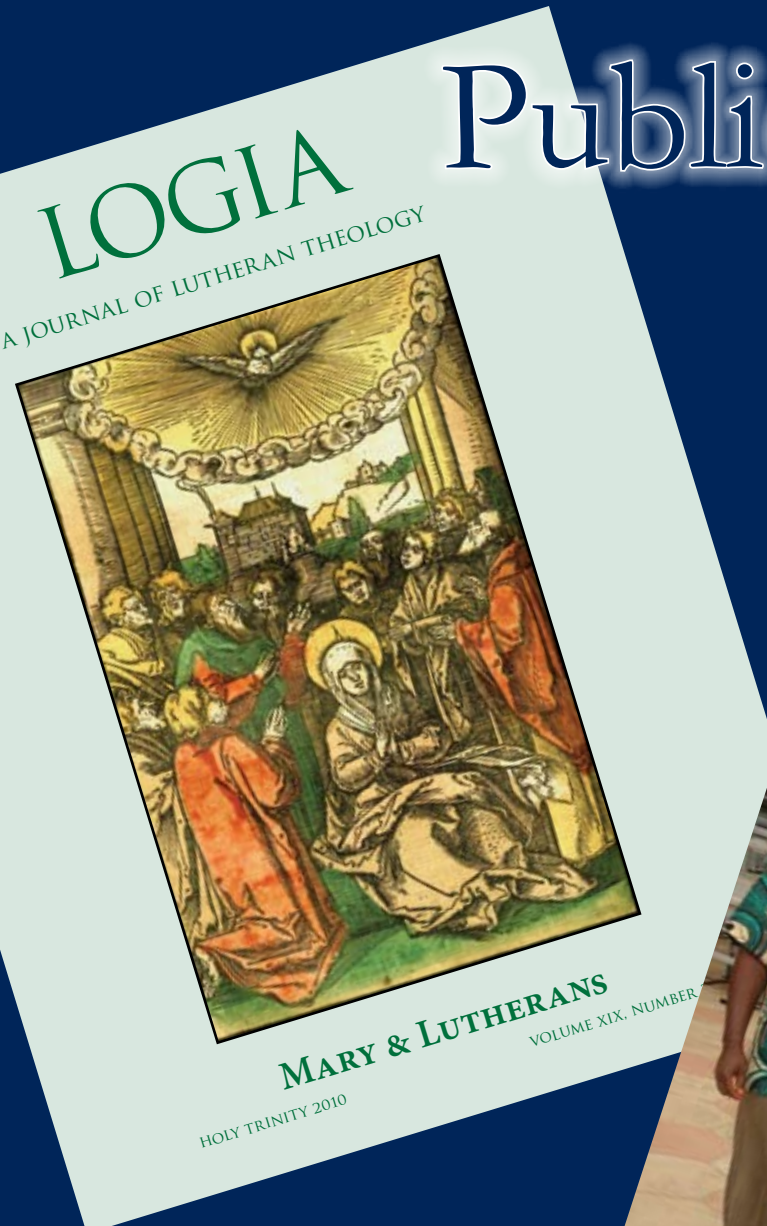


## Luther Academy in...

## Publications



## Missions



# Luther Academy's LITERARY HERITAGE



This issue of the *Luther Academy Bulletin* highlights the publishing work of the Academy. The Luther Academy was established in 1991 to address issues of Christian teaching and life that are of interest to all confessional Lutherans. Central to our mission is publishing Lutheran theological materials to assist churches and pastors in addressing the theological issues and challenges of our day. In a single issue we cannot describe all of the publishing work we have engaged in so we are focusing on three major Luther Academy projects. Shortly after the Luther Academy was founded, the first issue of *LOGIA* appeared. Dr. Charles Cortright provides an article describing the history of a theological journal we believe to be one of the premier Lutheran theological journals in the world. This issue also includes an article by Dr. Tim Maschke about the unique service rendered by *Luther Digest*, which began publishing within a year of the first issue of *LOGIA*. Finally, Dr. John Stephenson, the general editor of *Confessional Lutheran Dogmatics*, gives an overview of the history and purpose of this extremely significant LA publishing enterprise. Although the work of the Luther Academy has expanded beyond its publishing to embrace the teaching of Lutheran doctrine in the United States and around the world, the publishing of orthodox Lutheran works remains central to the Luther Academy's mission.

