

REPORT OF THE EDITORIAL COMMITTEE

Dear Brethren:

“Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord from henceforth; yea, saith the Spirit, that they may rest from their labors; and their works do follow them” (Revelation 14:13).

In light of the fact that, just two weeks ago, the Lord in His wisdom took from this vale of tears to the bliss of heaven our brother, Pastor Paul R. Bloedel; and, given the fact that Pastor Bloedel was the pioneer and trailblazer of the production of our *Concordia Lutheran*, it seemed very appropriate that the Editorial Committee’s report for this year include, *in memoriam*, a brief historical overview of our *C.L.*, of which Pastor Bloedel was an integral part. For this information, your editor is indebted to Stephen Bloedel, who served as a primary resource.

As most of the “old timers” of our Conference know, our *C.L.* is a continuation of the old *Orthodox Lutheran*, which, from 1951 to 1956, was the official organ of the Orthodox Lutheran Conference, our parent body. Because of a split in that group, occasioned by an unresolved controversy in 1955, the faithful remnant of that body reorganized itself in 1956 as the *Concordia Lutheran Conference* and changed the name of its official periodical to *The Concordia Lutheran*, commonly and affectionately known among us as the *C. L.* In its early years, the mid to late 1950's, the *C. L.* was printed by Pastor Bloedel in Empire, Oregon, on a small letter press owned by August Luft. Upon accepting a call to St. Luke’s in Seattle, Pastor Bloedel continued to serve as the printer on machinery which he himself had purchased. Around 1962, he established the Bloedel Printshop in his garage on Graham Street and acquired used linotype equipment which he rebuilt and used to “type-set” text documents with much greater efficiency. Eventually, he got into offset printing, which significantly enhanced and streamlined both the flexibility and the efficiency of the whole operation. In the 1970's the print shop was

moved to another building owned by Mr. Paul Luedtke, a member of the congregation, a facility that subsequently became known as the “P. F. Luedtke Building.” Your editor still recalls his one and only tour of these facilities, marveling that Pastor Bloedel possessed such knowledge and ability in printing, and being equally amazed that he could find time single-handedly to oversee this entire operation. Indeed, for many years, the *C. L.* and Pastor Bloedel were practically synonymous. Thus, we dedicate this report to the Glory of God in grateful remembrance of Pastor Bloedel’s monumental contribution to the establishment of our *C. L.* and the continuing influence his labors still have on our periodical to this day.