

The LUTHERAN CLARION



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

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Is the Missouri Synod Dysfunctional?

They are at it again! I am not surprised. “Congregations Matter,” a group that has sponsored a church-political website since April 2017 is back “in the game.” It has recently published its latest criticisms of the Missouri Synod in preparation for the 2023 LCMS convention in Milwaukee. It states in the second paragraph of its first web-post in April 2022 that “Congregations Matter recognizes that our current situation as a denomination can be summed up in great measure as dysfunctional.”¹ Dysfunction” in my American Heritage Dictionary (1975) means “Disordered or impaired functioning of a bodily system or organ.” Therefore, the author claims that certain systems or organs of the synod are disordered or impaired in their functioning. Is this true? Which systems or organ is he referring to?

The author continues: “We believe congregations are not being supported in their work as they should. There is little coordinated effort nationally. Some of our institutions are struggling – others have closed. There seems to be no clear plan for the future other than surviving through the year.”² Let’s take these one at a time.

#1 – Congregations not being supported in their work. In another website post, published the same day, the “Congregations Matter” author says: “Words like [LCMS Constitution] Article III’s “strengthen,” “provide,” “aid,” and “encourage” remind us what Synod is to do. Our Synod exists to focus on supporting local congregations and their needs.”³ That is only partly true. As a national organization, the synod exists to assist local congregations in *specific* ways, i.e., in helping them do local evangelism (Const. III.2), in working together through the synod in overseas missions (Const. III.2), by recruiting and training church-workers for congregations (Const. III.3), by providing opportunities for charitable work (III.4), by helping congregations develop parish education programs and activities (Const. III.5), by helping congregations establish elementary and secondary schools (Const. III.5), in working together through the synod in higher education (Const. III.5), by providing conferences and doctrinally sound literature and media resources, such as we find at the synod’s website and Concordia Publishing House (Const. III.6), and by encouraging “congregations to strive for uniformity in church practice” (Const. III.7). But the synod also is supposed to “provide ...” and “aid” pastors, teachers, and other church-workers in many sorts of ways (Const. III.8-10).

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Higher Education: Challenges and Opportunities for the Confessing Church

The presentation below was given by Gerhard H. Munding, MD, at the LCA Conference on January 17, 2022. Previous parts of the article were published in the July and September 2022 issues of the Clarion.

In contradistinction to Luther, the current pandemic seems to have emboldened the government to advocate for significant government intervention as to who may teach, what they may teach and particularly how private religious schools may go about their educational process. Mindlessly diffusing through our culture is a proclivity for a state-sponsored philosophy or religion based solely on a humanistic, politically derived, sense of social justice. This has been and will be an ever-increasing threat to Christian higher education. We are threatened by state and federal legislative calls to regulate the criteria by which educational institutions may receive student loans, and by Department of Education regulations, the politicization of accrediting bodies, Title 7 and Title 9 interpretations, student political action committees, public resource allocations and tax status; these are just a few examples.

The Church and her schools remain under attack, by our fallen humanity, by the children of men and the devil, though he is a chained adversary living in the shaft of the abyss and we pray in the imprecatory psalms for the day of His final condemnation and the judgement of evil. The devil is ever still prowling about seeking our destruction and generally messing with the Church! Heralds within and without the Church, some wearing the cloak of religiosity, both consciously and unconsciously call us to assimilate, to cut corners, to acclimate and otherwise accept and affirm the world’s vision of education and philosophy of living. Secular schools would educate individuals as utilitarian automatons, with a Nietzschean, nihilistic, soulless view of life at best or as self-proclaimed Spartan Cyborgs fighting for social justice at worst. Many of the SDS weatherman types of the 1970’s have

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Group Dinners at the 2023 LCA Conference

The 2023 LCA conference (January 16, 2023) will feature the popular Sunday and Monday night dinners where attendees can informally interact with the guest speakers.

