



Vol. 63, No. 8

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## Quo Vadis Romani?<sup>i</sup>

You can hardly avoid the news headlines about the Roman Catholic church and its current crisis of sexual abuse by its clergy. There is something new about the crisis almost every week. Recently the editors of the *New York Times* called for the clerical reform of that church (see *New York Times* [September 13, 2018]: A30).<sup>ii</sup> Dr. Gene Edward Veith, Professor Emeritus of Concordia University-Wisconsin and Provost Emeritus at Patrick Henry College--where he also served as Professor of Literature, has written a number of helpful blog articles on the subject at his blog "Cranach."<sup>iii</sup> I won't repeat Dr. Veith's reporting or analysis here.

What should members of The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod (LC-MS) and other confessional Lutherans think about this scandal? In one sense, it is none of our business. Allegations have been made, charges have been filed, and it is the business of the respective state and/or federal courts to sort this all out, find out who is guilty of what, and punish evildoers after due process. It is not our business in the church to predict, second-guess, or criticize what the courts will decide.

But in another sense, we should be praying for the victims of abuse, the Catholic church, and especially her laymen. For all the disagreements that Lutherans have with Catholics, we recognize that they are Christians. Like us, they confess the three ecumenical creeds. Like us, they believe that Holy Baptism makes the baptized "a new creature, an adopted son of God, who has become a partaker of the divine nature, member of Christ and co-heir with him, and a temple of the Holy Spirit."<sup>iv</sup> Like us, they believe that bishops, priests, and pastors have the power to forgive all sins.<sup>v</sup> Like us, they believe in the inerrancy of Scripture.<sup>vi</sup> The

sixteenth century Lutheran reformers made clear that, with respect to their rejection of false doctrine and practice in the Roman church and others, it was not their intent to mean the innocent laymen in those churches, i.e., "those persons who err ingenuously and who do not blaspheme the truth of the divine Word, and far less do we mean entire churches inside or outside the Holy Empire of the German Nation."<sup>vii</sup>

In yet a third sense, the problem of celibate clergy sexual abuse is part of our ongoing business as "confessional Lutherans" for five hundred years. "Confessional Lutherans" are those pastors, congregations, and laypeople who make the writings of the Book of Concord their personal confession of faith. "Confessional Lutherans" agree with all the confessions and writings in the Lutheran Book of Concord (1580/1584).<sup>viii</sup> They agree that all of the doctrinal content of the Book of Concord is in full agreement with the Scriptures. Pastors and congregations agree to this when they join the LC-MS as members.

Where in the Lutheran Confessions are there complaints about the aberrant sexual behavior of celibate clergy? None other than the primary confession of the Lutheran church, the Augsburg Confession of 1530 (hereafter abbreviated as AC)! AC Articles 22 to 28 are preceded by the title "Articles about Matters in Dispute, in which an Account is Given of the Abuses which have been Corrected [in our Lutheran churches]". The "matters in dispute" which the Lutherans corrected were: 1) giving the wine in the Lord's Supper to the laymen (AC 22); 2) the marriage of priests (AC 23); 3) the Lord's Supper (AC 24); 4) confession and absolution (AC 25); 5) prescribed fasts and proscribed foods (AC 26); 6) monastic vows (AC 27); and

7) the authority of bishops and other higher clergy offices (AC 28). In the case of the present crisis in the Roman Catholic church, the issue was thoroughly and Scripturally addressed in AC 23, 27, and 28.

When the Catholic party refused to budge in response to the Augsburg Confession, Philip Melancthon wrote another confession in 1531 known as the "Apology of the Augsburg Confession." Its articles that dealt with the present crisis correspond to the AC, and are Apology 23, 27, and 28. A bit later, Martin Luther himself published his confession known as the "Smalcald Articles" (1537). These articles deal with the same issues as the Augsburg Confession and Apology, and for the present crisis are: Part II, article 3 on monasteries; Part II, article 4 on the papacy; Part III, article 11 on the marriage of priests; and Part II, article 14 on monastic vows. Appended to the Smalcald Articles was the "Treatise on the Power and Primacy of the Pope" (1537) that dealt with the authority of bishops and other higher clergy offices.

