

The **LUTHERAN** **CLARION**



Lutheran Concerns Association
149 Glenview Drive, New Kensington, PA 15068-4921

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Pure Doctrine

The Holy Scriptures command it: "Take heed to yourself and to the doctrine. Continue in them, for in doing this you will save both yourself and those who hear you." (1 Timothy 4:16)

Lutheran hymnody commends it. "O gracious Lord, direct us, Thy doctrine pure defend, from heresies protect us, and for Thy Word contend, that we may praise Thee ever, O God with one accord and say, 'The Lord, our Savior, be evermore adored.'" (TLH 544:3)

The Constitution of the LCMS insists upon the "exclusive use of doctrinally pure agenda, hymnbooks, and catechisms in church and school." (Article VI, 4, 2019 LCMS Handbook)

Many Christians today, however, are inclined to think of pure doctrine as something tedious or unloving. They imagine that doctrine is a subject which is prone to start arguments about obscure theological details.

Our Lord, however, charged His apostles to make disciples of every nation, . . . **teaching** them to observe all things that He had commanded (Matthew 28:19-20).

Attention to doctrine is nothing more and nothing less than teaching all things which Jesus has commanded. In fact, it is unacceptable to do otherwise, "...in vain do they worship Me, teaching as doctrines the commandments of men." (Matthew 15:9)

The Lord wants doctrine to be pure because He wants our joy, hope, faith, and love to be pure. He wants nothing less than the most potent medicine which would deliver us from sin, death and the devil, bestowing true grace, mercy, and peace in Christ.

Few of us would tolerate a single hair in our spaghetti. Fewer still would put up with a single mouse dropping in our pepper shakers. Why then would anyone put up with a single article of false doctrine when to do so threatens eternal salvation?

Still, few are certain about what it is that makes and keeps doctrine pure. Many go about looking for what is **wrong** about what is written or spoken. If they don't see anything wrong with the words, they imagine that the doctrine is pure. That, however, is barely half the story. What Christians ought to be examining is what is **right** in what is read and heard.

Consider the following: "Grace and love perpetuate peace and understanding in the ecclesiastical realm for Bible-believers of all times." One cannot find anything particularly wrong with the statement, but what does it **mean**?

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"The Pamphlet" The Persecution of Bishop Juhana Pohjola, Dr. Päivi Räsänen and Orthodox Lutherans in Finland

Imagine that out of the blue you received a phone call ordering you to report to the local police station. You ask "Why?" and are told that you are being charged with hate speech. How would you react? For Pastor Juhana Pohjola, this is not a hypothetical situation, but real life. In summer 2019 he received a letter from the Helsinki Police Department that said a man (who happened to be a theologian) had pressed charges against him and Dr. Päivi Räsänen, a medical doctor and member of parliament, for their role in producing and disseminating the booklet *Male and Female He Made Them—Homosexual relationships challenge the Christian concept of humanity* (2004). What is happening to Dr. Räsänen and Bishop Pohjola is taking place with increasing and alarming frequency in many so-called free western nations including America.

Pastor Pohjola was summoned to the Helsinki Police Station and questioned for five hours. According to Pohjola's account, the last question the police asked was, "Are you willing to take the pamphlet away from your website in two weeks?" I said, "No. There is no legal and theological reason to do it." The authorities concluded no law had been broken. The case then went to a determined Prosecutor General. Pohjola has since noted, "It was not a surprise but still a shock when on the 29th of April she announced that she will press charges." Dr. Juhana Pohjola was charged because he is Editor in Chief of the Lutheran Foundation Finland which distributes the booklet. Dr. Päivi Räsänen was charged because she authored the pamphlet albeit fifteen years previously. As reported by Bishop Pohjola, "The indictment is for incitement to hatred against a group, which fall under the section of 'war crime and crimes against humanity.'"

The International Lutheran Council responded by working with LCMS President Matthew Harrison to produce "A Protest and Call for Free Religious Speech in Finland: A Global Lutheran Response to the Unjust Prosecution of Bishop Elect Juhana Pohjola and Member of Parliament

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The Lutheran Clarion—We Need Your Help!

