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MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE
COMMERCIAL APPEAL

MORNING - 205,152
SUNDAY -- 203,422

JUL 25 1981

Church Bazaar— *from Paul Weyrich*

Reagan Called 'Open' To 'Mainline' Groups

By MICHAEL CLARK

Religious groups who run counter to the Christian Right will be heard, if not heeded, by President Reagan's administration, according to the leader of a group that met with White House assistants last week.

Charles V. Bergstrom, director of the governmental affairs office of the Lutheran Council in the United States, said in a telephone interview yesterday that he is optimistic that "mainline" groups now have an ear in the White House.

The ear apparently will belong to Diana Lozano, a chief assistant to Elizabeth Hanford Dole, assistant to the President for public liaison.

Bergstrom set up a meeting for and led a group of five religious group executives to Mrs. Dole's office last week.

One of their main concerns, he said, was the earlier White House announcement that Morton C. Blackwell had been assigned to work with Protestant groups.

"We have some problems, very frankly, with Morton Blackwell," Bergstrom said. "He has been very, very active in some of the right-wing political movements."

Blackwell's most recent identification is with a new organization called the Council for National Policy, a coordinating group composed of 50 conservative leaders. The council is headed by Richard Viguerie, a direct-mail fund-raising wizard, Howard Phillips of Conservative Caucus and Paul Weyrich of the Committee for the Survival of a Free Congress. Viguerie, Phillips and Weyrich are closely involved with the Christian Right.

Another purpose of the meeting was simply to tell the Reagan administration that there is an "other side" in the religious community. That side, Bergstrom said, is represented through two cooperative

groups, the Washington Interreligious Staff Council and IMPACT.

The council, he said, meets twice a month to formulate strategies for influencing legislation. IMPACT tries to organize a nationwide network of individuals to lobby Congress.

The group also told Mrs. Dole about a quarterly breakfast meeting of the leaders of 10 to 12 national religious bodies and invited Reagan to attend one of the meetings. Her response, Bergstrom said, was "very positive."

The group, which also included leaders of the United Presbyterians, the United Church of Christ, the Baptist Joint Committee and the Union of American Hebrew Congregations, made it clear, Bergstrom said, that they will not agree with Christian Right leaders or the President on some matters.

He mentioned budget cuts that affect the poor and military spending increases particularly.

The Lutheran leader said he does not hold great hope that the administration will follow the recommendations of moderate and liberal church bodies, but indicated he is reassured that access will be available.

"It (access for religious groups) is probably more unbalanced now than ever in terms of one particular religious group being close to the president," he said. When he was working in New England during John F. Kennedy's administration, Bergstrom said, Catholic friends told him "they couldn't get inside the door."

Now, he said, there are "clear indications" that Reagan's administration is identified with groups such as Moral Majority and The Roundtable.

"But I've had meetings with (Ed) Meese (presidential aide), who happens to be a Lutheran, and I've talked very openly here and there. We'll find people who understand our views and they'll be heard."

*file
Weyrich*

To M. Pitau
Date 4/22 Time 4:

WHILE YOU WERE OUT

M. Joe McMahon
of (Gale)
Phone 965-4170
Area Code Number Extension

TELEPHONED	PLEASE CALL
CALLED TO SEE YOU	WILL CALL AGAIN
WANTS TO SEE YOU	URGENT

RETURNED YOUR CALL

Message letter you wrote
him per Col Meese
June 8. Lutheran
group. Wants an
appointment

Operator

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

June 8, 1982

Luthmans
Wed July 21
11:00

Mr. Joseph E. McMahon
President, McMahon and Associates
1828 L Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20036

Dear Mr. McMahon:

Mr. Meese asked me to respond to your recent letter about briefings of American religious leaders on the Administration's policies regarding the Soviets and our defense policies.

On the 18th of May this year, over forty national leaders of religious organizations in this country attended a briefing at the Pentagon concerning national defense. Special care was given to outline clearly the policy of this administration regarding the strategic threat of the Soviet Union and the nuclear defenses of the United States.

I agree with you that the religious leaders of the United States have a key impact on public perceptions of our defense posture. Other meetings, similar to the one on the 18th of May, will be scheduled, and I will see that more religious leaders are invited.

Thank you so much for your comments and for giving us the names of religious leaders who have a clear awareness of Soviet military designs. If you have any more information relating to religious leaders and our national defense, I would like very much to hear from you.

Sincerely,



Morton C. Blackwell
Special Assistant to the President
for Public Liaison

McMahon and Associates

1825 I. Street, Northwest
Suite 1000
Washington, D.C. 20036
202 965-4170

August 13, 1982

file

Mr. Morton C. Blackwell
Special Assistant to the President
Office of Public Liaison
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Morton:

Thanks very much for joining Paul Brndjar, George Brand and me for lunch.

I hope very much that our meeting was useful and that in particular we can build on it in a variety of ways for the future.

You would be interested to know that after their meeting with Mr. Kramer, we ended the day with a meeting on how the Lutheran Church can help the U.S. Government position in Namibia, (where we also had a very good session).

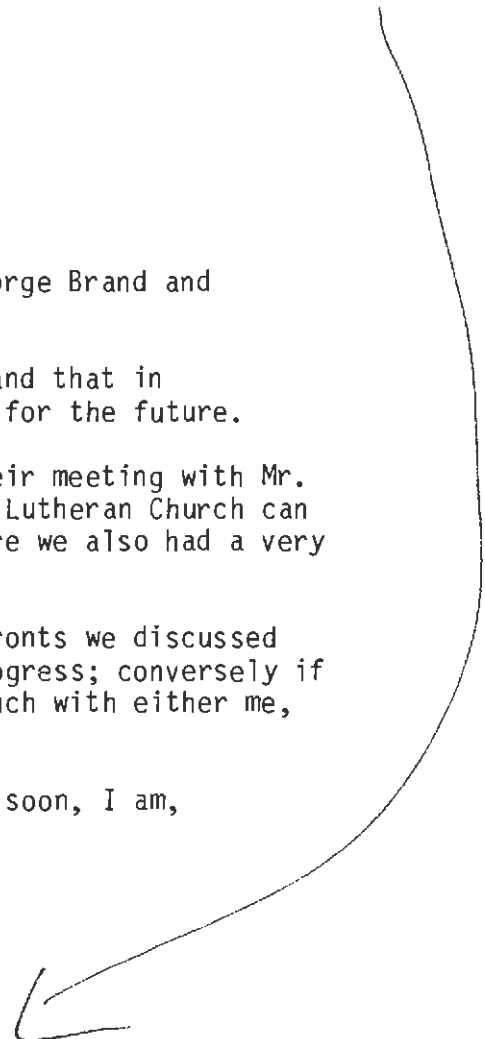
We are going to keep pushing on the various fronts we discussed and will be getting back to you as we make some progress; conversely if we can be helpful don't hesitate to get back in touch with either me, Brndjar or Brand.

With thanks and looking forward to seeing you soon, I am,

Sincerely,



Joseph E. McMahon
President



cc: Dr. George H. Brand
Dr. Paul L. Brndjar

LBI
BIKE-A-THON 1982

An exciting dream unfolded for a group of caring students from Seattle LBI. The dream began in the heart of Jim Illich from Accident, Maryland. Hearts of other students were ignited to join him in a project to raise scholarship money so the students across the United States would be helped as they pursue their college study. Finally, in late May 1982 five young adults began the adventure and challenge of bicycling 4,500 miles from Seattle, Washington to Washington, D. C.

The students are: Jim Illich, Accident, Maryland, Joe Scott, Kalamazoo, Michigan, Robin Gantzert, Eau Claire, Wisconsin, Judy Hagen, Cooperstown, North Dakota, and Ben Hungerford, Portland, Oregon. Through the excellent cooperation of fellow students, alumni, and friends a chain of host homes was set up from coast to coast to provide for their needs along the way. Their journey brought them to the Whitehouse in Washington, D. C., August 8th, 1982. This project modeled a positive response representative of millions of American youth who refuse to sit idly by and complain that scholarship money was not available but endeavored to help each other in reaching this exciting goal.

Don Fladland
Director of Ministries
and Alumni



The
Lutheran
Bible
Institute
of Seattle
Providence Heights
Issaquah, Washington 98027

DONALD J. FLADLAND
DIRECTOR OF MINISTRIES
(206) 392-0400

September 24, 1981

Dear Dr. Bohlmann:

Nancy and I are delighted to send our congratulations and best wishes as your fellow Church members and friends gather for your installation as President of the Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod.

You assume the Presidency at a time when churches face many challenges. But I know you will provide strong leadership in the effort to reaffirm the validity and meaning of religious values in the modern world. Your education, experience, and the spirit within you will help guide the Missouri Synod to continued progress in all its endeavors.

You have our warmest personal regards and, again, our congratulations.

Sincerely,

RONALD REAGAN

Dr. Ralph A. Bohlmann
President
The Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod
500 North Broadway
St. Louis, Missouri 63102

By WH Messenger ASAP to: The Honorable William Dannemeyer
House of Representatives
1032 Longworth House Office Building

RR:Livingston:ck
cc: H.von Damm/D.Livingston/A.Locke/M.Blackwell/K.Duberstein/CF
DUE: SEPT. 24
Requested by Cliff Dean, Cong. Dannemeyer's staff..

Jean Garton, Litt.D.

file L. ^{Thurman}
for Life

5315 Walton Ave., Pennsauken, N.J. 08109

Dr. Morton C. Blackwell
The White House
Washington, DC

January 29, 1983

Dear Dr. Blackwell:

Please accept my appreciation for the invitation to attend a meeting with the President on January 21, 1983. I sincerely regret that I was unable to be present and can only hope that it was a productive and constructive session.

Dr. Ralph Bohlmann continues to give leadership on the life issues both within the Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod as well as in his inter-Lutheran associations. I have enclosed a copy of an article which appeared recently in The Saturday Evening Post in the hope that you will find it of some interest.

Thank you again for your kindness in extending an invitation to the meeting. Please receive my best wishes for your vital efforts and great responsibilities, as you serve the President and our nation.

Sincerely yours,


Jean Garton

memo

APRIL 13, 1982

TO: Mr. Morton Blackwell
FROM: Charles V. Bergstrom
Executive Director
Office for Governmental Affairs

*add list
to list
what list
hardy
1/12*

Enclosed find the list of Lutheran National Leaders. Thank you for your suggestions for resubmitting the list.

