

The **LUTHERAN** **CLARION**



Lutheran Concerns Association

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Recent Government Actions: Red Sky at Morning?

US and state governments have been increasingly antagonistic toward the church and Christian morality. An LCMS congregation was recently involved in a highly publicized employment case.¹ The case was appealed all the way to the Supreme Court, where the federal government argued against the school.² Synod President Matthew Harrison was invited to speak at a congressional hearing about the government mandating sinful actions by insurance groups. The military's "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy was repealed, the Defense of Marriage Act was struck down, and women were cleared for ground combat positions. Future possibilities include: nationwide legalization of gay marriage, gay adoption, and churches losing tax-exempt status.

How does the church respond? We pray for our leaders, render to Caesar what is his, give honor and taxes where due. We also continue to preach and teach all that Christ has commanded.

As citizens, we are to submit to the governing authorities.

When earthly government and God's word conflict, the Church must obey God rather than men.

Acts 5:29

obey is the right course. Daniel disobeyed orders given by King Nebuchadnezzar. The apostles disobeyed the Sanhedrin. Luther defied the Holy Roman Emperor. When earthly government and God's word conflict, the Church must obey God rather than men (Acts 5:29).

But what about on the front end, when someone is considering a career? Some jobs may be permissible at times, but what do we have to say about entering a profession where we know sinful action may be asked of us? Here is where recent government actions complicate matters.³

Previously, Christian consciences have been respected in these types of situations,⁴ but that is changing. In Illinois,

the government now states that any adoption/foster child agency accepting government funds *must* license and give children to homosexual couples. Can we in good conscience participate?

In the last few years at least two lawsuits have appeared in courts involving psychology students who were disciplined by their departments because of their belief that homosexuality was wrong.⁵ If the American Psychological Association, or government anti-discrimination laws, require a pro-homosexual stance in order to receive a license to practice psychology, what is the place for Christians?

The military now treats same sex marriage the same as heterosexual marriage. Women are deliberately placed in combat positions. Military men and women have been involved in "enhanced interrogation techniques," in actions resulting in heavy civilian casualties, and in the indefinite detention of prisoners. At what point does military service become a morally problematic choice for Christian men and women?⁶

Synod President Harrison wrote that a repeal of "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" would make the job of LCMS chaplains harder.⁷ The intentional use of women in combat roles compounds a chaplain's task. President Harrison said that the Health and Human Services mandate is an intrusion on our Christian conscience.⁸ He signed a letter stating that a change in the definition of marriage would mark as bigots organizations which defend the traditional definition of marriage, and subject them to governmental pressure and punishment.⁹

How will the church respond to these government actions? To teach that a man should lay down his life for his bride, to pronounce homosexuality as sin, to promote marriage between a man and woman—these are not optional for the church. But if we shrug or nod when the federal or state government tells us our wives are needed in the front lines of combat, or that a psychologist cannot say anything negative about homosexuality, or that the Morning After Pill is

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just another medicine among many—if we comply, then we are essentially saying, “We have no king but Caesar.”

Rev. Scott T. Adle

Pastor, Saint John Lutheran Church, Secor, Illinois

- 1 Equal Employment Opportunity Commission v. Hosanna-Tabor Lutheran Church and School.
- 2 The federal government's representation in this case was Assistant to the US Solicitor General Leondra R. Kruger.
- 3 An analogy: Going to a party is something permissible for a Christian. But how would you advise your son if he wants to go to a party where illegal activities may take place? Sure, he could go, not participate in any illicit activity, and be fine. But the chances of participating in something wrong are greater if he goes. These chances increase further if, instead of a party, he enters a job where he is under authority that espouses and may require action contrary to the word of God.
- 4 For example, pharmacists who are Christian are able to decline to fill prescriptions that they are morally opposed to, like the Day After Pill.
- 5 Jennifer Keeton at Augusta State in Georgia (now named Georgia Regents University) and Julea Ward at Eastern Michigan University are the ones referred to, although there may be others. Both of these students wished to refer clients to other counselors, which the schools found unacceptable. One of the cases was dismissed in favor of the school. The other ended when the school settled out of court to avoid more legal costs, although the student left the program.
- 6 There are other ways to serve God and country that would not involve these crises of conscience. In addition, it would be good for us to remember that the Augsburg Confession says we may wage *just* wars. Have our clergy had an honest and forthright discussion of what that means for us today?
- 7 Official email sent December 17th, 2010.
- 8 “A Statement on Recent HHS Decision on Religious Freedom,” signed on February 3rd, 2012, and downloadable at <http://www.lcms.org/president/documents>.
- 9 “Marriage and Religious Freedom: Fundamental Goods That Stand or Fall Together,” released January 12th, 2012, and downloadable at <http://www.lcms.org/president/documents>.

