

Table Talk

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at Gettysburg

Members of the Publication Division

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Table Talk

Lutheran Theological Seminary at Gettysburg
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Gettysburg, PA 17325

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From the Editor

Thanks for the Advice

In organizing my new life at the seminary, I was presented with hundreds of decisions. The advice I received was very helpful. But I noticed that a lot of that advice was preceded by the phrases "you might want to..." or "if you decide to..." and "maybe you will want to...". In other words, you make up your own mind and do what is best for you and your family. In my past life in the world of work, directions like "might", "if" and "maybe" usually came across as wishy-washy instructions. But here they seem appropriate because of all the opportunities that do exist to tailor your seminary career that way you want to design that career.

So you can imagine my surprise when I read the phrase "DON'T MISS CHAPEL" in the last issue of *Table Talk*. Here was a declarative order. At seminary of all places! However, after putting up with supervisors and children for the past 20 years, this was an instruction I could understand. As I read on, the reasons for not missing chapel were very clear and made a lot of sense to me.

Worship with one another *is* our gift to each other. We *are* strengthened from this experience. For me, seminary worship opportunities have replaced my daily devotions. With the reading lists being what they are, and the deadlines for papers coming up and oh yes, *Those* Greek translations too, I'm still struggling to find the time to have my personal devotions the way I "used to do things". Therefore, that time in chapel has become my personal devotions as well as my opportunity to unite with my sisters and brothers in Christ. Chapel has been that centering and unifying element in my life that is helping me succeed as a seminary student, as a father and as a friend.

Thanks for the good advice.
Cliff Eshbach

DIACONAL MINISTRY - WHAT IS IT?

Following my consecration as a diaconal minister on July 21, 1996, many people have asked: "What is diaconal ministry?" or, "What will be different about you now that you are a diaconal minister?" or, "What's the difference between diaconal ministers/deaconesses and associates in ministry?" or, "What does consecration mean?" Lots of very interesting questions that I will attempt to answer in these this article, and one that will be in the next issue.

In order to understand the answers to these questions a bit of history is helpful. As the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) came into being on January 1, 1988, many issues that separated our predecessor church bodies had been resolved. One unresolved issue, the understanding of ministry, remained. Those developing the ELCA had agreed not to resolve this area but constitutionally mandated a study of ministry (whose report and recommendations were due for action at the 1993 ELCA Churchwide Assembly). One portion of the constitutional mandate was of particular interest to me: "During the course of such study, special attention shall be given to: 1) the tradition of the Lutheran Church; 2) the possibility of articulating a Lutheran understanding and adaptation of the threefold ministerial office of bishop, pastor, and deacon and its ecumenical implication; and 3) the appropriate forms of lay ministries to be officially recognized and certified by this church, including the criteria for certification, relation to synods, and discipline". **associate in ministry** was put into place. The roster was developed with these perspectives and understandings: a roster 1) to include persons who had been on all of the other than clergy rosters of the predecessor church bodies and 2) to which anyone preparing for other than clergy service in the ELCA was assigned. "Temporary" meant just that; by ELCA constitutional mandate, the roster ceased to exist at the opening of the 1993 ELCA Churchwide Assembly.

The Task Force for the Study of Ministry spent five years working together and presented in February 1993 Together for Ministry. In this document of report and recommendations four rosters of public ministry were recommended; two were ordained rosters (pastors and diaconal ministers) and two were lay rosters (associates in ministry and deaconess). It is vital that we grasp the understanding of ordained ministry with which the task force operated: the ministry in which the person is charged to present and represent in public ministry, on behalf of the church, its understanding of the word of God, proclamation of the gospel, confessional commitment, and teachings.

As with every study undertaken in the ELCA, Together for Ministry was not presented directly to the voting members of the churchwide assembly for action. The report and recommendations were first presented to the ELCA Division for Ministry Board for acceptance and action, then to the ELCA Church Council (as accepted/rejected, adopted/amended by the Division for Ministry Board) for its recommendation to the voting membership of the 1993 Churchwide Assembly.

