

# *Table Talk*

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at Gettysburg*

## *Table Talk*

Lutheran Theological Seminary at Gettysburg  
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# *Table Talk* Talks

*We are in a time of great anticipation . . . finals; then Christmas break!*

This month *Table Talk* is chock full of wonderful articles and features; thirty-two pages full! Some contributors remind us that December is a gentle time of preparation and celebration for Christmas itself; for Christ coming to the masses, of God being with us. Let's thank them for directing us away from anxiety and toward Christmas peace and blessings.

Other contributors share their experiences—of being at the 25th anniversary of the ordination of women celebration in Minnesota, or of being a diabetic, or of living in Slovakia. Some try to engage our minds in the rhetoric of religion and politics! The international students attempt to impress us with their 38 semesters of seminary. Others contributors share poems and songs. On behalf of *Table Talk's* readers, I extend our gratitude to this month's contributors: Robert G. Argot, Tom Bergman, Jackie DePhillips, Alar Helstein, Dave Jerrigan, Ann Lütters, Anna Milanova, Twol Omot Odola, Louise L. Reynolds, Ruth Rinker, Lisa Teichmann, Tom Teichmann, and Douglas Thomas.

This month *Table Talk* focuses on the LTSG choirs and musicians—those who lead us to praise in song. See **Praise the Lord! Where Did they Go?** and **A Multitude of Heavenly Hosts**. And take a look at our regular features, **Glad Tidings**—a place to proclaim your very own good news, **Dear Padre**—a place to ask questions and receive wisdom (Padre's not divine wisdom), and **Poets' Corner**—a place to share your poetic creations.

The question-of-the month is renamed **Visions and Expectations** to emphasize that it is a place for you to voice *your* visions and expectations of your church and seminary. *Table Talk* is serious about the importance of your voice. For example, a copy of November's *Table Talk* with the question, "If I were the new bishop of the ELCA I would . . .", was sent to Bishop Anderson so he could hear what some of us had to say. Whether or not you were in November's issue, you can still let him know what you have to say—**IN PERSON!** He will be at St. Mark Church, Charles Street, Hanover, on Wednesday, December 13 from 2:00 to 4:00 to meet the clergy and AIMS of this synod. I have been granted permission to extend an invitation to you via *Table Talk*.

Next month the question is "**The Class I would Like Taught in J-Term is . . .**" and the Academic Policy Committee promises to look at your responses when they consider next year's J-Term curriculum.

*Table Talk* is not published in January. The focus for the February issue is *Love* (how original!); you know "*Love is patient, love is kind, love is not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude.*"<sup>1</sup> The spouse support group is composing a feature article on spouses, and I plan to publish the recipe for *Amish Friendship Cake*. Tammy Steinhart has given me a starter batch last Monday. Starter batches increase four-fold every 10 days; by February 5 I should have 256 starter batches and will be overhappy to give you one. What article will you submit on love? . . . or on another topic? Just can't wait to see it!

Meanwhile, I wish you a happy, joyous, peaceful Christmas season; in Christ.  
Rose Ann Campise, *Editor*

**Acknowledgements:** Everyone is welcome to participate in *Table Talk*! We gratefully acknowledge the following for their help in the publication of this issue:

**Paul Chapman** for finding out "who played what instrument in Psalm 150" for "Praise the Lord!"; **Rebecca Davis** for asking the choir "Where did you come from?"; **Tammy Bernd Steinhart** for gathering the delightful self portraits and biographies from the children's choir; and **Lisa Teichmann** for typing the articles that were not submitted on disk. And thanks to **Patrick Donmoyer**, **Travis Klawonn**, and **Benjamin Peterhaensel** for help in assembling the printed copies, and to **Dick Burgess** and **Eileen Subrink Feldman** who are interviewing Drs. Christianson, Larson, and Strobert for the next issue.

**Godspeed:** *Table Talk*, on behalf of the community, extends our prayers and blessings for a safe travel home, and for continued sustenance in Christ's love to our friends who are departing this December. We will miss:

**Tom Bergman** who is going home to Finland (Kirkkonommi, Rauhalanties 5); **Gunter and Ursula Gassman** who are going home to Switzerland (33, Ave. Adrienlachelal, CH-1290, Versoix); and **Anna Milanova** who is going home to Slovakia (Pionierska 16, Sucany 03852). Godspeed!

<sup>1</sup> 1 Corinthians 13:4-5a

# *Table Talk*

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## Visions and Expectations

This feature gives you a chance to repond to *Table Talk's* question-of-the-month. Topics are chosen to encourage you, dear reader, to share your visions and expectaions for the church-at-large, for your first-call, for your seminary, etc. with us. Responses can be brief. Don't hesitate to use this forum!

Next month's question, "The class that I would like taught in J-Term is . . ." should be of practical significance to you; student input to J-Term course topics has been discussed at the last Academic Policy Committee meeting, and your reponse to next month's question may have an impact -- as may the responses to last's month's question, "If I were the new bishop of the ELCA I would . . ."; copies of last month's *Table Talk* were sent to Bishop Anderson.

These are this month's responses to

### What I want most from my first call is. . .

. . . a white board in my office; lots of time to study and write sermons; LTSG's organ; my teaching parish's altar guild; and my home congregation's worship and music committee.

--Richard Burgess, Junior, New England Synod

. . . a challenge. I have no doubt that my wishes will be granted. My ideal first call would be in the western states (high plains and west) in a rural or town and country setting where there will be opportunities for evangelism outreach and a need for social ministry and advocacy. Oh yes, a salary paid on time would be real nice too!

--Dave Jernigan, Muddler, Metro Washington D.C. Synod

Diane Bowers' response was inadvertently omitted last month. Here is what Diane would do if she were the new bishop of the ELCA: . . . I would be visible and audible to as many of the people of the ELCA as I could. I would say inspiring, unifying, and pastoral words; leaving divisive issues aside for awhile. After all the upheaval of the merger (which was and is an excellent thing) people are ready to feel good about, and connected to their denomination. A popular, trusted, visible leader can inspire this unity. I would pray constantly.