*Luther Academy Bulletin* is the official newsletter of the Luther Academy, a non-profit religious foundation incorporated in the state of Minnesota. Luther Academy devotes all its assets and gifts received to the promotion of Lutheran theology in the United States and worldwide. In all its work Luther Academy is guided by God's inerrant Word and is committed to an unconditional subscription to the teaching of the *Book of Concord*.

Editor: Daniel Preus    Layout Editor: Janette Schanbacher  
All unattributed articles are written by the editor.



# LOGIA

*at Twenty Years*

The Luther Academy website notes the various activities in which the Academy engages for the cause of Lutheran confessional theology. Let me tell you about one that I have had a hand in since 1992: *LOGIA: A Journal of Lutheran Theology*.

The journal was created when three confessional newsletters and “mini-journals” merged to become *LOGIA* in recognition of their shared goals and purposes. The journal’s title was originally held by one of the predecessor newsletters, but was chosen for the merged journal because it “expresses what this journal wants to be.” *LOGIA* was launched in October (Reformation) 1992 with Volume I, Number 1 clad in the light green cover bearing a reprint of a Dürer woodcut which has become the journal’s “classic” look. More importantly, what has also been maintained over its life is *LOGIA*’s commitment to being an independent, confessional Lutheran forum—a “free conference in print”—in which confessional Lutherans from across the spectrum of North American Lutheranism can engage in frank and open discussion about Lutheran doctrine, practice, and liturgy. That first issue declared: “*LOGIA* is committed to providing an independent theological forum normed by the prophetic and apostolic Scriptures and the Lutheran Confessions. At the heart of our journal we want our readers to find a love for the Sacred Scriptures as the very Word of God; not merely as a rule and norm, but especially as Spirit, truth, and life which reveals Him who is the Way, the Truth, and the Life—Jesus Christ our Lord.” *LOGIA*’s commitment to this original course and purpose has led it to become a widely known and respected Lutheran voice.

Since its inception, *LOGIA* has been published quarterly with each quarter’s issue usually focused on a specific theme. Thus, *LOGIA*’s readers have looked at classical doctrinal topics such as justification, the sacraments, and the like over the years. Individual issues have also focused on major Lutheran figures such as Melancthon (VI:4), Robert Preus (V:3), Wilhelm Löhe (XVII:3), and C.F.W. Walther (XX:2). There has been a long-running series of issues dedicated to looking at Lutheranism in contrast to other traditions and world views: “Wittenberg and Canterbury” (XII:4), “Wittenberg and Athens” (XVII:4), “Wittenberg and Mecca” (XVIII:4), etc. A similar series has looked at the course of Lutheran confessionalism outside of North America. Volume XIX:1, “Latin America & U.S. Latino Lutheranism,” broke new ground for

*LOGIA* through the production of the issue in a bilingual format. Each issue also includes book reviews of pertinent new theological titles and publications and *LOGIA Forum*, a pot-pourri of views, news, quotes, and quips pertaining to current topics and trends.

*LOGIA* is a child of modern technology. The journal has no central editorial office. Its editorial board lives here, there, and everywhere. The “*LOGIA Store*” and business office currently operate (online) out of Northville, South Dakota, production out of Washington state, and the journal is printed in Iowa. For a while, articles were being sent to Russia where *LOGIA*’s redoubtable layout and production person was living at the time. Once complete, she would send the finished journal to be printed and mailed from South Dakota. Editorial review meetings that prepare each issue through peer review are handled by e-mail and conference call. Only once a year does the editorial staff try to meet face-to-face to discuss policy, set new themes, and manage business “over good Wittenberg beer”—such meetings having lately been hosted at the senior editor’s home in St. Paul, Minnesota.

The editorial staff is headed by *LOGIA*’s senior editor, the Rev. Dr. Michael Albrecht. The editorial board is drawn from Lutheran pastors and professors nominated by the current board. Contributing editors include some of contemporary Lutheranism’s most interesting thinkers and writers. In keeping with the times, the journal has initiated an on-line version of *LOGIA* and a theological blog, *Blogia*, (see [www.logia.org](http://www.logia.org)) that discusses articles found in the print journal and articles that are unique to the blog. Luther Academy remains the “publisher of record” for *LOGIA* and assists the journal with subsidies and promotion: after twenty years, the relationship is still going strong.

