

Concordia Theological Monthly

Volume 35

Article 36

6-1-1964

Theological Observer

Unknown

Concordia Seminary, St. Louis

Follow this and additional works at: <https://scholar.csl.edu/ctm>



Part of the [Practical Theology Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

Unknown (1964) "Theological Observer," *Concordia Theological Monthly*. Vol. 35, Article 36.

Available at: <https://scholar.csl.edu/ctm/vol35/iss1/36>

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the Print Publications at Scholarly Resources from Concordia Seminary. It has been accepted for inclusion in Concordia Theological Monthly by an authorized editor of Scholarly Resources from Concordia Seminary. For more information, please contact seitzw@csl.edu.

THEOLOGICAL OBSERVER

BRIEF ITEM FROM THE LUTHERAN CHURCH—MISSOURI SYNOD

LUTHERAN UNIVERSITY TO ERECT SCIENCE CENTER

Valparaiso, Ind.—Officials at Valparaiso University have voted to proceed with plans for erecting a \$1.2 million building to house facilities for the biology and chemistry departments and for a new nursing school. The unit will be the first portion of a science center which will later also house the mathematics and physics departments and some psychology laboratories. Total cost is estimated at \$3 million.

The unit will be designed for a student body estimated to reach 4,000 in the near future. The university is affiliated with The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod.

Impetus for planning the science center was provided by a family which initiated a fund for the project. Government funds will also be used if they become available, according to Dr. T. C. Schwan, head of the planning committee. Applications for funds will also be made to various foundations and industries.

"It is hoped that ground will be broken for construction this year," Dr. Schwan said. Preliminary sketches have been made.

BRIEF ITEMS FROM THE NATIONAL LUTHERAN COUNCIL

"DYNAMIC DIALOG" REPORTED BETWEEN LUTHERANS, CATHOLICS

New York.—Lutherans and Roman Catholics are entering into a "dynamic dialog" that participants believe is having a "positive effect upon individual relationships and the life and work of the universal church," it was reported here by the National Lutheran Council.

The NLC study tempered this enthusiastic appraisal with the observation that the climate which has fostered interconfessional conversations is not being exploited to its full potential.

There are, it said, "large areas within the Lutheran Church where little or no conversation with the Roman Catholics has been experienced."

Scores of reports, it noted, indicate that "no Lutheran-Roman Catholic dialog is presently being conducted, and many of these strongly imply that none is desired."

Reluctance on the part of Lutherans is not always the major obstacle, the study added, "but is often to be attributed to a serious lack of openness among the Roman Catholics."

In some areas, especially on the West Coast, it said, the conservative position of the Roman Catholic clergy has hindered the full-scale development of interconfessional talks.

At the same time a number of campus pastors said that divisions between the Lutheran groups are often a greater hindrance to fruitful dialog than the traditional Lutheran-Roman Catholic divisions.

In some areas also, according to the study, there is a feeling that interconfessional talks must be entirely confidential in nature and should avoid publicity lest the participants be accused by members of their congregation of a "return to Romanism."

The report was prepared by the Department of Theological Cooperation in the National Lutheran Council's Division of Lutheran World Federation Affairs. Secretary of the department is the Rev. Virgil R. Westlund, who authored the survey.

Mr. Westlund stressed that his study was by no means comprehensive, being limited to seminary faculties and students, college

and university campuses, and ministerial groups.

He said recommendations urging further efforts in the direction of serious theologically-oriented interconfessional conversations, particularly with Roman Catholics, will be presented for implementation to the Division of LWF Affairs.

(In Rome, on March 8, Pope Paul VI called for a "dialog" between Roman Catholics and Protestants with the aim of finding common ground. The Pontiff said the Roman Catholic desire for reunion with Protestantism is more alive today than ever, "imploring, patient, prayerful." He spoke at a mass in St. Peter's Basilica to commemorate the 400th anniversary of the end of the Council of Trent.)

The NLC report said the stimulation provided by the ecumenical vision of the late Pope John XXIII and the further impetus of the Second Vatican Council have resulted in a "phenomenal proliferation" of conversations between Roman Catholics and Protestants that is "unprecedented in the history of Protestant-Roman Catholic relations."