The **Lutheran Clarion** is in year 14. We have NO paid staff or writers. We unabashedly strive to present and uphold God's inerrant word. Inflation has now taken hold. **Your continued and enhanced help is needed.** We urge you to help with the costs of preserving Confessional Lutheranism. Use the enclosed envelope. Mail your tax-deductible gift to Lutheran Concerns Association, 149 Glenview Drive, New Kensington, PA 15068-4921. Do it now. **Thank you!!**



Pure Doctrine

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Essays, sermons, prayers, and hymns may present all kinds of religious-sounding words. They may sound unobjectionable—but if they do not deal the devil a deadly blow, crucify the flesh, and enliven our souls, they are only innocuous words and must not be regarded as pure doctrine.

Christians need something more than illustrations, metaphors, and similes as the devil prowls around looking for someone to devour. There may be nothing wrong, *per se*, with figures of speech, but they might not constitute that pure doctrine which Christ intended. Only where Law and Gospel are rightly distinguished can pure doctrine be promoted and maintained to the joy and edification of Christ's holy people.

Rev. Joel Brondos

Rev. Brondos, has a long and varied history of serving the Church in District and Synodical capacities. Born in Toronto, Canada, he studied Biblical languages at Concordia Ann Arbor, graduating in 1980. In 1984, Rev. Brondos received an MDiv in Exegetics from Concordia Seminary, Saint Louis, and in 1996 he received his STM from the same institution. Beginning in 1984, Rev. Brondos served as a pastor in Indiana and Illinois where he also taught in Lutheran schools. He has conducted classical Lutheran education seminars and he has published and edited numerous theological works. He has guest lectured at Concordia Theological Seminary in Fort Wayne. Since 2019, Rev. Brondos and his wife have been semi-retired in Pagosa Springs, CO.

"The Pamphlet" Bishop Pohjola & Dr. Räsänen

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Päivi Räsänen." The letter, dated June 25, 2021, was signed by 48 ecclesiastical leaders representing 45 Lutheran church bodies and associations and sent to the Office of the Prosecutor General of Finland, the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, the United Nations Special Rapporteur on the Freedom of Religion or Belief, the United Nations Special Rapporteur on the Promotion and Protection of Freedom of Opinion and Expression, and the United States Commission on Inter-

national Religious Freedom.

Pastor Pohjola was charged on April 19, 2021. On Sunday, August 1st he was consecrated as bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Mission Diocese of Finland. So, the target has "moved up" a notch from pastor to bishop. The liberal media operates with the assumption that if they do not cover a story, it never happened. It is more difficult to perpetuate their alternative reality when the legitimate non-mainline news media speaks. Pohjola's ten-day speaking tour helped counter the mainline delusion. The ILC organized a ten-day, three city speaking tour for Bishop Pohjola in Washington D.C., Fort Wayne and Boston. As word got out about his visit to America, it was impossible to schedule all the journalists who requested interviews. He was however interviewed by Joy Pullman, Executive Editor of the *Federalist*, Rev. Todd Wilken of *Issues Etc.*, Mathew Block, ILC journalist, plus the Alliance Defending Freedom International, LCMS media, and the Indiana District Newsletter. *The Christian Post* and *Christian Today* also covered the story. A quick search on the web will bring up additional reports. This media attention is sending a message to Finland that the world is watching.

And there is more. The first stop in Bishop Pohjola's speaking tour was on November 10 at the office of the Alliance Defending Freedom International. When ADFI Attorney Sean Nelson welcomed the guests who came to hear Pohjola speak he held up his mobile phone and announced a breaking news story in the *Federalist* by Joy Pullman that "Six Republican U.S. representatives issued a letter demanding that the United States take action against Finland for criminalizing Christianity through its hate crime laws." This really woke everyone up!

'What can we do for you [Bishop Pohjola]?'

- ...remain faithful in your vocations, and good confession of the natural order and biblical truths.
- ...make supplications for all the saints and also for me that words may be given to me in opening my mouth boldly (*parrhesia*) to proclaim the mystery of the gospel! (Eph.6:19)
- Pray also for our country and Prosecutor General. Pray that this court case could be in the hands of our Lord a blessing for us and glorify our Lord's name!