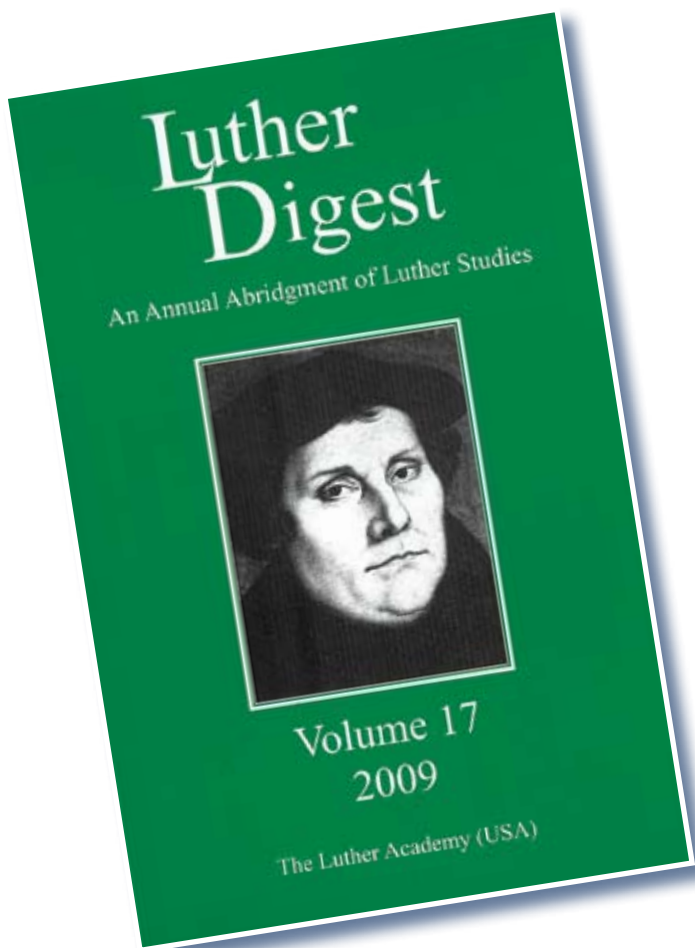
*Rev. Charles L. Cortright*  
*Professor, Wisconsin Luther College*  
*Secretary, Luther Academy*

# *Luther Digest:* APPROACHING ITS SECOND DECADE

Marking its eighteenth year, *Luther Digest* celebrates its enriching contribution to orthodox Lutheran Luther-scholarship under the editorial guidance and competent leadership of Kenneth Hagen, professor emeritus of Marquette University. First conceived by Hagen and Robert Preus as an opportunity to expand Luther Academy's global influence, the digest has consistently offered the English-speaking world condensations of contemporary research by Luther scholars from around the globe.

A review of past articles highlights many well-known authors and respected scholars as well as first time contributions by up-and-coming scholars in early modern and Luther research. Articles by authors from almost two dozen nations have been digested and, if necessary, translated into English. Scholars throughout the world have responded with positive acclaim on the substantive results of past issues prepared and published.

Sharing resources with the Dutch *Luther-Bulletin* and the German *Luther: Zeitschrift der Luther-Gesellschaft* has increased the efforts of *Luther Digest* in its commitment to frontline research as a trans-continental scholarly resource. In addition, the editorial team maintains regular contact with the Luther Study group of South Korea so that the digests can contribute to their unique work in Luther research.



Care is taken that all condensations are approved by the author of the original article, especially in the case of translations (and the publishers—for copyright clearance). Since the digests are approximately 10% of the original (less than 1% in the case of occasional books), such approval provides readers with the assurance that all digests are of the highest caliber.

Historical and theological studies dominate the content of the digests. Topics covered include traditional themes of justification, Luther's catechisms, and Law and Gospel, as well as special studies. A recurrent theme in each issue, entitled, "Luther and..." provides a contemporary application of Luther research as a significant point of interest in that publication year. Provocative ideas are also afforded a hearing through these careful abridgments. The novel Finnish *theosis*-theme has become the subject of several digests. Recently an article sub-titled, "Did Luther Really Get it All Wrong?" reviewed recent Luther scholarship among revisionists in Europe and America.

