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LAY DELEGATES

<u>CONGREGATION</u>	<u>DELEGATES</u>	<u>ALTERNATES</u>
Peace Ev. Lutheran Church Tinley Park, Illinois	David T. Mensing Glen A. Frerichs	Jeffery W. Styx Gerald M. Luedtke
St. John's Lutheran Church Lebanon, Oregon	Walter Fischer Michael Fischer	Larry Turner -----
St. Luke's Lutheran Church Seattle, Washington	Stephen P. Bloedel Robert G. Bloedel	Ronald Schlaht Julius A. Schmitt
St. Stephen's Lutheran Church Wilmot, South Dakota	Kent Frerichs Loren Reil	Orville Reyelts Rodney Reyelts
Trinity Lutheran Church Coos Bay (Eastside) Ore.	John R. Dirksen Loren R. Dirksen	Ted D. Fischer Doug C. Fischer

*In an advisory capacity as President of the Seminary and a bonafide pastor and officer of the Conference.

SERMON PREACHED AT THE OPENING SERVICE

by the Rev. H. David Mensing, President
Tinley Park, Illinois

Revelation 3:11

Dear Brethren in Christ Jesus and His Word:

Already in the day of the Apostle Peter, he wrote in his First Epistle (4:7): "The Day of the Lord is at hand." Since we are living today close to 2,000 years later, the modernistic religious teachers scoff at the Word of God as though it were altogether mistaken. But in his Second Epistle Peter writes of these very people (II Pet. 3:3-4): "There shall come in the last days scoffers, walking after their own lusts, and saying, Where is the promise of His coming? for since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of the creation." And he adds in verse 8 the explanation of how our Lord regards this seeming long delay, saying, "But beloved, be not ignorant of this one thing, that one day is with the Lord as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day." In view of this we have chosen as our convention motto this year: "Our Faithfulness to the Lord in the Light of Judgment Day," or more briefly stated: "Be Thou Faithful!"

Our convention essayist will point out from Holy Scripture in greater detail that the day of the Lord, the Last Day of this world, and the Day of Judgment is indeed nigh at hand. And to open this convention I have chosen to bring before you as its keynote this earnest admonition of the Lord Jesus Himself:

"Behold, I come quickly;

Hold that Fast which thou hast, that No Man Take thy Crown!"

I.

If then we consider this earnest admonition of our Lord Jesus by asking first, "What is this crown which we Christians possess and to which our Savior bids us hold fast?", the answer lies in the immediate context and also in a slightly more remote context just one chapter before our text. It is the same crown which Jesus gave to this faithful church in the ancient city of Philadelphia in Asia Minor and also to His faithful church in Smyrna.

To the church in Philadelphia He writes through the Apostle John: "Thou hast a little strength, and hast kept my Word, and hast not denied my name." (v.8) To the other faithful church, in Smyrna; He refers to it as "the crown of life." (2:10) And again in our own chapter, He says to the church in Philadelphia: "Because thou hast kept the word of my patience... Him that overcometh will I make a pillar in the temple of my God, and he shall go no more out," (v. 10 & 12) showing that the crown of which He speaks is, in its final culmination, the crown of everlasting life in heaven. The crown, therefore, of which He also speaks to us and which we by His grace now have in our possession consists not in any largeness, greatness, or strength and influence in an earthly sense, but much rather in the possession of His precious Word, the Holy Scriptures of the Old and New Testament, with all their concomitant blessings, -- above all the central doctrine of that Word, that a poor sinner is justified before God alone by God's grace, through faith in Christ Jesus, and its culmination, the everlasting crown of life in heaven.

Yet, possessing the crown does not mean merely to have the Bible in our homes and churches but to keep it, as Jesus points out. (v. 8 & 10) This word "keep",

as the original language shows, means "to attend to carefully, to guard it against misuse, and to hold to it firmly." This was not always done by those to whom the crown was given.

Already in the days of the Apostle Paul, he had to warn the Thessalonians and say: "The mystery of iniquity doth already work." (2 Thess. 2:7) Then, especially from the third and fourth centuries on, attacks on the doctrines of the Bible did not stop but kept increasing until, at the time of Luther, the Holy Scriptures were so covered over with man-made teachings that even the central doctrine, justification by faith alone, was hardly known and believed. Luther, under God, restored the pure doctrine of God's Word. But that was not the end of it. Controversies continued after Luther's time and after the time of orthodoxy, or right teaching,-- Pietism and Rationalism, on to the present day, so that even today atheists have the Bible and ridicule it. Modernists have the Bible and try their best to cast suspicion on it. Liberal Lutherans, or, as they like to call themselves, "moderates," no longer accept it as the verbally inspired, inerrant Word of God, the Word of Jesus, even denying that Jesus is the only Way to heaven. (Compare John 14:6) There are also otherwise conservative Lutherans, with whom we would like to find ourselves in doctrinal and confessional agreement (I Cor. 1:10), but who, to bolster their false position, simply change the words of Jesus to mean what they don't say. That is, in the Savior's own words, "teaching for doctrines the commandments of men." (Matt. 15:9) And of this He says even of old through His prophet Jeremiah: "Behold, I am against the prophets, saith the Lord, that use their tongues and say, He saith." (Jer. 23:31) And again, through the same prophet: "Cursed be he that doeth the work of the Lord deceitfully." (Jer. 48:10) We are being faced today not with mere complications, not with misunderstandings, but with the plain falsification of Jesus' Word!

My brethren, the crown which our Savior has given us and to which we by His grace still hold fast is His pure word and doctrine,-- nothing more or less--with of course its chief jewel, justification alone by grace through faith, which culminates in the everlasting crown of life in heaven.

II.

And now, my brethren, my fellow Lutherans, delegates of the churches or congregations comprising our Conference, what are we going to do with the precious crown? Shall we still today and in the future hold it fast, for ourselves and our children and future generations? Or shall we, like most of the churches in the early centuries and today, permit it to slip slowly but steadily and surely from our grasp? These are questions which the Savior challenges every one of us to answer as He says in the context: "He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches," (v. 13) and then adds the challenge itself in our text: "Behold, I come quickly; hold that fast which thou hast, that no man (more precisely in the original,) "no one", take thy crown."

Do you know, do you stop to realize, that this is a most timely warning to us, who today possess so great a treasure? Do you realize that, right now, there are personal beings and influences all about us that threaten to make us lose our grasp on the treasure of the true Word, on the pure doctrine of that Word, the true and saving faith, and the crown of life in heaven? These are, in short, in the words of Scripture, the temptations of the devil, the wicked world, and our evil flesh.

There is then, first of all, the devil himself, that old Evil Foe of God and man, who, though we don't see him because he is a spirit, walks about in this world like a hungry lion, seeking whom he may devour. (I Pet. 5:8) He will surely use every device and trick at his disposal, including his seed (Gen. 3:15), including

the evil angels and wicked men, to make us doubt the truth, the clarity and the authority of God's Word, to fill us with indifference and uncertainty about our Christianity; so that, as he wickedly hopes, he may by his cunningness somehow, some time, some way make us lose our hold upon the crown, -- and then, just then, snatch it from us.

Then there confronts us, secondly and thirdly, coupled together as allies of Satan, the temptations of the world and the weaknesses and sinful inclinations of our own sinful flesh.

Among these, approaching us from without, is the ever-growing spirit of atheism and "science falsely so called" (I Tim. 6:20), that increasingly tempts especially our youth to give up or at least for the first to regard with questioning eye the ancient Holy Scriptures and the old Gospel of Salvation:

There is among men everywhere, -- and this touches us Christians too -- a carnal pride, a hankering to be bigger than we are, more powerful and influential, even at the cost of the crown. In these times of high economy there is widespread, also among us Christians, a spirit of worldly selfishness, a lust for luxury, a longing to enjoy to the full the pleasures and material advantages of our modern world. And this in turn could well hinder the spread and prosperity of Christ's kingdom and at length take from us or our children the crown, unless we earnestly resist these materialistic tendencies of our age and by increased effort and sacrifice build up and strengthen "the walls of Jerusalem."

Then there is still another prominent temptation threatening to take away from us our spiritual heritage because it has to do with the very cure of all the other evils. It is the streamlined life in which we are living today, so crammed with multitudinous activities that, coupled with our weak and sinful flesh, it makes it easy simply to say: "I have no time," no time to take full advantage of the various opportunities offered by my church to grow in grace, no time at home either, to sit quietly with our children at the feet of Jesus for the One Thing Needful, to be strengthened in the faith and be enabled by God's grace ever to hold fast more surely to the crown!

What? No time? Yes, we still have 168 hours in every week, and we don't need all these hours for purely earthly pursuits. But we don't always use our time wisely. We have in many respects lost our sense of values, and it is seriously to be considered whether we all still truly believe that wonderful word of our Savior: "Seek ye first the kingdom of God, and His righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you." (Matt. 6:33)

Yet, on the other hand, there is very little time left for us penitently to amend our ways, not merely by proudly wearing the crown but also by grasping it more surely and firmly in our hands of faith. For Jesus Christ, the Son of God, our Savior, calls out and earnestly beseeches us once again today, as we begin to review and plan the joint work of our churches in this Conference convention: "Behold, I come quickly; hold that fast which thou hast, that no man take thy crown!" Amen.

SERMON PREACHED AT THE SUNDAY SERVICE

by the Rev. P. R. Bloedel,
Seattle, Washington

Hebrews 10:25

Dear members of Peace Lutheran Church, pastors and delegates of our Concordia Lutheran Conference, visitors and friends:

"FAITHFULNESS TO THE LORD IN THE LIGHT OF JUDGMENT DAY!" What a wonderful and impressive motto for the 28th Annual Convention of our Conference. And you can readily see how this motto is set before you once again in the text which I have chosen for this morning's meditation from the Book of Hebrews, in the 25th verse from the 10th chapter, "Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching."

Much ado is being made today over the so-called Holocaust. Since the trouble in the nuclear power plant at 3-mile Island, protest marches against the use of nuclear energy have stirred up emotions throughout the nation. The energy crises, inflation and the danger of a grim recession, the SALT Agreement, and the elaborate preparations in the area of offense and defense in the event of a nuclear attack, too much rain, floods, drought and famine, the changes in the weather pattern in this 20th century, tornados and earthquakes at places never before affected. All these things have caused the unbelieving people of this world to be alarmed and to spend huge sums of money to be properly prepared for any eventuality--for safety and security.

We Christians, however, know that our risen and living Savior rules and fills all things with His divine power and majesty--that He governs and controls the entire universe, all the nations of the world, the inventive genius of man, and the elements of nature in such a way that the true believer's welfare and benefit is always served--for the Bible assures us that "all things work together for good to them that love God!" (Rom. 8:28)

But there IS a Holocaust coming-- a Holocaust described in the most terrifying words; worse destruction than the great flood when everyone on earth perished except Noah and his family; greater destruction than that which was brought upon Sodom and Gomorrah when God rained fire and brimstone from heaven and completely obliterated those cities of the plain; greater devastation and terror than that which occurred at the destruction of Jerusalem by Titus in 70 AD when human blood literally flowed in the streets, dead bodies were piled up in great heaps outside the city walls, and women roasted and ate the flesh of their own children. TERRORS--you say? Yes indeed, but GREATER TERRORS than these will accompany the Last Day of the World when "the heavens being on fire shall be dissolved, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat," "When the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up!" And in the days preceding the end of the world "men's hearts will fail them for fear and for looking after those things that are coming upon the earth," for "nation will rise against nation and kingdom against kingdom," false prophets and false Christs will arise and will deceive many, the hearts of many who professed themselves to be Christians will have waxed cold and the terrors and awfulness of those days will try the hearts even of those who are predestined to eternal salvation. We will, therefore consider as our theme for this morning's meditation:

The Great Importance Of Being Faithful in Assembling
Ourselves Together in Public Worship

- We shall see:
1. It is God's will;
 2. It is for our spiritual and eternal welfare; and
 3. It is urgent.

I.

"It's not my life's style to go to church every Sunday!" "I don't mind going to church in the winter time, but in the summer time I regard my week-ends as my vacation for camping and outings with my family--after all, I take the Bible along and we can gather together for family devotions." And so it is the custom of some to think lightly of the divine service in the house of God and to minimize its importance. Well, is it really so important after all? It IS important, vitally important--because it is GOD'S WILL for your life, and despising the Will of God is something to be greatly concerned about. God says, "Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together as the manner of some is."

It is evident that the "assembling together" in our text is NOT merely a chance gathering of Christians, not even the assembling of a Conference or Synod in convention, BUT the gathering together which the Lord Himself has commanded, namely, of the Local Congregation of Christians for the purpose of regularly hearing the Word of God, partaking of the Lord's Supper, Baptizing, praying together, singing praises to God and giving for the support and extension of His Kingdom.

If you, together with your fellow Christians, in harmony with God's Word, have called a pastor, it is then your duty before God to HEAR the Word of God which he publicly proclaims in your behalf and in the name and by the command of Christ. The Lord God Himself deals with you through human ministers, men with human failings and frailties, when His Word is preached. Knowing this, you should not refuse or devise a way to neglect hearing them, but you should be eager, ready, and willing to hear them as gladly as you should be to hear Christ Himself in person, for the Lord Jesus says concerning His earthly messengers, "He that heareth you, heareth Me!" Especially when you know from Scripture that God has instituted the office of the Christian ministry, the pastoral office, as the highest office in the Church to which all other offices are auxiliary, that He has ordained that the Gospel should be preached by qualified men who are called into the ministerial or pastoral office by Christians in every locality, it is then His holy Will that you should not think that it is sufficient to use the written Word of God BUT ALSO regularly to HEAR the public preaching of God's Word according to Christ's command--knowing that a refusal to hear such preaching is to disregard and to despise the Lord Christ Himself.

Remember the Word of God which says, "He that is of God HEARETH God's Word, ye therefore hear them not, because ye are not of God;" "Keep thy foot when thou goest into the house of God, and be more ready to HEAR than to give the sacrifice of fools, for they consider not that they do evil;" "I was glad when they said unto me, Let us go unto the house of the Lord;" "In the congregations will I bless the Lord;" "Lord, I have loved the habitation of Thy house, and the place where Thine honor dwelleth;" "Blessed are they that HEAR the Word of God and keep it;" "They continued steadfastly in the Apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers," "When ye received the Word of God which ye HEARD of us, ye received it not as the word of men, but, as it is in truth, the Word of God." To hear and to learn God's Word and thus to grow in spiritual wisdom and understanding is the CHIEF PART of all true Christian worship. O how important it is then to assemble ourselves together regularly and

faithfully to hear the Word of our God according to His Will and Command!

II.

The regular hearing of God's Word in the public worship service when we assemble together with our fellow Christians, also involves a precious promise, for God says, "As the rain cometh down, and the snow, from heaven, and returneth not thither, but watereth the earth and maketh it bring forth and bud that it may give seed to the sower and bread to the eater, so shall My Word be that goeth forth out of My mouth; it shall not return unto Me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it." Here we are told that when God's Word is regularly preached (as the rain and snow regularly nourish the fruitful earth) it will accomplish what God pleases and will prosper. But what is it that such a regular preaching of God's Word and the frequent use of the Visible Word in the Sacrament will accomplish? How will it become prosperous? It prospers and it accomplishes what God wants when it makes people believers in Jesus their Savior and preserves them in this faith unto life eternal--and this promise is effected or accomplished in every local visible Christian congregation. This happened when you became a Christian and, by God's grace, through the regular use of Word and Sacrament, have been kept in the true and saving faith unto this day! Thus the Bible tells us, "It pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe" and "faith cometh by HEARING, and hearing by the Word of God." The Law and Gospel is rightly divided and the whole counsel of God is regularly preached from this pulpit and from every pulpit in our beloved Conference. In our congregations also the Lord's Supper is administered regularly for our soul's health. How important it is then, for our spiritual and eternal welfare, "not to forsake the assembling of ourselves together as the manner of some is" but to be faithful in gathering together with our fellow Christians in our respective local congregations for public worship. Here only do we have God's promise that His Word will not return to Him empty, but will accomplish what He pleases and will prosper in the purpose for which He sent it.

III.

