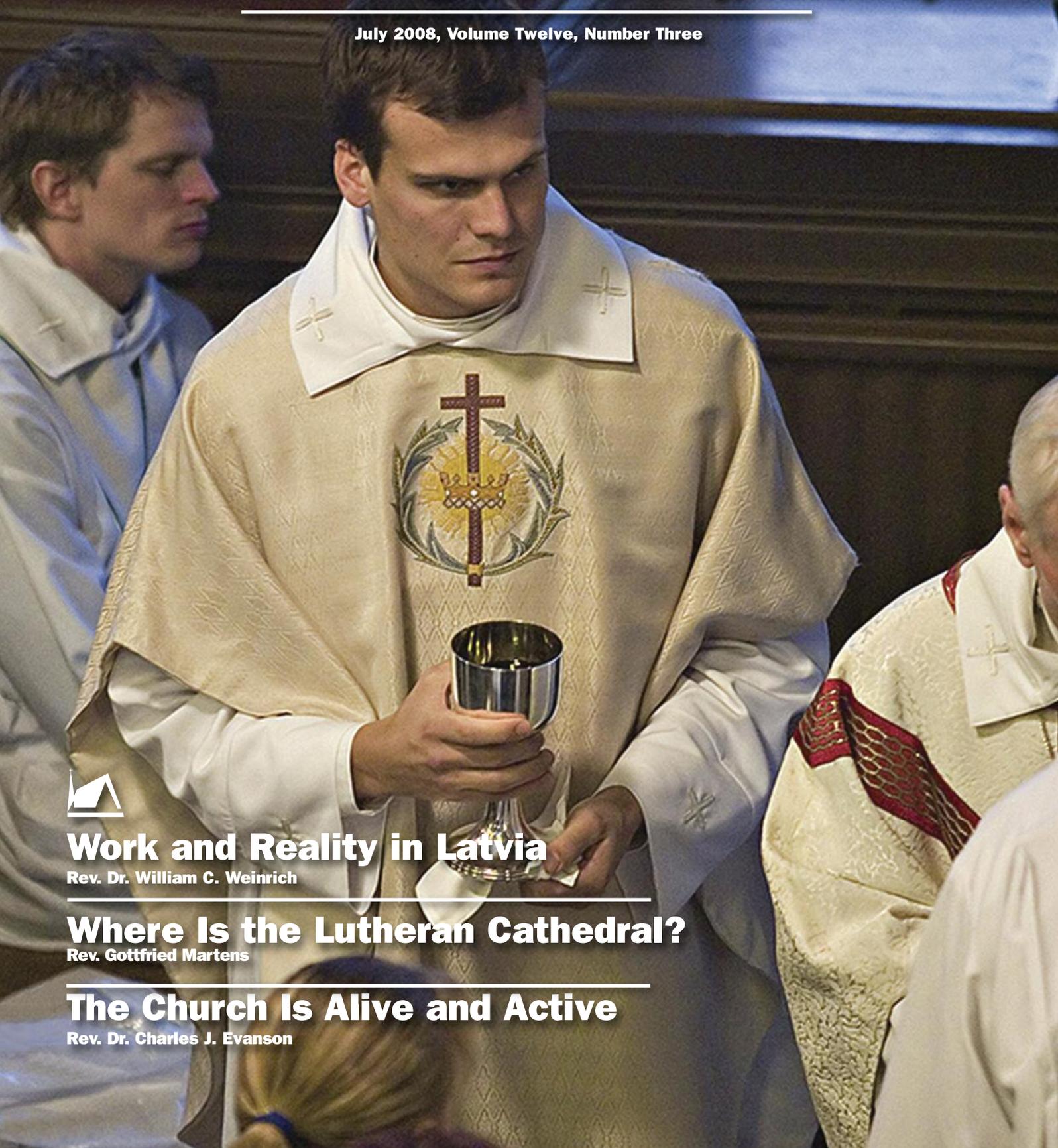


For the Life of the World

Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne

July 2008, Volume Twelve, Number Three



Work and Reality in Latvia

Rev. Dr. William C. Weinrich

Where Is the Lutheran Cathedral?

Rev. Gottfried Martens

The Church Is Alive and Active

Rev. Dr. Charles J. Evanson

CONTENTS

Volume Twelve, Number Three

FEATURES

4 Work and Reality in Latvia

By Rev. Dr. Wiliam C. Weinrich

The Christians of Latvia are deeply pious and committed but have serious challenges: liturgical change; pressure from the European churches to conform to new theological and social trends, institutional development, theological education needs.

8 Mining the Riches of Lutheran Theology in Germany

By Mr. Jason Lane

Study in the German system, combined with the superb theological education we have received from Fort Wayne, where pastoral care is of primary importance, affords a new generation of theologians the great opportunity to carry on the good confession of Jesus Christ into all the world.

12 A Modern Day Circuit Rider

By Rev. Dr. Chris Barnekov

Historically Sweden was a strongly Lutheran country, but today most churches are empty. Although the Church of Sweden claims to be the largest Lutheran Church in the world, only one member in seventy-five attends worship in an average week, and that figure includes Christmas and Easter.

38 "Where is the Lutheran Cathedral?"

By Rev. Gottfried Martens

In Berlin, the "world's capital of modern atheism," as Peter L. Berger has called it, only 30 percent of the population still belong to a Christian church at all, and about 4 percent worship regularly.



