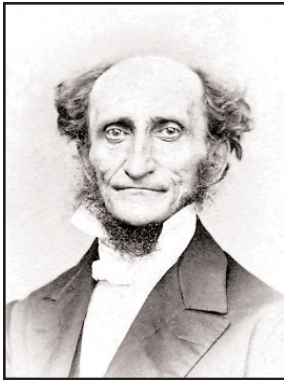




Old Walther Papers Newly Discovered

by William Wangelin



Dr. C. F. W. Walther

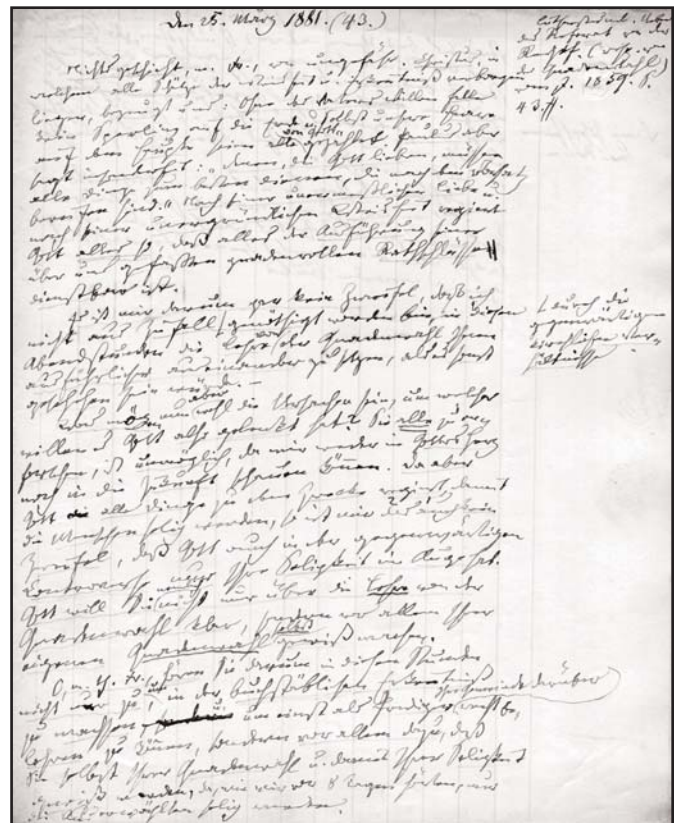
The archives are a place for discovery. Things are continually being discovered that evoke new thoughts and feelings about the past and that often have a surprising relevance to the church today. A recent place for discovery at CHI has been the "Unidentified Manuscript Collection." Several boxes, filled with handwritten German documents, were put together in the 1950s and '60s, waiting for someone like me to identify the "unidentified."

I discovered a number of things in the box. Some were more important than others. The most significant, however, were numerous manuscripts from C.F.W. Walther's evening lectures, the "Lutherstunden," or "Hours with Luther." They were immediately recognized as bearing Walther's distinct handwriting. His handwriting is, in a word, sloppy. On the other hand, Walther with great care and precision wrote the date, the number of the lecture, the topic and his main points. The *Lutherstunden* discovered span the years 1873-1886 and deal mainly with Walther's evening lectures on justification.

When you hear of Walther's evening lectures, or even simply the name Walther, you may think of his most famous book, *The Proper Distinction between Law and Gospel*. It is a classic in the truest sense of the word. Yet Walther's most famous book was actually not written as a book. It is a posthumous composite collection of Walther's notes and students' notes on his evening lectures on Law and Gospel given from 1884 to 1886. His lectures on Law and Gospel are actually the last in a series of *Lutherstunden* lectures from 1873 until 1886. In order to print Walther's *Law and Gospel*, his notes were combined with the notes from several students and after some edit-

ing and translating—voila!—Walther's most famous book.

So Walther's evening lectures are much more than *Law and Gospel*. What other topics were there? Walther sought to prepare young men in the seminary for the important issues they would face in their ministries. He dealt with Luther's *Great Confession on the Lord's Supper*, secret societies, the truth and divine origin of the Christian religion, the inspiration of the Holy Scriptures, and also the doctrine of justification.