The great importance of heeding this Word of God in our text is also brought out by its URGENCY. "So much the more," our text tells us, "as ye see the day approaching!" No one who is a true Christian will deny that we are indeed living in the last days. We can see the Last Day coming as we observe the signs about us everywhere in this world. That great Holocaust will soon be upon us--when people least expect it, for Jesus says, "As the lightning cometh out of the east and shineth even unto the west, so shall also the coming of the Son of Man be," and "as a thief in the night" it will take the people of this world by surprise! Then the unbelieving people of this world will cry out for the mountains to fall on them and for the hills to cover them. Jesus says, "Then will be two in the field; the one shall be taken, and the other left. Two women shall be grinding at the mill; the one shall be taken, and the other left!" The one will be received into the joys of heaven; the other will be abandoned to the everlasting torments of hell! Let us then do all in our power that we may not be among those who are left abandoned on the Day of Judgment!

We must constantly then be exhorted by the Word of God, out of love for our Savior, to do battle against our sinful flesh, against this wretched world in which we live, and against Satan, the old evil foe of God and man. And we hear such exhortation whenever we assemble ourselves together for public worship--and through that Word of God the Holy Ghost "strengthens and preserves us steadfast in His Word and faith unto our end!" This is what God wants for us all!

We know, according to Scripture and as Luther tells us in his Large Catechism,

that all of us carry our Old Adam about our necks who exalts himself and incites us daily to unchastity, laziness, gluttony, drunkenness, avarice, and deception. The world also causes us often to stumble in our faith, to sin in word, deed, and thought, to become impatient and easily angered. In this world there is nothing but hatred, enmity, jealousy, violence, unfaithfulness, vengeance, cursing, wantonness, sexual sin, slander, pride, rebellion, haughtiness, superfluous finery, honor, affluency, fame, and power--where the most vile sins are looked upon as something interesting, even praiseworthy and socially acceptable. Then comes the devil, inciting and provoking in all directions but especially agitating matters that concern the conscience and spiritual affairs, namely, to induce you to despise and to disregard the Word and works of God, to tear you away from faith, hope, and love, and bring you into misbelief, carnal security, and hardening of the heart, or, on the other hand, to despair, blasphemy, and denial of God. These are indeed snares and nets, yes, real fiery darts which are shot most venomously into the heart, not by flesh and blood, but by the devil.

Great and grievous are these dangers and temptations, especially as we see the day approaching--so that every hour you are in this vile life, you are attacked on all sides, chased, and hunted down so that you are moved to cry out and pray to God that He would not permit you to become weary and faint, and to relapse into shame and unbelief. Therefore, the words of our text are urgent and imperative that you (as an individual Christian) be faithful in your attendance at the divine service with the members of your local congregation, "not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching!" Then, by God's grace, we may still finally overcome and obtain the victory--for Jesus' sake, in His name, and through His power alone! Amen.

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PRESIDENTIAL REPORT

"Oh that I had a thousand voices
 To praise my God with thousand tongues!
 My heart, which in the Lord rejoices,
 Would then proclaim in grateful songs
 To all, wherever I might be,
 What great things God hath done for me." (TLH, #30 v.1)

Lest this be considered only my own personal expression of praise to the Lord, let me remind you, rather, that it bespeaks the praises of us all, my dear brethren. For this hymn is based on Psalm 126, where the holy writer speaks for all his brethren, praising the Lord for their return from captivity, and saying especially in verse 3: "The Lord hath done great things for us; whereof we are glad."

The Lord hath indeed done great things for us; whereof we are glad. Let us all, and this includes the younger among us, not forget His great mercies! We were by nature the children of wrath, even as others. (Eph. 2:3) But God, who is rich in mercy, redeemed us by the precious blood of His dear Son, and, by His holy Spirit, raised us up together and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus (v. 4-6), freeing us from the captivity of Satan himself.

Furthermore, in the early 1950's, when most of us who are in our Conference today found ourselves veritably captive in our former synodical affiliation, captive in a churchly organization that permitted false doctrine and practice to stand side-by-side with the Truth, and captive in human tyranny over consciences bound in God's Word; our gracious God freed us also from that captivity and simultaneously kept us from "taking the easy way out" by simply affiliating with larger bodies whose doctrine and practice, too, is today not right. He guided us instead, in our various small churches or congregations, to hold together in this little Conference the unity of His Spirit in the bond of peace (Eph. 4:3), as we observed and celebrated this last year.

Now for another year our dear Lord has continued still to be with us, to guide and bless us in our homes, in our congregations, and in the joint work of our Conference. As we thank and praise Him today, we also take this occasion to thank the other officers and committees of our Conference and all the brethren for their faithful support of our work, and especially the Vice President for his valued help and counsel.

The business of this convention will be laid before us in the printed Agenda and in the Prospectus; and, with greater detail, by the reports and recommendations of our standing committees, the floor committees, the Board of Directors, by two memorials offered in the Prospectus, and possibly also directly from the floor.

While it is not my purpose now to enter upon or to pre-advise on the disposition of these matters, there are two concerns to which I invite your most special attention-- the work of our Committee on Lutheran Union (CLU) because it entails very special problems, and the work of our Seminary because the need of further students is critical if our people in the near future and in the generations to come are not to be "sheep without a shepherd."

The motto of our convention this year is: "Our Faithfulness to the Lord in the Light of Judgment Day," or more briefly stated: "Be thou faithful." This, having been presented already in the opening sermon, will be treated at greater length by our Essayist and in the Sunday Service.

There is one request, brethren, which it is necessary however at this time for me personally to make of you. Due to a series of grave and long-lasting local problems this past winter and also matters of no little concern in our Conference work,-- which both together have caused me unusual and unrelenting physical stresses, my earthly physician, finding my health otherwise still good, has seriously advised that "my work-load be limited to immediate duties." Hence, in order to continue faithfully first of all in the work of my congregation and the work of our Seminary, I ask that, for this next Conference year at least, our brethren exempt me from any Conference position of strenuous leadership. According to the will of my heavenly Physician, I will of course be happy still to assist, in faithfulness to the Lord, wherever desired and wherever possible.

In conclusion, let me invite you to begin, continue, and end this convention with continued zeal for the work of the Lord and Savior of His church, but always "zeal according to knowledge" (Rom. 10:2). And let us continue in all our ways to be thankful and gratefully, yes, lovingly faithful to Him who hath done great things for us, whereof we are glad; and who is able still "to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, ...Unto Him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end. Amen." (Eph. 3:20-21)

Respectfully submitted,

H. David Mensing, President

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE TO REVIEW THE PRESIDENTIAL REPORT

We have reviewed the Report of the President of our Conference and found it to be informative, factual, and edifying. It has given us a fitting guide and introduction to the work before us at this convention. Especially it reminds us of the rich blessings we have from the Lord, -- not the least of which is the precious unity and fellowship we share in our little Conference.

We wish to express our deep, heart-felt thanks to our President for his labor of love this past year -- as well as for the continued sacrifice he, as our President, has given us throughout these past three years.

We thank especially the Lord for such a faithful servant, and for preserving his health through the often demanding responsibilities of the office. We pray that the Lord sustain him now as he leaves this office and grant him a restful reprieve, and that the Lord sustain and strengthen him in all his continuing duties.

Respectfully submitted,

Rev. Randall D. Styx
Walter F. Fischer
Loren Reil

CONVENTION ESSAY:

OUR FAITHFULNESS TO THE LORD IN THE LIGHT OF JUDGMENT DAY

by Rev. H. L. Natterer

The believers in the Old Testament longingly looked forward to the coming Christ in the flesh! That first Gospel promise given to our first parents in the Garden of Eden, "I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her Seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise His heel" (Gen. 3:15), was surely understood by Adam and Eve. When Eve bore her first son, Cain, she exclaimed, as Dr. Wm. Beck following Luther translates, "I have gotten a man, the LORD." She thought that Cain was that promised Seed of the woman. The promise of the Savior was repeated many times throughout the Old Testament to the believers. And we hear David, for example, longingly crying out, "Oh that the salvation of Israel were come out of Zion!" (Ps. 53:6). Relying on the divine promises, the Old Testament believers' faith was not put to shame. In the Gospel of Luke we note the great joy on the part of the believers as expressed in the Virgin Mary's Magnificat (Luke 1:46-55) and Zacharias' hymn of praise (Luke 1:67-75). So also in Luke 2 when the Christchild is brought to the Temple Anna "coming in that instant gave thanks likewise unto the Lord, and spake of Him to all them that looked for redemption in Jerusalem." (v. 38)

Now as the believers in the Old Testament waited for the appearance of the promised Seed of the woman, so the believers of the New Testament wait for the glorious appearance of Christ on the Last Day. Thus the Apostle Paul describes the Christians as "waiting for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ." (I Cor. 1:7) And in his Epistle to Titus he depicts the Christians as "looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Savior Jesus Christ." (2:13) Just as surely as God fulfilled the Old Testament promises concerning the 1st coming of the Seed of the woman, so also He will fulfil His promise of the 2nd coming of the Lord Jesus.

In the light of this glorious truth we should view everything in this life in its proper perspective. "For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ." (II Cor. 5:10) What an incentive for us Christians to "walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise, redeeming the time, because the days are evil." (Eph. 5:15,16) We Christians out of love for our dear Savior whose blood has cleansed us from all sins (I Jn. 1:7), should strive to please Him in all that we think, say and do. How fitting, therefore, is the motto selected for our Convention this year: BE THOU FAITHFUL! May our dear heavenly Father grant us the aid of His Holy Spirit as we in the light of our Convention Theme direct our attention to our essay theme:

OUR FAITHFULNESS TO THE LORD IN THE LIGHT OF JUDGMENT DAY!

When we refer to faithfulness to the Lord we naturally include faithfulness to HIS WORD! Many object to this and declare it to be unnatural to include His Word, particularly all of it. Voices raised within visible Christendom would have us to distinguish between the words spoken by the Lord Jesus and the rest of Holy Writ so that the words of Jesus are then regarded as being inspired while the rest of Scripture contains men's words and therefore subject to errors. Think, for example, of the turmoil being caused in the Missouri Synod because of the position taken by Rev. Paul G. Bretscher of Valparaiso, Indiana, who contends that the Scriptures use the term "the Word of God" only to refer to Jesus and the Gospel and never to the rest of the Scriptures'. Such distinctions, of course, emanate from the faith of all lies, the devil himself. (Jn. 8:44) For after all, where do we learn about the true God -- Father, Son, and Holy Ghost? -- From the

revealed Will of God in the Scriptures. While the whole realm of nature and the testimony of our conscience tell us that there is indeed someone who has created and sustains all things and who will demand a reckoning, nonetheless, the revealed knowledge of God in the Holy Scriptures alone tells us of the love of our dear heavenly Father in Christ Jesus that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life (Jn. 3:16).

Besides, we do not learn about the Lord Jesus and His salvation through private revelations and visions but rather through the gracious operation of the Holy Spirit by means of the Word. "Faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God" (Rom. 10:17). "Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the Word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever." (I Pet. 1:23) The Lord Jesus, moreover, connects Himself to the words of Holy Scripture when He declares in the Gospel of Mark, "Whosoever therefore shall be ashamed of Me and of My Words in this adulterous and sinful generation; of him also shall the Son of Man be ashamed, when He cometh in the glory of His Father with the holy angels." (Mark 8:38)

Inspiration of the Scriptures does not merely cover the words which Christ spoke as recorded in the gospels -- it extends to every word of Scripture. For "all Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: that the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works." (II Tim. 3:16,17) And again the Apostle declares, "We speak, not in the words which man's wisdom teacheth, but which the Holy Ghost teacheth." (I Cor. 2:13)

Therefore, he who is not faithful to every doctrine of the Scriptures is not being faithful to the Lord Jesus who tells us, "If ye continue in My Word, then are ye My disciples indeed." (John 8:31)

The times in which we live are indeed very trying times. Our forefathers have rightly declared that in the early centuries of the church the devil tried to root out the church by physical persecution of the Christians but he did not succeed; now he thinks he can succeed by false doctrine! We are surely living in such times! Who can begin to count the almost innumerable cults and isms that have sprung into existence especially during the last century! It is as the Lord Jesus foretells, "Many false prophets shall rise, and shall deceive many." (Matt. 24:11) And we Christians are earnestly to take such words to heart! For the Lord of the Church warns us, "BEWARE of false prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves." (Matt. 7:15). And many of these cults are growing by leaps and bounds! Several years ago, for example, the Mormon organization announced that its membership increased by more than 186,000 to 3.57 million. They listed 95,412 converts most of whom were brought into their organization by their 23,000 missionaries throughout the world. The Jehovah's Witnesses also boast of the great increase in numbers.

We also note the rapid increase in the followers of such cults as Baha'i which states that all the great religions of the world are of divine origin and differ only in non-essentials. All religions are considered as merely different stages along the same path of truth and their founders were all bearers of authentic messages from God. The Baha'i cause is not an American movement but rather Persian, with roots in the Islamic faith. Instead of following Mohammed they followed the self-appointed prophet, Baha'u'llah, who claimed that all religious prophecies were fulfilled in him. A very imposing structure in Wilmette, Illinois, reveals the sad fact that they have gained a foothold in the United States. Like Baha'i, Mohammedanism has also established itself within our country. In Eugene, Oregon, for example, the Muslims purchased a building which formerly belonged to a Church of Christ and which is now a mosque for Islam. Such cults,

of course, as the hoories are familiar to all of us with the attention they have received through our news media.

Would it not be wonderful if all those who bore the name Lutheran would stand truly united in doctrine and practice against the manifestations of the devil in these cults and isms! But, alas, such is not the case. Already our Lutheran forefathers experienced the truth of the Apostle's words, "Also of your own selves shall men arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away disciples after them." (Acts 20:30) And so it has been down through the years. There are those who, as we sing in one of our hymns, "always set forth something new, devised to change Thy doctrine true." (TLH #292)

Allow me to take you back for a few moments to the early years of that once stalwart orthodox church body-- the Missouri Synod. The controversies waged by those valiant Lutherans who desired to remain faithful to the Lord's Word were numerous. One of those controversies is particularly significant for us because certain aspects of that controversy have loomed once again with Lutheran circles. It pertains to the Church and Ministry.

Dr. Walther as the leader of the Saxon immigrants had to contend with the Buffalo Synod and its leader, Rev. J. A. Grabau, because of their errors concerning these two doctrines. One of Grabau's errors was: and synod, not an individual congregation, is the supreme tribunal to decide what is in accordance or at variance with the Word of God in faith and practice. Dr. Walther, on the other hand, rightly insisted that all the rights and powers of the Church are vested originally and immediately in the congregation and the duty to judge in matters pertaining to faith and practice rests with all Christians, and to enable a congregation to carry out these rights and duties it is not necessary to be a member of some synod or general body. (Sketches from the History of the Church by G. E. Hageman, 1924, p.227)

The eight Altenburg Theses which Walther had drawn up in 1841 were elaborated upon and applied in his work: THE VOICE OF OUR CHURCH on the Question Concerning the Church and the Ministry which was issued in 1852 and which also had the unanimous and enthusiastic approval of the 5th Convention of the Missouri Synod at Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Anyone can read this classic in the English translation by Wm. Dallmann, W. H. T. Dau, and Th. Engelder entitled: Walther and the Church, issued in 1938. The questions: What is the Church? and, What is the Ministry of the Church? are answered by Walther from the Holy Scriptures with ample testimonies from the Lutheran Confessions. But most important, the real and only source of his teaching was the Word of God ALONE which he insisted was to be the sole authority in the Church.

This controversy concerning the doctrines of the Church and the Ministry was not restricted to Rev. Brabau and the Buffalo Synod. It also involved Rev. W. Loehe and the Iowa Synod. Concerning the conferring of the office upon the minister, Loehe and the Iowa Synod maintained that the Office was given to the Church in its totality, not to its single members, while Dr. Walther declared that "the holy ministry is the power conveyed by God through the congregation, the possessor of the priesthood and all church-power, to administer on behalf of the congregation in public office the rights of the spiritual priesthood" (Thesis VII of Walther's Theses on the Ministry).

