

The Window

No. 65

Newsletter of the Anglican-Lutheran Society

December 2000

ALS to look to future role at AGM set for March 3

The Anglican-Lutheran Society (ALS) will discuss its future role at its Annual General Meeting (AGM) from 10am to 3.15pm on Saturday, March 3, 2001, at the Norwegian Church, 1 St Olav's Square, Albion Street, Rotherhithe, London SE16 1JB.

A letter asking for ideas about the future of the ALS is included with this issue of *The Window*. The Anglican and Lutheran co-moderators, the Rev Brian Coleman and the Rev Helge Pettersson, who signed the letter on behalf of the ALS Committee, hope that many will share their ideas about the society's role in the future. (See page 4 for a summary of this letter.)

The AGM day will begin with coffee at 10am followed by a Eucharist at 10.30am. Lunch will be served and the business meeting will follow. (Lunch will cost £5, payable on the day.) The business meeting and discussion about the future will follow.

All interested persons, from anywhere in the world, are urged to give their ideas about the ALS. We need your help.

ALS meetings are always wonderful times to meet friends, old and new. We welcome all, members and friends.

Please let the Norwegian Church know if you plan to attend. Phone +44 (0)20 7740 3900 or send e-mail to: london@sifh.no

Ratzeburg Conference in September to explore worship, liturgy and music

"Worship – Liturgy – Music: Facing New Challenges" will be the theme of the Anglican-Lutheran Society (ALS) international conference at the Pastorkolleg (Pastoral College) in Ratzeburg, Germany, from September 14-17, 2000. Keynote speakers from England, Germany, Norway and the United States will lead the discussions and the music-making by the participants.

The conference welcomes all – clergy, worship leaders, church musicians plus those interested in music and worship. The participants will explore the new challenges facing the church in worship. They will share together experiences and concerns of Anglicans and Lutherans in various countries.

Speakers from four countries

Guest speakers will include The Rt Rev Colin Buchanan, Anglican Area Bishop of Woolwich, Diocese of Southwark, England; The Rev. Wolfgang Grusnick, who is pastor of the Domkirche Lübeck, Germany; Dr Terje Kvam, Domkantor (director of music) at Oslo Cathedral, Norway; and The Rev Dr. Paul

Westermeyer, professor of church music at Luther Seminary, St Paul, Minnesota, USA.

Our hosts will be the Rt Rev Hans-Christian Knuth, Bishop for Schleswig, Germany; and Dr Jörn Kalbe, director of the Pastorkolleg, Ratzeburg.

Canon Dick Lewis and Anglican from Watford, England, ALS committee member, writes: "Simply to talk about liturgy or about the place of music in worship might be missing the point. Both these things can be best understood in the context of worship itself. We would want everyone at the conference to have an opportunity of sharing something of their own experience and expertise so that the richness and variety that exists within the different liturgical and musical traditions of our two communions can be more fully appreciated."

During the conference weekend, which will begin Friday afternoon and end after lunch on Monday, there will be opportunity to visit local Christian communities. It will also be possible to extend your stay at the Dominsel (Cathedral Island).

Cost of the weekend will be UK£195 or US\$300. Welcome! See box, lower left.

An invitation to all to attend the ALS Conference

Worship-Liturgy-Music: Facing New Challenges

September 14-17, 2001

at Dominsel Ratzeburg, Germany

Conference Cost UK£195 or US\$300
(includes room, board and all fees)

Use enclosed form or send name, address, with phone/fax/e-mail address to:

ALS Conference 2001

15 Hampden, Kimpton, Hitchin,
Herts. SG4 8QH, England, UK

Phone: +44 (0)1438 832649

Please include £40 or \$60 registration fee
Cheques to: Anglican-Lutheran Society

North Americans may contact
Ronald Englund at englund@cape.com
or 508-495 1621 for more information.



The Pastoral College on the Dominsel (Cathedral Island) in Ratzeburg, Germany, will be hosts for the Anglican-Lutheran Society Conference from September 14-17. This stunning setting is located a few miles south of Lübeck and a few miles northeast of Hamburg.