--Diane Bowers, Special Lutheran Year, South-East Pennsylvania Synod

## Glad Tidings!

*"I bring you glad tidings of great joy!"*

**Charlie Rhodes**, STM Student, is currently exhibiting her photography through December 16 at The Trout Gallery, Weiss Center for the Arts, in Carlisle. Her exhibit of twenty-four black-and-white photographs, titled *Iceland Series*, reveal that the traditional means of photography still have the power to affect the modern viewer. Galley Hours: Tuesday through Saturday, 10:00 to 4:00. For information, call 245-1492 or 1711.

**The Seminary Explorers**, a weekly radio program of conversations on issues of interest to the community was first broadcast December 1970—twenty-five years ago! The program is now co-hosted by **Drs. Nelson Strobert** and **Gerald Christianson** and can be heard on WGET, 1320 AM at 8:30 A.M. on Sunday mornings; and on WGTY, 108 FM at 5:30 A.M. on Sunday mornings.

**Judy Lyman**, a recent LTSG A.I.M. graduate, currently serving on the Music and Worship Committee for the Harrisburg Conference is coordinating their outdoor Ascension Day service on May 16, 1996. Over 29 churches will be attending and Bishop Edminston will be preaching!

Hot off the Press! **Dr. Duane Larson's** book, *Times of the Trinity*, and **Dr. Susan Hedahl's** commentary, "Epiphany", for the *Proclamation 6, Series A* commentaries are now in our bookstore!

**Mary Peterhaensel's son Karl**, graduated from DeVry Institute of Technology on October 21, 1995, and has already begun a new job with Intel in Phoenix, Arizona. On December 16, 1995, he and Amy Davis plan to be married in Columbus, Ohio. **Mary's daughter Erin** (24), a teacher in Korea has announced her engagement to **Ajay Kumar Anthony (Bobby) Domatholi** of Hyderabad, India and they are planning a July wedding.

A masterpiece! **Dr. Crump** has replicated a revolving bookstand based on Thomas Jefferson's original model. Stop by his office to "see it for yourself!"

*Table Talk* invites your proclamation of your very own good news!

## Praise the Lord!

Praise God in His sanctuary,  
 Praise Him in His mighty firmament!  
 Praise Him for His mighty deeds,  
 Praise Him according to his surpassing greatness!

Praise Him with trumpet sound,  
 Praise Him with mandolin and harp!  
 Praise Him with hammered and mountain dulcimer,  
 Praise Him with a kazoo!

Praise Him with strings: banjo, string & electric bass, guitar, bass viol and cello;  
 And reeds: oboe, clarinet, and saxophone;  
 And winds: recorder, flute, french horn, piccolo, tuba, and trombone!  
 And dance!

Praise Him with piano sounds and organ pipes and harpsichord,  
 Praise Him with handbells and drums!  
 Let everything that breathes praise the Lord!  
 Praise the Lord!

*Trumpet:* Freda Saunders, Nissa Swanson

*Mandolin:* Terry Edwards

*Harp:* Lars Hammar

*Hammered Dulcimer:* Mark Oldenberg

*Mountain Dulcimer:* Phil Huber

*Kazoo:* Gretchen Gustman

*Banjo:* Terry Edwards

*String Bass:* Bill Avery, Nancy Gable

*Electric Bass:* Greg Fetzer (in Germany),  
 James "Gumbo" Young

*Guitar:* John Brock, Dan Donmoyer, Terry  
 Edwards, Duane Larson, Freda Saunders,  
 Nissa Swanson, Gil Waldkoenig

*Bass Viol:* Richard "Dick" Burgess

*Cello:* Anne Lüters

*Oboe:* Kris Hackbart

*Clarinet:* Freda Saunders, Angela "Tink"  
 Ryan, Dianna Wentz

*Saxophone:* Tink Ryan

*Recorder:* Dick Burgess, Paul Chapman,

Stephen Folkemer, Nancy Gable, Kris  
 Hackbart

*Flute:* Freda Saunders

*French Horn:* Dick Burgess

*Piccolo:* Freda Saunders

*Tuba:* Dick Burgess, Gumbo Young

*Trombone:* Gumbo Young

*Dance:* David von Schlichten, Stacy Sasko,  
 Susan Yatta

*Piano:* Jonathon Diebler, Paul Chapman,

Stephen Folkemer, Carole Kriewaldt,  
 Lynette Nelson, Mark Oldenberg, Freda  
 Saunders

*Organ:* Paul Chapman, Stephen Folkemer,  
 Carole Kriewaldt, Mark Oldenberg,

Freda Saunders

*Harpsichord:* Stephen Folkemer

*Handbells:* Freda Saunders

*Drums:* Mary Peterhaensel, Freda Saunders

*Praise the Lord!* LTSG



## Where Did They Go?

### The LTSG Choir

*"In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered."*

*Luke 2: 1--3*

### Where did the LTSG Choir members go?

- |                         |                                 |
|-------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1. Stephen Folkemer     | A. Harrisburg, PA               |
| 2. Gretchen Gustman     | B. Lancaster, PA                |
| 3. Lars Hammar          | C. Eau Claire, WI               |
| 4. Anne Lüters          | D. Cumberlan, IN                |
| 5. Pete Houseman        | E. Baltimore, MD                |
| 6. Christina Abrahamson | F. Newport, RI                  |
| 7. Jon Deibler          | G. Grand Forks, ND              |
| 8. Rebecca Davis        | H. Bad Frankenhausen, Thuringia |
| 9. Diana Britten        | I. Baltimore, MD                |
| 10. Tammy Steinhart     | J. Rochester, NY                |
| 11. Ursula Gassman      | K. Dillingen an der Donau       |
| 12. Mark Oldenburg      | L. Jacksonville, FL             |
| 13. Nissa Swanson       | M. Dover, NJ                    |
| 14. Judy Rippey         | N. (Ask him)                    |
| 15. Mary Peterhänsel    | O. York, PA                     |
| 16. Steve Fiechter      | P. Baltimore, MD                |
| 17. Lynette Nelson      | Q. El Paso, TX                  |
| 18. John Mouritsen      | R. Marienburg, Poland           |
| 19. Gail Wolling        | S. Anna-Jonesboro, IL.          |
| 20. Gunther Gassman     | T. Huntingdon, PA               |
| 21. Ann Schlossnagle    | U. Robbinsdale, MN              |

## A Multitude of Heavenly Hosts

### The Children's Choir

*"And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of heavenly hosts, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the Highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!"*

*Luke 2:13-14*



**Joshua Abrahamson:** Josh is ten years old and is a fourth grader at James Gettys Elementary. He likes to play with Legos. He is currently learning how to play the french horn. Josh just joined our group this year.



