

“Called to Confess”

(A Free Conference of Confessing Pastors and Laity of the NOW District)

April 30, 2006

Dear Brothers in Christ:

We rejoice with you that “*Christ is risen from the dead, and has become the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep*” (1 Cor. 15:20). The joy of holding the cross and the empty tomb before the saints will be surpassed only when the days of Pentecost are fulfilled and the full harvest is brought in. Now we “*know in part*” but then we will “*know fully.*” Yet until that day we are ***Called to Confess*** what we do know.

This means we need each other. May it never be that any of us thinks that we have all the answers. May it never be that we become unwilling to study together the Scriptures to see what God ***has*** revealed. Indeed, that we need each other is also seen in Paul’s admonition to Timothy to “*correct, rebuke, and encourage – with great patience and careful instruction*” (2 Tim. 4:2). Because we are all sinners, there are times when we all need correction and even rebuke. But how do we do this? Are all situations the same?

In an effort to facilitate reflection on how one properly corrects and rebukes, ***Called to Confess*** has prepared another bulletin insert for you and the royal priests in your charge. This insert deals with “Secret and Public Sins,” the third talking point highlighted in our previous tri-fold mailing dealing with issues troubling our Synod. The insert was written by Pastor Eric Lange. We thank Pastor Lange for his contribution on this important subject and we hope that it will aid our Synod as we strive together to do our Lord’s will.

In closing, we solicit your prayers and support in these troubled days as we seek to be led by the source of all doctrine and practice in the Church: Holy Writ. As we stated in our previous correspondence:

In love we have endeavored to put the best construction of the actions of others and we have consciously avoided pointing fingers at anyone. We simply see ourselves as ***Called to Confess***. And “*in love,*” we pray that, if we are in error, you would “*in love,*” show us our error from Scripture and the Lutheran Confessions.

If you do not agree with the positions stated here, we ask that you at least consider the arguments and put the best construction on our actions, our motivation, and our concern to fulfill the great commission by “*teaching them to observe all things I have commanded you*” (Matt. 28:20). Our goal is not division, but that once again our Synod be united under the teachings of our Lord Jesus Christ as confessed in the Lutheran Confession. May God bless you and lead you to recognize that all of us are ***Called to Confess***.

To contact us or request an electronic version of this insert on “Secret and Public Sins” or any of our previous insets, send a note to: CalledToConfess@yahoo.com, or you may download copies of each at www.scholia.net/lcms_items.htm.

Laboring together in the vineyard of our Lord, we remain ***Called to Confess***.