

Concordia Theological Monthly



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become, by God's grace, a phenomenon of such gigantic proportions that a thorough and comprehensive philosophy of our system of education appears to be an inflexible imperative.

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LUTHERAN UNITY CONFERENCES IN AUSTRALIA

Prior to the meeting of the two Lutheran churches in Australia, the ELCA and the UELCA, in the middle of August, for the discussion of church unity, at both of which President John W. Behnken of The Lutheran Church — Missouri Synod was present, Dr. Hoopmann, as the *Australian Lutheran* (August 8) reports, addressed the pastors of his group as follows:

"This conference will probably be the largest conference of Lutheran pastors ever held in Australia. May God in His great mercy bless this conference more than any other ever held. What a blessing if we could come together on the basis of the Holy Scriptures and the Confessions of the Lutheran Church and could part, determined to remain together on this foundation.

"Whenever and wherever the church has been loyal to Scripture and the Confessions, the church has prospered. Whenever and wherever the church has departed from Scripture and the Confessions, the church has suffered. Compromises contrary to Scripture and the Confessions have never been a blessing to any church. If we wish to do the right thing, we must therefore ask God to guide us. 'We can expect great things,' a pastor wrote me today, 'if we go to Jindera and Walla with hundreds of praying congregations behind us.'"

Having asked all pastors to offer up a special intercession in their congregations before the conferences, President Hoopmann suggested the following prayer:

"Lord God, our heavenly Father, be merciful unto us and bless the conferences about to be held in the interest of Lutheran unity. Thou hast blessed our efforts in the past to bring about such unity. Continue to bless them also in future. Let Thy special blessing rest upon the pastors who will meet to give further consideration to this matter. Sanctify them through Thy truth, and grant them Thy Spirit in rich measure so that Thy will be done. Thou art able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think. Thou art able to remove all obstacles that still remain. Remove them, we humbly beseech Thee, and hear our prayer for Jesus' sake. Amen."

Conferences conducted in this fine Christian spirit certainly cannot fail to promote the Lord's cause.

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