

# Concordia Theological Monthly

---

Volume 37

Article 55

---

11-1-1966

## Editorial

Herbert T. Mayer

*Concordia Seminary, St. Louis*

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



Part of the [Religious Thought, Theology and Philosophy of Religion Commons](#)

---

### Recommended Citation

Mayer, Herbert T. (1966) "Editorial," *Concordia Theological Monthly*. Vol. 37, Article 55.

Available at: <https://scholar.csl.edu/ctm/vol37/iss1/55>

This Editorial 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](mailto:seitzw@csl.edu).

# CONCORDIA THEOLOGICAL MONTHLY

---

**The Eclipse of Lutheranism in 17th-Century  
Czechoslovakia**

**MARIANKA SASHA FOUSEK**

**The Martyrs of Christ—A Sketch of the Thought  
of Martin Luther on Martyrdom**

**DOUGLAS C. STANGE**

**Lutheran and Protestant Vestment Practices  
in the United States and Canada: A Survey**

**ARTHUR CARL PIEPKORN**

**Homiletics**

**Theological Observer**

**Book Review**

**Vol. XXXVII**

**November 1966**

**No. 10**



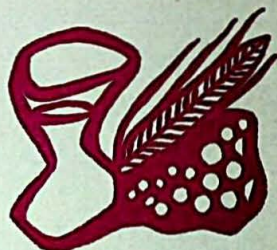
# Now ready!

Another translation  
of a work by

**WERNER**

**ELERT**

**eucharist and  
church fellowship  
in the  
first four centuries**



Translated by N. E. Nagel, Cambridge University

For current church fellowship discussion, Werner Elert here brings the experience of the early church. Already a world-renowned scholarly work, this new edition offers the English-speaking world a stirring history of how the early Christians faced divisions.

Conversing with the early authors themselves, Elert asks: How was church fellowship related to the understanding and practice of the Lord's Supper? What mattered when they faced divisions? What did healing mean? What resources did they use? In our ecumenical age, here is a resource for serious study and loving action.

Order No. 15U2007

248 pages, 6x9

\$6.75

---

**Concordia**  
PUBLISHING HOUSE  
SAINT LOUIS, MO. 63119





# CONCORDIA THEOLOGICAL MONTHLY

---

Volume XXXVII

November 1966

Number 10

---

*The Theological Journal of*  
THE LUTHERAN CHURCH—MISSOURI SYNOD

*Edited by*  
THE FACULTY OF CONCORDIA SEMINARY  
SAINT LOUIS, MISSOURI

CONCORDIA THEOLOGICAL MONTHLY is published monthly, except July-August when bimonthly, by Concordia Publishing House, 3558 S. Jefferson Ave., St. Louis, Mo. 63118, to which all business correspondence is to be addressed. \$3.50 per annum, anywhere in the world, payable in advance. Second-class postage paid at St. Louis, Mo. © 1966 Concordia Publishing House. Printed in U.S.A.

CONCORDIA PUBLISHING HOUSE  
SAINT LOUIS, MISSOURI

# Contents

Editorial	627
The Eclipse of Lutheranism in 17th-Century Czechoslovakia MARIANKA SASHA FOUSEK	628
The Martyrs of Christ—A Sketch of the Thought of Martin Luther on Martyrdom DOUGLAS C. STANGE	640
Lutheran and Protestant Vestment Practices in the United States and Canada: A Survey ARTHUR CARL PIEPKORN	645
Homiletics	656
Theological Observer	664
Book Review	665

---

## EDITORIAL COMMITTEE

VICTOR BARTLING, PAUL M. BRETSCHER  
ALFRED O. FUERBRINGER, GEORGE W. HOYER, HERBERT T. MAYER  
ARTHUR CARL PIEPKORN  
LEWIS W. SPITZ, GILBERT A. THIELE, WALTER WEGNER

---

*Address all communications to the Editorial Committee in care of  
Herbert T. Mayer, 801 De Mun Ave., St. Louis, Mo. 63105*

### CONCORDIA THEOLOGICAL MONTHLY *now available on Microfilm*

One of the most pressing problems facing libraries today is inadequate storage space for the ever-increasing flow of publications. To help librarians plagued with this problem we have entered into an agreement with University Microfilms, Ann Arbor, Mich., to make CONCORDIA THEOLOGICAL MONTHLY available to libraries in microfilm form. Microfilm makes it possible for libraries to use and store an entire volume of 12 issues of this magazine on a single roll.

For further details concerning purchase and date when volumes will be available, write to University Microfilms, 313 N. First Street, Ann Arbor, Mich.



# Editorial ❖

---

## *NONNEGOTIABLES IN ECUMENICAL RELATIONS*

One of the least-known chapters in the history of the Lutheran Reformation is the story of the eventual fate of Lutheranism in central Europe. In the last half of the 16th century large portions of what today is known as Czechoslovakia were almost solidly Lutheran. Today few vestiges of Lutheranism remain except in Slovakia, where about 20 percent of the population calls itself Lutheran. The explanation of this loss is provided in this issue by Dr. Marianka Fousek of Duke University, Durham, North Carolina. Her account makes available a considerable amount of material that is otherwise inaccessible. The story of the fate of Lutheranism in central Europe is more than an account of historical interest; it is also a chapter in the history of interconfessional relations that all churches might be well-advised to study today.

In a nutshell, the demise of Lutheranism in Czechoslovakia can be attributed to two factors. One factor was the theological gutting of a truly Lutheran confession in the interest of union with the Reformed and with a theologically indifferent *Unitas Fratrum*. The other factor was the inept politicking by the Lutherans of Czechoslovakia, which becomes a modern illustration of the Biblical caution against putting too much confidence in the strength of a horse or in the legs of a man. But the first factor may well have been the more important one.

This pattern of compromise in which the numerically superior Lutherans sold their confessional birthright to the Reformed was repeated several other times in the century after the Reformation. The Lutheran theologians failed to recognize the nonnegotiable elements in their system of doctrine. Issues concerning the personal union in Jesus Christ, the sacraments, and the new life in Christ were obscured or confused, and then compromise arguments like the *Consensus of Sandomierz* (1570), the various editions of the *Bohemian Confession*, and the *Decree of Charenton* (1631) became possible. Lutheran leaders failed to understand that true ecumenicity can develop only when there is a clear recognition and appreciation of crucial theological differences and when each party asserts frankly the issues which it considers to be nonnegotiable in the light of God's Word and Biblically-grounded confessions.

Again today there is the same temptation for Lutherans to sell out the distinctively Lutheran understandings in the interest of wider ecumenical contacts. Perhaps something in our evangelical nature makes us prone to do this. There is a place for sharp-edged Lutheran thinking in the church today, just as there was in the 17th century.

Perhaps this article can also help us appreciate the history and present stance of the *Synod of Evangelical Lutheran Churches* (the *Slovak Synod*). Their tradition of devout and loyal adherence to the Lutheran religion in the face of both Reformed pressures and counterreformatory persecution has given them continuing determination to preserve the best in their own tradition.

HERBERT T. MAYER