The dinners will be at 6:30 pm in a private dining room at the conference site: Hilton Garden Inn Fort Wayne North, 10650 Diebold Road, Fort Wayne, Indiana.



Reserve your seat by checking the appropriate boxes 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 vegetables, chicken, pork or steak. The prices include the tax and tip.

We make reservations way before the dinner, so to avoid missing 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!

LCMS Dysfunctional?

Continued from page 1

Finally, as its FIRST objective, under the norms of Scripture and the Confessions, the synod works to “conserve and promote the unity of the true faith . . . and provide a united defense against schism, sectarianism (Rom. 16:17), and heresy” (Const. III.1).⁴

So, when did the synod stop doing all these things?⁵ Did the author see or use synod's latest excellent evangelism video-workshop program “EveryOne His Witness” (Const. III.2)? Did the author notice that our headcount of overseas missionaries is up over one hundred, with an additional 144 military service branch chaplains (Const.III.2)? When did the synod stop recruiting, preparing, and sending church-workers (Const. III.3)? When did the synod and its districts stop asking congregations for funds and volunteers to help with disaster relief and other charities (Const. III.4)? When did the LWML stop raising funds through their “mighty mites” for missions and missionary families (Const. III.2 & 4)? When did the LLL stop raising funds for “The Lutheran Hour” and its other ministries (Const.III.2 &4)? Did the author see the synod's latest excellent in-person and online “Making Disciples for Life” conference (Const. III.5)? When did our districts and their staff stop helping congregations establish elementary and secondary schools (Const. III.5)? Has the author noticed all the great things our synod and its members are doing in the newer periodical “Lutherans Engage” (Const. III.2-6)? Has he noticed all the FREE stuff you can download from the synod's website, the Lutheran Hour

Ministries, and the LWML (Const. III.6)?⁶ Has he noticed all the fantastic literature for every age and every religious maturity at Concordia Publishing House (Const. III.6)?⁷ Did he notice the conferences this summer: the LCMS Youth Gathering in Houston with 20,000 in attendance, the “Black Ministry Family Convocation” in Mobile, Alabama, and the “Hispanic National Convention” in Orlando, Florida (Const. III.6)?⁸

When did the Circuit Visitors and District Presidents, who are synodical officers, stop doing their duties of directly “strengthening, providing, aiding, and encouraging” congregations and church-workers (Const. III.1-10)? I have had excellent Circuit Visitors everywhere I have served and many excellent District Presidents too. Their service and support have never failed me or my congregations. Is the author complaining about his Circuit Visitor or District President? I don't know, but if he is, he should talk to them privately instead of airing his complaints in public.

The author is being obscure by not citing all the things that the synod is supposed to do and by not citing them in context. Perhaps his emphasis is on the three words at the end of his statement: “... congregations are not being supported in their work *as they should.*” Oh! Since the author is not more specific, I must assume that it is a global criticism of all synodical officers and board members, all synodical staff, all district officers and board members, all district staff, all circuit visitors, the LWML, the LLL, and every other agency under the umbrella of the LCMS—and that none of them are doing things “as they should.” I disagree!

#2 – Little coordinated effort nationally. Everything that the synod and its districts do has to be coordinated, or it simply doesn't get done. Anyone with any experience in district, synod, LLL, or LWML activities, even at the circuit level, knows that it is all cooperative work and requires vast efforts in coordinating activities, meetings, funding, personnel, publicity, etc. Maybe the author wants BIG splashy events that receive national news coverage and lots of publicity for the “leaders,” instead of the myriads upon myriads of LITTLE good works that synod, the districts, and their officers do for congregations and church-workers without much publicity and sometimes without thanks! If that is not what he means, I don't understand the complaint.

#3 – Some of our institutions are struggling – others have closed. If he is talking about the last two years with the CoViD pandemic and lockdowns and layoffs and recession, then, yes, everyone has been struggling in some way or another. Some congregations and circuits have taken the “slow down” as an opportunity to do a “mission review” of their ministry and outreach. Such review is a good thing! We probably don't do enough of that.