CVB'PMH
Enclosure



LUTHERAN COUNCIL IN THE USA

475 L'Enfant Plaza West, S.W.
Suite 2720
Washington, DC 20024
202 / 484-3950

1. Dr. John R. Houck
General Secretary
Lutheran Council in the USA
360 Park Avenue South
New York, N.Y. 10010

2. Bishop David W. Preus
The American Lutheran Church
422 S. Fifth Street
Minneapolis, MN 55415

3. Bishop James R. Crumley, Jr.
The Lutheran Church in America
231 Madison Avenue
New York, N.Y. 10016

4. Bishop William H. Kohn
The Association of Evangelical Lutheran Churches
2707 N. 67th Street
Milwaukee, WI 53210

5. Bishop Ralph Bohlmann
The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod
500 N. Broadway
St. Louis, MO 63102

LCS **USA**

LC/USA is...

who

The Lutheran Council in the USA, often referred to by the acronym, LC/USA, is a unique cooperative agency formed in November 1966. It has four partners: the American Lutheran Church, Association of Evangelical Lutheran Churches, Lutheran Church in America and Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod. It helps approximately 95 per cent of U.S. Lutheranism, or 8.2 million Lutherans, in furthering "a Lutheran witness . . . in matters of common interest and responsibility."

what

It conducts theological studies relevant for the attainment of a Lutheran consensus and studies of concern in contemporary Christendom. It arranges conversations between Lutherans and Episcopalians, Methodists and other groups. It serves Lutherans in a wide variety of life's situations: civic youth groups such as 4-H, colleges, seminaries, military service, hospitals, social service institutions, apartment buildings. It supports ministries to ethnic groups and refugees. It alerts Lutherans to church-state issues and handles their interests before the federal government. It interprets Lutheranism through the media, produces informative materials and reports Lutheran news. It coordinates national and regional inter-Lutheran planning. It compiles statistics, conducts research and maintains an archives of Lutheran cooperation.

where

Its main base is at 360 Park Avenue South in New York City. The LC/USA staff also serves out of Washington, D.C., Chicago, San Francisco and other locations.

when

It is geared to act in an open, flexible style. The basic LC/USA programs are established and revised at meetings attended by representatives of the partner church bodies. Its ongoing direction comes from the church body presidents and other leaders. It also handles assignments from the program units of the church bodies and various other cooperative ventures.

why

It is a practical as well as idealistic creation. The LC/USA is the effective and efficient means by which the church bodies augment their own efforts and produce results greater than the sum of the parts. It is their instrument for eliminating duplication and competition, handling programs together and reducing costs. It is the church bodies' visible channel for deepening the unity which exists among them and hastening the day when this unity will be more fully realized.

how

It functions through the expertise of the staff members of its offices, divisions and departments. Sometimes the LC/USA is a catalyst and initiator. Other times it is a promoter, nudger or sensitizer. Still other times it is an enabler and facilitator. In the face of emergencies it is even a lifesaver. Altogether it is a context for strong inter-Lutheran action and a bold expression of God's will for his people and the world.



Lutheran Council in the USA
360 Park Avenue South
New York, NY 10010
212/532-6350

OCI-2m-876

Resolution adopted by The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod stating its official position on abortion. 1979 Convention Proceedings

To State Position on Abortion

RESOLUTION 3-02A

Overtures 3-20A—3-23 (CW, pp. 97—99)

WHEREAS, The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod throughout its history has opposed abortion and since 1971 has spoken in convention to condemn “willful abortion as contrary to the will of God”; and

WHEREAS, We as members of Christian congregations have the obligation to protest this heinous crime against the will of God legally sanctioned in the United States and other lands; and

WHEREAS, The practice of abortion, its promotion, and legal acceptance are destructive of the moral consciousness and character of the people of any nation; therefore be it

Resolved, That The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod in convention urgently call upon Christians—

1. To hold firmly to the clear Biblical truths that (a) the living but unborn are persons in the sight of God from the time of conception (Job 10:9-11; Ps. 51:5; 139:13-17; Jer. 1:5; Luke 1:41-44); (b) as persons the unborn stand under the full protection of God’s own prohibition against murder (Gen. 9:6; Ex. 20:13; Num. 35:33; Acts 7:19; 1 John 3:15); and (c) since abortion takes a human life, abortion is not a moral option, except as a tragically unavoidable byproduct of medical procedures necessary to prevent the death of another human being, viz., the mother; and

2. To speak and act as responsible citizens on behalf of the living but unborn in the civic and political arena to secure for these defenseless persons due protection under the law; and

3. To offer as an alternative to abortion supportive understanding, compassion, and help to the expectant parent(s) and family, and to foster concern for unwanted babies, encouraging Lutheran agencies and families to open hearts and homes to their need for life in a family; and be it further

Resolved, That the Synod earnestly encourage its members, teachers, officers, and boards—

1. To warn publicly and privately (Prov. 31:8-9) against the sin of abortion;

2. To instruct the community of God that abortion is not in the realm of Christian liberty, private choice, personal opinion, or political preference;

3. To nurture a deep reverence and gratitude for God’s gracious gift of human life;

4. To oppose in a responsible way attitudes and policies in congregations, schools, hospitals, Lutheran social service agencies, and other institutions within their sphere of influence and work which suggest that abortion is a matter of personal choice;

5. To support the efforts of responsible pro-life groups in their communities, e.g., “Lutherans for Life” (CTCR Report, CW, p. 74);

6. To promote clear instruction of Christian morality in homes, schools, and churches of the Synod, showing the blessings and safeguards inherent in God’s will for sexual chastity before marriage and faithfulness in marriage;

7. To teach within our Lutheran schools and churches the biological, social, and parental functions of childbearing; and

8. To support the efforts to secure the human life amendment to the United States Constitution.

Action: Adopted as amended (3).

(Three amendments were approved: the addition of the reference to Proverbs in Point 1 of the second resolve, and Points 7 and 8. The word “Lutheran” was inserted in Point 7 by common consent. In Session 7 the convention changed the order of words as given above in Point 7. An amendment referring to rape at the end of Point 1 of the first resolve was declined.)

THE LUTHERAN CHURCH - MISSOURI SYNOD

500 NORTH BROADWAY · SAINT LOUIS, MISSOURI 63102



OFFICE OF THE
PRESIDENT

231-6969
AREA CODE 314

July 29, 1982

Mr. Morton Blackwell
Special Assistant to the President
The White House
Washington, D. C. 20000

Dear Morton:

Permit me to confirm my telephoned response to the invitation to present testimony to the Senate Judiciary Committee on the President's prayer amendment.

I will not be available to testify on this important proposal at the present time. In part, my difficulty is due to a very crowded schedule for the next several months. But in part it also reflects the general consensus of our denominational leaders to the effect that our church body should not give public testimony on this issue, preferring to work educationally among our own constituency.

Thanks for thinking of us. I hope to stay in touch with you on a number of key matters of mutual interest and concern.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Ralph".

Ralph A. Bohlmann
President

RAB/mh

THE LUTHERAN WITNESS

The Man Luther:
The World that Shaped Him

Page 3

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... n."
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... hen so man de
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302 25533650000
MR JOSEPH KIMMEL JR
40 KENWOOD AVE
DAVENPORT IA
30063
52803



Edwin Meese III **One Christian's Role in the White House**

by Leland Stevens



A 1945 photograph shows a young boy, sitting at his pastor's side, with his 14-member confirmation class at Redeemer Lutheran Church, Oakland, Calif.

The boy is Edwin Meese III, today counselor to the president of the United States, which some call the second most influential public office.

Born in Oakland, Calif., Meese's great grandfather, grandfather, and father all served as president of Zion Lutheran Church, Oakland, an early Missouri Synod congregation on the West Coast. (The great grandfather was instrumental in the congregation's founding about 1881.)

After undergraduate study at Yale University and after earning his law degree from the University of California at Berkeley, Meese served in the Army. From 1958-67 he was deputy district attorney for Alameda County, California. He joined Governor Reagan's staff in 1967 as legal affairs secretary and was executive assistant to the governor from 1969-75. The Meeses were members of First Lutheran Church, El Cajon, Calif., before moving to Washington with President Reagan in 1981.

"I'm the President's principal policy advisor and have responsibility for several main sections in the White House," Meese explains. "But basically my duties revolve around three things: the development of policy, the decision-making process of the executive branch, and the management of liaison between the White House and various departments and agencies of government."

Meese rises at 5:30 a.m. and arrives at his office by 7, after a half-hour drive from his suburban Virginia home. He meets with his personal staff and at 7:30, breakfasts with Jim Baker, the president's chief of staff, and Mike Deaver, deputy chief of staff. At 8, they meet with the senior staff, approximately 14 assistants to the president who head the various divisions that Baker, Deaver, and Meese supervise. Bill Clark, the national security assistant, joins them in these meetings.

At 8:30, Meese usually meets with people on specific projects. At 9, he, Baker, and Deaver meet

with the President for a half hour, then at 9:30 attend a national security briefing, where Clark describes overnight events and any special matters on national security that day.

Cabinet meetings throughout the week examine specific subjects like economic affairs, commerce and trade, legal policy, and human resources. Meese also answers reporters' questions on breaking news. Several sessions with congressmen occur during the week.

"A couple of nights a week I have a management meeting with my key section heads," Meese relates, "plus meetings with other people such as our science advisor and our narcotics control advisor. I try to return phone calls and get away from the office between 7 and 8 at night."

The routine also takes in two to three nights a week for official functions, such as state dinners or embassy receptions.

A schedule like that makes fellowship and stewardship of self in a congregation difficult. The family attends Emmanuel Lutheran Church in Vienna, Va., a congregation of The American Lutheran Church, as often as they can. The Meeses have a daughter, a high school sophomore, and a son, who is an Army officer and 1979 West Point graduate. The family suffered tragedy this past summer when a younger son, Scott, was killed in an automobile accident. Emmanuel Lutheran members and pastor served them during this dark hour.

"He's one of the best executives I've ever met," says Meese about President Reagan. "He knows how to delegate responsibility, how to keep you on your toes. He's a very good person to work with, cheerful, very friendly, he keeps people in good spirits—a person you enjoy working with."

"I think he has a definite sense of his objectives—where he wants to go—and he has tried to build a team committed to these objectives. The President operates in a way which I think draws the best out of people," he summarizes.

"What you see in the media is the same person

he is privately," says Meese. "One of the qualities I've always admired in him is that in a very humble and quiet way the President is an excellent example of a Christian leader. He's very devout and yet he doesn't want to exploit religion in any way for political purposes."

Meese confesses that he frequently has trying times when the Lord's presence seems even more vital. "One of the hardest things for most people who are not used to the Washington scene," he declares, "is to accommodate oneself to reports by the media which sometimes range from gossip to political attacks. I think it's always hard to accept that. Then especially, having the feeling that you're there to follow God's purposes and to do His will, becomes very important to you."

A spate of stories appeared last summer about Meese's decline from favor. He insists those reports were false. "Nor can you let those things get you down," he says. "It seems to happen to almost everybody in Washington at one time or another. But it still bothers you to some extent. I don't think anybody can be totally immune to that kind of talk."

Meese doesn't shirk the hard questions, one of the hardest being nuclear disarmament. "Obviously, our objective is to preserve peace," he says, "and to avoid any possibility of nuclear war. I am convinced the best way to do that is to provide a credible deterrent to the Soviets who have clearly demonstrated that where there is weakness they will exploit that weakness through aggression."

Meese is "very gratified that Reagan has sought realistic reduction of intermediate range nuclear weapons in Europe and of strategic nuclear weapons generally." Meese hopes that "there'll be some reciprocation on the part of the Soviets so we can have an actual reduction of nuclear weapons." Regarding the danger of nuclear miscalculation, he talks of "numerous safeguards" through communication with the Soviets and other countries. Such safeguards against accidental reactions he calls an expansion of the nation's capability for maintaining peace.

Meese reminds that "as horrible as nuclear war is, any kind of war is really horrible. You see the devastation in Lebanon—that's the reason we think you just can't stop with reducing the possibility of nuclear war. You have to take the steps to reduce the possibilities of any war."

