

Table Talk

News and Views of the Student Body of The Lutheran
Theological Seminary at Gettysburg.

Vol. III No. 1

September 20, 1966

DR. WENTZ LEAVES

Editorial

Since few of us have had him in class, Dr. Frederick K. Wentz is unfortunately not as well known to us as are most of the professors. Having captured the ping pong championship of the seminary last year, he is now leaving his position on the faculty of Gettysburg Seminary to assume the presidency of the Hamma School of Theology at Springfield, Ohio. The purpose of this article is to provide students with additional information about his career so that they may have greater appreciation of this man whose talents have contributed to seminary life at Gettysburg for the past decade.

Dr. Wentz, whose father has been professor and president of this seminary, is a graduate of Gettysburg College and Gettysburg Seminary. He did graduate work at the University of Southern California and Yale University, receiving his doctorate from Yale in 1954.

Professionally, Dr. Wentz was mission organizer and pastor of Grace Lutheran Church, Culver City, California, 1945-48. He was the Chaplain and Assistant Professor of Religion at Hartwick College, 1951-56. He is a member of the Board of World Missions of the Lutheran Church in America.

Dr. Wentz has written for papers of the religious press, including the Christian Century, Interpretation, Church History, Lutheran World, Lutheran Quarterly, and Lutheran. He is presently editor of the Lutheran Quarterly.

His books include: The Times Test the Church, 1956; The Layman's Role Today, 1963; Lutherans and Other Denominations, 1964; and The Reaction of the Religious Press in America to the Emergence of Nazism, his doctoral dissertation, was printed in 1964 by University Microfilms. He also edited S. S. Smucker's Fraternal Appeal, 1965.

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THE CHURCH IN THE "SMOKE-FILLED ROOM"

It is probably safe to assume that the church's involvement in political life is an established fact. Even a superficial analysis of American political life points this out. Perhaps the most obvious examples are seen in connection with the "Negro Revolution," the war in Vietnam, and the "poverty programs." The question as to whether or not the church was instrumental in bringing about action and discussion in these areas is not the point. Nor does the question any longer revolve around the decision as to whether this is good or bad. Most of us, I would assume, hold a positive attitude toward this stance of the church. But given these two facts, that the church is involved and that this is good, an important decision still remains to be faced, the question of degree.

Effective political activity involves much more than an occasional statement of policy or opinion. Total commitment of all available resources is required. And we must assume that the church's decision to involve itself presupposes the desire to be effective. So the necessary conclusion is that the church must be totally committed in the political arena to be effective. Total commitment does not necessarily require the exclusiveness and narrowness it seems to imply. If this were the case, then the church would have to completely transform itself into a political party, and thus cease to be the church. But this is not the case. The church is based on a total commitment which may utilize various structures, one of which is political activity. When it does make use of this structure, it brings with it the total commitment on which

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FROM THE SPORT'S WORLD

Here we are fans at the beginning of another great season of fun and games sponsored by the Student Association, and according to the latest rainfall count, I think that this year may well see the start of some new action on campus. If conditions hold out, the year will begin with water polo where you can drown your best friend instead of all that brutal body contact which has been the fall recreation in years past. I also have plans for a swimming and diving meet to be held in the pot-holes of Schmucker Stadium. We could conclude the fall agenda with the first annual crew races along Confederate Avenue. So let's get out there and start those rain dances men.

In the event that the 90% chance of rain does not hold true we will hear the cheers going up from old Schmucker Stadium marking the start of the one hundred and forty-first touch football campaign. The line-up of players returning from their successful summer of making theological advertisements indicates that this may be one of the bloodiest and most satisfying seasons for this great spectator sport. If good weather prevails, there is hope that the fall schedule will also include a volleyball tournament for those of you who watch the football games.

In the winter months the seminary will once again hit the wooden courts battling it out with the men with the whistles to see who is superior in the Gettysburg Basketball League. If the returning starters from last year's team continue in their good form, I think we will see a continuation of the fall schedule of sports into the winter months.

The spring highlight this year will be the addition of tennis which will follow the ever popular event of life-and-death over the ping-pong nets. There will also be some attempts made this year to start an up-hill softball (Cont'd next col.)

