



TWO SELECTED FOR ACADEMY BOARD POSITIONS



*The Rev. Dr. Scott R. Murray and Mr. Robert G. Ulmer
have filled two vacancies on the Luther Academy Board.*

Dr. Scott Murray, Luther Academy's Vice President, is Senior Pastor of Memorial Lutheran Church and School in Houston, Texas, having previously served in Cobourg, Ontario and Gretna, Louisiana. Born in Kitchener, Ontario, Dr. Murray attended Concordia College, Ann Arbor, and the University of Toronto. He holds graduate degrees from Concordia Theological Seminary, Loyola University, New Orleans and New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary. Dr. Murray has served on the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod Commission on Theology and Church Relations and on the Board of the Lutheran Education Association of Houston. He is an editorial associate of *LOGIA*, and is working on a book on Holy Scripture for the *Confessional Lutheran Dogmatics Series*. He is author of numerous journal articles and *Law, Life, and the Living God*, published by Concordia Publishing House in 2001.

Mr. Robert Ulmer, Luther Academy's Treasurer, is President of Brunn-Ulmer Construction Company in Kansas City, Kansas. He served previously as a linguist in the United States Naval Intelligence Office. Born in Chicago in 1943, he has lived in the Kansas City area since 1957 with his wife Martha. A lifelong member of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, Mr. Ulmer is currently Chairman of Augsburg Lutheran Church located in Shawnee, Kansas. He also serves as Vice-Chairman of the Board of Bethesda Lutheran Homes & Services in Watertown, Wisconsin, and on the Board of Trustees of St. Paul Lutheran High School & Ministries in Concordia, Missouri.

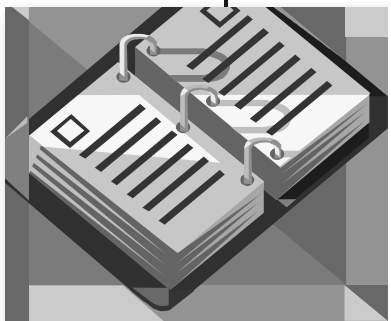
—Chris Barnekov

RADIO MINISTRY IN THE PHILIPPINES

In November of 2006 Rev. Daniel Preus visited Pastor James Cerdeñola, President of the Lutheran Church of the Philippines to talk about ways in which the Luther Academy might assist Lutherans in the Philippines. The Luther Academy hopes to begin theological conferences in the Philippines similar to those already begun in West Africa and South America. Rev. Preus is raising funds for that purpose and hopes to begin such conferences within the next two years. In the meantime, President Cerdeñola sent a proposal to Luther Academy requesting support for a Lutheran radio program to reach thousands of people in Manila and other parts of the Philippines with the Gospel. The Luther Academy accepted Rev. Cerdeñola's proposal and will begin supporting this work early in 2008. The one hour show will be broadcast weekly and Rev. Cerdeñola will be the chief speaker and producer of the program. The transmissions will go out to five provinces in the Philippines and will be of great benefit especially in reaching people in the rural areas where the only means of mass media is the radio.



A CHANGE FOR THE BETTER!



Beginning with this issue, we are changing our printing schedule for the *Luther Academy Bulletin*. Our Summer and Winter newsletters will now become Spring and Fall issues. We are making this change in an effort to report the news about our events to you more promptly after they occur.

LUTHER ACADEMY BULLETIN

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 and research in the United States and worldwide. It seeks to connect this scholarship to the teaching and life of churches subscribing to the doctrine and practice of the Evangelical Lutheran Church as contained in the Book of Concord of 1850.

Editor: Daniel Preus

Layout Editor: Janette Schanbacher

All unattributed articles written by the editor.

NELA 2007

The annual meeting of the North European Luther Academy (NELA) was held in Loimaa, Finland August 9th-12th. Loimaa, a tiny town, west of Helsinki, boasts a lovely nineteenth century church that appeared to have leapt from the design table of Christopher Wren. The topic of the this year's conference was *Ius Divinum et Ius Humanum in Ecclesia (Divine and Human Law in the Church)*.



NELA participants discuss one of the presentations.

The topic of the conference was deeply significant to all Scandinavian clergy, but especially to the Finnish pastors, because a number of them are suffering from state intrusion into the life of the church. Pastors had been temporarily suspended from their parishes by the church courts of the state church for upholding faithful Lutheran practice, by declining to worship at altars where a female presided or declining to marry same sex couples. Some of the men underwent interrogations from the state police inquiring about their practice.

