

Secundum Lilia

NEWS FROM THE CENTER
FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF
LUTHERAN LIBERAL ARTS
(CALLA)

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NEW CUC PRESIDENT PRAISES THE LIBERAL ARTS IN INAUGURAL ADDRESS



Dr. Russell Dawn praising the liberal arts during his inaugural address on October 25, 2019.

Concordia University Chicago held the inauguration of Dr. Russell Dawn on Friday, October 25, 2019. Dr. Dawn focused his address on Jesus' words from John 8: "If you continue in my word, you are truly my disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free." Commenting on the place of the liberal arts within the pursuit of truth, Dr. Dawn remarked,

For Concordia, it's absolutely central that we abide in God's Word so that we know the truth—the revealed truth. But it's also crucial that we pursue worldly truth grounded and informed by revealed truth, but robustly and fully engaged with the wisdom (and the foolishness)

that the world has to offer. We rely on reason and evidence in the search for worldly truth, but we also submit imperfect reason to the perfect Word of God. ...

Despite the obituaries being written for the liberal arts, despite the modern world's rejection of the arts of self-governance, these arts are as necessary as ever. I doubt there's mere coincidence between the decline of the liberal arts in schools and colleges and universities, and the decay of civil discourse and reasoned debate in the public square. The liberal arts, illuminated by the revealed truths of Scripture, are powerful for equipping students for a life of self-governance.

CALLA looks forward to working with Dr. Dawn to promote a uniquely Lutheran approach to the liberal arts at Concordia University Chicago.



1864

CONCORDIA
UNIVERSITY
CHICAGO

LCMS PASSES RESOLUTION IN CONVENTION CONCERNING PROGRESSIVE EDUCATION

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod gathered for its 67th convention in Tampa, FL, on July 20–25, 2019. Among other resolutions passed in convention, the assembly deliberated and passed Resolution 7-02, “To Nurture Our Lutheran System of Higher Education,” with 781 voting yes to 80 voting *no*.

The *whereas* clauses of the resolution note that “today’s predominant culture of higher education presents a particular challenge to the Gospel and the Church, and seeks to destroy the faith of the next generation, due to the prevalence of current academic theories such as post-modernism, relativism, progressive education, constructivism, social/restorative justice, intersectionality, pedagogy of oppression, and other harmful ideologies” and that “such ideologies war against God’s unchanging truth (even denying the fact of His creation of male and female); attack Christianity and the Fourth Commandment; and often seek to divide students against one another by encouraging them (contrary to Matt. 3:9; Gal. 3:28) to ‘identify’ as members of groups based on demographic characteristics, not their baptismal identity as redeemed children of God (Rev. 7:9–17).”

The resolution further affirmed that “our Lutheran educational tradition guides us, instead, to enlighten our students with knowledge, beauty, and truth, as embodied in the liberal arts and enhanced with professional programs; to affirm the unique value of each individual as one created in God’s own image; and to pass down the timeless scholarship of civilization through the ages” and that “such an education is a gift of priceless worth for ourselves, our families, and our fellow church members.”

According to Dr. Thomas Korcok, the LCMS may be the first church body in the world to endorse classical education and condemn progressive education in this manner.

CALLA on the Road

Look for us at the following events. If we are in your area and you want a guest speaker, email Thomas Korcok at CALLA@CUChicago.edu about availability

April 25–26: Lutheran Lecture Series, Wichita, KS

May 3: Guest Speaker at St. John Ev. Lutheran Church & School, Random Lake, WI

May 4–5: Iowa District East Pastors’ Conference, Cedar Rapids, IA

June 12–13: Issues, Etc. “Making the Case” Conference, Concordia University Chicago

June 18–20: Concordia Catechetical Academy Symposium, Sussex, WI

June 25–27: Society for Classical Learning Annual Conference, Addison, TX

July 14–16: Consortium for Classical Lutheran Education Conference, Casper, WY

Speakers Bureau “CONNECTING CLASSICALLY”

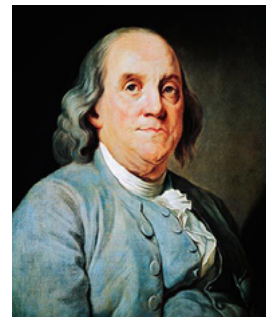
If you are looking for a conference speaker or someone to do an “in-service” with teachers, check out our Speakers Bureau. You will find a list of speakers who have an interest in classical education and are experts in their field of study. Visit CUChicago.edu/CALLA and click on “Speakers Bureau.”

