

# The **LUTHERAN** **CLARION**



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

**September 2015**  
**Volume 8, Issue 1**

## **South Wisconsin District's "Distinctly Lutheran" 2015 Convention**

Word is out that the South Wisconsin District LCMS enjoyed a peaceable convention. That may come as a surprise to some; but not to me. What took place at the South Wisconsin District (SWD) convention is a reflection of what SWD is about. The delegates displayed a solid understanding of who we are and what we are to be about. Evidence of that can be seen in how two potentially contentious resolutions passed by overwhelming margins.

- By a vote of 223-29, delegates adopted Resolution 2-02, which memorializes the Synod to "Restore to the Synod President the authority to act in a case of discipline should a District President fail to act in a matter of ecclesial supervision."
- Delegates adopted by a vote of 209-27 Resolution 6-03, "To call the Rev. Dr. Matthew Becker to repentance, implore [LCMS Northwest District President] Rev. Paul Linnemann to exercise ecclesiastical supervision and thank and encourage President Matthew Harrison."

***"Both [resolutions] call for proper ecclesial discipline, and are a rejection of heterodox theology."***

Those resolutions and every other were debated in brotherly fashion. There were good questions from differing perspectives. They were adopted, not unanimously but overwhelmingly. Both call for proper ecclesial discipline, and are a rejection of heterodox theology.

Throughout the convention the pastoral and lay delegates at the SWD Convention displayed that spirit of unity consistently. The last day of the convention as the last resolution was debated, a pastoral delegate noted that the delegates had not declined any resolution. It was his opinion that the last should be declined. But the convention adopted it as well.

There was neither unanimity nor discord; but there was unity. The delegates trusted each other and worked very well within the convention format, as they debated and amended resolutions. It was more than merely a shallow attitude of agreeing to disagree. All of that is merely symp-

tomatic of something much deeper.

The District President's opening remarks helped to define what was taking place. Delegates were reminded that we are called to be "distinctly Lutheran."

- **"Distinctly Lutheran"** we proclaim Law and Gospel, sin and grace like no other church body.
- **"Distinctly Lutheran"** we are a Christological church.
- **"Distinctly Lutheran"** is a matter of confession. We are a "confessional Lutheran church body."
- **"Distinctly Lutheran"** we are a liturgical church. It is part of our history, part of our identity.
- **"Distinctly Lutheran"** we understand that church is larger than merely our local congregation. Congregations are self-governing; but we are more. We are church together.
- **"Distinctly Lutheran"** we are a teaching church. We learn what it means to be a Christian as we study Holy Scripture and our Lutheran Confessions.

We are called to be "*distinctly Lutheran*" in this generation for the next generation. This is our time. Now. Our time to be generous with the precious gifts that our Lord has entrusted to us. Our time to plant new congregations. This is our time to work together to plant new churches where we have little or no LCMS witness. Time for pastors and people, congregations to work together with circuits and our South Wisconsin District to sow the seed, to lay the foundations, to plant a new generation of confessional LCMS congregations in SWD and beyond.

As confessional Lutheran Christians we have an obligation to be the people of God in this time where our Lord has placed us. It is not the easiest of times; but this is our time by God's grace. The questions remain: what are we going to do with the time that our Lord has allotted us to be His people in this world? What will the next generation say about us? Are we honoring our vocation?

What happened at the SWD Convention is the beginning of the answer.

**Rev. John C. Wille**

South Wisconsin District LCMS, President

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The Lutheran Concerns Association Board of Directors believes the two resolutions the South Wisconsin District passed are important enough to include the full text of each in this issue. Congregations and circuits are encouraged to submit timely memorials for inclusion in the 2016 Convention Workbook. The deadline for submitting overtures (February 20, 2016) and other helpful information is at <http://www.lcms.org/convention/overtures>.

