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Staff: Editorial

CONCORDIA THEOLOGICAL MONTHLY

Martin Chemnitz' Views on Trent: The Genesis
and the Genius of the *Examen Concilii Tridentini*

ARTHUR CARL PIEPKORN

Current Contributions to Christian Preaching

RICHARD R. CAEMMERER

Homiletics

Book Review

P14835

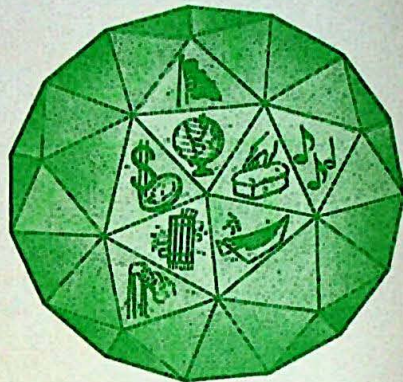
Vol. XXXVII

January 1966

No. 1

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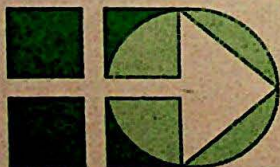
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Staff: Editorial

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Volume XXXVII

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Number 1

The Theological Journal of
THE LUTHERAN CHURCH—MISSOURI SYNOD

Edited by
THE FACULTY OF CONCORDIA SEMINARY
SAINT LOUIS, MISSOURI

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Editorial ✠

A STATEMENT OF EDITORIAL POLICY

CONCORDIA THEOLOGICAL MONTHLY is the theological organ of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. For 35 years it has been edited by the faculty of Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, as its predecessors had been for 75 years before that. The editorial policy states that articles which appear in it "are to be theologically sound, i. e., according to the Scriptures and in conformity with the Lutheran Symbols." The policy also states that "uniformity of opinion or agreement with traditional points of view in such areas as exegesis and the practical application of doctrine shall not be required," provided the articles meet the doctrinal standards mentioned in the first quotation.

The interpretation and application of this policy has been marked by a spirit of creative responsibility on the part of editors and staff. The conservative tone of this journal and its deliberate respect for the past traditions of its own denomination have been carefully maintained. At the same time, articles have been published which questioned traditional positions. A different interpretation of Luke 17:20-21 by Paul M. Bretscher with evident implications for an understanding of the nature of the church appeared in 1950 and 1951. Two articles by Richard R. Caemmerer which asked searching questions about established opinions were "The Melancthonian Blight" (May 1947) and "Theology and Love" (April 1959). Articles by Frederick E. Mayer, August Rehwaldt, James Mayer, Carl S. Meyer, and many others, all of which questioned viewpoints accepted by many in the Synod were read, carefully evaluated in private and group study, and accepted or rejected. Thus the feature articles have not been considered official doctrinal statements of the Synod.

Two further suggestions concerning editorial policy were made by the Synod in 1963. At the suggestion of the Commission on Theology and Church Relations, the Synod in its 1963 Work Program Conference asked this journal to carry articles which examine major theological issues confronting the church throughout the world in order to suggest solutions and to indicate where no final answers are possible at present. The CTCR felt that its own work would be seriously impeded if such study materials were not provided for its constituency. The Commission on Church Literature likewise requested this journal to carry articles which discuss the pros and cons of major trends in Biblical studies.

This journal has endeavored to meet the requests made of it, both in the basic policy directives which control it and in subsequent synodical suggestions. This policy was endorsed by Oliver R. Harms, president of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, in an open letter to the clergy (CTM, XXXVI [June 1965], 357—358). The Synod expressed the hope that its pastors and professors will take part in the continuing study of theological issues so that with the help of the Holy Spirit the greatest possible measure of agreement can be maintained. This broad theological consensus is a long-

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standing characteristic of our denomination. The Synod is investing a sizable sum of money to preserve this consensus in a day when independence with respect to Scripture and confessional traditions and theological disintegration seems to be characteristic of theologians and church bodies. This journal is endeavoring to play a constructive role in this important obligation of the church.

In short, this journal's policy is to promote theological study by providing background articles, tentative solutions to contemporary problems and issues which warrant consideration, and critical evaluations from a Lutheran perspective of matters that relate to the church's work of proclaiming the Gospel to a constantly changing world. It is "not a friend of the church, but a servant of the church. It is to take a position not above or alongside, but in and under the church. It will not serve as an arena for those also whose aim is to attack the church of the true doctrine and its sacred institutions." (Prospectus of the first volume of *Lehre und Wehre*, in *Der Lutheraner*, January 16, 1855)

The staff of

CONCORDIA THEOLOGICAL MONTHLY