The second city on the tour was Ft. Wayne, Indiana, where Bishop Pohjola preached in the Concordia Theological Seminary chapel on Mark 13:1-13. The theme for the speaking tour was "On Account of Me You Will Stand," which comes from this text: "For they will deliver you over to councils, and you will be beaten in synagogues, and you will stand before governors and king for my sake, to bear witness before them. And the Gospel must be proclaimed to all nations." The busy day went on to include a trip to the WOWO 1090 AM radio station for a

Group Dinners at the 2022 LCA Conference

Besides a great set of speakers, the conference will feature the popular Sunday and Monday night dinners where attendees can informally meet the speakers and discuss issues facing church and society.

The dinners will be at 6:30 pm in a private dining room at the conference site: Holiday Inn Purdue - Fort Wayne, 4111 Paul Shaffer Drive, Fort Wayne, IN 46825.

Reserve your seat by checking the appropriate box on the registration form on page 7.

Please also make your entrée selection for each evening and include the cost of each dinner with your registration fee. You can choose from chicken, sliced beef, pork and strip steak. The prices include the tax and tip.

We make reservations way before the dinner, so to avoid missing out on these two great opportunities, please remember to check the appropriate boxes on the registration form.

Please send in your registration right away even if you intend to pay at the door on the day of the conference. We need to give the numbers to the hotel 72-hours ahead of time—and we know you don't want to miss any meals!



live interview with Pat Miller, the most popular radio talk show in Fort Wayne. Then back to Concordia Theological Seminary for an evening fireside chat with seminary students plus nine students from Concordia University Chicago who came down just to hear Pohjola speak on Saturday.

On a cold and rainy Saturday morning, over 200 people came to the historic downtown St. Paul's Lutheran Church to listen to Pohjola speak and then stayed for a magnificent choral Matins. The people came from Fort Wayne churches and from as far away as Indianapolis, Ohio, Illinois and Michigan.

The final stop took place at the historic First Lutheran Church in downtown Boston which again followed the pattern of lecture, Q & A, and a traditional choral Matins including the amazing First Lutheran Church choir. The tour was framed by Washington D.C. and Boston, Massachusetts, two symbols of religious freedom enshrined in the First Amendment which protects the right to freedom of religion and freedom of expression from government interference. In his interview with the *Federalist*, Bishop Pohjola noted, "I am not waging a cultural war, but have a spiritual concern that in our churches and society we can teach the whole biblical truth. It is a spiritual battle for me more than a legal battle." The simultaneous attack on leading figures in both church and state is intended to make people afraid and promote "self-censorship," which has been described as a form of "soft totalitarianism." In his speech delivered in all the three cities the bishop explained, "God, creation, fall, atonement and the Christian way of life are the teaching of the Church through the ages. As a Lutheran Bishop it is my calling and duty to hold on to this truth and publicly teach

it no matter what the cost. Not because we want to wage a cultural war in the society but to call people to repentance and through faith in Christ receive the forgiveness of sins and eternal life. This is not primarily a legal issue but the Gospel of Christ is at stake!"

"I love my country and cherish its rich heritage. I want to be obedient to our government and legal system. But what did the apostle Peter write? 'Fear God. Honor the emperor.' I haven't received any promise from the Lord for my nation but I have the promise for his Church that the gates of hell will not prevail against it. My profound concern is how to pass on the Christian faith to the next generation and how to prepare them to face growing hostility toward Christians."

"Many people have asked: 'What can we do for you?' We are very blessed to have so many individuals and organizations like the Alliance Defending Freedom (giving) legal help and our International Lutheran Council from five continents, who stand with us, pray for us and have shown their support in various ways privately and publicly. We have felt that we are one Body in Christ. The best thing for us is that you remain faithful in your vocations, and good confession of the natural order and biblical truths. But what I am asking you is the same that the apostle Paul requests in Ephesians: 'To make supplications for all the saints and also for me that words may be given to me in opening my mouth boldly (*parrhesia*) to proclaim the mystery of the gospel! (Eph.6:19)' Pray also for our country and Prosecutor General. Pray that this court case could be in the hands of our Lord a blessing for us and glorify our Lord's name!"