Episcopacy discussed in global perspective

Speakers from Sweden, England and South Africa discussed "Episcopacy in a Global Perspective" at a Luther Colloquium October 25 at the Lutheran Theological Seminary in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, USA.

The topic is timely for the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) and the Episcopal Church in the USA because of "Called to Common Mission" (CCM), the agreement which brings the churches into full communion on January 1, 2001.

A minority within the ELCA object to CCM because it calls for Lutherans to share in the historic episcopate, a symbolic link back to the earliest church.

Bishop Martin Lind of the Church of Sweden said that it was clear from the Lutheran confessions that the ordained ministry is instituted by God and that the office of bishop is a gift of the Spirit of God. Although the episcopacy in Sweden has changed in recent decades, he noted that the question of continuity is still important. The Church of Sweden, a Lutheran church, maintained the historic episcopate following the Reformation.

Professor Gillian Evans of Cambridge University, England, cited a 1980 report that attempted to set the parameters of the role of bishops in the Church of England. That role served three intersecting "planes" in the church – the local church where the bishop serves with and among the people; the church throughout the world where the bishop serves with other bishops; and the continuity of the church's life over time.

Professor Evans did not question the necessity of bishops but urged the church to reexamine the different roles of bishops. "Is it right that the exercise of power and authority needs to be involved in any attempt to understand collegial ministry of oversight?" she asked.

Lutheran Bishop Manas Buthelezi of South Africa said that the constitutional provisions for bishops in his church required that bishops be spiritual leaders and shepherds, serving as the spiritual leaders of the church within the borders of their dioceses. The bishop is also pastor to pastors, he said.

"The episcopacy is itself an ecumenical office," Bishop Buthelezi claimed.

Report by Rytönen on web

"Serving the Church of England as a Lutheran," by the Rev Jussi Rytönen, Finnish priest, is on the web plus much more at: www.svenskakyrkan.se/porvoo

Porvoo Communion churches working on "diversity in communion"

Lutheran churches in the Nordic and Baltic countries are working with British and Irish Anglicans exploring "diversity in communion" in the ongoing Porvoo process.

The Porvoo Communion Contact Group held a theological conference in Durham, England, in September to work out a common understanding of unity and mission. Churches from eleven countries took part.

The concluding document noted several issues of unity and diversity among the churches. The conference recognized that there are differences of history and culture both within the Lutheran and Anglican churches in the Porvoo Communion as well as between the two traditions.

Five "recognitions" asked the churches "to share a common life to reach the point where we come to a common mind."

Areas of concern include young people and the church; mission and communication; and spiritual renewal. The concluding document recommends to all the Porvoo churches that they:

1. continue theological discussions with the aim of integrating life and theology; provide an account of *communio* which supports diversity with limits; promote socio-ethical studies; look to divisions and diversities related to race, gender, class, sexuality and spiritual culture.

2. promote specific initiatives in the interchange of teachers, students, clergy and ordinands; encourage relationships between agencies, groups and individuals working in the field of *diakonia* and education; exchange literature; offer theological tools to address diversity in a local context.

3. commission a Porvoo study of youth cultures which will facilitate the mutual interchange between "church" and "youth" cultures; help the understanding of "being Church" within the new generation; develop ministry distinctive to young people.

4. promote mutual accountability between the churches by sharing information and inviting contributions from all Porvoo churches when there are consultations with churches outside the communion; seek advice from each other on matters of liturgy; promote ecumenical awareness among clergy; address questions of poverty and debt in our countries and overseas.

5. ensure that diversities and divisions do not hinder Porvoo churches from working together in mission in order to face the present crisis that the Christian churches of Europe face by: studying the issue of shared language/discourse between Christian and non-Christian; exploring how

the gospel can be expressed in action and new ways of communication; studying possible new symbolisms to be incorporated into liturgical practice; and promote the notion of *ecclesia domestica* (nurturing spiritual formation at home) in order to connect life, church and faith.