CUC TO ACCEPT CLASSIC LEARNING TEST AS ADMISSION STANDARD FOR INCOMING CLASS

Students applying for undergraduate study at Concordia University Chicago now have the option to submit scores from the Classic Learning Test (CLT) as an alternative to scores from the ACT or SAT. Jeremy Tate founded Classic Learning Initiatives, LLC, the CLT's development agency, in 2015 "to provide alternative standardized tests rooted in tradition and taking advantage of modern technologies," according to the company website. "The CLT takes two hours, and tests for grammar, literary comprehension, and mathematical and logical reasoning; it also contains an optional, ungraded essay portion. Students take the exam on their own laptop or tablet, and receive their scores the same day, which they can then share with colleges of their choice at no charge."

Unlike the ACT and SAT, which use readings drawn from chiefly contemporary sources, the classic of the Classic Learning Test draws two-thirds of its reading and writing passages from "the greatest and most enduring texts that have informed and shaped society." The test's author bank features a diverse sampling of notable thinkers including Homer, St. Augustine, Martin Luther, Confucius, W. E. B. Du Bois, William Shakespeare, Benjamin Franklin, Jorge Luis Borges, Martin Buber, and Dorothy Sayers. "Although these texts are featured prominently in a classical education, the CLT instead emphasizes intellectual aptitude and achievement, by no means limiting itself simply to a classical curriculum."

Students may register for the Classic Learning Test at <http://cltexam.com> and apply to Concordia University Chicago at CUChicago.edu/apply.



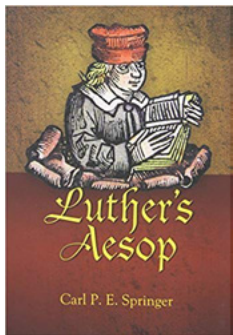
The CLT's author bank features a diverse sampling of notable thinkers including Homer, St. Augustine, Martin Luther, William Shakespeare, Benjamin Franklin, and other classical writers.

Secundum Lilia and CALLA

Secundum Lilia (Latin: "according to lilies") is a superscription over Psalms 45, 69 and 80, perhaps indicative of the melody to which those psalms were sung. *Secundum Lilia* will bring you news and updates on CALLA's activities three times a year (fall, winter, spring). We will pass along interesting ideas, recommend books and provide details of recent and upcoming events.

Ex Libris **BOOK REVIEWS FOR ADULTS & CHILDREN**

ADULTS *Luther's Aesop* (Early Modern Studies 8)



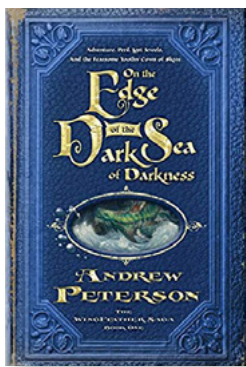
By Carl P. E. Springer. Kirksville, MO: Truman State University Press, 2011, 264 pages

One Martin Luther said “After the Bible, the writings of Cato and Aesop are in my judgment the best.” In *Luther's Aesop*, Carl Springer delves into why Luther held Aesop in such high regard and the work he did in promoting it as

a valuable tool for moral education and teaching the Ten Commandments. He also explores Luther's work in producing a volume of Aesop for use in schools. As an added bonus, there is a collection of Luther's translation of key Aesop passages as well as a select collection of Luther's Latin poems. There is much in this book to commend its use by the teacher, parent and pastor.

CHILDREN *On the Edge of the Dark Sea of Darkness; The Wingfeather Saga, Book 1*

By Andrew Peterson, WaterBooks, 2008, 304 pages



Told from a Christian worldview, Peterson introduces us to the Igiby family, living in the occupied land of Skree. A series of accidents brings the family into peril and the three Igiby children discover that the world is bigger than they thought and the lessons taught by their mother and grandfather are more valuable than they could have guessed. An exciting tale

of adventure interwoven with lessons about family, serving others and, of course, the fearsome toothy cows of Skree. For middle school through adult.

Ex Magistris

WISDOM FROM THE MASTERS

“So let us then constantly watch, encourage, and press our children, never ceasing to repeat, order, and exhort; this must be our rod of chastisement. Our children should first of all be made to love moral goodness and sound learning and to hate crudity and ignorance. They should hear some men praised for their goodness, others condemned for their evil. They should learn numerous examples of men who, thanks to their wisdom, attained great glory, wealth, honor, and prestige, and as a contrast, also examples of men who, through their dissolute conduct and total ignorance, brought upon themselves dishonor, contempt, poverty, and utter ruin; such an approach represents a rod of correction more worthy of Christians and followers of the gentle Jesus.”

—*De pueris statim ac liberaliter instituendis declamatio*
(A Declamation on the Subject of the Early Liberal Education for Children)
Desiderius Erasmus
Translated by Beert C. Verstraete
Collected Works of Erasmus,
vol. 26 p. 332