**Resolution 2-02, memorializes the Synod to “...Restore to the Synod President the Authority to Act in a Case of Discipline Should a District President Fail to Act in a Matter of Ecclesial Supervision.”**

**Whereas**, termination or suspension of membership in the Synod is a serious matter involving both the doctrine and life of members, and should only be taken as a final step, following advice, counsel, encouragement, and, when necessary, admonition regarding teaching and/or practice; and

**Whereas**, Synod Bylaws provide for the protection of members by including provisions for challenging the decisions of ecclesial supervisors in these matters as well as provisions for restoration of membership that has been suspended or terminated; and

**Whereas**, the lingering existence of unresolved charges is also a great burden upon the church workers concerned, their congregations, and the church at large, and for the health and well being of all, proceedings to resolve such matters should not unduly be delayed or prolonged; and

**Whereas**, prior to the 2004 Convention of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, there also existed a right of appeal to the LCMS Praesidium in matters of ecclesial supervision involving such serious disciplinary action, under former Bylaw 2.27.2(b) which stated:

b. If the District President declines to suspend the member or fails to act within 90 days after receipt of the written complaint, the complainant may present the written complaint to the Praesidium of the Synod, which consists of the President and the Vice-Presidents of the Synod. If after investigation the Praesidium concludes that the facts form a basis for expulsion of the member under Article XIII of the Constitution, the Praesidium shall proceed in the same fashion as hereafter required of the District President. If the Praesidium determines not to proceed, it shall in writing so inform the complainant and the involved member, which shall terminate the matter.

**Whereas**, in order to ensure fair and consistent treatment of all members of Synod in a Christian and fraternal manner, and to ensure prompt resolution of disputes for the best interests of all concerned, it is appropriate that this right of appeal be restored and granted to all parties; therefore, be it

**Resolved** that the South Wisconsin District memorialize the

2016 Convention of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod to restore to the LCMS Handbook in Bylaw 2.14:

If the District President declines to suspend the member or fails to act within 90 days after receipt of the written complaint, the complainant may present the written complaint to the Praesidium of the Synod, which consists of the President and the Vice-Presidents of the Synod.

(a) If after investigation the Praesidium concludes that the facts form a basis for expulsion of the member under Article XIII of the Constitution, the Praesidium shall proceed in the same fashion as hereafter required of the District President.

(b) If the Praesidium determines not to proceed, it shall in writing so inform the complainant and the involved member, which shall terminate the matter; And be it finally

**Resolved:** That the Commission on Handbook make appropriate changes elsewhere in the bylaws.

Adopted: Session 2

*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.

**Resolution 6-03, memorializes the Synod to “...Call the Rev. Dr. Matthew Becker to Repentance, Implore the Rev. Paul Linnemann to Exercise Ecclesiastical Supervision and Thank and Encourage President Matthew Harrison.”**

**Rationale**

At the recent North Dakota District Convention, Synod President Matthew Harrison was questioned about the status of the Rev. Dr. Matthew Becker, a rostered and ordained member of the Synod and a professor at Valparaiso University. President Harrison reported to that convention that the results of a complaint filed against Dr. Becker have left him remaining in good standing as a member of the Synod. This was confirmed by Dr. Becker:

The matter of the case against my teaching was terminated by three LCMS circuit counselors from the Great Northwest (whose identities are unknown to me), who acted at the behest of the NOW District President. After reviewing all of the available evidence, they concluded that it is perfectly acceptable for an LCMS pastor to make a public argument in favor of the ordination of women to the pastoral office and that such a public argument is not grounds for expul-

sion from the roster of pastors in the LCMS. [<http://www.alpb.org/forum/index.php?topic=5768.0> – accessed 1-30-2015]

Some days later, President Harrison posted the following to the “Witness, Mercy and Life Together” blog on the Synod’s website, not referring to the Becker Case specifically, but speaking in general,

When a public teacher on the roster of Synod can without consequence publicly advocate the ordination of women (even participate vested in the installation of an ELCA clergy person), homosexuality, the errancy of the Bible, the historical-critical method, open communion, communion with the Reformed, evolution, and more, then the public confession of the Synod is meaningless. I am saying that if my Synod does not change its inability to call such a person to repentance and remove such a teacher where there is no repentance, then we are liars and our confession is meaningless. I do not want to belong to such a synod, much less lead it. I have no intention of walking away from my vocation. I shall rather use it and, by the grace of God, use all the energy I have to call this Synod to fidelity to correct this situation. [<http://wmltblog.org/2015/01/regarding-a-recent-decision-of-a-panel-not-to-proceed-with-charges-regarding-a-public-false-teacher-in-the-lcms/> - accessed 1-30-2015 ]