Walther's notes for his evening lecture on justification (and election), held Friday, March 25, 1881. The first lines read, "Nothing happens, my friends, by accident. Christ, in whom all treasures of wisdom and knowledge lay hidden, testifies to this when he says, 'Not even a sparrow falls to the ground apart from the father's will, and even the hairs of our head are numbered by God.'"

Imagine the setting: In the upper room of old Concordia Seminary on Jefferson Avenue, in 19th-century St. Louis, on Friday evening, Walther stands with his notes in one hand and his pipe in the other. (Some of his pipes are on display at CHI.) The students assemble and sit wherever they can find space. They wait with awe and reverence for their noble teacher to speak. Some sit quietly, soaking

(Continued from page one - Walther Papers)

it in. Others write vigorously taking notes. There are also a few notable clergymen present and a few interested laymen. Walther would read from books that were centuries old, quoting Luther and the orthodox Lutheran fathers such as Chemnitz, Gerhard, and Quenstedt, carefully building support for each thesis. One of Walther's biographers, D. H. Steffens, said that in these lectures Walther would talk to his students as a father talks to his sons. When the hour had passed, the books were closed and the students went to bed, thinking thoughts of theology and its application, wondering where Walther would take them the following week.

Walther states the purpose of these lectures the following way:

While in my dogmatic lectures I aim to ground you in every doctrine and make you certain of it, I have designed these evening lectures on Fridays for making you really practical theologians. I wish to talk the Christian doctrine into your very hearts, enabling you in your future calling to come forward as living witnesses with a demonstration of the Spirit and of power. I do not want you to stand in your pulpits like lifeless statues, but to speak with confidence and with cheerful courage offer help where help is needed. (*Law and Gospel*, CPH, p. 5)

The "newly discovered" Walther notes give us Walther's own outlines for 132 sessions of his evening lectures. Most of them are two or three pages of notes, intended to give a general outline of his presentation. They are handwritten on small, octavo-sized pieces of paper. They cover mainly Walther's theses on justification given from September 1876 to November 1877, and his theses on justification and election given from September 1879 to March 1884. There are also several loose pages from lectures in 1873, 1878, and 1886.

Someone familiar with LCMS history will understand why the topic of justification and election covers so many lectures over 4 1/2 years. This was during the great Predestination Controversy in which the Missouri Synod was pitted against other synods in the Synodical Conference and other Lutheran churches overseas over the issue of how God predestines his people for salvation. Walther was the central figure in the debate, and he fought tenaciously for the conservative Lutheran position. While the Missouri Synod remained true to its confession throughout the debate, this controversy separated many other Lutherans from the Synodical Conference and destroyed Walther's dream of a united confessional Lutheran church body in America. Through these evening lectures Walther was able to carefully explain to his students the complexity and gravity of the controver-

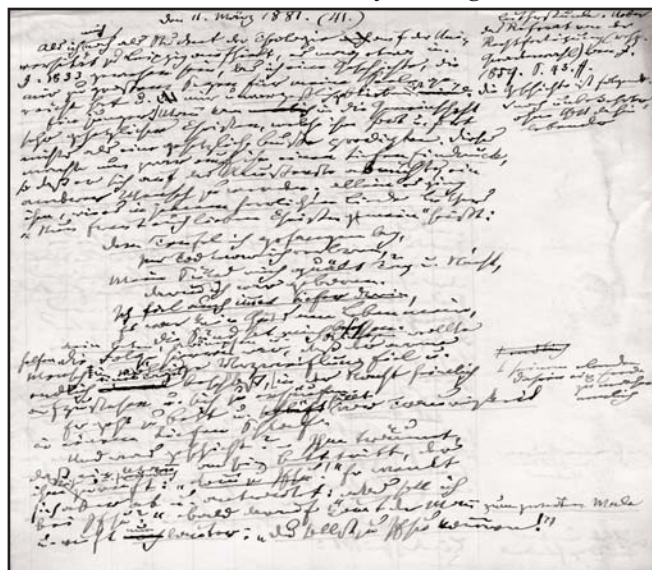


Bill Wangelin and the Walther papers

sy and how it affected their ministries and commitment to the Lutheran Confessions.

