

DOCUMENT I.D. # **000024-**

# ✠ Concordia Lutheran Conference Archives ✠

That the generations to come might know. Psalm 78:6

## Document Worksheet

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### File Categories / Tags

ALC—American Luth. Church  
ARC—Archives (CLCA)  
AST—A Statement 1945  
BLK—Bulk Document Scan  
BOD—Board of Directors  
BOO—Book/Booklet/Tract  
BRK—Break from Missouri  
CL—The Concordia Lutheran  
CLU—C. Lutheran Union  
COM—Common Confession  
CON—Controversies  
COR—Correspondence—Personal  
CTE—C. Theo. Education  
DGR—David G. Redlin  
DJM—David J. Mensing  
DOC—Doctrinal Statements  
DPM—Daniel P. Mensing  
DTM—David T. Mensing  
ECH—E.C. Hallstein

EDI—Editorial Comm.  
ELF—Electronic File/Doc  
EJW—Edward J. Worley  
ELM—E. L. Mehlberg  
ERS—E. R. Stallings  
EPA—Essays/Papers/Analysis  
FLC—Fel. Luth. Cong.  
FLCN—Fel. Luth. Con. Nigeria  
GSH—Good Shep. Lu. Ch.  
HDM—H. David Mensing  
HWR—Howard W. Romoser File  
LCMS—Lu. Ch. Mis. Syn.  
LCR—Luth. Ch. of the Ref.  
LEG—Legal Documents  
MIN—Convention Minutes  
MIS—Comm. on Missions  
MLN—Melvin L. Natterer  
MWD—Mark W. Dierking  
NBF—Nimi B. Fyneface  
NIA—Nigeria

NON—Non CLC Docs.  
OLC—Orth. Luth. Conf.  
OLP—Orthodox Luth. Publication  
PAS—Passages/Texts  
PEA—Peace Ev. Luth. Ch.  
PEB—Paul E. Bloedel  
PEK—Paul E. Kretzmann  
PIC—Pictures  
PRB—Paul R. Bloedel  
PRE—President Docs  
PRM—Phillip R. Martin  
PRO—Conv. Proceedings  
PUB—Publishing House  
RES—Resolutions  
RGS—Rom. G. Schurganoff  
RJL—Robert J. Lietz  
RUS—Russia  
SP—Scriptural Publications  
SEM—Seminary Docs.  
SER—Sermons

SES—Seminary Students  
STA—Statistics/Data  
STJ—St. John Luth. Ch.  
STL—St. Luke Luth. Ch.  
STM—St. Mark Luth. Ch.  
STS—St. Stephen Wilmot  
TRE—Treasurer Docs/Financials  
TRI—Trinity Ev Luth. Ch.  
UNC—Uncategorized  
VIC—Vice President Docs  
WHM—Wallace H. McLaughlin  
WELS—Wisconsin Synod  
???—Research More

SPL\_OLC/CLC

YEAR TAG  
1955  
1956

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Concordia Lutheran Conference Archives (CLCA)



# Orthodox Lutheran Conference

"we can do nothing against the truth, but for the truth"

The Rev. Paul Bloedel  
208 N. Ackermann  
Empire, Oregon

Office of the President  
12 Highview Dr.  
Ballwin, Mo.  
Feb. 10, 1956

Dear Pastor Bloedel:

The special convention of the Orthodox Lutheran Conference, meeting on Feb. 4, 1956, in Minneapolis, Minn., regretfully declared the office of President vacant and chose me to serve out the rest of the current term of the Presidency of the Conference. It falls to me to convey to you information concerning a convention resolution which affects you.

The convention resolved to transfer the work of the ORTHODOX LUTHERAN to Minneapolis, Minn., in the interest of economy and service. You were therefore relieved of your duties as editor of the church paper of the Orthodox Lutheran Conference. The Rev. O. G. Schupmann will, as the new editor, direct the work of the O.L. in Minneapolis.

The printer in Coos Bay, the News Press, has been notified that his services will no longer be needed for the ORTHODOX LUTHERAN.

