

Table Talk

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

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December 8, 1970

WELCOME NSA TEAM

We are privileged to welcome this week six distinguished delegates from the Middle States Association. These men arrived Sunday December 6 and will remain until Wednesday afternoon, December 9. Members of the team are as follows: Mr. C. Ellis, Juniata College; Mr. R. De Value, Geton Hall University; Mr. L.D. Lund, Midland Lutheran College; Mr. R. Porreco, Georgetown University; Mr. S. Shirk, Pennsylvania Education Department; and Mr. C. Willard, Princeton Theological Seminary. Their objective is to survey the campus and to interview the seminary community for the purpose of accreditation. Because of their rather difficult job, we should display our Christian love and hospitality by making their stay as pleasant as possible.

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ADVENT EUCHARIST

The community is reminded of the Advent Eucharist to be held Tuesday, December 8, at 7:30 p.m. in the Chapel. The service will include as part of the synaxis the presentation by the Chancel Players of the e.e. cummings work, Santa Claus.

Let us all come together and rejoice at the anticipation and expectation of the coming of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus the Christ.

BAUGHMAN OPEN HOUSE CHANGED LIBRARY

Due to the fact that the Advent Festival this year falls during finals week, it has been decided by a majority of the residents of Baughman Hall to postpone the annual open house until the epiphany Festival in early January. It was felt that such activity in the hall would prove distracting to those who needed the time for study.

This is the news.

What follows is opinion.

It seems a shame to throw out a beautiful tradition of what is supposed to be the joyous season of Advent. It seems to this writer that Advent and Christmas rank second only to Easter in the joy of the Christian year. And yet we are making it a very somber occasion by convincing ourselves that finals are to be equated with Armageddon. Isn't it amazing that a joyous communal celebration of the beautiful Advent season is to be compromised by our obsession with the academic game. Perhaps we should even forget the Festival celebration of the Eucharist. I'm sure those couple hours could also be well spent preparing for a systematics exam. It's a pity that academic fixation should take precedence over the celebrating of the glorious Gospel story of the coming of our Saviour.

Ed Neiderhiser

The publication of all Student Association committee and Student Association meetings for the month of November are included in this issue of Table Talk.

EPIPHANY FESTIVAL EUCHARIST

Although plans for the January 6 Festival of the Epiphany Eucharist have not been finalized, by all appearances it should be a swinging celebration of the festival. With an all new jazz setting of the thanksgiving, special lighting effects, and full congregational procession with banners, the celebration should prove to be one of the high points of the liturgical year.

The synaxis portion of the service will be done very simply and without music. The outline of the service of the word has not been completed yet.

The Offertory processional will find a marked change in the tempo of the celebration. To the singing of Psalm of praise 150 set to a jazz arrangement, the congregation will present not only their gifts of money and bread and wine at the altar, but will also present themselves in the following manner. At Epiphany we celebrate the coming of the Magi. And thus the festival has come to symbolize the coming to the Kingdom of people from all worlds and all walks of life. So all those who are planning to attend are asked, either individually or in groups, to make banners portraying who you are, where you are from, what makes you what you are. These will then be carried by you in the Offertory procession, to present before the altar of God who you are, and to offer Him what you are yet to become.

Then after the Prayer of the Church, the Thanksgiving will take place, entirely sung, following the SEM text, but set to a totally new musical form.

The music for this service (with minor exceptions) has been composed specifically for this festival by Ed Neiderhiser. It is heavily jazz oriented and will be accompanied by a jazz combo consisting of Dave Harper, drums; Rich Workman, bass; Ken Diable, trumpet; and the composer on piano. During the distribution

several SEM hymns will be sung with the traditional melody set in a jazz tempo. Also during the distribution senior Jack Keeler will sing a special rendition of the text of John 1:1-5,14 in the original Greek. The musical setting for this was also composed by Mr. Neiderhiser.

Adding to the celebration will be some special lighting effects being worked out by Dr. Jenson who also will be the presiding minister at the celebration.

Epiphany promises to be a high point in the liturgical year. All are invited to attend this experimental liturgy and to present themselves both in person and symbolized in banners before the table of the Lord.

Student Publications staff:

Managing Editor, Ed Neiderhiser
Faculty Advisor, Don Matthews
Editorial staff, Jack Keeler
Steve Dorsett
Harry Wolpert
Washington Correspondent,
John Keating

FINALS: A COMMENT

Every occupation has its hazards. A miner worries about cave-ins; a trapeze artist worries about sweaty palms; a quarterback worries about slippery line backers; and a student worries about finals. So here we sit--smiling grimly at each other, filling the 'brary to capacity, and corporately wishing that it was next week. To those who lament the lack of community here, just look around. There may be more "community" here during finals week than any other time during the quarter.

But relax, folks! Next week will get here, and papers will get done before extensions run out, and courses will get passed, and we'll all get to come back again. And best of all, the Kingdom will eventually triumph in spite of us all.

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"PSALMS FOR MODERN MAN"

December 1 saw the official publication by the American Bible Society of its first complete Old Testament book in Today's English Version. (The entire Old Testament is slated for publication in 1975.)

The volume of 150 hymns joins the "Good News for Modern Man," the New Testament in Today's English Version, which the Society published in September of 1960. The New Testament had had a distribution of more than 23 million copies in the United States since its first appearance four years ago.

Annie Vallotton of Paris, the Swiss artist who did the line drawings in the "Good News" is also the illustrator of the "Psalms for Modern Men."

"The Psalms" are available now from the Society for a price of 10 cents. Early in 1971 an edition of the "Good News" with the "Psalms" will be available at 50 cents a copy.