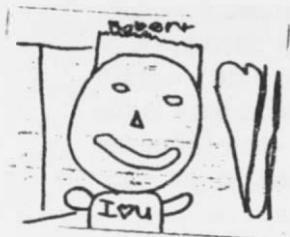
**Carrie Burkhalter:** Carrie is four and a half years old. She is one of our quietest members but that doesn't stop her from singing in the choir. Her favorite playmate is Clare. Her favorite color is pink. Carrie attends the Seminary Daycare.



**Elizabeth Burkhalter:** Elizabeth is ten years old and attends James Gettys where she is in the fourth grade. She swims on the swim team at the YWCA. She plays the viola and one of her favorite activities is arts and crafts. This is Elizabeth's second year in the choir.



**Onnie Catherine Burkhalter:** Onnie is our newest member as well as one of our youngest. She is three and a half years old. Onnie loves to play dress-up and with her baby dolls. Onnie attends the Seminary Daycare.



**Robert Burkhalter:** Robert is seven years old and attends James Gettys Elementary where he is in the first grade. He loves to play baseball and he just became a Tiger Cub. This is Robert's second year in the choir.



**Kevin Ford:** Kevin is six years old and in the first grade at James Gettys Elementary. He likes to shoot a bow and arrow like Robin Hood. He is also a very good reader and likes to read to his mom. Kevin takes karate at the YMCA.



**Melissa Ford:** Melissa is eight years old and in the second grade at James Gettys Elementary. Her favorite color is purple. She is taking gymnastics and piano lessons, and she loves arts and crafts.



**Julie E. Overvold:** Julie is four years old. She likes ballet and arts and crafts. She loves to play in the snow!



**Kelly E. Overvold:** Kelly is seven-and-a-half years old. She likes to read and swim. Her favorite color is blue.



**Wesley E. Overvold:** "Wes" is six years old. He likes to play in the snow. His favorite color is blue. He loves to play with friends!



**Benjamin Peterhaensel:** Benjamin is eight-and-a-half years old and in third grade at Eisenhower Elementary. He enjoys swimming and is on the sharks team at the Y. He was in the seminary choir before his mom's internship---it's good to be back home---Gettysburg!



**Jenni Schlossnagle:** Jenni is one of our youngest choir members. She is also our commuting choir member coming from the town of Westminster, MD. Jenni is three and a half years old and is enrolled at the Seminary Daycare. Her picture is of herself with hair and her mommy cooking pancakes.



**Erik Teichmann:** Erik is ten years old and is a fifth grader at Eisenhower Elementary. Erik likes to read, plays the trombone, and draws anything and everything. This is Erik's second year in the choir.



**Andy Woods:** Andy will be five years old at the end of November. He likes playing with Batman toys and his favorite color is red. He is currently attending the Seminary Daycare.



**Becky Woods:** Becky is in her second year of choir. She is six years old and in the first grade at James Gettys Elementary. She enjoys eating candy and her favorite color is purple.

## Last Night I Had the Strangest Dream

*"...an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, 'Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save the people from their sins.'"*

*Matthew 1:2--21*

**That was the dream of a saint; these are the dreams of seminarians:**

"My exegetical summary was so bad that Dr. Carlson threw his green pen down and didn't even finish grading it. He gave me a zero."

*--Betsy Baer Quigley, STM*

"I don't sleep long enough to dream."

*--Sharon Vak, Southwestern Pennsylvania*

"In my dream I was in a Gospel and I was trying to figure out which Gospel I was in. I was also feeling nauseous. I figured I had to be in Mark because only in Mark would someone throw up. Then I woke up (and threw up!)."

*--Karen Erskine, Southeast Michigan*

"I had a wonderful dream! . . . but it is not something that can be printed in Table Talk."

*--Gretchen Gustman, Allegheny Synod*

## Poets' Corner

*This poem was inspired by congregational singing of a hymn by Dr. Herman G. Stuempfle: "Come, Lord Jesus, Quickly Come."*

### Advent 1987

In plenteous warmth  
of summertime,  
we, wealthy, bask  
in luminous light.

'Tis in damp and dark  
December's blowing  
that the church  
doth richly shine.

Then it is  
that ancient story,  
and layering light  
of candles' glowing,  
and richness  
of musicians' vision  
and salving spices,  
and cup and crumb,  
and love's small gifts  
which speak of home,  
and ritual, rite,  
and hope and glory  
must be  
our signposts in the night,  
and we cry:  
O, come, Lord Jesus,  
quickly come!

*-Louise L. Reynolds*

### Advent

On a mountain ridge  
In solitude  
Gazing at the dawning sky.  
The leaves sing.  
The wind blows.  
Kites ride the air currents.

The wind blows up from the valley  
And tickles the leaves to make them sing  
Like a choir in this woodland cathedral.  
What news?

The pine trees all sit in their Sunday best.  
The maples are wearing their cloth of gold.  
The grasses all nod and whisper together  
What news?

The wind breathes excitement.  
We see the precursor.  
The rich, warning signs of his advent are heard.  
Embracing the sky and the top of the mountain.  
What word?

The wind shouts the message  
It's warm and fragrant.  
He's here. He's here.

*-Ruth Rinker*

**(untitled)**

radiant yellow  
vibrant red  
spiral to the ground

small sneakered feet  
running  
jumping  
colliding

color explodes  
expanding  
across  
green lawn  
laughter erupts

scrape, scrape, scrape  
gathered together  
waiting

waiting

waiting

*-Lisa Teichmann*



### **Tell Me What You See**

Look out your love.  
 What do you see?  
 Trees, tall and stung?  
 Mighty monuments to an  
 upright God?  
 Or do they bend and sway and  
 tickle the wind with their leaves,  
 joyous? Do they praise God?  
 Look out your love.  
 What do you see?  
 Tell me what you see.  
 Mountains, majestic, craggy and  
 towering?  
 Immoveable, implacable?  
 Or are they rolling?  
 Gently undulating hills that  
 caress the earth?  
 Look out your love.  
 Tell me what you see.  
 People?  
 Are there people?  
 Do they smile? Are they  
 content?