Even before Luther and the Lutherans spoke out about this subject, there were rumblings throughout the Holy Roman Empire. In the 1438 reform treatise "The Reformation of the Emperor Sigismund," the author exposed the bishops' illegal practice of taxing "celibate" priests who lived with concubines. Then he wrote: "Would it not be better to adopt the customs of the orient [i.e., Eastern Orthodoxy] ... and allow priests to take wives? Christ himself never forbade marriage. It seems to me that great evils have arisen in the western part of Christendom since Pope Calixtus imposed the rule of celibacy. . . Many priests have lost their livings [i.e., income] because of women [i.e., the concubines]. Or they are secret sodomites. All the hatred existing between priests and laymen is due to this."<sup>ix</sup> The German people and princes continued to protest to the Vatican in Rome about these and other issues in the later 15<sup>th</sup> century, until they were taken

up as part of the Lutheran Reformation in the 16<sup>th</sup> century.<sup>x</sup>

All throughout my thirty-four years of ministry, Roman Catholic laymen have told me privately that they disagree with their church's stand on clergy celibacy. They believe that priests who want to be married should be permitted to do so, without penalty, and have children too. They don't understand why their church is so stubborn on this point. Neither do I.

Yours in Christ,



<sup>i</sup> The title is Latin. It means "Where are you going, Romans?"

<sup>ii</sup> See the same article here:

<https://www.nytimes.com/2018/09/13/opinion/pope-catholics-sexual-abuse.html> ; accessed 9-20-18.

<sup>iii</sup> See <http://www.patheos.com/blogs/geneveith/2018/09/the-catholic-sex-abuse-scandal-is-bigger-crisis-than-the-reformation> ;

<http://www.patheos.com/blogs/geneveith/2018/09/what-percentage-of-catholic-priests-have-been-abusive> ;

<http://www.patheos.com/blogs/geneveith/2018/09/the-beliefs-of-sexual-abusive-priests> ;

<http://www.patheos.com/blogs/geneveith/2018/09/get-ready-for-the-defense-in-the-catholic-sex-abuse-scandal> ;

<http://www.patheos.com/blogs/geneveith/2018/08/pope-francis-charged-with-lifting-sanctions-on-abuser> ;

<http://www.patheos.com/blogs/geneveith/2018/08/homosexuality-the-priest-sex-abuse-scandal> ; and

<http://www.patheos.com/blogs/geneveith/2018/08/grand-jury-accuses-301-priests-of-child-sexual-abuse> ; accessed 9-20-18)

<sup>iv</sup> Section 1265 in *Catechism of the Catholic Church* (New York: Doubleday, 1995), 354.

<sup>v</sup> *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, 408 (section 1461).

<sup>vi</sup> *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, 37 (section 107).

<sup>vii</sup> *The Book of Concord*, ed. Theodore Tappert (Philadelphia: Fortress Press, 1959), 11 (paragraph 22 of the Preface to the Book of Concord).

<sup>viii</sup> You can read the entire Book of Concord online here:

<http://www.bookofconcord.org> . If you want your own copy of the Book of Concord, go to Concordia Publishing House with this search address:

<https://search.cph.org/search#w=book%20of%20concord> .

<sup>ix</sup> Gerald Strauss, ed., *Manifestations of Discontent in Germany on the Eve of the Reformation: A Collection of Documents Selected, Translated, and Introduced by Gerald Strauss* (Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 1971), 14.

<sup>x</sup> Strauss, *Manifestations of Discontent in Germany*, 3-63.

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# Lutheran Women's Missionary League

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## Grace LWML Mission Statement

"Our mission is to encourage the women of Grace to grow spiritually through Word and Sacraments that they may serve our Triune God with their time, talents and treasures."

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**"Serve the Lord with Gladness"**

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## Mission Project Work Day

Tuesday, October 23, 2018 - 1:00pm at  
Dolores Keim's House

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### Upcoming dates:

Sept. 29, 2018 - LWML Zone 8 Fall Gathering  
Redeemer, Redwood City, CA

Speaker: Nancy Nielsen,  
Lutheran Social Services of Northern California  
(See Flyer-LWML Bulletin Board in the Parish Hall)

October 28, 2018 – Grace LWML Sunday

December 9, 2018 – Grace LWML

Christmas Luncheon

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**2018-2020**

### Mission Grants

- Scholarships for  
School of Young Leaders\*  
(See next page)  
Bethany Lutheran Church  
Menlo Park, CA  
\$10,000