In 1847 at the organization of the Missouri Synod we are told that a Pastor Geyer and his lay delegate were present to protest against the organizing of the Missouri Synod because they maintained that there was no Scriptural authority for such an institution. It was then pointed out to them that such an arrangement properly lies within the province of Christian congregations, belonging in the

sphere of Christian liberty; that the general command, Eph. 4:3, and I Cor. 14:40 authorizes it; and that Acts 15 establishes a proper precedent. An amendment proposed by Trinity Church of St. Louis, Missouri, declaring that Synod, in its relation to the individual congregation, is to be merely an advisory body, and that its resolutions have no binding effect until adopted by the congregation as not contrary to the Word of God and suited to its condition, was embodied in the synodical constitution. (The Concordia Cyclopedia, 1927 Ed., L Fuerbringer, Th. Engelder, P. E. Kretzmann, p.487)

By the grace of God, Dr. Walther was faithful to the Lord's Word throughout this controversy on the doctrines of the Church and the Ministry. Should we not, my dear fellow-believers, earnestly take to heart the example of this man who was so loyal to the Word of God and who claimed in his presidential address at the synodical convention of 1869: "A pupil, and I hope to God, a faithful pupil, of Luther, I have, in all that I have publicly spoken and written in the past, simply repeated in a stammering way the words of this last prophet." (Walther and the Church, p.16) In the controversy concerning the Church and the Ministry we must, like Walther, first of all, allow the Scriptures to speak and then the testimony of our dear Lutheran Confessions. And by God's grace, we do just that. Our position concerning the Church and the Ministry is the same one taught and held by the orthodox Lutheran teachers in years gone by, not because of their great gifts and learning, but because their theology was the theology of the Word. Thus our faith rests not upon the fathers but upon the bare text of Scripture (nuda Scriptura) the same foundation of the fathers' faith!

There are, at the present time, some controversies within the pale of Lutheranism which were not found in either Luther's or Walther's day. Such is the case with the ordination of women. In its 5th Biennial Convention in Minneapolis, Minnesota, June 25-July 1, 1970, the LCA as well as the ALC in its General Convention that same year in San Antonio, Texas, officially endorsed the ordination of women pastors in their midst. The faculty of Christ Seminary-Seminex, that liberal group which left the Missouri Synod, also calls for the ordaining of women pastors in a Study Document entitled: FOR THE ORDINATION OF WOMEN. (See Christian News, May 28, 1979, p.6,7) While the Missouri Synod officially opposes the ordination of women to the Holy Ministry, it allows women to vote and to hold various offices in the congregation.

We beseech the Lord of the Church to grant us the aid of His Holy Spirit that we may remain faithful also to this teaching of Holy Spirit which very definitely restricts the role of women in the church as is so plainly taught in such passages as I Cor. 14:34,35, "Let your women keep silence in the churches: for it is not permitted unto them to speak; but they are commanded to be under obedience, as also saith the law. And if they will learn anything, let them ask their husbands at home: for it is a shame for women to speak in the church;" And I Tim. 2:12, "But I suffer not a woman to teach, nor to usurp authority over the man, but to be in silence."

Unionism is another error which has gained the upper hand within the pale of Lutheranism. When we read of joint worship and work of some so-called Lutherans with those of practically any religious persuasion, then we must assume that such are either woefully ignorant of what the Holy Scriptures teach concerning this sin or they simply refuse to heed what the Lord commands. "Now, I beseech you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ that ye all speak the same thing and that there be no divisions among you but that ye be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment." (I Cor. 1:10) Instead of stressing purity of doctrine such unionists simply ignore any doctrinal differences and agree to disagree. The many texts which warn us against false teachers and false doctrines are thus set aside by the unionists. "I beseech you, brethren, mark

them which cause divisions and offenses contrary to the doctrine which ye have learned; and avoid them." (Rom. 16:17) When the devil would tempt us to have altar, pulpit and prayer fellowship with those who are not one with us in doctrine, then let us not yield but be faithful to our Lord and His Word even though we be hated and ridiculed for our stand.

What shall we say about the permissive attitude on the part of many so-called Lutherans with regard to the sin of abortion? We are told that since January 22, 1973 the lives of more than six million unborn infants have been taken through abortion right here in the United States! Now while we may expect such things from the unbelievers who do not regard the sanctity of human life in accord with Scripture, what about so-called Lutherans who sanction such killings at Lutheran affiliated hospitals! We dare not forget that unborn children from the moment of conception (Ps. 51:15) are human beings and therefore they come under the protection of the 5th Commandment, "Thou shalt not kill." Scientific evidence clearly demonstrates the humanity of the fetus. Within 4 weeks after the union of egg and sperm the heart is already pulsating. In the Scriptural account of Mary's visit to her cousin, we are told that when Elizabeth heard the voice of Mary, the babe leaped in her womb." The evangelist Luke then goes on to tell us that Elizabeth said, "As soon as the voice of thy salutation sounded in mine ears, the babe leaped in my womb for joy." (Luke 1:44) Elizabeth very definitely speaks of John as a human being even though her words were spoken several months before the birth of John. Let us be faithful to our Lord and His Word concerning the sanctity of human life and not be swayed by the cold rationalistic arguments of calloused pro-abortionists.

Such a permissive and indifferent attitude is also observed on the part of many in Lutheran circles concerning the sin of homosexuality. In fact, a book entitled "Embodiment" was recently published by the ALC's Augsburg Publishing House which in very short order "explains away" the Biblical proof which in no uncertain terms labels the act of homosexuality as a sin. The Scriptural account of Sodom and Gomorrah, for example, is dealt with in the following manner: "Traditional explanation has held that the destruction of the two cities is the positive sign of God's utter disapproval of homosexuality. Yet, there are compelling reasons to doubt the accuracy of this interpretation. Current Old Testament scholarship generally holds that the story's major themes are the affront to God's will in the breach of ancient Hebrew hospitality. ...Some scholars doubt that the verb "to know" in this story refers to sexual intercourse." (p.183) Listen to the words of Dr. Luther as he comments on Genesis 19:4,5: "The heinous conduct of the people of Sodom is extraordinary, inasmuch as they departed from the natural passion and longing of the male for the female, which was implanted into nature by God, and desired what is altogether contrary to nature. Whence comes this perversity? Undoubtedly from Satan, who, after people have once turned away from the fear of God, so powerfully suppresses nature that he blots out the natural desire and stirs up a desire that is contrary to nature." (Luther's Works, American Edition, Vol. III, p.255)

With Luther we declare that the Scriptural witness against homosexuality is clear. The Lord told the Israelites, "If a man also lie with mankind, as he lieth with a woman, both of them have committed an abomination." (Lev. 20:13) Let us then not be swayed by this "new morality" so rampant in our day and which is espoused even by some so-called Lutherans but hold faithfully like Dr. Luther to that Word which also tells us, "Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind, nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the Kingdom of God." (I Cor. 6:9,10) -- See also the clear denunciation of the sin of homosexuality in Rom. 1:26,27.

Unfortunately, we could go on in listing the errors which have entrenched themselves in Lutheran circles. But we shall let this suffice to show us that surely we must be living in the last evil days of the world. Dr. Pieper writes in his *Christian Dogmatics*, Vol. III: "Christ specifically declares the rise of false teachers in the Church to be a sign of the end. Why they are signs is not difficult to see. The Gospel has been purchased by Christ at great price through His *satisfactio vicaria* (i.e., atonement for sin); at His command it is being proclaimed in the world; and 'it is the power of God unto salvation to everyone that believeth.' Should not therefore all who profess to be Christian teachers be most diligently intent on delivering this message to men pure and unadulterated, without detracting from it or adding to it? But what happens is what Christ foretold: 'Many shall come in My name, saying, I am Christ; and shall deceive many.' (Matt. 24:5) The denial of Christ's vicarious satisfaction itself has become general among professed Christians. This is a state of things so abnormal, so contrary to the purpose for which the Church exists, for which the world continues to exist, that false teachers stand out among the signs of the Judgment and the end of the world." (p.518) Let us not prove to be cowardly soldiers and surrender the Word of the Captain of our salvation, but hold His banner of truth high in the midst of a world abounding with false prophets and their lies!

Purity of doctrine is indeed a precious jewel. And our thankfulness for this unmerited treasure should abound in the fruits of our faith. As we should earnestly contend for the faith once delivered unto the saints (Jude 3) so we should also strive to "let our light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven." (Matt. 5:16) Our faithfulness to the Lord and His Word is also to be revealed in our living a Christian life in the light of Judgment Day. For the Apostle reminds us that "the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up. Seeing then that all these things shall be dissolved, what manner of persons ought ye to be in all holy conversation and godliness, looking for and hasting unto the coming of the day of God..." (II Pet. 3:10-12)

We are to be faithful to our Lord be heeding His command to go "into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature." (Mark 16:15) Our Christian missionary labors should begin first in the home. What a privilege for Christian parents to bring their children to the Lord Jesus in the cleansing waters of regeneration and to continue to bring their children up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord. And where there is an unbelieving spouse, then let the believing spouse not forsake the other but heed the words of the Apostle, "For what knowest thou, O wife, whether thou shalt save thy husband? or how knowest thou, O man, whether thou shalt save thy wife?" (I Cor. 7:16) From the home let such missionary activity on the part of the Christian spread to all those with whom he comes into contact. Thanks be to God, that that Gospel which the Lord Jesus has commanded us to preach is not a dead word, "for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth." (Rom. 1:16) It is the Word through which God the Holy Spirit is operative and engenders faith within the heart of man who by nature is spiritually blind, dead, and an enemy of God. Let us therefore be diligent confessors of the good news of our salvation in Christ who says concerning His Gospel, "And this Gospel of the Kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come." (Matt. 24:14)

Living our lives in the light of Judgment Day means that we need to remind ourselves that we are only strangers and pilgrims in this world, that we "use this world, as not abusing it: for the fashion of this world passeth away." (I Cor. 7:31) "Teaching us that denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world; looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Savior Jesus Christ; who

gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto Himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works." (Titus 2:12-14) Recognizing these Scriptural truths we are not to give in to vindictiveness but leave retaliation to our Lord at His coming. "Recompense to no man," writes the Apostle, "evil for evil. Provide things honest in the sight of all men. If it be possible, as much as lieth in you, live peaceably with all men. Dearly beloved, avenge not yourselves, but rather give place unto wrath: for it is written, Vengeance is Mine; I will repay, saith the Lord." (Rom. 12:17-19) If any of us suffers "as a Christian, let him not be ashamed; but let him glorify God on this behalf." (I Pet. 4:12) "For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us." (Rom. 8:18)

Let there be no mistake, the last days of the world are evil days! "We must through much tribulation enter into the Kingdom of God." (Acts 14:22) The Lord Jesus declares, "For then shall be great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be. And except those days should be shortened, there should no flesh be saved: but for the elect's sake those days shall be shortened." (Matt. 24:21,22) And not only do we Christians have the temptations of the devil and the world with which to contend, but we have the enemy within-- our sinful flesh. And we must confess with the Apostle Paul, "I know that in me (that is, in my flesh,) dwelleth no good thing." (Rom. 7:18) O how necessary it is therefore that we be diligent in attending the divine services in our local congregations to hear the Word of God proclaimed, studying that Word under the guidance of our divinely appointed shepherd in the Bible Classes and reading that Word within the privacy of our homes! For if we cut ourselves off from the means through which God the Holy Spirit sustains and preserves us in the faith, our faith will quickly become a thing of the past! Holding steadfastly and faithfully to the Word of our Lord we have the assurance from Him who does not lie, "My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me: and I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of My hand." (Jn. 10:27,28)

Dear brethren, the signs heralding the Lord's Final Coming have been and are being fulfilled. This should make us realize that the hour is rapidly approaching when the Lord Jesus will burst forth in the clouds of heaven accompanied by all of His holy angels. "So likewise ye," says the Lord, "when ye shall see all these things, know that it is near, even at the doors." (Matt. 24:33) But the exact day and hour is known by no man. "Watch therefore, for ye know neither the day nor the hour wherein the Son of Man cometh." (Matt. 25:13) How fervent we should be in our daily prayers that God would guard and keep us from all sin and preserve us in the one true faith until our end!

If only we would place all matters in the light of Judgment Day, then it would be so much easier for us to determine what we ought to do! Walking in the light of Judgment Day we seek with the help of the Holy Spirit to be faithful to the Lord Jesus and His Word and live a holy life according to it. This grant us, dear Father in heaven, for Jesus' sake! Amen.

REPORT OF THE EDITORIAL COMMITTEE

Dear Brethren in the Lord:

By the grace of God your Editorial Committee has produced and published six bi-monthly issues of the Concordia Lutheran since our last convention. In these issues we endeavored to provide a balance of Christ-centered articles which were informative, edifying, and of interest to all our readers. Doctrinal and practical subjects were treated with the one object of showing that God's Word alone is the sure Guide for our faith and life. We also endeavored to have each issue come out on time so that seasonal material would appear during the proper two-month period. With the excellent cooperation of Pastor Bloedel and the Publishing House staff this was accomplished, and we are most grateful for all the help of our brethren in Seattle.

Throughout the year articles were solicited from our pastors and some also from lay people in our sister congregations upon the approval of their pastors. The response and cooperation were most gratifying, and the wonderful articles which they submitted so promptly contributed much to the joy of compiling each issue. Our heartfelt appreciation to them for their commendable assistance in helping us to carry out our responsibilities. We realize, of course, our own frailties and are well aware of the fact that there is room for improvement in the production of our periodical. We are confident that our brethren were understanding of the situation, especially in view of the other obligations and duties resting upon the individual members of the Staff. We ask the Lord's pardon for our failings and shortcomings and praise His holy name for His guidance and blessing in the past year.

There is nothing to report at this time concerning the writing or production of tracts since your Committee did not have opportunity to meet or to consult on the matter. We will, however, endeavor to do so at the earliest possible time.

With regard to the revision of Sunday School materials, for which your Editor was authorized to co-opt the services of Mr. David T. Mensing and Pastor Randall Styr, there is also nothing to report. For this we plead the press of many duties which engaged your Editor as well as these brethren during the past year. However, such revision will be undertaken as soon as feasible.

In April of this year your Committee brought a suggestion to the attention of our Publishing House for its consideration. Since subscribers to our periodical from the midwest receive their copies from two to three weeks after they have been printed, your Staff suggested that all copies of our Conference subscribers be mailed first class, if such cost is not prohibitive. We trust that this matter has been taken under advisement and that a further report will be given to this convention by the chairman of the Publishing House.

Brethren, in these sad days of materialism and liberalism, what a gem we have, by God's grace, in our Conference periodical as it proclaims Christ and His pure Word to one and all! It should be in every home in our Conference and it should be read by all our families for edification and Christian growth. Let us also use it to promote mission work wherever we have opportunity! May our Concordia Lutheran serve as a beacon shining in this dark world of sin and error, pointing men to Christ, the only Way to salvation, and helping to spread His truth far and wide!

Respectfully submitted,

O. W. Schaefer, Editor

REPORT OF SCRIPTURAL PUBLICATIONS BOARD OF CONTROL

Dear Brethren,

Our faithfulness to the Lord in the light of Judgment Day should be urged and show itself also in the area of the printed Word. This year we recognize, with thanks to the Lord, a fine cooperative working arrangement with the new Editorial Committee in the publication of the Concordia Lutheran. Materials for each issue have been received in packet form with helpful instructions. There is still somewhat of a problem with receiving the materials for publication in the Concordia Lutheran sufficiently in advance so that the periodical will reach our subscribers at least in the first month of every issue. This problem may be in the slowness of the mails or it may be that the material is not reaching our editor sufficiently in advance to do his work and to forward it to the publishing house. It has been suggested that the Concordia Lutheran would reach our subscribers earlier if they would be sent out first class and, in order to keep expenses down, to reduce the number of complimentary copies sent out in our special distribution. Instead of a first class mailing, however, it is at this time the recommendation of the Board for this coming year to urge the Editorial Committee to strive hard to get the material to our Publishing House earlier and that the Publishing House speed up production to three weeks instead of four if possible. Also, since it has been a problem in the past of beginning the new fiscal year with a late issue of the Concordia Lutheran -- because of the convention in the latter part of June and a new Editorial Committee being elected, the Publishing House Board of Control recommends that the incumbent Editorial Committee hold office through the publication of the July/August issue.