Dr. Becker filed an official dissent regarding the synod’s practice of restricting the office of pastor only to men and from the synod’s position of interpreting the first two chapters of Genesis to mean that God created the universe over the course of six twenty four hour days, and that the natural law of evolution must be rejected. The Commission on Theology and Church Relations responded to Dr. Becker’s dissent which not only exposed his false teaching on those subjects, but also revealed his rejection of the inerrancy of the Holy Scriptures. The Commission wrote,

Dr. Becker’s dissent does not provide a sufficient scriptural or confessional basis to support his claim that the doctrinal position of the Synod is in need of revision on the issue of the ordination of women to the pastoral office or on the issue of creation and evolution. The theological basis for the CTCR’s determination is the evidence provided in Dr. Becker’s essays that he is operating on the basis of an understanding of the authority and interpretation of Scripture that is at odds with the Lutheran Confessions (see, for example, the Preface to The Book of Concord; FC Ep Summary, 2; FC SD Summary, 9, 20; Ap XXIII, 71; Ap VII, 27; Ap XII, 106, etc.) and the scripturally and confessionally-based position of the Synod as set forth in the Brief Statement (see paragraphs 1-3) and A Statement of Scriptural and Confessional Principles (see especially “The Infallibility of Scripture” and “Historical

**“...[Dr. Becker] is operating on the basis of an understanding of the authority and interpretation of Scripture that is at odds with the Lutheran Confessions.”**

*LCMS Commission on Theology and Church Relations*

### The Lutheran Clarion—Eight Years!

With this issue we are beginning our **eighth** year of publication. We strive to focus on presenting and upholding the truth of God’s Holy Word.



If you would like to help with the cost of publishing a solid, Confessional Lutheran periodical, there’s an enclosed envelope so you can mail your check to Lutheran Concerns Association, 149 Glenview Drive, New Kensington PA 15068-4921. Do it now. **Thank you!!**

Methods of Interpretation”). Statements such as the following in Dr. Becker’s essays reflect a view of and approach to Scripture that are clearly incompatible with the Synod’s doctrinal position on the authority and interpretation of Holy Scripture, [<http://www.lcms.org/Document.fdoc?src=lcm&id=1676> - accessed 1-30-2015] the Commission quoted Dr. Becker and then responded,

Of course a “figurative” interpretation of Genesis 1-9 (not to mention the many other passages in Scripture that speak of God as creator, of the world as God’s creation, and of the new creation) does entail a revision of the traditional “creationist” manner of articulating the doctrines of creation, anthropology, and sin, and many Christians are deeply uncomfortable with such a prospect. This “discomfort” is at least as great as the discomfort many 16th-Century Christians must have felt in view of the revision to traditional teaching that the Copernican Theory entailed. As then, however, so also now: such modification would not necessarily undermine an orthodox understanding of creation, human beings, sin, and grace. For example, scientific data about the reality of physical death in the animal and plant kingdoms prior to origin of human beings (e.g., fossils of animals that lived long before the origin of human beings) must lead those who interpret the Bible in light of scientific knowledge to restate the nature of God’s good creation prior to the advent of human sin (e.g., such a good creation must have included the reality of death prior to the existence of human beings) and the character of the historical origin of sin (e.g., the advent of sin is to be traced to the first hominids who disobeyed God’s will but not necessarily to their having eaten from a tree in an actual place called the Garden of Eden several thousand years ago). (*SLM*, 12)

Statements such as these by Dr. Becker speak for themselves in conveying his understanding of the authority and interpretation of the Scriptures. As noted above, this understanding is clearly incompatible with the Synod’s doctrinal position on the authority and interpretation of Scripture. For this reason, the Commission affirms once again its determination that Dr. Becker has not provided sufficient basis for his claim that the position of the Synod is in need of revision, and expresses once again its conviction that Dr. Becker is in dissent from the position of the Synod not only on the specific issues of the ordination of women to the pastoral office and the issues of creation and evolution, but

also on the more foundational position of the Synod on which these positions are based: namely, the authority, infallibility, and faithful interpretation of the Holy Scriptures themselves.