Lutherans and Roman Catholics, it said, are "exploring their difference in faith and practice, and even more encouragingly, discovering their oneness in Christ which transcends a centuries old disunity."

"Learning to discuss, with each other, the theological issues of the Christian faith, they are beginning to face together the challenge of expressing the Gospel relevantly in the modern world," the study declared.

Topics considered, in formal papers or informal discussions, include "Current Trends in Protestantism and Catholicism," "The Implications of Modern Biblical Research for Catholics and Protestants," "How the Church Understands Mary," "The Nature of the Church," "What Is a Member in Good Standing?" "The Nature and Meaning of Worship," "The Doctrine of the Lord's Supper," "The Role of Private Confession in the

Church," "The Nature of the Ministry," "The Significance of Tradition," "Authority in the Church," "The Concepts of Episcopacy," "The Reformation and Its Consequences," "Theology of the Eucharist," and "Biblical Studies."

While the great majority of Lutheran seminary professors are involved in Protestant interdenominational talks, the report said, conversations with Roman Catholics "appear to be less numerous."

Many faculty members have established warm personal relationships with Roman Catholic professors, it added, but there are few regularly scheduled, formally organized meetings.

An exception is an effort currently being made by the Maywood, Ill., Campus of the Lutheran School of Theology to initiate informal but serious theological discussions with Roman Catholic faculties in the vicinity. One meeting has been held with Jesuits at Marquette University in Milwaukee, and one round of exchange visits with the Dominican Fathers at River Forest, Ill., has been completed.

Theological students, according to the report, have shown "particular eagerness" for contact with Roman Catholic students "and a genuine desire to exchange viewpoints and opinions with them." Students at Luther Seminary in St. Paul, Minn., it said, have held an annual meeting with a group from St. John's Abbey in Collegeville, Minn., and similar sessions with Roman Catholics have been held by students at Gettysburg (Pa.) Seminary and at Maywood.

"In every school where these visits have been held," Mr. Westlund commented, "the students have experienced a profound sense of Christian unity and love which, to their amazement, transcends the traditional theological barriers which separate them."

The report revealed that among college and university students by far the greatest amount of interconfessional dialog takes

place on state university campuses. The reason for this, it explained, is the fact that on state campuses the widest variety of interdenominational backgrounds is represented among the students.

On the other hand, it said, not a single Lutheran college reported conversations of the nature being conducted at state universities. This was said to be due to the "relatively monolithic character of the student body with respect to religious conviction" and also to the location of a number of Lutheran schools in areas where the Roman Catholic population is small and affords few opportunities for discourse.

Conversations held specifically between Lutheran and Roman Catholic students on state college campuses "have also flourished." Examples cited included discussions conducted by students connected with the Wisconsin Lutheran Student Foundation in Milwaukee and students at Marquette University, between students at Western Michigan University and Kalamazoo (Mich.) College, between students in the Boston area, and at the University of Texas.

LUTHER SEMINARY TO JOIN ARCHAEOLOGICAL PROJECT

Princeton, N. J. — Luther Theological Seminary in St. Paul, Minn., will be associated with the first archaeological expedition to Hebron, the first capital city of Biblical King David, it was announced here.

Dr. Philip C. Hammond, professor at Princeton Theological Seminary, will direct the expedition, which will begin its excavation work on July 15 and continue through Sept. 15.

Representing Luther Seminary will be Dr. Robert H. Boyd, professor of Old Testament, with special interest in the areas of language, history, and exegesis. He has been teaching at Luther since 1942.

Also associated in the expedition are Princeton Seminary, the University of South-

ern California, Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, and Virginia Theological Seminary.

Biblical Hebron is the traditional burial place of the Patriarchs of Israel. The opening of the site, never before excavated, marks one of the most important archaeological projects ever undertaken in the Holy Land, according to Dr. Hammond.

Now known as El-Khalil, the ancient city has played a strategic role in the history of the area from very early times. Almost certainly occupied before the era of Biblical Patriarchs, Hebron rose to a second period of importance during the seven and one-half year reign of David, and was a major holy place in the time of Herod the Great. During the reign of Hadrian, Hebron became a leading market town, and during the time of the Crusades it was an important fortress of the Latin Kingdom. Falling to Muslim control, Hebron continued to be revered as a major holy place of Islam, and the village continued as an important agricultural center.