Whatever you can do to help Mr. Luft speed the transfer of the business office to Minneapolis will be greatly appreciated. Will you kindly also help Mr. Luft, as well as his predecessor, Rev. E. Hallstein, get a complete audit of their O.L. records for Treasurer MacDonald? Such an audit should be more than a verbal statement that the records have been examined and found correct. There should be a financial statement with details of income and disbursements, showing a proper balance. The records should be checked for accuracy in entry and posting of receipts and subscriptions, remittances to the O.L.C. treasurer, checks and bank statements, vouchers for expenses, and so on. Both business managers who served under you should submit such a report as soon as possible.

In the name of the Orthodox Lutheran Conference I may add that the service which you, as editor of the ORTHODOX LUTHERAN, rendered the Conference, to promote the purposes of the paper and the aims of the Conference, is hereby acknowledged with thanks.

I remain yours

Ever for the full truth of the Word,

*Albert M. Schupmann*

Albert M. Schupmann, President  
The Orthodox Lutheran Conference

HELGE THOMSEN  
ATTORNEY AT LAW  
309 NIC-O-LAKE BUILDING • 5 WEST LAKE STREET  
MINNEAPOLIS 8, MINNESOTA

COLFAX 1141

February 4, 1957

Reverend P. R. Bloedel  
208 N. Ackerman Street  
Empire, Oregon

re: The Orthodox Lutheran

Dear Reverend Bloedel;

In connection with other work which I am doing for the Orthodox Lutheran Conference, I have been instructed to request from you certain subscription lists and card index file of the Orthodox Lutheran, they would also like to receive the masthead for the publication the Orthodox Lutheran.

These items may be sent to me in care of the above address.

Sincerely yours,



HT:js

cc: Mr. August Luft  
1133 Oregon Street  
Coos Bay, Oregon

Answer:  
3-4-57

This is to inform you that the matter referred to in your letter of Feb. 4 has been referred to the President of our conference for the proper consideration and subsequent action.

Very truly yours,

P. R. Bloedel

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Concordia Lutheran Conference Archives (CLCA)

3354 North 21st Street  
Milwaukee 6, Wisconsin  
February 6, 1957

Brethren, congregations and pastors of the CLO:

Yesterday I received a communication from Mr. Helge Thomsen, Attorney at Law, 309 Nic-o-lake Building, 5 West Lake Street, Minneapolis 8, Minnesota, under date of February 4, 1957, Re: Orthodox Lutheran Conference. The text follows:

Dear Reverend Muhlberg; - In connection with other work which I am doing in behalf of the Orthodox Lutheran Conference, I have been instructed to request from you the so-called Presidents File or records of the Orthodox Lutheran Conference containing correspondence and records from the inception thereof in September of 1951 to the break in January of 1956. - This file may be forwarded to me at the above address.  
Sincerely yours, (Signed) Helge Thomsen

At this time I am responding briefly to Mr. Thomsen, acknowledging his letter and stating that I will give it my immediate attention.

It seems to me that before I can act on this request I should have some indication of your collective feelings in the matter. At our Convention in Wilmot last year I did in my Annual Report officially lay this matter of the files before you for your final disposition, but somehow we failed to transact this important piece of business during that Convention. So now I must, most regretfully, come to you in this late and inconvenient hour with the request that you advise me immediately as to what course of action I should take as your President.

We could inform the faction's legal representative, Mr. Thomsen, that we believe that the files rightfully belong to us because we have continued loyal to the principles upon which the original Orthodox Lutheran Conference was founded, that we for this reason continued to hold to the original name of that body after the faction group separated from us. We could explain to him further that we continued to hold to the name, Orthodox Lutheran Conference, until it became evident to us that the faction was continuing to use that name for itself, too, and that this action on its part was causing great confusion and offense before the general public. That it became evident to us that by changing the name of our body and by reorganizing we would be able to better serve the true interests of our Lord's Kingdom without repudiating the true spirit of the original Orthodox Lutheran Conference. That we believe that reorganizing our church body and changing its name should not, under the circumstances, necessarily involve a forfeiting of our rights of ownership on the property in question which we have up to now held as the rightful possessors. We might state further to Mr. Thomsen, that if, now, in spite of our position mentioned above, the faction group, which persists in clinging to the bare name of Orthodox Lutheran Conference, is through him intending to bring legal action against us if we do not surrender these files to it, then, rather than become involved in a worldly court action with it, we will peaceably yield to its request. We will do this in the spirit of our Savior's exhortation, Matthew 5, 20: "if any man will sue thee at the law, and take away thy coat, let him have thy cloak also."

