

Prologue

to

ACELC's Fraternal Admonition

Dated July 15, 2010; Updated April 19, 2012

A few members in the LCMS have asked the ACELC Board if there is a plan to update the original Fraternal Admonition and Error Documents mailed to all 6,000 or so LCMS congregations on July 15, 2010. The short answer is no, but there are good reasons behind the Board's decision.

First, however, the ACELC fully acknowledges that some of the examples used of wrong teaching or practice may well have been corrected since the original Admonition was mailed. For those, we give thanks to God, even as we pray for those still holding to their old ways.

History is important and history matters because it reveals when, why, and what brought the ACELC to exist in the first place. Our historical documents serve as a marker of where the LCMS once stood in doctrine and practice. With this marker, together with various historical LCMS founding documents, we are able to evaluate LCMS faithfulness to her roots and to see change in either direction. Without these markers, we, like the Synod, will fall prey to the axiom of Santayana: "Those who don't remember the past are condemned to repeat it."

Here are four good reasons for holding fast our original documents:

1. They help us learn from past mistakes, and give us examples of how some have erred in the past. In this way they serve as a touchstone of what to avoid in the present so as not to offend God or one another.
2. They help us remember the common historical experience of all LCMS members who voluntarily bind themselves to a standard of doctrinal purity and faithful practices which, above all, seek to glorify the one true God of Holy Scripture.
3. They help us recall that Christ alone is head of the Church and His true doctrine and the Church's right practices are our collective heritage. Any departure from them endangers the body of Christ and lessens the Church's impact in culture and the world.
4. They help us reveal past credible accomplishments wherein the LCMS restored (or rejected) doctrinal matters in a God-pleasing and amicable way using Scripture, The Lutheran Confessions, and faithful ecclesiastical supervision.

**Approved by ACELC Members
At the August 30, 2018 Meeting
Trinity Lutheran Church, Kearney, MO**