During this process, the report, Together for Ministry, was accepted, and most recommendations were adopted. There was one significant alteration to a recommendation. The recommendations presented to the 1993 Churchwide Assembly for action included 1) the recommendation of the roster of diaconal ministry; 2) the recommendation that persons called to this roster be ministers of the word of God who are publicly charged to transmit, defend, and teach the word of God and to be spokespersons for the faith of the church; 3) the recommendation that diaconal ministers be charged to equip the baptized for service in all aspects of their life; and 4) the recommendation that diaconal ministry will strengthen the ELCA in the fulfillment of its declared mission (as presented in Together for Ministry). The significant change was the recommendation it be a lay roster of ministry (not ordained).

The voting members of the 1993 Churchwide Assembly adopted by the required 2/3 majority the recommendations of the ELCA Church Council.

Now that the history and process lesson is over - next month the answers to the questions -- "*What is a diaconal minister?*" and, "*What is the difference between a diaconal minister and an associate in ministry?*" and, "*What will be different about you now that you are a diaconal minister?*" and, "*What does consecration mean?*"

BULLETS STILL FLYING AT GETTYSBURG

Many of you are probably familiar with the stories of seminary buildings still marked by bullet holes incurred during the battle of Gettysburg in 1863. Well, the Person family now has the distinction of being probably the first seminarians to have their home struck by a bullet since the days of the battle.

On the night of Oct. 7, as we sat in our apartment on the ground floor of Heiges Hall, we heard what sounded like a gunshot. Seconds later we heard another shot followed by the sound of something striking our front window. Looking out, we saw a line of traffic on Fairfield Road which included a police car. As it turns out, a deer had been hit by a car on Fairfield Road, and a Cumberland Township police officer was called to the scene. The officer felt it was best to end the animal's suffering with a shot (or two) from his pistol. Unfortunately, this officer failed to consider the consequences of firing a .45 cal. bullet directly into pavement at close range. The slug from the second shot ricocheted off the surface of Fairfield Road and traveled some 160 feet toward our apartment, penetrating the screen before it struck the window frame and finally coming to rest on our window sill. We thank God that no one was hurt.

After the incident we heard many jokes about the dangers living on the battlefield and various references to "Andy and Barney." The truth is, however, that this is not a matter to be taken lightly. If circumstances were only slightly different, the outcome could have been tragic. I hope the officers involved learn a valuable, maybe lifesaving lesson from this incident. I shudder to think how one instance of "bad judgment" on the part of this officer could have been the final judgment for someone who may have been struck by his bullet.

Again, thanks be to God that no one was hurt, and remember as of Oct. 7, 1996, Krauth House is not the only home on the seminary campus that is marked by bullet holes.

Your Friend in Christ,
Jim Person

RAILS TO TRAILS



RAILS TO TRAILS IS A NATIONAL ORGANIZATION THAT TURNS ABANDONED RAILROAD BEDS INTO HIKING AND BIKE PATHS. THERE IS ONE SUCH TRAIL ONLY 30 MILES FROM GETTYSBURG.

TAKE ROUTE 30 WEST TO ROUTE 233 NORTH. GO ABOUT 14 MILES TO OAK GROVE FURNACE STATE PARK.

THE CUMBERLAND COUNTY BIKE PATH STARTS JUST NEXT TO THE PARKING AREA. THE PATH RUNS NEXT TO

A LAKE AND A STREAM FOR MOST OF ITS COURSE. IT IS WELL MAINTAINED AND PERFECT FOR FAMILITES WITH YOUNG BIKERS. IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS CONCERNING THIS TRAIL,

OR ANY OTHER RAILS TO TRAILS IN PA OR MARYLAND SEE RAY BRANSTITER

Just for Fun

Can you match the seminary student with their past career????

- | | |
|--------------------------------|--|
| 1. <i>Gween Trout</i> | A. <i>Quality Management</i> |
| 2. <i>Jamie Olson</i> | B. <i>Finished 8th in International Chores Competition</i> |
| 3. <i>Mike Greenauer</i> | C. <i>TV News anchor person</i> |
| 4. <i>Lynette Neslson</i> | D. <i>Owned floral & interior design shop.</i> |
| 5. <i>Jay Plummer</i> | E. <i>Testified before Congress three times.</i> |
| 6. <i>Christina Abrahamson</i> | F. <i>Corporate Human Resources</i> |
| 7. <i>Cliff Eshbach</i> | G. <i>Industrial Photographer</i> |

ANSWERS ON PAGE - 11

SEND A LETTER TO A US MILITARY MEMBER

While it may seem silly to send or receive letters from someone you have never met, there is an important reason to do so, and it could be fun. While I was in the military and out at sea, one of the biggest morale boosters was a letter. It was our way of staying connected to the "States".