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Table Talk will regularly appear every Tuesday morning. Anyone interested in writing for Table Talk is encouraged to do so. Articles should be placed in the Managing Editor's mailbox no later than noon on Friday for the following Tuesday's edition.

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competition among the classes.

In all I think this year promises to be one of the most athletic in the history of the seminary, so don't bother to buy books for the next two quarters, you won't have time to read them.

Art Patterson

DR. WENTZ (Cont'd from page 1)

Obviously, Dr. Wentz has been a notable figure of Gettysburg's faculty during the past decade. He is now set to tackle a new and formidable task at Hamma. He said, "The task which lies before me at Hamma School of Theology comes as both challenge and opportunity, though it is with deep regret that I leave the associations and duties at Gettysburg that have meant so much to me. Obviously I shall always be a Gettysburg man, whatever else I become." We certainly wish him the best.

Richard A. Seaks

Football game this afternoon: the Middlers meet the Seniors at Schmucker Stadium.

FROM THE MUSICAL WORLD

Editorial (Cont'd from page 1)

On Monday, last week, the Seminary choir began rehearsals and work preparing for events of the coming academic year. This will be the twenty-fifth year that the choir under the direction of Robert S. Clippinger, has been in existence. As in the past, it looks forward to a very active year occupying an important place in the life of the Seminary.

This year the choir is going to participate regularly in the Service each Friday. It is hoped that about twice a month an anthem can be presented. When music is available for the psalm of the day, the choir, upon request, will be glad to lead the congregation in the music.

An event of significance is coming in October for the choir. It has been asked to participate in a program with the Gettysburg College Choir and the college Chapel Choir. This is a music festival being sponsored by Lutheran Brotherhood. The program, Friday, October 21, should prove very interesting because the three choirs have different styles and techniques.

As a part of the Festival Season of Advent and Christmas, the choir hopes to develop a short Christmas Program. This group of numbers will be presented on campus and in other local places.

Last but not least, the choir will be making its annual tour between the second and third quarters. This year the direction of travel will be westward. Along with the tour, we will be making a number of visits to local churches on Wednesday evenings during Lent.

This year marks the 450th anniversary of the Reformation. In honor of this, a group of works by Luther will be included in the choir's repertoire. Along with these pieces, many of the outstanding choral works of the church will be performed.

Singing in the choir affords certain opportunities for the student which are obvious. Membership is still open to all who wish to join. If you have not come before and are interested, please come to the next rehearsal.

Don Main

it is based. In other words, the total commitment can be realized through many varying structures. So for the church to involve itself in the political arena without a total commitment of all available resources would be a denial or repudiation of that ultimate commitment on which it is based. Every sphere of activity in which the church is engaged must have this total commitment at its base, and this is expressed by the total commitment it displays in a particular activity.

What does this mean in terms of political activity? Obviously much more than a statement of policy, an occasional demonstration, or even a permanent lobby. Effective political involvement requires active participation at all levels of the American political fabric, both in the public view and behind-the-scenes. While most people today would at least condone the former, they view the "smoke-filled room" style of politics as immoral, "dirty," and below the dignity of the church. But a realistic view of American politics shows this latter form of political activity to be at least as effective as the former. Of course, because the latter form is behind-the-scenes, a great deal of "shady business" does take place. But to use a term, "machine politics" is not necessarily bad because it is "machine politics." The use of such political devices is what should be criticized, not the devices themselves. They are facts of life and very effective facts at that. I am not suggesting, however, that the church set up its own political machinery. I suggest rather that the church utilize its financial and manpower resources to apply effective and organized pressure at the levels of "gut politics" as well as at the "higher" levels. The parish pastor should be as acquainted with the ward-boss, his lieutenants, and their operation as he is with the Sunday Church School. His involvement with the total life of his community demands this. The resources at his disposal present him and the church with a great political potential in the (Cont'd on page 4)

Editorial (cont. from page 3)

community. The prestige of his office, the financial resources, the building itself and a weekly audience form the content of this potential. Naturally, the church should be as open to criticism as to the use of this potential as any other person or institution. But the fact remains that "gut politics" is a legitimate and necessary sphere of the church's activity: how it makes use of it is another, but equally important, question. My purpose has only been to emphasize its legitimacy--its necessity should be apparent.

Bob Pielke

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