Lebanon brings to mind U.S. ties to Israel now especially under fire because of recent Israeli military action in Lebanon and the accompanying question of American policy toward the Palestinians. Meese describes Israel "as a democracy, an important partner of the United States—ally is a better word."

"This is not to the exclusion of our friendship with other countries in that area, but we think that it is desirable for us to assist in assuring Israel's security. That's important both to Israel and for preserving world peace," he adds.

And the PLO? "One of the ultimate steps necessary is for the PLO to accept the legitimacy of Israel, accept the need for its security, and renounce the use of terrorism as a means of obtaining their objectives," he insists.

The "New Christian Right" has gained great

attention. "They have very strong beliefs, many of which I agree with and all of which I respect," Meese says. "I think they're less intent on pressing their beliefs on other people than the stereotype of them would indicate."

He illustrates Americans' differing points of view with the abortion issue. "I don't think you can fault anyone for believing that, since there is uncertainty as to when human life begins, the benefit of the doubt ought to be given to the unborn child—which is the President's opinion," Meese says. "If you have that belief, then trying to have laws enacted that prevent the taking of the life of the unborn child seems reasonable to me."

"I think the almost derisive way in which the religious right is held by some of the so-called liberal thinkers is an insult to liberalism and to the kind of pluralism that we've traditionally had in this country," he stresses.


Still the number one issue for Americans is the economy and the President's counselor knows it. He blames centralized government and excessive federal spending of many years. He sees restoration of the improved free market system with less taxation and government regulation as the solution.

He adamantly believes that "new federalism," putting more responsibility upon state and local governments, and providing the funding sources to support them, will bring government closer to the people.

"We're hopeful," he says, "that the churches along with other voluntary groups will actively practice voluntarism as part of our private sector initiatives." An example? "Churches with buildings often vacant during the week have an opportunity to serve the community as child-care centers, providing service for others and opportunities to serve members of the congregation."

"But government always has the responsibility to help those who through no fault of their own are in need, to provide certain functions to protect us from each other, and to maintain health and safety," Meese adds.

"Church bodies have to be careful about involvement in political and public policy movements," Meese cautions, "but individual Christians have a responsibility to become very deeply involved."

As Meese's own deep involvement bears testimony to Christian witness, individual Christians need to remember that acclaim of achievement matters little as God counts things. Rather, "Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with all your might" (Eccl. 9:10) and "Whatever you do, do all to the glory of God" (1 Cor. 10:31). Each must serve the common good in high and low places. 



Rev. Leland Stevens is executive editor of the LUTHERAN WITNESS and Reporter

JOSEPH E. MCMAHON

✓ file
Lutheraas

Morton —

Would very much
like to talk with you
about the attached after
Christmas.

My very warmest
greetings in this Season of
Joy!

J. E. M.

THE CHURCH SPEAKS TO IDEOLOGIES

THE ROLE OF THE CHURCH IN THE EAST AND THE WEST

The 1983 symposium addresses a central issue in present political life, both in East and West Europe as well as the United States, the role of the Church (and of church members) vis-a-vis national governments. The Catholic Church in Poland and the Lutheran Church in East Germany represent the strongest organized centers of power other than the Communist Party-run governments in those countries. In Western Europe and the United States the Church is directly or through the peace movement challenging the security policies of national governments in a manner unprecedented in recent historical time. The central issue of this symposium is: What is the legitimate role of the Church vis-a-vis civil authorities with respect to ideological confrontation? Are national values, or ideologies, outside the purview or competence of church officials? If not, what does the Church have to say to those committed to defend national values in a global nuclear confrontational context?

*2 Speakers
East East German
US Admin
in recommendations*

The first session will examine the relationship between national values and ideologies, both in our own society and in an Eastern European society. Does the United States have an ideology? Are we becoming more ideological in our relationships to other national states? How do other states, or peoples, perceive our value system, e.g. as an American ideology or as a pluralistic, ideologically-ambivalent system? Conversely, while we perceive Eastern European states as strongly ideological Communist states, how do they perceive themselves?

*1 or 2
Academics*

The second session will focus on the functional role of ideology in modern day national societies. Nationalism itself will be examined as the most fundamental current ideology. Based upon the discussion in the first session, the second session will identify the psychological and philosophical objectives served by a dominant national ideology (secular religion), including loyalty to the state and the existing social order and support for the international policies of successive governments. At times, however, national ideologies have been the instrument of perverse purpose, imposing conformity by fear within a society or demonologizing other nationality groups or ideological competitor societies. Where does one draw the line between legitimate obligations of a citizen and the obligations of moral conscience? At what point do national ideologies cease to be constructive and become instead dangerous, divisive and, in a nuclear age, suicidal?

*1 Theologian
Paul Wee
Faith Beyond*

The third session will introduce a theological dimension to the issue developed thus far. From the perspective of the Church's historical role as God's agent in and witness to man's secular strivings, what role has the Church in defining the line between legitimate national duty and moral duty to other values beyond ideology? Is that role of the Church as active participant in political life different in the East and in the West?

file

THE LUTHERAN CHURCH - MISSOURI SYNOD

500 NORTH BROADWAY · SAINT LOUIS, MISSOURI 63102



OFFICE OF THE
PRESIDENT

231-6969
AREA CODE 314

August 24, 1982

Mr. Morton C. Blackwell
Special Assistant to the President
The White House
Washington, D. C. 20000

Dear Morton:

Enclosed is some recent correspondence from the people planning the National Day of Prayer for Nuclear Disarmament. I thought you would appreciate having a copy.

I do not plan to respond to the August 19 letter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Ralph".

Ralph A. Bohlmann
President

RAB/mh

August 19, 1982
% Religious Action Center
2027 Massachusetts Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20036

Dr. Ralph A. Bohlmann
President
The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod
500 North Broadway
St. Louis, Missouri 63102

Dear Dr. Bohlmann:

Please forgive my tardiness in responding to your letter of July 19, 1982. We appreciate your interest in the planning for a religious day of commitment to end the arms race and understand that your body is not in a position to formally endorse our event.

As a result of the July 22, 1982 meeting in New York, it was agreed that in deference to those working in the anti-nuclear movement on behalf of candidates who are up for election in November, we would postpone the National Day of Prayer until Sunday, May 22, 1983. This date has not yet been announced officially but is likely to be the choice.


If all goes well there will be a convocation of religious leaders in Washington, D.C. in October, 1982. The purpose of this gathering will be for the leaders to proclaim their convictions on the need to end the building, stockpiling and deploying of nuclear weapons.

As of this writing we have over sixty personal sponsorships for the Spring event and if all goes well we should have a very successful event.

I will be happy to keep you informed of the progress in our planning. Periodically throughout the year, you can expect to hear from me.

With many thanks for your interest.

Sincerely,


Joanna Caplan
Coordinator



July 19, 1982

National Day of Prayer for Nuclear Disarmament
c/o Rabbi David Saperstein
2027 Massachusetts Avenue, NW
Washington, D. C. 20036

Gentlemen:

Thank you for your June 29 invitation to attend an important meeting on July 22 and to consider adding my name to the list of sponsors for the major event you are planning.

I will not be able to attend the July 22 meeting and I must decline your invitation to become a sponsor for this event.

The Lutheran Church--Missouri Synod does not identify as a church body with such undertakings, preferring to give guidance to its membership that will enable individual Christians to carry out their responsibilities as Christian citizens to the best of their insight and ability.

I would appreciate your thoughtfulness in keeping me informed of developments.

Sincerely,

Ralph A. Bohlmann
President

RAB/mh

NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER FOR NUCLEAR DISARMAMENT

2027 Massachusetts Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20036

June 29, 1982

Dr. Ralph Buhlman
President
Lutheran Church, Missouri Synod
500 North Broadway
St. Louis, MO 63102

Dear Dr. Buhlman:

On October 17 there will be a mass religious convocation in Washington, D.C., the focus of a National Day of Prayer for Nuclear Disarmament. We are writing to urge you to join us as Sponsors for this event, and to invite you to a meeting on July 22, from 12:00 to 4:00 p.m., at which time plans for the convocation will be discussed.

This invitation is being sent to one hundred religious and scientific leaders nationally. The Sponsors will constitute the governing body for the convocation, and we hope you will be able to attend July 22 and participate directly in planning it. If your schedule does not allow you to be present, we still hope you will support this effort by adding your name to the list of Sponsors.

We have enclosed a copy of the proposal which outlines plans for October 17. If you have any questions or suggestions about the proposal, please contact us directly or through Rabbi David Saperstein, 2027 Massachusetts Avenue, NW, Washington, D.C., 20036, (202) 387-2800, or Dr. Ira Helfand, 19 North Main Street, Bellingham, MA, (617) 966-0972.

The meeting on July 22 will be at the office of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations, 838 Fifth Avenue (corner of 65th Street), New York.

We hope that you will join us in this important effort to end the nuclear arms race.

Sincerely,

Bishop John Hurst Adams
Second Episcopal District
African Methodist Episcopal Church*

Bishop James Armstrong
President, National Council of Churches*

Bishop George Bashore
Boston Area Methodist Church*

Dr. Hans A. Bethe
Professor of Physics
Cornell University*

Dr. Helen Caldicott
President
Physicians for Social Responsibility*

Bishop Thomas Gumbleton
Auxiliary Bishop of Detroit*

Dr. Alexander Leaf
Chairman, Dept. of Preventive
Harvard Medical School*

Rabbi Alexander Schindler
President, Union of American
Hebrew Congregations*

Dr. Jerome Wiesner
President Emeritus
Mass. Institute of Technology*

*Affiliations for
identification purposes only

NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER FOR NUCLEAR DISARMAMENT

Background: During the last several months we have been discussing the need for a large national event to bring together the huge grass roots movement for nuclear disarmament which has developed in this country. We have been concerned that such an event should accurately reflect the broad-based, middle of the road nature of this movement, which cuts across traditional political lines.

A National Day of Prayer: The event that we would like to propose is a national mass religious convocation in Washington. We feel that it is critical that this be an essentially religious event. Such a format would demonstrate powerfully how this issue transcends usual political distinctions. More importantly, it would speak to the spiritual despair which so many feel when we confront the real possibility of nuclear destruction, a despair which has, historically, held so many of us back from working on this problem.

Within the context of a religious program, it would be appropriate to have a number of short talks about various specific aspects of the current danger. Perhaps Dr. H. Jack Geiger could describe the effects of a nuclear attack on Washington, a military leader might speak on the current state of the arms race, and there could be a talk about the current state of the disarmament movement. But these talks should be clearly part of an essentially religious program, and we should avoid the usual list of twenty speeches from representatives of every group connected with the event. The music for the program would be drawn from the liturgical music related to peace. Perhaps one of the major national orchestras would be willing to participate in the program.

Local events around the country could be coordinated with the national gathering. There could be church programs in every community in the country

that day about the threat of nuclear war. Perhaps all the church bells in the country could ring for one minute at noon time, accompanied by a national minute of silent prayer such as we used to observe on Veterans Day.

