



Rocky Mountain District

The Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod

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- A Culture of Personal Evangelism
 - Healthy Ministries
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 - Spiritual Growth
 - Theological Unity

August 25, 2009

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Greetings in the name of the only saving Lord and God, Jesus Christ.

With deep sadness I read of the decision made this past week by the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America to not only affirm same-sex monogamous relationships but to ordain into the holy ministry practicing homosexuals. Of course, this decision is merely a symptom of a deeper problem of this Synod's whole approach to the interpretation of Holy Scripture. Support of homosexuality is a clear sign of a faulty approach to Scripture itself.

Questioning the historicity and the veracity of Scripture highlights an approach to Scripture which is counter to Jesus' interpretation of the Old Testament. Our Lord had no doubt of the truthfulness and reliability of the Old Testament as He frequently cited the Sacred Text in His preaching, for example, even citing Lot's wife's "turning back" as behavior not to imitate (Luke 17:32).

Our Confessions wholeheartedly agree:

First, we confess our adherence to the prophetic and apostolic writings of the Old and New Testaments, as to the pure, clear fountain of Israel, which alone is the one true guiding principle, according to which all teachers and teaching are to be judged and evaluated (Kolb/Wengert, SD. para. 3, p. 527).

In his Genesis commentary, Luther cites the chief sin of the people of Sodom and Gomorrah not as homosexuality but as "contempt for the Word and ingratitude toward God" (LW 3:227). Commandments Two through Ten are descriptions of how the First Commandment is broken. God Himself is assaulted when one does not bow by faith in humility before His Word and what it says.

I am convinced there are many sheep, God's sheep, who will be asking questions about this action of the ELCA. Please, please, do not respond with pride. Lead with your Gospel shoulder as you uphold the Sacred Text. Listen, genuinely care, and gently point to what the Lord says. And secondly, readily recognize our Synod's own weaknesses. This is an opportunity for all to repent of sins and to walk in humility before the Lord of the Church, calling upon Him to keep His Church close to Him even as He through the Church calls out to those who live in a decadent culture.



The Lord's call to faithfulness must be heard by all (Rev. 2:10). For what good is the Church if she loses her saltiness (Matt. 5:13)? The Church needs to exhibit a prophetic and clarion voice as God uses her to proclaim the mysteries of His saving love for all sinners. If she is not faithful, the Church is "no longer good for anything" (Matt. 5:13).

We love our ELCA brothers and sisters in Christ even as we deeply disagree with the decision made by their Synod in convention. Let us exhibit the "long-suffering" (2 Peter 3:9) of God even as we speak the "truth in love" (Eph. 4:15) as His Word commands.

The God who revealed His love for all sinners in the death of Christ has dealt with His Church for quite a while. He will continue to comfort and admonish His Church as He sees fit, all the while calling all sinners to Himself through His reliable Word.

In the name of Christ,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Randall L. Golter".

Rev. Randall L. Golter, President
Rocky Mountain District of The Lutheran Church--Missouri Synod

2 Timothy 3:16-17