



CONCORDIA
DEACONESS
CONFERENCE

BLUES News

BLUES NEWS

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OUR CONFERENCE

Concordia Deaconess Conference (CDC), a recognized service organization of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, is a free association of LCMS—rostered deaconesses and certified deaconess candidates who subscribe to and live by the confessional position of the LCMS and hold membership in an LCMS congregation.

CDC works to provide spiritual and professional growth and fellowship for deaconesses and support for diaconal service in Christ.

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SEPTEMBER ISSUE

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CDC CONFERENCE RECAP... Deborah Rockrohr

The CDC annual conference and business meeting was held June 27–30 at Dear Creek State Park Lodge and Conference Center near Columbus, Ohio. The conference was attended by sixty-three members and affiliates, ten deaconess students and interns, eleven guests, and eight children.

Under the theme “Being Distinctly Lutheran,” participants were led in a study of the Book of Romans by the Reverend Jack Davidson, Pastor of Redeemer Lutheran Church in Lancaster, Ohio, and Second Vice President of the Ohio District of the LCMS. The Reverend Adam Steinbrenner, Associate Pastor of St. John Lutheran Church in Dublin, Ohio, led a multi part study of the Christian’s role in Church and world, drawing on Articles XVI and XXVIII of the Augsburg Confession, Scripture, the writings of Martin Luther, and current-day theologians. The Reverend Kevin Loughran, Pastor of Grace Lutheran Church in St. Petersburg, Florida, and Spiritual Counselor for CDC, led participants in Morning and Evening Prayer each day and was available for spiritual counsel and private confession and

absolution during the conference. Deaconesses Kimberly Bahr and Sarah Longmire were re-elected to a second two-year term as Secretary and Member-at-Large for Spiritual and Professional Growth, respectively. Deaconess Deborah Rockrohr was elected to a two-year term as President of CDC.

Durante los días 27 al 30 de Junio, en Dear Creek State Park Lodge y Centro de Conferencias en las cercanías de Columbus, Ohio, se llevó a cabo la asamblea anual y ciclo de conferencias CDC. La misma contó con la participación de 63 miembros y afiliadas, 10 estudiantes y pasantes de diaconisas, 11 invitados y 8 niños.

Reunidos bajo el lema “Ser Claramente Luterano”, los participantes fueron guiados en un estudio basado en el libro de Romanos por el Reverendo Jack Davidson, pastor de la Iglesia Luterana Redentor en Lancaster, Ohio, y segundo vicepresidente del Distrito de Ohio de la LCMS. El Reverendo Adam Steinbrenner, pastor asociado de la Iglesia

Luterana de St. John en Dublin, Ohio, dirigió un estudio acerca del papel del cristiano en la Iglesia y el mundo, el cual se basó en el estudio de los Artículos XVI y XXVIII de la Confesión de Augsburgo, la Sagrada Escritura, y los escritos de Martin Lutero y otros teólogos modernos. El Reverendo Kevin Loughran, pastor de la Iglesia Luterana Grace en St. Petersburg, Florida, y consejero espiritual de CDC, guió a los participantes en la oración matutina y vespertina cada día y estuvo disponible para asesoramiento espiritual y para la confesión y absolución privadas durante los días del encuentro.

Las diaconisas Kimberly Bahr y Sarah Longmire fueron reelectas como Secretaria y Miembro-at-large para Crecimiento Espiritual y Profesional respectivamente por un segundo período de 2 años. La diaconisa Deborah Rockrohr fue electa como presidenta de CDC, recibiendo también un mandato por 2 años.

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Prayer requests can be emailed to the prayer coordinator at cdcprayers@comcast.net.

Digital pictures can go to photos.cdc@gmail.com for publication or other conference uses.

Newsletter submissions and suggestions can be sent to deborah.rockrohr@gmail.com.

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BEING DISTINCTLY LUTHERAN

Rev. Kevin Loughran



Dear Sisters in Christ,

What does it mean to be distinctively Lutheran? That was the theme of this year's Conference held at Deer Creek Lodge just outside of Columbus, Ohio. Of course, there are many things that come to mind when considering the answer to this important question: for example, the Three "Solus," certain European heritages, and Confessional Subscription. In the end, though, it seems to me that being distinctively Lutheran is to start with the Second Article of the Creed and to have everything flow from there.

Consider the words of Christ Jesus Himself in this regard: "You search the Scriptures because you think that in them you have eternal life; and it is they that bear witness about Me" (John 5:39). Or again, "These are My words that I spoke to you while I was still with you, that everything written about Me in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms must be fulfilled.' Then He opened their minds to understand the Scriptures, and said to them, 'Thus it is written, that the Christ should suffer and on the third day rise again from the dead, and that repentance and forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in His name to all nations'" (Luke 24:44-47).