Sponsorship: In keeping with the religious nature of the event, it should be convened and governed by leaders of the religious community, and if possible, formally sponsored by the national church organizations. It is appropriate to include also medical and scientific organizations among the sponsors because of the special role that the medical and scientific communities have in explaining the consequences of the nuclear arms race to the general public.

Date: We have discussed the question of timing extensively and would suggest that this event take place before the election, probably on Sunday, October 17, which is the first weekend after the Jewish High Holy Days.

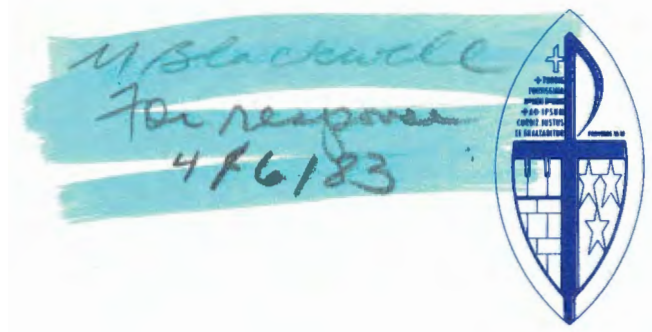
It is our belief that a major religious convocation of this sort will have the same effects on the disarmament movement that the 1963 Civil Rights March had on the struggle against segregation. It will define nuclear disarmament as the central item on the national agenda and make opposition to real efforts at disarmament as morally unacceptable as continued support for segregation.

We feel that it is critically important for the religious and scientific communities to continue to provide leadership to this movement, and we hope you will join us in sponsoring this event.

LUTHERAN COUNCIL IN THE USA

475 L'Enfant Plaza West, S.W.
Suite 2720
Washington, DC 20024
202 / 484-3950

J.I.
3-28-83
1812



March 22, 1983

The President
White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

For nearly two years many advocacy offices in Washington have been seeking to meet with representatives of the liaison office of the White House. We feel that we would gain much in understanding and information. We also believe we could share much with those members of your administration who should be in touch with religious organizations. I am speaking here specifically about mainline groups--evangelical Christians and other religious bodies.

Therefore I write to express my disappointment that you do not have time to visit with the thirty-some leaders who requested time to talk with you about mutual concerns.

Respectfully

Charles V. Bergstrom
Executive Director
Office for Governmental Affairs

CVB'RLB

cc: Edwin Meese, III
William P. Thompson
James R. Crumley, Jr.
David W. Preus

July 21, 1983

MEMORANDUM TO THE FILE:

Meeting held with Dr. Bergstrom, Faith Ryan Whittlesey and Morton C. Blackwell on Tuesday, July 19, 1983 at 2:30 p.m.

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

May 2, 1983

Dear Mr. Bergstrom:

Thank you for your recent letter. I apologize for the lateness of my reply.

Despite the reorganization of the Office of Public Liaison, it is my firm intention to increase our communications with responsible religious organizations. I therefore look forward to meeting with you soon to discuss our mutual concerns.

The March 10 newspaper report was incomplete. Although we are making personnel changes, Morton Blackwell will continue as liaison to Protestant organizations. I have asked him to contact you and set up a time when you and I can meet. I look forward to discussing matters of mutual interest and hearing your views on the issues of the day.

Sincerely,

Faith R. Whittlesey

Faith Ryan Whittlesey
Assistant to the President
for Public Liaison

Anti school prayer

File:

Mr. Charles V. Bergstrom
Executive Director
Office for Governmental Affairs
Lutheran Council in the USA
475 L'Enfant Plaza West, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20024

Action
Copy
minutes
Blackwell
July 19
2:30
MS
Work with
FRW's off
to set up
meeting:
Bergstrom
FRW
MCB
MB

Friday
June 24
2 PM
ok per Mr. Bergstrom
6/17
Tues, July 19
2:30 FRW
ok 6/20

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

May 2, 1983

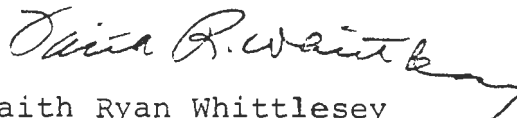
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Sincerely,



Faith Ryan Whittlesey
Assistant to the President
for Public Liaison

Mr. Charles V. Bergstrom
Executive Director
Office for Governmental Affairs
Lutheran Council in the USA
475 L'Enfant Plaza West, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20024

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

April 8, 1983

TO: Faith Ryan Whittlesey

THRU: Jonathan Vipond

FROM: Morton C. Blackwell

Attached is the draft letter to
Charles Bergstrom.

Please let me know when the letter
goes out so I can make the follow-up
phone call for an appointment

FRW - changes

DRAFT LETTER TO CHARLES BERGSTROM

April 8, 1983

Dear Mr. Bergstrom:

Thank you very much for your letter of March 21, 1983.

Despite the ^{staff reorganization} ~~reduction~~ in the number of staff slots available

in the Office of Public Liaison, it is my ^{firm} intention to

increase our communications with religious organizations. ^{responsible}

^{therefore} I look forward to meeting with you soon ^{to discuss our mutual concerns.}

The ^u newspaper report of March 10 ~~which you mentioned~~ was incomplete. ~~in some respects.~~

Although we are making ~~several~~ personnel changes ~~and altering~~ ~~somewhat~~ the responsibilities of the retained staff, Morton Blackwell will continue as liaison to Protestant organizations. I have asked him to contact you and set up a time when you and I can meet.

Again, thank you for writing.

Sincerely,

FRW

Please notify Morton when this letter goes out so we can make the aforementioned appointment. Thanks

Morton: —
Can we discuss how to
handle this group?

Jonathan
3/28

LUTHERAN COUNCIL IN THE USA

475 L'Enfant Plaza West, S.W.
Suite 2720
Washington, DC 20024
202 / 484-3950



March 21, 1983

Ms. Faith Ryan Whittlesey
Chief of Public Liaison
The White House
Washington, D. C. 20500

Dear Ms. Whittlesey:

I have read with interest the stories of your appointment as Chief of Public Liaison for the administration. I can assure you that there is a hope on the part of many of us that we will have the opportunity of meeting with you and your staff.

In addition to being the executive director of the Office for Governmental Affairs for the Lutheran Council, I am also chairman of the IMPACT network organization which includes the vast majority of mainline church and Jewish groups carrying out advocacy work here in Washington. These offices have been here for many years, and our work differs considerably from organizations such as Moral Majority and the Christian Voice--registered political lobbying groups.

Almost two years ago representatives of our group met with Mrs. Dole and Morton Blackwell as well as Diane Lazano. We were hopeful of continued dialog; however, in my files are many letters and records of phone calls which have added up to nothing in further meetings. In the previous administration, the Rev. Robert Maddox of the Southern Baptist denomination served as religious liaison to all religious groups.

Mr. Blackwell has often been described as the liaison to the conservative fundamentalists and is part of their movement. In the March 10 Washington POST story about your staff changes, Blackwell is listed as continuing to handle veterans groups and national security organizations. This raises again the question of contact for church/government offices. This is particularly true since President Reagan has not found time to meet with some thirty national bishops and leaders.

I am writing to ask that representatives of our IMPACT organization meet with you to discuss the administration's liaison with church and religious groups representing our denominations and judicatories with the federal government. I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely yours,

C Bergstrom

Charles V. Bergstrom
Executive Director
Office for Governmental Affairs

CVB'RLB

cc: William P. Thompson
David Saperstein
James Dunn

James R. Crumley, Jr.
David W. Preus

9/81

White House ear said open to mainline groups

By STAN HASTEY

WASHINGTON (BP) — Representatives of mainline religious groups are optimistic the Reagan White House will listen to their concerns as well as to those of the religious right.

The optimism was expressed after representatives of four Protestant and one Jewish organization met with presidential assistant Elizabeth Hanford Dole.

However, at the same time, the four Protestants asked that the administration appoint someone other than Morton C. Blackwell as their contact person.

Charles V. Bergstrom, a Lutheran executive who arranged the meeting with U.S. Dole, said the group suggested Mr. Blackwell, assigned earlier to deal with Protestant groups, is too closely identified with new right and religious right causes.

"We need another contact" in the administration, Mr. Bergstrom declared.

Others present for the meeting with Dole and one of her chief assistants, Diana Lozano, were Mary Jane Patterson, director of the Washington office of the United Presbyterian Church; Paul Kittlaus of the United Church of Christ; David Saperstein, representing the Union of American Hebrew Congregations; and John W. Baker, general counsel of the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs.

Mr. Bergstrom, who heads the office of governmental affairs for the Lutheran Council in the USA, said he was "very impressed" with Elizabeth Dole, an active United Methodist. He said the group of religious representatives had spoken, "very, very openly" about public policy differences between the mainline denominations and those of the religious right.

The meeting's main purpose, he said,

was to acquaint members of the president's staff with the cooperative efforts of faith groups through their Washington offices. Christian denominations and other religious bodies maintain two basic cooperative organizations in the nation's capital, he explained.

One of these, the Washington Interreligious Staff Council, meets twice a month to map out common strategy for influencing current legislation. By common agreement, some issues which divide the religious community, such as abortion and public aid to parochial schools, are off limits.

The other organization, IMPACT, has as its main objective the mobilization of individuals across the country to lobby Congress at any given moment on an issue of common concern.

The group meeting with the presiden-

tial assistant also informed her that once each quarter, heads of 10 to 12 of the nation's largest faith groups meet in Washington for breakfast, usually with members of Congress. Mr. Bergstrom said the group suggested to her that President Reagan be scheduled to meet with those leaders in the near future. Mr. Dole's response was "very positive," he said.

Besides Mr. Blackwell, two other administration officials have been assigned to deal with religious bodies, she informed the group. Jack Burgess, also assigned to work with the business, labor and agriculture sectors, will be liaison to the Catholic community. Targeted as liaison to Jewish groups is Jacob Stein, whose other assignments include dealing with the National Security Council and the U.S. Commission to the United Nations.

To Maiselle
Date 6/23/83 Time 5:29

WHILE YOU WERE OUT

M Robert Bergstrom
of Lutheran Council
Phone 484-3950

Area Code	Number	Extension
TELEPHONED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	PLEASE CALL
CALLED TO SEE YOU		WILL CALL AGAIN
WANTS TO SEE YOU		URGENT

RETURNED YOUR CALL

Message Will be out of
office 4th of July week.
Will be in the office
week of June 27
Week of 18th of July
can do.

Operator
Joyce



**Your
Voice Is
Needed!**

IMPACT provides information about Congress and state legislatures ...

... and IMPACT offers the opportunity to make an impact on your elected representatives.

For peace! And for social justice!

Join IMPACT today!

IMPACT...

... is an interfaith network which provides information on legislation and an opportunity for citizen action.

National IMPACT, located in Washington, D.C., focuses on the United States Congress. State IMPACT affiliates address state issues.

IMPACT addresses a broad spectrum of issues pertaining to social justice and international peace, reflecting the deeply-felt concerns of sponsoring Protestant, Roman Catholic and Jewish groups.

The National IMPACT Agenda: Priorities For Action

The Arms Race: Support nuclear arms control and oppose escalations in the arms race.

Energy and Environment: Work for a just and sustainable energy and environmental policy, giving particular attention to the needs of the poor.

Economic Justice for Women: Seek to ensure economic justice for women, with particular attention to income retirement systems and affirmative action.