Before Juhana flew home, he sent an email in which he wrote: "Thank you once again for all the arrangements, joyful company, brotherly support and spiritual encouragement." And then he added, "The work of the International Lutheran Council is a concrete sign of hope in the middle of a cultural and ecclesial crisis. I hope that this tour will have been a little step forward in getting the ILC known among LCMS congregation."

So, permit me to repeat the question, "What can you do?" You can give thanks to God for Bishop Pohjola and Dr. Päivi Räsänen for their courageous confession and for strength, encouragement and wisdom in the days to come, especially on January 24, when the case goes to trial in Finland.

It started with a little 24-page pamphlet written by a laywoman. The pamphlet went virtually unknown for 15 years. She was a faithful Lutheran living out her vocation as wife, mother, doctor and member of parliament. In her little booklet she gave witness to the truth about the nature of marriage as revealed in Holy Scripture and confirmed in natural law. Suddenly everything has changed. Despite facing jailtime, she boldly told reporter Jennifer Lee at *Christian Today* that "she will not be silenced and has encouraged other Christians who share her views to speak up."

When we give witness in the vocation into which we have been called it may seem insignificant, but just wait

and be prepared to buckle up. A few words, a little pamphlet, "One little Word can fell him."

The Rev. Doctor Timothy C. J. Quill, Fort Wayne, IN
General Secretary of the International Lutheran Council

Laity—are You Ready for Sunday Morning?

Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me.
John 5:39, KJV

Laity, do you prepare for the Sunday morning divine service?

You ask, why should I prepare for Sunday morning? Isn't that the pastor's job? Isn't it enough that I show up for church? What would I do to prepare? Even if I wanted to prepare, when would I find the time?

Below are three reasons (there are many more!) why you want to prepare for Sunday by reading the day's scriptures before church on Sunday morning; not 15 minutes before the service begins but several days in advance. Then I will tell you how you can do this and finally I will give some suggestions about when to prepare.

Why Prepare for Sunday Morning.

1. **You are to Ponder His Word in Your Heart:** "I will meditate on Your precepts, And contemplate Your ways." Psalm 119:15, NKJV.

If you read and think about the lessons before Sunday morning, you will enter church anticipating how your pastor will expound on God's Word for the day. You will look forward to hearing more about the passages you have been reflecting on during the past few days. If you have questions that the sermon does not address, ask your pastor. He will be happy you have given thought to the lessons and that you listened closely and expectantly.

2. **You are in a Battle:** "Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour." 1 Peter 5:8, KJV.

You are in a daily spiritual battle with Satan; today and tomorrow and for the rest of your life. Ephesians 6:10-18 (KJV) describes how we fight this spiritual battle. Verse 12 tells who we are wrestling with: "...not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places." The passage also tells us how to do battle: "...take unto you the whole armor of God...having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness...your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace...taking the shield of faith...take the helmet of salvation, and the sword

of the Spirit, which is the word of God: Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit..."

Did you get the part about the "sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God"? Do you think you can go into battle without the word of God? When you read and learn God's word you are arming yourself with the same weapon that Jesus used during His temptation in the wilderness.

Today, more than ever, as society goes berserk, we need to be armed for battle by having God's word chiseled on our hearts and minds. With His word deeply planted in us we will be "...ready to give a defense to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you..." 1 Peter 3:15, NKJV. We will also be ready to comfort each other, our families and our neighbor.

3. **God Commands It:** "Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world." 1 John 4:1, KJV.

When Jesus said, "Beware of false prophets which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves. ..." (Matthew 7:15) he was talking to the crowds that had gathered to hear him. That means you and I, dear brothers and sisters of the laity.

In Acts 17, Saint Paul commends the Berean Christians because they compared what they were hearing with the word of God:

"...who [Paul and Silas] coming thither went into the synagogue of the Jews. These were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so." Acts 17:10b-11, KJV.

