

THE SPRINGFIELDER

Vol. XXVIII

Summer, 1964

No. 2

THE SPRINGFIELDER is published quarterly by the faculty of Concordia Theological Seminary, Springfield, Illinois, of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod.

EDITORIAL COMMITTEE

ERICH H. HEINTZEN, *Editor*

RICHARD P. JUNGKUNTZ, *Book Review Editor*

EUGENE F. KLUG, *Associate Editor*

MARK J. STEEGE, *Associate Editor*

PRESIDENT J. A. O. PREUS, *ex officio*

Contents

Page

EDITORIAL

- "Strive to excel in building up the church."
I Cor. 14:12..... 3

- THE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH OF
FINLAND: A Brief Survey of its History, Organiza-
tion and Doctrinal Complexion..... 7
Gerhard Aho, Professor, Department of Practical
Theology

- AN EXEGETICAL-DEVOTIONAL STUDY OF II PETER
1:16-21..... 18
Paul E. Jacobs, Pastor, San Mateo, California

- BOOK REVIEWS..... 31

- BOOKS RECEIVED..... 46

Indexed in INDEX TO RELIGIOUS PERIODICAL LITERATURE, published by the American Theological Library Association, Speer Library, Princeton Theological Seminary, Princeton, New Jersey.

Clergy changes of address reported to Concordia Publishing House, St. Louis, Missouri, will also cover mailing change of *The Springfielder*. Other changes of address should be sent to the Business Manager of *The Springfielder*, Concordia Theological Seminary, Springfield, Illinois.

Address communications to the Editor, Erich H. Heintzen, Concordia Theological Seminary, Springfield, Illinois.

Business correspondence should be addressed to Arleigh Lutz, Concordia Theological Seminary, Springfield, Illinois.

Editorial

"Strive to excel in building up the church"—I Cor. 14:12.

BEFORE WE KNOW IT the Detroit Convention will be upon us. For those of us who are in the work of educating pastors, a church convention is always a momentous occasion. The church conventions establish additional professorships, authorize funds for the construction of new buildings, give approval (or disapproval) to the work which we have done, and above all give the directions which the institutions are to take during the time until the next convention.

We here at Springfield have been going through some extremely interesting and exciting times in the past several years. While we are still serving our historic purpose of training qualified older men, we have seen almost a complete change in the curricular program which has resulted in the lowering of the number of hours, the reducing of the number of courses required, the introduction of concentrations and research electives, the acceptance of the school into the American Association of Theological Schools, the requirement of the Bachelor's degree for entrance for men under 25 years of age, and the awarding of the Bachelor of Divinity degree, with the result that today about 75 per cent of our students have the Bachelor's degree upon admission. During the past several years we have also seen the upgrading of our faculty academically. By the time of the Detroit Convention over half of our faculty will have earned the Doctor's degree. During this same period we have dropped the pre-theological department and have experienced a consequent drop in our overall student enrollment, although the number of candidates being graduated each year to enter the Holy Ministry will drop below the one hundred figure only once. In the last five years Springfield has averaged 95 candidates as opposed to an average of 45 in the five preceding years. Thus we have more than doubled in output of men. Enrollment prospects for the future are excellent, and we have reason to believe and rejoice in the fact that the changes which have been made have been well received by the great majority of the Church and that these changes are going to produce ministers who will be well-qualified for the arduous and exacting work which the modern ministry requires. We have also been happy to see a considerable number of our Candidates placed as professors in various of our synodical schools. Several of our graduates have gone on to take graduate study in various fields in America and abroad. We have been particularly impressed with the fact that our students are interested in foreign missions. Many have been placed in foreign calls, and we pray that this trend will continue. The introduction of the Clinical Training Program and of courses which prepare for more specialized ministries and for the mission field are also steps which we feel will serve to help us in striving "to excel in building up the church."

The present student body is made up of students who are graduates of over 80 colleges in the United States, Canada, and several foreign countries. Several of our students came to us with Masters' degrees. We have been gratified also that an increasing number of students at the Senior College have been applying for admission and we feel that this closer association with the other schools of the system is good both for the system and for Springfield. It is now possible for students to enter Springfield either via the system or non-church related colleges. The net result has been a very fine process of cross fertilization whereby people who have spent all of their life in church-related schools rub elbows with people who have never spent any time in a church school until they entered the Seminary. Both groups of students profit from the experience. Another trend which has been of interest is that a considerable number of Lutheran school teachers enter the Seminary for the study of theology.