Immigration Policy: Work for more humane and just treatment of immigrants, refugees and undocumented workers.

Economic Security for the Poor: Promote federal policies which ensure that all U.S. residents

have adequate income, jobs, housing and health care.

Global Hunger and Poverty: Reduce global hunger and poverty by working for international economic and development assistance policies which foster equitable, needs-oriented and self-reliant development.

Civil Rights and Liberties: Protect civil rights and liberties in the areas of school prayer, school desegregation, voting rights, death penalty and the criminal code.

Human Rights: Seek to protect and extend human rights and oppose U.S. interventions which threaten those rights.

Family Farms and the Food Stamp Program: Work for farm and food policies which would strengthen the family farm system and assure an adequate Food Stamp Program.

What is the IMPACT Network?

Legislative information: National IMPACT provides information about the activities of the U.S. Congress, focusing on the most significant aspect of public policy making: legislation. IMPACT affiliates monitor state issues.

Citizen participation: IMPACT publications enable network members to communicate knowledgeably with their elected representatives on a variety of important issues.

Grassroots action: IMPACT helps concerned citizens to combine their voices in advocating morally just and equitable public policy.

How does National IMPACT keep you informed?

A study report, **PREPARE**, examines a pressing issue, projecting options for future legislative action.

Legislative alerts, **ACTION**, provide information on bills before Congress, along with IMPACT recommendations for constituent action. Alerts go to those IMPACT members whose Senator or Representative is crucial to the outcome of a vote.

A monthly newsletter, **UPDATE**, keeps members informed about developments in Congress in all of IMPACT's issue areas. The **UPDATE** features a "Priority Action Call", focusing on a critical legislative issue. This will give all network members the

chance to communicate with their elected representatives every month.

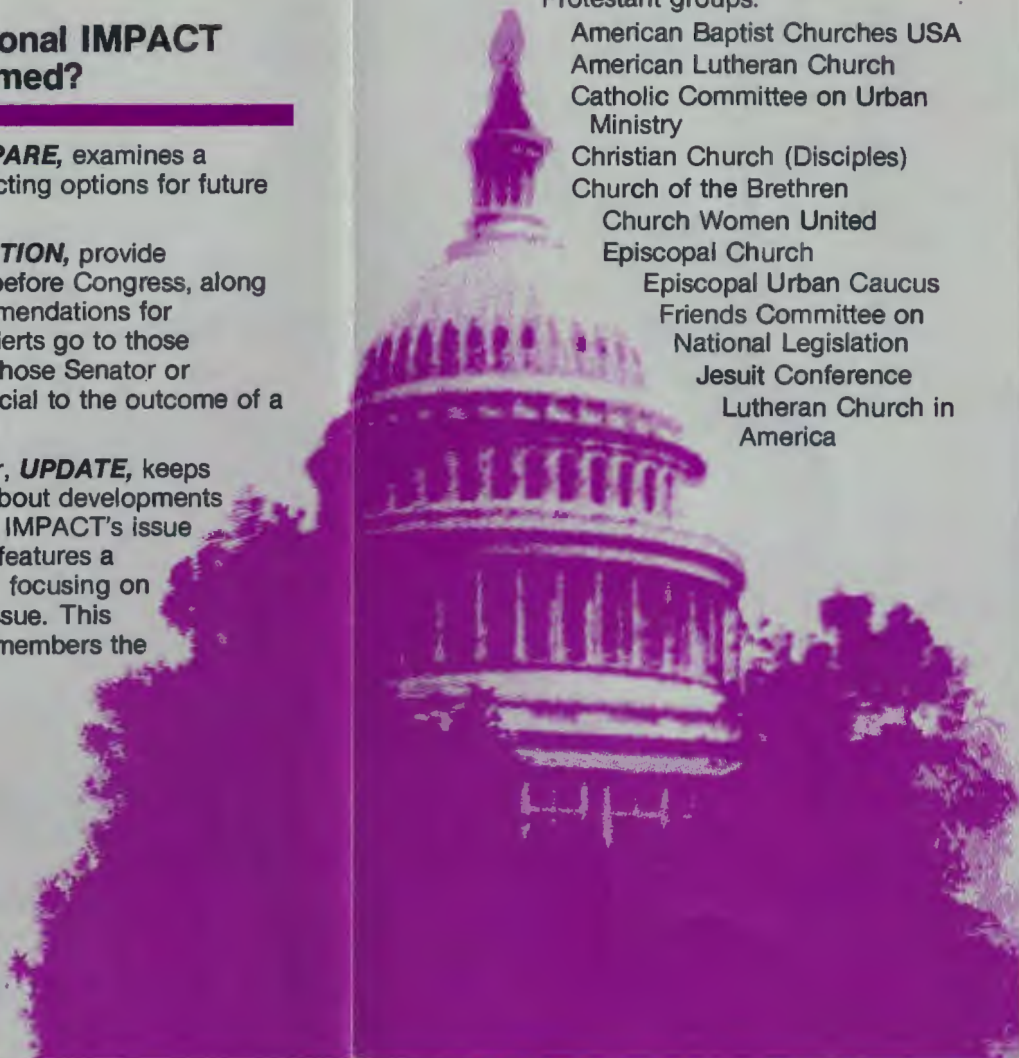
A supplementary publication, **HUNGER**, addresses such issues as global hunger and poverty, international development assistance, agricultural policy and food stamps.

The State IMPACT affiliates publish **PREPAREs**, **ACTIONs**, and **UPDATEs** on state issues.

Who sponsors IMPACT?

The following national religious bodies (or their program agencies) sponsor IMPACT. They include Jewish, Roman Catholic, and Protestant groups:

- American Baptist Churches USA
- American Lutheran Church
- Catholic Committee on Urban Ministry
- Christian Church (Disciples)
- Church of the Brethren
- Church Women United
- Episcopal Church
- Episcopal Urban Caucus
- Friends Committee on National Legislation
- Jesuit Conference
- Lutheran Church in America



National Council of Churches
 Presbyterian Church in the US
 Reformed Church in America
 Union of American Hebrew Congregations
 Unitarian Universalist Association
 United Church of Christ
 United Methodist Church
 United Presbyterian Church USA

What YOU can do

Join the IMPACT network. Join the thousands of others working together in grassroots action. Send in your membership form today and receive a 1981 IMPACT "Voting Record" which shows how your U.S. Senators and Representative voted on a number of key issues.

Communicate with your representatives. The effectiveness of the network depends on you. Personal letters, telegrams, and phone calls make the greatest impact on elected officials.

Build the IMPACT network. Multiply your influence by asking your friends to join IMPACT, and have them communicate with Congress. Act as a "contact person" by sharing IMPACT calls to **ACTION** with members of your local congregation/parish or civic organization.

Help IMPACT increase its efforts. Make a contribution of \$25, \$50 or \$100, or whatever you can. And ask your church/synagogue to include IMPACT in its annual budget.

You and others

With social concerns form an interfaith network,

Relating the moral and ethical concerns of the religious community to a broad range of legislative issues,

Providing a witness relevant to the public policy questions of our time,

Making an impact

National IMPACT Network

Membership Form

IMPACT



100 Maryland Avenue, N.E. • Washington, D.C. 20002 • 202/544-8636

Yes, please keep me informed about critical legislative issues! Sign me up as a member of the IMPACT network.

- \$18* membership fee in states with IMPACT affiliates: AL, CA, CT, FL, IA, IL, MI, MO, NJ, NY, OH, OK, PA, TX, WI, WV.
- \$10.50 membership fee in all other states.

I will act as a "contact person" in my local congregation/parish or civic organization to get other concerned citizens to communicate with their elected representatives in response to ACTION alerts.

- Yes Not at this time My group

I can do more to help IMPACT advocate social justice and international peace. I would like to make an additional contribution:

- \$25 \$50 \$100 Other \$

Please Print

Name _____

Denomination/Faith Group _____

Street _____

City _____

State _____

Zip _____

Home Phone (____) _____ Business Phone (____) _____

Your Member of Congress or Congressional District _____

*State membership fee will be increased to \$20, effective January 1, 1983.

New Member Survey

As a member of IMPACT you will receive information about the activities of Congress in all the areas listed below.

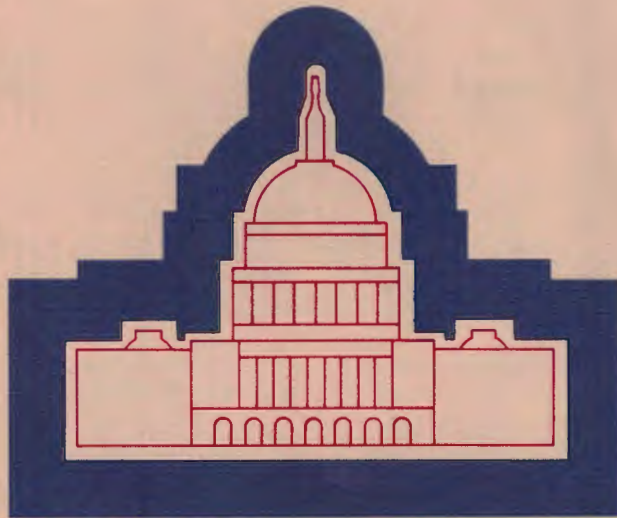
In order for us to serve you better, please put a check [✓] next to the issues that are of the greatest concern to you.

- Halt the arms race
- Extend human rights
- Reduce global hunger and poverty
- Achieve economic security for the poor
- Secure economic justice for women
- Develop a just energy and environmental policy
- Strengthen family farms and the Food Stamp Program
- Protect civil rights and liberties
- Develop a humane immigration policy

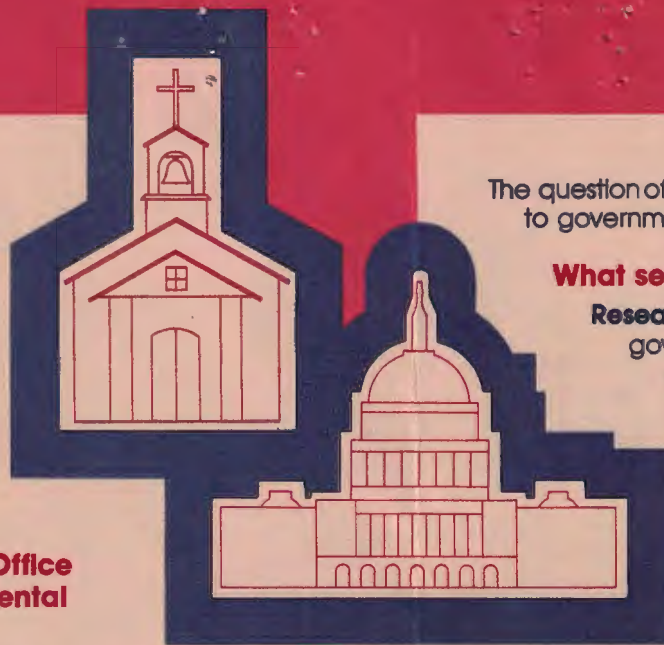
IMPACT 

IMPACT
Legislative Information/Action Network
100 Maryland Avenue, N.E.
Washington, DC 20002
(202) 544-8636

HOW
LUTHERAN
CHURCHES
RELATE
TO
GOVERNMENT



**A description of the
purpose and services of the
Office for Governmental Affairs,
Lutheran Council in the USA**



What is the Office for Governmental Affairs?

