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THEOLOGICAL OBSERVER

BRIEF ITEMS FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC RELATIONS THE LUTHERAN CHURCH— MISSOURI SYNOD

MISSOURI SYNOD OPENS FAR EAST DEAF MISSION

St. Louis.—The Rev. William F. Reinking, former executive secretary of the Synod's Board for Missions to the Deaf, was commissioned February 23 as counselor for deaf missions in the Far East.

From a base of operations in Hong Kong, Pastor Reinking will direct mission work among the deaf in Japan, Taiwan, the Philippines, Korea, and Hong Kong. Plans call for training missionaries in these areas to use sign language as a means of communication with the deaf.

The 35-year-old missionary estimates there are 250,000 deaf persons in the Far East countries where he will be at work. He made a comprehensive study of the field in 1960 when he made an exploratory trip under the sponsorship of deaf Lutherans in the U.S. and Canada.

At the present time the Missouri Synod lists 5,000 communicants in its deaf mission churches, and its staff of missionaries ministers to 15,000 deaf adults and children each month.

Pastor Reinking departed with his wife and children on March 2 to make their home in Hong Kong.

PROJECT DIRECTOR CHOSEN FOR LUTHERAN WORLD'S FAIR EXHIBIT

New York.—A former pastor in New York's Chinatown has been named project director for the Lutheran exhibit at the New York World's Fair. He is the Rev. Louis T. Buchheimer of Wantagh, Long Island, who most recently has been a pastor at Lutheran service centers for military personnel in the

Philippines and in Norfolk, Va. His appointment was announced by the Rev. Norman Temme, chairman of the All-Lutheran Steering Committee.

The 66-year-old clergyman will begin his duties immediately. He will be responsible for supervising and coordinating the activities at the 1964-65 fair that are shared in by the Lutheran Church in America, The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, and The American Lutheran Church. The most prominent Lutheran project is the display featuring the electronic "color organ" through which a Christian message is transmitted using brilliant light, color, motion, and sound. Pastor Buchheimer will also coordinate the program-publicity and finance areas of Lutheran participation at the World's Fair.

After the official opening of the World's Fair on April 22, 1964, Rev. Buchheimer will have his headquarters at the Lutheran Exhibit in the Protestant and Orthodox Center at the Fair. Meanwhile he is making his headquarters at his home at 953 White Birch Lane, Wantagh, Long Island, N. Y.

During the past four years until his retirement on December 31, 1963, Pastor Buchheimer was director of service centers for the Lutheran Service Commission, which provides a spiritual ministry to military personnel and their families. For 23 years he was the pastor of True Light Lutheran Church in New York City's Chinatown, and for 17 years the pastor of Grace Lutheran Church in the Bronx. He is a pastor of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod.

BRIEF ITEMS FROM THE NATIONAL LUTHERAN COUNCIL

LUTHER'S WILL TO BE KEPT IN HUNGARIAN STATE ARCHIVES

Budapest.—Martin Luther's will, one of the most precious historical documents owned

by the Hungarian Evangelical Church, will be kept in the state archives here.

Executed in 1542, four years before the Reformer's death at Eisleben, the testament is written in a neat, legible hand. It has been kept in the archives of the church here since 1815, when it was received from a Roman Catholic collector "as a token of interconfessional good will."

The document was lost during the Polish-Prussian war and turned up in the possession of a German family named Carpzow. When the last male Carpzow died in 1803, the family estate was sold at auction.

There a Catholic collector, a Hungarian named Jankovich, acquired the will for 40 guldens. Twelve years later he presented it to the Lutheran Church.

POLES PLAN LUTHER'S WORKS IN SEVEN-VOLUME EDITION

Zurich, Switzerland. — A seven-volume Polish edition of Martin Luther's works, now under preparation, is expected to be ready in about two years, a prominent Lutheran theologian of that country said here on Feb. 4.

In a lecture at the Rüşchlikon Baptist Seminary, Prof. Wiktor Niemczyk, rector of the Christian Theological Academy in Warsaw, said the edition was one of several literary gifts that Polish Protestants plan to present to their nation when it celebrates its 1000th anniversary in 1966.

LUTHERAN WORK IN TANGANYIKA UNHARMED DURING DISTURBANCE

Geneva. — Lutheran churches and missions in Tanganyika did not suffer any harm during the recent military disturbance in that country, according to word received at Lutheran World Federation headquarters here.

Reassurance was expressed in a cable received by the federation's Department of World Mission from Bishop Stefano R. Moshi, head of the Evangelical Lutheran

Church in Tanganyika and a vice-president of the LWF.