After the people heard their pastor's preaching, they went home and searched the scriptures to see whether what he said was in sync with God's word. As the Bereans did, we also go home after church and check the sermon against God's word.

Now that you know why you want to read the Sunday scriptures ahead of time, we will consider how to do it.

How to Prepare for Sunday Morning.

The readings (pericope) for each Sunday are at the front of *Lutheran Service Book*. If your church uses the 3-Year Lectionary, the readings are on pages xiv-xix. If you use the 1-Year Lectionary, the readings are on pages xx – xxi. Next Sunday's readings might also be listed in your church bulletin. If not, ask your Pastor to put them there. Many churches not only list the readings for the upcoming Sunday but provide other helps for keeping you in God's word during the week.

You can also find the lessons online at www.yaag.org. Select "1-Year Series" or "3-Year Series," find the appropriate date and all the readings are clickable so you can read online. The 3-year series is currently in year C.

The Bible translation at www.yaag.org is the English Standard Version.

This will get you through the readings; the most important part of your responsibility.

If you want even more blessings, do some study on the readings. There are many online opportunities. My church is on the 3-year lectionary so most of my resources are for that series. However, I have found some excellent resources for the 1-year series. [I am including my email address below so that you 1-year people can send me more resources and the 3-year people can give me things I missed.]

1. Each week *Issues Etc.* (<https://issuesetc.org/>) has two programs: “Looking Forward to Sunday Morning (1-Year Lectionary)” with Rev. David Petersen (Redeemer Lutheran Church, Fort Wayne, IN) and “Looking Forward to Sunday Morning (3-Year Lectionary)” with Dr. Carl Fickenscher (a professor at Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, IN). Both are excellent teachers and these programs are taught at the laity level. You can download the programs or listen online or with your favorite podcast provider. They are usually available by Thursday.
2. The web site *1517 Christ for You* has resources for the 3-year lectionary. Go to www.1517.org and click on the three bar menu at the upper left. Then click [Craft of Preaching]. The introduction says the resources are “for pastors engaged in the typical weekly routine of preparing a sermon.” However, there is nothing to prevent us laity from listening in. At the top is a video of pastors (“Talking Shop...”) led by Rev. Paul Koch, pastor at Grace Lutheran Church in Ventura, CA. They hash out the upcoming Sunday Gospel reading for the 3-year series. It is informal and they don’t get too Greeky, so there is no chance you will get lost. The program lasts about 20 minutes. I have noticed the podcasts are ready early in the week. You can scroll down a bit and click on the Old Testament, the Epistle or the Gospel for further study.
3. An excellent resource for the 1-year lessons is *Gottesdienst* at <https://www.gottesdienst.org/podcast>. There you will find audios where each week the host, Rev. Jason Braaten (pastor at Immanuel Lutheran Church, Tuscola, IL) and Rev. David Peterson discuss the upcoming lessons for Sunday. The podcast you are looking for will be preceded by a number such as “TGC *nn*” and then “Trinity *nn* Sermon Prep.” I have noticed that the podcast is available right away on Monday morning!

These pastors cover the Gospel lesson in detail. The session is about an hour and it is worth every minute! Even if your church is on the 3-year lectionary, consider listening in for some extra Bible time during the week. They put the lessons in the context of past and future readings.

Student Aid Endowment Fund Concordia Theological Foundation, Inc.

In early 2018, in honor of Mrs. Ginny Valleau’s contributions to the publication of the *Lutheran Clarion*, a Concordia Theological Seminary Student Aid Endowment Fund was established at Concordia Theological Foundation, Inc., a 501(c)(3) organization. Contributions are tax deductible. As of October 31, 2021, the fund assets were \$25,147.00.



The Board of Directors of the Lutheran Concerns Association invites *Lutheran Clarion* readers to contribute to the Fund which can be done by sending your check marked Valleau Endowment Fund to:

Concordia Theological Foundation, Inc., Box 15810, Fort Wayne, IN 46885

or to: **Lutheran Concerns Association**, 149 Glenview Drive, New Kensington, PA 15068-4921. Donors will receive receipts for their gifts.