Kenneth Hagen continues to evaluate research projects and academic resources throughout the world in order to select those articles which offer new or significant contributions to the study of Luther. His careful guidance and inimitable patience has steered the course of this digest for almost two decades, enlisting members of a constantly growing team of digesters from a variety of scholarly pursuits and experiences.

Each volume of the annual digest provides readers with a resource for further study or as a venue for "staying current" on a specialized, yet vitally important theological discipline. From major university libraries and international scholars to retired pastors and interested lay persons, our readers continue to express their appreciation of the critical care and constructive contributions made by Luther Academy in its sponsorship of *Luther Digest* for orthodox Lutheranism throughout the world.

*Timothy Maschke*  
Managing Editor  
*Luther Digest*

# Confessional Lutheran Dogmatics - AN ONGOING PROJECT

In one of his major works, the late Robert Preus described how the Lutheran Orthodoxy of the 17<sup>th</sup> century moved through three phases, dubbed “Golden,” “High,” and “Silver” respectively. Opponents and detractors of this vigorous and varied movement have long spoken sneeringly of it as “dead orthodoxy,” maintaining that liberation from its stifling grip came with the next installments of the history of theology, namely, Pietism and the Enlightenment (rationalism).



Dr. John R. Stephenson

But the facts of the case should prompt us to speak of the century or more of theological achievement that followed the promulgation of the whole Book of Concord (1580) as the age of *live* Orthodoxy. Just think of what Günther Stiller has taught us about *Johann Sebastian Bach and Liturgical Life in Leipzig* in the first half of the 18<sup>th</sup> century.

Dissent from the doctrine of Bach and his pastors and fellow parishioners, if you will, but admit that they were more ablaze with devout zeal than some other episodes of Lutheran history one might name.

We might (admittedly exaggeratedly) call the age of Lutheran Orthodoxy the time of the “dogmatics of the month club.” In that epoch, theology was still taught as a unitary discipline (not chopped up into the four departments familiar to us), and the theologians of that era published in a quantity and quality that amazes those who study their works today. Throughout the 17<sup>th</sup> century it didn’t just rain, it veritably poured an abundance of dogmatics volumes, some single books, mostly whole series. Check out the rare books rooms of our seminary libraries, and you will find evidence of times and places when theology was taken seriously, practiced forcefully, and studied intensely.

It’s not a good indicator that the 20<sup>th</sup> century boasted—unless I am overlooking some significant works, in which case I stand to be corrected—just three major systematics textbooks generated within and for North American Lutheranism. The multi-volume series of Pieper and Hoenecke respectively represented the orthodox side of the aisle, while the essays collected in Braaten and Jenson’s two-volume *Christian Dogmatics* were written from a not so orthodox perspective.

When he launched *Confessional Lutheran Dogmatics* back in 1986, Dr. Robert Preus intended to edit and help write an orthodox response to Braaten-Jenson; his team of authors were asked to write lengthy complementary essays, not whole self-standing books. Before long the plan changed, and each author could look forward to publishing a distinct volume on the dogmatics locus (topic) Dr. Preus had invited him to address.

Alas, alas, “there’s many a slip ‘twixt cup and lip,” as they say in the North of England; in other words, a certain chasm sometimes gapes between intention and fulfillment. A handful of Dr. Preus’s team of writers delivered on time, others a few years after schedule; but still others, busy juggling so many competing projects, never got around to delivering their promised manuscripts.

24 years after Dr. Preus launched *Confessional Lutheran Dogmatics*, 6 of the projected 13 volumes of the set have been written, pondered, edited, and published. *Pietas*, that is, an attitude of fitting respect toward Dr. Preus as our leader, colleague, and now sainted elder brother, urges those of us who belong to the current writing team to devote ourselves with diligence to the completion of a major work whose conception in the mind of its first editor lies almost three decades behind us. Dr. Preus discerned a need and worked out a plan to meet it; our task now is to complete the project he left unfinished.

**Why should CLD be completed and why should we ponder the regular issuance of companion volumes on dogmatic themes?**

*First*, because truth is important and must be articulated for the sustenance of our own shepherds and their flocks and for the illumination of those who languish in the darkness of unbelief.

*Secondly*, because we have an ongoing responsibility for respectful but searching dialogue and debate with our colleagues of other church bodies.

*Thirdly*, because a flourishing discipline of dogmatics is a strong indicator of a flourishing Lutheran Christendom.

