

## Synod Talk #3 (January 28, 2007)

### I. CONTINUED DISSENT AND STATE OF CONFESSION EFFORTS

#### 1. LCMS 2007 Convention

**-Day of Prayer** “In our Synod, we need to seek the Spirit’s guidance with others who represent a wide spectrum of opinions. This is not to be a debate over who is right or wrong, or an effort to convince each other about Synod issues. We need to pray and repent together so that the Spirit of Christ might transform our hearts and minds to seek His will, leading us toward resolution and reconciliation with one another across our Synod as we approach the July 14-19, 2007 Convention.”

#### **Reporter December 2006**

- “COP eyes ‘harmony and trust,’ OKs proposed alternate-route ‘in principle’” (page 1)
- LCEF fall conference and *Ablaze!*
- ‘Fan into Flame’ appeal to support *Ablaze!*
- President’s Leadership News and *Ablaze!*
- Mission Exec. Roegner on *Ablaze!*, FAQ on *Ablaze!*

#### **Reporter January 2007**

- “63<sup>rd</sup> LCMS convention meets in July under ‘One Message: Christ’ theme”
- “CTCR seeks top issues for next man-woman talks”
- “CTCR responds to dissent over reports, actions”
- “Roegner: Other church leaders ‘amazed’ at *Ablaze!*”
- Board Briefs “Final Stipulation”

Focus (Winter 2006) “Formation of a Pastor” Contemporary Worship taught

#### 2. SID Visitation

2<sup>nd</sup> – Cover Letter

- “Our Visitation Efforts: Background and Visitation Questions” 10 pages
- “Understanding What Makes Worship Lutheran” (2006) purple 12 half pages
- “The Practice of the Lord’s Supper in a Christian Congregation” (Epiphany 1998, revised 2006) yellow 30 half pages

## II. WORLD-WIDE LUTHERANISM

### 1. Evangelical Lutheran Free Church in Denmark – (page 3)

“In 2001, April 17, our church body asked the LCMS to reconsider its church fellowship with LWF-affiliated church bodies in our neighborhood...”

“Lately our church body tried to communicate our concerns and pain at the conference of the International Lutheran Council in Berlin, August 27 – September 2, 2005....”

### 2. The Lutheran Church in Sweden –

-A article by a Lutheran priest Folke T. Olofsson called, “A Grief Observed – On Being a Priest in a Dying Church”?

-Bishop Walter Obare from the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Kenya consecrated Arne Olsson(former? priest in Church of Sweden) as the Bishop of a break-away and controversial Mission Province in Sweden. Four other bishops assisted: Ulf Asp and Boerre Knudsen from Norway, David Tswaedi from South Africa, and Leonid Zviki from Byelorussia.

### 3. Evangelical Lutheran Church in Kenya, and Bishop Walter Obare.

- See The Lutheran Church in Sweden.

- Reporter (November 2006) “African Lutherans embracing ‘*Ablaze!*,’ says Kieschnick” has a picture of Obare and Kieschnick and make a reference to an *Ablaze!* Conference with representative from Lutheran church bodies in Kenya, South Africa, Ghana, Sudan and Eritrea.

### 4. The Lutheran Church in South Africa, and Bishop David Tswaedi.

- See The Lutheran Church in Sweden.

- Reporter (February 2004)- “World Mission, partners plan *Ablaze!* Event” “...Tswaedi says he now has a better understanding of the *Ablaze!* Concept and is anxious to share it with his church body’s 22,000 members in South Africa, Botswana and Swaziland.

### 5. Lutheran Church in Australia (merger of LCMS related church and an ALC related church)

-2006 Convention vote on women’s ordination required a 2/3 vote, failed. However “yes” vote was 50.39% and “no” vote was 43.9% with 5.19% abstaining.

-The LCA at the Crossroads

### 6. Lutheran Church Canada

-The COP of the LCC received the proposed call documents from the Missouri Synod and made some changes and distributed them throughout LCC. The Ottawa Circuit of the East District said the new call documents were unacceptable.

- The LCC passed overture 1.08 “To Offer Fraternal Admonishment to The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod” concerning syncretism and unionism (8/2005)

-The LCC CTCR statement on “Closed Communion in Contemporary Context”

### 7. der Selbstandigen Evangelisch-Lutherischen Kirche(SELK)

-- “Waitress in God’s Pub” e-mail (Dec. 14, 2006)

## Lutheran World Federation(LWF) and/or International Lutheran Council (ILC)

-See Evangelical Lutheran Free Church in Denmark for problems in ILC

-ILC News (February 2007)

-“Lutheran Identity in the Obligation of the Church” – 50 Lutheran theologians from both LWF and ILC and others met for a discussion of Church fellowship and its boundaries.