There is still much work that needs to be done on Walther's evening lectures. Some of the students' notes that have been handed down to us are in German shorthand, which is very difficult to read. Other manuscripts are in German script and first need to be transcribed or typed out, then translated, organized and edited. If this work can be done, however, it may turn out that Walther's famous *Law and Gospel* is but one of a series of Walther's important contributions to Lutheran theology and practice.

These newly discovered documents show us that while stuff in the archives may be considered "old," there is still much yet to be discovered, even regarding a man as carefully researched and studied as C.F.W. Walther. If there is an item of history that interests you, come look it up in the archives. Who knows what you might discover.



Walther's notes for his lecture given on March 11, 1881. The first line reads "When I was a student of Theology at the University of Leipzig, it was about the year 1833 when I read a story that was a great blessing for my soul."

Genealogical Resources

For those of our readers who are interested in family history and genealogy, the following news and resources may be of interest.

❖ Lutheran family historians looking for data about family members and ancestors may consult the "Genealogy Exchange" at the Web site "Lutherans Online," hosted by Thrivent Financial for Lutherans. Point your web-browser to: www.lutheransonline.com. If you are a Thrivent policy holder, you can use your Thrivent Financial user ID and password to add your own family history data to the Web site. Other persons may consult the site for information, but cannot add their family data to the online site.

❖ There is now a single published source in English that describes all of the public archives in Germany: Raymond S. Wright III, Nathan S. Rives, Mirjam J. Kirkham, and Saskia Schier Bunting, *Ancestors in German Archives* (Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., Inc., 2004) [ISBN 0-8063-1747-7]. 1188 pages. The Institute's library has a copy of this book (shelved at LC# CS 614 A53 2004). The archives are organized by German province, then listed alphabetically by locale. Each archive listing includes complete postal address, telephone, fax, and Web site address; as well as a detailed explanation of the type of archives available at each address. All German cities and towns are indexed, so that you can find which archive would hold the records for which locality. We suggest purchasing a copy for your local genealogical library, so that when you have gleaned the data you need for your family, others can benefit from this comprehensive source too.

❖ During World War II soldiers in Germany who wanted to join the Waffen SS and all government employees

had to submit ancestor charts to the government. The collected "Ahnentafeln" were captured by the Americans, and deposited with the US National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) after the war. There are 7,800 microfilm rolls, with as many as 14 million person names, dating in some cases back to the 17th century. These are part of NARA Record Group 242 at College Park, MD (301-837-2000); www.archives.gov/dc-metro/college-park. For persons of German ancestry with access to the College Park facility and ability to read German, this may open up many family branches previously unknown. For more information, go to: www.archives.gov/research/captured-german-records.

❖ If you use online web resources, beware the possibility of paying for duplicate records. The February 2007 issue of *Family Tree Magazine* reported that Ancestry.com, RootsWeb, Genealogy.com, and FamilyTreeMaker are all under the corporate umbrella of MyFamily.com (pages 8-9). Their services thus access the same databases, with minor variations. It also noted that Heritage Quest and MyFamily.com share genealogical records. The magazine recommends that you compare what collections are available before you subscribe to any online resource. Also check with your local public library or genealogical library to see what electronic or printed resources are available there before paying for your own.

❖ *Family Tree Magazine* has been publishing a useful series of inserts called "State Research Guides." Each insert includes an article about doing family history research in a particular state in the US, followed by listings of useful Web sites, printed resources, historical societies, genealogical societies, libraries, archives, and historic sites in that state. For more information, point your browser to: www.familytreemagazine.com/stateguides.

Upcoming CHI Events



Dr. Francis Pieper

We invite you to attend the twelfth annual Pieper Lectures to be held at Concordia Seminary in St. Louis on September 27-28, 2007. The theme for the lectures this year will be "Evangelicalism and the Missouri Synod."