Another Worthy Opportunity for Missouri Synod Christians

In September the Board of **Concordia Theological Foundation, Inc.** (CT Foundation) established an endowment fund to provide support for women enrolled in the Deaconess Program at Concordia Theological Seminary.



CT Foundation was incorporated in California in 1999 and is a 501(c)(3) corporation recognized by the Internal Revenue Service so gifts are tax deductible. The primary purpose of CT Foundation is to assist in preparing men for the Office of the Holy Ministry by providing financial support to Concordia Theological Seminary. From its inception CT

Foundation has been doing just that.

The CT Foundation also recognizes the need for deaconesses and deeply appreciates the wonderful services deaconesses have provided our beloved Synod for many, many years. Our readers are encouraged to provide support for the **Concordia Theological Foundation Deaconess Endowment Fund**. Checks should be marked for that fund and mailed to the following address:

Concordia Theological Foundation
PO Box 15810
Fort Wayne, IN 46885-5810

All donors will receive an acknowledgement meeting IRS requirements.

Losing the Gospel?

The following article, by Rev. Scott Murray, was the *Memorial Moment* published on September 16, 2013. Published here with permission

Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, for many false prophets have gone out into the world. By this you know the Spirit of God: every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God, and every spirit that does not confess Jesus is not from God. This is the spirit of the antichrist, which you heard was coming and now is in the world already. Little children, you are from God and have overcome them, for he who is in you is greater than he who is in the world. They are from the world; therefore they speak from the world, and the world listens to them. We are from God. Whoever knows God listens to us; whoever is not from God does not listen to us. By this we know the Spirit of truth and the spirit of error. 1 John 4:1-6 (ESV)

We should pray that God does not permit the gospel to be taken away from us because we treasure it so little. As a child I was quite lazy. My mother often had to make me bring my bike into the shed where it was padlocked at night. She reminded me that I must not have appreciated my bike very much to leave it in the yard to be taken by any covetous neighbor child. She was right. That which we will not defend and care for is hardly treasured by us. What we really treasure we vigilantly watch over and protect.

We do not protect the gospel from use, but for use. The message that Christ has redeemed the world with His precious blood and innocent suffering and death must never be abused. False teachers can do that by watering this message down, or soft-peddling it. The precious gospel can be opened to attack when we reduce it to works, so that our efforts are most important, rather than God's saving action. There is much that is attractive to the old Adam when we can reduce God's work in Christ to our own activity. Of

“We act so sleepy and slothful, as if we could never lose [the Gospel]. As a consequence we are taken in by this lovely outward appearance and show before we have a chance to look around.”

Martin Luther, *Sermons on The Sermon on the Mount*, 7.15

course, this can be done only where the people no longer know what the message of Christ ought to sound like. God warns us: "My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge" (Hosea 4:6). Our complacent and lazy attitude to studying and learning the word of God creates a field easily sown by the devil with the seeds of legalism and self-righteousness. This is a field in which God-talk flows in abundance, but where Christ's work as Savior is not easily found. Christ wants His pure Word of the forgiveness of sins to be preserved so that it might be faithfully delivered from the pulpits of our churches.

The piety of the speaker is no guarantee of the truthfulness of the message. The appearance of holiness is easily manipulated for the benefit of the inattentive. We ought to listen to the preacher because what he preaches is good, right, and faithful. The preacher who proclaims something other than God's Word of grace, no matter how attractive he is, ought to be repudiated. We should place our fingers in our ears and pray God's pity upon such a benighted preacher, that Christ would show mercy and lead Him into the green pastures of God's word and out of the cesspool of his own speculations and dreams. People often run after the latest notorious preacher to hear what scratches their itching ears. They have been surfeited on the good food of the gospel and begin to seek something with more spice or sugar. They yearn for something more exciting than the same eternal gospel which God the Lord has given to all generations despite our wickedness and unbelief. If we lose the gospel it will not be through the lack of trying on God's part. We will lose the gospel because of our own spiritual laziness.

