

4-16-1971

Notes: Lutheran Unity: Orlando, 1971

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DATE 4/16/71 OCCASION OrlandoTHEME Hospitality, Home

1. Gratitude - off beaten path - danger of working exclusively with tomorrow - 2000 A.D.
2. Instructions from President - give time for discussion - speak on state of Church - observation - danger: senex iratia - experience in California with "preliminary observation" but: discussion
3. Definition of battle ground: The Word - (Gen. 1-3 Jonah - Isaiah II) - not subversive - but shift of emphasis - i.e. first thesis - not a doctrinal debate at all but a difference of attitude - fear. e.g. Christian News -
4. Basic question: "What is Lutheranism?" Rev: "Was ist lutherisch?" More than a doctrinal position - a Welt anschauung - Examples: Bach, Luther, Gerhardt, Rev. - a cultus - the Church (?)
5. Basic: It's Christocentric - Luther: "Die Sohrgt ist um Christum trübt" - Luther and Bonhoeffer - the Black Church - the Christological understanding of man - The Bible is God's anthropology -
6. Great battle "theologia crucis" - post-modern world "split" - the divisive nature of sin - separation, loneliness - the Cross is God's great answer to our splitness - this is the heart of our faith - the restoration of oneness - the life of the Church is a progression toward a goal - its faith is an accomplished fact - done - it is

II

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7. It is this quiet-almost imperceptible-shift of the center of our doctrinal concern from J.C. to the question about the book which should cause profound misgiving among us-here implication for many people and things
 (esp.-o.g. the great N.T. question: "What think ye of Christ?" slips into the background-shift to an exigent and hermeneutic dominated by fear of the free life of the mind (ye shall know the truth))-
8. Three approaches to Christianity-"subscription to proposition"-way of life-living relation to a living person. the last - in conclusion is Lutheran -
9. Irony: timeliness of publication of Proust's translation of Chomsky "On Duchas Notaris in Christo" - a sudden reminder of other things - the duality of "true man & true God" - applies also to the message of Job "truly human and truly divine" - a mystery - we have lost the courage to accept and live with mystery - differences in mind - not only in degree -
10. What am I saying? The devil never attacks head-on - always from the side - the undoubtedly - "holla God said" - so here - we are in danger of a basic shift of emphasis which

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can become terrifying - our faith is a
great and mysterious thing and its order is
vastly important - e.g. one must move from
the Cross of Christ to the crosses of manhood -
not the other way - God presides my neighbor
reform and redemption - the Waltham League -
the Cross is without analogy in history and
the resurrection is extra-categorical - it is
beyond the common categories of life and
history - De Chardin - Evolution - but the
Godman totally and eternally, essentially
different

11. Old Missouri's Prophetism - Belukin -
my grandfather - their indepenable quality -
courage - humility - childlikeness - (ORH
survey) tremendous awareness of JC and
His meaning - this I feel is slipping away from
us - fundamentalism -