The CTCR therefore appeals to Dr. Matthew Becker, by the mercies of God, to reconsider his dissent and to reexamine, on the basis of Scripture and the Lutheran Confessions, his positions on the authority of Scripture and the two issues concerning which he has expressed dissent, even as the Synod expects him to honor and uphold the doctrinal positions of the Synod." [http://www.lcms.org/Document.fdoc?src=lcm&id=1676 - accessed 1-30-2015]

While the CTCR appealed to Dr. Becker by the mercies of God to reconsider his positions on the basis of Scripture and the Lutheran Confessions, it is clear that he has not done so. In addition to those matters, Dr. Becker contends that the Lutheran Confessions themselves contain theological ambiguity and error, to wit, the Athanasian Creed.

As stated by comments on his blog in discussion with two pastors of the Southern Illinois District,

The **Rev. BT Ball** February 9, 2013 at 5:28PM:

Dr. Becker,

"Whoever desires to be saved must, above all, hold the catholic faith. Whoever does not keep it whole and undefiled will without doubt perish eternally... This is the catholic faith; whoever does not believe it faithfully and firmly cannot be saved."

Do you confess that to be true or not?

Pastor Benjamin Ball  
St. Paul, Hamel, IL

Matthew L. Becker February 9, 2013 at 8:09PM:

Pr. Ball,

The Athanasian Creed errs when it implies that one is saved by a mental work of believing this creed's humanly-devised dogmatic statements "faithfully and firmly."

No Eastern Orthodox Christian will accept all of the formulations within this historic western creed. Many statements in it need careful clarification. Its conclusion is simply incorrect. The Athanasian Creed muddles the gospel at precisely this point.

**Pr. H. R.** February 9, 2013 at 8:45 PM:

Dr. Becker,

Members of our Synod agree to accept the Athanasian Creed "without reservation" (Art. II of our Constitution). We are pretty up front about that and have been for a long time. Perhaps it came up at your ordination. If it didn't (for example, if you wrote your own ordination vows and didn't use the ones in the TLH or LW Agenda), it certainly did when you signed the Constitution.

I understand that you have deeply held convictions that run contrary to this Confession of the faith. But I struggle to understand why you continue to put yourself forward as a representative of our Synod when you so clearly do not hold to our Confession on so many weighty issues. It is not as though you are struggling with one or two

### Rev. David Preus Called to Dominican Republic

Rev. David Preus has accepted a call to serve as a career missionary in the Dominican Republic. He will plant new churches as he forms and develops groups of believers into mature, self-sustaining and self-replicating congregations through Word and Sacrament ministry. He will also help with theological education and work with local deaconesses in their mercy care ministries throughout the country.



Rev. Preus' wife, Jennifer (an adjunct professor of speech communication at Kaplan University and Williston State College, Williston, ND, from 2008 until the present time) and their six children will accompany him.

Rev. Preus is the son of Rev. Rolf Preus and grandson of Rev. Dr. Robert Preus. **The LCA asks readers to generously support Rev. Preus and his family in the Dominican Republic.** Please write a check payable to LCMS (memo line: Rev. David Preus Support) and mail to:

The Lutheran Church Missouri Synod  
P.O. Box 790089  
St. Louis MO 63179-0089

[Some of the information for this article was extracted from <http://www.lcms.org/preus.>]

peripheral issues, unsure of where you stand, or sure the Synod has erred in its stance on life insurance or gambling. You just flat out [sic] deny what we require our ministers to swear to at their ordination.

I'll give you this: it's bold.

+HRC

Matthew L. Becker February 9, 2013 at 10:35 PM:

HRC,

I was ordained on July 14, 1989. In that service I was asked the following question, among several:

Do you accept the three Ecumenical Creeds...as faithful testimonies to the truth of the Holy Scriptures, and do you reject all the errors which they condemn?

I answered affirmatively. The three creeds (only one of which is truly ecumenical) are faithful testimonies to the truth of the Holy Scriptures, that is, the doctrinal truth of the Scriptures. I reject the errors that the three creeds condemn.