"If we took up this warning and guided ourselves by the words of Christ (Mt 7:15), we could easily defend ourselves against all the false prophets and preachers. They are breaking in all over the place. This is due to the fact that we who hear the genuine gospel do not take it seriously and are not concerned about truly having it and keeping it. We act so sleepy and slothful, as if we could never lose it. As a consequence we are taken in by this lovely outward appearance and show before we have a chance to look around. As soon as a different new teacher comes along and goes to work, the word 'Beware!' is forgotten. Yet it is with this word that we should be armed, listening to each individual as though we did not hear him, looking and paying attention only to the teaching. Some frivolous and fickle spirits only look into the preachers' mouths and chase after them, impelled by a curiosity that makes them think: 'Oh, I have listened to this one already. Now I have to listen to that one, too. He is such a fine, learned, and saintly man.'

"There the devil already has a foothold, and he has taken them in before they realize what is going on. Now he drives and directs them at will from one schism to another. Paul says of such people that they are like a reed (Mt 11:7), 'tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine' (Eph 4:14). If a different teacher arises today or tomorrow, they quickly rush over to listen to him. The cause of this is that in their heart they do not have a sure understanding of the Word of God and that they depreciate the gospel. They imagine that if they have heard it once or twice, they know it all and have it all. They quickly become bored with it, so that as soon as someone else comes along bringing something new, they open up their eyes and ears wide. The same thing happens to them that happened to Adam and Eve when they were seduced by the serpent, who made them open up their eyes to see the forbidden tree

and who insinuated such beautiful thoughts as these, contrary to the Word of God (Gn 3:1): 'Why should we not eat from this tree, too?' Thus their desires and curiosity were aroused, and they became bored with all the trees in all of Paradise, staring only at this one.

"If we took the gospel seriously and if, in our lives, we were concerned to keep this treasure pure and clean, we would not be deceived so easily. I hope that no schismatic spirit could overturn me very easily, since I know that the gospel is true and I would not want to lose it. If someone comes along in his beautiful sheep's clothing, I will not pay attention to his mask, as though I wanted to hear something different or new, but to whether or not he agrees with my gospel. If not, then, thank God, I am well grounded and certain enough to know that he is a false prophet and a ravenous wolf under his sheep's clothing."

Martin Luther, *Sermons on The Sermon on the Mount*, 7.15

Prayer

Lord Jesus, forgive us for our neglect of the gospel. Vouchsafe Your eternal truth to us, although we do not deserve it. Send Your Spirit that we not be deceived by false preachers. Bless the humble preachers of the divine truth that God's people might always have Your mercy proclaimed to them. Amen.

LCMS Fourth Vice President Rev. Scott R. Murray
Senior Pastor, Memorial Lutheran Church, Houston, Texas

Ed. Note: You will find it very beneficial to have your name added to the *Memorial Moments* email list so you can receive *Memorial Moments* in your in-box every morning. You can do this at the following web address: <http://www.mlchouston.org/about-us/memorial-moment>.

Book Review

Persecuted: The Global Assault on Christians

Paul Marshall, Lela Gilbert, Nina Shea. Thomas Nelson Publishers, Nashville, 2013. 403 pages, Paper cover, \$20.00.

This book is an eye-opener for a Christian who lives in the United States where our religious freedom is guaranteed by the constitution. The fact is that Christians face severe persecution in 133 countries. Other religions are also persecuted. Also shocking is that severe persecution often exists in countries considered friendly to the United States and also frequently receiving financial and military aid from our country.

The book is extremely well documented and provides numerous examples of what is happening today. Persecution can be government sponsored as a matter of policy or practice as in North Korea, Vietnam, China, Burma, Saudi Arabia and Iran. It can be the result of hostility within the society and carried out by extremists who operate with impunity or beyond the government's ability to control. That is the situation in Nigeria and Iraq. It can come from combined or conflicting powers, as in Egypt and Pakistan.

The authors first devote several chapters to the situation in Communist or post-Communist countries. The largest of these is China. Estimates vary as to the number of Chinese Christians. A figure of around 100 million is deemed reasonable. Catholicism is officially banned because of its connection with the Church of Rome. As many as 40 Catholic bishops are reported to be imprisoned in recent years. The recent sharp increase in Christians in China has been in house churches or underground churches which are usually evangelical in theology and practice. The persecution by the government of Christians and their churches is reported to have worsened since 2011. The persecutions take various forms, usually associated with being a threat to the communist government.

“...American foreign policy executives seem to believe that it would be ‘special pleading’ to do anything to help persecuted Christians.”

Vietnam has eight million Catholics and two million Protestant Christians. There are other faith groups, including the traditional Buddhists. Like China, Vietnam has abandoned attempts to eradicate religion and instead tries to register, monitor, and ultimately control it. The government has closed all Catholic seminaries. It has also, on occasion, forbidden the printing of Bibles. In

some areas converts to Christianity are forced to recant their faith in Christ or face punishment.

