2013

The Concord, December 2013

Luther Seminary

Follow this and additional works at: http://digitalcommons.luthersem.edu/student_newspapers

Recommended Citation

http://digitalcommons.luthersem.edu/student_newspapers/33

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the Archives & Special Collections at Digital Commons @ Luther Seminary. It has been accepted for inclusion in Student Newspapers by an authorized administrator of Digital Commons @ Luther Seminary. For more information, please contact tracy.iwaskow@gmail.com, mteske@luthersem.edu.
Letter From the Editor

"I am the Alpha and the Omega," says the Lord God, who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty. - Revelation 1:8

We are in a season of the year, on both secular and sacred calendars, that is steeped in traditions and practices carried on from generation to generation - lighting the Advent wreath, prayers of hope and anticipation for the coming of Christ, gathering with friends and family, the giving and receiving of gifts. The ways in which we celebrate Advent and Christmas are inextricably connected with our places of origin - the places, and the people, that have shaped us in the faith and in our daily living.

This month, the Concord asked "Does it matter where we come from?" and "How does it shape our lives as followers of Christ and Christian leaders?" Arthur Murray's poignant response can be found on page 3. It does matter where we come from, because from that foundation we are shaped and molded into the living body of Christ - the one who is and who was and who is to come.

Peace be yours,
Liz
P.S. We hope you enjoy the Christmas Fun pages too!

---

Table of Contents

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Flying Under the Radar</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arthur Murray</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Joys of Tradition</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Steven Paulson</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Christmas Carol Rewrite</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rusty Brace</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Christmas Fun! Word Search</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Christmas Fun! Coloring Page</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Concord Asks</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Guess Who?</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

---

DID YOU KNOW?

The Concord is printed at Luther Seminary Duplicating Services, a student-run and managed department here on campus. Check them out online or in BH 30.
Flying Under the Radar

Arthur Murray
MDiv Middler

I have a confession to make: I’m Canadian. You have to watch out for us Canadians. We are pretty subversive, mainly because you might not be able to pick us out as foreigners just by our accent or appearance. Sure, the occasional “eh” or inappropriate hockey reference or confusing insertion of a random French expression into conversation might give us away, but generally in Minnesota we blend in pretty easily.

How do my Canadian origins shape me and my perspective on ministry, the Concord asks?

Well, the fact that I am quite literally an “alien” in this country (albeit a “resident” one) deeply impacts my sense of Christian hospitality. I have been so grateful for the times when I have been welcomed both in this country, and when I was a music student in Germany. I have felt what it is to be in a new place and a new culture, to know no one and to have no friends. The people who reached out to me when I was a stranger extended grace to me in a way that I will never forget.

The irony is that the welcome I have received is often not from those from whom I would necessarily expect. In Germany the welcome was from other German students. If I had arrived 50 years earlier, we would have been trying to kill each other. My British uncle, who grew up during WWII had a bit of a hard time believing me when I told him that the Germans I was meeting were regular people “just like you or me.” When I moved to Manhattan ten years later, the welcome was from a Senegalese Muslim who welcomed me into his home as a roommate and became one of my closest friends. Little did we know that only one month later we would experience 9/11.

The opportunity to have interfaith dialogue during that time of crisis was a great gift to both of us. As with my British uncle, I often encounter folks who are a bit taken aback when I tell them of my wonderful Muslim friend who shares my fundamental belief in a God of love, grace and hospitality.

This morning during the Friday Taize chapel service, the lectio divina text included these words: “Welcome one another therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God.” (Rom. 15:7)

These words shape my perspective on ministry. We have received a welcome, from Christ through one another and we extend this same welcome to others.

STUDENT GROUPS!
The Concord can be an outlet for you, too! Let us know what’s going on, or what’s new and exciting about your group, or even write an article about your group and how it’s serving the Luther community.

Luther Seminary 3
Letter to the Editor:

The Joys of Tradition

Steven Paulson
Professor of Systematic Theology

As Christmas draws near, our thoughts naturally turn to lutefisk and lefse. And don’t forget the Rommegrot made with all the good things of creation, sour cream, whole milk (raw if you are an outlaw), white wheat flour, butter and salt— which acidify into the tasty, artery filing treat we all love. Let’s finish it off with Krumkake that adds eggs and sugar. Without tradition we would have no idea what to eat on a festival; left to our own desires who would eat fish soaked in lye? At the Christmas table, my father always takes the big family Bible and reads the Christmas story. Even the children, and the children’s children unto the third and fourth generations won’t open any presents until this is done, since this is the tradition. If the grownups forget, the young Burkeans rise up in protest demanding their rights to hear grandpa tell the story.

Then again, we are in America. We are enlightened. Traditions seem like barnacles on our smooth ship hull. The commonest principle of liturgy stands against liturgy because ceremony has slowed the human boat from reaching its rightful new shore. Therefore we have an enthusiast’s rule: change is good! Change will free. The commonest complaint of the young vicar is that the old stodgy pillars of the local town establishment demand maintenance of their irrational preferences for kneeling, or old British hymns they insist are Lutheran, or the prejudice that refuses to get rid of ethnic smells from the basement potlucks. Instead, Forward! To the latest irrelevant fad.

I am reminded of Emerson’s address to the Phi Beta Kappa Society of 1837, “The American Scholar” and his second “great” influence—“the mind of the Past.” Books, he opined, were the best influence of the past. But the books of the past do not fit what must be done: “Each age, it is found, must write its own books…” Write your own books by using wit and imagination. Loving the hero corrupts into worship of his statue, the book becomes “noxious: the guide is a tyrant.” Colleges, he noted, are built on this. So are Seminaries. “Hence, instead of Man Thinking, we have the bookworm.” Bibliomaniacs.