As a point of special interest we bring to the attention of our Conference a man by the name of Mr. Webb from California who is a retired layman and a member of the ALC. During the past years this man has shown great interest in our Conference by ordering our Convention Proceedings of past years and back issues of the Concordia Lutheran. Mr. Webb has been contacted by phone by the chairman of our Publishing House Board and he indicated that he regards our Conference as the only group of Lutherans who are faithful to the Word of God and orthodox Lutheranism, that he has a vast collection of materials from many different Lutheran bodies and that he has reached this conclusion regarding our Conference through his study of these materials. He stated that he and his wife are intending to relocate and has been encouraged by the undersigned to move near one of our congregations. Thus the Lord continues to open doors through the special distribution of our periodical. This special distribution is not a free subscription to individuals but a free copy to 300 different pastors of the Missouri Synod every other month. We are intending to broaden this distribution to include pastors of the WEIS, ELS, CoLC, and LCR. Anyone having lists of pastors in these groups are encouraged to share these names with your Publishing House together with their respective addresses.

The Publishing House has informed the Finance Committee of its need for at least \$1000 for running expenses for the '79 and '80 fiscal year. This is the same amount as was received last year. Also it is recommended by our Board to continue to keep the \$1000 available for a Book House in the event that such a possibility would present itself in the near future. Perhaps this Book House could also include good used books and that a list of these be made available to our Seminary and to our Conference congregations.

With regard to the physical plant of your Publishing House, the Conference owns two old 1250 Multiliths of which only one is operative at present. The other is used for parts to keep the one in working condition. The Offset Shop also con-

tains a paper jogger and one large home made graphic arts camera. The Conference also owns in its Letterpress Shop one low-base Model 5 Linotype (1911) and an old high-base Model 5 for parts, an old cylinder press, a hand-fed 10x15 Chandler & Price open platen press, many cases of handset type, spaces, and linotype mats. A 19" Challenge hand-powered paper cutter and a large treadle model stapler are owned by the Conference. The actual present day value of these pieces of equipment is hard to determine.

Scriptural Publications is now paying its printer, Mr. Julius A. Schmitt, \$5.00 for each linotyped and proofread page of the Concordia Lutheran plus \$30.00 for the press work on each issue--making approximately \$115.00 per each bimonthly issue as a token reimbursement for his work. Inasmuch as there is apparently interest expressed by some as to the amount of money our printer makes on the use of Conference machinery for secular job printing, we will provide this information for you in our next annual report, and, if the Conference desires this information for previous years, we will be happy to supply this information also. The only information which we are able to bring to you at this time is that there are only three secular accounts serviced through the use of Conference equipment and that oftentimes this equipment lies idle for up to three months at a time.

One item of need which was not brought to the attention of the Finance Committee is that over the years many mats used to produce the body type for the Concordia Lutheran have become worn out or ruined. These mats must be replaced so that the typesetting for our periodical, Constitution, etc. will not be hindered. We can try to keep this cost under \$300.00 and would recommend that the Conference try to include this figure in the budget for this year.

May the Lord continue to bless our efforts in upholding and supporting the work of Scriptural Publications (Concordia Lutheran Conference).

Respectfully submitted,

Rev. Paul R. Bloedel, chairman

SCRIPTURAL PUBLICATIONS (CLC) FINANCIAL REPORT (6/1/78 - 5/31/79)

Cash Balance, June 1, 1978		\$ 24.90
<u>Add Cash Receipts:</u>		
Sunday School Lessons	\$ 460.16	
Books, tracts	56.81	
Concordia Lutheran:		
Subscriptions	294.10	
Conference Subsidy	1000.00	
Other Conference Printing	19.52	
Total Cash Receipts		1830.59
Total Cash Available		\$ 1855.49
<u>Less Disbursements:</u>		
Gas (Heating)	67.24	
Misc. Supplies, Postage, etc.	10.36	
Rent (P. F. Luedtke Bldg.)	550.00	
Interest on Loan		

Material Costs:	
Sunday School Lessons	92.44
Concordia Lutheran	136.53
Linotyping and Printing Labor	617.00
Mailing Costs:	
Sunday School Lessons	---
Concordia Lutheran	105.54
Personal Property Taxes	105.48
Other Conference Printing Costs	5.80
Equipment Purchased	---
Equipment Repairs	---
Total Cash Expenditures	1720.42
Cash Balance, May 31, 1979	135.07
Petty Cash	6.61
Fixed Assets*	5033.29
Payables	None

*Original Purchase Cost - No Depreciation
Adjustment Applied.

Respectfully submitted,

V. K. Bloedel, Business Manager

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON LUTHERAN UNION

Dear Brethren:

In our Convention last year at St. John's Lutheran Church in Lebanon, Oregon, the Committee on Lutheran Union submitted the following recommendations to the Convention:

- 1) That our Committee on Lutheran Union hold further meetings with the LCR as long as the agenda agreed upon is followed and further progress is made toward finding true unity;
- 2) That the newly-elected Union Committee retain the same individuals as a negotiating unit with the LCR because of their familiarity, after thorough study, with the matters under discussion in our meetings with that church body; and
- 3) That the newly-elected Union Committee prayerfully study the Theses on Church and Ministry of the Church of the Lutheran Confession and our own Theses and determine whether they warrant resumption of meetings between our Conference and the CoLC, a positive decision to be based on firm evidence that their official doctrinal position on these teachings has changed and agrees with Holy Writ; or, if we do not find their position to have changed, that, upon an inquiry initiated by our Committee on Lutheran Union, they indicate their willingness to meet with us to study, examine, and possibly re-evaluate their position on the basis of Scripture alone and give us at the same time opportunity to explain and defend our theses on the same basis. (Proceedings, 27th Annual Convention of the Concordia Lutheran Conference, June 23-25, p.29-30)

Your Committee then proceeded to carry out these recommendations which had been adopted by the Convention. Your present chairman was officially represented

by Rev. O. W. Schaefer according to the recommendation adopted last year. Rev. Schaefer kept your chairman informed concerning the meetings which were held by the Committee on Lutheran Union.

A discussion meeting was held between the Commission on Doctrine of the Lutheran Churches of the Reformation (LCR) and our Committee on Lutheran Union at Tinley Park, Illinois, on October 27, 1978. Correspondence was also initiated by your Committee with the Board of Doctrine of the Church of the Lutheran Confession on March 16, 1979 in which your Committee suggested a meeting with the CoLC pertaining to the doctrines of the Church and Ministry. What transpired at the meeting with the prerepresentatives of the LCR and the exchange of correspondence with the CoLC will now be presented by Rev. O. W. Schaefer, who served as chairman.

May the Lord grant us strength to abide by His Word during these very troublous and trying times. "If ye continue in My Word, then are ye My disciples indeed; and ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free." (Jn. 8:31,32)

Respectfully submitted,

Rev. H. L. Mattereder, chairman

REPORT OF THE NEGOTIATING UNIT FOR THE COMMITTEE ON LUTHERAN UNION

Dear Brethren in the Lord:

This report is an account of the activities of the Committee on Lutheran Union as such as well as of its negotiating team since we last met in convention. It has been a busy year, and with the help of almighty God we have endeavored to fulfill our responsibilities, mindful, of course, that we are frail, sinful human beings, and for all our failings and shortcomings we humbly ask Jesus to forgive us, for His blessed name's sake. For His guidance and blessing we offer Him our heartfelt praise and thanks.

As we report events in chronological order, we mention first the meeting of our Union Committee held at Peace Lutheran Church, Tinley Park, on August 9-10, prayerfully to study our Theses on Church and Ministry in conjunction with the Theses of the Church of the Lutheran Confession to determine whether a resumption of meetings between our Conference and that group is warranted. Present were: Prof. O. W. Schaefer, President Mensing, Pastor James Luedtke, and Mr. David T. Mensing, as well as Mr. Gerald Luedtke, Seminary student, and Pastor-elect, Randall Styx, the latter two as visitors. Pastor Mattereder, chairman of the C.L.U., was not able to attend because of the distance involved. Prof. Schaefer served as chairman of the meeting, and Mr. David T. Mensing served as secretary. Much time was spent in reading and reviewing our own Theses, especially in the light of the official, false position on the doctrines of Church and Ministry held by the Wisconsin Synod and the Church of the Lutheran Confession (See The Northwestern Lutheran, April 8, 1962; Koehler's Kirchengeschichte, p.712; and the CoLC document "Concerning Church and Ministry"). With the completion of its study of our own Theses the Committee decided to meet again at a time mutually agreeable.

Next is the account of the fourth meeting held between the Commission on Doctrine and Practice of the Lutheran Churches of the Reformation and our Committee on Lutheran Union. It took place at Peace Lutheran Church, Tinley Park, on Oct.

27, 1978. Representing the LCR were: Pastor Paul Koch, Pastor Sheldon Twenge; Pastor Erick Erickson, and Mr. Herbert Gade. Representing our Committee were: Prof. O. W. Schaefer, chairman of the negotiating unit, President Mensing, Pastor James Luedtke, and Mr. David T. Mensing. Prof. Schaefer was asked to serve as chairman of the meeting, and each committee had its own recording secretary. Mr. David T. Mensing took minutes for our Committee.

The first portion of the meeting continued the discussion of the term "state of confession" begun at the last meeting held in November of 1977. Passages were reviewed which speak of errorists being dealt with who at the time are one's brethren (e.g. II Thess. 3:14-15). Also pointed out was the difference between suspension of fellowship and severance of fellowship, the former being the confessional state in which one is admonished as a brother to make him ashamed, the latter being the ultimate avoidance of one who does not heed admonition, the rejection of the heretic, now no longer a brother. Both committees agreed to these Scriptural principles unanimously.

The second portion of the meeting, agreed upon already at the last meeting of our two groups, dealt with recent developments within the LCR, defections, and the like. Pastor Paul Koch explained that there were three main issues over which quite a few had left their church body: 1. There were financial difficulties following a split in the Oak Park, IL congregation and the severance of a large congregation which charged the LCR with lovelessness. 2. There was the closing of the LCR Seminary in Michigan due to a lack of funds and lack of students. Prof. W. Kitzerow's call as professor and Dean was terminated. Several pastors with their congregations protested this action as arbitrary procedure and a false practice in the doctrine of Church and Ministry and severed their fellowship. 3. A paper on Fellowship by Pastor Sheldon Twenge precipitated other defections as pastors and all or part of their congregations left the LCR. In addition to these major matters Pastor Koch stated that the LCR suffered losses because of other controversies in their midst through the years. With this report concerning developments within the LCR the agenda for this fourth meeting was concluded. The time and place for a future meeting was left to the respective chairmen.

The next meeting of the CLU was held at Peace Lutheran Church, Tinley Park, on February 12 and 13, 1979. Present were Prof. Schaefer, Pres. Mensing, Pastor Luedtke, and Mr. David T. Mensing, with Mr. Gerald Luedtke, Seminary student as visitor. Pastor Watterer, chairman of our Union Committee, was unable to attend because of distance. First of all, discussion continued on our Theses on Church and Ministry in relation to those of the Church of the Lutheran Confession. After much discussion the Committee resolved that such a review be the topic at the 1979 Pastoral Conference, this review to be based on Scripture as epitomized in our own Theses, This Scriptural Position We Still Hold, which was unanimously ratified in 1968 by all our member congregations. With regard to a possible meeting with the Church of the Lutheran Confession, the Committee instructed Prof. Schaefer, upon the approval of chairman Watterer, to draw up a letter, conveying to that church body resolution #3 of last year's Union Report, namely, that we initiate an inquiry to determine whether their Board of Doctrine is willing "to meet with us to study, examine, and possibly re-evaluate their position on the basis of Scripture alone and give us at the same time opportunity to explain and defend our Theses on the same basis." Such a letter was sent on Feb. 22, 1979, to Prof. C. M. Gullerud, chairman of the Board of Doctrine, and another letter on March 8, 1979, to Rev. E. Albrecht, President of the Church of the Lutheran Confession. Pres. Albrecht responded that while he was not optimistic about the successful outcome of further meetings, he would present our proposal to their Board of Doctrine at a meeting in Eau Claire, Wisconsin, in early July. We should hear from him after that date. He also requested a documented statement from us, showing how their Theses constituted a clear departure

from Scripture. A follow-up letter was sent to Pres. Albrecht on June 5, 1979, in which we stated that the best documentation we can offer are our own Theses, which had previously been submitted to him and his Board for study and which clearly demonstrate that we have NOT changed in our position, the same position formerly held by the entire Synodical Conference, but that the Wisconsin Synod and the Church of the Lutheran Confession have deviated, as evidenced by their own official publications.

Another matter which was discussed at the CLU meeting in February centered on the recent developments in the LCR, particularly with reference to the closing of their Seminary and the termination of Prof. Kitzerow's call. Some facts were gleaned from their journal, The Faithful Word (Nov. 1978 issue) as well as from an unsolicited letter to Profs. Hensing and Schaefer from Prof. Kitzerow, detailing the action of the LCR over against him. This letter constituted "the other side of the story." Weighing all these matters carefully, also in the light of several defections in the LCR concerning which we had insufficient, official information, your Committee deemed it wise, because of the conflicting reports which had come to our attention, to delay further sessions with the LCR until we have had time to study and analyze all these reports carefully. This is to be understood as a temporary halting until the time is right to proceed with our discussions. Such a letter was sent to Pastor Paul Koch on February 22, 1979, in which we first expressed joy and gratitude to God for the progress made thus far between our two groups but then stated why we believe that a postponement of a further meeting is in order. Pastor Koch responded to our letter on March 15 and expressed astonishment at our "strange and estranging letter," claiming that we have all the information necessary regarding their recent problems and defections.

With regard to pastors and congregations which left the LCR because they claimed a change in the latter's doctrinal position, the convention last year passed the resolution that definite efforts be made by the Committee on Lutheran Union to contact them to determine their position on the final step in church discipline. (Matt. 18:17) Because of the press of the work outlined in this report, and because these pastors are scattered throughout the midwest and Far West and must be contacted on an individual basis, since to date we know of no organization which they have formed, your Committee was unable to fulfill the convention directive but will endeavor during the coming year to write to or to meet with these pastors as individuals or as a group, if this can be arranged.

In closing this report, we now submit to you the following recommendations:

- 1) that our Committee on Lutheran Union determine the feasibility of further meetings with the LCR in view of recent developments in that church body, and if and when such meetings resume, that they be held only as long as the agenda agreed upon is followed and further progress is made toward finding true unity.
- 2) that if our Committee on Lutheran Union receives a favorable reply from the Church of the Lutheran Confession to our proposal of Mar. 8, 1979, it endeavor to arrange a meeting with this group at the earliest possible time.

Dear brethren, may the Lord of the Church help us to continue to manifest the wonderful attitude of Luther, who said, "I shall do and suffer as much as I possibly can to achieve a true, sound permanent unity!"

Respectfully submitted,

Prof. O. W. Schaefer, Negotiating Chairman

President H. David Mensing
 Rev. James W. Luedtke
 Mr. David T. Mensing

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON MISSIONS

Dear Brethren:

Your committee's work this past year involved no organized outreach to the unchurched which, at the present time, is impossible under our circumstances, namely that 1) there is no extra pastor available to serve as a Conference missionary and 2) our limited mission funds prohibit supporting a full time missionary. However, in line with our abilities, your committee, through its chairman, was active in three areas of endeavor.

The first was in connection with the mission tract, "Helpful Hints for Personal Christian Mission Work," printed last year by our publishing house. The editor of the Concordia Lutheran requested your committee chairman to write a series of articles for our periodical elaborating on each point of this mission tract. To date, with the May/June 1979 issue, four articles of this series have appeared in the Concordia Lutheran. The series began with the November/December 1978 issue. It is the prayer of your committee chairman that these articles have been clear and in some way helpful to the brethren. Any suggestions for the future, as the series continues, will be most welcome.