North Korea is the most militant atheistic country in the world. All churches, temples, and shrines have been closed. All religious literature, including Bibles, has been destroyed. The head of the state is to be looked upon as a godlike, infallible figure. To survive, Christians must hide their faith.

During the Soviet rule in Russia from 1917 until 1988 the Russian Orthodox Christian Church existed in a state of siege. However, when the vast Communist superpower collapsed in December 1991, things changed for the better. While religious life remains difficult for Russia’s many Christian groups there are far more dangerous places in other countries of the former Soviet Union.

Persecuted has a section on South Asia countries that are predominantly Hindu and Buddhist. India has a population of 1.2 billion. Of these, 30 million are Christian. The constitution of India guarantees religious freedom and most religiously diversified citizens exist peacefully with one another.

The book shifts to the Muslim world where persecution of Christians is widespread, severe, and intensifying. Turkey is on the U.S. government’s list of the world’s worst violators of religious freedom. No churches are allowed in Saudi Arabia. In 2006 the U.S. State Department requested permission for its representatives to worship in house churches. This was denied. Foreign workers have been arrested for conducting private Christian services.

Iran is one of the world’s worst religious persecutors. The Christian church there dates back to ancient times and numbers about 300,000. The constitution recognizes Christian minority rights, but forbids converting to Christianity from the Muslim faith. Christians are often arrested, jailed, and tor-

tured.

Egypt has 10 million Coptic Christians dating back to ancient times. They are frequently attacked by Muslim gangs, but security forces are slow to respond. After the Arab Spring, mobs persecuted Christians and frequently bombed Christian churches. Again, security forces were slow to respond to calls for help.

Pakistan has 174 million population; three million are Christian. Muslim gangs attack Christians without being arrested. The system is rigged against women. In Pakistan a rape victim can be arrested for having unlawful sex. She may be released on the condition she marry the rapist.

One might expect that in Iraq, which has benefited much from American armed forces and financial aid, there would be little or no persecution of Christians. But this is not the case. Even though the prime minister of Iraq has denounced attacks on Christians, there has been and continues to be much persecution from the Muslim population. It has been reported that even Christian children are tortured and killed.

It is refreshing to find a country such as Ethiopia. The Orthodox Christian church there dates back to ancient days. The population is two-thirds Christian and one-third Muslim. The government guarantees religious freedom and defends Christians.

The last section of the book contains a “Call to Action.” The authors point out that in many countries the United States is in a position to assist Christians, but generally has failed to do so. For example, while there were 130,000 American and NATO troops on the ground in Afghanistan in 2010 that country’s last remaining Christian church was razed. The U.S. State Department knew of this, but took no effective action to stop the destruction. While the American people supported President Karzai’s government financially and militarily, it joined Saudi Arabia as a country that will not tolerate any churches. The Christians among America’s diplomats and contract workers need to hide their worship services.

The authors point out that American foreign policy executives seem to believe that it would be “special pleading” to do anything to help persecuted Christians. When twenty thousand Christian families were being driven from their homes in Baghdad in 2006-07, Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice maintained the administration could not do anything to prevent them from being murdered and kidnapped because they did not want to do anything that would have appeared to be “sectarian.” (p.294) The chapter also points out weakness on the part of President Obama in commenting on the persecuting of Coptic Christians in Egypt.

There are hopeful signs that America and her allies are becoming aware of the necessity of assisting persecuted Christians. Some members of Congress have held hearings on these issues. The European Union council of foreign ministers in 2011 firmly condemned violence against Christians and members of other religious beliefs. Christian churches in America are urging that the US government take appropriate action to combat religious intolerance.

The book closes with an “Afterword” by Archbishop Chaput of Philadelphia. He points out that much can be done to protect Christians. He cites the example of Sudan. Two million inno-

Thank You

Balance-Concord, Inc.

Balance-Concord, Inc., has been a most faithful contributor to *The Lutheran Clarion* in honor of the sainted **Rev. Raymond Mueller** and the sainted **Rev. Edgar Rehwaldt**, both of whom faithfully served the Synod and Balance-Concord, Inc., for many years.