4. Concordia Seminary Saint Louis has resources for both the 1-year and 3-year readings. Go to <https://concordiatheology.org/lalp/> and click on the appropriate Sunday on the calendar. You will be given a choice of which lectionary you want and then you can click on any of the readings (including the Psalm for the day!) and you will get everything you could possibly want (video, audio and text) including chapel sermons from the past and “Lectionary at Lunch” sessions when the professors talk with the students about a particular reading; they do get into Greek and Hebrew here.
5. A young Pastor from Lee’s Summit, MO (Rev. Steve Andrews, Jr.) has a program on the 3-year readings called “The Layman’s Guide to the Lectionary.” Rev. Andrews spends about an hour each week reading and explaining the three lessons. As the title implies, his teaching is at the laity level; he is good at explaining the background of each reading; this is important if you are a little rusty on the Old Testament. He also ties the readings together from week to week. You can listen to Rev. Andrews at <https://anchor.fm/rev-steve-andrews-jr0>. That site will give several options for how to listen.
6. A few years ago, Concordia Theological Seminary in Fort Wayne recorded videos on each of the Gospel readings for the 3-year lessons. In the search box at media.ctsfw.edu type what you want to find. For example, if you are looking for the third Sunday in Advent, you would type “Advent 3” + “Series C”. Scroll down a bit and on the left you can select the Media Format “Video” and you should find what you are looking for. Sometimes you will get videos for each of the three lessons—a bonus blessing! These videos are each about 20 minutes and most of the professors get into Greek and Hebrew but you will still benefit from listening. Since these podcasts were done several years ago, they are always ready for you.

When to Prepare for Sunday Morning.

Begin early in the week so you have the maximum amount of time to think about the lessons during the week.

Do you have family devotions? Can you include the Sunday readings in your family devotions? Do you have a time of the day for personal Bible study? See if you can fit the lessons into that time.

Do you spend any part of your day doing mindless things that you do so well you don't have to think about what you are doing? Such as walking or exercising or working jigsaw puzzles or driving to work or sewing or milking the cows? Use that time to listen to a video or audio that teaches God's word.

Are you stuck in any wasteful habits you struggle to overcome but find you just cannot do so? Are you spending time on things that may be causing you harm? Obsessing on Facebook or Twitter or TV talking-heads? TV dramas and sitcoms; TV sports? Make a conscious effort to substitute God's word for that time and habit! You will be richer after you immerse yourself in God's word.

Laitly brothers and sisters, if you make time to get ready for Sunday morning you will notice the difference right away; that is a promise! You have a head start before the service even begins!

One last thing—don't neglect to pray for your pastor as he also considers the scripture that God has given him to preach on for the day. Another last thing—attend Bible study at your church!

Mrs. Ginny Valleau
Independence, MO
gzolson2000@yahoo.com

2022 LCA Conference Speakers January 17, 2022

- **Rev. Christopher S. Esget**, The Madness of Deneathor: Rescuing Missouri from the Pyre.

Rev. Esget is 5th Vice-President of the LCMS, representing the East-Southeast Region. He is Senior Pastor at Immanuel Lutheran, Alexandria, VA, where he has served since 2001. Rev. Esget attended Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, where he earned a Master of Divinity in 1997 and a Master of Sacred Theology in 2005. He and his wife, Kassie live in Alexandria, VA; they have one son.

- **Dr. Gerhard Munding**, Higher Education: Challenges and Opportunities for the Confessing Church, update 7-03 and LIMOS (Lutheran Identity and Mission Outcome Standards)

Dr. Gerhard H. Munding, Jr., has been has been an academic and Private Practice Cardiothoracic Surgeon for more than 35 years. He received his electrical engineering and medical degrees at the University of Colorado, *Magna Cum Laude*. He completed his general and

vascular surgery residency at Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine in Baltimore, MD. He completed a two-year fellowship in surgical oncology at the National Cancer Institute, National Institutes of Health, Bethesda, MD, as well as a cardiothoracic surgery fellowship at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor. Dr. Munding holds an honorary doctor of laws from Concordia University Wisconsin. He is chairman of the Board for the Concordia University System. Dr. Munding and his wife Sue have been married 52 years and are blessed with 3 children and 6 grandchildren.