Maybe the above explanations are not absolutely necessary, seeing they have, in effect, already been expressed publicly in THE AGREEMENT. They might, however, well serve to keep the record clear in this transaction. The question occurs to me, would such statements already possibly entangle us legally? Please criticize constructively, correct, eliminate, or replace where you think it necessary in order to best meet our problem. Kindly respond as soon as possible. May the Lord bless and keep us all and grant us grace to fulfil His Will! In His name, greetings!

Yours most cordially and fraternally,

*E. L. Muhlberg*  
E. L. Muhlberg, President

the  
  
 Concordia Lutheran

"By Scripture united to Christ" - 1645

208 N. Ackerman Street,  
 Empire, Oregon

3/4/57

The Rev. E. L. Mehlberg  
 President, Concordia Lutheran Conference  
 3354 North 21st Street  
 Milwaukee 6, Wisconsin

Dear brother Mehlberg,

This is a somewhat late answer to your air-mail, special-delivery letter of Feb. 6th re the request of the Minneapolis attorney, Helge Thomsen, in behalf of the Minneapolis faction for the President's file. I also received a letter from the same attorney written on Feb. 4, 1957, requesting the subscription list, the index file, and the OL masthead. As yet, I have neither acknowledged or answered the attorney's letter.

We of St. Paul's congregation, Empire, Oregon, feel that we should not give in so readily at the very first wiggle of an attorney's pen. His letter is not at all in the nature of a law suit but merely states that "in connection with other work which I am doing for the Orthodox Lutheran Conference," (undoubtedly with regard to their much publicized incorporation) "I have been instructed to request from you etc." His letter, therefore, (though it may be a feeler) is no more on a legal level than any other letter written by any other person. We feel that we should not send the stuff immediately upon their request or even upon their threat to sue us, but that we may just as well bide our time until they actually do sue us. There is then still plenty of time to send all that they request, lock, stock, and barrel. This puts the entire burden of the suit upon them and we will not be obligated financially in any way because the matter will not be brought to court if we send all the stuff to them before the date of the hearing. Of what purpose would a trial be if all the goods for which they sued is in their possession at the time of the trial. The trial would have to be called off, the Minneapolis faction would have to bear the expense of paying their attorney, and we would be vindicated by a clear record of the transaction.

We feel, therefore, that the situation should proceed somewhat along the following steps:

1. Wait until the Minneapolis faction actually sues us and summons us to appear in court.
2. If and when such a suit is filed against us, we should either send the attorney a letter stating that they may have the material any time they want it even though it does not rightfully belong to them but that they, of course, must come and get — which I am sure is legally proper when it pertains to material which is out of state; or we could simply send all the material they want together with a letter for the record similar to the one suggested in your letter of Feb. 6th. This material should, however, be sent by registered mail and the registration slip kept on file.

We should remember in our dealings with the Minneapolis faction that we did stand the expense of the debt owed to the Milbank printer and that we should not give them the opportunity to say that we simply sent the material to them upon their request and that they did not even threaten to sue us. Such a situation could be used greatly to our disadvantage and to a hindrance of our cause. If a different procedure, however, is followed by our President in this matter we will not object but will give him our wholehearted approval.

With cordial brotherly greetings,

Concordia Lutheran Conference Archives (CLCA)  
 000024

February 10, 1956  
 Empire, Oregon.

Dear Brethren,

I am sending you a copy of a night letter for your files. This letter was sent by the Minneapolis faction to the News Press, the shop which prints the OLS for us. Neither Mr. Laft nor I have received any personal notification concerning the things contained in this telegram. It was undoubtedly sent to the News Press in order to intimidate Mr. Quick, our printer, and thus keep him from printing the February issues of the OLS. However, by God's grace, we have been able to pay our printing bills, Mr. Laft Quick has disregarded the telegram and will continue printing the OLS for us. The February issue is printed and will soon be on its way.

The night letter, dated Feb. 4th, follows: --

THE NEWS PRESS ==

The following is a resolution adopted unanimously at the legally held special convention of the Orthodox Lutheran Conference, held at Minneapolis, Minnesota, Feb. 4, 1956.

