

# THE SPRINGFIELDER

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## Editorials

### *Welcome to Our Finnish Brethren*

ON JANUARY 1, 1964, a very historic event took place in the life of the Missouri Synod. On this day the National Evangelical Lutheran Church formally and officially entered into the Missouri Synod. To our knowledge this is the first church body which has joined Missouri on a Synod-wide basis since the Illinois Synod joined us nearly a century ago. The Finnish brethren are particularly dear to the hearts of us here at Springfield, since all but one of their pastors is a graduate of the Springfield Seminary. We have the pleasure of having on our faculty Professor Aho who has ably served both in the department of Finnish and also in Homiletics, and prior to his time we had Professor Monto who handled Finnish and Science. The relations between the Missouri and Finnish Synods have been most cordial during all of these years and we here at Springfield have particularly appreciated this fine fellowship.

We welcome our Finnish brethren and pray God's blessing upon them in their new association. We feel that this union of members of the household of faith in which people of such varying national and linguistic backgrounds join together bodes well for the future of Lutheranism in America. We also welcome the fine contribution which the Finnish brethren have made to our Synod in their piety, their straight-forwardness, and their earnest love of God's Word.

We welcome you. We thank God you are with us and we look forward to a long and fruitful fellowship. *J.A.O. Preus*

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### *The Matriculation Mania and The Church*

The American Historical Association's *Newsletter* (April 1964), citing a recent survey of the U. S. Office of Education, notes that more than 4.5 million students enrolled last fall for degrees in America's 2,140 colleges and universities; and that "this breaks the record for the twelfth consecutive year. The total is 7.7 per cent higher than the 4.2 million in the fall of 1962." Significantly, "Public institutions accounted for 2.9 million students, an increase of 10.6 per cent over 1962. Private institutions had 1.6 million, an increase of 2.9 per cent." In other words, the per cent of increase is almost four to one in favor of public institutions.

We have come a long way from the time when private, church related colleges and universities dominated the scene of American higher education. But under a system of disestablishment the change was bound to come. Today it is in full swing. What does this

mania for matriculation at public institutions mean for the church today?

It is not the church's responsibility to educate the whole country. But the church can and should—indeed must—provide Christ-centered quality education for a maximum number of its people and others who may be interested. Moreover, and here is our special concern, the church must furnish in greater numbers adequate, well-trained, consecrated pastors and teachers to meet the needs, demands, and competition of an increasingly literate yet distressingly secular society, at home and abroad. This calls for more students in our colleges and seminaries, more matriculation in this direction.

The pastors and teachers of our Synod have always been in the forefront as recruiters for full-time church workers. Perhaps there is no more inspiring incentive to a prospective student than the example of the man of God who faithfully goes about his parish duties with love, courage, and joy; whose life reflects "the power of His resurrection." Brother, we mean you. Perhaps now and then a word of encouragement from you to a qualified prospect will, under God's blessing, result in gaining a member for the oldest "peace corps" on earth—the Gospel ministry. What greater contribution can you make?

E. H. H.

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The editors thank Prof. Arleigh Lutz, business manager of *The Springfielder*, for preparing an Index to the past five volumes. We are confident that the reader, too, will appreciate Prof. Lutz's painstaking effort to make this journal more serviceable.