

Table Talk



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

Vol VIII, No 1

September 22, 1971

OPENING SERVICE AT GETTYSBURG

The opening service of the academic year at Gettysburg Seminary was held on the evening of September 13th. Following the confession of sins outside the chapel, the choir and congregation filed inside while singing Psalm 32. Mr. Jenson presided over the service, with scripture lessons being read by Mr. Jordahl and student Carol Hudson.

The sermon, entitled "Come to the Dance," was delivered by Dr. Heiges. In his message, Dr. Heiges dealt with the function of worship and study at the seminary. Noting that "life in Christ is life together in Christ," he indicated the importance of celebrating the eucharist as a means of seminary fellowship. Yet realizing that the seminary's primary "reason for existence is to prepare men and women for ministry," there must be academics. These intellectual pursuits, however, are "designed to produce professional competence rather than research competence." In the final analysis, those in the Body of Christ must respond to Him in gratitude of all. This is rightly done in the Lord's Supper, for it is there that we participate in the joy of fellowship with both our saviour and our fellow men.

Following the offering and prayers, the congregation came to the dance by celebrating their unity in the Body of Christ through communion. The common cup was used in the distribution.

"PRAYER AND PRAISE"

PRAY WITHOUT CEASING. IN
EVERYTHING GIVE THANKS:
FOR THIS IS THE WILL OF
GOD IN CHRIST CONCERNING
YOU. I Thess. 5:17

It is imperative that he who calls himself Christian be constantly searching out and attempting to discern the will of God for him in the places where he finds himself. This is especially true for those who would seek to lead others in that same pursuit. That means none other than each one of us.

Unless we are willing to open up a communication line between ourselves and God, unless we pray and pray unceasingly, how can we know the will of God or, more importantly, expect to receive the power and guidance to pursue His will? Indeed, how can we develop a vibrant, living, and dynamic love affair with Jesus Christ unless we talk to Him.

Many of us are unsure about the direction in which God would have us move as we prepare for ministry. We are even unsure about the direction in which He would have us move from day to day.

LET US THEREFORE COME BOLDLY
UNTO THE THRONE OF GRACE
THAT WE MAY OBTAIN MERCY
AND FIND GRACE TO HELP IN
TIME OF NEED. Heb. 4:16

In order that we might avail ourselves of the power of prayer, I would like to form a group of interested students and faculty which would be called PRAYER AND PRAISE. Its function and purpose
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LUCKY NUMBER EIGHT?

(From Page One)

Table Talk enters its eighth year of publication with this issue. As indicated in the mast-head, the paper functions to disseminate the news and views of Gettysburg students. In the past, one area has sometimes been stressed to the detriment of the other. We hope to maintain a favorable balance this year between the two stated purposes.

The policies of the paper, outlined by the Student Association, are as follows:

1. To be published bi-weekly on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of each month.
2. Articles are to be submitted to the managing editor on or before the Thursday before publication.
3. Articles submitted must be typed and must contain the name of the writer. And all subjective articles must be published with at least the initials of the writer.
4. All changes or condensations will be cleared with the writer before publication.
5. The editorial staff will have the final decision in choosing what is or is not to be published.
6. The newspaper will not represent the opinion of the seminary or of the staff, but will reflect the opinion of the writers of the articles.

The paper eagerly welcomes all contributions. Indeed, the quality of Table Talk will best improve through the active interest of its readership. All forms of writing are encouraged, for the paper is not limited to a particular format. Pieces may be placed in the mailbox of the editor.

We look forward to serving you during the academic year. The next issue will be distributed on October 13th.

* * * * *

DEADLINE FOR NEXT ISSUE:
THURSDAY, OCT. 7TH.

shall be just that: PRAYER AND PRAISE. I would like to meet on Monday and Thursday evenings at 9:00 PM in Room 206, beginning on Thursday, Sept. 23rd.

It seems to me that in a time of great liturgical renewal there also must be certain opportunities for informal and spontaneous PRAYER AND PRAISE. If you feel that such a group might help to meet your needs as you attempt to love and serve your God, then please join us on Thursday, Sept. 23rd, at 9:00 PM in Room 206.

WHEN THOU SAIDST, SEEK YE
MY FACE MY HEART SAID UNTO
THEE THY FACE LORD WILL I
SEEK. PSALM 27:8.

Don Hohmann

* * * * *

FROM THE READER'S TABLE

Pittsburgh
May 13, 1971

Dear Editor,

In 1952, or thereabouts, I assisted at what amounted to the still-birth of a student publication called the Theolog. Since becoming "Publications Editor" of the Seminary Auxiliary last year, I have been put on the mailing list of the Table Talk, and I'm much impressed by the industry and persistence proved by its regular appearance these days. Aside from a periodic rash of rather judgemental sarcasm that appears from time to time, it seems a healthy baby and I want to congratulate everyone involved in its up-bringing.

Maude Aurand McDaniel
(153)

GALA EVENT

In keeping with the type of social events begun last Spring with our May 1st picnic-dinner-dance, there will be a dance in the refectory this Saturday evening, the 25th of September. It will begin at 8:30pm and there will be a \$1.00 donation at the door. This will help the Student Association sponsor this affair and hopefully provide similar gatherings throughout the year.