A second activity by the Mission Committee this past year was in connection with our Mission congregation, Trinity Lutheran Church of Eastside, Oregon. According to the 1962 Proceedings of our Conference, p. 20, certain guidelines for mission work had been set up by the Conference at that time. Because it has been a while since our Conference has had opportunity to assist a mission congregation financially, your chairman felt it wise to inform Trinity of those parts of the mission guidelines that directly affected them. For your information, they are as follows:

- 1) In Section II entitled, "SUBSIDY" the final sentence reads, "Application for subsidy is to be made annually."
- 2) Section V entitled, "REPORTS" reads, "Pastors of subsidized congregations shall make regular written reports to the Committee on Missions as well as oral reports by way of interest to the convention."
- 3) Section VI entitled, "PROPERTY OF SUBSIDIZED CONGREGATIONS" reads, "Subsidized congregations are requested to consult with the Committee on Missions before they acquire or dispose of property in the form of land or buildings."

Concerning the first item, the congregation was already aware of the correct procedure in requesting a subsidy, concerning the second item, "REPORTS," your committee chairman informed Pastor Styx of Trinity congregation that one report about mid-year plus the oral convention report would be satisfactory to the committee. The third item, "PROPERTY OF SUBSIDIZED CONGREGATIONS," raised a question in the minds of the members of Trinity. It appeared to them that this regulation was somewhat too restrictive for their particular circumstances. The following quotation from a letter of Pastor Styx to the committee, dated Mar. 13, 1979, explains the problem:

"The nature of the real estate market here is such that land which suits our

needs with regard to size, location, and price is very rare; and when suitable land is found at a realistic price, it is very quickly purchased and removed from the market. If we were required or even expected to consult with the Mission Committee before taking action on a given piece of property we would have to give up any hope of acquiring property until after we would become totally self-sufficient, for by the time the necessary correspondence and consultation of the committee would be completed any opportunity to follow up on this end would long since have vanished."

Pastor Styx stated further that the subsidy which Trinity congregation is receiving from the Conference "is being directed toward the support of the ministry," so that the congregation's own savings, which it has acquired over a number of years, might be used toward the purchase of land. In the light of these facts it seems that the mission guidelines set up in 1962 dealing with acquiring and disposing of land cannot be carried out rigidly but must be applied with care and sensitivity in each individual case. Pastor Styx and Trinity congregation welcome any suggestions and discussion that would help toward an understanding of how this guideline can be applied best in their case. Time for this could be allotted following Pastor Styx's report on his congregation's activities and progress over the past year.

Concerning mission subsidy, Trinity congregation, through the Mission Committee chairman, requests for this next fiscal year, 1979-80, a subsidy equal to that of last year, namely \$5,180 annually (\$431.66 per month). To quote again from Pastor Styx's letter, "In making this request the congregation wishes to express its extreme gratitude for the loving assistance provided this past year by our sister congregations in the conference. This assistance has made it possible for us to have a full-time pastor in our midst. We prayerfully look forward to the time when this subsidy can gradually be eliminated and we can, in turn, provide some assistance to others."

The third activity by your committee chairman was in regard to the reprinting of our Conference constitution. As also the secretary of the Conference, your chairman found, in preparing the copy of the revised Constitution for the printer, a possible conflict between the responsibilities of the Mission Committee and those of the Finance Committee. According to the Constitution as it presently reads, any request for subsidy is ordinarily to be submitted to the Mission Committee no later than two months before the convention. The newer section of the Constitution on the Finance Committee requires that it submit a budget to the congregations two months before the end of the fiscal year. (See 1974 Proceedings, p.45) Thus in the event that a congregation would use its constitutional right and submit a request for subsidy to the Mission Committee two months before the convention, it would be impossible for the subsidy request to be relayed to the Finance Committee to be included in the budget before the convention. Needless to say this would upset the Finance Committee's purpose of providing the congregations with pre-convention budget information.

It seems that the best solution would be to make a minor amendment in the Constitution, requiring all subsidy requests to be submitted before a deadline of 4 months before the end of the fiscal year rather than only two months before the convention. The requirements of our Constitution to make such an amendment are as follows: "All proposed changes and amendments must be submitted in writing to the Conference assembled in convention... A two-thirds majority of all votes cast shall be necessary for adoption. Such changes and amendments shall be in effect when ratified by two-thirds of the member-congregations." (Art. XII of the present edition of the Constitution.)

In the light of this report, your Committee on Missions would like to make

the following recommendations to the convention:

- 1) that the Conference, in convention assembled, grant a subsidy of \$5,180 for the fiscal year 1979-80 (\$431.66 permonth) to Trinity Lutheran Church, Eastside, Oregon, to be taken from the Conference Mission Fund, and that the Conference commend Trinity congregation for the appreciative and brotherly spirit in which it has made this request.
- amendment
- 2) that the Conference approve an/ to its Constitution, Art. IX, Sec. 1, C, point 3, the 2nd paragraph as follows: Change the words, "Requests for subsidy, in order to be included in convention business, shall ordinarily be submitted through the Committee on Missions at least two (2) months before the convention," to read, "Requests for subsidy, in order to be included in convention business, shall ordinarily be submitted through the Committee on Missions at least four (4) months before the end of each fiscal year."

Respectfully submitted,

Rev. James W. Tuedtke, chairman

INTEREST REPORT OF TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH, MISSION CONGREGATION

We are truly thankful to the Lord and to you, our Christian brethren, for your fellowship, prayers, and love, as well as the loving assistance which, as the churches of Macedonia did to the saints at Jerusalem, you have rendered to us in our need; for by the Lord's blessings through you we have been able to have a full time pastor among us.

In the Guidelines for the Mission Work of the Concordia Lutheran Conference, which were adopted in 1962, the arrangement was made for the pastor of a subsidized congregation to "make regular written reports to the Committee on Missions as well as an oral report by way of interest to the convention," and it is fitting that he do so, to acknowledge your loving assistance and to honor the genuine interest you have in our progress. However, since our pastor was not aware of these guidelines, for they were adopted while he was yet a freshman in high school, and since the press of congregational work during his first year as a pastor left little time for much else, no regular reports were made this past year. It was only through the research of the chairman of the Committee on Missions (who also was quite young when they were drawn up) that the above mentioned guidelines were rediscovered and brought to our attention. This, however, occurred during the season of Lent, when our pastor was exceptionally busy and, therefore, could not quickly comply with the provisions of the guidelines. At the suggestion of the chairman of the committee, considering the circumstances, we are presenting this report both to the Committee on Missions and to the convention assembled, trusting that the brethren will be satisfied that the intent of the guidelines has been met as best as can be under the circumstances.

At the last time we met in convention assembled, you will recall, the President of the Seminary reported that a divine call had been extended and received by then Candidate Randall D. Styx from our congregation. Following the convention he visited with us to consider some practical matters; such as housing, etc.; before making his final decision. Before his departure he informed some of us orally that he had decided to accept our call, and we soon received his letter of acceptance--a letter for which we greatly thanked the Lord.

It took some time for Pastor Styx to complete the arrangements necessary for his move and departure from Illinois, but on August 23, he arrived safely in our midst. We wish publicly to thank Messrs. David T. Mensing and Jeffery W. Styx for the time and expense they so freely and lovingly sacrificed in assisting our new pastor with his move.

A special day, then, was Sunday, August 27, for finally, after many years of being without a full-time pastor, our own shepherd under Christ was installed. The Rev. H. L. Hatterer conducted the service and preached the sermon. It is to be noted that this service of Pastor Hatterer was simply another labor of love on his part toward us, even as that which he had been rendering to us so selflessly for years as our special guide during times of trouble and as our vacancy pastor. Indeed, may we all give thanks to the Lord for such humble and faithful servants of the Savior as he. For had the continual instruction and guidance of God's Word not been with us, which the Lord brought to us in a special way through this faithful minister of the Gospel, we would not have remained a Christian congregation. Following this happy service an afternoon of joyous fellowship was shared by all the congregation as well as beloved brethren from our sister congregations. We wish also to thank all our sister congregations for the greetings you extended to us for this special day.

Because we do not yet have our own property or building, certain arrangements have had to be put up with this past year. We have been renting a classroom from the local school district for our worship services and our pastor must live some distance from our place of worship. Each time we must bring with us and set up our chapel appointments, and then take them down again at close of service. No doubt many of our brethren remember similar experiences in the histories of their own congregations. Furthermore, all extra meetings and classes have been held at the pastor's residence. But, it is to be remembered, that, while the physical place where we worship may not be as aesthetically inspiring as we might like, or we may be interrupted at times by sounds of other activities in the building, we have the one thing needful; namely the pure teaching of God's Word. Furthermore, with the rental allowance we have been able to give our pastor together with the special help of one of our members our pastor found and has been able to rent a very nice apartment, in which he has been able to live and study quite comfortably and our extra business has been conducted in a pleasant environment.

The lack of property and/or building of our own has, of course, been a difficulty with regard to our mission endeavors in the community. When we mention our name we almost always get the reply, "Trinity? Where's that?" or "There's a Lutheran Church in Eastside?" to which we have to explain that our postal address is Eastside, but our temporary quarters are in Blosson Gulch School. We have had an ad in the local paper now since January but we have had but two responses from the same: one a man who attended services off and on for about a month and a half, the other a woman who called the pastor by phone. Though both seemed interested during conversation, we have not seen him since mid-April, nor her at all. And so, even though, as reported to the Pastor, the Coos Bay area has only approximately 11% churched, there has been no growth to date in numbers from without.

On the other hand, there has been much spiritual growth and increased happiness within. Early in October two children's confirmation classes were begun; one for a young man started already by Pastor Hatterer, and the other for two boys beginning their first years of catechism study. On Good Shepherd Sunday of this last April our senior catechumen completed his studies and was confirmed into communicant membership. His examination before the congregation as well as his entire course of instruction was an exceeding great joy for our pastor and for all of us. The junior class, Lord willing, will continue its studies during the summer and through the next year. The adults of our Bible Class, as well as the children in

our Sunday School, have been considering and gaining much from the Bible stories in our conference's Sunday School series. Attendance at both Bible Class and Divine Service has been very good -- as it should be.

As for the pastor, instead of concentrating efforts on mission work at large, he has devoted most of his time to becoming efficient in the regular working of the office of the ministry, in this his first year thereof, as well as to getting to know the congregation and their collective and individual needs. With some assistance from our membership, however, a few contacts have been made. Early last Fall we learned of a group of families from the local Missouri Synod congregation who were, we were told, dissatisfied with their pastor's liberalism and legalism. We spoke with one who acted as their spokesman, showed our position on the Scriptures, and invited them to come and see for themselves the truth of our teaching. We learned later that most of these families decided to go to a Missouri Synod church in a neighboring town. None ever showed up or made any further attempt to contact us. Later in the Fall a man asked for counselling through his nurse, where he was hospitalized. The Pastor met with him daily during his crisis, and while he was not gained for our congregation per se, the Pastor is confident that talks with him brought him to an assurance of his salvation in Christ Jesus, so that he was gained for Christ. A third contact has been an elderly Norwegian woman, who seems to have been forsaken by former pastors, and who has requested visits from our pastor. While she is weak in some points of doctrine, she displays an unshakable devotion to the Lord and His Word. Visits with her continue at this writing.

A special moment this year was our Children's Christmas Eve Service. For it we were able to add a backdrop for our altar, which did much to increase a churchly atmosphere for our meeting place. We also had a simple choir for that service; and, while circumstances have prevented continued development of this choir, we look forward to being able once again to work toward this goal.

One endeavor in which we have been continually involved is searching for a suitable church building or building site. We have been looking for something which could be purchased completely with our current savings, or at least something which would require only a small amount of financing. Thus, we could pay off our debt fairly quickly and then, possibly with some assistance, turn our attention to the erection of a building. Considerations in our selection thoughts include such things as suitable size for church, parking, and, eventually, a parsonage; room for expansion and church activities; ease of accessibility and visibility from the mission field in the area, and aesthetic appeal. Current thought looks toward the erection of a building of a size sufficient for 50 to 60 hearers.

The finding of suitable property, however, has been a repeated exercise in frustration. The Coos Bay area is undergoing a rapid population growth and, thus, all land is at a premium. And as this is coupled with a high rate of inflation, costs of land are increasing at a rate far beyond that of our savings. When one adds to this the oft-times unreasonable requirements of the local zoning board and the Department of Environmental Quality, land which suits our needs and abilities is extremely rare. Since our financial abilities are limited, parcels with existing buildings which are within our price range are fit for remodeling only by razing. And when real estate salespeople learn of our limitations, one soon gets the feeling that they have but little interest in the business we might bring them.

One important result of all these things is that our ability of acquiring any suitable land depends on a quick transition through discovery, deliberation, and action. It is for this reason especially that we request the Conference brethren to consider a revision of the Mission guideline number VI. We realize it is but a request, but we do not wish to refuse the request of loving brethren.

And yet, under our circumstances we find it unworkable, for by the time the requested consultation would be completed all hope of securing the piece in question would long since have vanished. Our pastor has spoken with the chairman of the Committee on Missions on this matter. He and his committee may have some suggestions.

Toward the future we look prayerfully to continued spiritual strengthening within as well as to some progress in growth from without. The pastor is considering using the series of articles currently appearing in our Conference periodical, "Helpful Hints for Personal Christian Mission Work," as a basis for discussion in our Bible Classes together with practical suggestions for making personal mission work a truly active part of our daily lives. We ask that all our brethren continue to remember us in their prayers. We shall also remember you.

In Christian love,
Your brethren in Christ;

For the congregation,
Rev. Randall D. Styx

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON THEOLOGICAL EDUCATION

Dear Brethren,

It has been impressed upon us in the essay for our Convention this year that we are to be faithful to the Lord Jesus and His Word during these last evil days of the world. While all faithful confessors of the Word of God experience opposition and ridicule, this is particularly true of the faithful pastors who preach God's Word in all of its truth and purity to their congregations. As such faithful pastors experience the stinging sarcasm and mockery of the unbelieving world and then cope with the indifference and the materialistic tendencies on the part of some congregational members, there is the grave danger that due to the sinful flesh of the pastor he becomes filled with discouragement and begins to lose the joy which should characterize the performance of his task.

How pertinent, therefore, are the words of Dr. Walther in his classical treatise, The Proper Distinction between Law and Gospel, when he writes in the introduction to Thesis XXV,

...notwithstanding the contempt of the world the great God has highly honored the office of teachers of religion and has exalted it above every other office. To begin with, the Son of God, in the days of His flesh and while personally administering this office, from the very beginning cheered the first teachers with these words: "he that heareth you heareth Me; and he that despiseth you despiseth Me; and he that despiseth Me despiseth Him that sent Me." Luke 10:16. What glorious credentials has He furnished His ministers by these words for their itineraries throughout the world! Furthermore, the Word of God has revealed to us the fact that not only marriage unions, but also unions between ministers and their congregations are concluded (made) in heaven. What is told us concerning Jeremiah and Paul applies to all true ministers: they are appointed not only in the present time, not only at their birth, but they have been appointed by God from eternity, to be His helpers for saving those who are entrusted to them. Lastly, no one has been given more glorious promises than teachers of the Gospel and ministers of the Word of God. By the

prophet Daniel, God says: "They that be wise shall shine as the brightness of the firmament and they that turn many to righteousness as the stars forever and ever." Dan. 12:3. When the time comes that the worldly shall gnash their teeth, they shall witness all the elect and angels saying to God: "This man has been a faithful minister and teacher. He has proclaimed the saving Word of God to a world of castaways. On yonder earth he was despised, persecuted, and maligned, but he shines now as a star with imperishable luster." Verily, my dear friends, this fact should cheer us and keep us from becoming unfaithful to our God, who has called us into this office. (p. 402)

To endure hardships the pastor's faith must be firmly grounded and rooted in the Word of God so that he will be able throughout his ministry to apply that Word to all of the difficulties and problems with which he is confronted. Such a pastor is like "a wise man, which built his house upon a rock; and the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell not: for it was founded upon a rock." (Matt. 7:24,25) Naturally, that means the instruction which he receives at the Seminary must be thoroughly Scriptural! By God's grace, this has been the case with the Seminary of our Concordia Lutheran Conference and we pray that it always may remain so!