They are faithful witnesses to the doctrinal truth of the Scriptures, but they are not without theological ambiguity and error.

Our ordination vow is strictly limited to the doctrinal teaching of the Holy Scriptures, that is, the doctrine of the gospel and all its articles. THAT doctrine of the gospel, the doctrine of faith, is contrary to the kind of legalistic approach to dogma and confessional writings that you and Pr. Ball and other LCMS pastors seem to be asserting.

Pastors who serve churches of the Augsburg Confes-

sion are not bound to many items that are taught or asserted in the confessional writings. This includes the concluding paragraph of the Athanasian Creed. That paragraph, literally understood, is contrary to the doctrine of the gospel.

Our *quia* vow is to teach in accordance with the doctrinal content of the Holy Scriptures, as that content is exhibited in the historic confessions.

I continue to preach and teach in accordance with my ordination vow, and I ask God to help me. [<http://matthewlbecker.blogspot.com/2013/02/one-more-response-to-hrc.html> - accessed 1-30-2015]

Dr. Becker has stated regarding homosexuality, I too affirm the authority of the Scriptures, but the seven biblical texts that are frequently cited on the issue of homosexuality are not directly pertinent to the 21st-century discussion because some of them condemn specifically homosexual rape, deal with questions of “clean and unclean” that are not normative in the Christian community, do not take into account issues like “sexual orientation,” and presuppose that all would agree with a particular interpretation of what “nature” teaches.

Both heterosexual and homosexual persons are expected to express sexual intimacy within publicly accountable, lifelong, and monogamous relationships. This has long been the expectation for heterosexual couples, and therefore is an appropriate expectation for homosexual couples as well.

I recognize that the unity of the church is based on one Lord, one faith, and one baptism, and that within this unity, faithful members may disagree on individual items of theology and Christian ethics. [<http://gottesdienstonline.blogspot.com/2010/12/useful-discussion.html> - accessed 1-30-2015]

Synod Bylaw 4.4.5 states, “Each district president, in accordance with the Constitution of the Synod, shall supervise the doctrine, the life, and the official administration on the part of the ordained or commissioned ministers who are members through his district or are subject to his ecclesiastical supervision”. As such, the President of the Northwest District of the LCMS, the Rev. Paul Linnemann, is charged with the ecclesiastical supervision of Dr. Becker. While Dr. Becker’s public teaching, writing and dissent are publicly known, there is no public evidence that President Linnemann has exhorted Dr. Becker to repentance for his false doctrines. Dr. Becker, an Ordained member of the Synod, has publicly advocated for the ordination of women to the Pastoral Ministry. He has participated in the installation of an ELCA clergy person. He has taught that committed homosexual relationships are not sinful. He rejects the inerrancy of the Bible. He does not affirm the creation account in the Scriptures as a historical event. President Linnemann as the ecclesiastical supervisor of Dr. Becker is to assist the Synod at large with fulfilling its first objective which is to “Conserve and promote the unity of the true faith (Eph. 4:3–6; 1 Cor. 1:10).

**Whereas**, the Rev. Dr. Matthew Becker, an Ordained member of the Synod, has publicly advocated for the ordination of women to the Pastoral Ministry. He has participated in the installation of an ELCA clergy person. He has taught

that committed homosexual relationships are not sinful. He rejects the inerrancy of the Bible. He does not affirm the creation account in the Scriptures as a historical event, and

**Whereas**, Dr. Becker is a member of the Northwest District of the LCMS under the ecclesiastical supervision of the Rev. Paul Linnemann, and

**Whereas**, it is the President of the Synod’s duty to see to it that all District Presidents “act in accordance with the Synod’s Constitution, to admonish all who in any way depart from it, and, if such admonition is not heeded, to report such cases to the Synod,” (Article XI.B.2) and

**Whereas**, the President of the Synod “has and always shall have the power to advise, admonish, and reprove. He shall conscientiously use all means at his command to promote and maintain unity of doctrine and practice in all the districts of the Synod,” (Article XI.B.3) and