Do they sing songs at heaven's  
 gate?  
 What do you see?  
 Tell me what you see.  
 Are the people disconsolate?  
 Hapless?  
 Do they move in  
 quiet desperation?  
 Are their songs in  
 vain?  
 Look out your love.  
 What do you see?  
 Look out your love.  
 Tell me what you see.

Oh, tell me,  
 tell me.  
 For all I see is darkness,  
 emptiness, and  
 its timbre is  
 anguish. Look out your love.  
 What do you see?  
 Tell me what you see  
 because my love,  
 my love is blind.

*-Anonymous*

## Thwol – from Ethiopia

He sits opposite  
in the library,  
quiet,  
reading,  
gentle,  
a tall, slender man,  
his fine dark head outlines  
against the cream colored wall,  
and framed by shelves of books.  
His clothes have changed  
since September.  
He is wearing new gold-rimmed glasses,  
blue jeans,  
and a Red Skins sweat shirt.

Yesterday it snowed,  
and Thwol  
told me he was amused,  
but frightened, of the prospect cold,  
getting colder,  
of ice, and depth of snow  
to come.

He reads,  
highlighting  
with a yellow marker,  
his pink tongue  
protruding just a bit.

A lovely man,  
 this Christian  
 from across the world,  
 who, at the age of eight,  
 he told me, first heard  
 those lovely words . . .  
 "For God so loved . . .",  
 and they entered  
 in his heart;  
 the same words  
 which beat  
 in mine,  
 convicting us,  
 uniting us,  
 refining and defining us,  
 with all the others,  
 of every time  
 until  
 in the end,  
 in our Lord,  
 in the Christ, we will shine.

That young brown evangelist  
 in the church of Mekane Jesus,  
 this old gray woman  
 of the ELCA,  
 facing one another,  
 smiling, waving  
 across the gleaming library tables,  
 across gulfs  
 of space and time,  
 belong to one another,  
 are of one Body,  
 because of the One  
 who has claimed us;  
 because of the name,  
 because of the blood,  
 because of the love,  
 because of Jesus.

*Louise L. Reynolds*

*13 November 1995*

*Solo Gloria Deo*

## A Table Talk Table

By Robert G. Argot

ADVANTAGES OF BEING CATHOLIC	ADVANTAGES OF BEING LUTHERAN
A service, a sermon, and communion in under 45 minutes.	"Stick-to-the-roof-of-your-mouth" wafers uncommon, and a drink to wash it down.
Many saints to pray to for protection and guidance.	Many saints you never have to know about.
Bingo every week.	Bowling and/or softball every week.
Lots of food and fun at wedding receptions.	Lots of food and fun at potluck suppers.
Anaerobic workout from all the kneeling.	Aerobic workout from all the singing.
Get to boldly confess your sins.	Get to sin boldly.
Priest personally forgives your sins.	Pastor doesn't even know your sins.
Sleep prevention aid: Communion bells.	Sleep prevention aid: Just show up late; you'll get to sit way up front.
Founder of Church not confused with civil rights leader.	Leader of Church not victim of "Papal donut" attempt.

*Robert G. Argot is a second year student from the Lower Susquehanna Synod; Roh (A Lutheran) and Tina Butchko (A Catholic) are engaged to be married on June 1, 1996.*

## Dear Padre

Dear Padre,

If  $A > B > C$ ; isn't it necessarily true that  $A > C$ ?

Based on the above, systematic, non-disputable, (almost confessional) truth and logic; isn't it necessarily true that if Dick Burgess beat Dr. Crump in chess; and I beat Dick Burgess in chess; then I have indeed (without question or need of further proof) beat Dr. Crump in chess?

--Vicarious

Dear Vicarious,

This is most certainly true!

--The Padre

*Table Talk* talks: For \$10.00 (cash, no checks please), Dick Burgess will let you beat him in chess. --Editor.

Dear Padre,

Why aren't Moses and Abraham saints? They don't even get days on the calendar. Aren't they as important as "Sergius of Radonezh, Abbot of Holy Trinity, Moscow, 1392"? It looks like you have to be a Christian to get on the calendar. Am I missing something?

*Not a Saint, but I know One when I see One.*

Dear Not-A-Saint,

I don't believe being Semetic has anything to do with it. The only reason I could give you is maybe they weren't good enough to be Saints. Moses did sin, you know. Actually, it appears to me that God had other roles and titles in mind for them. For example, "Father of Israel", Prophet, Lawgiver, Mediator; take your pick. I would suggest that if you feel certain individuals in Biblical history have been cheated, take it up with God. If not that, then Chicago. Thanks for your inquiring mind.

--The Padre

*Table Talk* invites your responses and letters to the Padre.

## Rock of Ages, Hear my Prayer!

By Dave Jernigan

*Sharing this song, sung to the tune of Rock of Ages, somehow seemed an appropriate reaction to the news my candidacy committee wants me to do another unit of CPE before internship.*

Rock of Ages, cleft for me:  
 Help me hide from CPE  
 I get sick in IPR<sup>1</sup>  
 I don't know what verbatims are.  
 Group has helped me to confess  
 That I am a total mess.

Rock of Ages, hear my prayer  
 I am near complete despair.  
 Instead of making patient calls  
 I've been hiding in the halls.

Rock of Ages, cleft for me  
 Help me claim authority.

Rock of Ages, CPE  
 has given me identity.  
 I will live to get revenge  
 and when the quarter finally ends  
 I'll repay what's been done to me:  
 I'm going on for supervisory.  
 --Terry Ging

*Dave Jernigan is a Muddler<sup>2</sup> from the Metro D.C. Synod*

<sup>1</sup> IPR Interpersonal Reflection group sessions.

<sup>2</sup> Muddlers are students who are halfway between a Junior and a Middler; usually beginning their studies in January or February. Other Muddlers are Marsha Adams, Rose Ann Campise, and Louise Reynolds.