But maybe the author is talking specifically about the schools in our Concordia University System (hereafter CUS). I am not going to rehearse that whole history here, but here are the closures:

- 1) Concordia-Ann Arbor merged with Concordia-Mequon in July 2013;
- 2) Concordia-Selma closed in Summer 2018;
- 3) Concordia-Portland closed in Summer 2020, leaving a \$300 million dollar lawsuit for the LCMS to deal with; and
- 4) Concordia-Bronxville closed in Summer 2021.

The *Lutheran Clarion* and the conferences of the Lutheran Concerns Association (hereafter LCA) have addressed the problems with the CUS and its universities as early as 2009, when Dr. Gene E. Veith and Dr. Paul Zimmerman published articles on the subject.⁹ Before that, Pastor Joel Brondos rang a warning bell in 1994 in his brief *LOGIA* essay “As Go the Schools, So Goes the Synod,” which I echoed in a slightly different way in 1997 in my equally brief *LOGIA* essay “Whither Concordia?”¹⁰

To be fair to the CUS and its schools, the primary problem from the CUS’ beginning in 1992 has been the lack of adequate financing to support TEN synodical four-year universities with graduate programs. Whose idea was that? Those who laid the groundwork for the CUS, who might be able to explain why their plans for financing the universities did not bear fruit, are now almost all deceased. The present CUS administrators, presidents, and Board of Regents members are, with a few exceptions, doing the best they can with limited options and limited financial resources and sometimes no options at all. The CUS and its universities have been an ongoing concern of the LCA and will continue to be a concern, so long as there is a need for constructive criticism of that agency of the synod.¹¹

#4 - *There seems to be no clear plan for the future other than surviving through the year.* I disagree. At the macro-planning level, the synod has a multi-generational plan called our “Constitution and Bylaws.” These set out our ongoing “business priorities,” their rationale, and how to accomplish those priorities. We are unlike a business corporation that must reinvent a business plan every year. The current members of synod inherited a mega-plan from their forefathers, revise it a bit at each convention via Constitution and Bylaw amendments, and then pass it on to the next generation. At the micro-planning level, each board in the synod and districts does planning for their triennium and reports on those plans and their administration in the triennial Convention Workbook.¹²

Concluding Remarks

Maybe a bit of Lutheran realism is called for here. Jesus created a defective church because the church on earth is composed of defective leaders and defective followers. “Defective” here means that we are all sinners, which includes not only intentional sin, but also negligence and ignorance of all types. There is no perfect church on this earth. There is no perfect congregation on this earth. There are no perfect church leaders or pastors. We are all “dysfunctional” in some way. Churches, congregations, church leaders, or

The *Lutheran Clarion*—We Need Your Help!

The *Lutheran Clarion* is beginning year 15. We have NO paid staff or writers. We unabashedly strive to present and uphold God’s inerrant word. Inflation has now taken hold. We want our readers to be informed about issues that will face the 2023 Synod Convention!



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!!**

pastors who claim they are perfect, or who give that impression in some way, are liars (1 John 1:8-10). Just think! If laymen, pastors, congregations, and church-bodies were perfect, there would be no need for church governance, structure, or supervision of any type. Governing bodies, such as the national and district organizations of the synod, are necessary to control and reduce the effects of sin and “dysfunction” in the church.

Martin Luther clearly saw this as he was criticizing the papacy. In the Smalcald Articles, to which all our pastors subscribe without reservations or conditions, Luther said most brilliantly:

[T]he church cannot be better governed and maintained than by having all of us live under one head, Christ, and by having all the bishops equal in office (however they may differ in gifts) and diligently joined together in unity of doctrine, faith, sacraments, prayers, works of love, etc. So St. Jerome writes that the priests of Alexandria governed the churches together and in common. The apostles did the same, and after them all the bishops throughout Christendom, until the pope raised his head over them all (SA II, iv, 9).¹³

Notice what Luther sees as the primary work of the bishops or those who govern the church, i.e., that they be “diligently joined together in unity of doctrine, faith, sacraments, prayers, works of love, etc.” “Diligently” refers to work, lots of it, and with careful attention paid to that work.