-*Ablaze!* logo(front), LCEF Conference(p.2-3), *Ablaze!* Efforts in Korea(p.3)

-“Australia: No to Ordination of Women”

## Confessional Evangelical Lutheran Conference (WELS and ELS members)

-20 members, none are in fellowship with ILC or LWF

### III. American Lutheranism

Paper: “Lutheran Fellowship Options”

1. ELCA -
2. Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod(WELS)
  - Professor J.P. Koehler – developed the Wauwatosa Theology, whose work stresses exegetical study over dogmatic theology.
3. Evangelical Lutheran Synod(ELS) –
  - ELS Press Release (10/15/2004) – “The Present State of Affairs in Missouri: An ELS Perspective”
  - “Response to an inquiry on the differences between the ELS and the LCMS” (Molstad, 2004)
  - PCM Theses – teach a “limited public use of the keys”
  - Pastor Rolf Preus
    - Suspended (2/1/2006) by ELS President John Molstad
    - Rescinding of his call by River Heights Lutheran Church, East Grand Forks MN
    - Appeal Upheld by Commission on Appeals
    - Presently serving 3 point independent parishes in Mayville, ND, Crookston, MN and Fertile, MN
  - State of Confession (Sept 20, 2006)
    - will remain in altar and pulpit fellowship with Rolf Preus and refuse fellowship to Pres. Molstad, River Heights, those on commission of appeals and others who support the suspension.
    - From Pastor Steven Brockdorf, Pastor Rob Lawson, and Pastor Les Lanier
    - From Wayfarers’ Chapel Lutheran Church(Fillmore, CA) and St. Paul Lutheran Church(Escondido, CA), Reformation Lutheran Church(Hillsboro, CA)
    - Pastor Joseph Abrahamson(I don’t know where he fits in)
    - 3 pastors and their congregations removed from ELS on January 5, 2007
4. Church of the Lutheran Confessions(CLC) – came into existence in 1960. Member churches broke off from WELS because though WELS had identified the LCMS as a false teaching body at its 1955 Convention, WELS maintained fellowship during conventions in 1956, 1957, and 1959. (Finally in 1961, WELS and ELS separated from the LCMS). Thus CLC claims that WELS/ELS broke fellowship with LCMS not because of the objective facts of LCMS false teaching, but rather because admonitions were going unheeded and their subjective opinion that Missouri would not return to doctrinal orthodoxy.
  - Adopted the Brief Statement of 1932
  - “The Problem of the Isolated Believer” – good article
5. Lutheran Churches of the Reformation – (LCR formed in 1964)
  - left the LCMS over doctrinal disintegration
  - The Brief Statement(1932)
6. Orthodox Lutheran Confessional Conference of Independent Congregations(OLCC) – five congregation who left LCR. They hosted a Winter Confessional Lutheran Free Conference, January 16-17, 2007 in Hamel MN. Rolf Preus spoke at it.
6. Association of Free Lutheran Congregations – open communion
7. Church of the Lutheran Brethren of America – conversion experience, no altar/paraments
8. American Association of Lutheran Churches (AALC) Lodge endorsed, open communion, three strand profession (Orthodox, Evangelical, Charismatic)

#### **IV. Have Left Lutheran Church Missouri Synod**

Redeemer Lutheran Church, St. Clair Shores, Mich.(9/13/2004 resigned membership) and Pastor Jack Cascione (removed 12/30/2004) – He maintains a web site (reclaiming walther) and e-list called Lutherquest. He maintains that Walther taught “The Supremacy of the Voters’ Assembly.” Redeemer left over the 2004 Convention. Pastor Cascione left over the CCM option that said it was ok for a District President to overrule a congregation with regard to the disposition of property and meet with conventicles in the congregation. He has hosted a “National Free Conference on C.F.W. Walther” until 2006 when it was cancelled. He has established a the United Lutheran Mission Association(ULMA) which began its first mission congregation at Mayfair Mall in Wauwatosa, Wisconsin.

Pilgrim Lutheran Church, Decatur IL and Rev. William Abbott are working with Jack Cascione and the above new mission.