## Wait a minute

By Thomas E. Teichmann

*I have never been much for waiting.*

The market check-out line drives me nuts—everyone seems to come up front just before I get there! And when my family and I go out to eat, I'd rather drive all over town than wait for a table to be ready. And I'll take forever to make up my mind about things, but, once it is made up, then I want results quickly!

I suppose that's the way a lot of us are though. Guess you could call us impatient. Maybe it's built into us by our society. After all, we've got fast foods, quicky lubes, one minute managers, and e-mail. We can microwave our dinner, talk to a friend across the country, and have our TV tell the kids a story—all in the space of a few minutes. It's no wonder even a little delay has us pulling out hair!

Imagine the dilemma then, for a person such as myself, caused by a season like Advent. Waiting for Christmas. One month... four weeks... twenty eight days. You know, that's a long time to wait! Why do we have to have this advent? I don't need any preparation, I'm ready now. The stores don't need any extra time. They've been decorated for Christmas since before Halloween. Why the wait?

*Well, waiting is a theme in many a Bible story.*

In the Old Testament, Jacob must wait for seven years before he can marry his beloved Rachel, only to be cheated into seven more years waiting.

In the epistles, the Apostle Paul talks a lot about waiting. He told the Romans that the whole creation is waiting— for liberation and restoration. But not just plain waiting— an eagerly anticipating, groaning, chomping at the bit, straining type of waiting.

Another instance of waiting—in the gospel of John, Jesus is urgently summoned to Lazarus because he is deathly ill. But Jesus doesn't rush off to the rescue—he waits—for two more days!

*All this waiting going on... but it isn't just idle time.*

Jacob works hard for his Uncle Laban and returns to his native country with his family strong, ready to flourish and grow in God's promise. Jesus eventually makes it to Bethany, not in time to heal Lazarus, but, even better, to raise Lazarus and reveal himself as the giver of all life. Paul reminds us that our resurrection, and the redemption of all creation, is yet to come. Not yet seen, but witnessed in cross and empty tomb. Not yet realized, but hoped for, and waited for... patiently and fruitfully. Because in the end, nothing can separate us from God's love.

And so Advent comes once more and I wait, we wait. But not idly or impatiently. We know the one who came and who is to come is Emmanuel. God's love breaking in on a world so ill prepared for the arrival, yet so desperately in need of it. So even in our groaning and anticipation God is active and we also are active - promising and trusting, loving and spreading love, giving life and living a life of water and spirit. We set our faces towards the cross of Christ and shout Gospel in the wilderness of the world, we help dispel the darkness while God through Christ lights the path to a future where all things will be new again!

*So, come thou long expected Jesus.*

But take your time. I can wait.

*Thomas E. Teichmann is a second year student from the North Carolina Synod.*

*Table Talk* talks: You can celebrate Advent by enjoying the Music Gettysburg! concerts. On December 10th at 7:30 p.m. the Schola Cantorum will sing Choral Vespers for Advent; on December 17th at 7:30 p.m. there will be a special Christmas presentation. Both performances are in our chapel and are free.

Also remember that there is evening liturgy on Wednesday, December 6th at 7:00 p.m.; and morning liturgy on Christmas day at 9:00 a.m. in our chapel.

And we are invited to join Gettysburg College on Thursday, December 7, for a candlelight Christmas celebration! Service begins at 8:45 at the college fountain followed by a procession to the service in Christ Chapel. Guest preacher is Barbara Lundblad, the preacher at the ordination of woman celebration in Minnesota, and in Allantown, and preacher for the Lutheran radio series, "The Protestant Hour." --Editor



## A Celebration of the Twentieth Anniversary of the Ordination of Women

By Jackie DePhillips

*Greetings and peace to you from a seminary student on internship!*

It is the middle of October already – I can't believe that it has been more than two months since I journeyed to Minneapolis to participate in the celebration of the 25th anniversary of the ordination of women as a representative of Gettysburg Seminary. I was not sure what I would find in Minneapolis, but what I did find was celebration of ordained men and women and the laity in ministry. As the event unfolded, and I saw the participation of so many bishops, including my own from the Allegheny Synod, Gregory Pile, and our two women bishops, April Ulring Larsen and Andrea DeGroot-Nesdahl, I became comfortable with this group of Lutherans who gathered together to worship, learn and witness and to serve and support each other in the ministry of service to Jesus Christ. *Christ was made known!*

The Spirit was present in this community and the Spirit's presence was felt throughout as the inclusivity of the event became obvious. The recognition of different gifts for different people became a celebration of the unique gift of the woman in Mark 14:3-9 who "broke open the jar" to anoint Jesus' head with nard, a very costly oil from the alabaster jar – a jar with a long, slender neck – gender specific, a woman's jar. We think of canning jars as women's jars and we think of delicate jars containing perfume as women's jars – this was a woman's jar and burst into this male dominated world and ministered to our Lord.

The Rev. Dr. Sarah Henrich shared in one of her Bible studies – This woman was a prophet, seeing what is to come in the living Lord... She was a priest at the Lord's feast and she proclaims his death – she is a woman out of place, trouble follows her act, but the Lord commends her, for she broke open the jar to proclaim the Lord's death as good news. As Dr. Henrich said, "Give a woman a jar and she will open it!" This uninvited woman at a "men only" party, this prophet, against the customs of the day, anointed Jesus for his death and burial, masking the smell of his coming death. This was a woman who did a woman's job and it was women who first found the empty tomb. Jesus celebrated the gifts of women and the ordinary people...

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*Excerpts from a letter sent to Nancy Gable on October 17, 1995*

In Minneapolis, we gathered to rejoice in the various gifts of men and women in ordained and lay ministry and to celebrate the gifts of women, seen in that woman who "broke open the jar" almost two thousand years ago.

A highlight of the celebration was the final banquet featuring a parade of thanksgiving turkeys carried by chef-hatted waiters, winding around the hall. After the turkeys were placed on each table, a specially marked place-setting identified the person who was to don apron and chef's hat and carve the turkey for the rest of us.

