

4-15-2022

Collaborative Essays

Kendall Davis

Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, davisk@csl.edu

Aaron Coggins

Concordia Theological Seminary Fort Wayne, coggins.aaron@ctsw.edu

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Recommended Citation

Davis, Kendall and Coggins, Aaron (2022) "Collaborative Essays," *Grapho : Concordia Seminary Student Journal*: Vol. 4: Iss. 1, Article 12.

Available at: <https://scholar.csl.edu/grapho/vol4/iss1/12>

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Collaborative Essays

Kendall Davis

Chairman of the Student Publications Committee, Concordia Seminary St. Louis

Aaron Coggins

Editor of Student Publications, Concordia Theological Seminary Fort Wayne

In the spirit of fellowship, the student journals of Concordia Seminary in St. Louis and Concordia Theological Seminary in Fort Wayne have decided to use their publications as an opportunity for conversation and edification between our two student bodies. As students may have seen, we have begun to distribute each other's journals on our campuses and now in this issue we share a collaborative project we have been working on.

This year marks the five-hundredth anniversary of Martin Luther's translation of the New Testament into his vernacular tongue. But the project of translation did not end there. Every Sunday a faithful Lutheran preacher must also translate the Word of God to his hearers. He must rightly divide the Word of Truth and lay it before his congregation in such a way that it communicates God's Word to hearers situated in a particular time and place. Preaching must coherently and compellingly present the everlasting gospel of Jesus Christ in a contemporary context.

We have asked a student from each of our seminaries to offer some words on how preachers today can engage in this task intentionally and creatively. We envision this pair of essays as being like a micro-conference in print, the beginning of a conversation on how to preach the Gospel of Jesus faithfully and compellingly to a world in need of it. We hope that students will continue the conversation begun here among themselves and well into the future. Certainly as future preachers of the message of salvation we cannot learn enough from each other about how to preach this message to the world around us.

The essay from CSL fourth-year student Charles Ridley discusses how we can present the *content* of the gospel in our contemporary context. His essay draws on the research of missiologist Jayson Georges to lay out a program for preaching the one gospel under three different cultural frameworks: guilt/innocence, honor/shame and fear/power cultures. In this way our preaching can speak to the whole experience of the human person. CTSFW fourth-year Ethan Stoppenhagen explores how preachers can attend to the *style* of their preaching by immersing themselves in their literary tradition. He argues that the gospel is best presented when situated within the vast literary tradition that the present age stands heir to. We thank both writers for their contributions and hope you will benefit from these essays as we have.