Save your mites

## GRANT #6

### SCHOLARSHIPS FOR SCHOOL OF YOUNG LEADER (SOYL)

\$10,000

Bethany

Menlo Park, CA



The School of Young Leaders (SOYL) is a collaborative effort founded by the CNH Mission Agency, LINC Bay Area, and Bethany Lutheran Church, Menlo Park. Our LCMS churches are struggling in the midst of a culture shift, initiated by worldwide change in communication created through technology. Young adults, young couples and families are not coming to church as they once did. Thus young leaders are missing from our churches, as universities try to change attitudes and expectations from young adults. SOYL was created as an intensive summer discipleship program. The first class of students were trained in the Summer of 2017. They were trained in the New Testament, communication skills and leadership to grow and effectively share the Gospel. Nine students completed the 2017 program and all 9 are working with a Lutheran churches to bring the Gospel message to adults in their 20' & 30's. Students pay 50% of the needed training funds. The grant funds are for the remaining needed funds as scholarships for students.

# OCTOBER 2019

Your Word is a lamp that  
gives light wherever I walk.

Psalms 119:105

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1	2	3 Martin Semmler	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11 Julia Semmler	12 Paul-Stacey Soals	13
14	15	16	17	18	19 Marcus Brownlee	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

LIBRARY CORNER #10

- 224.8 Howard, J.K. -- AMOS AMONG THE PROPHETS
- "The excessive ritualism of the sacrificial system, led Israel astray and blinded them to the real nature of worship, leading ultimately to the worship of false gods of the surrounding nations. Yahweh had become merely a god among gods." The aim of Amos was to restore the genuineness of the worship.
- 232.9 Grant, Frederick -- THE LIFE AND TIMES OF JESUS
- This book was written in 1921, almost a hundred years ago. It describes the land where Jesus lived, Roman rule, the Law being the center of Jewish religion, calling the Apostles, and the events during Jesus's last 3 years.
- 253 Johnson, Emeroy -- WHY I BECAME A MINISTER
- Twenty True Stories By Lutheran Pastors. From the Augustana Lutheran Church, pastors give a short biography and why they became pastors. Most were from Swedish immigrant parents who came to America during the early part of the 20th century.
- 808.8 Phillips, Louis -- THE TREASURY OF THE BEST-LOVED POEMS
- Poets use their talent to create and speak about what we feel and think. Many verses are favorites and some are not as well known. Remember: Casey at the Bat, Clementine, Paul Revere's Ride and so many more. Large print.
- 970.3 Wilson, Dorothy Clarke -- BRIGHT EYES
- The Story of Susette LaFlesche, an Omaha Indian. This is an in-depth look at an Indian culture and what transpired from the mid-nineteenth century for the next fifty years. A daughter from an Indian chief is educated by "white" teachers, but always torn between the two cultures. Being a woman of a minority race, she didn't have any rites or privileges, but challenged the government and exposed injustices.
- 973.91 TIME-LIFE BOOKS -- THIS FABULOUS CENTURY 1910-1920
- Mostly a pictorial account of all the changes, both positive and negative, during this time period. Great photographs.

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# School News

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## LOOKING BACK...LOOKING FORWARD

Excitement and anticipation arrived in the form of new and returning parents and students on our first day back to school! With the lazy days of summer behind us, everyone, including teachers and staff, arrived on campus eager and excited to meet new faces and greet familiar friends from prior years. The airwaves 'sizzled' with comparisons of summer activities and adventures of 'what I did on my summer vacation'. By the time September was over, everyone had settled into a nice, even flow.

Grace Lutheran School's calendar was filled with fun-filled September activities which included: the first day of school's Welcome Tea, (where parents signed up for volunteer commitment hours in support of school activities), the Back to School BBQ, (where school and church families mingled and shared recipes and generally enjoyed each other's company), Partners in Worship, (where our School Choir, joined with the Church Senior Choir, singing praises to our Lord during the Divine Service), and Movie Night. Even a field trip or two was accomplished on the first full month of this school year!

As we look forward to the pleasures of autumn, October promises the Scholastic Book Faire, sponsored by the PTL, and held in the Parish Hall. This event provides an excellent opportunity to support classrooms while expanding your personal library shelf at home; perhaps even an opportunity for some early Christmas or birthday shopping ideas! This is paired up with a 2 day 'no school' sequence where parents and teachers meet individually and hold conferences to benefit each student individually. Enjoy that four day weekend and come back ready and refreshed to look forward to the Harvest Festival and Silent Auction! October finishes with a focus on the Reformation and the importance it holds in history and the Christian Church.