We joined in the Litany of Thanksgiving as we prepared to eat this feast, one of the responses clearly states the feeling of the gathering

**L:** We lift up to you, O Lord, those saints who have brought us to this celebration...Parents and spouses and teachers and pastors and bishops and children...Men and women, old and young, clergy and lay, of all races and colors, of many creeds...We thank you for the witness they have brought to the church throughout the world and to our lives...  
We praise you that they have been vehicles of your grace and your truth.

**C:** **We thank you for these people of faith, dear Lord.**

Thank you again for making it possible for me to participate in this gathering of ordained men and women, and the laity, *Making Christ Known* together.

Peace to you, seminary student and intern, Jackie DePhillips

*Jackie DePhillips is an intern at First Lutheran Church, 415 Vine Street, Johnstown, PA 15901 (814) 536-7521*

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**SANCT INTERROGATA** wants to know: "Why is it that Christians lay all their sins at Jesus' feet, but wouldn't dream of trusting him with the annual budget?"

# The Rhetoric of Politics and Religion

By Douglas Thomas and Tom M. Bergman

## Religion

The future of religion as an American phenomenon is going to be considered more and more as a part of human culture, i.e., not a transcendental reality but as a perspective of human culture which can solely be defined within the human sphere without reference to any supernatural aspect. This prompts the question as to the survival of religion. In order for religion to survive in third millennium, it has to turn out to be useful and of great utility. In some circles, religion's utility has already become more important than the question of religion's truth, at least it seems to be the case for most westerners. So for some, the criterion for assessing religion is its pragmatic value. Thus, liberation theology appeals greatly to those who are oppressed by economic and social inequalities. The point on which religion could be considered as useful is its strength to communicate between people and bring them together. It has been used as a powerful tool for political ends and strategically used to appeal and fortify ones patriotism, particularly for building voting coalitions. It can also strengthen one's own policy on how to act, or foster a healthy way of life, or a profitable path to follow up on. Religion has also been used as a means to steer and manipulate the people by politicians. But it can also be used in a positive way as a liberating force against institutionalized evil, as in the case of liberation theology.

The year two thousand will be an interesting time for religion and especially the effect it has on society. Will it remain unattached to the problems that mostly confront the oppressed and marginalized? Or, will religion take on the revolutionary spirit of Martin Luther and confront what we know to be evil in our society. We can no longer accept to have things remain as they've always been. Especially at the expense of exploiting the helpless and poor members of society.

The coming of the Millennium will bring a new and exciting generation of religious movements with a chiliastic, eschatological emphasis and movements with a quasi - scientific outlook. But to what extent? How much this will effect the mainline religions is hard to say, but there will probably be a shift in the rank of issues ( becoming more anthropocentric) and there will hopefully be more attention on environmental issues. Mainline religions will have to become more environmental - friendly as the nations become global. Even the so-called primitive religions with their harmonious ecological way of life, will experience a short renaissance. But if this should happen, it will probably be short lived.

## How will the Information Society effect Religion?

In the future, Christianity and other major religions will become more uniform within themselves without compromising tradition and doctrine. Mainline denominations will

benefit the most from the access to multi-information as a result of the Information Highway. Primitive and small non-mainline religious groups will also have more access to information that is not available to them now. However, these small religious organizations will need scholars to collect and research certain religious dogma's to put on the Information Highway.

Some scholars believe that in the future religion will also become more informal causing less need to attend church. Small gatherings in homes and other places will likely become a fad in the future due to the abundance of information. The experts are no longer confined to the church or universities but are a "mouse" away on our personal computer. This could possibly have an adverse effect on "the community of believers."

### **What effect does politics have on religion and society?**

Politics can be defined as a social activity that unposes opinions and exersizes power to rule. From this starting point, we can look at politics' effect on society.

As the politics that govern society become more conservative, they have a direct effect on the personal lives of many. In 1989, half of the sitting federal judges on the bench were appointed by Reagan. This would have a dramatic impact on how the legal pendulum would swing. Thus, we began to talk about victim rights and started the "weed and seed" program, which focused on community policing and removing criminals from neighborhoods for the safety of the community. As we continued on this plan, fundainentalism found solace and grew from the conservative atmosphere in the 80s. Fundamentalism has been on the rise since the turn of the century but the political conservative atmosphere in the 80s was extremely conducive for their rhetoric to be given a voice in the public arena. A century ago when our political institution was unkind to racial minorities and women, our religious commurities for the most part were directly influenced by the position that our government took. Politicians appealing to the Christian community for the sole purpose of being elected is a trend that the church community must not tolerate. Invoking the major themes of Chrstendom and appealing to so-called "American" values has been a deceptive but effective tool used by politicians. The community of believers should know that wolves can appear in sheep clothing and our very enemies can appear as angels. We must not be gullible or ignorant of the devices that some will use to attain power.

We are living in time when people are asking questions as to "what is really the meaning of life." Whoever can best answer this question will be the winner of the millions of people who are in "the valley of indecision."

*Douglas Thomas is a first year M.A.R. student.*

*Tom M. Bergman is special student from Finland.*

## And Visions of Sugarplums Danced through their Heads

By Dave Jernigan

Sugarplums, fruitcakes, candy canes . . . but not for me; I have Diabetes.

Would you say that I am:

- a. Lucky to be alive at all
- b. An object of pity
- c. One of the Lucky ones
- d. A child of God
- e. a, b, and d above

*Answer:* e For the record, I am lucky to be alive but that is not related to my Diabetes. Some might argue that I am to be pitied but I would argue I am relatively normal, I'll even let you look at my Myers-Briggs and Psychologists reports.

*Lucky?* - Definitely. You see, I am one of 14 Million Americans with Diabetes. Why does that make me lucky? Because I know I have Diabetes and am in charge of it. 7 of the 14 million don't know they have diabetes. They are at higher risk for blindness, injury and amputation because their diabetes is not under control. Diabetes is a killer and maimer of people. Diabetes kills more women than breast cancer. Diabetics are more prone to heart disease, stroke, hypertension, kidney failure, amputations, etc.

*What can you do?* Take a seven question quiz which should appear in your campus mailbox. Those who aren't on campus can dial 1-800-DIABETES and ask for the "At Risk" test. Other things you can do is to include exercise and a healthy diet in your lifestyle.