In addition to the associating institutions, support for the expedition will come from foundations and other sources, private patrons, and the courtesy of His Majesty, King Hussein of The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan.

LUTHERANS SOON TO ISSUE SERVICE BOOK IN SPANISH

Chicago. — The final phase of editorial work for the publication of *Culto Cristiano*, a new Spanish-language book of Lutheran worship and hymns, has been completed.

This was reported here by Dr. William G. Arbaugh, editor and chairman of the Spanish Hymnal Committee, which is composed of representatives of the three major Lutheran church bodies in the United States.

Completed, he said, were proofreading, corrections, and paste-up of pages for both the text and the 412 hymns which will appear in the 760-page book. An announce-

ment of the publication date is expected by early May.

Work on a companion volume, *Ritual Cristiano*, a 154-page occasional service and altar book for ministers, also has been finished. Dr. Arbaugh said 25,000 copies of the hymnal and 1,500 copies of the altar book will be printed.

The two volumes are designed for Spanish-speaking congregations in North, Central, and South America. They will have matching styling and bindings and the same page size as the *Service Book and Hymnal* used by the participating church bodies of the National Lutheran Council.

Dr. Arbaugh, pastor of a two-congregation parish in Middlebury, Ind., made his report at a dinner meeting of the board of trustees of Publicaciones El Escudo, which will publish the two works.

The inter-Lutheran corporation was established for joint sponsorship of major publications in Spanish and represents the two NLC bodies — The American Lutheran Church and the Lutheran Church in America — and The Lutheran Church — Missouri Synod.

In his report, Dr. Arbaugh noted that the Spanish Hymnal Committee was created in September 1955 by a number of church bodies which, through mergers, now form the LCA, ALC, or LC—MS. Work on the books formally began in February 1956.

Describing *Culto Cristiano* as "the most comprehensive liturgical service book and hymnal ever published in Spanish," the editor pointed out it was developed from extensive research embracing many sources.

Specially commended by Dr. Arbaugh for assistance in the task of proofreading were two men from a subcommittee on music and liturgy and two others from a subcommittee on text.

Singled out for recognition for their work on music proofs were Dr. Walter E. Buszin, professor at Concordia Seminary, St. Louis,

Mo., and Dr. U. S. Leupold, professor at Waterloo Lutheran Seminary, Waterloo, Ontario, Canada.

Also lauded were the Rev. Leopoldo Caban, editor and secretary of the LCA Committee on Spanish Publications, and Dr. Andrew Melendez, Spanish editor of the LC—MS Board for Missions in North and South America, for text proofreading.

Dr. R. Dale Lechleitner, chairman of the "El Escudo" board and an associate director of the Board of American Missions of the ALC, presented Dr. Arbaugh with an honorarium and a testimonial scroll after citing the importance and lauding the "high quality" of the work.

At the time of his selection as editor, Dr. Arbaugh was secretary of the Latin American Division of the Board of American Missions of the United Lutheran Church in America, a post he held from 1945 to 1958. Before assuming the ULCA post, he served as a missionary in Puerto Rico for 17 years.

He has predicted that within a generation 250,000 persons would be using the book because Spanish is steadily replacing other European languages in many Latin American Lutheran congregations.

LUTHERAN NAMED TO STAFF OF URBAN TRAINING CENTER

Chicago.—Dr. Richard H. Luecke, Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod campus pastor at Princeton University, has been named director of studies at the new interdenominational Urban Training Center for Christian Mission here.

Dr. Luecke will assume his new duties early in June, according to Dr. C. Kilmer Myers, executive director of the center and former vicar of the Chapel of the Intercession of New York City's Trinity Episcopal Parish.

The center, a project in which Lutherans and nine other denominations are cooperating, will launch in September a broad program designed to train and equip ministers

and laymen in meeting today's urban challenges.

Dr. Luecke, one of four men named recently to the center's staff, has been a campus pastor and pastor of Princeton's Lutheran Church of the Messiah for the last nine years.