“Unity of doctrine, etc.” is declared to be our synod’s number one objective (Const. III.1), because C.F.W. Walther and his peers knew that Luther’s Smalcald Articles said that this is the primary work of church leadership. In the next generation, Francis Pieper delivered a brilliant essay in 1888 on “Unity of Faith,” which said the same thing and applied it to the late nineteenth century.¹⁴ Countless examples could be given since 1888 of Missouri Synod laymen, pastors, board members, and church officers who have diligently worked to keep our church joined together in “unity of doctrine, faith, sacraments, prayers [i.e., private prayer and corporate worship], works of love, etc.” So long as we attend to

that “unity of doctrine, etc.” work, we won’t be perfect, but we will be as good as it gets this side of heaven.

The Rev. Martin R. Noland, Ph.D.

Pastor of Grace Lutheran Church, San Mateo, California

1. See Charles Mueller, Jr., “Be the Change”, April 22, 2022; found at: <https://congregationsmatter.org/be-the-change/>; accessed 21 September 2022.
2. Ibid.
3. See Charles Mueller, Jr., “All Ministry is Local,” April 22, 2022; found at: <https://congregationsmatter.org/all-ministry-is-local-ministry/>; accessed 21 September 2022.
4. For a copy of synod’s constitution and bylaws, etc., see: <https://files.lcms.org/wl/?id=622o1a7jkbSfiiRa7Giq4ZVBxUmMlkPS>; accessed 22 September 2022.
5. For easily accessed review of the synod’s work since 2011, you can look at two resources online. First, the *Lutheran Witness* has published an annual “State of the Synod” report in these issues: May 2011, Sept. 2012, Sept. 2013, Nov. 2014, Nov. 2015, Nov. 2016, Nov. 2017, Nov. 2018, and Nov. 2019, which can be found here: <https://witness.lcms.org/>. Second, you can see the synod’s published Annual Reports for fiscal years 2018, 2019, 2020, and 2021, which can be found here: <https://files.lcms.org/folder/annual-reports>. The latter reports include both detailed financial data and other written reports from officers and boards. Other official reports and information may be found in LCMS Convention Workbooks found here: <https://www.lcms.org/convention/national/archives>. All websites in this note were accessed 22 September 2022.
6. For the Lutheran Hour Ministries, see: <https://www.lhm.org>; for the LWML, i.e., the Lutheran Women’s Missionary League, see: <https://www.lwml.org>; both accessed 22 September 2022.
7. For Concordia Publishing House, see: www.cph.org; accessed 22 September 2022.
8. See the *Reporter* 48 no. 8 (August 2022) and *Reporter* 48 no. 9 (September 2022), whose articles are available at <https://reporter.lcms.org>; accessed 23 September 2022.
9. Gene E. Veith, “How We Lost Lutheran Education in the Missouri Synod,” *The Lutheran Clarion* 2 no. 1 (September 2009):3-4; and Paul Zimmerman, “Don’t Give Away Our Treasures,” *The Lutheran Clarion* 2 no. 2 (November 2009):6, available online here: <https://lutheranclarion.org/images/NewsletterNov2009.pdf>. Most *Lutheran Clarion* issues are available at: <https://lutheranclarion.org/newsletter.html>; accessed 22 September 2022.
10. See Joel Brondos, “As Go the Schools, So Goes the Synod,” *LOGIA: A Journal of Lutheran Theology* 3 no. 3 (Trinity 1994): 81-82 and Martin Noland, “Whither Concordia?” *LOGIA: A Journal of Lutheran Theology* 6 no. 3 (Trinity 1997): 71-72. Both articles can be found online in PDF form for a minimal fee, in their respective issues, at: <https://logia.org/pdf-back-issues>; accessed 22 September 2022.
11. For more *Lutheran Clarion* essays on the CUS, see: Mark Stern’s two-part essay in the May and July 2020 issues at <https://lutheranclarion.org/images/NewsletterMay2020.pdf> and <https://lutheranclarion.org/images/NewsletterJul2020.pdf>; James Runzheimer’s essay in the November 2021 issue at: https://lutheranclarion.org/images/Concordia_Portland_HotChalk.pdf; and my essay in the September 2022 issue at: <https://lutheranclarion.org/images/NewsletterSep2022.pdf>; all webpages accessed 23 September 2022.
12. See note 5 above for the webpage containing our Convention Workbooks.
13. Theodore Tappert, ed., *The Book of Concord* (Philadelphia: Fortress Press, 1959), 300.
14. Franz Pieper, *Unity of Faith (Einigkeit im Glauben): Essay given by Dr. Franz Pieper at the 12th convention of the Ev. Lutheran Synodical Conference held at Milwaukee, August 8-*

