

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON LUTHERAN UNION

Dear Brethren:

“He that hath My Word, let him speak My Word faithfully” (Jeremiah 23:28b).

One of our on-going ways of faithfully testifying to the truths of God’s Word and of opposing persistence in false doctrine and practice in other Lutheran church bodies is the periodic “Rightly Judging” series in *The Concordia Lutheran*. During the past year, the September–October issue (pages 145-153) carried the article: “Rightly Judging the Lutheran Church–Missouri Synod.” This issue was sent, with a brief cover letter, to a good number of synodical leaders, pastors and lay-people. We got a few responses back, but none which gave any evidence of taking seriously the “Rightly Judging” article on the LCMS. An example of a polite, yet non-committal response came on November 28, 2006, from Dr. Samuel H. Nafzger, the executive director of the LCMS’s Commission on Theology and Church Relations: “Thank you for sending me a copy of *The Concordia Lutheran* and for your ‘genuine concern’ for The Lutheran Church–Missouri Synod.” On the other hand, an LCMS pastor called the article a “diatribe of LCMS.” [A diatribe is a “bitter, abusive denunciation or criticism” –Random House *Webster’s College Dictionary*.] But, the pastor provided no documentation to disprove of or refute anything in the *CL* article. Rather, he explained his reasons for remaining in the LCMS (despite the clear instruction in Romans 16:17-18 to “*avoid them*”).

In the state of Texas, among a group of “confessionals” in the LCMS, there is a very disturbed “confessional.” He has been communicating with us, is most appreciative of the CLC position in doctrine and practice, and has spread “the word” about the CLC to many; but at present he is still in this heterodox body. We continue to set before him the will of God in the Holy Scriptures concerning fellowship.

Two members of our CLU, Pastor Mensing and yours truly, drove to Hudson, Michigan, last January (the 3rd) and met with Pastor Nathan Diers, who, with his congregation, Emmaus Lutheran Church, had properly applied the instruction of Romans 16:17 to the Lutheran Churches of the Reformation (LCR). We stayed overnight and visited with him most of the next day also, going back home that evening. It was a very profitable use of our time! Pastor Diers declared that he found nothing contrary to God’s Word in the doctrine and practice of the CLC, including the proper application of 6th Commandment principles to the modern, worldly, social dance. We offered to meet with the members of his congregation at their invitation, to answer any questions which they may have, and to do whatever we can possibly do to help them. It was a joy to have Pastor Diers present last Tuesday for the first day of our Pastoral Conference.

It is more and more obvious that our Conference Web site on the Internet is an invaluable tool night-and-day for people to get accurate information about our Conference. Furthermore, it is an invaluable tool for us to gain information about other Lutheran bodies, especially those coming up for consideration in our “Rightly Judging” series in the *CL*. We thank our gracious and merciful God for the gift of this technology to assist us so much in our work and “*business*” (Luke 2:49) in His kingdom of grace.

May the unchanging “*love of Christ*” (II Corinthians 5:14) continue to constrain and motivate us **1**) to “*hold fast*” (Revelation 3:11) to the precious truths which our God has given to us in His infallible Word, **2**) to abhor, hate, and withdraw from every false teaching and idea contrary to the Scriptures (Romans 12:9b; Psalm 119:104-105; I Timothy 6:3-5), and, when we have the opportunity, **3**) to “*speak as the oracles of God*” (I Peter 4:11) to those who are caught in and deceived by error (II Timothy 3:13), ever confessing: “*We can do nothing*

against the truth, but for the truth” (II Corinthians 13:8).

Respectfully submitted,

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