He said the church and its workers had not been adversely affected by the protest threat of the armed forces.

Lutherans in Tanganyika last year constituted the 400,000-member ELCT by uniting seven regional churches, developed on as many mission fields. Presently associated with the churches in the Lutheran work in that country are some 16 mission agencies of Germany, Norway, Sweden, Denmark, Finland, the Netherlands, the United States, and Canada.

FORMER "LUTHERAN WITNESS" EDITOR DIES AT 78

St. Louis. — Dr. Lorenz F. Blankenbuehler, former editor of the *Lutheran Witness*, the official publication of The Lutheran Church — Missouri Synod, died here Feb. 21 at the age of 78. Funeral services were conducted at Concordia Seminary Feb. 24, and interment took place in Webster City, Iowa.

Prior to serving as editor of the *Lutheran Witness* 1952—60, Dr. Blankenbuehler headed the editorial department of Concordia Publishing House 1941—52. Earlier he had taught for 30 years, first as professor of English at Concordia Academy, Portland, Oreg., 1911—1921, and then as professor of English and World Literature at Concordia College, St. Paul, Minn., 1921—1941.

For almost 30 years Dr. Blankenbuehler was affiliated with the Intersynodical Committee on Hymnology and Liturgics, which produced *The Lutheran Hymnal*, currently in use by more than 3,000,000 Lutherans throughout the world. He was also an authority on early American literature and wrote a doctoral dissertation on "Religious Elements in the Early American Novel."

A 1911 graduate of Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, Dr. Blankenbuehler received an M.A. degree from the University of Oregon in 1921 and continued doctoral studies at

the University of Minnesota and the University of Chicago.

He is survived by his widow, the former Elsie Pieper, a daughter, Mrs. Albert Hoelter of Madison, Wis., and a son, the Rev. Lorenz W. Blankenbuehler of Hampton, Va.

CONCORDIA SEMINARY PROFESSOR DIES AT 34

St. Louis.—Death claimed the fifth young man in a decade from the faculty of Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, when Prof. Walter W. Oetting passed away suddenly on Feb. 24. Death was due to a brain tumor and came less than three days after the 34-year-old professor was hospitalized.

A 1955 graduate of Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, Professor Oetting held a B.A. degree from Valparaiso University, Valparaiso, Ind., and an M.A. degree from Washington University, St. Louis. He joined the Seminary staff as an assistant professor in Historical Theology in 1959 after serving Christ Church in St. Joseph, Mich., for four years. His first book, *Heirs of the Apostles*, will be released in the near future, Concordia Publishing House has announced.

Surviving are his widow, the former Rose Marie Leininger, and three sons: Robert, Mark, and Gregory.

VALPARAISO UNIVERSITY NAMES NEW DEAN OF CHAPEL

Valparaiso, Ind.—Dr. Wm. A. Buege, pastor of Christ Lutheran Church, Minneapolis, Minn., and a member of the Board of Directors of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod has accepted an appointment as the first full-time dean of the chapel of our Valparaiso University, President O. P. Kretzmann has announced. He will take up his new duties early in May. A 1936 graduate of Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, Dr. Buege was pastor of Christ Church since 1946.

Previously he served parishes in Milwaukee, Wis., Carthage and St. Joseph, Mo., and was chaplain for three years in the South Pacific.

A prominent preacher and lecturer, Dr. Buege has written two books: *The Cross of Christ* and *Preaching with Power*.

In 1959 he was elected to the Missouri Synod's Board of Directors and named to Valparaiso University's national advisory board. Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, conferred an honorary D. D. on him in 1960.

LUTHERANS RECEIVE TWO FREEDOMS FOUNDATION AWARDS

St. Louis.—Freedoms Foundation Awards have been designated for a Lutheran television program, and for a Lutheran sermon on freedom. The Lutheran television program "THIS IS THE LIFE" received its ninth consecutive award, thus being singled out to establish a Freedoms Foundation award record.

The award for "distinguished service" was made to the TV program in recognition of the story "What Greater Glory," which depicted the irreconcilable difference between atheistic communism and biblical Christianity.

The Rev. Adolph R. Meyer, Missouri Synod pastor of Bethlehem Church and campus pastor, Warrensburg, Mo., was cited for his sermon "American Freedom Is God-given." His sermon was nominated for the award by Radio Station KOKO, Warrensburg, which has been broadcasting his sermons for five years.

The awards are made every year with the "objective of honoring citizens for outstanding efforts to improve public understanding and appreciation of the basic constitutional right, freedom, and corresponding responsibility inherent in the American way of life through things they write, or do, or say."