

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

On LF's new editorship

I am a longtime subscriber to *Lutheran Forum* and have just received the fall issue. It is the best issue yet. There is both practical and theological content. Even though I am a retired pastor, I especially enjoyed Sarah Hinlicky Wilson's article "Church Breaks Your Heart" and Natalie Gessert's article "What Have You to Do with CPE...?" I wish I had them earlier in my ministry (I was ordained in 1965). Thanks for an excellent issue. Keep up the good work.

Rev. Ted Conter
Anchorage, Alaska

The first issue of the *Forum* under new, young editorial direction, both ELCA and LCMS, is superb and deserves our support.

Richard Baeppler
Valparaiso University

On John Hannah's online column

As a young Missourian who came to embrace the description of "evangelical catholic" while attending seminary, I truly appreciated John Hannah's online article on the new *Lutheran Forum* website. I want to thank him for the encouragement. What we new

evangelical catholic pastors need is a welcoming hand from the previous generation. I pray that more people will learn to put aside labels and suspicions.

There is much that has divided Lutherans in the past, and many of these same issues still divide us today. However, if I may speak for a new generation of evangelical catholics: we may not agree with the older generation on every issue, but we do agree that conservative Lutherans have been blindsided by biblicism and revivalism. These two errors eat away at the foundational universality of the Lutheran movement and only serve to send American Lutherans off into a schismatic sectarianism.

Let's keep the past in the past and talk about the things that we share. Let's work together to forge a confessional, evangelical catholic future for the Lutheran church in America. The world is looking for that church! It's not anachronistic. It's a contemporary embrace of "a present with a past."

By the way, I loved the last issue... Three cheers for Kelly Klages!

Rev. Robert O. Riebau
Trinity Lutheran Church
New Hyde Park, New York

I have read John Hannah's columns in *Lutheran Forum* for awhile and always

appreciate his insight. I am especially thankful for his September 1 piece, "Wanted: Evangelical Catholics in Missouri." I certainly identify myself as one who belongs to this group and gladly accept his advice noted in the column. Thanks to Hannah for all that he has offered and continues to offer to our Synod. His voice is one that must continue to be heard.

Rev. Graham Glover
Good Shepherd Lutheran Church
Chiefland, Florida

I read John Hannah's recent article in the online edition of the *Lutheran Forum* with great interest and agreement. It is always nice to find support and similar thinking. Most insightful, though, was his comment that the evangelical catholics are a minority and the president and administration of the synod are elected by the majority. There are lots of ways to run with that. In any case, I found it intriguing and thank him for it.

Hannah does well to insist that holy communion is closed to the unbaptized (as well as the impenitent and unbelievers). I like to point that out to my occasionally outraged ELCA friends. They also practice closed communion. The question is not whether or not it is closed; it is where the line is drawn.

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