The suggestion has been made to your Committee concerning the current tuition rates at our Seminary that they be increased from \$60.00 per semester or \$8.00 per semester hour to \$100.00 per semester or \$15.00 per semester hour. This is in line with the inflation rate over the past ten years which has more than doubled the cost-of-living and should then provide the student with extra cash when he enters into the Holy Ministry. We would, therefore, present this suggestion to you for your consideration.

Following this report our Seminary President will give a detailed report concerning the progress of our Seminary students, Mr. David T. Mensing and Mr. Gerald M. Luedtke.

Respectfully submitted,

Rev. H. L. Mattereder, chairman

REPORT OF THE SEMINARY PRESIDENT

Dear Brethren in the Lord:

"Oh magnify the Lord with me; and let us exalt His name together!" Ps. 34:3. On the occasion of the tenth anniversary of our beloved Seminary, we, the faculty and students, ask you delegates and all the members of our Conference to join us in declaring our gratitude to God for His many blessings upon our work during this tenth year of operation and throughout the past decade. This is indeed a milestone in the history of our Conference, and we offer heartfelt praise to our Father in heaven for His goodness and faithfulness toward us all. Where in sinful weakness we have failed, we ask Him to pardon us, for Jesus' sake, and as we look to the future, we again beseech His direction, strength, and blessing for the coming year.

Before presenting a review of the past Seminary year, I wish to refer to the joyous occasion which took place on Sunday, August 27, 1978, when our second graduate, Pastor Randall Styx, was ordained and installed as pastor of Trinity Lutheran

Church in Coos Bay (Eastside), Oregon. Officiating and also preaching the sermon was the Vacancy Pastor, the Rev. H. L. Hatterer of Lebanon, Oregon. We praise God that our sister congregation in Coos Bay has been blessed with a faithful shepherd to serve it with His precious Word and Sacraments.

The tenth year of our Seminary began on Tuesday, October 3, 1978. The student body consisted of Mr. Gerald Luedtke of Park Forest, Illinois, and Mr. David T. Mensing of Orland Park, Illinois. Mr. Mensing had begun serving his vicarage at Peace Lutheran Church, Tinley Park, on Sept. 15, 1978, and also arranged to take one course in the light of the acceleration resolution of the 1975 Convention. Because of the necessary secular work of the students some adjustments had to be made in the scheduling of classes, but the course requirements were in no way sacrificed, and the standards of the Seminary remained as high as always.

During the first semester Professor Mensing taught New Testament Greek Exegesis (Luke) and Hermeneutics. Your President taught Dogmatics I and Symbolics II. Together with church duties for which each professor is also responsible, the schedule each week was very full and demanded careful budgeting of time for study and preparation. The first semester officially closed on January 30, 1979, and examinations were given the following week.

After a semester break classes resumed on February 16, 1979. During the second semester Professor Mensing taught New Testament Greek Exegesis (Luke) and Homiletics I. Your President taught Dogmatics II and Symbolics II. The second semester concluded on June 1st, followed by three days on which examinations were given. Once again it was possible to accelerate the work in some of the courses as the convention of four years ago had directed.

On June 15th Student Mensing completed his vicarage at Peace Lutheran Church, Tinley Park. We pray that the practical experience which he received will be of substantial benefit to him not only during his final year of study but also for his future labors as pastor of a Christian congregation. Mr. Mensing is scheduled to graduate from our Seminary, God willing, in June of next year. Official information will be sent to all our congregations by the Administration in ample time.

During the past school year we again acquired various theological books, long out of print, from the libraries of deceased or retired Lutheran pastors with whose families we established contact and from whom we received wonderful assistance. For this help we are most grateful.

We again received monetary donations from outside of our Conference from Concord Free Lutheran Church in Westlake, Ohio, the Rev. E. C. Mueller, pastor. This independent congregation has for some time shown its interest in our work through these gifts, and they have been duly acknowledged by your President. May the Lord richly bless this congregation for its special gifts!

Speaking of gifts, I wish at this point in my report to inform you of a great joy which came to me the earlier part of this month. Our sister congregation, St. Stephen's Lutheran Church of Wilmot, South Dakota, has given our Seminary library a special gift of three volumes in honor of your President, a former pastor of that church, on the occasion of his 35th anniversary in the ministry, which he was privileged by the grace of God to observe in August of last year. The books are the following: Profiles in Belief, Vol. II, Protestant Denominations, by A.C. Piepkorn; Bible Commentary, the Minor Prophets, by Dr. Theo. Laetsch; and The Two Natures in Christ, by Martin Chemnitz, translated by J.A.O. Preus. With humble gratitude I accept these volumes for our Library and express my sincere appreciation to St. Stephen's Lutheran Church for this outstanding gesture of Christian kindness and thoughtfulness. May God's blessing rest upon that con-

gregation for its generous gift to our Seminary!

In March of this year we received a letter from a Mr. Elmer Loschen of Tampa, Florida, inquiring about our entire Seminary training program. He stated that he was 39 years old, a Lutheran born in Illinois, had a business background and enough financial security to re-locate and to spend a large part of time in study. Your President wrote to him, enclosing also a copy of our Catalog, and pointed out to him the pre-Seminary curriculum to be pursued at a college or university as well as the actual courses taught by our professors. It was also explained to him that since we are preparing faithful pastors for service in our own midst, it is our policy, according to our convention of 1970, to accept as students "only those who are qualified communicants in our member congregations or in congregations in fellowship with our Conference." We encouraged Mr. Loschen to take the necessary steps toward such membership. To date there has been no reply, but once more it is evident that our Conference and our Seminary are becoming known to others outside of our fellowship.

Work on our new Seminary Catalog has not as yet been completed. As soon as it is available, our congregations will be notified.

With profound thanks we acknowledge the loving service of Mrs. H. David Mensing, who faithfully served as organist for our chapel devotions, as each Tuesday evening faculty and students gathered about the Word of God to be inspired and strengthened for our tasks.

As we look ahead to the eleventh year of our Seminary work, Student Gerald Luedtke will take such courses as can be conveniently scheduled for him. Student David T. Mensing will enter upon his final academic year and, God willing, will become our third graduate in June of 1980.

As we bring this report to a close, always remember that this is YOUR Seminary! Pray for it; work for it by encouraging young men to consider the ministry as their life's work (we have NO prospects at this time!); and support it with your offerings! With sincere thanks for all the fervent prayers and generous gifts in the past, may I in Jesus' name urge you all to continue praying and giving for this important work so that, as the Preface of the Book of Concord states, "the pure doctrine and the profession of our faith may, by the help of the Holy Ghost, be preserved and propagated also to our posterity until the glorious advent of Jesus Christ, our only Redeemer and Savior!"

Respectfully submitted,

O. W. Schaefer, Seminary President

REPORT OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE FOR THE PAST FISCAL YEAR 1978 - 1979

Dear Brethren in Christ,

This year has been quite an active one for your Treasurer. First of all, the transition and transfers of all the records to the current Treasurer were finally completed at the end of August. This transition involves all the books, records, accounts, etc. of the previous Treasurer as well as the changes to be made with the banks holding these accounts. This also includes understanding and becoming familiar with the accounting system. This then is the underlying reason that the June and July reports came out as one this year, for all these transactions are

quite time consuming.

Also this year to add to the situation, all the books used at that time were filled up. Thus it was necessary to get new books; it then was also convenient to "streamline" the present system to be more efficient and less time consuming. In the event that something should happen to the Treasurer, a "KEY" consisting of a block diagram and outlined procedures is included with the Treasurer's records so that anyone new to these books would be able to understand them a little easier. New vouchers were also printed up to assist the record keeping procedures.

After the new books and system were developed, your Treasurer became aware of the new "Treasury Accounts" available at savings institutions. These accounts have a high interest rate and require a \$10,000 minimum. Each term is on a six month basis; these monies then would not be tied up in four year accounts. The interest rate varies from week to week with the U.S. Treasury Bill's rate. These interest rates only change at the time of maturity. The first of three of these accounts opened had an interest rate of 7.992% compounded daily, the second, 9.8% compounded daily, the third, 9.62%. When the first one matured, it rose to that week's current rate of 9.67%. Note also that these interest rates when compounded over the year are in excess of 10% which converts to a figure in excess of \$1,000 in interest per account over a one year period. The three Treasury Accounts are set up so that one will mature every two months giving us more flexibility as well as high interest rates. There was however, only one account that had to suffer an interest penalty; however, this account was a 2½ yr. certificate with only one half years time toward its maturity. The loss here in interest (due to early withdrawal) at 6 3/4% will be more than made up in the next six months at the higher rate. Furthermore, the gain over the remaining 1½ yrs. at the higher rate will be that much in our favor. This change has already shown to be profitable with interest for the past year in all funds exceeding \$2,600; as compared with last year's of \$2,212.56 for approximately the same amount of cash in the savings accounts.

In the past year no payments have been made on the loan to the Seminary Fund from the General Fund; you may note a yearly change of only about + \$68.00 was realized.

In the beginning of April a letter was sent out to all congregations asking them for their pledges. However, because only one of the pledges was returned before the printing of the "Prospectus," the proposed budget, as noted, was most speculative and based on the cover letter seeking pledges and not the pledges themselves. A definite proposal will follow in the report of the Finance Committee concerning the budget.

During the past year our committee was busy studying methods of auditing the Treasurer's books. We found that at present there are two alternatives by a C.P.A.'s Auditing. One is an in-depth audit which would go over the books with what one might call a "fine-toothed-comb," and the other method would be an "Un-audited Statement" or a review of the books or a sort of a "shallow audit" of the books. The cost however is a little "steep" for an Official Audit would cost approximately \$500 to \$700, and a "Review" would cost approximately \$250 to \$300. This C.P.A. suggested that we definitely not have an Audit for it would not at all be necessary but that if we still wanted something, a review would be the way to go. He also at the time of interview on three occasions commended the Treasurer for the excellent bookkeeping that he has done. Still, our committee favors another method. Our recommendation to the convention is to have 2 or 3 members of the congregation in which the Treasurer is located to carefully and thoroughly audit the records of the Treasurer BEFORE the convention takes place while there would be plenty of time to do their job and be able to confer with the Treasurer

throughout the audit, bringing their report to the convention when it convenes. This we feel would be sufficient and would minimize the cost to the Conference. We would not at this time recommend having an audit by a C.P.A. because in addition to his fee, our funds are not that excessive nor is the bookkeeping system that complex. If the convention decides still to go ahead every four years and have an audit, this would be fine, however having a yearly audit is only costly and not necessary.

Concerning the guidelines for the disbursement of the Retirement funds, at the latest the Finance Committee is awaiting response to its letter sent to the C.T.E. Our committee at this time has no recommendations pending response by the C.T.E on this matter.

This past year has been a stable year as far as the finances are concerned, there being no substantial gains in our working funds; the total gain in all the funds for the year was approximately \$800 leaving the total funds in the Conference at \$42,354.30. We have much to be thankful for; yes, even in spite of our country's poor economic picture recently, the Lord has still given us increase in our funds. Even though they may not be very significant, the picture is on the positive side rather than the negative. Let us strive to give as our Lord has so prospered us, never forgetting that He can take it all away even as He has so blessed us. The coming years are not a good economic outlook in this country, so also the times ahead for us will be very trying. Still with the strength of our Lord, let us go ahead, moving forward in the tasks that He has entrusted to our keeping, always to His glory!

Respectfully submitted,

The Finance Committee;
Jeffery W. Styx, Chairman

REPORT OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE CONCERNING THE BUDGET FOR FISCAL 1979 - 1980

Dear Brethren in Christ,

Since not all pledges from our congregations were received until June 14, it has not been possible to forward the results to the congregations. The pledge results are as follows:

	General Fund	Seminary Fund	Mission Fund
St. John's	50.00	250.00	30.00
St. Luke's	18.00	72.00	10.00
Peace	90.00	475.00	250.00
St. Stephen's	30.00	310.00	100.00
Trinity	15.00	35.00	
Total/mo.	203.00	1142.00	390.00
Total/yr.	\$2436.00	\$13704.00	\$4680.00

Considering the needs of our Conference the Finance Committee has prepared the following revised budget proposal:

General Fund		Seminary Fund	
Operational Subsidy (Scriptural Publ.)	1,000.00	Professor's Salary	7266.00
Telephone	200.00	Housing Allowance	3846.00
		Associate Professor	2340.00

Travel	750.00	Facilities	100.00
Convention	300.00	Library	10.00
Miscellaneous	250.00	Stock	65.00
Printing Constitution & Seminary Catalog	<u>170.00</u>	Periodicals	85.00
TOTAL	\$ 2,670.00	Miscellaneous	<u>25.00</u>
			\$ 13,737.00

Mission Fund

Trinity Subsidy \$5,180.00

Explanations of the changes are as follows:

General Fund: No additional funds were requested by the Publishing House so this will remain at the same figure; Miscellaneous - this was increased due to large red figure in last year's budget and anticipated expenses in this fund.

Seminary Fund: Because pledges were only increased 2.2% salaries were only increased 2%. This increase was placed in the housing allowance rather than the regular salary, for the current figure lacks in meeting its purpose; the housing allowance is also tax free. Periodicals was increased due to increased subscription rates. Miscellaneous was increased to meet overage in this fund from last year's budget.

Mission Fund: No additional request was made for funds to our sister congregation for subsidy; this figure is the same as the previous year.

Your committee also recommends we continue to authorize the availability of \$1,000.00 from the General Fund to the Publishing House for the purpose of implementing the program of establishing and maintaining a stock of orthodox Christian books and other literature for purchase by our people.

Let us go ahead now and make our decisions under the direction of our Lord, that they may be pleasing to Him. Let us work together in our joint financial dealings so that we may grow in His grace, and that these matters in all respects may truly glorify His name.

Respectfully submitted,

The Finance Committee;
Jeffery W. Style, Chairman

FINAL BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 1979 - 80

GENERAL FUND		SEMINARY FUND	
Operational Subsidy,		Professor's Salary	7266.00
Scriptural Publications	1000.00	Housing Allowance	3846.00
Telephone	200.00	Assoc. Prof. Salary	2340.00
Travel	750.00	Facilities	100.00
Convention	300.00	Library	10.00
Miscellaneous	250.00	Stock	65.00
Printing of Constitution and Catalog	<u>170.00</u>	Periodicals	85.00
TOTAL	\$2670.00	Miscellaneous	<u>25.00</u>
		TOTAL	\$13737.00

MISSION FUND: Subsidy - Trinity Lutheran Church, Coos Bay, Ore. \$5180.00

REPORT OF THE AUDITING COMMITTEE

We have examined the books of the Conference Treasurer and have found them to be in good order. We commend our Treasurer for his very thorough bookkeeping system and records.

We have examined the books of the Business Manager of our Publishing House, Scriptural Publications, and have found them to be in good order. We also commend him for his complete and accurate records.

Respectfully submitted,

Rev. O. W. Schaefer
Mr. Kent Frerichs
Mr. Loren Dirksen

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON REGISTRATION AND EXCUSES

I. Initial Report:

The following are eligible for seating as delegates:

Peace Lutheran Church	Rev. H. David Hensing David T. Hensing Glen Frerichs
Trinity Lutheran Church	Rev. Randall D. Styx Loren Dirksen John Dirksen
St. John's Lutheran Church	Rev. M. L. Natterer Walter Fischer Michael Fischer
St. Luke's Lutheran Church	Rev. P. R. Bloedel Stephen Bloedel Robert Bloedel
St. Stephen's Lutheran Church	Rev. James W. Luedtke Kent Frerichs Loren Reil

In the absence of John Dirksen, the other lay delegate from Trinity receives two (2) votes, yielding a total of 15 votes in all.

II. In this final report the Committee informs the convention that the following registered for this 28th Annual Convention:

- A. 6 pastors, including Prof. O.W. Schaefer in an advisory capacity
- B. 11 lay delegates, including 2 alternates
- C. 33 visitors
- D. Pastor Kenneth Keat of the Lutheran Churches of the Reformation, as an observer
- E. TOTAL number registered: 51

The attendance for the Convention Sunday service was 96.