OGA serves as the government relations office in Washington, D.C., for the Lutheran Council in the USA and its participating church bodies.*

What is the purpose of a Lutheran government relations office?

While the First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution mandates that government neither support nor impede religious activity, the actual interaction between church and state grows increasingly complex.

The Lutheran churches recognize their scriptural imperative to confront social and political issues that raise questions concerning morality, justice, liberty and Christian responsibility. Social welfare, immigration laws, health care, human rights, food policy, peace-war issues—all represent areas of historic Lutheran involvement and are pressing contemporary problems.

A few of the areas in which church and government directly interact in the United States today are: federal tax laws; government programmatic funding and regulation of church-related colleges, hospitals and social service agencies; government efforts to limit the legislative advocacy role of churches; possible federal regulation of religious fundraising practices; and government attempts to define terms such as "church."

The question of churches is not if they will relate to government, but how?

What service does OGA provide?

Research and Analysis. OGA monitors government activities that could affect the ministry of the church by attending congressional hearings and committee sessions, reviewing government publications such as the Congressional Record and Federal Register and maintaining regular contacts with a variety of Washington people. The office identifies significant issues, performs

basic research and analysis and makes recommendations for action to its constituency.

Communication. OGA publishes a monthly subscription newsletter, *Focus on Governmental Affairs*, which includes a major article on a pending public issue, shorter articles dealing with the often less-publicized issues of interest and importance to the church and an "opinions" column. OGA also prepares and distributes regular research memoranda on pending government issues to interested council and church body staff and interpretative material to Lutheran periodicals. The OGA staff speaks to seminary students, congregations, synodical or district social ministry committees, church body conventions and symposia and other groups on the interaction between church and government.

Testimony. On issues of critical importance OGA coordinates the development of Lutheran testimony and policy statements to be presented before congressional committees and regulatory agencies. Recent testimony has centered on prayer in public schools, food stamps, low-income housing, CIA use of missionaries, Aid to Families With Dependent Children and charitable contributions legislation.

Government Liaison. OGA maintains regular contacts with members of Congress and key people within the executive branch, communicating to them the concerns of Lutheran churches on governmental issues through personal visits, letters and phone conversations. OGA seeks to develop special relationships with Lutherans in government service.

Ombudsman Service. OGA provides the Lutheran Council; the Lutheran church bodies, their synods and districts; local congregations; and Lutheran social service agencies, schools, hospitals and camps with "ombudsman" service designed to help deal with specific problems in church-government contacts; answer questions concerning programs, legislation and regulations; or make government appointments.

Interreligious Contacts. OGA staff members belong to the Washington Interreligious Staff Council (WISC), an informal, information-sharing organization of Washington representatives from 40 denominations and religious groups, and participates in the Interreligious Taskforce on U.S. Food Policy and eight other WISC task forces. OGA is also related to IMPACT, an ecumenical advocacy network on legislative issues, and maintains regular contacts with a number of other Protestant, Roman Catholic and Jewish offices and agencies in Washington.

Washington Community Liaison. OGA is a member of the Independent Sector, which coordinates legislative action in the tax area for the voluntary, nonprofit sector, and maintains regular liaison with such related organizations as the National Association of Social Workers, the Leadership Conference on Civil Rights and the United Way.

Meetings and Conferences. OGA sponsors breakfasts for Lutherans in government service and selected church leaders to discuss the ethical aspects of government decision making. OGA also sponsors a dinner caucus for the Lutheran members of Congress and

Lutherans attending an annual WISC-IMPACT legislative briefing.

Lutheran Coordination. The Lutheran Council bylaws give OGA coordinating responsibility for the government relations work of other council units, including the college and university services desk of the Division of Campus Ministry and Educational Services and the Department of Immigration and Refugee Services and the National Indian Lutheran Board of the Division of Mission and Ministry.

With what authority does OGA speak?

Congressional testimony, policy statements and other forms of advocacy are grounded in the Lutheran confessional stance as interpreted by the Lutheran Council and church body constitutions and social statements. All forms of advocacy are approved by the council's general secretary and the church body presidents or their delegated representatives. This authority was underscored by an action taken by the council in 1979.

If you have questions or need further information, please write or call:

Charles V. Bergstrom, Executive Director
Office for Governmental Affairs
Lutheran Council in the USA
475 L'Enfant Plaza SW, Suite 2720
Washington DC 20024
202/484-3950

Subscriptions to **Focus on Governmental Affairs** cost \$5 annually. Bulk rates are also offered. Write OGA.

Copies of **The Nature of the Church and Its Relationship With Government**, an official Lutheran Council statement with public policy recommendations on church-state issues, are available from OGA on this basis: 1-10 copies, free; additional copies, 25¢ each.

Membership in **IMPACT** is available at \$10.50 per year. Write IMPACT, 110 Maryland Avenue NE, Washington DC 20002.

- The three council partners which support OGA are the American Lutheran Church, Lutheran Church in America and Association of Evangelical Lutheran Churches.

**Office for Governmental Affairs
Lutheran Council in the USA
475 L'Enfant Plaza SW, Suite 2720
Washington DC 20024**

STRAIGHT WIRE

May 5, 1983

Mr. Anthony R. Bjella
Lutheran Brotherhood
625 Fourth Avenue South
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55415
(612) 340-7248

Nancy and I are happy to extend our warm greetings to members and guests of the Lutheran Brotherhood as you meet in your Twenty-first Quadrennial Convention.

This occasion provides us with a welcome opportunity to wish you well in the important work you are doing for your members.

With warm personal regard.

Sincerely,

RONALD REAGAN

Ronald Reagan

RR:LIVINGSTON:
cc: K.Osborne/M.Blackwell/D.Livingston/CF
EVENT: MAY 7

1983 CALENDAR

THE AMERICAN LUTHERAN CHURCH.

(Meetings, Conferences, Conventions, and other odds and ends)

JANUARY

- 3-5 Mid-winter Convocation, Luther Northwestern Seminary--St. Paul, Minn.
6-7 Board of Directors, Luther Northwestern Seminary--St. Paul, Minn.
7-9 Spiritual Life Retreat (DLMC), Southwestern Minnesota District--
Green Lake Bible Camp, Spicer, Minn.
9-12 Council of College Presidents--San Antonio, Texas
10 Bishop's Cabinet--Room 403, ALC offices
11 ALC/LCMS meeting--St. Louis, Mo.
12 Coordinating Committee on Interpretation--Room 403, ALC offices
12-15 Chemical Health Conference (DLMC), Hazelden Center--Center City, Minn.
13 Research Coordinating Committee--Room 403, ALC offices
13-14 Church Council Executive--Room 403, ALC offices
15 MARTIN LUTHER KING'S BIRTHDAY
16 Lutheran-Episcopal Sharing of the Eucharist--National Cathedral,
Washington, D. C.
16-18 Executive Committee, Board for Life and Mission in the Congregation--
Madison, Wis.
18-19 Planning Committee, Commission for a New Lutheran Church--Minneapolis, Minn.
18-25 WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY
19-23 SEARCH Faculty Training Event (DLMC)--Yahara Center, Madison, Wis.
21 Church Presidents' meeting--Chicago, Ill.
21-23 Executive Committee, Board of Luther League--Minneapolis, Minn.
25-27 Regional Workshop on Women in Ministry (OSM)--San Francisco, Calif.
25-27 ALC/LCA Urban Coalition meeting (DLMC)--Los Angeles, Calif.
28-29 Transition Awareness Event (DLMC)--Burbank, Calif.
30-Feb. 2 Lutheran Education Conference of North America--Alexandria, Va.
31-Feb. 2 Presidents and Deans of Lutheran Seminaries--Alexandria, Va.

FEBRUARY

- 1-3 Central Regional Placement Consultation (OSM)--Minneapolis, Minn.
2-3 Advisory Committee on Aging (DSMA)--Minneapolis, Minn.
2-4 "Baptism, Eucharist, and Ministry" Study Conference (LCUSA)--Chicago, Ill.

FEBRUARY (cont.)

- 3-5 National Indian Lutheran Board--Tempe, Ariz..
- 3-5 Task Force on Racial Inclusiveness (OCS)--Minneapolis, Minn.
- 3-6 Council of District Luther League Presidents--Minneapolis, Minn.
- 4-5 Lutherans in Diaspora Conference (DTEM)--Princeton Theological Seminary,
Princeton, N.J.
- 4-6 Volunteerism in the Church (DLMC), South Pacific District--Burbank, Calif.
- 5 Equipping the Saints (DLMC), Houston Conference--Houston, Texas
- 7-11 Commission for a New Lutheran Church--Chicago, Ill.
- 8-10 "In Good Spirits" workshop (DLMC)--Lutheran Theological Seminary,
Columbia, S.C.
- 9 Coordinating Committee on Interpretation--Room 403, ALC offices
- 11-12 Equipping the Saints (DLMC)--Las Vegas, Nev.
- 11-13 Equipping the Saints (DLMC)--Estes Park, Colo.
- 12 Symposium: "Nuclear Weapons: The Human Impact"--Texas Lutheran College,
Seguin, Texas
- 14 Bishop's Cabinet--Room 403, ALC offices
- 14-18 Mission Training Lab (DSMA)--North Pacific District
- 18-20 Volunteerism in the Church (DLMC)--Heart O' the Hills, Hunt, Texas
- 18-20 Small Church Town Meeting (DLMC)--Golden, Ill.
- 18-21 Board of Luther League--Minneapolis, Minn.
- 21-23 Eastern Regional Placement Consultation (OSM)--Atlanta, Ga.
- 24-26 Lutheran World Federation Officers' meeting--Geneva, Switzerland
- 24-26 ALC/LCA/AELC Consultation on Theological Education, Chicago, Ill.
- 24-27 Executive Committee, American Lutheran Church Women--Mt. Olivet
Retreat Center, Farmington, Minn.
- 25-26 Small Urban Churches Event (DLMC)--Buffalo, N.Y.
- 27-Mar. 1 Board of Regents, Wartburg Theological Seminary--Dubuque, Iowa
- 27-Mar. 2 National Board, American Lutheran Church Women--Mt. Olivet Retreat
Center, Farmington, Minn.
- 28-Mar. 3 Conference for Professionals in Education and Youth Ministry (DLMC)--
Menlo Park, Calif.
- 28-Mar. 4 Executive Committee, World Council of Churches--Geneva, Switzerland

MARCH

- 1-5 Board and Staff Retreat, Division for Life and Mission in the
Congregation--Yahara Center, Madison, Wis.
- 3 Lutheran Film Associates--New York, N.Y.

MARCH (cont.)