- **Rev. David P. Ramirez**, The Great Awokening: What Are We Going to Do about It?

Rev. Ramirez is the pastor of St. Paul's, Union Grove, WI. He earned his M.Div. in 2008 and STM in 2020 from CTS, Fort Wayne. His thesis is entitled "Martin Luther and Religious Liberty." His current focus of research and study has been on the three estates--particularly the duties that civil government has in regards to religion and the question of resistance to legitimate authority. He also is a member of the Planning Committee for the Bugenhagen Conference. He and his wife Lisa have eight children.

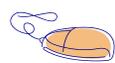
- **Rev. Kevin D. Robson**, Received and Delivered: The Future of LCMS Mission.

Rev. Robson has served as the Chief Mission Officer of the LCMS since May 2015. Prior to this appointment, he served for nine years as pastor of Prince of Peace Ev. Lutheran, Baxter, MN. He earned a Master of Divinity degree from Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, in 2001. He has completed course work and is currently researching a final dissertation project for the Doctor of Ministry degree from CTS. Robson and his wife, Peg, reside in Kirkwood, MO; they have one son.

- **Rev. Dr. John Wille**, Confession vs. Mission: A False Dichotomy in the LCMS.

Dr. Wille has been President of the South Wisconsin District since 2006. Dr. Wille is a graduate of Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary, Thiensville. He entered the LCMS by colloquy in 1983. Rev. Wille has served congregations in Ohio, Central Illinois and South Wisconsin. He served as a church planter for 16 years; he was founding pastor of Good Shepherd Lutheran, Tomah, WI. As part of the LCMS Council of Presidents, Dr. Wille has chaired multiple convention floor committees. Dr. Wille serves on the Board of Regents at Concordia University Wisconsin, and on the Regents for Concordia Seminary St. Louis. Rev. Wille and his wife, Lynette, have been married for 42 years. They are blessed with three daughters and six grandchildren.

Want to Read the *Clarion* Online?



If you would rather receive a digital version of the *Clarion* in your electronic mailbox, please send your email address to Ginny Valleau at gzolson2000@yahoo.com. We will remove your name from the hard copy mail list and add it to the email list.

LUTHERAN CONCERNS ASSOCIATION ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Monday, January 17, 2022

“Do not be conformed to this world.” Romans 12:2 (NKJV)

The conference will be held Monday, January 17, 2022, at the Holiday Inn Purdue - Fort Wayne, 4111 Paul Shaffer Drive, Fort Wayne, IN 46825; 260-482-3800. The Holiday Inn rate is \$129.00 plus tax. To get this rate, make your room reservation by December 1, 2021. The Group Code (by phone) is Lutheran Concerns. The link to the hotel is <https://tinyurl.com/yr7yu4nr>

Dine with the Speakers and the LCA Board of Directors! On Sunday and Monday evenings a private dining room at the Holiday Inn has been reserved for conference attendees. Conference attendees will be dispersed among the speakers and LCA board members. Be sure to reserve your place right away by checking the appropriate box(es) and selecting your meal(s) on the registration form below. Everyone will dine at their own expense; the dining cost must be paid with the conference registration. Please register before the conference even if you pay at the door.

A New York Deli lunch will be provided at 12:15 p.m., for everyone registered for the full day. If you register for a half day and you want the lunch, the cost is \$29. Seminary students and seminary personnel will pay \$10 for the lunch.