Registration begins in summer 2007. For more information contact Patrice Russo at 314-505-7945 or e-mail her at prusso@chi.lcms.org

The Biennial Conference on Archives and History will be held at Concordia Seminary in St. Louis on October 25-27, 2007. The theme this year will be "Preserving the Church's Story." A registration form will be mailed in summer 2007 inviting LCMS and LWML district archivists to attend.

If you are a congregational or organizational archivist and would like to receive registration information regarding the conference please contact Patrice Russo at 314-505-7945 or e-mail her at prusso@chi.lcms.org

Photos Tell a Story

Among the more popular and often-sought-after resources in the Institute's collection are thousands of photographs. Pastors, teachers, churches, school buildings, convention attendees, graduating classes, missionaries, and mission facilities are among the many subjects represented. The collection represents a rich resource for illustrating congregational anniversary books and family histories. Our reference department answers many requests each year for printed copies or scanned images of the photographs in our holdings.

In recent years we have been working to bring many of the photos together into an organized special collection to make it easier to retrieve them in response to requests. Bernice Malec, one of our long-time volunteers, has been working patiently to identify photographs, place them into protective archival sleeves, and file them by subject in archival boxes. At times it can be a daunting task.

The old saying goes, "A picture is worth a thousand words." Well, that may be true sometimes, but if the picture is unidentified, it isn't generally worth very much. Over the years we have received many photographs of individuals, families, large groups of attendees at some sort of meeting, conference, or convention, and church buildings that have little or no identification of the people, place, or occasion depicted in the image. Bernice works with clues in the images themselves or on the backs of the photos to make a proper identification. Unfortunately, this is not always possible to achieve.

Thus far the photo collection consists of approximately 37.5 linear feet of personal photographs; 22 linear feet of photos of churches, schools, and other institutions arranged by geographical location; almost 6 linear feet of photos related to organizations, their conventions, meetings, and activities; and another 6 linear feet of photos related to Concordia Seminary in Saint Louis. In addition, many of our large archival and manuscript collections contain large series of photos and slides, including many thousands of slides documenting the Missouri Synod's worldwide mission activities.

The work that Bernice has been doing makes it much easier to locate specific images in response to requests. To

make that process even more efficient, we are beginning to develop a database for the collection. Images that have been scanned in response to reference requests are preserved in electronic form for future use.

The Institute is eager to receive photographic collections related to the history of Lutheranism in America, particularly photos of pastors, teachers, and other church workers; churches, schools, and other institutions; and special occasions and events. It is important that such items be identified as specifically as possible with dates, names, and places. Do not write on the surface of the images and use only a soft pencil or special photo-marking pencil to record information on the back. We are especially interested in candid photos of events and activities from the late 19th and early 20th centuries. If you have items you might consider donating to the collection, please contact us.



Bernice Malec organizes the photo collection.

The Concordia Seminary Institute on Lay Vocation at Saint Louis will be sponsoring—in the first of a series of annual events leading up to the Reformation Quincentenary 2017—*German Days at the Sem* on October 12-13, 2007. The topic will be "The State of Faith in the Land of Luther Today." The speakers will include the former presiding bishop of the German state church, Dr. Hans Knuth; the former presiding bishop of the Lutheran Free Church, Dr. Jobst Schöne; several other German theologians; the editor-in-chief of the *Rheinischer Merkur* newspaper, Prof. Michael Rutz; faculty members of the seminary; and Dr. Uwe Siemon-Netto. For more information, point your web-browser to: www.csl.edu or www.concordia.typepad.com/vocation/

GENERAL GERHARDT W. HYATT: A SERVANT OF GOD AND COUNTRY

Rev. Gerhardt Hyatt lived a prominent life. He was a general in the United States Army; chief of chaplains; president of Concordia College, Saint Paul, Minnesota; and vice president of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod.