So why am I writing this to you? Because there is an important program that helps service people to stay connected to home. Organized 31 years ago, "Military Mail" is an outreach program of the Friends of US Military Chaplains. During the Christmas season, they mix thousands of letters from people like us, and they send those letters to Americans who are serving overseas. It is a touch of home these people normally may not have.

What is exciting is that in these letters we can share our faith and the Gospel of Jesus Christ during the Christmas season with young people, including some whom do not ordinarily participate in religious programs. As seminarians, you can think of all the possibilities for witness!

According to the Friends of US Military Chaplains, in order to participate in the program all you have to do is send your name and address and a stamp for return postage (please NOT a self addressed stamped envelope--just the stamp to: Military Mail

PO Box 339
Solider, KY
41173

Jamie Ryan

Of Setting Cotton Sails and Setting Out On Amazing Adventures

By

Walt Lichtenberger

The result of two weeks of tedious work was in the balance; a tiny handcrafted vessel was collapsed and delicately urged into the neck of the glass bottle. As the hull nestled into a pool of Elmer's glue, I held my breath. The level of anticipation was great for me - this was the first ship-in-a-bottle model that I ever made. One step remained after the glue dried, the masts needed to be raised and set in place. Could I really do this? Was I going to be successful or not? Would my ship, nicknamed the *S.S. Utica*, ever set out on the limited glass sea with sails proudly erect or would they come tumbling down in response to a careless hand and gravity?

Starting out on a new academic year is not unlike setting tiny cotton sails in a bottle. For the past three years at seminay I have been in preparation for the time that my vessel would be urged into the real world. Now my boat has been set in place awaiting for the sails to be gently tugged into place. Careful. One more year, one more step... gentle now.

There is great anticipation about starting out. So many possibilities lie ahead, so many directions and experiences await. I look forward to the year that I am going to be spending here in Gettysburg. To the adventure that lies ahead, I can't wait to get "underway."

What seas lie in front of my vessel this year? What seas lie in front of our combined vessel, this Christian community, this year? At the start I must say that I don't know the exact compass reading. I don't know in which direction we will wind up heading. The number of knots at which we will travel is also unknown. However, I do know that neither we nor I will travel alone. Even before the sails are fully set and the glue is fully dried, I can let you in on who is ultimately in charge of each of our vessels.

First, there is the model builder - the one who carefully constructed the parts to fit together, the one who took the time to make sure that everything was in place. Each of our vessels were uniquely and wonderfully made by this expert craftsman. This builder is also the one who will gently repair any broken masts and strengthen any sagging sails. Then there is the captain, the one chosen by the builder to pilot the vessel day by day. Now this captain is fully qualified to do this because he knows the struggles that can happen. He has traveled many stormy seas, he even endured the

pain of a particular stormy Friday so that we might have the hope of sailing forever. Finally, there is the wind that fills the sails. This wind, or spirit, blows where it will and when it will. It has the power to move mountains and ships alike. Songs of the sea have been inspired by it as well. Best of all, it works to move sailors and vessel along the course set by the builder.

In the coming year, I pray that God who has carefully made each of us will continue to tug us into place, setting our sails so that we might better serve. I pray that Jesus who has died for us will guide up daily, piloting our vessels through the storms that beset us. Finally, I pray that the Spirit will fill our sails with life, inspiring us to sing beautiful songs of praise with our very lives.

Answers to Quiz:

- 1-B
- 2-D
- 3-E
- 4-F
- 5-G
- 6-G
- 7-C

The History of Music, Gettysburg!

Since its inception in Spring, 1981, Music, Gettysburg! has grown from an informal, four-event experiment without explicit community support, to a multi-concert, multi-affiliate series with wide appeal. Now in its fourteenth season, Music, Gettysburg! represents a partnership between the community, which proceeds audiences and financial support, and Gettysburg Lutheran Seminary, which contributes the magnificent performing facilities of its Chapel and staff support. The policy of Music Gettysburg! is to present as many of these concerts as possible without the sale of tickets. Funds are raised by subscription from the community, and from a Free Will Offering at each performance. Music, Gettysburg! is an important outreach program of the Seminary. As a community we should show active support at every performance.