- 3-5 Board for Life and Mission in the Congregation--Yahara Center,
Madison, Wis.
- 4 Advisory Committee on Investor Responsibility (OCS)--Minneapolis, Minn.
- 4-5 Development Assistance Program Committee (tentative)
- 6-7 Board of Regents, Trinity Lutheran Seminary--Columbus, Ohio
- 7 Bishop's Cabinet--Room 403, ALC offices
- 7-10 Conference for Professionals in Education and Youth Ministry (DLMC)--Cedar
Rapids, Iowa
- 9 Coordinating Committee on Interpretation--Room 403, ALC offices
- 10-13 Small Church Town meeting (DLMC)--Versailles, Ohio
- 11 Board of Directors, Lutheran World Relief--New York, N.Y.
- 14 Bishop's Cabinet/District Bishops' Retreat--Sheraton Ritz Hotel,
Minneapolis, Minn.
- 15-16 Assignment of ALC Seminary seniors--Sheraton Ritz Hotel, Minneapolis, Minn.
- 17-18 Council of District Bishops--Sheraton Ritz Hotel, Minneapolis, Minn.
- 17-18 Board of Trustees--Room 403, ALC offices
- 17-19 Standing Committee, Office of Communication and Mission Support--
Minneapolis, Minn.
- 17-20 Board for Service and Mission in America--Minneapolis, Minn.
- 18-20 Colloquy on Mormonism (DLMC)--Salt Lake City, Utah
- 18-20 Spiritual Life Retreat (DLMC)--Camp Brotherhood, Mt. Vernon, Wash.
- 20 INDIAN CONCERNS SUNDAY
- 20-22 Board for College and University Services--St. Paul, Minn.
- 21-23 Board for Theological Education and Ministry--Minneapolis, Minn.
- 21-24 Conference for Professionals in Education and Youth Ministry (DLMC)--
Marriottsville, Md.
- 22-24 Western Regional Placement Consultation (OSM)--Denver, Colo.
- 23-26 Board for World Mission and Inter-Church Cooperation--Luther Northwestern
Seminary, St. Paul, Minn.
- 24-25 United States Church Leaders' Conference--Minneapolis, Minn.
- 24-26 National Indian Lutheran Board (NILB) Consultation on Indian Ministry--
Denver, Colo.
- 25-26 Eastern North Dakota District Convention--Concordia College, Moorhead,
Minn.

APRIL

- 4 Bishop's Cabinet--Room 403, ALC offices
- 6 Coordinating Committee on Interpretation--Room 403, ALC offices

APRIL (cont.)

- L 6-8 ALC/LCA Chaplains' Conference--Chicago, Ill.
8-9 Western North Dakota District Convention--Minot, N. D.
8-10 Southwestern Minnesota District Convention--Willmar, Minn.
12-14 District and Conference Resource Center Consultation (DLMC)--Fargo-Moorhead, Minn.
14-16 Northern Wisconsin District Convention--Telemark, Cable, Wis.
15-16 Southeastern Minnesota District Convention--Kahler Hotel, Rochester, Minn.
15-17 Spiritual Life Retreat, Conference Event (DLMC)--Northridge, Calif.
15-17 Standing Committee, Office of Church in Society--Room 403, ALC offices
16 Conference on Life-Long Catechumenate (DLMC), Southwestern Minnesota District--site unknown
17-19 Conference on Aging (DSMA)--Seattle, Wash.
17-19 Annual Conference for Lutheran Home Administrators (DSMA)--Seattle, Wash.
18-19 Standing Committee, American Lutheran Foundation--Room 403, ALC offices
18-21 Pastoral Seminar for Three-Year Veterans (DTEM)--Luther Northwestern Seminary, St. Paul, Minn.
21-22 Board of Publication--Minneapolis, Minn.
21-23 ALC/LCA College Business Officers Conference--Augsburg College, Minneapolis, Minn.
21-24 Eastern District Convention--Hershey, Penn.
22-23 Retreat for Faculties of ALC Seminaries--Villa Maria, Frontenac, Minn.
22-24 Volunteerism in the Church (DLMC)--Colorado Women's College, Denver, Colo.
22-24 Equipping the Saints (DLMC)--Long Beach/San Diego, Calif.
25-26 Search Advisory Council, Early Adolescent Resource Project (DLMC)--Minneapolis, Minn.
26-29 Conference for Professional Educators (DLMC)--Dayton, Ohio
27-29 Executive Committee, ALC Church Council--Minneapolis, Minn.
28-30 Southwestern Minnesota District Convention--Olympic Resort, Oconomowoc, Wis.
28-May 1 ALCW South Pacific District Convention--San Diego, Calif.
29-May 1 Southern District Convention (with LCA)--San Antonio, Texas

MAY

- 2 Bishop's Cabinet--Room 403, ALC offices
2-5 Pastoral Seminar for Three-Year Veterans (DTEM)--Trinity Seminary, Columbus, Ohio

MAY (cont.)

- 4 Coordinating Committee on Interpretation--Room 403, ALC offices
- 5-7 Colloquy Committee--Minneapolis, Minn.
- 5-7 Northern Minnesota District Convention (tentative)--Concordia College, Moorhead, Minn.
- 6-8 ALC/LCA/AELC LAOS Consultation (DLMC)--Milwaukee, Wis.
- 11-13 ALCW Northern Minnesota District Convention--Concordia College, Moorhead, Minn.
- 12-14 Board of Regents, Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary--Berkeley, Calif.
- 12-15 Southeastern District Convention--Atlanta, Ga.
- 13-15 Rocky Mountain District Convention--Great Falls, Mont.
- 16-17 Board of Trustees--Room 403, ALC offices
- 18-19 ALCW Northern Wisconsin District Convention--St. Norbert College, DePere, Wis.
- 18-19 Annual meeting, Lutheran Council in the USA--New York, N.Y.
- 19-21 Board of Pensions--Room 403, ALC offices
- 19-21 Michigan District Convention (tentative)
- 25-28 Central District Convention--Dana College, Blair, Neb.
- 31-June 2 Lutheran World Relief Retreat--Madison, Wis.

JUNE

- 3-5 Illinois District Convention--Peoria, Ill.
- 3-5 Iowa District Convention--Luther College, Decorah, Iowa
- 3-5 North Pacific District Convention--Pacific Lutheran University, Tacoma, Wash.
- 3-5 South Dakota District Convention--Augustana College, Sioux Falls, S. D.
- 5-7 Conference of ALC College Development Directors--Minneapolis, Minn.
- 5-7 Conference of ALC College Admissions Directors--Minneapolis, Minn.
- 5-7 Conference of ALC College Interpretive Personnel--Minneapolis, Minn.
- 6 Bishop's Cabinet (all day)--Minneapolis, Minn.
- 8 Coordinating Committee on Interpretation--Room 403, ALC offices
- 9-11 Professional Educators' Conference and Annual Church Staff Workers' Conference (DLMC)--Texas Lutheran College, Seguin, Texas
- 10-12 Ohio District Convention--Capital University, Columbus, Ohio
- 14-16 ALCW Southern Wisconsin District Convention--University of Wisconsin, La Crosse, Wis.
- 15-16 ALCW Southwestern Minnesota District Convention--Marshall, Minn.

APRIL (cont.)

- 6-8 ALC/LCA Chaplains' Conference--Chicago, Ill.
8-9 Western North Dakota District Convention--Minot, N. D.
8-10 Southwestern Minnesota District Convention--Willmar, Minn.
12-14 District and Conference Resource Center Consultation (DLMC)--Fargo-Moorhead, Minn.
14-16 Northern Wisconsin District Convention--Telemark, Cable, Wis.
15-16 Southeastern Minnesota District Convention--Kahler Hotel, Rochester, Minn.
15-17 Spiritual Life Retreat, Conference Event (DLMC)--Northridge, Calif.
15-17 Standing Committee, Office of Church in Society--Room 403, ALC offices
16 Conference on Life-Long Catechumenate (DLMC), Southwestern Minnesota District--site unknown
17-19 Conference on Aging (DSMA)--Seattle, Wash.
17-19 Annual Conference for Lutheran Home Administrators (DSMA)--Seattle, Wash.
18-19 Standing Committee, American Lutheran Foundation--Room 403, ALC offices
18-21 Pastoral Seminar for Three-Year Veterans (DTEM)--Luther Northwestern Seminary, St. Paul, Minn.
21-22 Board of Publication--Minneapolis, Minn.
21-23 ALC/LCA College Business Officers Conference--Augsburg College, Minneapolis, Minn.
21-24 Eastern District Convention--Hershey, Penn.
22-23 Retreat for Faculties of ALC Seminaries--Villa Maria, Frontenac, Minn.
22-24 Volunteerism in the Church (DLMC)--Colorado Women's College, Denver, Colo.
22-24 Equipping the Saints (DLMC)--Long Beach/San Diego, Calif.
25-26 Search Advisory Council, Early Adolescent Resource Project (DLMC)--Minneapolis, Minn.
26-29 Conference for Professional Educators (DLMC)--Dayton, Ohio
27-29 Executive Committee, ALC Church Council--Minneapolis, Minn.
28-30 Southwestern Minnesota District Convention--Olympic Resort, Oconomowoc, Wis.
28-May 1 ALCW South Pacific District Convention--San Diego, Calif.
29-May 1 Southern District Convention (with LCA)--San Antonio, Texas

MAY

- 2 Bishop's Cabinet--Room 403, ALC offices
2-5 Pastoral Seminar for Three-Year Veterans (DTEM)--Trinity Seminary, Columbus, Ohio

JULY (cont.)

- 19-22 Retreat for Missionaries on Home Leave--site undetermined
22-24 Volunteerism in the Church (DLMC)--Carthage College, Kenosha, Wis.
24-26 ALCW Leadership Seminar (Michigan, Ohio, Eastern, Southeastern Districts)--Capital University, Columbus, Ohio
24-Aug. 10 6th Assembly, World Council of Churches--Vancouver, B.C., Can.
27-29 Western North Dakota Convention--Bismarck Junior College, Bismarck, N.D.
29-31 ALCW Leadership Seminar--Dana College, Blair, Neb.
29-31 Human Relations Institute--Carroll College, Waukesha, Wis.

AUGUST

- 1-5 National Lutheran Campus Ministry Staff Conference--site undetermined
1-6 Biennial Convention, Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod--New Ulm, Minn.
5-7 Equipping the Saints Event (DLMC)--Springfield, Ill.
7-9 ALCW Leadership Seminar--Texas Lutheran College, Seguin, Texas
7-10 Conference on Colleges in New Lutheran Church--Carthage College, Kenosha, Wis.
12-14 Evangelism Festival (DLMC)--Pacific Lutheran University, Tacoma, Wash.
12-14 ALCW Leadership Seminar (Northern Minnesota, Eastern North Dakota, Western North Dakota, Rocky Mountain Districts)--Concordia College, Moorhead, Minn.
14-17 Youth Gathering, The Lutheran Church--Missouri Synod--San Antonio, Texas
15-20 Lutheran Student Movement conference--Bozeman, Mont.
19-21 ALCW Leadership Seminar--California Lutheran College, Thousand Oaks, Calif.
23-24 Planning Committee, Commission for a New Lutheran Church--Minneapolis, Minn.
24-25 Advisory Committee on Aging (DSMA)--Minneapolis, Minn.
26 Executive Committee, Office of Communication and Mission Support--Minneapolis, Minn.
26-28 ALCW Leadership Seminar--LBI, Issaquah, Wash.

