

Levenhagen λογοι

October 2020

Thoughts from Aaron

Thy Strong Word

I've titled this newsletter the Levenhagen λογοι...Greek for "words." Why? Well, there's the catchy alliteration, but that's not really the reason. And yes, *words* are the focus of my days—reading words on pages, wrestling with *words* of theological thought, writing lots of *words* in papers—but that's not really it either. I was thinking of a more significant and eternal Word, as we sing in the great Martin Franzmann hymn:

*Thy strong Word bespeaks us righteous
Bright with Thine own holiness
Glorious now, we press toward glory
And our lives our hopes confess
Alleluia, alleluia!
Praise to Thee who light dost send!
Alleluia, alleluia!
Alleluia without end!*

This is the Word. I hope that it will be a reminder to me of why we've embarked on this little adventure: to proclaim the λογος—the personal, incarnate, strong Word of God, Jesus Christ—to all whom God puts within our reach. May the Holy Spirit daily reveal to each us anew Jesus Christ, the Word of God, as we study the written Word of God, as the Word of God is preached to us, and as God speaks His words of promise to us in the Sacraments. God's blessings as you listen to the strong Word.

Aaron

I thank my God in all my remembrance of you,
always in every prayer of mine for you all...because
of your partnership in the gospel.

(Philippians 1:3-5, ESV)



Above: The Chapel of the Holy Apostles,
Concordia Seminary

Prayer Requests

- That the Lord would provide a buyer for our former house in Indianapolis.
- That Nathan and Faith would meet and make godly friends and be able to return to in-person school soon.
- For continued health and that the COVID-19 pandemic would come to an end.

Classroom Corner

Academic & Field Work Update

As I write this, it's reading week, which means we're at the halfway point for the first semester. It's hard to believe that our family has been at the seminary for 4 months already! I began the semester early in July with a 7-week Greek language intensive. This semester is filled with mostly introductory courses: Hermeneutics, Systematic Theology, Historical Theology, Pastoral Ministry, and, yes, *more* Greek. I thought you might enjoy a quick update on the recent focus of each course.

Hermeneutics – we've taken a deep dive into the fundamentals of language, its meaning, and are now turning to principles of biblical interpretation. Over the next few weeks, I'll be working on my first exegetical paper focusing on the latter part of Romans 3.

Systematic Theology – the first unit has focused on the biblical story of God, the confession of the Church, the

Word of God, proclaiming Christ to the World, and the means of grace.

Historical Theology – we've been learning about key turning points in early Christian history such as the Councils of Nicaea and Chalcedon, the rise of monasticism, and the medieval expansion of papal authority.

Pastoral Ministry – the course looks at ministry from both a practical and theoretical perspective with topics such as: reconciliation, community, worship, preaching, and the life of the pastor.

Field Work – I'm assigned to Timothy Lutheran Church where I've had the opportunity to lead the liturgy and teach adult Bible classes. I'm also completing a multicultural module with Congregation Chai v'Shalom, an outreach to the Jewish community.



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