The Clarion is most appreciative of such continued support from Balance-Concord, Inc., as well as the wonderful support of our readers. These contributions make it possible to bring you substantive articles by respected and qualified authors on issues affecting YOUR Synod. Please continue your support. It is both appreciated and needed.

cent people were killed by the fanatic Islamic Front in two decades. American policy under the leadership of President Bush finally resulted in 2011 in the formation of South Sudan as an independent nation where Christians can live in peace. It is our prayer that reading *Persecuted, The Global Assault on Christians* will result in more positive action on many fronts to protect our Christian brothers and sisters around the world.

Dr. Paul A. Zimmerman

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Traverse City, Michigan

Synod's 65th Regular Convention Calmer and More Productive in Comparison to Some Past Regular Synodical Conventions

Unlike the 2004 or the 2007 Regular Synodical Conventions, this time around I approached the Sixty-fifth Regular Synodical Convention calmly. Gone were the political mailings from the confessional and liberal sides trying to influence the direction of the Synod. This was a pleasant change for me.

I have to largely give the credit to the leadership of President Matthew Harrison and his vision for our church body. President Harrison has chosen to use Scripture and the Lutheran Confessions to lead and not be persuaded by friendships and forces for personal gain no matter what the outcome. This was demonstrated at the Convention when the subject of visitations came to the floor when he passed the gavel to a Synodical Vice President to address the Convention. He quoted [from] the Apostle [Paul's letter to] Timothy on the subject.

It amazed me that this Convention spent considerable time addressing the changes required to correct problems that became evident after the restructuring that came out of the 2010 Synodical Convention. That happens when people do not give careful consideration to what they are voting for. In my opinion, this was so similar to the way Obamacare was rammed through Congress with little debate. Just pass it and then go through the legislation later. Committee 6 performed a real service to the Synod in trying to clean up the mess that was handed to them from the 2010 Synodical Convention.

One pastoral delegate commented to me on some of the resolutions about the power President Harrison now has. What he failed to mention was the restructuring that took place from actions of the 2010 Synodical Convention gave the Synodical President vast new power and responsibilities. The way the votes to pass these changes were passed, many people thought that past Synodical President Kieschnick would be re-elected. President Harrison did not want the extra power and responsibilities that were passed at the 2010 Synodical Convention. He has, however, operated with commendable restraint in using these new powers.

This Convention displayed none of the divisions that we had at the past Conventions going back to 2001. Everyone was polite, cordial and kind so that it could almost be called a boring convention. So much was accomplished without the name calling and bickering that we often had in the past. It was great to see Floor Committee 4 work to avoid any real division of the assembly by withdrawing Resolutions 4-07 (To Address the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod Rostered Workers Communing at Heterodox Altars) and 4-09 (To Overrule Commission on Constitutional Matters Opinion 21 "Interpretation of Constitution Article VI 2 b"(11-2598 CW pp. 300-303)). This was genuine harmony and made the best Convention in more than a decade. Let's hope we can keep future Synodical Conventions as positive as this one was.

That the resolutions to endorse altar and pulpit fellowship with the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Liberia and the Siberian Evangelical Lutheran Church passed is truly a blessing from God for our LCMS. The Convention also affirmed our fellowship with the Lutheran Church of Tongo. The resolution to continue discussions with the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod and the Evangelical Lutheran Synod was also very well received. I hope we can make progress on this and find a common ground to return to what had been an old Synodical Conference.

I was opposed to the SMP (Specific Ministry Pastor Program) when it was approved by the 2007 Synodical Convention and I was hoping that we would either get rid of it or a least make it more meaningful than just a way for some congregations to have "shepherds" that do not have the full training to serve all aspects of the church. To me, it is just a way to have lower paid Pastors that have limited qualifications. There were some changes made to at least strengthen the SMP Program and to provide checks on the programs to avoid abuse of the SMP. This was some progress. Hopefully in 2016 we can make some real improvements on this program.

The wide margins by which so many resolutions (101) were adopted was very uplifting. The resolutions that were defeated showed that most of the delegates were united in getting back to the work of His Church and working for His Glory. We can only pray for his continued guidance to keep us as one body working to keep and strengthen Christ's Church for the next generations that will follow us.

Lay Delegate Ronald Kabitzke

West Bend, Wisconsin

Mr. Kabitzke has been a voting lay delegate at Synodical Conventions multiple times and has been attending Conventions since 2004. He has also been active in congregation and District matters and in the International Lutheran Laymen's League.

Speaking Against the New Norms of Our Culture with the Unchanging Truth of the Triune God

Speakers for the 2014 LCA Conference

Professor Rev. Jeffrey H. Pulse will conduct the Bible study.