Also appointed to the center's staff was the Rev. J. Archie Hargraves of New York, secretary for the urban church, Division of Church Extension, United Church Board for Homeland Ministries of the United Church of Christ. He will join the center in April as director of mission development, Dr. Myers said.

Named as Mr. Hargraves' associate was the Rev. Carl Siegenthaler, a Presbyterian minister currently serving as director of the Welfare Planning Council of Los Angeles County in California. He is to join the staff in June.

Dr. Myers said that Dr. Nils T. Carpenter, an Episcopal clergyman who was head of the department of sociology at the University at Buffalo at the time of his retirement, will join the staff in April as research librarian.

Last October the center's 18-member board of directors adopted a \$225,000 budget for 1964-65, its first full year of operation.

The center will conduct courses ranging from one to nine months in duration, hold seminars and supervise field work for clergy and laymen to relate the work of the Christian church to the problems of large metropolitan areas.

The participating church bodies of the National Lutheran Council—The American Lutheran Church and the Lutheran Church in America—are member bodies of the center. The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod supports the center as a nonmember participant. Six Lutherans serve on the board of directors.

Other member denominations are the Reformed Church in America, The Evangelical United Brethren Church, American Baptist Convention, United Church of Christ, Protestant Episcopal Church, Church of God

(Anderson, Ind.), Mennonite Church, The General Conference Mennonite Church, and the Presbyterian Church in the U.S.

LAYMAN TO SERVE NLC AS OBSERVER AT UN

New York.—A Lutheran layman with an extensive background in civic, business, and government affairs has been named a volunteer observer at the United Nations for the National Lutheran Council's Division of Public Relations.

The layman is Arthur B. Gunnarson of Scarsdale, N.Y., a retired executive of the National Association of Accountants.

In making the announcement, Dr. Philip A. Johnson, executive secretary of the division, noted that Mr. Gunnarson's service will supplement that of the present nongovernment observer, Mrs. Alice B. Knubel of New Rochelle, N.Y.

Mr. Gunnarson, a member of Redeemer Lutheran Church in Scarsdale and a former member of its church council, has served in numerous capacities in several church organizations over a period of many years. Last August he attended sessions of the Fourth Assembly of the Lutheran World Federation in Helsinki, Finland.

Mr. Gunnarson's previous positions in business and educational circles involved extensive travel throughout the United States, many speaking engagements before business and civic groups, and numerous contacts with members of Congress and government officials.

Mrs. Knubel, whose volunteer service as a UN observer began in 1962, also serves in a wide variety of church and civic organizations.

Her husband was Dr. Frederick R. Knubel, pastor for many years in Rochester, N.Y., and president of the United Lutheran Church in America's Synod of New York and New England from 1944 to his death in 1957.

LOS ANGELES CHOSEN SITE FOR NLC'S 1965 MEETING

New York.—For the first time in its history, the National Lutheran Council next year will convene on the West Coast.

Los Angeles, it was announced here, has been selected as the site for the NLC's 47th annual meeting, to be held February 8—10, 1965. The "City of Angels" was the unanimous choice of the executive committee at its recent meeting in Chicago.

Now under consideration is a proposal to establish a new cooperative agency to succeed the NLC. To be known as the Lutheran Council in the United States of America, it would begin to function in 1967 if approved by the Lutheran Church in America, The American Lutheran Church, The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, and the Synod of Evangelical Lutheran Churches. The LCA and ALC are members of the present Council.

LUTHERAN SERVICE CENTERS ATTRACT RECORD 437,611

Washington, D. C.—More military personnel attended Lutheran service centers during 1963 than in any other year since the Lutheran Service Commission was established in 1951, it was reported here.

According to an annual statistical summary compiled by the LSC, the 1963 attendance reached 437,611 at Lutheran service centers and congregational programs receiving support from the cooperative Lutheran agency.

LWR NAMES MO. SYNOD PASTOR AS A DIRECTOR

New York.—The board of directors of Lutheran World Relief, the overseas material aid agency of the National Lutheran Council and The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, has been expanded from eight to nine members.