Vikström and Neill co-chair group

The Rt Rev Dr Erik Vikström, Lutheran Bishop of Porvoo (Borgå), Finland and the Rt Rev John Neill, Anglican Bishop of Cashel and Ossory, Ireland, co-chair the Porvoo Communion Contact Group.

Bishop Vikström, who is Lutheran president of the Anglican-Lutheran Society, reports that the society's Anglican president, The Very Rev John Arnold, Dean of Durham, was host for the conference.

Bishop Vikström preached at the Eucharist about Jesus' healing of a blind man from Mark 7:31-37. "Jesus sighed deeply with a loud breathing out to the very moment of absolute rest and absolute dependence on God," Bishop Erik reports. He cited the Orthodox 'constant' Jesus-prayer, 'Lord Jesus Christ, have mercy on me.' which is said during a long breathing out. Bishop Erik reports that he instructed on "breathing and prayer" and ended this way: "Dear friends, don't be afraid of the moment of absolute dependence on God's mercy in Christ Jesus. Say your Jesus-prayer in a long and deep breathing out. Repeat it again and again! Give all you have over to God and let Jesus come very close in contact with you – with God's own breath!"

ASPC meets in Copenhagen

Some 25 Anglicans and Lutherans met in Copenhagen in September for the Anglo-Scandinavian Pastoral Conference (ASPC). The theme of "Humanity and Christianity" explored the interaction of folk religion and the rituals of human life and the church. The Evangelical Lutheran Church in Denmark hosted the event which attracted delegates from the host country plus England, Estonia, Finland, Lithuania, Norway and Sweden.

The Evangelical Lutheran Church in Finland will host the next ASPC in 2002.

We got it wrong!

In the last issue of *The Window* we made The Rev Canon Roy J. Enquist the Dean of the Washington National Cathedral in the USA. He is actually Canon Ecumenist. We apologize to him and to Dean Nathan Baxter.



Dr Jörn Halbe of Ratzeburg

Ratzeburg island houses several church ministries

Several ministries of the Lutheran churches in Germany are housed in the Dominsel (Cathedral Island) where the Anglican-Lutheran Society International Conference will take place from September 14-17, 2001.

The Rev Dr Jörn Halbe, principal of the Pastorkolleg (Pastoral College) at Ratzeburg, tells us that the Gästehaus (guest house), at the foot of the 13th century cathedral, provides a home and workplace for some 13 handicapped persons. In addition this guest house serves as a conference centre for various groups – such as the Anglican-Lutheran Society.

The Pastoral College provides continuing education for the clergy and laity of the North-Elbian Evangelical Lutheran Church and the Evangelical Church of Pomerania. The college's brochure notes courses are held in "theology and faith, personal life, spiritual exercises and church activities."

The North-Elbian Evangelical Lutheran Church, with 2.3 million members, and the Evangelical Church of Pomerania, with 138,000 members, are both members of the Lutheran World Federation.

The North-Elbian Evangelical Lutheran Church, with headquarters in Kiel, was formed in 1977 by the uniting of churches in Eutin, Hamburg, Lübeck and Schleswig-Holstein. The Rt Rev Hans-Christian Knuth, Bishop for Schleswig, was a speaker at the 1999 ALS International Conference in Cambridge, England. It was through Bishop Knuth that we learned of the wonderful conference facilities in Ratzeburg.

The Evangelical Church of Pomerania has its headquarters in Greifswald. The Reformer, Johann Bugenhagen (1485-1558), was from Pomerania.

Lutherans and Episcopalians in the USA begin "full communion" on January 1

The Episcopal Church in the USA (ECUSA) and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) will celebrate their new relationship of "full communion" at a Holy Eucharist at the National Cathedral in Washington, DC, on Epiphany, Saturday, January 6. Singing and processions will begin at 10.30am, with the service following at 11am.

The basis for full communion between the churches is "Called to Common Mission" (CCM). The 5.15-million member ELCA adopted CCM at its Churchwide Assembly in 1999. The 2.4-million member Episcopal Church adopted CCM at its General Convention this year. The two churches agreed to begin their new relationship on January 1, 2001.