In 1916 Gerhardt Hyatt was born in Melfort, Saskatchewan, Canada, where his father, a Lutheran pastor, was serving in the Saskatchewan mission field. Hyatt attended schools in the synodical education system until his 1944 graduation from Concordia Seminary, Saint Louis. His first position was as pastor to Our Savior Lutheran Church in Raleigh, North Carolina. While serving there, he responded to the call that went out for chaplains to serve in World War II. He was commissioned as a first lieutenant in the Army Chaplain Corps in June 1945. He served out the war as a transport chaplain in the Pacific. This was the beginning of a momentous career in the chaplaincy.

Chaplain Hyatt joined Task Force Smith in 1950. He served the men of the 21st Infantry Regiment of the

24th Division. This was the first army unit to confront the enemy in the Korean War. On October 24, 1950, Chaplain Hyatt wrote in a report to the Armed Services Commission (ASC):

Our troops are so scattered in this type of fighting that it takes two services a day to cover them. Then we have been moving constantly which doesn't make it easy to write. . . . We are all praying for a winter someplace else besides Korea.¹

Just a few months later, they had a bit of a reprieve. On January 10, 1951, Chaplain Hyatt wrote:

For the first time in this war, our regiment is in reserve. We are parked in a rice-paddie, presumably out of contact with the enemy. However, snow has become a second enemy and we have approximately 8 inches which fell last night.

He continues about a previous escape:

Our experience in escaping Seoul was more terrifying because of its noisiness and spookiness than because of the actual danger. The heavy snow fall and the flames reflected in the snowy sky, plus the noise of artillery and night bombing and strafing outdid any Cecil B. De Mille job I have ever seen. I believe the Lord heard from many characters that night from whom He had not heard for many years?²

Chaplain Hyatt commented in both letters about the use and appreciation of the items the ASC mailed out to Lutheran servicemen. On October 24 he noted that the last shipment of *Portals of Prayer* was gone within the week. For his service in Korea, Hyatt received a battlefield promotion to captain and was awarded the Bronze Star, the U.S. Distinguished Unit emblem, and the Republic of Korea Presidential Unit Citation.

In 1952 Rev. Hyatt joined the staff of the chief of chaplains in the Pentagon. In this assignment he helped design modern army chapel centers. After attending and graduating from the Command and General Staff College, he returned to Washington, D.C., as part of the Army General Staff. In 1963 he was selected to attend the Army War College, the highest level of military education in the Department of the Army. At this time he also stud-



Major General Gerhardt W. Hyatt, Chief of Chaplains, 1971-1976

Historical Footnotes is a quarterly publication of Concordia Historical Institute (CHI). The Institute is the Department of Archives and History of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, and is a not-for-profit corporation registered in the State of Missouri.

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For additional information about the Institute and its services call (314) 505-7900 or consult its Web site: <http://chi.lcms.org>
For historical or research questions call (314) 505-7935 or send a message to: reference@chi.lcms.org

(continued from page 5 - General Hyatt)

ied for a Master of Arts in International Affairs from George Washington University.

Chaplain Hyatt then went to Europe first as division chaplain, 3rd Armored Division; and later as deputy chaplain, U.S. Army, Europe. He served as the director of personnel and ecclesiastical relations from 1966 to 1968. Then he assumed the position of senior staff chaplain in Vietnam. In 1970 he was promoted to brigadier general and became deputy chief of chaplains. The following year he was promoted to chief of chaplains, having been nominated for appointment to the position by President Richard Nixon. He was the first foreign-born chief of chaplains in any United States service branch. General Hyatt retired in 1976 with the rank of major general.

Despite all of his military accomplishments, Gerhardt Hyatt was not just a high-ranking military chaplain, he was foremost a churchman. During his time in Washington, D.C., he helped to establish two parishes in the area: St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Falls Church, Virginia (1952), and Grace Lutheran Church in Woodbridge, Virginia (1959).

Upon his retirement from the military chaplaincy, Rev. Hyatt served as a consultant to the LCMS Foundation, as president of Concordia College, St. Paul, Minnesota, and in the presidium of the Missouri Synod (elected fourth vice president in 1981 and second vice president in 1983). Rev. Hyatt served his church until his final day, and died on August 30, 1985, after suffering a heart attack.