*Can diabetes be avoided?* -Yes, some types can be avoided. The human genome project has identified at least two genes involved with type I (insulin dependent) diabetes and one for type II (non-insulin dependent) diabetes. Stress has also been linked to diabetes; so relax.

*Type I* --Trials are underway to see if daily injections of insulin will prevent diabetes and other researchers have found links between allergies to cow's milk and diabetes. Infants drinking cow's milk before the age of 13 months may be at a higher risk for developing Type I Diabetes. The American Academy of Pediatrics recommends that babies be breast-fed for the first six to twelve months of life. (The only acceptable substitute is iron-fortified infant formula). Genetic testing is in the early stages of development and the tests that exist only identify some of the individuals at risk.

*Type II* --is probably the easiest to avoid. This is the type I have. It caught me when I was over 40 and overweight. Age is the one factor we can't do anything about. Two factors are under our control - diet and exercise. Overweight people are more at risk from Diabetes. So are inactive people. Weight loss coupled with exercise and a healthy diet have been shown to be effective in avoiding the onset of diabetes.

[A quick scan of the campus reveals a number of people who are or will be at risk. I'd rather keep you out of this rather large group of Diabetics.]

*Concerns* -- Yours or mine? During a Diabetic episode a Diabetic may need your help. High Glucose levels can be life threatening and are not easily recognized; it is the low glucose levels which are more common and more easily treated with a source of glucose such as soda (if conscious), sugar, cake frosting, or glucose tablets. Most of Diabetics wear medical alert bracelets on their wrist, neck or ankle. Most can predict or avoid an episode. Other times Diabetics push the envelope too much and seem unusually sleepy, disoriented, drunk and/or irritated (more than normal). Ask them if they are o.k. (Ask non-diabetics if they are o.k.; this makes everyone feel better). If a Diabetic is slow responding, suggest something to eat.

Don't worry, Diabetes is not contagious and I haven't bitten anyone in many decades.

Take the test, the life you save may belong to you or a family member.

*Dave Jernigan is a Muddler from the Metro D.C. Synod*

## Meet the Internationals

By

**Anne Lüters**  
**Alar Helstein**  
**Anna Milanova**  
**Thwol Omot Odola**  
**Tom Bergman**

We are 127 years old, we are about 30 feet tall, we have studied 19 languages (Amharic, Anuak, Arabian, Czech, Danish, English, Estonian, Finnish, French, German, Greek, Hebrew, Italian, Latin, Norwegian, Russian, Slovak, Spanish, Swedish), we have been in 27 countries (Austria, Bulgaria, Czech Republic, El Salvador, England, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Morocco, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Scotland, Slovakia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, U.S.A.), we have studied theology 38 semesters, and have spent 20 months in America. We think America is big; we find the food different, the people nice, and the squirrels cute.

**Do you want to know more about us?—now, this is who we are:**

If you want to see Anna - hurry up! St. Claus will bring her back to her seven-year-old sister very soon. Her other sister, parents and exams are also waiting very anxiously. Her American swimming competition started six months ago when she began to work in Bendersville Lutheran Parish. Since June she swam across the ocean of obligations (to the parish), presentations (about Slovakia), readings (for classes) and in the water of "Y" as well. So, her suitcase will not be burdened with her swimming suit. It is a pity that this free spot is not big enough to include the library, which would be helpful for her further study and pastoral ministry. She is thankful to God for the victorious finish of this competition but also for caffeine and friends.

Led by his subconsciousness, Tom spread out his wings (or at least the wings of the airplane) and flew over the Atlantic. Trying not to get lost in the midst of new and strange observations, Tom found out that there are not many qualities of American culture he would bring back to Finland; except for some, such as a stack of cheap books, a pile of 60's original records, and a 60's drum-set. He hopes that his future after America will be interesting and he can take up the tasks he left undone at home (Tom also leaves us after this semester). He wishes to the seminary a merry Christmas!

**Thwol Omot** was sent here by his church: The Ethiopian Evangelical Church Mekane Yesus - Gambella Bethel Presbytery. Every year this church tries to send evangelists abroad in order to equip them for the ministry. He hopes that after his time in America he will have learned enough to share the knowledge he has gained here with his colleagues, evangelists, women, youth group leaders, and Sunday school teachers, and to concentrate on his ministry. He thanks God for the opportunity to attend this seminary and is praying for it. Thowl is the only one of this year's internationals who will stay here for two years and therefore he is anxiously waiting for the next summer vacation to meet his wife and six children.

Anne happened to come to Gettysburg only through a coincidence: instead of landing in Palestine her plane arrived at Washington National Airport. After having discovered that America is also a very nice country she decided to stay here and to consume as much knowledge and experiences as possible. Unpacking her suitcase she noticed that she did not need many of the things she had brought with her, especially a big bag of doubts about being an "outsider" (look "Gettysburg Times", October 25, 1995). Instead of that she could use the space to transport back to Germany a lot of useful things, for example excellent English, an exchange student for Collegium Oecumenicum in Munich, and the good relationship between the students and the faculty in the seminary (e.g. the useful pedagogical strategy of a certain professor - to hold lectures standing on the table).

**Alar** was sent here by the order of the dean of the theological faculty of Tartu to continue his work in exploring the undiscovered worlds of systematic theology. On his journey over the depths of the seas and the heights of the hills he made use of almost every means of transportation humankind has invented. After finding himself among the glorious fields of American history and diving into accomplishing his enormous task he made his first discovery in the New Land--an essential part of the earthly existence of a theologian is a cup of caffeinated coffee after a sleepless night. In the following time he found out that there are other useful things he would be glad to bring to Estonia, for instance the library and Dr.Gassmann (which is almost one and the same). In exchange he hopes to enrich the American people with the historical wisdom of his country: how to be small and unimportant.



## A Seminarian in the World!

By Joel Petruschke

### *Greetings from Slovakia!*

I miss everyone at the seminary so much. I don't know if I can honestly go a full year here without all of you; yet I do have some sort of calling to be here. I trust that God knows what he is doing; especially since it is extremely difficult for me to be able to understand most of what is happening around me, both culturally and linguistically.

... Professor Hniliky is a great teacher; I could sit and listen to his all day. I am studying with him and with another American--quite a lot of work, lots of reading. And I am teaching five hours per week at the Lutheran High School. This I enjoy very much. The kids are good, and their English is also quite good. (I should hire one of them to help me with my Slovak.)