14, 1888, translated by the Rev. E. J. Otto (Fort Wayne, IN: Concordia Theological Seminary Press, 1980).

2023 LCA Conference Hotel Reservations

Make your reservation early (only 35 rooms available at the LCA group rate of \$145.00) at the Hilton Garden Inn North, 10650 Diebold Road, Fort Wayne, Indiana 46845. See the conference registration form on



page 7 for the booking link and telephone instructions with the unique group code.

The cut-off date for accepting reservations for the 35 rooms at the contracted group rate is 5:00 pm, December 23, 2022. Reservation requests after this time will be accepted on a space and rate availability basis.

Anyone who wishes to stay at the Hilton Garden Inn North before January 15 or after January 16 should contact the hotel’s reservations (260-399-6000, option #1) or sales department (260-399-6000, option #3) to receive the group rate on the additional nights (if available).

Higher Education: Challenges & Opportunities...

Continued from page 1

entered the secular university teaching profession. An educational system that seeks the formation of individuals as precious gifts of the Creator brought to an understanding of their own ontology, leading to teleology as servant, through a life lived in and under the mercy of Christ with an eschatological hope, is foreign to them.

Our schools must be competitive in academic offerings, and student services. They also must provide for the Christian development of the individual and serve them toward maturation in Christian vocation. This requires a clear proclamation of the Gospel as the underpinning and Dynamo of all activities (Rm 1:16 “dynamis”), including even the more mundane offerings such as the food services, athletics, staff relations, student clubs, safety, personal development and the like. In all this, our schools must be competitive with other academic institutions and yet remain faithful to the mission of the Church, educating the students sub Crucis, in with and under a Christ centered life.

With this ethos, Lutheran identity must be evident in all endeavors, must not be compromised and needs an institution that lives in repentance for its failings and in the Joy of its forgiveness. It is the ontology of the institution that develops the ontology in its students.

The financial tension that exists between providing excellent services by worldly standards and maintaining our sense of self identity and Lutheran ethos is real and can be assaulted in many and various ways. Faculty, staff and students who have not been well catechized

can be an increasing threat to that ethos. Needs grow for academic support from non-Lutherans to teach. We increasingly matriculate students from a variety of backgrounds to help form the fiscally critical mass on campuses. They can bring a whole different set of priorities and a different vision of living. This can be passive or active in its threats.

If we lack certainty as to whose we are and what we are, we may be enticed to take an easier path to avoid conflict, even when that decision may affect clarity of mission. It is asked then should we be in the business of teaching non-Lutherans or have non-Lutheran faculty? Or if the mission is less than ideally exemplified, should we be in the educational business at all? My answer is “yes” on all counts.