Respectfully submitted,

Rev. James W. Luedtke
Loren Dirksen
Michael Fischer

MEMORIALS TO THE 1979 CONVENTION

Memorial from St. John's Lutheran Church, Lebanon, Oregon

WHEREAS The intent, purpose, and scope of The Concordia Lutheran heretofore clearly has not been defined; and

WHEREAS Its optimal potential of distribution has not been realized; therefore

BE IT RESOLVED That the Concordia Lutheran Conference, in its 1979 Convention assembled, adopt the proposed guidelines for The Concordia Lutheran.

(This resolution was adopted by the voting assembly of St. John's Lutheran Church, Lebanon, Oregon, at a regular meeting held on Dec. 10, 1978.)

Signed, Rev. H. L. Hatterer, pastor
Francis F. Williams, secretary

GUIDELINES for THE CONCORDIA LUTHERAN

A. INTENT, PURPOSE, and SCOPE

1. Instructional. The Concordia Lutheran should expound upon the Holy Scriptures so that one thereby is able to increase in the knowledge of God and His most Holy Word (Col. 1:9-10; 4:5; Rom. 12:2; Eph. 5:10,17; Phil 1:9-10). The articles should contain not only "the sincere milk of the word" (I Pet. 2:2), that is, easy to digest, for the benefit of the youth and "newborn babes" in the faith (I Cor. 3:1); but also should provide "meat" (I Cor. 3:2), to reread, comprehend, and assimilate; and/or which may be suitable for a more intense Bible study, so that a Christian may expand his knowledge of the Sacred Scriptures, and thus further his growth in the faith thereby (John 5:39; 8:32; II Tim. 3:15-17; Acts 17:10-12).
2. Devotional. The Concordia Lutheran should supply devotional aids for use in family and/or private devotions (Eph. 6:4; Prov. 22:6; Gen.18:19; Deut. 6:6-7; Jos. 24:15).
3. Lutheran Confessions. The Concordia Lutheran should familiarize its readers with the Lutheran Confessions, which are based solely and solidly upon the full truth and purity of God's Holy Word, as set forth in: Luther's Sm. & Lge. Catechisms (1529), the Augsburg Confession and its Apology (1530), the Smalcald Articles (1537), the Formula of Concord (1580), and the Brief Statement (1932).
4. Christian Fellowship. The Concordia Lutheran contributors remind the readers of the pleasant and God-pleasing Christian fellowship which they may have experienced (Phil 1:3; 4:21-22; Col. 2:5; 4:12-17; I Cor. 11:2; II Cor. 13:2; I Thess. 3:6-11; I Tim. 3:11; II Tim. 1:4-6; Rom. 1:10-12).
The writers of articles may offer prayers for the brethren in the faith (Rom. 1:9; II Tim. 1:1-3; Eph. 1:16; Col. 1:1-3,9; Phil. 1:1-11; I Thess. 5:23,28); and may solicit prayers from the brethren (I Thess. 5:25; II Thess. 3:1; Col. 4:18).
5. Missionary Program. The Concordia Lutheran should provide helpful aids and/or guidelines to assist Christians in bringing others to the saving faith (Matt. 28:19-20; John 1:43-46).

B. DISTRIBUTION

1. Subscriptions. Each and every family in the Concordia Lutheran Conference should subscribe to, and otherwise support, its official organ, The Concordia

Lutheran. The nominal subscription rate should not make it prohibitive for every household in the C.L.C. to receive this excellent publication in their homes.

2. Complimentary Copies. The C.L.C. publisher should supply complimentary copies of The Concordia Lutheran as a missionary endeavor "to seek out all who truly share our Scriptural position in doctrine and practice, and to urge the mutual public acknowledgement of such God-given unity. Thus we shall be able thereafter to practice a God-pleasing church fellowship with them." (Statement of Purpose).
 - a. Wide distribution, especially to conservative Lutherans (bulk-mailings by the publishing house).
 - b. Pastoral contacts
 - 1) Appointments in his study
 - 2) Mission prospects and/or by visits to the unchurched.
 - 3) Visits to the sick and infirmed.
 - c. Friends and acquaintances of lay members of the congregation.
 - d. Visitors to the divine services.

 Memorial from St. Luke's Lutheran Church, Seattle, Washington

WHEREAS the Conference Treasurer is responsible not only to guide the Conference in financial and business affairs; but also, because of his membership in the Board of Directors, should be well versed in spiritual matters; and

WHEREAS the Conference Treasurer has the full responsibility to direct the activities and decisions of the Finance Committee with reference to fiscal and budget considerations; and

WHEREAS the Conference Treasurer is not only responsible for receiving, safeguarding and disbursing monies in behalf of the Conference, but also to maintain the records of these transactions; and

WHEREAS the Finance Committee is presently considering the use of a Public Accountant to audit our financial records, which recognizes the sound business principle that the offices of Treasurer and Accountant should normally not be vested in the same person; therefore

BE IT RESOLVED to relieve the Conference Treasurer of maintaining the financial records of receipts and disbursements and appoint a Financial Secretary for this work, which would accomplish the following:

1. Permit Godly laymen, not acquainted with accounting procedures, to be available for the office of Treasurer in our Conference.
2. Reduce the work of the Treasurer in order to provide increased efficiency in budget, fiscal planning and investment matters.
3. Solve the problem of a special audit by a public accounting firm, due to the safeguard of dual responsibility in the offices of Treasurer and Financial Secretary; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Conference Constitution be amended to set forth the duties and responsibilities of the Treasurer and Financial Secretary as suggested in the following Basic Guidelines:

Treasurer:

1. Receive, bank and disburse monies in behalf of the Conference.
2. Forward original source fiscal records to the Financial Secretary.
3. Receive, verify and distribute the monthly and yearly financial

- statements provided by the Financial Secretary.
4. Maintain budget records and issue necessary budgetary reports.
 5. Chairman of the Finance Committee and Board of Directors member.
 6. Submit check stubs, pass books and other investment evidence for audit at time of convention, or as requested by the Board of Directors.

Financial Secretary:

1. Receive fiscal records for appropriate book entry and permanent filing.
2. Provide monthly and yearly financial reports through the Conference Treasurer.
3. Provide special reports as requested by the Board of Directors.
4. Conference accountant, Finance Committee member, Advisory member of the Board of Directors.
5. Submit books and all substantiating documents for spot audit at time of convention, or as requested by the Board of Directors.

Signed, R.G. Bloedel, Secretary
P.R. Bloedel, Pastor

Note: Action concerning these Memorials are found in the Minutes of these Proceedings pages 49 and 43 respectively.

1978 - 1979 STATISTICAL REPORT II SUMMARY

I. Parochial (of member congregations):

Number of Congregations	5
Ordained Pastors (including 1 assistant pastor)	6
Baptized Members	330
Communicant Members	248
Voting Members	74
Children in the Sunday Schools	78
Adults Regularly Attending the Bible Classes	129
Communicants Received	17
Severances	12
Baptisms	12
Confirmations (Adult and Children)	15
Marriages	5
Burials	5
Sunday School Teachers	21
Superintendents	2
Elected Church Officers	40
Organists	9
Choir Members	16
Congregations Owning their Church Property	4 (80%)
Total Acreage	9.2
Total Valuation of Real Estate	\$575,391.00 (est.)

II. Institutional (of our Seminary):

Professors	2
Current Students	2
Graduates to Date	2

Respectfully submitted,
David T. Mensing, Statistician
Board Member-at-Large (Middle West)

MINUTES OF THE 28th ANNUAL CONVENTION
of the CONCORDIA LUTHERAN CONFERENCE

The 28th Annual Convention of the Concordia Lutheran Conference opened on June 22, 1979, at 9:30 a.m. with a Divine Service in which President H. David Mensing preached the opening sermon on the basis of Rev. 3:11, "Behold, I come quickly: hold that fast which thou hast, that no man take thy crown." Prof. O. W. Schaefer served as liturgist.

The convention proper and the first session began at 11:20 a.m. with a brief devotion by Pres. Mensing including a prayer and the reading of Heb. 4:9-16.

The appointment of convention committees following the devotion specified the committee members as outlined in the convention Prospectus, p.3.

The initial Report of the Committee on Registrations and Excuses was given by committee member Loren Dirksen. It was reported that all delegates but one were present, yielding a total of 15 votes. It was moved and seconded to receive this initial report. Carried.

Pres. Mensing then gave his Report. Vice-president Rev. H. L. Mattereder took the chair in the mean time. The report was one of praise to the Lord for preserving among us the truth for these many years since 1951 when our Conference was formed. It mentioned the special importance of the Committee on Lutheran Union and the Seminary work. For health reasons, Pres. Mensing made the special request of the brethren that they relieve him of any strenuous positions of leadership in the year following.

It was moved and seconded to accept the report, subject to review. Carried. Vice-president Mattereder appointed the following committee to review the President's Report: Rev. Randall D. Styx, Walter Fischer, and Loren Reil.

The President then took the chair and presented the Agenda for the convention sessions. It was moved and seconded to follow the printed Agenda as written. Carried.

The report of the Press Committee, given by Pres. Mensing (host pastor) stated that no pre-convention article for the press was submitted. However, possibly an article would be submitted following the convention. It was moved and seconded to accept this brief oral report. Carried.

It was then moved and seconded to adjourn the morning session. Carried. Adjournment followed at 11:50 a.m.

The Friday afternoon session began with a devotion at 1:30 p.m. by Vice-president Mattereder. Hymn 360 was sung, followed by the reading of Col. 1:3-4 and a prayer. The convention essay then began at about 1:40 p.m., again by Pastor Mattereder. The title of the essay was the same as the convention motto, "Our Faithfulness to the Lord in the Light of Judgment Day."

At a convenient breaking point the essayist solicited discussion from the floor on the portion of the essay read. Discussion followed.

The convention recessed at 2:15 and resumed sessions at 2:50 with Finance Committee's report on the last fiscal year. The committee chairman and Conference Treasurer, Mr. Jeffery W. Styx, began by passing out to the brethren duplicated reports to examine. After sufficient time for perusal, Mr. Styx read his report. He pointed out that although the financial picture of the world today is rather

unstable, the Lord has blessed the finances of our little Conference over the past year. It was moved and seconded to accept this report. Carried.

The Finance Committee recommended that 2 or 3 members of the congregation in which the Treasurer is located carefully and thoroughly audit the records of the Treasurer before the convention takes place while there would be plenty of time to do their job and be able to confer with the Treasurer throughout the audit, bringing their report to the convention when it convenes.

It was moved and seconded to accept this recommendation. Discussion followed. It was moved and seconded to table the recommendation until the time allotted for discussion of the St. Luke's Memorial. Motion lost. The Finance Committee recommendation was then voted upon and carried.

Inasmuch as the pastoral and lay delegates of St. Luke's congregation withdrew their Memorial from consideration of this convention, it was moved and seconded to remove this item from the Agenda. Carried.

Next came the election of officers under the direction of the Nominating and Elections Committee. The elections proceeded as follows:

Nominations for President: Pastors H.L. Mattereder, O.W. Schaefer, James W. Luedtke, Paul R. Bloedel.

Elected: Rev. H. L. Mattereder

Nominations for Vice-President: Pastors O.W. Schaefer, P.R. Bloedel, James W. Luedtke.

Elected: O. W. Schaefer

Nominations for Secretary: Pastors James W. Luedtke, Randall D. Styx.

Elected: Rev. James W. Luedtke

Nominations for Treasurer: Messrs. Jeffery W. Styx, Glen A. Frerichs, Walter F. Fischer.

Elected: Mr. Jeffery W. Styx

Nominations for Board Member-at-large (Far West): Messrs. Walter F. Fischer, Ronald Schlaht, Henry Fischer, Victor Bloedel, Loren Dirksen.

Elected: Mr. Walter F. Fischer

Nominations for Board Member-at-large (Mid-West): Messrs. David T. Mensing, Gerald H. Luedtke, Glen A. Frerichs, H. Daniel Mensing, Kent Frerichs.

Elected: David T. Mensing

At 3:55 p.m. the convention recessed to give the Elections Committee opportunity to prepare the slates for Committee elections. At 4:08 the Elections Committee presented its nominations for Standing Committees.

Proposed slates for the Editorial Committee:

A.
Prof. O.W. Schaefer

B.
Rev. Randall D. Styx

Rev. H.L. Matterer
Mr. Gerald H. Luedtke

Prof. O.W. Schaefer
Mr. Gerald H. Luedtke

Elected: Slate A

Proposed slates for the Committee on Theological Education:

A.	B.	C.
Rev. H.L. Matterer	Rev. Randall D. Styx	Rev. P. R. Bloedel
Rev. James W. Luedtke	Rev. H. L. Matterer	Rev. Randall D. Styx
Mr. Lloyd E. Martin	Mr. Glen A. Frerichs	Mr. Lloyd E. Martin
Mr. Victor K. Bloedel	Mr. Kent Frerichs	Mr. Victor K. Bloedel

Elected: Slate C.

Proposed slates for the Committee on Missions:

A.	B.
Rev. James W. Luedtke	Rev. P. R. Bloedel
Rev. H. L. Matterer	Rev. H. David Hensing
Mr. Loren Dirksen	Mr. Lloyd E. Martin
Mr. Ronald Schlaht	Mr. Loren Reil
Mr. Jeffery W. Styx	Mr. Ted D. Fischer

Elected: Slate A.

Proposed slates for the Committee on Lutheran Union:

A.	B.
Vice-President	Vice-President
Secretary	Secretary
Prof. H. David Hensing	Prof. H. David Hensing
Mr. David T. Hensing	Mr. Robert Bloedel

Elected: Slate A.

Proposed slates for the Publishing House Board of Control:

A.	B.
Rev. P. R. Bloedel	Rev. P. R. Bloedel
Rev. H. L. Matterer	Rev. Randall D. Styx
Mr. Ronald Schlaht	Mr. Dale Ellis
Mr. Victor K. Bloedel	Mr. Victor K. Bloedel
Mr. Paul F. Luedtke	Mr. Paul F. Luedtke

Elected: Slate B.

Proposed slates for the Finance Committee:

A.	B.	C.
Mr. Jeffery W. Styx	Mr. Jeffery W. Styx	Mr. Jeffery W. Styx
Mr. Loren Dirksen	Mr. John Dirksen	Mr. Loren Dirksen
Mr. Bill Schrader	Mr. Larry Reil	Mr. Robert Bloedel
Mr. Larry Reil	Mr. Robert Bloedel	Mr. Kent Frerichs

Elected: Slate A.

It was moved and seconded to consider all elections unanimous. Carried un-animously.

At 4:45 p.m. the Committee on Lutheran Union (CLU) chairman, Pastor Natterer, gave his report. It was moved and seconded to accept his brief report. Carried.

Following his report Prof. O. W. Schaefer, chairman of the CLU negotiating team, gave his report accounting for the contacts made with the Lutheran Churches of the Reformation (LCR) and the Church of the Lutheran Confession (CoLC) during the past year. The report contained two recommendations. It was moved and seconded to receive this report. Carried.

Recommendation #1 stated: "that our Committee on Lutheran Union determine the feasibility of further meetings with the LCR in view of recent developments in that church body, and if and when such meetings resume, that they be held only as long as the agenda agreed upon is followed and further progress is made toward finding true unity." Prof. Schaefer explained that "the agreed upon agenda" was the matter of the state of confession, especially as it applies to the Kretzmann/Hallstein controversy of 1955. This recommendation was moved, seconded and carried.

Recommendation #2 stated: "that if our Committee on Lutheran Union receives a favorable reply from the Church of the Lutheran Confession to our proposal of March 8, 1979, it endeavor to arrange a meeting with this group at the earliest possible time." This too was moved, seconded, and carried.

President Mensing expressed his personal thanks to the CLU chairmen for their carefully prepared reports. The Friday afternoon sessions closed at 5:20 p.m. with the Apostolic Blessing.

Saturday

The Saturday morning session opened with a devotion at 9:15 conducted by Pastor Luedtke. Hymn 541 was sung, followed by Ephesians 5:1-21, a prayer and the final hymn, 400.

At 9:25 came the reading of Friday's minutes, which were adopted after a few minor adjustments.