Several of the Psalm translations will be included in this first quarter's issue of the literary journal.

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This will be the last publication of Table Talk until the first part of January.

The staff of Table Talk extends to all of its readers the greetings of the season and wishes all a most joyous Christmas.

See you next year.

PUBLICATION SCHEDULE

Next issue of Table Talk--Jan. 12

Deadline for articles--Jan. 7

RURAL NEED

Last Sunday as I sat looking over my congregation of 30 at St. John's Church in Cessna, Pa., I began to wonder just what it was that made this church so very empty. After the service I stopped several of the members of the congregation to ask why there weren't more people there, and the reply was simple and straight forward; "When sheep are without a shepherd for two years, they have a tendency to run away."

I was a bit taken back by the statement, but then I began to realize what these people were saying. There is an appalling lack of men going into the rural ministry today. It seems as if there really isn't any action at all there, according to recent surveys. But I have the distinct impression that the surveyors did their surveying from deep within the inner city. One need only look five miles from Gettysburg to see the need for someone in the rural church. Don't these people count any more, or have the Augsburg confessions been reworded to read, "the assembly of all believers among whom the Gospel is preached in its purity and the holy sacraments are administered according to the Gospel in the active inner city."

The people in the rural church are crying, and we're not answering.

Ken Diable

LITERARY PUBLICATION

The first quarter issue of the student literary publication which has been named by the staff the Kethvim, will be distributed sometime this week.

WOTS NEWS

Wednesday evening, December 9 will find the WOTS spending an evening at the Heiges'. The soiree will begin about 8:00.

STUDENT ASSOCIATION MINUTES

November 12, 1970

The second meeting of the Student Association for the academic year 1970-71 was called to order on November 12 by the president Bill Scholl.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read, corrected and approved by the student body. The treasurer's report was also read and approved.

Reports were submitted by the chairmen of the following committees; Athletics, Ecumenics, Publications, Social Action, and Student Health Fund. Bill Scholl urged that, in the future, the committees be sure to turn in their reports to Ed Neiderhiser early enough to be printed in Table Talk.

Dick Michael, chairman of the Stall Fund, brought to the attention of the student body that the fund was low on money due to uncollected past loans. He asked that a sum of the Student Association funds be allotted to reinforce the Stall Fund. An allotment of \$100 was proposed and passed. The loans of the Stall Fund were also to be temporarily limited to \$25.

Walter Startzel reported on the progress and plans of the Chancel Players and asked for Student Association funds to alleviate the financial problems caused by the lack of seminary funds. After some discussion, it was moved that \$100 from the Student Association contingency funds be guaranteed to Chancel Players for this academic year. It was requested that expenses be itemized and submitted to the Student Association as funds are needed. The motion passed.

Bill Scholl announced that the next faculty meeting was to review the comprehensive system by studying the correlation between course performance and comprehensive performance.

It was moved and carried that the meeting be adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Caroline Stumpf
Student Association Secretary

SOCIAL ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE

November 5, 1970

In attendance: Bill Elgar, Chairman; Mr. Bream, Faculty Advisor;
Mrs. Carol Michener, WOTS Representative; Karen
Sedgwick, Larry Miller

The chairman opened the meeting with a summary report which noted the absence of significant activity by the committee in previous years.

Mr. Bream and Bill Elgar led discussion on the objectives of the committee for the immediate future. The committee agreed on the need for definite objectives for both the committee and the Seminary Community for social action. Among the objectives to be shared by the committee and the Seminary Community are:

1. Involvement in the surrounding community.
2. Awareness of social service programs already existing in the area so as not to seriously overlap or conflict with such programs.
3. That the Seminary coordinate its social services with those of Gettysburg College organizations and specialized agencies already existing in the area.
4. That the Seminary Community, in cooperation with Gettysburg College, discover the points of tension in the community and reduce them.

Suggestions were discussed for Seminary involvement in the Gettysburg area beginning in the current academic year. These suggestions included spending time each week at homes for the aged and conducting worship services at these homes, among others. The suggestion was made that a study of existing programs and services in the community be made. The committee agreed to have the study made by Larry Miller. His preliminary report was submitted to the committee on November 11, 1970.

The committee also discussed the need to analyze the Seminary Community's resources of skills and time available for social action--possibly by distributing a questionnaire. It was decided that projected uses of these resources were necessary before analyzation could take place.

The committee decided to meet again as soon as possible for the purpose of discussing the points already mentioned and projected activities.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Sedgwick

ADVISORY COMMITTEE

December 2, 1970

The committee met at 1:30 p.m. Present: Stroup (chm), President Heiges, Hale, Bomgren, and Michael

- (1) Should the Dean be an advisor?
His role is to function for all students--conflicts could arise between role as advisor and role as Dean.

It was the consensus of the committee that the Dean should not serve as an advisor, but that he phase out those advisees he presently has in order to avoid a conflict between his role as Dean and the role of an advisor.

- (2) Question was raised as to the advisor's responsibilities with advisee's chapel duties.

President "The advisor is supposed to advise students on preaching."

The "rule-book" says, "student's regularly assigned advisor will be his preaching consultant."

Mr. Bomgren wants to know if anything can be done so a student can have the same advisor the Intern year as the middler year. Right now, the student must pick a new advisor at the end of Middler year.

The President suggested that Mr. Bomgren bring in recommendations for discussion and evaluation.

The Dean remarked that one thing to keep in mind if any changes are to be made: Right now, almost all students get first choice, and the system seems to have some sense of integrity.

The meeting adjourned at 2:15.

Dwane L. Michael, secretary