**Whereas**, we confess, “All this has been said regarding secret sins. But where the sin is quite public so that the judge and everybody know it, you can without any sin avoid him and let him go, because he has brought himself into disgrace, and you may also publicly testify concerning him. For when a matter is public in the light of day, there can be no slandering or false judging or testifying; as, when we now reprove the Pope with his doctrine, which is publicly set forth in books and proclaimed in all the world. For where the sin is public, the reproof also must be public, that every one may learn to guard against it,” (Large Catechism, 8<sup>th</sup> Commandment, para.284) and

**Whereas**, our Lord Jesus Christ said, “I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance” (St. Luke 5:32). Therefore, let it be

**Resolved**, that those with public knowledge of the Rev. Dr. Matthew Becker’s false and divisive doctrines call him to repentance, and be it further

**Resolved**, that in faithfulness to God’s Word and in Christian love the South Wisconsin District of the LCMS in convention call the Rev. Dr. Matthew Becker to repentance of his false and divisive doctrines and that this be communicated to him through the South Wisconsin District Secretary, and let it be further

**Resolved**, that the South Wisconsin District implore the Rev. Paul Linnemann, President of the Northwest District, to exercise ecclesiastical supervision of Dr. Becker, if he is not already doing so, seek Dr. Becker’s repentance for false teaching, and lacking such repentance, begin the process of Dr. Becker’s expulsion from the Synod in accordance with the Synod’s Constitution and Bylaws, and that this be communicated to the Rev. Linnemann by the South Wisconsin District President, and let it be further



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**Resolved**, that the South Wisconsin District encourage President Matthew Harrison to exhort President Linnemann to do his duty for the sake of our common confession of faith and our walking together as members of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, and be it further

**Resolved**, that the President of the South Wisconsin District, on behalf of the South Wisconsin District, thank President

Matthew Harrison and commend him for his faithful leadership of the Synod, and give him such encouragement, and be it finally

**Resolved**, that the Convention Chaplain lead the Convention in prayer for a godly resolution to these matters.

Adopted: Session 3

### Clarion Readers Respond—Thank You!

Rostered LCMS church workers and congregants who signed the Open Letter to the Synod (see the March, May and July 2015 *Lutheran Clarions*) truly are beacons of light at a time when far, far too many Christians head for the concrete bunkers instead of boldly and publicly standing for the truth of God's Word. One West Coast caller Open Letter reader who years ago was a helicopter pilot in the Viet Nam War used the term "spiritual cowards" in referring to Christians who avoid engagement in standing for God's Word. Synod should be thanking all who signed the Open Letter and worked in passing resolutions at District Conventions that dealt with the matter referred to by President Matthew Harrison in his Facebook post of January 26, 2015. LCA thanks you. On July 1, the Northwest District President gave notice to Rev. Dr. Matthew Becker that he had suspended him and that Rev. Dr. Becker had 15 days to file an appeal or his rostered status would be lost. Rev. Dr. Becker said he would not appeal and would seek membership in ELCA. Synodical headquarters confirmed that no appeal was made and consequently Rev. Dr. Matthew Becker has been removed from Synod's roster of pastors.