"Whereas the Orthodox Lutheran Conference has an official periodical known as the Orthodox Lutheran, to be used in the service of the Gospel and the O. L. C., and not to be abused in other interests, therefore, be it resolved that the Reverend G. G. Schuppman, of Minneapolis, immediately assume the editorship of the said periodical and that the business office, including all its equipment belonging to the O. L. C., be transferred immediately to 2801 Irving Avenue North, Minneapolis, Minnesota;

That Mr. August Laft of Lees Ferry, Oregon, be relieved from the office as Business Manager of the Orthodox Lutheran and that Mr. Robert Traub of Fridley, Minnesota, fill the vacancy;

That from now on, the printing of the Orthodox Lutheran will be done in Minneapolis, Minnesota, according to the decision of the editor, the Reverend G. G. Schuppman; and that the O. L. C. be not liable for any bills contracted as of the date, February 4, 1956 and henceforth, except upon proper authorization of the above named editor, Reverend Schuppman, and Business Manager, Mr. Robert Traub, 2801 Mississippi, Fridley, Minnesota."

ORTHODOX LUTHERAN CONFERENCE,

A. E. Schuppman, President  
 E. Erickson, Secretary

4 1956

Fraternally,

F. R. Bloedel



# Orthodox Lutheran Conference

"we can do nothing against the truth, but for the truth"

3354 North 21st Street  
Milwaukee 6, Wisconsin  
November 6, 1955

Dear Brother Paul:

Thank you for your Reformation Day letter.

Yes, Dr. Kretzmann refuses to meet, that appears to be final with him. Dave and I have now officially requested the Board of Theo. Education to plead with him to cooperate with the decision of the Board of Directors in this matter. Let us hope and pray that the Doctor will change his impossible attitude in order that we can work toward a God-pleasing settlement of the controversy.

Your thoughts in the matter of the OL business management are agreeable to me. However, I have been wondering whether it would not be good wisdom on our part to try to conform to the order so far adhered to in our midst, namely, that the editor and the bus. manager continue as two separate persons. Wouldn't it be possible for you to recommend one of your voters to me who might be able to carry on this work with your assistance?

Greetings in Christ to you, your family, and your flock.

Fraternally yours,

*E. L. Mehlberg*  
E. L. Mehlberg

cc. HDM

P.S.

Please enter in the next OL a notice of my change of address. The above address is the correct one.  
Thanks. -ELM

*Mil. Thanks for the last Bible Class study on humility. Very Good!*

*Please  
Return*

Reformation Day

208 N. Ackerman St.  
Empire, Oregon

The Rev. E. L. Mehlberg  
5306 North 36th Street  
Milwaukee 9, Wisconsin

Dear brother Mehlberg,

Well, as expected, Dr. Kretzmann refuses to meet with you, Dave, and Hally (as the board intended) and he will continue to refuse to come to any such meeting until the charges made against him have been withdrawn. One of my members correctly remarked that if the charges were withdrawn, what then would be the purpose of the meeting? ?

The new-fangled defense of their position both in Dr. Kretzmann's latest release and Mac's article in the recent OLF is certainly following the pattern: "if one method doesn't succeed, try another." — by which confusion is being heaped upon confusion.

This last wrinkle concerning confessional fellowship and church fellowship is quite shrewd and is really fitted to deceive and to side-track the entire issue. As if Hally doesn't know the difference between confessional fellowship and church fellowship! I am of the opinion that our badly befuddled faculty does not actually know what true confessional fellowship entails and demands.

To get the controversy back into its proper perspective I am thinking of mimeographing a digest of all the letters which were exchanged between Pastor Hallstein and Dr. Kretzmann before the August Convention (together with my own pertinent comments) and spread such a digest throughout the O.L.C. Perhaps you have some better suggestion along this line.

The November issue of the O.L. will be printed here in Coos Bay. It will cost only approx. \$100 per issue to have the O.L. printed here — just about \$50 cheaper than at Milbank and \$200 cheaper than we were paying the printer in Minneapolis. I hope, God willing, to keep the O.L. going so that in the event of a split (which, in reality, is already here) we will have the complete mailing list and will be able to inform the people in plain language of the true state of affairs as far as the O.L.C. is concerned.

