

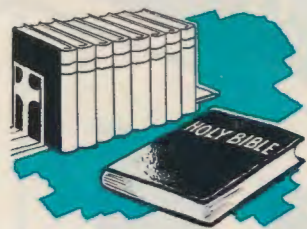
Bellevue Education - W.P.C. - 7/5 YF
Educational
Elementary

The Lutheran Elementary School



The Lutheran Point of View in Education

The Lutheran point of view in education is based on the Bible. Lutherans regard the Bible as the Word of God, and the truths of the Bible and their application to life form the fundamental principles of Lutheran education. These basic truths are the following:



1. There is a God, and only one God, the Triune God — Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

2. God created man and the universe by His almighty power.

3. God created the first human beings perfect and righteous — but they disobeyed God's will and sinned. Because of the sin of our first parents all men are by nature sinful.

4. God so loved the world that He gave His only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ, to die for it. Whoever believes in Him will not perish but have everlasting life.

5. Man is unable by his own strength or reason to believe in Jesus as His Savior, but the Holy Ghost works faith in him through God's Word and the Sacraments.

6. The child or adult that has come to faith in Jesus as his Savior is a different person. He is eager to do the will of his heavenly Father. He seeks to carry out God's two great commandments: "Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart" and "Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself."

7. Christian education must be Bible-based, Christ-centered, and life-directed. As the individual is taught the Word of God, the Holy Spirit works faith in him and helps him to grow in Christian faith and life. The description of Christian education given in 2 Tim. 3: 15-17 shows clearly the purpose of Christian education. "From a child thou has known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus. All Scripture is given by inspiration of God and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works."

The basic truths of Scripture provide guidance for Christian

parents and for the Church in setting up an educational program. They define the relationship of man to God and to his neighbor. They emphasize the eternal values that are basic to a program of Christian education.

The Christian Home as a Basic Agency of Christian Education

The education of a child begins in the home, and Christian parents are the child's most important teachers. God speaks very earnestly to the Church and to parents on the importance of Christian education. He says: "These words which I command thee this day shall be in thine heart; and thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children" (Deut. 6:6-7). And again: "Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it" (Prov. 22:6).

In obedience to God's commands, Christian parents are much concerned about the Christian training of their children. They realize that this training has both temporal and eternal consequences. Christian training brings joy, pleasure, peace, and contentment on earth. It also provides for eternal happiness. For these reasons Christian parents show their concern for Christian education and training by teaching their children the truths of God's Word and by giving them the example of a Christian life. They tell their children Bible stories; they teach them about the love of Jesus for sinners, they instruct them in the will of God. As the children are taught to love God and all mankind, to pray, to be obedient, and in general, to do good and to avoid evil, they are receiving Christian training. Such training is consistent with the basic truths of Scripture we have enumerated.



The Educational Program of the Missouri Synod

God's teaching command in Matt. 28:19-20: "Go ye, therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Ghost, teaching them to observe all things

whatsoever I have commanded you," is a comprehensive teaching command to the Church. The Missouri Synod has throughout its history emphasized the need for effective Christian education and has developed plans and procedures for carrying on an effective educational program.



To aid parents in the Christian education of their children, the congregations of the Missouri Synod have established a variety of educational agencies — Sunday Schools, Saturday Schools, Vacation Bible Schools, Weekday Classes, Confirmation Instruction, Nursery Classes, Bible Classes, Lutheran Elementary Schools, and Lutheran High Schools. All of these teaching agencies have the common aim of bringing the individual to faith in Jesus Christ, of helping

him to grow in faith, to grow in holiness of living, and of preserving him in his saving faith. For those who have been brought to faith the aim of Christian education is growth in sanctification, which Dr. C. F. W. Walther once defined as follows:

1. An ever-increasing enlightenment of the mind.
2. An ever-increasing cleanliness and renewal of the heart.
3. An ever-increasing eagerness in a life of good works.

While all agencies of Christian education seek to achieve the aims of Christian education, the Missouri Synod has repeatedly emphasized that these aims are best achieved in full-time schools rather than in part-time agencies.

The Special Values of Lutheran Elementary Schools

The Lutheran elementary school is the best means for effective Christian instruction and training for several reasons: (1) it is staffed by trained teachers; (2) it provides adequate time for Christian education; (3) it provides for the integration of religion with general education.

Trained Teachers.—The teachers in Lutheran elementary schools are professional Christian teachers. They have the academic preparation necessary for effective teaching, including an understanding of

subject matter to be taught, an understanding of methods of teaching, and a knowledge of child psychology. All these understandings and skills they focus on the Christian education of the child. Trained teachers make it possible to provide effective Christian education.

Adequate Time for Christian Education.—Lutheran elementary schools provide the maximum amount of time for Christian education. Not only is there a daily period of instruction in the Word of God, but the Christian point of view is applied to the entire instructional program of the school. In reality, the entire school day is devoted to Christian education.