He is Associate Professor of Exegetical Theology, Director of Placement and Director of Continuing education at Concordia Theological Seminary (CTS), Fort Wayne. Professor Pulse did his undergraduate work at Concordia Teachers College, Seward, Nebraska. In 1984 he received an M.Div from CTS. He received his S.T.M. from CTS in 1990; he is currently a Ph.D. candidate at the University of Durham, England, in the area of Old Testament (Concepts of the Afterlife in the Old Testament and Second Temple Judaism). Professor Pulse served 22 years in the parish in Iowa and Washington.

Rev. Dr. William Weinrich will lead the opening devotion.

He graduated from Concordia Seminary, Saint Louis (CSL) in 1972; and from the University of Basel, Switzerland, with a Doctor of Theology in 1978. Dr. Weinrich was called to CTS, Fort Wayne, in 1978 as Assistant Professor of Early Church History. He later served CTS as Vice President of Academic Affairs and Dean of Graduate Studies; he last served as Rector, Luther Academy, Riga, Latvia; he was on the LCMS Commission on Theology and Church Relations for nine years; he was LCMS 3rd Vice President 1998-2001 and 5th Vice President 2001-2004. Dr. Weinrich was with in the Indiana Air National Guard as Chaplain 1977-2004. He is a prolific author. Dr. Weinrich and his wife have three children.

Mr. Mark Stern's subject for the Conference is *From Toleration to Supremacy: A Review of Recent Supreme Court Decisions*.

He is an attorney with Burke, Warren, MacKay & Serritella in Chicago, Illinois, concentrating his practice in corporate law. He works with the firm's active religious organizations practice group, which has litigated or filed *amicus curiae* briefs in numerous religious liberty cases. Mr. Stern graduated from the University of Illinois in 1993 and received his J.D. from the University of Chicago Law School in 1996. He practices in Illinois; the U.S. District Court, Central and Northern Districts of Illinois; the U.S. Tax Court; and the U.S. Court of Appeals, Seventh Circuit. While practicing law in Springfield, Illinois, he served as outside counsel to the Central Illinois District of the LCMS. Mr. Stern has been on the Board of Regents of Concordia University Chicago since 2010. Mr. Stern has been actively involved in public education reform issues.

Chaplain Craig G. Muehler, Captain, USN, will speak on *Serving in a First Corinthians' World*.

Chaplain Muehler is Deputy Chaplain of the United States Marine Corps. In 1984, he received a B.A. from Concordia University, Saint Paul, Minnesota. He received an M.Div. from CSL in 1988. He received his Masters in Theology at Trinity International University in Deerfield, Illinois. After graduating from CSL in 1988, Chaplain Muehler served a congregation in McClusky, North Dakota; he was recalled to active duty in August 1991. In 1986, Chaplain Muehler was commissioned as an Ensign in the Theological Student Program. That same year he attended Chaplain School. In 1988, he superseeded into the Chaplain Corps in the Naval Reserve. Since August 1991, Chaplain Muehler has served at naval facilities at Great Lakes, Illinois; Kunia, Hawaii; Corpus Christi, Texas; Camp Lejeune, North Carolina; San Diego, California; and Okinawa, Japan.

Rear Admiral Luther F. Schriefer USN (Ret) will speak to the Conference on *Christians in Today's Military*.

Admiral Schriefer is a 37-year Navy veteran with primary experience as a naval aviator in the aircraft carrier environment. He has held numerous aviation and ship commands at sea (23 years) as well as shore commands. As a civilian he has held several positions as Chief Operating Officer and Managing Director in for-profit and non-profit organizations including two years in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) managing a medical care upgrade for the UAE military. Admiral Schriefer is currently Managing Director of a company involved in manufacturing mobile medical hospitals and clinics, vaccines and diagnostics development and agricultural development. Admiral Schriefer and his wife of 47 years have four children and three grandchildren. [His wife Sandra died in 2007.] Admiral Schriefer is an active member of Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church (WELS) in Falls Church, Virginia.

Mr. Timothy Goeglein will address the Conference on *Christianity in the Halls of Power: Why Faith and Public Life Converge*.