For all the husbands this is a chance to start off the year on the right foot by taking your wives out for an evening. For all the single students, this would be a good weekend for a visit from your girlfriend or boyfriend. Enjoy a good evening out with a little expense and a lot of exercise.

DANCE

SEPT 25

8:30 PM IN
REFECTORY

REFECTORY ELECTIONS HELD

On Tuesday, Sept. 14th, the members of the Refectory Cooperative elected their board members for the current academic year. Roy Stewart, middler, was elected chairman, and first year student Jim Brandis is vice-chairman. Other newly elected board members are middler Dotty Missimer and junior Don Hohmann.

REFLECTIONS ON
WHAT USE TO BE
WHAT IS, AND WHAT
HAS TO BE

My First Days at Gettysburg Seminary by Walter Courter-1st Year Student.

I suppose that when a man reaches the ripe old age of twenty two, leaving home would have no profound effect upon his homeostatis. But to one who has never before experienced the phenomena of "picking-up-his-roots," it can leave some unforgettable impressions. I was born, raised, and went to school and college in Southwestern Indiana. I made my commitment to Christ and received my call to the ministry in Southwestern Indiana. My first experience in the ministry was in, alas, Southwestern Indiana. And in September of 1971 I left that same Southwestern Indiana. Probably a large part of me is still 700 miles away in that same area.

The transition from Hoosier school boy to Pennsylvania seminarian has not been easy. Adjusting to refectory food, Pennsylvania water, dormitory life, and the price of Posey County watermelon has caused me to take much more seriously my relationship to Christ and His personal call to me as a Christian and as a Pastor. It might surprisw some die-hard Hoosiers to know that God can also work effectively in Pennsylvania!

Leaving home wouldn't be so bad if one didn't have to leave so much of oneself behind; friends, parents, neighbors (like Ronny Cobb, my seven-year-old basketball buddy), and, alas all the fantastic young growing Christian high school students who were my second family at the church in which I was Youth

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UP AGAINST THE HILL
by Gregory Lenihan

Perhaps I should begin with an introduction, since that's usually the way these things are handled. I'm Greg Lenihan, a junior, graduate of St. Olaf College, snatcher of pearls (from the swine), and searcher after joy (note I didn't say "happiness"). That settled, perhaps I should clarify the purpose of this column, which I hope will result in a continuous feedback of letters throughout the year (whether out of anger, excitement, agreement, or boredom doesn't really concern me.) I chose the heading "Up Against the Hill" for its ambiguous qualities. For the information of other newcomers to Gettysburg, the Seminary is generally referred to as the "Hill" by college and town folk. (I won't go into what we residents are called). And while the phrase "up against it" generally connotes a certain unpleasantness, no one would complain (I should think) if he/she found himself/herself up against Raquel Welch/Paul Newman for example.

Let me drop the semantics game for a while, and discuss two points briefly. First of all, why I took an editorial job, what with all the other work to do, books to read, football games to tackle, field work to attend to--why add the chore of newspaper editor? Hush, lean a bit closer, my secret is: (are there any FBI agents listening?) I want to be yet another thorn in Spiró's side. As Napoleon I pointed out: "Four hostile newspapers are more to be feared than a thousand bayonets." Or I could quote the English playwright, R. B. Sheridan: "The newspapers! Sir, they are the most villanous--licentious--abominable--infernal--not that I ever read them--no--I make it a rule never to look into a newspaper." "The Critic," Act I, Sc. 1. But lest

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REFLECTIONS Continued

Minister. Therein lies my biggest adjustment. The Judy's, Cathy's (and Kathy's), the Pam's, Chris', Jeff's, Steve's, the Barb's and Carol's, the Nancy's, Robin's and Beth's, have all formed my life for the past year. I'm positive God won't have any trouble developing their love for Him now that I'm gone, but for entirely selfish reasons, I wish I could be there sharing what He is doing in them. I used to be personally involved in the earth-shattering problems that I now must read about in letters. This makes me feel the distance more keenly. But it was time for me to go and now I am here. They were and still are the closest thing Christ has given me in the way of an earthly treasure, and there is where my heart is also.

These things affect me so deeply that I must continue to take them seriously. I am beginning to sense what must prevail in the mind of a pastor leaving his flock, for I now find myself in a similar situation. It makes me much more sure that we in the ministry of our Lord must be more keenly committed to Christ than to the people we are called to serve. Our love to His people must not come out of ourselves, but must be poured through us by God Himself.

Our commitment to the people God has lead us to serve by the workings of His Holy Spirit must be profoundly serious and deep. Without question, it is to be our greatest earthly joy and concern. But the essence of our commitment of Time, Work, and Effort must arise out of the personal daily renewal of our LIFE commitment to Christ and His kingdom.

† † † † † †

If we follow Christ, cling to his word, and let everything else go, it will see us through the day of judgement. His word is his grace.

- Bonhoeffer

poem (continued)

Reservedly I scratch at the surface,
Letting myself know just so much...
Yet coldly afraid
I am not what I think I am.

My greatest need
Is to trust my self, my experience-
To see my own worth
And not simply what others see
in me.

TABLE TALK staff

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