It was a privilege to commiserate with the suffering confessional clergy in Scandinavia, especially the Finns. A number of the pastors are being persecuted because they declined to serve with female clergy. Already more than one has been subjected to church court litigation. It is possible that some of the Finnish pastors will take one of the cases as the "test case" and pursue it all the way to the Supreme Court of Finland, and, suffering a negative outcome there, pursue whatever judicial authorities established by the European Union are open to them. These faithful pastors are all suffering but have resigned themselves to being removed from the Church of Finland. However, they have a good attitude about their suffering as a cross from God.

Two of the three bishops of the Mission Province of Sweden were present for the conference. Bishop Arne Olsen preached on Sunday. Pr. Halvar Sandell of Helsinki said that there might even be repercussions in the Church of Finland for permitting him that privilege. They would perceive that as another case of permitting heresy and persecuting the truth. Apparently, the appearance of the Swedish Mission Province bishops was quite intentional. The committee invited them to give the Finns hope that there might be some place to go if they would be dismissed from their places by the Church of Finland.

Dr. Scott Murray, Luther Academy Vice President, delivered a paper entitled, "Church Authority and Scripture Authority: The Intersection of Law and Gospel." He shared greetings from the Luther Academy, USA. Senior Pastor Fredrik Sidenvall (Sweden) was the president of the meeting and the speakers were Pastor Juha Muukkonen (Finland), Dr. Kaarlo Arffman (Finland), Dr. Theol. Arto Seppänen, Senior Pastor in Utsjoki (Finland), Dr. Theol. Armin Wenz (Germany), Dr. Theol. Anssi Simojoki, (Kenya and Finland), Dr. Theol. Dag Sandahl (Sweden). It was a privilege to serve the Luther Academy and confessional Lutheranism in this way. NELA will meet again in Bergen, Norway next summer.

—*Scott R. Murray*

MEMORIALS

Luther Academy gratefully acknowledges a gift given in loving memory of:

Timothy Andrew Simcak

given by Rev. & Mrs. Andrew Simcak, Jr.

AFRICAN SEMINARY LEADERS MEET IN GHANA

For the first time in many years the leaders of Confessional African Lutheran Seminaries had the opportunity to meet together to talk about the future of Lutheran seminary education in Africa for confessional Lutheran church bodies. Following a proposal from Dr. Paul Fynn, President of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Ghana, the Luther Academy agreed to fund the meeting which took place in Tema, Ghana immediately following the conclusion of the second annual West Africa Luther Academy Conference. Educators and leaders from seven African nations were present to share with each other descriptions of the seminary programs of Confessional Lutheran seminaries in Ghana, Nigeria, Togo, Kenya, Sudan and South Africa. The participants gave details regarding the number of students at each institution preparing for the ministry and plans for the development and improvement of their various programs. The church and seminary leaders also provided insight into the specific challenges and opportunities before them.

One of the most important objectives of the meeting was to consider how Lutheran seminaries in Africa might work together in cooperation as they prepare men for the pastoral ministry in Africa. Those present indicated a clear desire to assist each other rather than compete with each other. The hope of all those present was that men be prepared for the office of the ministry who are theologically sound and academically qualified to serve as pastors in their respective countries.

Another important aspect of the discussion dealt with the possibility of "advanced level" seminary training for African Lutheran pastoral candidates and pastors. According to the minutes, a discussion took place, "... that focused especially on the need for one or more confessional Lutheran advanced training program(s) in Africa. The lack of such a program has resulted in students going elsewhere for their further training, which has a damaging influence on their theology...It was pointed out that a new advanced level institution would not replace but rather supplement existing programs,

which would still operate to provide basic-level pastors. There is an urgent and long-term need to train more than one or two individuals, but rather a whole cadre of well qualified pastors, a pool from which bishops, theologians, administrators, and teachers can be chosen. This should lead to shared leadership of churches. To these needs should be added the need for more highly educated pastors for urban metropolitan congregations and other specialized situations."

Included in the meeting was a discussion of the problems and challenges unique to francophone Africa, the importance of affordable books for students and the need for more African Lutherans to be writing theological

books and articles and not depending only on translations of American and European sources.

As the meeting neared its end, all present agreed it would be wise to conduct a study on the feasibility of establishing a post-graduate theological training program for Confessional Lutheran Churches in Africa. Those present expressed the hope that Dr. Will Shuhmacher, Associate Professor of Missions and Historical Theology

at Concordia Seminary, St. Louis would participate with them in this study in view of his recent experience in visiting numerous Lutheran seminaries in Africa. Once the study is completed, another meeting has been suggested to discuss proposals brought forth as a result of the study.

