

From the Current President of the LC-MS  
**Rev. Gerald Kieschnick**

The church "cannot afford to waste time on incessant internal purification at the expense of the lost in the world."

Rev. Gerald Kieschnick, President LC-MS  
2002 Synodical Convention of The Lutheran Church-Canada  
June 6-10, 2002  
<<http://www.lutheranchurch.ca/synod2002/fri-greetings.html>>

"My friends, this is not a game. We have not the luxury of time and energy spent on incessant internal purification at the expense of the eternal destiny of the souls of men and women for whom Christ died, but who know not His name and have accepted not His saving grace."

Rev. Gerald Kieschnick, President LC-MS  
from *Greetings and Comments from the President*  
Model Theological Conference, Scottsdale, Arizona  
August 7, 2002  
<[http://www.lcms.org/graphics/assets/media/CTCR/president\\_greetings.pdf](http://www.lcms.org/graphics/assets/media/CTCR/president_greetings.pdf)>

"My concern is that we can spend so much time in incessant internal purification that we do so at the expense of the eternal destiny of people who are dying every minute."

Rev. Gerald Kieschnick, President LC-MS  
Board for Communication Services  
LC-MS News #81— December 26, 2002  
<<http://www.wfn.org/2002/12/msg00199.html>>

"People, this is NOT a game. Our incessant internal purification at the expense of the eternal destiny of the souls of men and women for whom Christ died must stop!"

Rev. Gerald Kieschnick, President LC-MS  
Quoted in Jesus First, August 2002 article by Donald Bokenkamp  
<<http://www.jesusfirst.net/2002aug04.htm>>

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From the First President of the Synod  
**Rev. C. F. W. Walther**

"Many say, 'Instead of disputing over doctrine so much, we should much rather be concerned with souls and with leading them to Christ.' But all who speak in this way do not really know what they are saying or what they are doing. As foolish as it would be to scold a farmer for being concerned about sowing good seed and to demand of him simply to be concerned about a good harvest, so foolish it is to scold those who are concerned first and foremost with the doctrine, and to demand of them that they should rather seek to rescue souls. For just as the farmer who wants a good crop must first of all be concerned about good seed, so the church must above all be concerned about right doctrine if it would save souls."

Rev. C. F. W. Walther, 1st Synodical President  
"Our Common Task - The Saving of Souls," 1872  
<<http://www.concordia.org/vision.htm>>

Whether our Synod gains friends or makes enemies, wins honor or invites disgrace, grows or declines in numbers, brings peace or incites enmity, all this must be unimportant to us—just so our Synod may keep the jewel of purity of doctrine and knowledge. However, should our Synod ever grow indifferent toward purity of doctrine, through ingratitude forget this prize, or betray or barter it away to the false church, then let our church body perish and the name "Missourian" decay in disgrace.

Rev. C. F. W. Walther, 1st Synodical President  
First Sermon Delivered at the Opening of Synod, 1 Corinthians 1:4, 5  
*Concordia Theological Quarterly*, April-July, 1988,  
p. 118-119 & footnote #46  
<<http://www.ctsfw.edu/library/files/pb/1517>>

Oh my dear friends of the Lutheran faith, confession, and conflict, do not be misled when today those are everywhere accused of lovelessness who still do not give up the battle for pure doctrine in our Church. ... Oh my dear friends, let us indeed sorrow and lament over this: that false teachers constantly assail the pure doctrine in our Church and thus are at fault for the conflict and strife in the Church. However, let us never lament but rather extol and praise God that he always awakens men who fight against those false teachers, for, I repeat, this pertains to "the common salvation." ... This conflict is one commanded us by God and is therefore certainly one blessed in time and in eternity. ... Oh, therefore, let us never listen to those who praise and extol the conflict of the Reformation for the pure Gospel but want to know nothing of a similar conflict in our days.

Rev. C. F. W. Walther, 1st Synodical President  
"Why Dare and Can We Never Give Up the Church's Struggle for the Pure Doctrine" - Sermon based on Jude 3, Reformation Day, 1876  
<<http://scotchisforlutherans.blogspot.com/2004/05/from-cat41.html>>