A wonderful way of paying tribute to Dr. Preus would be for the remaining seven volumes to appear in print by the 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Reformation.

Dr. John R. Stephenson  
General Editor, *Confessional Lutheran Dogmatics*

## LA WORK BEGINS IN

# Togo



In August, 2010 the Luther Academy expanded its work to francophone Africa. With the assistance of Rev. Michael Amegah, an M. Div. graduate of Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, Rev. Daniel Preus, Luther Academy Director, taught a class entitled *Preaching Law and Gospel* to about fifteen pastors of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Togo. With Rev. Amegah as translator into French, Rev. Preus identified many of the temptations pastors face to weaken or neglect the preaching of both Law and Gospel. The Gospel, in particular, is frequently distorted or transformed into Law when the proper distinction between the Law and the Gospel is not well understood. Deprived of the Gospel, people who hear only the preaching of the Law will become either spiritually depressed or come to the false and dangerous conclusion that they can indeed please God with the way they live. Neglect the preaching of the Law and people will frequently believe that they need no Savior.

The Togolese pastors were thoroughly attentive throughout the course of instruction and strongly urged the Luther Academy to continue its work in Togo in the form of annual theological conferences. The conference took place in the capitol city of Lomé where Rev. Michael Amegah is pastor.

Luther Academy's work in Togo is an outgrowth of the conferences that have been conducted for a number of years in Ghana. Since 2006 LA has gathered pastors together from Sierra Leone, Liberia, Guinea, Ghana, Nigeria, Benin and Togo to conduct week-long conferences dealing with topics important to the Lutheran Church in West Africa. Rev. Amegah has been a regular attendee of these conferences. At his encouragement, LA decided to begin work in French speaking Africa. Following the annual theological conference in Ghana, dealing with the same topic of *Preaching Law and Gospel*, Rev. Preus traveled with Rev. Amegah to Togo. LA now hopes that these conferences can continue in Togo on an annual basis.



*Left: Professor Albert Koukia  
Center: Rev. Charles Sakpani  
Right: Rev. Jean Lare, President,  
Evangelical Lutheran Church in Togo*



*Rev. Gordon Gyampo Kumi stands in front of the new Trinity Lutheran School Building where Luther Academy held its 2010 West Africa Luther Academy Conference.*

The Luther Academy now engages in significant outreach in Africa. As this newsletter goes to press, the second annual Uganda Luther Academy is taking place in the capital city of Kampala. Pastors from Uganda, Sudan, Kenya and Rwanda will be present for the topic of – again – *Preaching Law and Gospel*. This is the year of “Law and Gospel” in the work of the Luther Academy. The ability to distinguish properly between the Law and the Gospel will always be a significant challenge for pastors. Since only the Gospel saves, Satan never ceases to undermine and attack the Church's understanding of the precious message of God's grace in Christ Jesus. All the pastors in Africa who have attended receive a copy of CPH's new Reader's Edition of *Law and Gospel* by C.F.W. Walther.

# 2011 CONGRESS ON THE LUTHERAN CONFESSIONS

*Mark your calendars  
for May 4-6*

***Pastors and laymen,*** don't miss one of the most stimulating and helpful theological conferences available to Lutherans.

Join us in Bloomington, Minnesota where the focus will be on the Doctrine of Holy Scripture with the theme:

***The Word They Still Shall Let Remain***

This Conference on the Lutheran Confessions is sponsored by the Luther Academy and the Association of Confessional Lutherans.

Watch for more details on our website:

[www.lutheracademy.com](http://www.lutheracademy.com)

*Please consider supporting the work of the Luther Academy.*

The Rev. Daniel Preus, Director of the Luther Academy will be happy to visit your congregation, circuit or any other gathering to explain the work of the Luther Academy.

Please contact him at: (314) 809-8418 or by email at:

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# In this issue...



*Rev. Daniel Preus  
with the six volumes of  
Confessional Lutheran Dogmatics*

page 2	Luther Academy's Literary Heritage
page 3	<i>LOGIA</i> at Twenty Years
page 4	LD: Approaching Its Second Decade
page 5	<i>Confessional Lutheran Dogmatics</i> - An Ongoing Project
page 6	LA Work Begins in Togo
page 7	2011 Congress on the Lutheran Confessions