The old term "practical Seminary" has virtually disappeared. Both seminaries are teaching virtually the same curriculum, at the same level, and producing men of the same caliber. In a nuclear age which calls for an awareness of the world in which we live no church can be satisfied with two classes of clergymen. All must be of top quality. The world in which we live demands the best the church can produce in both its schools. All must "strive to excel for the upbuilding of the church."

The Board for Higher Education has asked each school in the system to conduct a ten year study with particular reference to faculty needs and plant expansion. We feel that the Board for Higher Education has shown rare insight and perception in asking each school to sit down and analyze its own position, problems, and aspirations. It is our intention to involve the entire faculty and staff in this work with the thought that in so doing every person associated with the school will develop a better sense of direction and purpose in his work.

In this connection it is our hope that the Synod, at Detroit, will grant funds for the erection of a sorely needed Administration Building.

We also will ask Synod to help the school complete its Chapel project which has been going on for a considerable number of years. The alumni have done a superb service in raising \$250,000 toward this project and they must, and will, continue to support the school generously. It seems axiomatic that a school of the prophets ought to have a chapel in which both worship services and the on-going educational program in homiletics, liturgics, and speech, can be conducted in a worshipful and suitable atmosphere. Yet it seems that for the two seminaries chapels have often received the lowest priority. We sincerely hope that the Detroit convention will welcome the opportunity to help Springfield complete its project and also look with favor upon the request of our sister Seminary.

Since two-thirds of the present student body are married, and since this trend seems to be up rather than down, the need for married students housing has become exceedingly pressing. The next ten years we certainly hope will see the erection of comfortable and adequate housing for at least a portion of our married students on the campus.

The Synod must dedicate itself to providing the facilities to make its seminaries the great institutions necessary for a great church.

Projections of college growth indicate that by 1970 there will be 10 million students in American colleges and universities. The Missouri Synod can probably expect to have about a hundred thousand of its young people in higher education, with about sixty or sixty-five thousand of them men. In the summer of 1964 various of the universities in the State of Illinois have had to limit enrollment, and the University of Illinois for the first time in its history closed its admissions office and turned away on one day 2800 applications. The growth of college population is going to continue at a fearful rate, and we can expect that the seminaries will reflect this growth. It is not being utopian to believe that by 1975 the enrollment on our Springfield Campus will probably be well over the 600 mark with between four and five hundred students on campus. To offset this, of course, is the fact that the earning power of our nation and of the members of our Church will be correspondingly increased. Even these figures, however, do not indicate that we will be able to supply the needs for pastors to serve both in North America and as missionaries throughout the world. Recruitment still continues to be the greatest problem facing, not only the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, but the entire Christian Church. Recruitment ought to be the concern not only of our schools, but of every parent, lay person, pastor and official in our church.

We are sharing some of these thoughts with our clergy, both to prepare their thinking for the Detroit Convention, and also to get their reactions and opinions. We feel that the Church ought to know what its Springfield Seminary is doing. If any of our readers have words of wisdom and advice, we would be most delighted to hear from them.

As one looks about him in this frightened and troubled world, one is constantly reminded of the unceasing need for pastors. Christ's on-going admonition that we must pray the Lord of the harvest that He would send laborers into His harvest ought to be daily in our thoughts. Yet all of this must be done with a genuine striving to excel. We cannot settle for the mediocre or the second rate. We dare never be satisfied with less than competent and enlightened leadership in our Church. It is the aim of the Springfield Seminary to build an outstanding faculty, who will be working under the best possible conditions with young men of the highest ability and dedication, that they may go out and bring the greatest message that the world can ever hear to people who are daily dying

in their sins. Christ is the Light of the World and this Light must be held high. All who seek to serve Him must strive for excellence in every way. It is our prayer and desire that we here at Springfield may not only strive to excel but may encourage everyone in our Church to join hands in this blessed venture.

J.A.O. Preus