Metrics to evaluate the mission are difficult. The effect of the Word, preached and shared in the community is resultant by the Holy Spirit. The effects may not be humanly evident for that generation faithfully sharing that Word. Outcomes may take 600 years to develop, as we see with the Magi. That is all the work of the Holy Spirit. We who have been given faith to share are called to do so with rigor and with as much clarity as we by God’s help can muster. We are not called to produce outcomes but to be faithful.

We must be ever sober and vigilant so that those in charge, the boards of regents, the presidents and administrations, remain committed to being servants for the Church. What is necessary is that these servants offer a robust education grounded in the mercy of Christ so that these young individuals grow in that knowledge. Christian higher education is about helping young individuals discover TRUTH. It is to facilitate students in discovering their own Ontology in Christ, to find out about “who am I” in Christ, how did I get here? And how then shall I live. It is about their Teleology and Eschatology.

In this assault by society and culture, there’s no doubt

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 September 30, 2022, the fund assets were \$24,084.



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.

unfortunately, that the majority of “Christian colleges and universities” are losing or have lost all semblance of a relationship to God as Savior. Their mission statements have devolved from “my life of service under the mercy of Christ” to a vague mission of “moral living” in service to society under the aegis of “social justice philosophy.” The creation of Diversity and Equity committees compete with and work to replace Lutheran catechesis and the gospel exemplified in Christian charity.

How this can happen is exemplified in an article entitled; “With All Your Mind: Higher Education and United Church of Christ” by Steven D. Johnson a minister for higher education and theological education in the local church ministries of the United Church of Christ in Cleveland, Ohio. Starting with the 350th anniversary of the founding of Harvard in 1696, a compiled list reported 66 colleges that had been founded by the United Church of Christ or its ancestral denominations. Education served a social mission and the fulfillment of an intellectual yearning and was perceived to be “*an essential tool to end many of the world’s evils—Poverty and racism central among them. In these colleges, the mindful love of God and love of neighbor were combined in a common mission.*” He goes on to note that of the 66 institutions only 29 of them currently have any relationship with the United Church of Christ and its council for higher education and that ten of these have chosen to be recognized only as “*historical members.*” He found an increasing secularization of church-related higher education and decreasing reliance by the colleges on the Church for the source of students, a decreasing ratio of graduates of the colleges entering the ordained ministry and the desire on the part of college administrations to “*appear thoroughly nondenominational.*”

Johnson also notes that the pressure to appear nondenominational has been immense and as an example mentions that institutions such as the Carnegie pension fund was only available to institutions that could demonstrate their nonsectarian character. He further recognizes the apparent demands of the multicultural, multi-faith community on campus that encourages colleges to assert their distance from organized churches. Of the nineteen colleges that still have some association with the Churches’ council for higher education, he gives examples that their mission statements are all about social service and notes that “*Elmhurst in Elon has deep commitments to an education that stresses civic engagement and service to the community, especially to the poor and the disregarded.*” Rocky Mountain college “*actively upholds the importance of religious faith and the necessity of religious tolerance and free inquiry.*” At Pacific University he states that “*no one on the faculty or Board of Trustees is a member United Church of Christ, neither is the president, although the vice president for academic affairs is.*”

Very few students are members of the United Church of Christ. There are no regularly scheduled services of worship, nor are there required courses of religion, much less the Christian tradition. And despite these discrepancies, he unabashedly says: “*Yet, in an important aspect, the relationship between University and United Church of Christ is very much alive.*” Pacific University has promoted

“The Peace Village” a cooperative venture with the Lincoln City UCC Congregational Church, in Lincoln City, Oregon, to bring children together to learn about nonviolent lifestyles. Pacific faculty and staff teach and assist with administration. The local pastor states: *“We created the peace Village curriculum in response to growing awareness that children in our culture are up against a climate of violence. We wanted to create a peace education program to plant the seeds to help our children deal with it.”* Of the other nineteen, several others are recognized for their work as colleges that promote *“civic engagement and character development.”* He states that *“more conservative critics of church related higher education complained these are not church related institutions at all. They are independent institutions without church control and few have presidents who were members of the Church of Christ, and in no instance do members of the United Church of Christ make up more than half of the Board of Trustees faculty or student bodies.”*

Dr. Munding’s presentation will continue in future issues of the Clarion.