Holy Trinity Evangelical-Lutheran Church, UAC (formed on 6/2/2004) Harrison, Arkansas and Pastor Eric Stefanski(withdrew from LCMS on 4/2/05). He and his congregation are now independent. He and a lay representative have been present as observers at meetings of Eldona and the other meeting before the formation of Eldona when the other congregations were also independent. Prior to Holy Trinity Evangelical-Lutheran Church, Pastor Stefanski was the pastor of First Lutheran Church of Harrison, Arkansas.

Holy Trinity Church, Denver Colorado (formerly Grace Lutheran Church, LCMS) has changed its name to Holy Trinity Orthodox Lutheran Church. (?)

St. Paul Lutheran Church, UAC, Taylorsville NC and Pastor Don Hunter. Voted Unanimously to go into a State of Confession (ten pages) October 24, 2004. The District President wanted to meet with them. They joined ELDONA in June of 2006.

#### **V. ELDONA**

1. Do We Need Another Synod? (The Lutheran Herald, August 2006) by James Heiser, pages 1, 7-8
2. “Walther and the Office of the Keys” by James Heiser, 23 pages  
-Conclusion: According to the Scriptures and the Confessions, the keys are given to the entire Church, but they are to be used by the Office of the Ministry(the Pastor).  
However, Walther says that keys were given directly to the Church so that the saints individually possess the same authority as the pastor, only using it in a different way.
3. Eldona (tri-fold brochure)
4. Eldona – application (Goldenrod)

Some other Pamphlets

5. “Grades of Ministry and the Ordained Diaconate in the 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> Century Lutheran Church” by The Rt. Rev. James Heiser \$6.00 Repristination Press
6. “On the Ministry and the Role of the Laity: Selected Sections of Locus XXIII, On the Ecclesiastical Ministry” by Johann Gerhard \$4.00 Repristination Press

### **Apology, Article XIV: Of Ecclesiastical Order.**

**24]** The Fourteenth Article, in which we say that in the Church the administration of the Sacraments and Word ought to be *allowed no one unless he be rightly called*, they receive, but with the proviso that we employ canonical ordination. **Concerning this subject we have frequently testified in this assembly that it is our greatest wish to maintain church-polity and the grades in the Church [old church-regulations and the government of bishops], even though they have been made by human authority [provided the bishops allow our doctrine and receive our priests]. For we know that church discipline was instituted by the Fathers, in the manner laid down in the ancient canons, with a good and useful intention.** **25]** But the bishops either compel our priests to reject and condemn this kind of doctrine which we have confessed, or, by a new and unheard-of cruelty, they put to death the poor innocent men. These causes hinder our priests from acknowledging such bishops. Thus the cruelty of the bishops is the reason why the canonical government, which we greatly desired to maintain, is in some places dissolved. Let them see to it how they will give an account to God for dispersing **26]** the Church. In this matter our consciences are not in danger, because since we know that our Confession is true, godly, and catholic, we ought not to approve the cruelty of those who persecute this doctrine. **27]** And we know that the Church is among those who teach the Word of God aright, and administer the Sacraments aright, and not with those who not only by their edicts endeavor to efface God's Word, but also put to death those who teach what is right and true; **28]** towards whom, even though they do something contrary to the canons, yet the very canons are milder. **Furthermore, we wish here again to testify that we will gladly maintain ecclesiastical and canonical government**, provided the bishops only cease to rage against our Churches. This our desire will clear us both before God and among all nations to all posterity from the imputation against us that the authority of the bishops is being undermined, when men read and hear that, although protesting against the unrighteous cruelty of the bishops, we could not obtain justice.

### **Smalcald Articles, II, IV, 9**

**9]** Therefore the Church can never be better governed and preserved than if we all live under one head, Christ, and **all the bishops equal in office (although they be unequal in gifts)**, be diligently joined in unity of doctrine, faith, Sacraments, prayer, and works of love, etc., as St. Jerome writes that the priests at Alexandria together and in common governed the churches, as did also the apostles, and afterwards all bishops throughout all Christendom, until the Pope raised his head above all.

### **Treatise, 63-64**

**63]** Jerome, therefore, teaches that **it is by human authority that the grades of bishop and elder or pastor are distinct**. And the subject itself declares this, because the power [the office and command] is the same, as he has said above. **64]** But one matter afterwards made a distinction between bishops and pastors namely, ordination, because it was [so] arranged that one bishop should ordain ministers in a number of churches.

### **Treatise, 74**

**74]** It is certain that **the common jurisdiction of excommunicating those guilty of manifest crimes belongs to all pastors**.