Those attending the meeting were:) Dr. Paul Kofi Fynn (Ghana), Dr. Wilhelm Weber (South Africa), Rev. Gau Gyakye-Amoateng (Ghana), Dr. Nelson Unwene (Nigeria), Rev. Gregoire Legbanon (Benin), Rev. Gordon Gyampu-Kumi, (Ghana), Rt. Rev. Walter Obare Omwanza (Kenya), Rev. Joseph Ochola (Kenya), Rev. Andrew Mbugo Elisa (Sudan), Rev. Michael Kwaku Amegah (Togo), Rev. Amos Bolay (Liberia), Rev. Daniel Preus (Luther Academy), Rev. Glenn Fluegge (Togo, LCMS World Mission), Dr. Paul Mueller (LCMS World Mission), Dr. William W. Schumacher, (Concordia Seminary, St. Louis.)



African Lutheran Seminary Leaders

THE LUTHER ACADEMY IN AUSTRALIA

The Luther Academy conducted its first conferences ever in Australia in July and August of 2007. In response to requests from a number of congregations and pastors in Queensland, Victoria and South Australia, Rev. Daniel Preus delivered talks in a number of different places on a number of different topics including, "Lutheran Worship," "Lutheran Identity," and "How to be confessional Christians in a multireligious world." The presentations were given in eight different cities and towns in a variety of settings. In some cases those attending came from many congregations and in other cases from a single congregation. On a few occasions Rev. Preus had the opportunity to sit down with pastors from the Lutheran Church of Australia (LCA) to discuss the issues, challenges and opportunities facing their church body. The final talk Preus gave was to 4th and 5th year students at Concordia Lutheran Seminary in Adelaide on the subject of, "The joys and Pitfalls of the pastoral ministry and the Christocentric nature of the office of the ministry."

Rev. Mark Hampel, a pastor of the Australian Evangelical Lutheran Church (AELC), hosted Preus for his

first presentation in Marburg, Queensland, which dealt with the topic of Lutheran Worship and was attended by about 150 people from congregations of the AELC and the LCA. Pastor Hampel also planned Preus's itinerary for his time in Australia with the help of Mr. Merv Mibus, a layman from Victoria.

It became apparent that the LCA is now wrestling with many problems confronting Lutherans in the United States. With the introduction of "contemporary worship," often referred to in Australia as "alternative worship," many Lutheran congregations are increasingly departing from the historic liturgy to use worship forms from a variety of sources, many of them non-Lutheran. The topic of Women's Ordination is a very hot topic in the LCA these days as well and it appears that it will be in the years to come. Who may commune at Lutheran altars is also a significant issue.

The Luther Academy hopes to continue work begun in Australia, establishing annual conferences there. This will be possible due to the generous offerings of those who attend the Australian conferences.



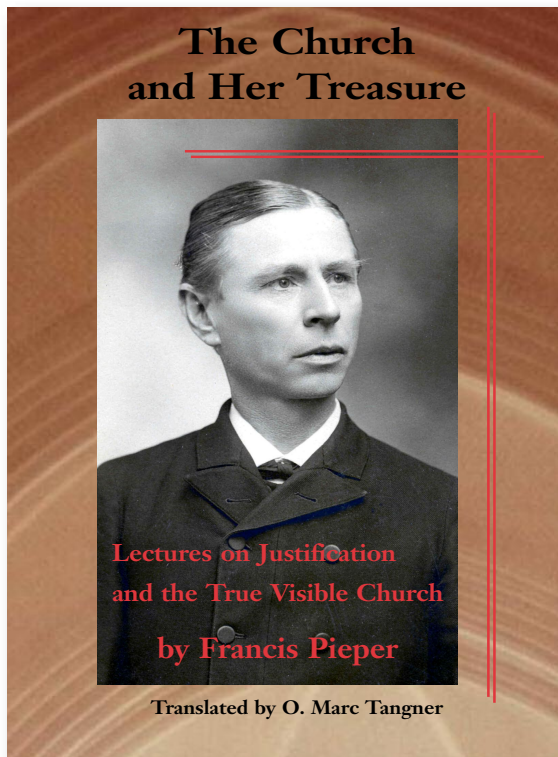
Rev. Daniel Preus at one of his eight speaking engagements in Australia, addressing relevant issues and concerns facing Lutherans.