Pastor Natterer then proceeded with his essay. The portion of the essay read was concerning such sins, even among Lutherans, as unionism, abortion, and homosexuality. Following this it was moved and seconded to reserve the last 1½ pages of the essay for the appointed time on Sunday. Carried.

In connection with the CLU report, Mr. Glen Frerichs, delegate from Peace Congregation, mentioned that a convention of Lutherans Alert was being held in Morris, Illinois, and wondered about sending representatives of our Conference to attend as observers. This led to a discussion of the errors of Lutherans Alert (headquarters in Tacoma, Washington), notably unionism and the denial of objective justification. Prof. Schaefer mentioned a contact with their Seminary in which they were willing immediately without investigation of our Conference, to train students for our ministry.

A break was observed at 10:35; at 10:55 the session resumed with a motion that the Convention commit the suggestion of looking further into the position of Lutherans Alert to our CLU; seconded and carried.

The Editorial Committee chairman, Prof. Schaefer, then gave his report. One

suggestion of the Committee was that the Publishing House mail all issues to subscribers first class. This will be taken under advisement. It was moved, seconded and carried to accept the report with thanks to the Committee for its fine work during the past year.

Next, the Committee on Theological Education (CTE) report was given by Pastor Mattereder. It was a report of encouragement to faithful ministers of the Word, pointing out that to have such necessitates faithful Seminary training. It was moved and seconded to receive the report. Carried.

The Committee then recommended and moved that the semester rate of tuition be increased from \$60 to \$100, or from \$8.00 per semester hour to \$15.00 per semester hour. This was seconded.

Pastor Styx reminded the convention of the purpose of the tuition system in our Seminary, i.e., that those graduates who become pastors in our Conference receive their tuition back as an extra savings in transferring from student to pastor. The proposed increase, however, he pointed out, could cause an extra financial burden on the students during their Seminary years. Others also commented both pro and con the increase in tuition rate. A third possibility was advocated that the tuition rates be increased and that the Conference General Fund supply the difference from the old rate.

and

It was moved, second to amend the previous motion, adding that the difference in the increased rate of tuition be covered by the Conference General Fund rather than by the students.

It was moved and seconded to commit the whole matter of tuition to the Resolutions Committee. Carried.

Prof. Schaefer then gave his Seminary President's report, reviewing the activities of the past year, making mention of various gifts, offerings and inquiries received. It was moved and seconded to accept the report. Carried.

Adjournment followed at 11:55 for the Lunch Hour.

The sessions resumed with a devotion by Pastor Styx at 1:40 p.m. Hymn 396 was sung followed by the reading of Heb. 11:1-12:2 and a prayer.

Rev. P. R. Bloedel proceeded with his report of the Publishing House Board of Control. It was moved and seconded to accept this report. Carried.

There were four recommendations connected with the report, summarized as follows: Recommendation #1: concerning efforts to speed up writing of articles and publishing of the Concordia Lutheran so that subscribers receive their copies earlier. This was adopted by motion.

Recommendation #2: concerning the incumbent Editorial Committee, that it hold office through the July/August issue of the Concordia Lutheran. This was recommended to the Publishing House Board of Control.

Recommendation #3: concerning continuing to keep \$1000 available to the Publishing House for the establishment of a book house, should this become feasible. Adopted by motion.

Recommendation #4: concerning \$300 for purchasing 10 point mats for the printing of the Concordia Lutheran. It was moved and seconded to authorize a \$300 expenditure from the General Fund to Scriptural Publications for the purpose of purchasing the necessary mats. Carried.

The report of the Business Manager of Scriptural Publications was given and

explained by Mr. Robert Bloedel in place of Mr. Victor K. Bloedel, the business manager. This was then adopted by motion.

At this point the 2nd recommendation of the Publishing House Board of Control as reworded by the Board was presented. It reads as follows "that the Editorial Committee be responsible for the publication of the Sept./Oct. issue through the publication of the July/Aug. issue of the following calendar year." This was accepted by motion.

The Mission Committee Chairman Pastor Tuedtke then gave his report. It was moved, seconded and carried to accept this report. There were two recommendations connected with the report, the first recommending that the Conference grant Trinity Lutheran Church, Eastside, Oregon, a subsidy for the coming year of \$5,180 and the second recommending a constitutional amendment in Article IX of the Constitution. Both were adopted by motion, the second unanimously, subject to ratification of the congregations in accordance with constitutional requirements for amendments.

A break was observed at 3:05 p.m. Upon reconvening at 3:18, Pastor Styx gave a personal interest report appended to the Mission Committee Report explaining the progress and problems of our Mission Congregation in Eastside, Oregon.

It was moved and seconded to receive this special report with special praise to the Lord for His continuing blessings upon our Mission Congregation. Carried. This was followed by the singing of "Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow."

Discussion then followed on Mission Guideline #VI (recorded in 1962 Proceedings, p.20 and quoted in the Mission Committee Report. See p.26 of these Proceedings.) It was discussed whether the wording of the Guideline was too restrictive. The Guideline was clarified to this extent that "consult" does not intimate absolute approval and that consultation of the Committee on Missions can be made by contact with the chairman of the Committee.

It was moved and seconded that the above clarification be regarded as an official interpretation of Guideline #VI. Carried. The delegates of Trinity Congregation, who were concerned about the wording, were satisfied that this clarification fulfills the spirit of their inquiry.

Walter Fischer gave the Report to Review the President's Report. Pastor Hatterer took the chair during the report. It was moved, seconded, and carried to receive this report.

The agenda proceeded to the Report of the Auditing Committee as given by Loren Dirksen. It was moved and seconded to receive this report. Carried.

This was followed by the Initial Report of the 1979-80 budget given by Treasurer Jeffery Styx. It was also moved and seconded to receive this report. Carried.

The initial Report of the Resolutions Committee was given by David T. Mensing. At this time the Committee had only one resolution to present, which concerned raising the Seminary Tuition (as previously discussed on the convention floor) by 100%. It was moved, seconded and carried to adopt this resolution. There was one

There was one Recommendation of the Board of Directors to consider at this time. It concerned itself with a gift of \$500 offered by the Aid Association for Lutherans (AAL) to our Conference for the celebration of the 100th Anniversary of the Book of Concord and the 450th anniversary of the Augsburg Confession. The letter offering this gift was read to the convention by the secretary, who then

read the recommendation of the Board as follows: "1) that we respectfully refuse the financial assistance from AAL, stating to them that we do so in the spirit of the Lutheran Confessions, based on Holy Scripture, as a clear protest against their unionistic activity; and 2) that our own Conference through its Board of Directors set aside of our own General Fund monies to be used by our congregations in the celebration of the 400th anniversary of the Book of Concord and the 450th anniversary of the Augsburg Confession."

It was moved and seconded to adopt the Board's recommendation. Before this could be carried, the discussion of the recommendation led to a motion, which was seconded, to table the Board of Directors' Recommendation to Sunday at 2:30. This was carried.

The convention session adjourned at 5:25 after various announcements.

Sunday

The Sunday Morning Divine Service began at 10:00 a.m. Pastor H. David Mensing conducted the liturgy. Pastor P. R. Bloedel preached the sermon based on Heb. 10: 25. Holy Communion was administered with Pastor O. W. Schaefer giving the bread and Pastor Mensing giving the cup.

The Sunday session proper began at 2:40 p.m. with a devotion by Prof. O. W. Schaefer. Hymn 605 was sung, followed by the reading of II Thess. 1:3-12 and a prayer. The newly-elected President, Rev. W. L. Natterer, presided over the Sunday sessions.

Upon the reading of the minutes of the Saturday session, they were approved by motion after a few clarifications and adjustments.

The Convention Essay was concluded by Pastor Natterer. Prof. Schaefer took the chair during its presentation. With the essay concluded, it was moved and seconded to accept it with thanks to the essayist. After brief discussion of the essay, the motion was carried.

Concerning the recommendation of the Board of Directors on the AAL offer of \$500, Pastor Natterer read a letter he had drafted as a suggested answer to the AAL. After reading the letter, President Natterer solicited responses.

Mr. Glen Frerichs proposed an alternative response in the form of a substitute motion (i.e. to the Board's recommendation presented in the Saturday afternoon session) as follows: "that we notify the AAL that we will accept the \$500 gift from them, but only with the understanding: 1) that their offer is exactly what it states, a gift -- viz., something that is given to us with no presumption of our participation with them in present or future activities; 2) that we are currently not in fellowship with any other Lutheran bodies and therefore would not be able to participate in activities with them (Rom. 16:17); 3) that we will take AAL at their word when they say they do not intend to dictate how the funds are to be used, but only wish to be informed of how we use the gift; 4) that we do not wish to furnish AAL with names of our members for solicitation purposes."

On the basis of Abraham's refusing the gift of the king of Sodom (Gen. 14: 21-23) and the Israelite's refusing foreign help in rebuilding the temple (Ezra 4:1-3), it was deemed unwise by some to accept the AAL gift. The general question of whether AAL is a business or a religious organization was discussed.

Following the discussions the question of the substitute motion was moved, seconded and carried. The substitute motion was then re-read. It was voted upon,

and it failed.

It was moved and seconded to divide the Board of Directors' recommendation and to consider its two parts separately. Carried. This being done the first point of the recommendation was carried by motion and the second point was committed, by motion, to the Resolutions Committee for formulation.

Mr. Walter Fischer, delegate from St. John's Lebanon, Ore., presented his congregation's Memorial (concerning the Concordia Lutheran) point by point to the convention. It was moved and seconded to adopt the Memorial. Extensive discussion followed and various suggestions and amendments were proposed. Finally it was moved and seconded to commit the entire St. John's Memorial to the Editorial Committee for study during the coming year, a report to be given to the next convention on the matter. This was carried.

The session adjourned for supper at 5:35 p.m. At this time the chairman noted that a visitor was present, Pastor Kenneth Keat (L.C.R.) of Chicago. President Mattereder officially recognized and welcomed him.

At 7:30 p.m. the convention reconvened for an evening session. At this time the Finance Committee Chairman, Mr. Jeffery Styr, moved acceptance of the previously presented budget. Seconded, carried.

The mimeographed statistical report was passed out by Board Member Mr. David T. Mensing for consideration. It was moved, seconded and carried to accept it with thanks.

Delegate David T. Mensing, on behalf of his congregation, offered once again his congregation's church facilities for use by our Conference Seminary. Pres. Mattereder officially accepted the offer on behalf of the Conference.

Mr. Mensing then continued the Resolutions Committee Report with Resolutions 2-6. Their substance and action is recorded here as follows:

- #2 - concerning our observance of the 400th anniversary of the Book of Concord and 450th anniversary of the Augsburg Confession. Moved, seconded and carried.
- #3 - concerning thanks for the sermons, devotions and essay. Carried.
- #4 - concerning thanks to past committee chairmen and members and prayer for the coming year's committees. Carried.
- #5 - concerning Peace Congregation's provision of the Seminary facilities. Carried.
- #6 - concerning thanks to Peace Lutheran Church for its hospitality and fellowship as host of the 1979 CLC convention. Carried.

The final Report of the Committee on Registrations and Excuses was given by committee member, Mr. Michael Fischer. It was moved, seconded and carried to receive his report.

Concerning the time and place of next year's convention, an invitation was extended by St. Luke's Lutheran Church, Seattle, Washington. The convention by motion accepted St. Luke's invitation.

The Conference's convention business having been concluded, President Nat-

terer closed the final session with a devotion. The convention officially concluded at 8:03 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Rev. James W. Luedtke, Secretary

RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED BY THE 28th ANNUAL CONVENTION

Resolution #1:

WHEREAS the tuition system for students of our Seminary was originally devised as a savings program to benefit those who would eventually accept calls into the Holy Ministry from our member congregations; and

WHEREAS the rates charged, both for full-time and part-time students, have remained virtually the same since the establishment of this system in 1969; and

WHEREAS current economic conditions warrant an up-grading of these rates to reflect the effect of inflation and more adequately to provide financial assistance to new pastors trained in our seminary; but

WHEREAS a large increase in tuition rates at this time would work a special hardship upon our present students, both of whom have forsaken advancement in their secular work for the sake of their theological studies;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that, upon recommendation of the Committee on Theological Education, tuition rates be increased beginning in the fall term, 1979, to \$100 per semester for full-time students and \$16 per semester hour for part-time students; but

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that, in order to avoid placing a financial burden upon our present students, the Conference underwrite 50% of their tuition as scholarship aid, these monies to be taken from the balance of the Conference General Fund and be deposited in the Tuition Fund to the benefit of the students' respective accounts.

Resolution #2

WHEREAS the year of 1980 will be the 400th anniversary of the Book of Concord and the 450th anniversary of the Augsburg Confession; and

WHEREAS the treasure we have in this Book of Concord is particularly worthy of special celebration in view of widespread departures from Scriptural truth in Lutheranism; and

WHEREAS all the congregations of our Conference have subscribed to these Lutheran confessions because they are a true exposition of God's Word; and

WHEREAS the very name of our Conference, CONCORDIA, bespeaks our unity in God's Word and the Book of Concord, its Latin name being "Concordia";

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Concordia Lutheran Conference in this convention assembled encourage all our congregations to observe these anniversaries in their own midst; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that our Conference as such also observe them in connection with its 29th annual convention; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Directors be authorized to use a maximum of \$500 from our General Fund to plan and provide for such fitting celebration on the part of our Conference.

Resolution #3:

WHEREAS: the sermon delivered by our president, the Rev. H. David Mensing, at the opening service of this convention, as well as that delivered in the Sunday divine service by Pastor P. R. Bloedel, were found to be especially edifying to the delegates, guests and visitors in attendance; and

WHEREAS the delegates and guests at this convention received also special encouragement and strength from the various devotions conducted by our pastors during sessions; and

WHEREAS we were particularly edified by the essay presented during this convention;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the convention especially thank Pastors Mensing and Bloedel for their edifying messages, and Pastor Matterer also for his thorough and timely essay, and that we express our gratitude also to the other pastors for the special devotions conducted by them at this convention.

Resolution #4:

WHEREAS the officers, standing committees, and appointed committees have served our beloved Conference faithfully during the past fiscal 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 during the past year of grace; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we call upon the Holy Spirit to grant a rich measure of His grace to those brethren who have been elected 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 #5:

WHEREAS our Conference Seminary has continued to enjoy the use of the physical facilities of Peace Ev. Lutheran Church, Tinley Park, Illinois, for the last ten years of its operation; and

WHEREAS Peace Congregation has continued to provide these quarters for a token maintenance cost of \$100 per year, thus aiding the Conference in keeping at a minimum its expenses for the physical plant of its seminary program;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that we express our gratitude in the Lord to Peace Ev. Lutheran Church for its continued brotherly cooperation, generosity and sacrifice in its promotion of this most necessary work among us.

Resolution #6:

WHEREAS the Concordia Lutheran Conference has this year been especially blessed by

the Lord of the Church with a most cooperative, well-balanced, joyful and fruitful convention, for which all glory and praise is due to Him alone; and

WHEREAS Peace Ev. Lutheran Church of Tinley Park, Illinois, has shown itself to be a most gracious host to this 20th 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 Sacrament; and

WHEREAS our worship of the Lord and Head of His Church in the various devotions and divine services was 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, assistant pastor and members of Peace 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 the Conference especially thank Mr. Stephen Bloedel and Mrs. H. David Mensing, who assisted him, for serving as organists for this convention, and Mr. H. Daniel Mensing and the choir of Peace Congregation, as well as those brethren who joined with it on Sunday morning, for the choral offerings which added both beauty and spiritual edification to the divine service, as also to the Sunday dinner hour; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we express special gratitude to those members of the host congregation who opened their homes so generously to the delegates and guests of this convention, as well as to the ladies of the congregation who so untiringly gave of their talents and time in the preparation of attractive and nourishing meals throughout the convention; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that, above all others, we praise and magnify the Lord of the Church, our gracious Savior, for the bountiful blessings He has bestowed upon us, and that we express our thanksgiving especially by pledging our continued faithfulness to Him and to His precious Word in the years to come, so that, by His abiding grace, we remain His dear children and heirs and finally receive the crown of life laid up for us in heaven which fadeth not away.