
The AALC Forum News

The Word Alone + Grace Alone + Faith Alone

Volume 1, No. 1

November 1994

Greetings!

It has been some time since our Inerrancy Conference in Indianapolis in August. In the busyness of parish ministry it is easy to forget how much time has passed and how there may be those who are wondering if there is anything going on now, or if there are plans for anything in the future. This is to inform you (those on our mailing list) that indeed things are 'going on' and indeed there are plans for the future.

One thing that is 'going on' concerns a statement on the Word that grew out of our conference in Indianapolis. This statement has been sent to quite a number of Lutheran Church bodies for critiquing. A number of responses have been sent back... and the responses have been quite encouraging and helpful. We are also interested in comments and suggestions from persons such as yourselves. These can be sent to Pastor Donald Thorson, Christ Lutheran Church, 467 East Colme St., Chippewa Falls, WI 54729.

INDIANAPOLIS STATEMENT CONCERNING SCRIPTURE

(first draft, August 14, 1994)

We recognize and submit to the autographs (original texts derived inductively from the best extant manuscripts) of all the canonical books of the Old and the New Testaments as a whole, and in all their parts and words (verbal inspiration), as God's only written and authoritative Word, the divinely inspired, revealed, harmonious (without discrepancies or contradictions), and inerrant Word of God (historically accurate in all it reports, including the six days of creation, and prophetically reliable in all that it promises), and joyfully submit to this as the only infallible authority in all matters of doctrine, practice, faith, and life.

Bold print indicates what has been added to the Minneapolis Thesis, Article 1 of 1925.

**The Second Indianapolis Conference
St. Matthew Luth. Church, Indianapolis, IN
April 24 and 25, 1995**

FORUM PASTORS AND CONGREGATIONS IN PROTEST

Several FORUM pastors and congregations have felt the need to move into a position of protest with regard to their involvement in the AALC. During the June AALC Convention, opportunities for the convention to make clear statements with regard to the position of the AALC on the Word of God and with regard to the Charismatic issue were all tabled. The FORUM had asked for a clean 'yes' or 'no vote on the Christ Lutheran resolution. When that was not to be, pastors Donald Thorson, Ralph Spears, Roy Steward and John Erickson, as well as the congregations of Christ Lutheran, Chetek, WI, St. Matthew, Indianapolis, IN, and Faith Lutheran, Altoona, PA, all informed the AALC Presiding Pastor that they were in a position of 'suspended participation' with regard to the AALC.

This has meant a suspension of any involvement in any positions of leadership in the church body, and a suspension of all financial support of the AALC by the protesting congregations.

Where Do We Go From Here?

Following the Conference in Indianapolis, the steering committee of the FORUM met. It was determined then that we would meet for our second conference April 24 and 25, 1995. It was also decided that the steering committee would meet in February to finalize plans for the April Conference.

In order that we might make plans for the future, it was decided that a letter

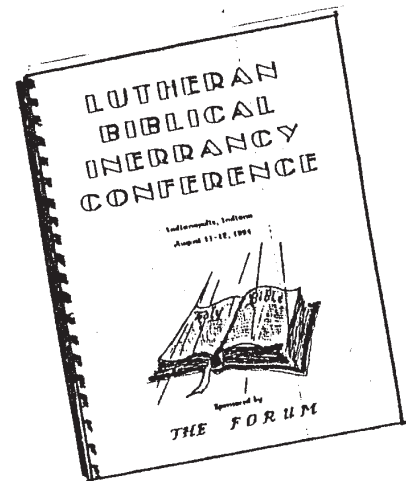
would be sent to the AALC Presiding Pastor indicating that we would request that a preliminary report of the 'Blue Ribbon Committee', authorized by the June Convention, be in our hands in time for our February meeting. This will help us in making decisions relative to the direction we, as member congregations of the FORUM, may wish to take during or following our April Conference.

A mailing will be coming your way following our February meeting with more details as to the content and direction we will be taking in April.

Conference Reports Still Available

The presentations at our first Conference on Biblical Inerrancy have been edited and bound into booklet form. Quite a number of these booklets have gone out. But they are still available. If you would like a copy, order them from pastor John Erickson, P. O. Box 31, Chetek, WI. 54728. Cost of the booklet, including mailing is \$6.00. If there is no need to mail, or if several are sent in one mailing, the overpayment will be returned to you.

Audio and video tapes are also available, requests for these can also be sent to Pastor Erickson and prices will be sent to you.



LUTHER ON THE WORD AND SACRAMENTS ALONE

In short, enthusiasm clings to Adam and his descendants from the beginning to the end of the world. It is a poison implanted and inoculated in man by the old dragon, and it is the source, strength, and power of all heresy, including that of the papacy and Mohammedanism. Accordingly, we should and must constantly maintain that God will not deal with us except through his external Word and sacrament. Whatever is attributed to the Spirit apart from such Word and sacrament is of the devil (Smalcald Articles, p. 3. art.8).

The Second Indianapolis Conference

April 24/25, 1994

(tentative schedule of topics)

"Continuation: The Inerrancy of Scripture"

Session 1 - Panel Discussion "The Indianapolis Statement concerning Scripture

"The Holy Spirit and His Gifts"

Session 2 - "Biblical Definition"

Basic Thesis: The Doctrine concerning the Holy Spirit and His Gifts must be defined by the Scriptures rather than by contemporary experiences.

Session 3 - "Unique and Prescriptive according to the Bible"

What is unique to the Apostolic Age, and what is prescriptive for the Church?

Session 4 - "Teachings of Orthodox Lutherans"

Session 5 - "The Holy Spirit's Gifts in the Means of Grace and Prayer"

AALC BLUE RIBBON COMMITTEE

Word is that the Blue Ribbon Committee authorized at the June AALC Convention has been appointed. The committee was chosen at the Association Council Meeting in October in Minneapolis. We also have word that a preliminary report should be out in January or early

February.

This committee is to... Deal with the Christ Lutheran (Chippewa Falls, WI) [less part 5] and the Faith Lutheran (Silverton, OR) resolutions to clarify issues raised in these resolutions especially with regard to identification (who is the AALC?) and purpose.

Statement of Identity

Adopted May 11, 1994 - Chicago, Illinois

We are a Forum of AALC Pastors, Church Boards / Councils, and Congregations who have met and who plan to continue to meet for the purpose of discussing matters of mutual concern.

We Affirm and hold that The unaltered Augsburg Confession non-negotiables are the central definitive proclamation of the Nature of the Church.

Our desire is to work within our AALC Church Body to:

(1) bring about a return to the original understandings which led to the formation of the AALC; and
(2) attempt to ensure adherence to the basic principles embodied in the AALC constitution.

We Covenant together to keep in continuous and open communication between ourselves as member Pastors, Boards, and Congregations.

Initial "Four-um" Pastors

Roy A. Steward
Ralph W. Spears
Richard G. Hueter
John S. Erickson

Initial Congregations

Barley Ev. Lutheran, rural Altoona, PA
Faith Ev. Lutheran, Altoona, PA
St. Matthew Lutheran, Indianapolis, IN
Christ Lutheran, Chetek, WI

Additional Pastors and Congregations -- Pastor Donald Thorson and Christ Lutheran, Chippewa Falls, WI

The AALC FORUM
P. O. Box 31
Chetek, WI 54728

To:

The Word Alone

Grace Alone

Faith Alone