¹ "With Our Chaplains in Korea," *The Lutheran Chaplain* 11, no. 6 (November-December 1950): 22.

² Gerhardt Hyatt to Kenneth Ahl, 10 January 1951, Armed Services Commission Chaplain Files, Concordia Historical Institute.



The two photos above show Chaplain Hyatt conducting a service for "C" company, 21st Infantry Regiment, 24th Division, before crossing the Naktong River. (Korea, January 1951)



A graduate reception was held at the Institute on April 14th to honor graduating Concordia Seminary students. Seminarians and their spouses look at the display in the museum that features Rev. Henry F. Gerecke and the letter written to his wife by the prisoners at Nuremberg asking her to allow Rev. Gerecke to stay with them and attend to their spiritual needs for the remainder of the trial. (l-r: Bill and Kristin Wangelin, Sarah and Micah Greiner)

✝ Memorials

Dr. Julius A. Walther by Mrs. Marie T. Bergmann
 Rev. Roland Seboldt by Mrs. Natalie Wehrmann
 Laura Pagel Hieber by Mr. & Mrs. Charles Hieber
 Rev. George L. Draper, Sr., by Rev. & Mrs.
 Eugene Juergensen
 Luise D. Mueller by Rev. John Stieve
 Alfred and Elsa Manske by Mr. Paul Manske
 Rev. George T. Shibata, DD, by Mrs. Makiko Shibata
 Rev. Walter O. Speckhard by Mr. Thomas Speckhard
 Heinrich F. Hoelter by Dr. & Mrs. Martin Noland
 Martin Schroeder by Rev. & Mrs. Eugene Juergensen

Honors

Donation given by Mr. Harvey Wilkening, Jr., in honor of service to the church and community by Diane Soderstrom



Dr. Thomas Manteufel of Concordia Seminary, Saint Louis, presenting the final installment of his transcription and translation of C.F.W. Walther's 1885-86 evening lectures on "The Inspiration of Holy Scriptures."

The nineteenth annual Walther Round Table was convened at Concordia Historical Institute on April 11, 2007, in the Institute's conference room.

Dr. Martin Noland demonstrated the Institute's new CD-ROM publication, "Doctrinal Resolutions of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod 1847-2004."

Dr. Thomas Manteufel presented the final installment of his transcription and translation of C.F.W. Walther's 1885-86 evening lectures on "The Inspiration of Holy Scriptures."

The Walther Round Table



Dr. Albert Collver, of LCMS World Relief & Human Care Ministries, presenting his paper on "Walther on Church and Ministry."

Dr. Albert Collver presented his paper on "Walther on Church and Ministry." A committee was formed to explore the feasibility of publishing Walther's works in English. The meeting closed with devotions by the Rev. Glen Thomas, a Concordia Seminary vice president.



CHI AUXILIARY NEWS

Left: Jonah Burakowski, a third-year student at Concordia Seminary, Saint Louis, spoke at the Auxiliary luncheon that was held in Wartburg Dining Hall on May 10th.

Jonah is a Civil War re-enactor and historian. His topic at the luncheon was "Civil War—St. Louis & Missouri."

Jonah's Civil War items are currently on display in the museum exhibit at the Institute that features LCMS Military Chaplains.

Please visit our museum to learn about military chaplains and the vital role they play during war and peacetime.



Director Martin Noland installed Connie Seddon as vice president and Pauline Kolb as secretary of the Auxiliary at the May meeting.

Historical Footnotes

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TO OUR FRIENDS OF HISTORY:



SUMMER 2007 ISSUE

*Thank you, volunteers, for your dedication to the work of
Concordia Historical Institute.*



First row, l-r: Ken Gornet, Betty and Werner Krause, Ross Wagner

Second row, l-r: Cookie Brauer, Bernice and Bob Malec, Lois Schoech, Joann Palmer, Barbara Huggins