Ray Branstiter

Music Gettysburg!

On October 6th and again on the 12th the seminary was host to some outstanding music. On the 16th, the Lecosaldi Ensemble, from London, England gave a fine performance of Baroque music. On the 12th we had to re-adjust our ears a bit for a concert of American folk music by Ray Owen and the Orratanna Mountain Steamers. Ray Owen performed various folk tunes including "I'm My Own Grandpa" a song that would drive any Geneologist nuts. The Orratanna Mountain Steamers performed Folk, gospel and Scottish songs using many different types of instruments.

The next concert will be on November 16th, at 7:30 p.m. in the chape. This will be the dedication of the new Positif Chamber Organ. Stephen Folkemer, Schola Cantorum., American Song, Baroque Bunch, and the Gettysburg String Quartet will perform. If you haun't taken the opportunity to enjoy either of the first two concerts, don't miss the next one. We are lucky to have such a program on the Seminary.



Morning Prayer

I make my bed
with love-deft hands,
smoothing, folding,
pulling taut,
with pleasure,
wrinkled linens.

Sweet smelling sheets
swell
and billow full,
snapping
at the end
of a single, fluid motion,
growing
from my outstretched arms

From side to other side
I glide,
in confident progression;
making haste,
taking pride
in the bed's
daily self-possession,
bringing order out of chaos;
creation in His image.

A simple task,
to bring such joy,
yet one complete and finite.
Done daily,
at the start of day
its completion
brings a wholeness,
small,
but pure and certain,
to the morning,
and leaves
a lingering scent of rain
throughout the day's hot bluster.

I like to make my bed at dawn,
and feel,
the whole day long,
as things go wrong,
and fall apart,
that the day was lovingly begun.

If only
all the rest of life,
and loving others,
were so clear and simple.
Amen.

L L R
to God alone the Glory
24 June 1987

How God Feels

Here I sit
in my house by the sea.
The pillows
are plumped.
the soup is on simmer,
and the deck chairs
are facing the surf.
I have seashells,
and beach trove,
and stories to tell.

My face
is smiling in welcome.
My arms are open wide.
The doors and windows
of my house
invide the world inside.

Many, many
come to call;
to sit a spell
and rest,
or weep,
or chat,
and then go on.
I'm glad
to see them all.

But it's echo-empty in the hall.
My heart waits there for you.

L.L.R.
10 June 1990
For James

Student Association

Lutheran Theological Seminary at Gettysburg

Minutes
October 16, 1996

Present: Christina Abrahamson, Wendy Abrahamson, David Darling, Keith Deckinger, Jonathan Deibler, Brian Eiss, Cliff Eshbach, Serena Grill, Elizabeth Hess, Chad Huber, Bill Hughes, Walt Lichtenberg, Lynette Nelson, Jay Plummer, Jamie Ryan, Bill Schaeffler, Gwen Trout, Nathan Wright, Gail Wolling, Todd Zielinski

1. Called to order at 1:01 p.m.
2. Christina Abrahamson opened the meeting with prayer.
3. Minutes from September approved (1: B. Eiss, 2: G. Wolling)
4. Treasure's Report - following.

There was considerable discussion over the difference between the Sr. class' requested amount (\$800) and proposed amount (\$475), a difference of \$325. Jay Plummer (President - Sr. class) proposed that the difference be made up by discontinuing the Division of Lectures (making lectures the responsibility and jurisdiction of the seminary staff and faculty). Nathan Wright (chair of the Division for Lectures) spoke against this proposal, but suggested that a budget reduction would be possible, moving the budget for lectures from \$350 to \$200. Gail Wolling asked about the possibility of drastically reducing the budget for the Division for Social Action. Bill Schaeffler (chair of the Division of Social Action) spoke against this suggestion, but offered to reduce that line item by \$75 (from \$400 to \$325). The line item for Publications was also reduced because one less issue of Table Talk than was planned will be published, leaving an excess of funds. This line was reduced from \$760 to \$710. This brought total savings to \$275, and brought the total for the senior class to \$750. At this point, Jonathan Deibler (SA Treasurer) moved to accept the revised budget (2: K. Deckinger). There was no further discussion. Motion passed. A copy of the revised budget will be handed out next month.

