

# The Letter of Concord

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Congregations of the Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod, the precious Body of Christ,  
selected brothers and sisters in the Faith,

Beloved of the Lord,

This was supposed to be in the mail around Washington's Birthday. Therefore the comments about Mt Vernon and the Dove of Peace. The Dove of Noah is the Dove of Peace. Washington was the most prominent military man in the colonies. However he was a man of war only because he sought peace, real peace. That message was so important to General Washington that he spent the equivalent of \$50,000 in today's money to have a large Peace Dove made for the pinnacle of Mt Vernon.

Jesus came to bring real peace by destroying all the powers of evil. Jesus calls His people to take up the cross of opposition. There is a fundamental difference between the peace of evil and the peace of God. One seeks reconciliation and restoration the other seeks mastery. Hitler would have been happy with the peace of Dachau. Evil is pleased with silence. Evil complains when those evil calls evil seek real peace.

There is another kind of man of war, one who seeks power. His war is conquest of others who are to remain in subjection. He seeks by force, evasion and deception to maneuver his opponents into help-less silence. Do you seek to live in reconciliation with past opponents? Do you seek real dialog with open agreements? Do you support the "powers that be" because they are? Nearly all the Lutherans, including the Pastors, supported Hitler. Their support of evil was a major reason people later rejected their "Gospel call."

Leaders can be especially prone to persisting in error. Luther had an interesting comment in his Large Catechism, First Commandment ¶ 38 "When someone rebukes them, in order to bring them to their senses and cause them to mend their ways before the real punishment comes . . . they become so wild and crazy that they justly deserve the wrath they receive. We experience this every day in the case of bishops and princes." I always thought it interesting that the Bible, which makes plain God desires and establishes His Church - both in the OT and in the NT, has so many harsh words about false religious leaders. God has the Savior killed by the finest religious leaders with the assistance of a disciple.

Leaders are necessary and worthy of honor, but they are flesh and blood. "Ministry, Word, and Sacraments" An Enchiridion (Handbook) by Martin Chemnitz, was written in the late 1500s for use in the Lutheran twice a year examination of pastors by superintendents. It kept both Pastor and Superintendent on track in the Faith. If our Pastors and leaders followed that old practice, we would have few of the conflicts that now afflict us. Interesting too that he makes a great scriptural case for being faithful to the true Church, but never identifies the Lutheran organization as the "True Church".

The early Lutherans had vivid memories of the abuses of the Church leaders in their day. The Missouri Synod was founded by people who left Germany because of that and much to their shame found that they had followed an abusive leader here. They had a healthy respect for the deception that concealed wolves in sheep's clothing. It was vital to them, and must be to us today, to be on guard to the evil in our own hearts, to be open to correction, quick to repent and make right when we cause harm.

The national media is excited at this time over abusive Roman Catholic Priests and the attempts to conceal the problem. What I find interesting is the willingness of Bishops to admit their mistakes. Over the years I have become aware of some serious mistakes our leaders have made, devastating innocent people and whole congregations. There has never been any admission of error instead the victims were made to be guilty for being hurt. One of the people who responded to a previous Letter of Concord knows my cousin. He said what happened to my cousin was "not Christian", referring to District leaders and fellow pastors. My cousin is no longer a "Lutheran" Minister, his brothers no longer LCMS.

There was news about the controversy in the LCMS over a District President's Prayer at the Yankee Stadium event for 9/11. News until the LCMS Board of Directors ordered silence. The Ft. Wayne Seminary officially charged the DP with serious error for participating. What I consider interesting is that at the same time, Ft. Wayne Seminary did not answer letters charging their student approved manifest and impenitent sin and heresy of the sort that no Christian denomination supports. The issues concern matters that Hindu, Muslim and atheist condemn beside Scripture and Lutheran Confessions. I wonder if instead of thinking we are too righteous to pray with the erring, the erring would have refused to permit us on the platform for what we practice. If I can be in fellowship with those I know in the LCMS, I don't see why I can't be in fellowship with dogs, cats and Hottentots. The heathen, even our politicians, have a higher standard than the LCMS.

These letters have been sent to Synod and District leaders. When I was going to be in St. Louis, I wrote and phoned to see if they would see me. I was told they get lots of letters. I asked how many from someone who has 20% of the constituency of the LCMS on his mailing list? A business with that attitude is headed for bankruptcy, a politician for defeat, a denomination like that has no future.