2023 LCA Conference Speakers January 16, 2023

- **Dr. Chris Cody**, The Present and Future of our Lutheran Schools.

Dr. Chris Cody has served as the Education Executive for the South Wisconsin District – LCMS since 2015. In this role, he advocates, equips, and guides the 52 elementary schools, seven high schools, and 23 free standing preschools in the district. Prior to joining the South Wisconsin District, he served as principal at Mt. Olive Lutheran School in Milwaukee (2008-2015), and middle school social studies teacher at St. Peter-Immanuel Lutheran School in Milwaukee (2002-2007). He graduated from Concordia University Wisconsin in 2001 with a B.A. degree. He earned his M.S. from Concordia University Wisconsin in 2005, and his Ed.D. in Administrator Leadership from Walden University in 2010. He and his wife Megan live in Milwaukee and are blessed to have three children.

- **Dr. Russell P. Dawn**, The Present and Future of our Concordia Universities.

Dr. Russell Dawn became the twelfth president of Concordia University Chicago, in 2019. Prior to his current position, Dr. Dawn taught at Concordia University Irvine in California and at Lindenwood University in St. Charles, Missouri. He holds a B.S. in finance from Arizona State University, and a J.D. and MBA from the University of Colorado at Boulder. He received a D.Phil. from Oxford University in England. Dr. Dawn and his family live in the Oak Park-River Forest community. He and his wife Sharon are the proud parents of two daughters.

- **Rev. Dr. Tom J. Egger**, Forming Missouri Synod Pastors: Why and How.

Dr. Thomas J. Egger was inaugurated as the 11th president of Concordia Seminary, Saint Louis, Missouri, in 2021. He has been on the faculty at the Seminary since 2005. Dr. Egger was the pastor at Zion Lutheran Church in Storm Lake, Iowa, from 2000–05, and was a guest instructor at Concordia Lutheran Seminary in Edmonton, Alberta, Canada, in 1999. He completed his Doctor of Philosophy at Concordia Seminary in 2019. He is the author of numerous articles, especially in the areas of Biblical theology and Lutheran history, and he served on the LCMS drafting committee for the 2017 Luther’s Small Catechism with Explanation. Tom and his wife, Tori, have been blessed with six children and two grandchildren.

- **Rev. Christopher S. Esget**, Local Congregations and the Post-Covid Path Forward.

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, Virginia; they have one son.

- **James D. Runzheimer, Esq.**, The HotChalk v. CU-Portland Case.

Mr. Runzheimer is a licensed and practicing attorney and certified accountant in Arlington, Texas. Mr. Runzheimer received his law degree from the New England School of Law in 1977. Prior to entering private practice of law in Texas, he was a supervising tax specialist with the international accounting firm of Coopers & Lybrand in Boston (1977 to 1979). In June 2021, he was elected to serve a six-year term as the lay-at-large director for the LCMS Texas District board of directors. His service to the Texas District and the Synod also includes being a delegate to the 2012, 2018, and 2021 Texas District Conventions and the 2013 and 2019 Synodical Conventions.

- **Rev. Dr. John Wille**, What Lutheran Churches with Lutheran-Style Worship can do in the Realm of Evangelism and Outreach.

Dr. Wille has been President of the South Wisconsin District since 2006. He 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 sixteen years; he was founding pastor of Good Shepherd Lutheran, Tomah, Wisconsin. 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 43 years. They are blessed with three daughters and six grandchildren.

