, in itself, an enormous task;

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THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Conference express its heartfelt gratitude to Mrs. Martin Luedtke and Miss Janet Luedtke for their untiring Christian faithfulness and selflessness in placing their clerical talents and skills at the disposal of the Editorial Committee as with God's gracious blessing it continues its efficient work for the furtherance of His kingdom among us.

Resolution 4:

WHEREAS under the Lord's gracious blessing the Publishing House Committee was able to report some progress toward the eventual establishment of a full-scale publishing operation in our Conference; and

WHEREAS there has been decided improvement of facilities at the Bloedel Print Shop, both in equipment and in location, the Lord having showered upon the laborer of our printer His continual grace and favor;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that we request Pastor Bloedel to continue serving the Conference as its printer in the areas approved by the 1964 Convention, and that our congregations be encouraged to lend their wholehearted support to the publishing house project by their fervent prayers for the Lord's continued blessing upon our efforts in His name and by their cheerful and liberal offerings for the upbuilding of the Publishing House Fund.

Resolution 5:

WHEREAS the chairman of the Annual Lutheran Free Conference has announced that the Sixth Lutheran Free Conference, to be held July 29-31, this summer at Davenport, Iowa, will concern itself with the subject of The Means of Grace, and that five essays will be presented under the general theme: God, the Holy Spirit, Acts; and

WHEREAS this subject, like that of last year's Free Conference, is not presently in controversy among conservative Lutherans and is not in keeping with the ultimate objective of these free conferences as stated in their original PROSPECTUS of 1964, namely, "to obtain full unity in the understanding of the Lutheran Confessions and in their application in practical church life" and

WHEREAS this continued by-passing of the doctrinal disagreements still separating conservative Lutherans is not in harmony with the Word of God, to try the spirits whether they are of God, and to beware of, to mark and to avoid the false prophets (1 John 4:1; Matt. 7:15; Romans 16:17);

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that, again this year, our Conference abstain from sending representatives to the Sixth Lutheran Free Conference for the reasons noted above; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that, for the same reasons, our Conference earnestly request the Program Committee of the Lutheran Free Conference please, for Jesus' sake, to return without delay to their originally stated God-pleasing objectives; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that our President be authorized so to inform the chairman of the Lutheran Free Conference by letter.

Resolution 6:

WHEREAS the seminary plan adopted by the 19th Annual Convention of the Concordia Lutheran Conference provides for two professors on the staff of the seminary; and

WHEREAS Article IX, Section D, of the Conference Constitution provides for one

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seminary instructor to serve on the Committee on Lutheran Union; and
WHEREAS the calling of professors for the seminary and the acceptance of such calls will not have been completed in time for election of one of these professors to the Committee on Lutheran Union by the Conference in convention assembled;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that for the present fiscal year ending May 31st, 1970, the President of the Concordia Lutheran Conference Theological Seminary serve as a member of the Committee on Lutheran Union.

Resolution 7:

WHEREAS it is necessary for us to have easy access to the contents of our Proceedings for the purpose of reference; and

WHEREAS the same need prevails concerning reference to the resolutions passed at our various conventions;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Conference Secretary kindly prepare an index of the contents of all our Proceedings, as well as a handbook containing all the active resolutions of our conventions; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that he submit these to the Conference Printer for publication in a loose-leaf format to facilitate keeping both of these manuals current.

Resolution 8:

WHEREAS it has been the policy of our Conference to be incorporated as a non-profit organization in the state where its Seminary is located; and

WHEREAS the location of the Concordia Lutheran Conference Theological Seminary has been changed by this Convention to Tinley Park, Illinois; and

WHEREAS the Treasurer has expressed the willingness to assist us in making the necessary transfer of incorporation;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Treasurer of the Conference be authorized to inform the State of Wisconsin of our relocation and also to assist in securing and filing the necessary legal documents for incorporation in the State of Illinois, and that we request him to complete this work without delay.