Mr. Goeglein is Vice President for External Relations at Focus on the Family and a Senior Fellow at The Heritage Foundation in Washington, D.C. From 2001 to 2008, he was Special Assistant to President George W. Bush, where he was the Deputy Director of the White House Office of Public Liaison. He wrote *The Man in the Middle: Faith and Politics in the George W. Bush Era*. Mr. Goeglein is on the Board of Directors for Coalitions for America, and the Board of Governors of the Young America's. He serves on the American Conservative Union Foundation Board of Directors and he is a member of the Council for National Policy, the Philadelphia Society, and the Capitol Hill Club. Mr. Goeglein is on the Sanctity of Life Commission for the LCMS. Graduating from Indiana University's Ernie Pyle School of Journalism in 1986, he has Honorary Doctorate degrees from Concordia University, New York City; and from Faith Evangelical College and Seminary, Tacoma, Washington. He has served as a deacon in his church for 25 years. He has been married to Jenny for 22 years; they have two sons; and they live in the Washington D.C., area.

Rev. Dr. Laurence L. White's topic is *Two Kingdom's—One Lord, Our Squandered Heritage*.

Dr. White has been Senior Pastor of Our Savior Lutheran Church in Houston, Texas, for more than 35 years. He is a regular speaker for national pro-life, pro-family organizations. He has had the opportunity to address millions of Americans through national radio and television broadcasts and has spoken to nearly 20,000 pastors across the nation, urging God's spokesmen to courageously speak out on the fundamental issues of life and family which now confront America. Dr. White also serves on the National Advisory Board of the Family Research Council. He is Chairman of the Texas Restoration project. In 1997, Rev. White was awarded a Doctor of Divinity degree by Liberty University of Lynchburg, Virginia. He is married to Deborah Sue Hartman. They have three children and three grandchildren.

Rev. Michael Kumm will give an update on the State of the Synod.

Rev. Kumm, Chairman of the LCMS Board of Directors, is a native of Sioux City, Iowa, and a retired Chief Master Sergeant, U.S. Air Force Reserve. He is a graduate of South Dakota State University. He received an M.A. degree in pastoral theology from Concordia Seminary in 2006. He is a Ph.D. candidate at Trinity Theological Seminary, Newburgh, Indiana. Rev. Kumm currently serves as Senior Pastor of Trinity Lutheran Church, Millstadt, Illinois, and as Chairman of the International Lutheran Society of Wittenberg. Previously, Rev. Kumm served as the Interim-General Manager of KFUD Radio (2011-2012); on the Professional staff at Concordia Seminary, in Saint Louis (2004-2007); Vacancy Pastor for Holy Cross Lutheran Church, Sugarloaf Township, Illinois (2004-2006); pastor of St. Paul Lutheran Church, West Frankfort, Illinois (2001-2004); and as vicar and pastor of Blessed Redeemer Lutheran Church, Brandon, South Dakota (1999-2001). Rev. Kumm is married to Janet (Wessel) Kumm, and has four grown step-children and four grandchildren.

The schedule for the conference speakers is on page 7. It could change since the weather in January can interfere with airline flights and driving.

We Need Your Help

Even though some progress was made at the 2013 Synodical Convention, much work remains to be done to return our Synod to the Church of our Grandfathers and Reformation fathers! The Lutheran Concerns Association is dedicated to the effort to reclaim our full Lutheran heritage for the LCMS, but we cannot achieve this long-range goal alone.

We need your continued help so that a truly Lutheran church body will be there for our grandchildren and great-grandchildren.



In some small way we at the LCA desire to be helpful in preserving our faith, under the Lord's blessing, so that the treasure of pure doctrine and right practice will be known for generations to come. Would you prayerfully consider assisting us in this on-going effort with your tax deductible donations?

Please send checks to:

Lutheran Concerns Association
1320 Hartford Avenue
Saint Paul, MN 55116-1623

LUTHERAN CONCERNS ASSOCIATION ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Monday, January 20, 2014

“Speaking Against the New Norms of Our Culture with the Unchanging Truth of the Triune God”

The Lutheran Concerns Association extends a cordial invitation to all Lutherans, especially LCMS, to attend the LCA Annual Conference. We look forward to meeting you and working together to make the LCMS a faithful and strong voice for Evangelical Lutherans.

LCA CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

"Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth. (John 17:17)" (ESV)

"But if not, be it known to you, O king, that we will not serve your gods or worship the golden image that you have set up. ... Nebuchadnezzar answered and said, 'Blessed be the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, who has sent his angel and delivered his servants, who trusted in him, and set aside the king's command, and yielded up their bodies rather than serve and worship any god except their own God.'" (Daniel 3:18, 28) (ESV)