The two churches have agreed to cooperate in a variety of ministries and to share clergy under certain circumstances. This is not a merger of churches.

A step toward unity in Christ

"For Episcopalians, this is really the first step forward in the realization of our unity in Christ," said The Rev David Perry, director of the Episcopal Church's office of Ecumenical and Interfaith Relations. "We haven't done anything like this before."

"With this worship event, this celebration of the fact of full communion, we bridge an ecumenical chasm between Anglicanism and Lutheranism," said the Rev Daniel F. Martinsen, director of the ELCA Department for Ecumenical Affairs. "The bridge has been under construction for nearly four decades; it spans not only two USA communions, but also continents. Our engagement in common mission of proclamation, witness and service is now strengthened."

ELCA Presiding Bishop George H Anderson will preside at the Eucharist at the January 6 service and Presiding Bishop Frank T Griswold III of the Episcopal Church will preach.

International Anglican leaders will also take part in the service. They include the Rev John Peterson, the Rev David Hamid and Canon Jim Rosenthal from the Anglican Communion and Anglican Consultative Council in London, England.

Canadians will be led by Archbishop Michael G Peers, primate of the Anglican Church in Canada. The Rev Dr Ishmael Noko of Geneva, Switzerland, general secretary of the Lutheran World Federation, will also take part.

The St Olaf College Choir from Northfield, Minnesota, will sing, as well as

the choirs of the National Cathedral.

Because the cathedral's capacity is only 3,600, each church has a limited number of tickets for the public. They are available through the ELCA's Department for Ecumenical Affairs and the Episcopal Church's Office for Ecumenical and Interfaith Relations.

ALS Committee news

Marianne Haig of the Swedish Church in London, a member of the Anglican-Lutheran Society Committee, is seriously ill in hospital. Remember Marianne and her husband, Dr Bengt Haig, in prayers. Their address: 54 Gloucester Place Mews, London SW1H 3PH, England, UK.

The Rev Volkmar Latossek, a German pastor in London, has resigned from the ALS committee because he is moving back to Germany early in the new year. We thank him for his years of service with the society.

Praying with Martin Luther

A new book, *Praying with Martin Luther*, has been published by St Mary's Press (Christian Brothers) in Minnesota, USA. Peter Bastien, a Lutheran pastor in Maryland, has written this book in the Companions for the Journey series, meditation guides on Christian spirituality. It is an excellent devotional and study resource.

The ALS sells books (mostly on Lutheran themes) not readily available in the UK. We have copies for sale for UK£8 and US \$10 (both prices including postage costs). Send orders, with cheques payable to "Anglican-Lutheran Society" to one of the editorial addresses (page 4, column 3).

Richard Hooker consultation

A consultation on the Anglican theologian, Richard Hooker (1554-1600), held at Windsor Castle, England, September 18-20, had Anglican-Lutheran implications. The Rev Dr Jaakko Rusama of Helsinki, ALS national representative in Finland, gave a lecture on "Hooker and the Anglican Porvoo Process." The Porvoo Declaration is the agreement between the Anglican churches of Britain and Ireland and the Nordic and Baltic Lutheran churches.

Help us to share the news

Help us to share Anglican-Lutheran news. Use one of the editorial address, page 4.

Canadians get head start in "full communion"

Lutheran and Anglican congregations in Port Alberni, British Columbia, Canada, are getting a head start by joining in a shared ministry a year before their national churches are entering into full communion.

St Alban's (Anglican) and Christ the King (Lutheran) in the western Canada town are being served by the Rev Michael McGee, an Anglican priest. As pastor of the new joint congregation, he says: "We feel that we are on the cutting edge. We're pioneering as we celebrate already the sense of a common bond in worship and ministry."

The Lutheran congregation was facing financial difficulties due to an ageing and dwindling membership. The Anglicans were also experiencing difficulties because their congregation had split in 1996 when the then rector and many members left to form a community church. Since June 2000 the two congregations have worshipped together but kept their separate identities.