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A Plot for the Lor



The Divinity Faculty at Cambridge University



Westfield House students walking into Luther Tyndale—a London congregation—for a day event which brought together young Lutherans from across Great Britain.

Westfield House and the ELCE provide a lantern in the midst of a European community of churches darkened by schism and a dwindling identity. By holding up a light of confessional Lutheranism, the ELCE provides dependable leadership for other churches struggling for theological integrity.



Peter Brock on a bridge with Kings College and Kings College Chapel in the background

In his sermon for the dedication of Westfield House, Norman Nagel called the school a “plot for the Lord’s seeds.” At this theological college of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of England (ELCE), the Lord’s words “here engage us, received in liturgy, studied in the ways our Lord has taken our words into His use, lived in community, and readied for sowing skillfully, wherever the Lord may put us for His use.”

Since September of 2007, I have lived and learned at Westfield House among students and pastors from all over the world, including England, Brazil, Ethiopia, Finland, Scotland, Australia, Canada, and the United States. Although Westfield House was originally established to train pastors for the growing ELCE, its vision and mission have expanded to become more global over the years, receiving and sending pastors and students to all parts of the world to serve God’s church with a solid Lutheran confession.

This diverse gathering of students and pastors seasons our discussions both inside and outside of the classroom, providing a

valuable perspective and depth to our education here. Because Westfield House is an attached house of Fitzwilliam College of Cambridge University, we also have the advantage of attending classes at the Divinity Faculty and using the Divinity Faculty and University libraries. Access to such a high-caliber institution, combined with the confessional faithfulness of the preceptor and tutors, equips the students of this place to engage the world within a Lutheran framework that is and will remain relevant to our time.

This relevancy has in large part been demonstrated to me by three factors that have characterized my year at Westfield

d's Seeds

By Mr. Peter Brock

House—the faithful teaching of Scripture, regular and liturgical chapel life, and lively conversation with those living in this community. Preceptor Reginald Quirk, himself a 1976 graduate of Westfield House, and Tutor Brian Mosemann have both described the school as uniquely situated to provide a service to the greater church through a clear, consistent confession of scriptural truth. This teaching and sacramental faithfulness draws students from all over the world, and next year Westfield House will welcome three students from developing countries while also continuing to train and support students from other European nations and the United States.

The geography and international relationships of Westfield House and the ELCE have fostered this mission-oriented direction, and the result can be seen in the demographics of the Lutheran churches in England. For example, at least seven nations are represented in the small mission congregation in Oxford alone—Australia, Philippines, Canada, Finland, America, Britain, and Zimbabwe. Moreover, the increase of international students at Westfield House has been fed to a great degree by immigrants to England who are now providing indigenous clergy for the ELCE. When I received my vicarage placement at Resurrection Lutheran Church in April, I stood up with Tapani Simojoki from Finland, who was assigned a curacy at St. Andrews in Ruislip, and Jamie Kriger from Brazil, who will serve at Ascension in Suffolk. Eero Pihlava from Finland also received his curacy assignment after being trained at Westfield House and will return to Finland for his curacy with Luther Foundation.

Westfield House and the ELCE provide a lantern in the midst of a European community of churches darkened by

schism and a dwindling identity. By holding up a light of confessional Lutheranism, the ELCE provides dependable leadership for other churches struggling for theological integrity. This is facilitated both by the support of other churches as well as the manageable size of the ELCE church body.

Nagel observed in his sermon that “faithful treasuring of this clear Lutheran confession was the beginning of our Evangelical Lutheran Church of England, which lives on now in what is dedicated to our Lord’s words and their sowing in [Westfield] house today.” The still-relevant truths of Scripture continue to find expression in Westfield House and the ELCE as they are supported by

churches abroad while simultaneously lending their own global support and guidance. Here at Westfield House, I have found Nagel’s words to be true—“our theological studies are underway, strong in Scripture’s Hebrew and Greek—loaded words being loaded for delivery.” The Lord, finally, will decide where and when His words will bear fruit. And as she waits for the Lord in hope, this “plot for the Lord’s seeds” continues to sow that word into all the world. 🏠

Mr. Peter Brock attended Westfield House from 2007–2008 and is now going on vicarage to West Portal Lutheran Church in San Francisco, California.



Vicarage Placement Service. From left to right: Eero Philava—assigned to Luther Foundation in Finland; Pastor George Samiec—Australian native now serving the ELCE; Jaime Kriger from Brazil assigned to Ascension in Suffolk; Jonathan Rusnak (CSL) assigned to St. Luke’s Lutheran Church, Oviedo, Florida; Preceptor Reginald Quirk; Tapani Simojoki from Finland assigned to St. Andrews in Ruislip; Tutor Joel Humann; Aaron Roggow assigned to Trinity Lutheran Church, Baton Rouge, Louisiana; Andrew Yeager assigned to St. John Lutheran Church, Lawton, Oklahoma; Dr. Roger Humann from St. Catharines Seminary in Ontario; Kevin Spaeth assigned to Immanuel Lutheran Church, Pensacola, Florida; Peter Brock assigned to West Portal Lutheran Church, San Francisco, California; Tutor Brian Mosemann; Joshua LaFave assigned to Bethany Lutheran Church, Kaukauna, Wisconsin; Matthew Rasmussen who accepted a delayed vicarage.