I had suggested Ottomar for the job of Business Manager of the O.L. but I think the O.L.'s will get out sooner if they are sent directly to the subscribers from here. I have, therefore, asked Hally to send me everything pertaining to the Business Manager's job and, with your appointment, I will be willing to take over in such capacity as long as the printing is done out here on the coast. My congregation has already consented to help me with the addressing job.

Greetings to you, your family, and your flock — "Be strong and of good courage; be not afraid, neither be thou dismayed: for the Lord thy God is with thee whithersoever thou goest."

Love,

cc. HDM.

P. R. Bloedel

208 N. Ackerman Street  
Empire, Oregon

December 5, 1955

To Pastors Mehlberg, Mensing, Shufelt, Hallstein, Schaefer, Mattered, & Daniels.

Dear Brethren:

You are all well aware of the sad situation existing in the O.L.C. regarding the Hallstein-Kretzmann controversy. My position and the position of St. Paul's congregation here in Empire is simply this: We continue to regard Pastor Hallstein as a brother in the faith in spite of the insistence on the part of O.C.S., Dr. K., and others that we acknowledge our position as sinful and must repent of it by December 31st. We stand on the side of those who desire a personal meeting between brother hallstein and Dr. Kretzmann to discuss the issues of the controversy in a Christian manner according to the suggestion of the Board of Directors. We regard those who so vehemently oppose such a meeting as stubbornly violating the law of Christian love and as not being bona fide members of the O.L.C.

The situation which now confronts us is what to do with the Orthodox Lutheran Brethren, if we all work together it will not be an impossibility for us to continue printing our official periodical and it will indeed serve a good purpose for the cause of the Truth. Our printer here on the West Coast is cheaper than any we have yet had. The charges for printing amount only to \$100 per issue. If this matter is correctly presented to our congregations, I am sure that the Lord will lead many hearts to support this cause and meet the necessary subsidiary expenses of the O.L. Please take this matter to the Lord in prayer and then decide what can be done and accomplished for this cause in your midst.

Fraternally,

  
P. R. Bloedel, Editor

  
August Luft, Business Mgr.

P.S. Please reply at your earliest convenience so that we may know whether or not to continue with the printing of the O.L. We suggest that you send a copy of your reply to Pastor E. L. Mehlberg.

512 S.2nd St.,OSKALOOSA, Ia.,12-11-55.

The Rev.P.R.Bloedel, Editor and  
Mr.August Luft,Bus.Mgr. of  
The Orthodox Lutheran.

Dear Brethren,

Your kind letter of Dec.5th reach us early last week and warmed our hearts. It was not possible to lay the matter before our congregation until today and all rejoiced in your truly Christian and brotherly communication. We too unanimously hold that Pastor Hallstein is our brother in the faith and have no fear of the consequences of so holding. Surely he has just as good a right to withdraw from his personal membership in our Orthodox Lutheran Conference as the Chesterfield congregation did a couple of years ago. They gave no explanation of their act. Neither shall he be required to do so. They returned when things worked out to their satisfaction. And he has the same privilege. And whether he does or not we recognize his position in the present controversy as Scriptural and correct and shall continue to regard him as a true Christian brother in the faith so long as he continues in his devoted loyalty to truth and to his Savior's Word.

Now as to your problem of the Orthodox Lutheran, we are in favor of continuing the publication and are ready to help all we can. But we feel that we need a little more light on just what the situation is and what is needed. We are supposing that the charge that no moneys have been sent to the Conference treasurer\* and that the printing bill is over \$500.00 in the red in not an altogether true picture of the situation. Could you not give us the facts as to just how true or untrue that picture is?

(\*since Coference)

Our congregation is not large(only about a dozen members) but we very much wish the Orthodox Lutheran to continue and to continue in the hands of the bona fide members of the OLC and we are anxious to do all we can to help keep it going and growing to the glory of God.

You will undoubtedly receive similar replies from the other pastor whom you addressed and can give us all a true picture of conditions and of needs when you are able to plan on the basis of those replies. We shall look to hear from you again very soon in the whole matter.

Your brethren in Christ,  
Holy Trinity Orthodox Lutheran Church  
of Oskaloosa.

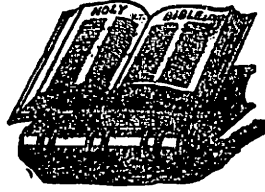
*J. Ernest Shufelt*  
J. Ernest Shufelt, Pastor

cc to President Mehlberg.