The Anglican Church in Canada and the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Canada will begin full communion officially next year.

Americans in Europe to elect their bishop

American Episcopal Churches in Europe will soon elect their bishop for the first time. Until now, the Convocation of American Churches in Europe has been served mostly by an appointed bishop who worked only part-time. The responsibilities of the position have increased greatly in recent years with the bishop responsible for building closer ties with other Anglican churches in Europe as well as with the Nordic and Baltic Lutheran Churches in the Porvoo Communion. Bishop Jeffery W Rothorn will retire this month.

Living in Full Communion

Episcopalians and Lutherans will meet at the Washington National Cathedral in Washington, DC, on Sunday, January 14, 2001, at 2pm for "A Conversation on Living into Full Communion." The Rev Dr Thomas Prinz of Alexandria, Virginia, and the Rev Dr Kortwright Davis of Howard University School of Divinity and Rector of Holy Comforter Episcopal Church, Washington, DC, lead this public dialogue.

The cathedral plus the Episcopal Diocese of Virginia, the Episcopal Diocese of Washington and the Metropolitan Washington Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America are sponsors.

Friends world-wide asked for their ideas about ALS future role

Members and friends world-wide are invited to share ideas about the future role of the Anglican-Lutheran Society in time for the annual general meeting at the Norwegian Church in London on March 3. A letter from the ALS co-moderators is included with this issue of *The Window* requesting opinions on several questions.

There are five questions which will be the basis of discussions on March 3:

1. Are we going to continue as we have done?
2. Should ALS continue to organise international conferences, and nothing else?
3. Should we continue to publish *The Window* as an update on events within our extended communion?
4. Should the ALS build on links that have been established in Britain, Germany, the Nordic countries and the USA and perhaps establish new contacts elsewhere?
5. Should the Society expand into a relationship with other denominations?

The ALS was founded in 1983 before the Meissen Common Statement and the Porvoo Agreement, the European Anglican-Lutheran agreements, were adopted. Now Called to Common Mission, the Episcopal-Lutheran agreement in the USA is beginning. The Society is studying its role in light of these developments.

Send responses to Mrs Valerie Phillips, ALS Secretary, 15 Hampden, Kimpton, Hitchin, Herts SG4 8QH, England. Or send e-mail to ALS at: london@sifh.no

Church musicians to meet

The 2001 conference of the Leadership Program for Musicians Serving Small Congregations will be held June 26-30, 2001 at Virginia Theological Seminary, Alexandria, Virginia, USA. Total cost will be US\$550 per person. This is a joint program run by the seminary together with synods and dioceses of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and the Episcopal Church.

For more information contact Scott Weidler by phone at 1-800 638 3522, extension 2554, or send e-mail at: sweidler@elca.org.

Christmas greetings

As we celebrate again the birth of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, the officers and committee of the Anglican-Lutheran Society wish all of our readers a joyful and peaceful Christmas season. We begin 2001, which is actually the beginning of the new millennium, in the confidence of Immanuel, God with us.

Peter Haylor discusses Distinctive Diaconate

The Rev Peter J Haylor of Cwmbran, Wales, UK, discusses "The Dynamics of a Distinctive Diaconate" in the Spring 2000 issue of *Theology Wales*. He writes from the viewpoint of the Porvoo Agreement as he discusses the "ground-breaking work of John N Collins" in his *Diakonia: Re-interpreting the Ancient Sources* (Oxford University Press, New York, 1990). He also analyzes the work of Sven-Erik Brodd, a priest of the Church of Sweden and Professor of Ecclesiology at the University of Uppsala, in the ecclesiological history of diakonia and the diaconate.

Captain Peter Haylor of the Church Army is Industrial Chaplain in the Diocese of Monmouth in Wales. He is doing research in "The Order of Deacons in relation to Industrial Mission" at St Michael's Theological College, Llandaff, Wales

The Rev Peter J Haylor, 16 Steynton Path, Cwmbran NP44 4QJ, Wales, UK. You may e-mail him at: hayers@dialstart.net

The Anglican-Lutheran Society

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