5 Division Reports

Athletic Division: Brian Eiss There are 3 football games coming up - one Sept 26 against Trinity, and two on Nov. 16 against Southern and VTS. Brian needs housing for opposing team members on Friday the 25th and Saturday the 26th.

Student Association

President - Wendy Abrahamson
Recording Secretary - Lynette Nelson
Corresponding Secretary - Gail Wolling
Treasurer - Jonathan Diebler

STUDENT ASSOCIATION COUNCIL

	Juniors	Middlers	Seniors
President	Jamie Ryan	Todd Zielenski	Jay Plummer
Sec/Treas.	Matt Fuhrman	Ron brown	Kerth Deckinger
Trustees	David Darling	Brian Eiss	Carol Kehler
	Serena Grill	Chad Huebner	Elizabeth Hess
	Cliff Eshbach	Bill Hughes	Gwenn Trout
	Bill Schaeffer	Christna Abrahamson	Walt Lichtenberg
	Nathan Wright	Joshua Peterson	Jackie DePhillips

DIVISION CHAIRS

Athletics - Brian Eiss
Lectures - Nathan Wright
Fellowship - Elizabeth Hess
Social Action - Bill Schaefer
Publications - Cliff Eshbach

STUDENT COORDINATORS

Supply Preaching - Gail Wolling
Coffee Shop Mgr - Judy Rippey
Redactor Editor - Bill Hughes

WORSHIP COMMITTEE

Jr - Jamie Olson Bruce Freeman	Midd - Greg Fetzer Kris Hackbart	Sr - Louise Reynolds Joel Zieders
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STUDENT HOUSING COMMITTEE

Midd - Kris Hackbart (Chair appointed at first SFRC meeting)

PET POLICY COMMITTEE

HONOR BOARD

Jr - Sandra Macki
Midd - Gail Wolling
Sr - Jean Harman

STUDENT CONDUCT BOARD

Jr - Michael Graff
Midd - Chad Kline
Sr - Nathanie Motz

BYLAWS

Bill Hughes, Chair
Gail Wolling
Serena Grill
Ron Brown
Jackie DePhillips

FOOD SERVICE COMMITTEE

Chair - Matt Fuhrman

Jr - Ryan Fishcer

Mid - Jonathan Diebler

Sr - David Von Schlichten

FACULTY COMMITTEES

Academic Policy - Keith Deckinger & Carol Kehler

Admission/Scholarship - Walt Litchenberg & David Darling

Library - Jonathan Diebler

Field Education - Susan Yatta & Paula Murray

Fine Arts - Gwen Trout, Alternate - Chad Huebner

FROM THE EDITORS

Table Talk is a publication of the Student Association of this seminary. It is given to students, faculty and staff of LTSG. It is also sent to the board members, and to the seven other ELCA seminaries. Submissions are freely accepted, but not all submissions see print. The editorial staff reviews submissions, and those that we feel are not relative to the primary readership, that is, to the student body, faculty and staff, we have chosen not to publish. We would encourage authors to bear in mind the wide audience this publication sees.

At times, articles have been edited for clarity, length, or errors. The editorial staff strives to remain true to the spirit of the article and the author. We do ask, given, that authors, especially those of non-fiction articles, pay attention to good grammar and form, as spelled out in Turabian. In terms of writing style, authors are strongly encouraged to write in active, rather than passive, tense.

Articles should be placed in the *Table Talk* mailbox in Valentine Hall. The editors appreciate articles submitted on computer disk in WordPerfect or MS Word format. However, paper hard copy is also acceptable.

Augury

October 29 - Senior's Luncheon

October 30 - Luther Colloquium

November 4 - The AIDS Crisis: Occasion for
Understanding and Ministry

November 7 - "Engaging Word and World"
Preaching Perspectives, Continuing
Education

November 11 - Registration for "J" Term & Spring
Semester

November 16 - Music! Gettysburg (7:30 p.m.)

November 20 - Evening Eucharist

November 28-29 - Thanksgiving Recess

December 1 - Music, Gettysburg! - Choral Vespers for
Advent

December 5 - Blood Drive at YWCA

December 13 - Close of Fall Semester

January 6 - Start of "J" Term