When we make Caiaphas and the Pharisees "bad men", we deceive ourselves. They were men of the highest human character. They were excellent serious theologians and deeply pious religious. They were zealous for God. Jesus was crucified by the finest religious men. It had to be so. Roman law also is famous for excellence. It had to be so because it was at the right time Jesus came to save us. Jesus said there would be people who believed in Him as Lord, who served Him, who would be in hell. "Lord when did we see you?"

Martin Chemnitz in "Loci Theologici" p.681 quotes Augustine "We do not repent, but only pretend to do so." and Tertullian "This is the mere appearance of faith: it is not true faith". Chemnitz writes "false security is fostered along with impenitence among those people who boast of the name of Christ and flatter themselves with the hope of grace and salvation." He writes of an "Epicurean" faith. Those who seek the finest Theology, the highest reaches of Scriptural understanding, the purest worship, the best programs, the most admirable religious life are going in the opposite direction from the true saving faith. Those who truly approach the Almighty grow in the appreciation of their own unworthiness.

Who am I to write as I do? Included is a copy of a letter of appreciation I was given. The writer is a life long criminal, Reform school at 4th grade, now sentenced to more time. There are 3000 men here. In 2000, I was Maryland State Employee of the year. Selected as Chaplain in Baltimore City by blacks over qualified black candidates. A Major told me, he thought I had made the daily life of the officers easier. I praise God for what He has done through my ministry here. I count it an honor to serve surrounded by so many staff and inmates I admire.

This is a call to Corporate Repentance, confession of corporate guilt, resolution to apologize, to reach out to those hurt with healing. We are Heralds of God to announce His Victory. We are Soldiers of God with weapons of Truth and Love. We are the hands of Love. If we really are a Gospel centered Church, it is not possible for us to have a very large number of hurting people and congregations. Have we forgotten what we are about? Pass this letter on to any who left in pain. I pray to comfort and strengthen them. They are not alone, forgotten, despised. If you are looking for a Pastor or Teacher, the 2000 who left are the largest source of trained Lutheran staff. If you want, send a tax deductible gift to "Concord Church - LCMS Project".

May the Lord of the Church pour out upon us His Spirit of Wisdom, discernment, courage, compassion for the hurt and lost, obedience and zeal. May our lives bring Him glory. "We will all stand before the judgment seat of God. Let us . . . resolve instead never to put a stumbling block or hindrance in the way of another. Let us then pursue what makes for peace and for mutual up building." Rom. 14.

*In Nomine Jesu*  
Rev. Stephen H. Funck  
3:16ff



***Soli Deo Gloria***  
Ezk. He died for all, so that those who live might  
live no longer for themselves, but for him  
who died  
and was raised for them. 2 Cor. 5:15

call for comments on drp  
#1 secrecy in later stages,  
2 no discipline for reconcilers  
power to evade req w/o risk  
No means of oversight statistical foundation  
DRP totally dependant on DP w/o independant staus appointed controllled &

philosphjical  
non professional dealing with theological edepts  
w/o jusgemtn even wehn scripture doctrine calls for it  
refusal to recogniuze Satan is alive and assulting the church  
refusal to ack S&D religious leaders can be evil toos of satan  
seek their own power & position

conregational constituytions 30 years ago foundational change s  
open doror clique ocntrl cong & pastor sandwich detailed anti spirit specif Rule  
of St Benedict

Luke 12: 45 But suppose the servant says to himself, 'My master is taking a long time in coming,' and he then begins to beat the menservants and maidservants and to eat and drink and get drunk.

46 The master of that servant will come on a day when he does not expect him and at an hour he is not aware of. He will cut him to pieces and assign him a place with the unbelievers.

47 "That servant who knows his master's will and does not get ready or does not do what his master wants will be beaten with many blows.

48 But the one who does not know and does things deserving punishment will be beaten with few blows. From everyone who has been given much, much will be demanded; and from the one who has been entrusted with much, much more will be asked.

49 "I have come to bring fire on the earth, and how I wish it were already kindled!

50 But I have a baptism to undergo, and how distressed I am until it is completed!

51 Do you think I came to bring peace on earth? No, I tell you, but division.