Thus, to be distinctively Lutheran is to hold the biblical faith, which has as its source God the Son. For Lutherans, everything must be understood in light of the Son's incarnation, suffering, death, resurrection, ascension, and second coming. Indeed, for

a Lutheran Christian, everything from creation to salvation to sanctification flows from the Son. According to the Scriptures themselves, to be Christ-centered is more than a mode of biblical interpretation; it is a total change of heart, mind, and soul that is given by the Son as a gift in and through the water of Holy Baptism, for it is there that Christ is put on for us. From Baptism onward through all eternity, a person lives, moves, and has his or her being in Christ Jesus.

And so, to be distinctively Lutheran is to be sacramental, for Holy Baptism, Holy Absolution, and Holy Communion along with the preaching of God's Word are the means by which one is connected to the holy triune God in Christ. It sounds complicated, but it really is simple, as the apostle Paul states, "If anyone is in Christ, He is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come" (2 Corinthians 5:17).

During the course of the conference, we had the opportunity to receive the Sacraments of Absolution and Communion as God's gifts, to hear God's Word preached for us, and to be strengthened in the faith through the study of that Word. We were also blessed to be able to feed one another's faith through the witness of our songs of praise and our times of fellowship.

My prayer as your spiritual advisor is that you would recognize that these same gifts are available to you in your congregations. Know, too, that

you are ever in my prayers and that I am always available through a variety of ways—phone, text, email, or facebook message—to provide counsel and aid when needed.

Your Servant in Christ,

Rev. Kevin R Loughran
CDC Spiritual Advisor

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SER DISTINTIVAMENTE LUTERANO

Rev. Kevin Loughran

Queridas hermanas en Cristo,

¿Qué significa ser distintivamente luterano? Este fue el tema de la Conferencia de este año, la cual se celebró en el Deer Creek Lodge en las afueras de Columbus, Ohio. Por supuesto, hay muchas cosas que vienen a la mente cuando consideramos la respuesta a esta importante cuestión. Las "tres solas", cierta herencia europea, la suscripción confesional. Sin embargo, finalmente, me parece que el ser distintivamente luterano comienza con el segundo artículo del Credo y todo fluye desde allí. Consideremos las palabras de Jesucristo mismo, en este sentido:

"Escudriñad las Escrituras, porque os parece que en ellas tenéis la vida eterna; y ellas son las que dan testimonio de mí." Jn 5:39.

O, nuevamente, "Estas son las palabras que os hablé, estando aún con vosotros: que todo lo escrito sobre mí en la ley de Moisés, en los profetas y en los salmos debe cumplirse.' Entonces les abrió el entendimiento para que comprendieran las Escrituras y les dijo: 'Así está escrito, que el Cristo padecerá, y resucitará al tercer día, y en su nombre

se predicarán el arrepentimiento y el perdón de pecados a todas las naciones..." Lc 24: 44-47a.

Por lo tanto, ser distintivamente luterano es sostener la fe bíblica que tiene como fuente a Dios el Hijo. Para los luteranos todo ha de entenderse a la luz de la encarnación, el sufrimiento, la muerte, la resurrección, la ascensión y la segunda venida del Hijo. De hecho, para todo cristiano luterano todo, desde la creación hasta la salvación hasta la santificación, fluye del Hijo. De acuerdo con las Escrituras, ser centrado en Cristo es más que un modo de interpretación bíblica; es un cambio total de corazón, mente y alma que se da por el Hijo como un regalo en y por el agua del Santo Bautismo porque es allí donde somos revestidos de Cristo. Desde el bautismo en adelante a través de toda su vida y hasta la eternidad una persona vive, se mueve y tiene su ser en Cristo Jesús.

Y así, ser distintivamente luterano es ser sacramental de manera tal que el Santo Bautismo, la Santa Absolución, y la Santa Comunión, junto con la predicación, son los medios por los cuales uno está conectado con Dios Trino y Uno, en Cristo. Suena complicado, pero en realidad es bastante simple como el apóstol Pablo lo escribe: "Si alguno está en Cristo, es

una nueva creación. Lo viejo ha pasado; ha llegado ya lo nuevo." 2 Corintios 5:17.

Durante el transcurso de la Conferencia, tuvimos la oportunidad de recibir los Sacramentos de la absolución y la comunión como regalos de Dios, de oír la Palabra de Dios predicada para nosotros y de fortalecernos en la fe a través del estudio de la Palabra. También fuimos bendecidos para alimentar la fe de cada uno con el testimonio de nuestras canciones de alabanza y tiempos de comunión.

Como su consejero espiritual, es mi oración que reconozcan que estos mismos dones están disponibles para ustedes en sus congregaciones. Sepan también que están en mis oraciones y que si lo necesitan siempre estoy disponible a través de una variedad de formas - teléfono, texto, correo electrónico o mensaje de Facebook - para aconsejar y ayudar cuando sea necesario.

Su servidor en Cristo,

Rev. Kevin R Loughran
 Consejero Espiritual de CDC



CALENDAR

FUTURE CONFERENCES

June 26–29 2017 Antioch Village, Ligonier, PA Pittsburgh area

2018 Irvine, CA

2019 Twin Cities (St. Paul/ Minneapolis), MN