As always, if there is something we, at Grace Lutheran School can do to make this academic year a more positive experience, let us know! We are always excited to hear new ideas and help shoulder your concerns. If you know of someone looking for an intimate setting for their student, please refer them to Grace Lutheran School. 'Word of mouth' referrals are often the best endorsement for our school.

*"Train up a child in the way he should go; even when he is old he will not depart from it. Proverbs 22:6 (ESV)*

## OCTOBER 2018

### DATES TO REMEMBER

- 30-4 PTL Scholastic Book Fair (Sept. 30- Oct. 4)
- 4 Parent/Teacher Conferences (3:45p-8:00p)
- 5 Parent/Teacher Conferences – No School/Ext. Care
- 8 Columbus Day – No School/Extended Care
- 14 Partners in Worship – School Choir Sings (arrive to the Parish Hall at 8:40a for warm up)
- 26 PTL Harvest Festival and Silent Auction (5:30p-8:30p)
- 31 Kids of the Kingdom (8:35a Chapel in the Parish Hall)
- 31 Reformation Vespers (7:00p in the Sanctuary)

Watch for the **Parent Information Note**.

It is sent electronically each Tuesday!

### THE BENEFITS OF LAUGHTER

*(And a giggle for the day)*

In an article I read from the renowned Mayo Clinic, (<https://www.mayoclinic.org/healthy-lifestyle/stress-management/in-depth/stress-relief/art-20044456>) laughter is a great stress reducer. It provides both short-term and long-term benefits such as oxygenating your organs (lungs, heart) and releasing endorphins in your brain. It soothes tension, and provides a feeling of a 'relaxed response'. It improves your immune system and mood, and provides for a feeling of personal satisfaction. It may even act as a natural pain reliever!

A good laugh with your child is 'cost-free' and 'stimulating'! Keep your eyes and ears open to what they say and jot down a 'giggle' to share with others. In that way, you get to enjoy the giggles a few times over! Keep a log so you can see how their humor and view of the world around them develops.

Earlier this last week, I invited a small group of some of our youngest Grace Lutheran students to ride in the elevator with me. This is how it went:

"Want to ride in the elevator with me?"

"We have an **ALLIGATOR**?!"

"Elevator," I giggled. "An alligator is an animal."

"Oh, I know, because an *alligator* goes up and down!"

Play, Talk, Read (<http://playtalkread.scot/laughter-benefits>) advises that laughter is contagious; the more you and your child laugh, the more likely you will live longer.

Our Heavenly Father has given us '...our reason and our senses...' (Luther's Small Catechism). Take time to enjoy your child. The giggles they share with you will put smiles on your face, build a relationship, and encourage them to learn about their world! Everyone can benefit from a laugh!



Grace Lutheran Church & School

# October 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>
	7:00p-Evang. Wkshop PTL Scholastic Book Faire	9:00a-Adult Bible Class 10:00a-100 <sup>th</sup> Anniv. Cmte.  PTL Scholastic Book Faire	8:35a-Chapel 2:00p-GLS library  PTL Scholastic Book Faire	GLS Parent/Teacher Conferences  PTL Scholastic Book Faire	GLS - No School Parent/Teach. Conf.	9:00p-Senior Choir 10:00a-organ practice
<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>
9:00a-Divine Service 10:15a-Sunday School 10:30a-Adult Bible Study	Office Closed Columbus Day Holiday No School/Ext. Care	9:00a-Adult Bible Class 10:00a-100 <sup>th</sup> Anniv. Cmte.  4:00p-School Board	8:35a-Kids of Kingdom 2:00p-GLS library		9:00a-Pr. Noland speaks on Internet Radio at KFUO.org.	9:00a-Senior Choir 10:00a-organ practice
<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>
9:00a-Divine Service Partners in Worship (GLS Choir Sings) 10:15a-Sunday School 10:30a-Adult Bible Study		9:00a-Adult Bible Class 10:00a-100 <sup>th</sup> Anniv. Cmte.	8:35a-Chapel 2:00p-GLS library			9:00a-Senior Choir 10:00a-organ practice 10:30a-Gen. Society
<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>
9:00a-Divine Service 10:15a-Sunday School 10:30a-Adult Bible Study	7:00p-Planning Council	9:00a-Adult Bible Class 10:00a-100 <sup>th</sup> Anniv. Cmte.	8:35a-Chapel 2:00p-GLS library			9:00a-Senior Choir 10:00a-organ practice 10:00a-Bd. of Lay Elders
<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>			
9:00a-Divine Service 10:15a-Sunday School 10:30a-Adult Bible Study	7:00p-Evang. Wkshop	9:00a-Adult Bible Class 10:00a-100 <sup>th</sup> Anniv. Cmte.	8:35a-Kids of the Kingdom  2:00p-GLS library 7:00p-Reformation Vespers <b>Reformation</b>		5:30p Harvest Festival PTL Silent Auction	