Concordia Lutheran Conference Archives (CLCA) 000024

# St. John's Orthodox Lutheran Church

(ORTHODOX LUTHERAN CONFERENCE)



THY WORD IS TRUTH

M. L. NATTERER,  
PASTOR

6TH AND TANGENT  
LEBANON, OREGON  
PHONE 6003

Dec. 23, 1955

Dear Brother Bloedel:

In a special voter's meeting on Monday evening, Dec. 12, 1955, the Hallstein-Kretzmann was discussed at great length. The latest pertinent correspondence from Dr. Kretzmann and Pastor O.G.Schupmann was read and considered. The voters felt that it is not according to decency and order, I Cor. 14:40, for Dr. Kretzmann and Pastor O.G.Schupmann ~~to~~ conduct a special referendum of the pastors and congregations with regard to the present controversy; it is their opinion that Dr. Kretzmann should abide by the resolution of the Board of Directors personally to meet with Brother Hallstein. The dictatorial letters of Dr. Kretzmann and Pastor O.G.Schupmann demanding that we state our position "by Dec. 31, 1955" will not be answered until after that so-called "deadline."

It was furthermore decided in this special meeting that for the present, we shall send our OLC money to help defray the expenses of our Orthodox Lutheran paper.

Almighty, merciful, and gracious God and Father, with our whole heart we beseech Thee for all who have forsaken the Christian faith, all who have wandered from any portion thereof, or are in doubt or temptation through the corruptors of Thy Word, that Thou wouldest visit them as a Father, reveal unto them their error, and bring them back from their wanderings, that they, in singleness of heart, taking pleasure alone in the pure truth of Thy Word, may be made wise thereby unto everlasting life through faith in Jesus, Thy Son, our blessed Savior and Redeemer. Amen.

P.S. Enclosed is a check for  
\$19.53 from the congregation.

Fraternally,

*M. L. Natterer*

cc. E.M.; H.D.M.

Concordia Lutheran Conference Archives (CLCA)



# Orthodox Lutheran Conference

"we can do nothing against the truth, but for the truth"

3354 North 21st Street  
Milwaukee 6, Wisconsin  
December 26, 1955

The Rev. P. R. Bloedel  
208 North Ackermann St.  
Empire, Oregon

Dear Brother Paul:

Your circular of December 5th reached me. I have discussed the matter with my congregation. We, too, regard Pastor Hallstein as a brother in the faith. We believe that those who oppose a discussion meeting between PEK and Hallstein or between PEK and those who have taken Hallstein's part in the original charge are truly guilty of violating the law of Christian love and order.

We urge you to continue printing the OL. We stand behind this cause with our prayers and gifts. Please pardon my great delay in bringing you our response.

Thank you very much for sending me a copy of the complete correspondence in the current controversy. Our voters worked through this material this afternoon and arrived at the unanimous conclusion that Brother Hallstein took the Scripturally correct position.

Let me have your response to our request as indicated in the enclosed circular.

Enclosed also find the release of PEK which you loaned me. Please forward Daniel's copy to his correct address. Thank you.

Greetings in the Bethlehem Savior to you, your family, and flock.

Fraternally yours,

*E. L. Mehlberg*  
E. L. Mehlberg

000024  
Concordia Lutheran Conference Archives (CLCA)

Wilmot, South Dak.  
Dec. 13, 1955

Rev. Paul Bloedel  
208 N.Ackerman Street  
Empire, Oregon

Dear Editor of the Orthodox Lutheran:

In our last voters' meeting we discussed in great detail the developments in the Hallstein-Kretzmann controversy up-to-date. We especially deplored the fact that the Dr. refused to meet with any committee on the issues involved and that the congregation in Minneapolis has seen fit to intervene by taking matters into its own hands contrary to the suggestions of the Board of Directors. It is our firm opinion that we must object to the tactics of Holy Trinity congregation and voice our wholehearted disapproval of its plan of procedure.

This, then, is our position in the entire matter: we shall continue to consider Pastor Hallstein as a brother in the faith despite the ultimatum which we and others have received to "recant" by December 31. We agree with those who sincerely desire a personal meeting between brother Hallstein and Dr. Kretzmann to discuss the issues of the controversy and definitely believe that this will help to solve the sad state of affairs in the O.L.C. in a Godpleasing manner. We oppose any other plan which militates against the suggestion of the Board of Directors.