Elected as the board's ninth member at a meeting of directors here in March was the

Rev. William F. Bruening, pastor of Christ Lutheran Church in Washington, D. C.

Bernard A. Confer, executive secretary of LWR, said Mr. Bruening was elected for a two-year term ending in January 1966. The expansion is the first since 1955, when board membership was increased from six to eight.

Mr. Bruening is a member of the board of directors of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. He has been pastor of the Washington church for the past 19 years and was pastor of Redeemer Lutheran Church in the Bronx for 15 years.

Lutheran World Relief serves the two participating church bodies of the NLC—The American Lutheran Church and the Lutheran Church in America—and the LC—MS Board of World Relief.

LUTHERAN STUDENTS LEARN ABOUT U. S. GOVERNMENT

Washington, D. C.—The Washington Seminar for Lutheran Students drew a record 197 collegians and seminarians to the nation's capital for a close look at government during Holy Week.

The young adults were from 24 states, Australia, Norway, and Spain. They represented six Lutheran seminaries, 19 Lutheran colleges and universities, nine non-Lutheran schools, a Lutheran deaconess school, and a Lutheran school of nursing.

About a fourth of the group also took part in a one-day extension of the seminar held at the United Nations in New York following the sessions in Washington, March 22 to 25.

Church body affiliation as indicated by the students was: The American Lutheran Church, 90; Lutheran Church in America, 56; The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, 45; Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod, 2; and four students from non-Lutheran churches.

The public relations units of the National

Lutheran Council and The Lutheran Church — Missouri Synod sponsor the annual seminars.

STRESSES ECUMENICAL PURPOSES OF LUTHERAN RESEARCH CENTER

Strasbourg, France. — Interconfessional studies which are to be carried on here under international Lutheran auspices are intended to serve all of Christianity and the whole ecumenical movement, Roman Catholic, Reformed, and Lutheran church men were told at a reception in mid-March.

This assurance was given by the chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Lutheran Foundation for Inter-Confessional Research, Bishop Herman Dietzfelbinger of Munich, Germany, who gave the reception on the occasion of a three-day meeting here of the board. It was the board's second meeting since the foundation was set up last year by authorization of the Lutheran World Federation's Helsinki Assembly.

This summer, the Rev. J. Heitz, pastor of the Wolfisheim parish of the Lutheran Church of Alsace and Lorraine, is to assume duties as a research assistant, and on Sept. 1 Dr. Vilmos Vajta, director of the LWF Department of Theology, will become the center's research professor. The 43-year-old Alsatian pastor is currently studying at the University of Heidelberg (Germany) under a Humboldt Foundation scholarship and is a candidate for a doctorate at the University of Neuchatel (Switzerland). Dr. Vajta has held his present post on the federation's Geneva staff since 1953.

LWF JORDAN TRADE SCHOOL TO BEGIN WORK IN APRIL

Beit Hanina, Jordan. — The Lutheran World Federation's new \$500,000 vocational

training center here, under construction since August 1962, will begin functioning in April, a group of European visitors to the nearly-completed institution was told.

Joseph O. Thompson, senior representative of the LWF Department of World Service in the Near East, informed the visitors, who included Princess Karoline of Liechtenstein, that classes in auto mechanics for Arab boys would start early in the month.

In subsequent weeks, he said, LWF/WS will move to the new center the courses in carpentry and metalwork that it has been conducting in more modest workshops on the Mount of Olives since 1950, shortly after the partition of Palestine gave rise to the Arab refugee problem.

STATE OFFICIAL PRAISES LUTHERAN WORK IN SYRIA

Damascus, Syria. — An official of a Syrian government agency paid tribute here to the medical and other services which the Lutheran World Federation is providing to tens of thousands of Arab refugees in this country.

Dr. Rushdi Jabi, director of the Palestinian Arab Refugee Institute, expressed the government's gratitude for the "exemplary" work being carried out in Syria by the LWF Department of World Service through five clinics and other facilities for the health, welfare, and education of the refugees.

His comment was made on the occasion of the visit of a group of representatives of voluntary agencies from Europe whom the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA) was taking on a 10-day group tour of refugee installations in Syria, Jordan, Lebanon, and the Gaza Strip.