Resolution 9:

WHEREAS in a letter to the President of the Conference dated March 31, 1969, the Rev. A. J. Cordes resigned his membership in the Concordia Lutheran Conference; and

WHEREAS his reasons for resigning do not in fact express but disguise the real situation underlying and culminating in his termination of membership in our Conference; and

WHEREAS the resignation came at a time when official and unofficial attempts were being made for a meeting to resolve the issues in question, which attempts were constantly repudiated; and

WHEREAS to resign under such circumstances is the sinful act of separation from brethren whose Christian admonition he refused to accept and with whom he would not be reconciled contrary to the requirement of God's Word, Matthew 5:25 and Matthew 18:15-17;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that this resignation be accepted under protest and be recorded by the Conference in its official minutes as an unscriptural

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severance; and that Rev. Cordes receive official written notice of this action from the President of the Conference.

Resolution 10:

WHEREAS St. Luke's congregation and its pastor, Rev. P. R. Bloedel, assumed the responsibility of preparing the stencils and cover for the Proceedings of the 1968 Convention, and for the mimeographing and assembling of the same; and

WHEREAS these brethren have also volunteered their services for the publication of the Proceedings of this 1969 Convention, provided that all materials to be included in these Proceedings be received by them no later than Sept. 15, 1969, in order that distribution of these documents can be made to member congregations in much more ample time before the 1970 Convention;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that we express our hearty thanks to these brethren for this labor of love and gratefully accept their generous offer to prepare and distribute the Proceedings also of this convention; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we encourage the officials of our Conference to process the materials for these proceedings with all deliberate speed, so that they will be in the hands of the St. Luke's Congregation by the date specified above.

Resolution 11:

WHEREAS the efficient functioning of a convention of this nature requires the availability of secretarial services for the typing and duplication of reports and resolutions;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that we express special thanks to Mrs. Martin R. Luedtke for her able and generous help in typing materials during convention sessions and also to Miss Karen Natterer and Miss Ruth Mensing for assisting in this work.

Resolution 12:

WHEREAS the officers, standing committees, and appointed committees have served our beloved Conference faithfully during the past year under the continued blessing of the Lord of the Church;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that we express our sincere gratitude for all that these brethren have wrought in their dedicated Christian service to our Conference in the past year of grace; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Holy Spirit grant a rich measure of His grace to those brethren who have been elected or appointed to positions of leadership in our midst for the coming fiscal year, so that all they think, say and do may be in accordance with God's Holy Word, to His glory alone, and for the continued prosperity of His Kingdom among us.

Resolution 13:

WHEREAS the Concordia Lutheran Conference has this year been especially blessed by the Lord of the Church with a most brotherly, peaceful, cooperative, joyful and fruitful convention, for which all glory and praise is due Him alone; and

WHEREAS St. John's Lutheran Church of Lebanon, Oregon, has shown itself to be a most gracious host to this 19th Annual Convention by extending Christian hospitality to delegates and guests in its church building and in the homes of its members; and

WHEREAS we were privileged to enjoy not only nourishment for our bodies through the dedicated service by the ladies of the congregation but received also in rich abundance nourishment for our souls in the Bread of Life, God's precious Word; and

WHEREAS our praise of the Lord and Head of His Church in the various devotions and divine services were enhanced by special organ and choral music to His glory;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Concordia Lutheran Conference express its hearty thanks to the pastor and members of St. John's Congregation for their most liberal hospitality and Christian fellowship which contributed in large measure to the success of this meeting, to our spiritual edification and to our physical comfort; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we especially thank Mrs. H. David Mensing and Mr. James Luedtke for serving as organists during this convention and Mr. H. Daniel Mensing and the youth present from our various congregations for the choral offerings which beautified the services, and that special thanks be rendered to those members of the host congregation who so generously opened their homes to the delegates and guests of this convention; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that, above all others, we praise and glorify the Lord of the Church, our gracious Savior, for the bountiful blessings He has bestowed upon us, and that we express our thanksgiving to Him especially by re-dedicating our lives to His cheerful and faithful service and by now rising to sing to His praise the Common Doxology.

SOLI DEO GLORIA!

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