Conference Schedule

Morning

- 6:45 am - Registration Opens
- 7:30 am - 8:10 am - Bible Study (**Rev. Joe Fisher**)
- 8:10 am - 8:20 am - Opening Devotion (**Rev. Dr. William Weinrich**)
- 8:20 am - 8:30 am - Welcome from the LCA (**Mr. Walter Dissen, Esq.**) and greeting from a representative of the Indiana District.
- 8:30 am - 9:00 am - Guest Speaker - **Rev. Dr. John Wille**, "Confession vs. Mission: A False Dichotomy in the LCMS."
- 9:00 am - 9:25 am - Questions and Answers
- 9:25 am - 9:50 am - Break
- 9:50am - 10:20 am - Guest Speaker - **Rev. Kevin Robson**, "Received and Delivered: The Future of LCMS Mission."
- 10:20 am - 10:40 am - Questions and Answers
- 10:40 am - 11:10 am - Guest Speaker - **Rev. David P. Ramirez**, "The Great Awokening: What Are We Going to Do about It?"
- 11:10 am to 11:30 am - Questions and Answers

Afternoon

- 1:10 pm to 1:40 pm - Guest Speaker - **Dr. Gerhard Mundinger**, "Higher Education: Challenges and Opportunities for the Confessing Church, update 7-03 and LIMOS."
- 1:40 pm to 2:00 pm - Questions and Answers
- 2:00 pm to 2:30 pm - Guest Speaker – **Rev. Chris Esget**, "The Madness of Denethor: Rescuing Missouri from the Pyre."
- 2:30 pm to 2:50 pm - Questions and Answers
- 2:50 pm to 3:15 pm - Break
- 3:15 pm to 4:30 pm - **Panel Discussion with All Presenters**
- 4:30 pm to 4:40 pm - Closing Remarks and Closing Prayer (**Rev. Jerome E. Panzigrau**)
- 5:00 pm - LCA Annual Business Meeting (Paid Members Only)
- 6:30 pm - LCA Dinner (by Reservation Only)

12:00 noon - 1:10 pm - New York Deli buffet lunch served in the meeting room.



2022 LCA Conference Registration Form

Holiday Inn Perdu-Fort Wayne • 4111 Paul Shaffer Drive • Fort Wayne, IN 46825 • 260-482-3800

Printed Name _____

Address _____

Phone Number _____

Email Address _____

Dinner: Sunday, January 16 , 6:30pm (choose one entrée) *

- Boneless Breast of Chicken \$37.00
- Sliced Beef Sirloin Medallion \$40.00
- Pan Seared Pork Chop \$38.00

Dinner: Monday, January 17, 6:30 pm (choose one entrée) *

- Chicken Parmesan \$37.00
- New York Strip Steak \$49.00
- Pan Seared Pork Chop \$38.00

* Prices include tax and tip.

Annual LCA membership fee (\$35) enclosed. _____

Paid LCA Member conference registration fee (\$110) enclosed. _____

Paid LCA Member half-day conference registration (\$40) encl. _____

Non-Member conference registration fee (\$120) enclosed. _____

Non-Member half-day conference registration fee (\$45) encl. _____

Seminary students & personnel registration fee waived. New York Deli lunch (\$10) enclosed _____

Half-day Conference New York Deli lunch (\$29) enclosed. _____

Dinner Sun, Jan 16, 6:30 pm (\$37 or \$40 or \$38) enclosed. _____

Dinner Mon, Jan 17, 6:30 pm (\$37 or \$49 or \$38) enclosed. _____

Total Enclosed: _____

Even if you pay at the door, please send in your registration ahead of time.

Please indicate any special dietary requirements on this form. If your dinner plans change, please email jpanzigrau@comcast.net as soon as possible.

Make check payable to **LUTHERAN CONCERNS ASSOCIATION**. Please detach this registration form and mail to
Lutheran Concerns Association • 149 Glenview Drive • New Kensington, PA • 15068-4921

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The address for all matters pertaining to the LCA is:
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Rev. Jerome Panzigrau
Dr. John F. Lang

Mrs. Ginny Valleau: Layout, Printing & Mailing

Faithful Lutherans who are members of LCMS congregations are invited to submit articles of approximately 500 words for consideration. Inquiries are welcome. Manuscripts will be edited. Views and judgments expressed in articles are the author's own and do not necessarily represent those of LCA. Please email articles to Mr. Walter Dissen (wdissen@aol.com; 757-436-2049).

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Lutheran Concerns Association
January 2022



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