THE CHURCH AND HER TREASURE

The newest publication of the Luther Academy is a book containing the translated lectures of Dr. Francis Pieper on Justification and the True Visible Church. The following excerpt from the book's foreword explains the content and the reason for its publication by the Luther Academy:

Following the example set by Dr. C. F. W. Walther, Dr. Pieper was accustomed to hold lectures on Friday evenings for students interested in attending. Known as the *Luther Hour*, the sessions gave Pieper the opportunity to reach students on topics about which future pastors most needed clear and biblical

instruction. No theological topics could be of greater importance than those addressed within the pages of this volume. Pieper focuses on the articles of justification and the church. There is, of course, the most intimate relationship between these two articles. Our Lutheran Confessions refer to the article of justification as the chief article and the fundamental article of the Christian faith. The teaching of justification is therefore at the heart of the church's life. In fact, it is this teaching that creates the church itself. It is in the teaching of justification that sheep "hear the voice of their Shepherd,"¹ and it is in believing this teaching that the church is born. Apart from this teaching of justification there can be no spiritual life and there can be no church.



It is fitting, then, that this publication of Pieper's lectures be entitled *The Church and Her Treasure*. The Church has no greater treasure than the Gospel, which, in the narrow sense, is no more nor less than the teaching of justification by grace through faith in Christ. Dr. Pieper's lectures entitled, *The Evangelical Lutheran Church*, *The True Visible*

Church of God on Earth, is, in this volume, appearing for the first time in English. His lectures on *The Lutheran Doctrine of Justification*, although they were published a few years ago in English, have only had limited distribution. Together they represent an excellent contribution as a theological resource for the church's understanding of herself and her true treasure, the Gospel.

The Luther Academy is pleased to present to the church this book containing evening lectures given by Dr. Francis Pieper at Concordia Seminary in St. Louis in 1891. Making available for the first time in English these lectures of one of the most important figures in the history of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. Readers who want to be enriched both in their understanding of Lutheran theology and their appreciation of their own doctrinal heritage will find *The Church and Her Treasure* a very rewarding read. The book can be ordered through LOGIA Books at a cost of \$21.95.

¹ *The Book of Concord*, Theodore Tappert, ed., (Philadelphia: Fortress Press, 1959) 315.

LUTHER ACADEMY PUBLICATIONS

Since its founding in 1991, Luther Academy has sponsored various publications and theological conferences, making the latter available in printed form through LOGIA Books, our distribution office in South Dakota. From this office interested readers can order the following books, at a discounted price (including S/H charges):

Confessional Lutheran Dogmatics (hardcover)

- Vol. V: *Christology* by David P. Scaer (113 pp. plus new indices), \$19.95
 Vol. IX: *The Church and Her Fellowship, Ministry and Governance* by Kurt Marquart (264 pp), \$23.95
 Vol. XI: *Baptism* by David P. Scaer (236 pp), \$23.95
 Vol. XII: *The Lord's Supper* by John R. Stephenson (312 pp), \$23.95
 Vol. XIII: *Eschatology* by John R. Stephenson (176 pp), \$20.95

The Pieper Lectures (paperback)

\$13.95 each

- Vol. 1: *The Office of the Ministry* (1996), 180pp
 Vol. 2: *Church Fellowship* (1997), 117pp
 Vol. 3: *Pietism and Lutheranism* (1998), 184pp
 Vol. 4: *What Does It Mean to Be Lutheran?* (1999), 99pp
 Vol. 5: *Lutheran Catholicity* (2000), 116pp
 Vol. 6: *The American Book of Concord: A Sesquicentennial Celebration* (2001), 96pp
 Vol. 7: *Sanctification: New Life in Christ* (2002), 152pp
 Vol. 8: *Preaching Through the Ages* (2003), 136pp
 Vol. 9: *The Bible in the History of the Lutheran Church* (2004), 125pp
 Vol. 10: *Call and Ordination in the Lutheran Church* (2005), 99pp

Congress on the Lutheran Confessions (paperback)

\$15.95 each

- Beauty and the Bands (Law and Gospel)* (1995), 188pp
Church Polity and Politics (1997), 206pp
2001-A Justification Odyssey (2001), 177pp
Feminism and the Church (2002), 186pp
Contemporary Issues in Fellowship-Confessional Principles and Applications (2003), 162pp
Divine Multi-Media: The Manifold Means of Grace in the Life of the Church (2004), 207pp

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