... I am preaching on Thanksgiving and I am really looking forward to it. There is a little English-speaking congregation that has been a little bastion of peace; many of the members are from the high school, so I know them pretty well. And the pastors are absolutely excellent! Already they have me helping with the service and communion. What a breath of fresh air to get communion after almost eight weeks without it!

... I miss the community at the seminary (LSTG). Community seems almost non-existent here because people live in three different locations around the city and often go home to their parents homes on the weekends.

... May God always be with you and keep you in His peace. Keep me in your prayer. I have ... send my regards to everyone!

In Christ Forever, Joel

*Joel Petruschke is a second year student, currently on leave from LSTG, and attending seminary in Slovakia. He would be delighted to receive mail from you; his address: c/o Darina Kušnírová, Amurská 9, Kosice, 040 12, Slovakia*

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*Third excerpts from a letter sent to Rose Ann Campise on November 9, 1995.*

Lutheran Theological Seminary Gettysburg  
Minutes of Student Association

I. The meeting of the Student Association Council on 15 November 1995 was unofficial because there was not a quorum. This means that issues could be discussed but could not be voted on. The unofficial meeting was opened at 1:10 pm by the SA president, John Brock.

Nate Motz opened us in prayer.

Members present: Bill Hughes, Christina Abrahamson, Mary Peterhaensel, Rose Ann Campise (Table Talk), Doug DeStephano, Marsha Adams, Nate Motz, Rob Argot, John Brock, Tiffany Hall, Sharon Vak, Wendi Gordon, Becky Davis.

II. Minutes of the last meeting were reviewed.

III. Treasurer's Report: The treasurer's report was presented. The treasurer expects to receive \$1,800 on 17 November from student fees. The report was as follows:

	SA	Cap. Improvement	Coffee Shop
Balance(10/18)	\$1,125.37	\$ 418.16	\$ 857.55
Receipts	0.00	0.00	0.00
Disbursement	<u>(612.13)</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>(787.00)</u>
Balance(11/14)	513.24	418.16	70.55

	Budget	Balance
General Fund	\$ 365.00	\$ 365.00
Junior Class	325.00	247.87
Middler Class	325.00	325.00
Senior Class	425.00	425.00
Athletic Div.	270.00	(122.26)
Fellowship Div.	495.00	377.28
Lectures Div.	320.00	320.00
Publication	705.00	658.00
Social Action Div.	<u>270.00</u>	<u>270.00</u>
	3500.00	2866.39

IV. Reports:

A. Social Action Division: (Chairperson Christina Abrahamson)

Multicultural event planned for February. It will be a forum/panel where middle and seniors could share their multicultural experiences with the community.

YWCA Blood Drive: December 7 from 1:00-7:00 pm. The division needs 4-6 people to assist the nurses. The goal is 60 donors for the drive and the division would like to see 30 donors from the seminary. A teddy bear with a gift tag will be delivered to a child in the hospital for every donor. Each donor can choose the teddy bear option or 10 minutes of long distance phone time.

The division is also looking into the possibility of doing a program with Oxfam America in association with a hunger month.

#### B. Field Education

A correction was made concerning representation on the committee. Wendi Gordon should be the senior representative listed instead of Angela Ryan as the middler class does not have representation on this committee.

#### C. Food Service Committee

This committee still needs a middler representative and a chairperson. Bill Hughes volunteered to be the chairperson for the committee and Sharon Vak volunteered to find a middler representative. There is a community dinner scheduled for 21 November at 5:30 pm in the refectory.

#### V. Old Business:

A. Change Machine: A memo from Dan Bringman was read and there was a report from the task force. The proposal is that the \$1100 machine be paid 2/3 by the seminary and 1/3 plus \$400 by the student association. The seminary insurance would cover the machine, but there is a deductible to consider. Service calls would be split between the seminary and SA. There was further discussion about where to place the machine, safety issues, and the possibility of new Coke and Lance machines with coin changers.

B. Diaconal Forum: A thank you was received from Dianna Wentz and a memo informing the SA that there will be ongoing forums regarding diaconal ministry. The first is scheduled for 5 December from 7:00-8:30 pm. It is expected that all SA members will attend as we made a commitment to support this endeavor.

#### VI. New Business

A. Academic Policy Committee: APC has met three times and the issue of student input regarding J-term classes came up. Becky Davis and Wendy Abrahamson request that any suggestions be directed to them regarding J-term so they can relay it to the APC.

B. There was a suggestion to post a brightly colored notice for our next meeting next to the mail boxes. This will be forwarded to the corresponding secretary.

The next meeting date is 6 December from 1:00-2:00 pm.  
The unofficial meeting closed at 1:50 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Tiffany A. Hall  
SA Recording Secretary

This report is unofficial.

## Augury

Dec. 5 Diaconal Forum 7:00 to 8:30 p.m.

Dec. 6 SA Meeting 1:00 p.m.

Dec. 6 Liturgy 7:00 p.m. Chapel

Dec. 7 Community Blood Drive 1:00 to 7:00 p.m. YWCA

Dec. 7 Candlelight Service 8:45 p.m. Gettysburg College

Dec. 9 Habitat for Humanity 8:00 to noon Fairfield Road

Dec. 10 Music, Gettysburg! Choral Vespers for Advent 7:30 p.m. Chapel

Dec. 13 Bishop Anderson 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. St. Mark, Hanover  
See *Table Talk* Talks for details.

Dec. 15 End of Fall Term

Dec. 17 Music, Gettysburg! A Christmas Offering 7:30 p.m. Chapel  
Highlight: Chorus and dance from "Amahl and the Night Visitors"

Dec. 25 Liturgy 9:00 a.m. Chapel

Jan. 3 First class session of January Term

Jan. 15 Martin Luther King Convocation, No Classes  
[Also deadline for February *Table Talk*]

Jan. 17 SA Meeting 1:00 p.m.

Jan. 21 Music, Gettysburg! Homecoming 7:30 p.m. Chapel

Jan. 30 Close of January Term

Feb. 5 First class session of Spring Term

*Submit notices for community events by the 15th of January.*