We have also discussed the matter of the Orthodox Lutheran. It is our belief that, in view of the sad situation existing in the O.L.C., the printing of our official paper should continue. It would be tragic to see this voice for the truth silenced, and therefore we, the members and pastor of St. Stephen's Lutheran Church in Wilmot, herewith assure you, the editor and staff of the paper, of our wholehearted moral support and of our financial aid toward its printing as we are able to grant it. Should there be a division in the Conference because of the controversy, although we pray that under God matters might yet be rectified, we sincerely hope that the paper be retained and its printing continue to the glory of God and the welfare of His kingdom.

It is our fervent prayer that God might restore full unity in our midst, and may we all cooperate toward that goal until all efforts have been made!

With best wishes for a blessed holiday season,

Fraternally,

*O. W. Schaefer*  
O. W. Schaefer

000024  
Concordia Lutheran Conference Archives (CLCA)

1015 N. Commercial,  
Clark, S. Dakota,  
December 8, 1955

Dear Paul, Helen and family:

The letter in which you as editor of the ORTHODOX LUTHERAN again made such a forthright confession to the truth of the Word arrived yesterday. You might know and understand how happy and grateful both Frieda and I were to receive it.

We had no inkling that the Minneapolis clique had laid down such an ultimatum. And to think that they accused us of legalism! It is apparent that the aberration on fellowship is only one manifestation of a spiritual sickness that lies much deeper--pride, stubbornness, yes rebellion against the word--a Melancthonian brand of Lutheranism.

In saying this I must ever remain mindful however of my own weaknesses and give all glory to God for having kept my feet from straying into paths of error.

I have sent all the ORTHODOX LUTHERAN material to Mr. Luft except the extra copies of the periodical itself that accumulated during the time I was sending it out. There are several thousand of these and I did not think it good stewardship to send them all the way to the West Coast at such terrific express cost. I also still have several dollars in the bank, which I am keeping in reserve for a while, also some postage stamps. All other envelopes, unless they are addressed to me personally, I forward directly to Mr. Luft. I do not believe it necessary for me to send the back issues to Mr. Luft for I believe you told me that the printer sent you 100 or more copies every month, and surely you have a sufficient surplus on hand to fill any orders for back copies.

Frieda wrote about the seeds of error and death which the devil is sowing in the midst of our little flock. The two Habben families have not been in services for more than a month. I called on the one some time ago, and on the other yesterday, and saw again the dreadful truth of the words Matt. 12: 43-45. Surely these are the days of the great falling away in which the devil is being loosed for a season as a judgment upon those who once knew but then rejected the full truth of the Word.

The claim of synod being a church; of synodical officials having a divine call, which gives them a right to enter every local congregation ever over the protest of its divinely called pastor is coming more and more into the open in Wisconsin also. Oh what an insidious thing is the leaven of error in these last evil days.

We have fine get together with Schaefer every month. He has taken a fine stand in the controversy and St. Stephen's likewise as evidenced when he asked me to preach for the 4th anniversary of the organization. He also spoke in our last get together of earmarking mission monies for purposes other than the professors's salaries, although in light of the resolution that Mac succeeded in getting the 1955 convention to pass, such ear marking is all in vain. If it is needed in the current treasury, then the treasurer is to devote it for that purpose and then an SOS ~~xxxxxxxx~~ is to be sent quickly to the congregations that the mission treasury is in need of funds.

May the Lord keep us all faithful to the Word alone, no interpretations of men placed upon it, but the naked truth of the words and passages of Scripture themselves. Then even if the number of those whom we can acknowledge as brethren dwindles as in the days of Noah and toward the close of Christ's public ministry, we can still say confidently with Paul "If God be for us, who can be against us? He that spared not His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things? Who shall lay any thing to the charge of God's elect? It is God that justifieth. Who is he that condemneth? It is Christ that died, yea rather, that is risen again, who is even at the right hand of God, who also maketh intercession for us. Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation or distress, or persecution, or

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famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? As it is written, For Thy sake we are killed all the day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter. Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him that loved us. For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things, present, nor things to come, nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.

Love from both of us, and also  
sincerest gratitude for your letter,

*Hally.*