LUTHERAN CONCERNS ASSOCIATION ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Monday, January 16, 2023

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

The conference will be held Monday, January 16, 2023, at the Hilton Garden Inn Fort Wayne North, 10650 Diebold Road, Fort Wayne, Indiana 46845; 260-399-6000. The Hilton Garden Inn rate is \$145.00/night plus tax. To get this rate, make your room reservation by 5:00 p.m. on December 23, 2022. The Group Code (by phone) is LUTH. The link to the hotel is <https://tinyurl.com/2fzkekz6j>

Dine with the Speakers and the LCA Board of Directors! On Sunday and Monday evenings a private dining room at the Hilton Garden 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 Soup, Salad & Sandwich Buffet will be provided at 11:50 am, for everyone registered for the full day. If you register for a half day and you want the lunch, the cost is \$32. Seminary students and seminary personnel will pay \$10 for the lunch.

Schedule: Christian Education in Challenging Times

Morning

- 6:45 am: Registration Opens
- 7:30 am - 8:10 am: Bible Study (**Rev. James Gier**)
- 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 the Indiana District.
- 8:30 am - 9:00 am: **President Thomas Egger**, “Forming Missouri Synod Pastors: Why and How.”
- 9:00 am - 9:15 am: Questions and Answers
- 9:15 am - 9:45 am: **President Russell Dawn**, “The Present and Future of our Concordia Universities.”
- 9:45 am - 10:00 am: Questions and Answers
- 10:00 am - 10:30 am: **Dr. Chris Cody**, “The Present and Future of our Lutheran Schools.”
- 10:30 am - 10:45 am: Questions and Answers
- 10:45 am - 11:00 am ***** Break *****
- 11:00 am - 11:45 am: Panel Discussion on Christian Education (morning speakers).
- 11:45 am - 11:50 am: Announcements.

11:50 am - 1:00 pm ***** Lunch *****
Soup, Salad & Sandwich Buffet served in meeting room.

Afternoon

- 1:00 pm - 1:30 pm: **Mr. James Runzheimer, Esq.**, “The HotChalk v. CU-Portland Case.”
- 1:30 pm - 1:45 pm: Questions and Answers
- 1:45 pm - 2:15 pm - **Rev. Dr. John Wille**, “What Lutheran Churches with Lutheran-Style Worship can do in the Realm of Evangelism and Outreach.”
- 2:15 pm - 2:30 pm: Questions and Answers
- 2:30 pm - 3:00 pm: **Rev. Chris Esget**, “Local Congregations and the Post-Covid Path Forward.”
- 3:00 pm - 3:15 pm: Questions and Answers
- 3:15 pm - 3:30 pm ***** Break *****
- 3:30 pm - 4:20 pm: **Panel Discussion** on Parish and Synod Matters (afternoon speakers)
- 4:20 pm - 4:30 pm: Closing Remarks and Prayer
- 6:30 pm: Dinner



2023 LCA Conference Registration Form

Hilton Garden Inn Fort Wayne North • 10650 Diebold Road • Fort Wayne, IN 46845 • 260-399-6000

Printed Name _____

Address _____

Phone Number _____ Email Address _____

Dinner: Sunday, January 15, 6:30pm (choose one entrée) *

- Vegetable Rotini \$32.00
- Chicken Roma \$47.00
- Pork Tenderloin \$47.00

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

- Vegetable Rotini \$32.00
- Chicken Marsala \$37.00
- New York Strip Steak \$60.00

* Prices include tax and tip.

Annual LCA membership fee (\$60) 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. Soup, _____

Salad & Sandwich Buffet (\$10) enclosed _____

Half-day Conference Soup, Salad & Sandwich Buffet (\$32) enclosed. _____

Dinner Sun, Jan 15, 6:30 pm (\$32 or \$47) enclosed. _____

Dinner Mon, Jan 16, 6:30 pm (\$32, \$37 or \$60) 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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New Kensington, PA 15068-4921

Editorial Board: Mr. Walter Dissen (Chairman)
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).

The Board of Directors for the LCA:

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Lutheran Concerns Association
November 2022



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