This does not mean that the education of the children in the so-called secular subjects is neglected. Lutheran elementary schools provide an educational program that compares favorably with the curriculum of the best public and private schools. The record of graduates of Lutheran elementary schools in high school and college is proof that in addition to providing effective Christian education, Lutheran elementary schools provide effective general education.

Integration of Religion with the Rest of the School Program.—In the Lutheran elementary school the Word of God influences everything that the children learn, and serves as a unifying and organizing force in the school program. In teaching History, for example, the Christian teacher emphasizes the sovereignty of God and asserts that historical events are not haphazard, but are foreknown and utilized by an omniscient God for His purposes. In Reading and Literature, God's Word provides a guide to evaluate the point of view expressed by various authors. In Science, the Christian teacher points to the manifestation of God's greatness and His love for man. God's Word is also the basis of motivation, discipline, and guidance—indeed the entire training of the child is based on Christian principles. God's Word is the foundation, the supporting structure, and the cement that binds together the entire school program. This integration of religion with the total school program makes possible effective Christian education.



History of Lutheran Elementary Schools

Elementary education in full-time schools was early given impressive attention by the Lutheran Church in America. Long before the State systems of education were developed, the Church had in operation its own system of education. This was a natural result of the fundamental principle of the Reformation that men are saved by faith in Christ, without the mediation of a priest, ceremony, or Church, and that the authority of the Bible is supreme. If the individual was accountable for his own salvation, it was necessary that he be taught to read the Scriptures. If he was to read the Scriptures, however, he must first be taught to read.



For this reason the Church urged universal education as a right and a necessity.

Parochial schools were the first educational agency to be established by the congregations of the Missouri Synod. So concerned were the founders of the Synod with the Christian education of their children that they set for themselves the goal: "No church without a school." While this goal has not been realized, the Missouri Synod has emphasized for over one hundred years that the most effective agency of elementary Christian education is the parochial school. In 1950 there were 1,148 Lutheran elementary schools in the United States and Canada, with an enrollment of 92,146 pupils and a teaching force of 3,037.

The Training of Lutheran Teachers

The Missouri Synod has recognized from the beginning that it needed trained teachers for its Lutheran elementary schools. To prepare these teachers two teachers' colleges are maintained, one at River Forest, Illinois, the other at Seward, Nebraska. In addition, a number of synodical junior colleges — Winfield, Kansas; St. Paul, Minnesota; Oakland, California; Fort Wayne, Indiana — provide facilities for pre-teacher training. From these colleges have come the largest number of teachers now serving in Lutheran elementary schools. Without these training institutions it would be impossible to

maintain an effective system of Christian schools, for there can be no program of Christian education without Christian teachers.

The training program at the teachers' colleges emphasizes knowledge of subject matter, including Religion, methods of teaching, and understanding of children. The consecrated men and women who have prepared themselves for the teaching profession are ready to carry out the Savior's command, "Feed My lambs."

What Others Say About Lutheran Schools

An assistant superintendent of public schools in one of our large cities writes as follows: "In my present position I am in frequent contact with the high schools. There I continually hear the teachers sing the praises of the pupils from the Lutheran schools, and I find that the pupils from your schools show an entirely different attitude toward their work than ours do; your children are trained to know that when something is assigned to them, it is to be done — and it is done."

This same man writes that when he was principal of a high school, his school received pupils from one of the Lutheran elementary schools. "And these," he wrote, "were our model pupils."

This leader in public education concludes with the statement: "I have the highest respect for the Lutheran schools."

The driver in charge of a motor bus which transported about thirty pupils to and from a Lutheran school in Chicago, made the request that his own three children be permitted to enroll. Why? For three months, he said, he had observed the fine conduct of the pupils from this school and wished his children to attend such a school.

An executive officer of the Detroit Edison Company in addressing an applicant said: "You attended a Lutheran school? A better reference no one can give. We're glad to have boys and girls from Lutheran schools."

Mr. Homer C. Culley, a Lutheran layman, writes: "The Lutheran school has aided tremendously in developing the Christian attitudes of our oldest boy. . . . Most important of all, the Lutheran school is giving our boy a deeper appreciation of what it means to have Jesus Christ as a personal Savior. . . . After witnessing the benefits my oldest son has received from his attendance at the Lutheran school, my wife and I feel fully rewarded for the efforts we are putting forth to enable him to attend this school. We look forward with genuine pleasure to the day when two more of our sons will be privileged to attend this school."



OBJECTIVES
of the
LUTHERAN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

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1. Diligent teaching of God's Word in obedience to divine command.
2. Provision for both the temporal and eternal welfare of the child by means of an integrated Christian education.
3. Thorough indoctrination of the pupil in the fundamentals of Christianity.
4. Protection of the pupil against the dangers of a purely secular schooling.
5. Daily Christian pupil fellowship as one of the most powerful factors in building character and training in Christian living.
6. Christian citizenship grounded in obedience to God and His Word.