Rev. Edwin S. Suelflow, Sussex, WI  
 Eugene Althoff, Whittier, CA  
 Rev. David Anderson, Dubuque, IA  
 Robert A. Aumick, Madison, OH  
 April Baese, Saint Louis, MO  
 David Baese, Saint Louis, MO  
 Roy P. Baese, Saint Louis, MO  
 Virginia Baese, Saint Louis, MO  
 Rev. Ben Ball, Worden, IL  
 Travis Berg, Lattimer, IA  
 Rev. Richard Bolland, Pagosa Springs, CO  
 Rev. Dennis Brech, Currie, MN  
 Eunice Bremer, Arlington, MN  
 Paul Bremer, Arlington, MN  
 Rev. Peter C. Cage, Fort Wayne, IN  
 Leslie G. Calder, New Braunfels, TX  
 Rev. Jesse Cearlock, Dubuque, IA  
 Allen A. Christian, Mayville, WI  
 Dale Christian, Mayville, WI  
 Rev. Douglas Christian, Monroeville, IN  
 Kevin G. Church, Osceola, MO  
 Tom Coleman, Prairie du Chien, WI  
 Robert Dargatz, Orange, CA  
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 Rebecca L. Dominguez, Melrose Park, IL  
 Rev. Dallas D. Dubke, Red Bluff, CA  
 Rev. Earl W. Elowsky, Hillman, MI  
 Jean Elowsky, Hillman, MI  
 Lowell Elowsky, Hillman, MI  
 Jerry Fergal, Topeka, KS  
 Rev. Joseph Fisher, West Bend, WI  
 David Fueling, Decatur, IN  
 Gordon Giese, Mayville, WI  
 Lyle Giese, Mayville, WI  
 Rev. Will Glade, La Mirada, CA  
 Phillip F. Gohr, Mayville, WI  
 Alvina Gottschamer, Kansas City, MO  
 Lt. Col. (Ret) Chas E. Graf, College Station, TX  
 Eugene Grulke, Mayville, WI  
 Fredrick Grulke, Mayville, WI

Phil Hagedorn, Menominee Falls, WI  
 Richard Hannenberg, Highland Park, IL  
 Eric Heller, Chicago, IL  
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 Jack Johnston, Everett, WA  
 Kathleen Kabitzke, West Bend, IN  
 Ronald Kabitzke, West Bend, IN  
 Rev. Paul Kaiser, Edna, TX  
 Norman Kamrath, Mayville, WI  
 Rev. Ronnie Koch, Fredericksburg, IA  
 Rev. R.R. Krueger, Branson, MO  
 Rev. Travis Loeslie, Lester Prairie, MN  
 James D. Lowitzer, Collierville, TN  
 Ralph A. Luebke, Overland, MO  
 Greta Martin, Bristol, WI  
 Don McCauley, Reedsburg, WI  
 Marvin E. Meisinger, Marion, KS  
 Delbert W Meyer, York, NE  
 Anna L. Meyer, York, NE  
 Rev. Martin K. Moehring, Decatur, IN  
 Gary Moyle, Laurium, MI  
 Dcs. Betty Mulholland, Windsor, CO  
 Glenn Mulholland, Windsor, CO  
 Rev. Drew Newman, Excelsior Springs, MO  
 Daniel Nickel, Mayville, WI  
 Dr. John G. Nordling, Fort Wayne, IN  
 Rev. Eugene Oesch, Scroggins, TX  
 Rev. Daniel Ognoskie, Dwight, IL  
 Rev. Robert M. Portier, Sevierville, TN  
 Rev. George E. Poulos, Davie, FL  
 Rev. Mark Preus, Laramie, WY  
 Elyse Price, Sherwood, AR  
 Rev. Thomas Queck, Annandale, MN  
 Dr. John Rahe, Aurora, IN

Rev. Eric W. Rapp, Green Isle, MN  
 Rev. Thomas Reeder (Jr.), Platteville, WI  
 Patricia Reif, Saginaw, MI  
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 Rev. Andrew Simcak, Jr., Houston, TX  
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 Jennifer Staudinger, Cedar Fal, IA  
 Rev. Roger D. Sterle, Dubois, WY  
 Mark Stern, Chicago, IL  
 W. I. Strieter, Maumee, OH  
 Daniel B. Tagtmeyer, Cazenovia, WI  
 Robert Trapp, Salem, WI  
 Ginny Valleau, Independence, MO  
 Robert Van Gundy, Saint Paul, MN  
 Jorge L. Viramontes, El Paso, TX  
 Jim Warwick, Coulter, IA  
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 Ruth A. Woodson, Florissant, MO  
 Mark Yoder, Oak Ridge, TN  
 Sharon Yoder, Oak Ridge, TN  
 Fredrick Zehnder, Virginia Beach, VA  
 Lawrence Zimmel, Mayville, WI

# LUTHERAN CONCERNS ASSOCIATION ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Monday, January 18, 2016

## LCA CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

...[T]hy Word is truth. [John 17:17]

**All Scripture is given by inspiration of God and is profitable for doctrine, for proof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness...** [2 Timothy 3:16-17]