6:40 a.m. - Registration Opens
7:00 a.m. to 7:45 a.m. - Professor Rev. Jeffrey H. Pulse - Bible Study
8:00 a.m. to 8:10 a.m. - Dr. William Weinrich - Opening Devotion
8:10 a.m. to 8:20 a.m. - Welcome and Greetings from the LCA (Mr. Walter Dissen, Esq.), and from the Indiana District of the LCMS
8:20 a.m. to 8:50 a.m. - Mr. Mark Stern, Esq. - From Toleration to Supremacy: A Review of Recent Supreme Court Decisions
8:50 a.m. to 9:20 a.m. - Questions and Answers
9:20 a.m. to 9:35 a.m. - Break
9:35 a.m. to 10:05 a.m. - Rev. Michael Kumm , Chairman, LCMS Board of Directors - State of the Synod
10:05 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. - Questions and Answers
10:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. - Mr. Timothy Goeglein - Christianity in the Halls of Power: Why Faith and Public Life Converge
11:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. - Questions and Answers
11:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. - Rev. Dr. Laurence L. White - Two Kingdom's—One Lord, Our Squandered Heritage
12:00 p.m. to 12:20 p.m. - Questions and Answers
12:20 p.m. to 1:20 p.m. - Lunch Served in the Meeting Room
1:20 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. - Chaplain Craig G. Muehler, Captain, USN - Serving in a First Corinthians' World
2:00 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. - Questions and Answers
2:30 p.m. to 3:10 p.m. - Rear Admiral Luther F. Schriefer USN (Ret) - Christians in Today's Military
3:10 p.m. to 3:45 p.m. - Questions and Answers
3:45 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. - Panel Discussion with All Presenters
5:00 p.m. to 5:10 p.m. - Closing Remarks and Closing Prayer
5:30 p.m. - LCA Annual Business Meeting (Paid Members Only)

The conference will be held at Don Hall's Guest House. The rates are \$89 + taxes for a single; \$99 + taxes for 2-4 per room. When making your reservation, mention that you are attending **THE LUTHERAN CONCERNS ASSOCIATION ANNUAL CONFERENCE, CODE: GROUP #119**. To be guaranteed a room, reservations must be made by December 15, 2013. There is free airport shuttle service from the airport to Don Hall's. At the time of check-in, breakfast and dinner coupons (free breakfast and free dinner) will be given for each room (maximum two of each per room). A free lunch will be served in the meeting room. **Registration for the free lunch MUST BE POSTMARKED by December 15, 2013.** You must make your own Guest House reservation.

REGISTRATION FORM

LCA Annual Conference · January 20, 2014
Don Hall's Guest House · 1313 West Washington Center Road · Fort Wayne, IN 46825
260-489-2524 · 800-348-1999 · www.donhallsguesthouse.com

Annual LCA Membership: \$35.00

I will attend the meeting:

Name _____

Address _____

Phone Number _____

Email Address _____

LCMS District _____

Annual membership fee (\$35) enclosed _____.

Paid LCA member conference registration fee: \$50 if postmarked by 12/15/2013; \$55 if postmarked thereafter. Enclosed _____.

Non-member conference registration fee: \$60 if postmarked by 12/15/2013; \$65 if postmarked thereafter. Enclosed _____.

Half day (AM or PM) registration fee is 50% less of above fee. If lunch is desired, add \$10; must be postmarked by 12/15/2013. Enclosed _____.

Seminary students and personnel will have the registration fee waived, but to receive **lunch for \$5**, registration must be **post-marked by 12/15/2013**.

I will pay at the door _____.

A free lunch will be served early registrants who pay the applicable registration fee whether by 12/15/2013, or at the door.

Make check payable to **LUTHERAN CONCERNS ASSOCIATION**. Please detach this registration form & send to Lutheran Concerns Association · 1320 Hartford Avenue · Saint Paul, MN 55116-1623

The Lutheran Clarion

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The address for all matters pertaining to the LCA is:

1320 Hartford Avenue
Saint Paul, MN 55116-1623

Editorial Board: Mr. Walter Dissen (Chairman)
Mr. Scott Meyer
Rev. Jerome Panzigrau

Faithful Lutheran individuals who are members of LCMS congregations are invited to submit articles of approximately 500 words for consideration. Inquiries are welcome. Manuscripts will be edited. Please send to: Mr. Walter Dissen

509 Las Gaviotas Blvd, Chesapeake, VA 23322
(757-436-2049; wdissen@aol.com)

The Board of Directors for the LCA:

Mr. Walter Dissen (President)
Rev. Thomas Queck (Vice-President)
Rev. Dr. Daniel Jastram (Secretary-Treasurer)

Mr. Scott L. Diekmann	Rev. David Ramirez
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<http://www.lutheranclarion.org>

Lutheran Concerns Association
November 2013



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