# Prayer Page

“Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all, especially to those who are of the household of faith.” ~Galatians 6:10

Egon Adam	Robert Doody	Donald Iocco	Rev. Martin Noland	Dimitry Spencer
Bella Archer	Natalie Dubbel	Heather Iocco	Karla Noland	Peter Spittler
Marilyn Bailie	Bob Egan	John Iocco	Renee Noland	Candice Stahl
Rev. Frank Balgeman	Maria Eggert	Judy Iocco	Heidi Noland	Tamaray Starling
Valerie Balgeman	Doris Emery	Ko Ishikawa	Floyd Oatman	Darryl Sterner
Chandler Balgeman	Bill Eng	Mariko Ishikawa	Doug O'Donnell	Sandra Sterner
Mike Bannister	Sara Eppler	Yuzo Ishikawa	Patty O'Donnell	Michelle Sterner
Tami Bannister	Carly Eppler	Lance Johnson	Elizabeth O'Donnell	Brett Toensing
Nathanael Bannister	Larry Franquez	Doreen Johnson	Gil Ramirez	Anne-Marie Toensing
Mike Beebe	Shelly Franquez	Katarina Johnson	Kathleen Ramirez	Brooke Toensing
Jolene Beebe	Nick Franquez	Bob Keim	Fred Robinson	Ryan Toensing
Kay Bell, III	Chad Franquez	Dolores Keim	Roberta Robinson	Hans Tuft
Kay Bell, Jr.	Pam Frisella	John Kilcullen	Akram Saber	Gina Tuft
Nathanael Bell	Shirley Gangelhoff	Stefanie Kilcullen	Ghada Saber	Mark Tuft
Adele Bergstrom	Rev. Glendon Genthner	Katie Kilcullen	Daniel Saber	Sue Tuft
William Bethke	Brooke Genthner	James Kilcullen	Michael Saber	Martin Udishes
Susan Bethke	Alex Gomez	Michael Kilcullen	Charles Schaefer	Leann Udishes
Alice Boerschinger	Herlin Gomez	Barbara Kilpatrick	Donald Schaefer	Christine Ullrich
John Bordy	Anjanette Gomez	Bill Koester	Maria Schaefer	Zachary Ullrich
Ellen Bordy	Angelique Gomez	Faye Koester	Martin Semmler	Octavian Vasilescu
Judy Boyd	James Graziano	Ryan Koester	Michelle Semmler	Diana Vasilescu
Fred Brauer	Roger Guse	Amanda Koester	Scott Semmler	Flora Lisa Vasilescu
Karla Brauer	Dan Hahn	Gesine Kruse	Daniel Semmler	Joan Weckerle
Jordyn Brauer	Lori Hahn	Glenn McEnroe	Julia Semmler	Randy Wimmer
Justin Brauer	Abby Hahn	Alison McEnroe	Sandy Shanks	Caden Young
Klayton Brauer	Arthur Hayame	Alexis McEnroe	Jessica Shanks	Rebecca Young
Paul Brownlee	Barbara Hayame	Fred McKenna	Detlef Siarkowski	Chandler Young
Lois Brownlee	Tim Hayame	Marilyn McKenna	Hannelore Siarkowski	Logan Young
Marcus Brownlee	Darren Hayame	Steve McLaughlin	Ethan Smith	Rowan Young
Scott Brownlee	Joy Hayame	Heather McLaughlin	Dave Smoot	Eugene Zahnow
Katherine Brownlee	Hannah Hayame	Sandra Means	Barb Smoot	Judy Zahnow
Robert Crews	Miriam Hitzeman	George Melke	Paul Soals	Mamie Zimbelman
Veronica Crews	Richard Hoffmeister	Molly Munson	Stacey Soals	
Clara Crews	Theresa Mui	Caroline Nagy	Jacquelin Soals	
Celeste Crews	Robert Innes	Pamela Nelson		
Charlotte Custino	Shirley Innes			
	Michael Innes			