**[T]he Word of the Lord endures forever.** [1 Peter 1:25]

6:40 a.m. - <b>Registration Opens</b>
7:00 a.m. to 7:45 a.m. - Bible Study
8:00 a.m. to 8:10 a.m. - Opening Devotion
8:10 a.m. to 8:20 a.m. - Welcome and Greetings from the LCA ( <b>Mr. Walter Dissen, Esq.</b> ) and the LCMS Indiana District
8:20 a.m. to 8:50 a.m. - <b>Rev. Dr. Roland Ziegler</b> - The Foundations Must Stand—Contemporary Issues in the Doctrine of Inspiration
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. - <b>Dr. David Menton</b> - Implications of Evolutionism: Should the Christian make Peace with Darwin?
10:05 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. - Questions and Answers
10:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. - <b>Dr. Jack Kilcrease</b> - Matthew L. Becker's Theological Vision: Revisionist and Provisionist
11:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. - Questions and Answers
11:30 a.m. to 12:00 noon - <b>Dr. John Pless</b> - Women's Ordination: Test Case for Biblical Authority in Global Lutheranism
12:00 noon - 12:10 p.m. - Questions and Answers
<b>12:20 p.m. to 1:20 p.m. - Lunch Served in the Meeting Room</b>
1:20 p.m. to 3:10 p.m. - The LCMS Reconciliation System and the former Adjudication System <b>Rev. Dr. Martin Noland</b> - A Brief History of the Justice and Disciplinary System of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod <b>Mr. Walter Dissen, Esq.</b> - Reconciliation, Adjudication, and Appeal Pre-July 1992—A Gold Standard Trashed <b>Rev. William Kilps</b> - Reconciliation – A Kingdom Matter but Which One? <b>Mr. David Hawk, Esq.</b> - The Dispute Resolution Process: Who does it serve?
3:10 p.m. to 3:45 p.m. - Questions and Answers
3:45 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. - <b>Panel Discussion with All Presenters</b>
5:00 p.m. to 5:10 p.m. - Closing Remarks and Closing Prayer
5:30 p.m. - <b>LCA Annual Business Meeting</b> (Paid Members Only)

The conference will be held at Don Hall's Guest House. The rates are **\$85.00** + taxes for a single; **\$95.00** + taxes for 2-4 per room. When making your reservation, mention that you are attending **THE LUTHERAN CONCERNS ASSOCIATION ANNUAL CONFERENCE, CODE: GROUP #117**. To be guaranteed a room, reservations must be made by December 17, 2015. 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 (if registration is postmarked by 12/11/2015). You must make your own Guest House reservation.

## REGISTRATION FORM

LCA Annual Conference · January 19, 2015

Don Hall's Guest House · 1313 West Washington Center Road · Fort Wayne, IN 46825

260-489-2524 · 800-348-1999 · [www.donhallsquesthouse.com](http://www.donhallsquesthouse.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: \$55 if postmarked by 12/13/2015; \$60 if postmarked thereafter. Enclosed \_\_\_\_\_.

Non-member conference registration fee: \$65 if postmarked by 12/13/2015; \$70 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 12/13/2015.

Enclosed \_\_\_\_\_.

**Seminary students and personnel** will have the registration fee waived, but to receive **lunch for \$10**, registration must be postmarked by 12/13/2015.

I will pay at the door \_\_\_\_\_.

**A free lunch will be served to early registrants who pay the applicable registration fee by 12/13/2015, or at the door.**

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

**The Lutheran Clarion**

The official publication of the Lutheran Concerns Association, a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization.  
Circulation: 5,400



Published regularly to support issues and causes within The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod which build faithfulness to true Confessional Lutheranism and to be a clear voice of Christian concern against actions and causes which conflict with faithfulness to the One True Faith.

The address for all matters pertaining to the LCA is:

149 Glenview Drive  
New Kensington, PA 15068-4921

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Mr. Scott Meyer  
Rev. Jerome Panzigrau

Mrs. Ginny Valleau: Layout, Printing & Mailing

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:

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Lutheran Concerns Association  
September 2015



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149 Glenview Drive  
New Kensington, PA 15068-4921