That means you, my dear Seminary students, are a danger to American society as purveyors of besotted tradition. Emerson concluded: “I had better never see a book, than to be warped by its attraction clean out of my own orbit, and made a satellite instead of a system.” Be a system, not a satellite. Not bad work, if you can get it. And I suppose I don’t have to tell you which book he was especially worried would pull you clean out of your own orbit. Yet as Paul says, it is not wit and imagination, but betrayal that matters when it comes to tradition:

For I received from the Lord what I betrayed (traditioned, handed over) to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took bread… (1Co 11:23). Tradition kills, and frees when it has the right words in it.

There ends the American Scholar, and gives us the most Lutheran of declarations of independence: “…it is enough to agree concerning the teaching of the Gospel and the administration of the sacraments. It is not necessary that human traditions or rites and ceremonies, instituted by humans should be alike everywhere” (Augsburg Confession, VII). The Gospel, which is authorized by a tyrannical Book to be given to you, will knock you clean out of your own orbit—and you will never be freer. Free to be a preacher who has become all things to all people that you might by all means save some. Now let’s get some of that lefse.

"The Gospel... will knock you clean out of your own orbit— and you will never be freer."
Christmas Carol Rewrite:
*Jesus the Blond Haired Savior (to the tune of Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer)*

Rusty Brace
MDiv Senior

You know Adam and Noah,
And Abram and Moshe, Isaac and David,
Jacob and Esau,
But do you recall the most famous Hebrew of all?

Jesus, the blond hair Savior
Was a very busy Jew
And if you ever saw him
You would say his eyes were blue
He wasn't always with us
Just a promise made by God
Here comes the Holy Spirit
That's how he came to have a bod.
Then one foggy Christmas Eve
Joseph came to say,
Mary's baby bump's a gem
Won't you pack for Bethlehem?

Then he fulfilled the prophets
Taught and preached for you and me
Jesus the blond haired Savior
You'll go down in history!

(alternate ending)
Then he fulfilled the prophets
Taught and preached for you and me
Look out you blond haired Savior
You'll get nailed to a tree.

This piece is purely for entertainment and does not reflect the theological or christological beliefs of The Concord or Luther Seminary.

---

**We Have A Golden Ticket!**

Hail, dear students of Luther Seminary and take hope, for your very own Luther Concord staff has procured an unprecedented opportunity!

The library's own referential whiz, Bruce Eldevik, is opening the vaults and allowing five lucky students the opportunity to take a tour of the RARE BOOK ROOM!

Below you will find a coupon to fill out for your chance to get inside this magical place where it is rumoured that the ghosts of PhD students past and present wander in and out searching for texts in the original Greek or Theological German! Fill out the form below and deposit it in the Box of Opportunity that can be found at the Library front desk by the end of the month!

---

**December Drawing**

**Name:**

**Email Address:**

**Phone Number:**

**Year of Study:**

Luther Seminary 5
CHRISTMAS Fun!

WORDSEARCH

H N W O D J Y I H H J F S Y A
N T A G C O Z A G Z R T D R D
G T E T J Z I S V A H R R A V
D Q N B I R H G N G M X E M E
X E I A A V A K I X D X H I N
E V G H F Z I L B F W Q P R T
N S C Q F N I T L J T O E P B
O E M Z C Q I L Y K H S H E C
Z V O E N H O J E K H C S A H
H S N O I T A R O C E D M C P
F S E M M A N U E L K E Q E E
E I T S I R H C H F L B P S S
B I R T H O Y O S S N Y M B O
V G C Z K V P K I K O O Z H J
U I I N U E X K E D C E Z T D

ADVENT  FRANKINCENSE  LIGHTS
BIRTH       GIFTS          MAGI
CAMELS      HOPE           MARY
CHRIST      INFANT         NATIVITY
DECORATIONS  JOHN         PEACE
ELIZABETH   JOSEPH        SHEPHERDS
EMMANUEL    JOY           ZECHARIAH

Concord 6
Prayer Concerns
Collected by Liz Rossing
MDiv Senior

Immanuel, be near, for we are very tired. Grant us both wisdom and rest.
Into your loving hands we place our anxiety and stress, guide us to the finish of this semester formed as you desire.
Send us out to share your light and hope with friends and family, with the stranger and the outcast.
Give us strength to wait in faith for your coming, help us to bear your light in all we do.
Bless us with an awareness of all the gifts you have given us, despite this season’s impulses of perceived scarcity and want.
In the midst of the cold and the snow, give warmth and shelter to all people who do not have a safe place to call home.
In all we do, Come Lord Jesus. Amen.

(Community prayer written by a community: Erika Benson Buller, Michael Buller, Liz Rossing, Dan Nelson, Drew Yackel, Britta Meyers)

CONCORD STAFF

Content Editors:
Katie Grooms: Editor-in-chief
Michael Buller: Content Editor

Copy Editors:
Katie Grooms

Layout Editors:
Peter Clark
Liz Rossing

Cover Art:
Peter Clark

Contributors:
Will Johnson

The CONCORD asks...
What is a strange or unique Christmas tradition that you have?

Hunting with my sister for the most boring book to give to my step-dad.
This year it is “The History and Social Influence of the Potato”.
Kristi Larson, MA Junior

“Making videos with siblings as Christmas presents”
Ihoby Rakotomalala, MA Senior Senior

Christmas Tamale. Mmmmm.
Liz Rossing, MDiv Senior

Epic All-Aged Snow Football Game
Josh Toufar, MDiv Senior

Eating Shrimp on Christmas Eve
Ryan Pusch, MDiv Junior