SEPTEMBER

- 6 Bishop's Cabinet--Room 403, ALC offices.
7 Coordinating Committee on Interpretation--Room 403, ALC offices
15-16 Board of Trustees--Room 403, ALC offices
16-18 Volunteerism in the Church (DLMC), Eastern District--Koinonia, N.Y.
22-24 Board for Theological Education and Ministry--Trinity Lutheran Seminary, Columbus, Ohio

JUNE (cont.)

- 16-18 ALCW Eastern District Convention--International Inn, Washington, D. C.
- 16-18 South Pacific District Convention--California Lutheran College, Thousand Oaks, Calif.
- 16-18 ALCW South Dakota District Convention--Sioux Falls, S.D.
- 17-19 ALCW Southeastern District Convention--Hickory, N.C.
- 17-19 ALCW Rocky Mountain District Convention--Great Falls, Mont.
- 20-24 Festival of Worship and Witness--Minneapolis, Minn.
- 21-23 ALCW Southeastern Minnesota District Convention--St. Olaf College, Northfield, Minn.
- 21-23 ALCW Michigan District Convention--Adrian College, Adrian, Mich.
- 24-26 ALCW Illinois District Convention--Normal, Ill.
- 24-26 ALCW Iowa District Convention--Luther College, Decorah, Iowa
- 24-26 ALCW North Pacific District Convention--Pacific Lutheran University, Tacoma, Wash
- 24-29 ALC Church Council--Minneapolis, Minn.
- 25-26 Coordinators for Parish Education Associates (DLMC)--California Lutheran College, Thousand Oaks, Calif.
- 26-July 1 Parish Education Associates (PEA) and Youth Ministry Associates Training (DLMC)--California Lutheran College, Thousand Oaks, Calif.
- 27-July 28 Summer Institute for Missionaries (orientation)--St. Benedict's Center, Madison, Wis.
- 27-29 National Church Secretaries' Workshop (DLMC)--Gustavus Adolphus College, St. Peter, Minn.
- 28-29 ALCW Eastern North Dakota District Convention--Concordia College, Moorhead, Minn.

JULY

- 6 Bishop's Cabinet--Room 403, ALC offices
- 8-15 General Convention of The Lutheran Church--Missouri Synod--St. Louis, Mo.
- 10-15 PEA Training, Northern Wisconsin District (DLMC)--Stevens Point, Wis.
- 12-14 ALCW Leadership Seminar (Southeastern Minnesota, South Dakota, Southwestern Minnesota Districts)--Southwest State University, Marshall, Minn.
- 13 Coordinating Committee on Interpretation--Room 403, ALC offices
- 15-17 Volunteerism in the Church (DLMC), Southern Wisconsin District--Yahara Center, Madison, Wis.
- 17-19 ALCW Leadership Seminar (Northern Wisconsin, Southern Wisconsin, Illinois Districts)--Carthage College, Kenosha, Wis.

NOVEMBER (cont.)

- 15-16 Lutheran Council in the USA meeting--New York, N.Y.
- 19-20 Small Church Town meeting (DLMC)--Kadoka, S.D.

DECEMBER

- 1-2 Board of Trustees--Room 403, ALC offices
- 5 Bishop's Cabinet--Room 403, ALC offices
- 7 Coordinating Committee on Interpretation--Room 403, ALC offices
- 8-11 Continuing Education Center Directors meeting (DTEM)--site undetermined

1984 CALENDAR

JANUARY

- 6 Executive Committee, Office of Communication and Mission Support--
Minneapolis, Minn.
- 24-25 Planning Committee, Commission for a New Lutheran Church--Minneapolis, Minn.

FEBRUARY

- 18-22 Commission for a New Lutheran Church--site undetermined
- 28-Mar. 3 Board for Service and Mission in America--Chicago, Ill. (?)

MARCH

- 1-3 Board for Life and Mission in the Congregation--site undetermined
- 15-17 Standing Committee, Office of Communication and Mission Support--
Minneapolis, Minn.

MAY

- 23-24 Planning Committee, Commission for a New Lutheran Church--Minneapolis,
Minn.

JUNE

- 14-15 Commission for a New Lutheran Church--site undetermined
- 28-July 5 General Convention, Lutheran Church in America--Toronto, Ont., Can.

SEPTEMBER (cont.)

- 23-25 Volunteerism in the Church (DLMC), Southwestern Minnesota District--
Green Lake Bible Camp, Spicer, Minn.
- 23-26 7th Annual Deferred Giving Conference, American Lutheran Church
Foundation--L'Hotel Sofitel, Minneapolis, Minn.
- 23-28 Central District Theological Conference (DLMC)--site unknown
- 24-28 Commission for a New Lutheran Church--Columbus, Ohio
- 28-30 Executive Committee, American Lutheran Church Women--Detroit, Mich.
- 30-Oct. 3 National Board, American Lutheran Church Women--Detroit, Mich.

OCTOBER

- 3 Bishop's Cabinet--Room 403, ALC offices
- 5 Coordinating Committee on Interpretation--Room 403, ALC offices
- 6-7 Board of Directors, Luther Northwestern Seminary--St. Paul, Minn.
- 7-8 Association of Lutheran College Faculties--site unknown
- 7-8 Board of Directors, Trinity Lutheran Seminary--Columbus, Ohio
- 21-22 Standing Committee, Office of Church in Society--Minneapolis, Minn.
- 23-30 Global Urban Mission Festival (DSMA)--Milwaukee, Wis.
- 24-27 South Pacific District Pastors' Retreat--Palm Springs, Calif.
- 26-29 Board for World Mission and Inter-Church Cooperation--Assisi Heights,
Rochester, Minn.
- 27-28 Board of Publication--Austin, Texas
- 27-29 Standing Committee, Office of Communication and Mission Support--
Minneapolis, Minn.
- 28-30 Equipping the Saints Event (DLMC)--Chicago, Ill

NOVEMBER

- 2-5 Board for Service and Mission in America--Minneapolis, Minn.
- 4-6 Volunteerism in the Church (DLMC), Southeastern District--Leesburg, Fla.
- 6-8 National Conference of Lutheran College Deans--Philadelphia, Pa.
- 6-12 Martin Luther Jubilee--Washington, D. C.
- 7 Bishop's Cabinet--Room 403, ALC offices
- 9 Coordinating Committee on Interpretation--Room 403, ALC offices
- 11-13 Board for College and University Services--site undetermined
- 11-13 Volunteerism in the Church (DLMC), Eastern District--National 4-H
Center, Washington, D. C.
- 14-15 Board of Pensions--Minneapolis, Minn.

10

A Statement on Religion and Politics

Issued by the Lutheran Council in the USA on behalf of
The American Lutheran Church, The Association of
Evangelical Lutheran Churches and Lutheran Church in America.

Endorsed by LC/USA General Secretary John R. Houck,
ALC President David W. Preus, AELC President William H. Kohn
and LCA President James R. Crumley Jr.

The American Lutheran Church, The Association of Evangelical Lutheran Churches and Lutheran Church in America firmly disagree with Christians or coalitions of Christians who plan political action under any guise of religious evangelism, worship or revivalism—or "in the name of Jesus." These partner churches in the Lutheran Council support pluralism and freedom of all people in the political process in the United States and maintain that pushing for total agreement on moral issues is not the same as advocating for legislation which will enhance the common good. "Religious grounds" should not be used as the exclusive yardstick for determining the quality of candidates for political office.

As leaders of Lutheran church bodies, we strongly discourage members of Lutheran churches from joining or supporting movements which confuse church-government relations and distort the churches' advocacy mission in the political world. We support parish pastors and church leaders who do not endorse such movements.

As Lutherans in the U.S., we recognize that an increasingly complex society has produced growing interdependence and interaction among groups, persons and resources in the governmental, economic and voluntary sectors. The government's responsibilities to maintain equity and order have led both the churches and the state into greater contact and, at times, into tension. As governmental bodies seek to perform their roles and the churches seek to fulfill their missions, each needs to be aware of the other's purposes, principles and methods. In their endeavors, both the churches and the government have the task of formulating and clarifying position statements and guidelines for implementation and application when appropriate.

Lutherans acknowledge the twofold reign of God, under which Christians live simultaneously. God is ruler of both the world and the church. The church is primarily the agency of the Gospel in the new age of Christ, while the state is primarily the agency of the Law in the old age of Adam. Given the balance of interests and differing responsibilities of the churches and the government in God's world, the Lutheran churches advocate a relationship between the churches and the government which may be expressed as "institutional separation and functional interaction." Both the churches and the government are to delineate and describe the proper and responsible extent of their functional interaction in the context of God's rule and the institutional separation of church and state.

In affirming the principle of separation of church and state, Lutherans in the U.S. respectfully acknowledge and support the tradition that the churches and the government are to be separate in structure. As the Constitution provides, government neither establishes nor favors any religion. It also safeguards the rights of all

persons and groups in society to the free exercise of their religious beliefs, worship, practices and organizational arrangements within the laws of morality, human rights and property. The government is to make no decisions regarding the validity or orthodoxy of any doctrine, recognizing that it is the province of religious groups to state their doctrines, determine their politics, train their leaders, conduct worship and carry on their mission and ministries without undue interference from or entanglement with government.

Lutherans in the U.S. affirm the principle of functional interaction between the government and religious bodies in areas of mutual endeavor, so that such interaction assists the maintenance of good order, the protection and extension of civil rights, the establishment of social justice and equality of opportunity, the promotion of the general welfare and the advancement of the dignity of all persons. This principle underscores the Lutheran view that God rules both the civil and spiritual dimensions of life, making it appropriate for the government and the churches to relate creatively and responsibly to each other.

Lutherans hold that their churches have the responsibility to describe and clarify to their members and to society the mission of the Lutheran churches and to determine, establish, maintain and alter the various forms through which that mission is expressed and structured. The distinctive mission of the churches includes the proclamation of God's Word in worship, in public preaching, in teaching, in administration of the sacraments, in evangelism, in educational ministries, in social service ministries and in being advocates of justice for participants in the social order. According to Lutheran theology, the civil government's distinctive calling by God is to maintain peace, to establish justice, to protect and advance human rights and to promote the general welfare of all persons.

It is a misuse of terms to describe government and politics as godless or profane, because God rules both the civil and the spiritual dimensions of life. Thus it is unnecessary and unbiblical for any church group or individual to seek to "Christianize" the government or to label political views of members of Congress as "Christian" or "religious." It is arrogant to assert that one's position on a political issue is "Christian" and that all others are "un-Christian," "immoral" or "sinful." There is no "Christian" position; there are Christians who hold positions. Government under God employs reason and power for social justice, peace and freedom.

To describe one group's political position as "The Christian Voice" and one movement's political agenda as a movement "for Jesus" is wrongly judgmental. It is also an affront to Jewish and other religious advocates whose religions hold social justice as a social form of love of neighbor. Devout Christians and Jews agree and disagree between and among themselves regarding political decisions and can agree and disagree with nonbelievers. Advocacy for social justice is part of the mission of the churches according to Lutheran theology. Such advocacy may often bring disagreement on issues and votes as to how to strive for justice.

So we challenge members of Lutheran churches as evangelical Christians to worship and pray as Christian congregations. All persons need forgiveness. We also challenge all citizens and corporate religious groups to participate in the process of decision-making for the common good, and we encourage cooperation with other religious and voluntary associations in this work of advocacy.