

The Indianapolis Conference News

The Word Alone

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Grace Alone

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Faith Alone

VOLUME 2, NO. 1

MARCH 1995

The Second Indianapolis Conference

Plans are in place for the Second Indianapolis conference to be held Monday and Tuesday, April 24-25, 1995. The conference will again be held at St. Matthew Lutheran Church, 2837 East New York Street, Indianapolis.



There is more Conference information in this newsletter as well as a registration form. Also feel free to contact any of the conference pastors or Pastor Ralph Spears of St. Matthew Lutheran if you have any questions or concerns.

FORUM CONGREGATIONS and PASTORS EXIT THE AALC

As a result of recent developments with the American Association of Lutheran Churches, three of the five FORUM congregations have taken steps to withdraw their membership in the AALC.

The church council of Faith Lutheran, Altoona, PA, and the congregations of St. Matthew Lutheran, Indianapolis, IN, and Christ Lutheran, Chetek, WI, took unanimous votes to withdraw in December and January.

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A New (temporary) Name

You will notice that already, with our second issue, this newsletter has a new name. Because of the withdrawal of 3/5 of the AALC FORUM pastors and congregations from the AALC, it was felt that the name AALC FORM should be dropped. Since all our efforts now center around the Indianapolis Conference, it was felt that we would use that name until such a time as we are officially organized as a church body.

With these developments, our function as a FORUM has also changed focus. We organized in May of 1994 to work from within the AALC to: (1) bring about a return to the original understandings which led to the formation of the AALC; and (2) to attempt to assure adherence to the basic principles embodied in the AALC constitution. Since the majority of us have seen no 'fruit' from these efforts, our focus has also then changed from a 'hope for change in the AALC' to a hope for the 'coming together' in fellowship and ministry of like minded congregations and pastors.

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Pastors Steward, Erickson and Spears have also withdrawn their names from the AALC Clergy Roster.

Pastor Thorson and the congregation of Christ Lutheran, Chippewa Falls, WI, are going to see if anything can happen at the AALC convention in June, but they hold little hope for any changes in the present direction of things. Pastor Hueter of McAllister, WI, is a bit more optimistic and looks for some real changes to take place.

For those leaving, the neoorthodoxy, so entrenched in the AALC, and the continued insistence on the "Three-strand" description of the AALC, convinced them there would be no substantial change forthcoming. Dr. Lindberg, who at the Friday evening of the convention urged the dropping of the "three-strand" description and seemed to apologize for originating it,

in his recent Prairie Fire Epistle turned the tables on his convention statements and wrote, "I am still convinced, as I have been since the beginning of the AALC, that Lutherans from a variety of backgrounds, worship styles, politics and pieties (including those who identify (sic) themselves as 'orthodox,' 'evangelical,' and 'renewal') can learn to serve the Lord together in a single church body. I believe that our first seven years of AALC history have demonstrated this."

Interestingly quite a number of folks in, as well as outside, the AALC feel the opposite has been proved. There is little question but that the AALC has become a "Charismatic Lutheran Church Body" as well as body of factions warring over various theologies and ideologies. In any case it has become a far cry from what many were led to believe the church was to be, namely, a continuation of the former ALC.

Proposed Schedule of Presentations

The Second Indianapolis Conference - April 24 - 25, 1995

Monday	2:00 PM	The Holy Spirit and His Gifts Pastor Spears, 'The Biblical Basis'
	3:30 PM	The Holy Spirit and His Gifts Pastor Erickson, "Apostolic Uniqueness"
	6:15 PM	Indianapolis Statement concerning Scripture Conference Pastors - A Panel Discussion
Tuesday	8:30 AM	The Holy Spirit and His Gifts Pastor Thorson, "Teachings of Orthodox Lutherans"
	10:00 AM	The Holy Spirit and His Gifts Pastor Steward, 'The Holy Spirit in the Means of Grace'

Indianapolis Conference Registration Form

Please photocopy as many copies of this form as you may need.
Fill out one form, if husband and wife, otherwise fill out one form per registrant.

Directions to St. Matthew Lutheran

Phone -317-637-8870 / 356-8295

From the North - Take I-65 all the way into town. Immediately after it crosses I-70 take the Michigan-New York exit to the right. Second light is New York St. Turn left about 10 blocks to the church.

From the East - take I-70 West all the way into the Rural-Keystone Exit. Turn left (South) and from that light go to the 7th light. On Rural street (which is New York St.), turn left and find the church immediately on the right.

From the South - I-65 comes up to the downtown. Take Market street exit East. Go 3 stop signs to T. Turn left (north to light) that is New York St. Turn right and go six blocks to the church.

Motels in the Area of St. Matthew

Note: all prices are given for double occupancy. If you need more information or help in arranging for a room, contact Pastor Spears.

Budgettel Inn
I-70 and North Post Rd.
1-317-897-2300
1-800-428-3438
\$50.55 (double)

Dollar Inn
I-70 and Post Rd.
1-317-899-1499
\$33.85 (double)

Quality Inn
3525 N. Shadeland Ave
1-317-549-2222
\$55 (double)

Motel 6
2851 North Shadeland
1-317-546-5864
\$35.19 (double)

Signature Inn
I-465 and Washington
Street East
317-353-6966
\$65 (double)

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Mail Registration form to: St. Matthew Lutheran Church
2837 East New York St.
Indianapolis, IN 46201

Name _____

Address _____

Phone # _____

Congregation _____

There is no set cost for the Conference. A offering will be received at the worship service and 'free-will' donations for meals.

_____ I (we) would like you to meet me (us) at the airport.

_____ I (we) will arrange for our own housing.

_____ I (we) would like if you could arrange housing for us in the homes of congregational members for Monday night.

_____ I (we) will plan to eat meals at St. Matthew.

A New church Body?

At the FORUM steering Committee meeting held in Chicago on February 5 and 6, the three congregations that had withdrawn membership in the AALC were encouraged to look toward some kind of organization.

Work is therefore underway to organize a provisional body, possibly under the name, "The Lutheran Synod and Ministerium" (LSM), [A Synodical Forum by Subscription]. The idea is that after thorough study and discussion, congregations and pastors would 'walk together' by 'signing under' a series of doctrinal statements. This organization would provide opportunities for theological discussion, fellowship, and united efforts ministry and mission for congregations and pastors of like mind. It is hoped that details of organization will be ready in time for the Second Indianapolis conference and that initial subscriptions could then take place either then or shortly thereafter.

Conference Pastors and Congregation

Falth Ev. & Barley Ev. Lutheran Churches

Rev. Roy Steward (814-943-4609)

RD 5, box 864, Altoona, PA 16601

St. Matthew Lutheran Church

Rev. Ralph Spears (317-637-8870)

2837 East New York St., Indianapolis, IN 46201

Christ Lutheran church

Rev. John Erickson (715-924-2552)

P. O. Box 31, Chetek, WI 54728

Community Lutheran Church of McAllister

Rev. Dick Hueter (715-732-0327)

N9945 Highway 180, Wausaukee, WI 54177

Christ Lutheran Church

Rev. Donald Thorson (715-723-8273)

467 Colome St., Chippewa Falls, WI 54729

To:

The Indianapolis Conference
P. O. Box 31
Chetek, WI 54728

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