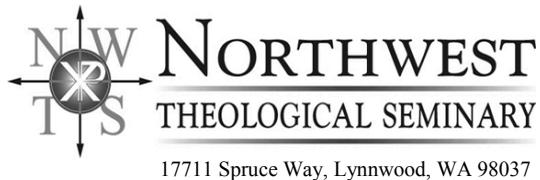


FALL TERM 2010- BEGINS SEPTEMBER 7

TIME	TUESDAY	THURSDAY	SATURDAY
7:00-8:00	PATRISTICS 1	PATRISTICS 1	
8:00-9:00	WESTMINSTER CONFESSION	WESTMINSTER CONFESSION	
9:00-10:30	OLD TEST. INTRO	OLD TEST. INTRO	
12:45-2:45			HOMILETICS
3:00-6:15		VOS READINGS (4:15-6:15)	GREEK 1A (3:00-6:00)
7:00-9:00		PUBLIC LECTURE- HEBREWS	

WEBSITE RESOURCES

****PLEASE VISIT [WWW.NWTS.EDU](http://www.nwts.edu) FOR SCHEDULE AND CLASS UPDATES, DOWNLOADABLE LECTURES AND MORE!****



Volume 11, Issue 3
September 2010

NORTHWEST THEOLOGICAL
SEMINARY NEWSLETTER



His story is...

Our Story

THE UNKNOWN REFORMATION

We know about Luther and Calvin; some of us know about Zwingli and Knox. But few of us have heard of Melius and Szegegi or a Lasco and Sarnicki. The Iron Curtain of Communism not only brutally suppressed freedom with its rolling tanks and Gulags, it shut off the story of Calvinism in Poland, Hungary, Transylvania and the Baltic States as well. That story of 16th century expansion of Reformed Christianity beyond Germany and Switzerland is now emerging as the archives of those former captive nations are restored, opened and researched.

Peter Melius, the apostle of Calvinism in Hungary, penned (with Gregory Szegegi and Gyorgy Czegledi) the fundamental Reformed Confession of Hungary in 1562 (so-called *Confessio Catholica* or Debrecen Confession). John a Lasco of Poland spent many years as pastor of a Reformed congregation in Holland (Emden), then emigrated to England with his flock following the Augsburg Interim (1548) and finally returned to his native Poland in 1556 to stabilize the emerging Reformed Church. By 1555, much of Polish Protestantism had shifted under his leadership from Luther to Calvin. And in Transylvania (modern-day Rumania), Calvinism captured the minds and hearts of students traveling for education to Geneva, Zurich, and

Strasbourg instead of Wittenberg.

The spread of Calvinism in Eastern Europe from 1550 to 1560 was remarkable! But all that would change tragically with the insinuation of the Italian Humanists into the courts of Eastern Europe. These Antitrinitarians despised the Nicene Creed, the superb orthodoxy of Athanasius, the historic affirmation of the Biblical doctrine of the Trinity and sowed division, dissension and rank Arian heresy in the Reformed churches of Poland, Hungary and Transylvania. The sad aftermath was a remnant Calvinism in a sea of Socinian Unitarianism and renascent Roman Catholicism.

And yet, the Reformed Confessions of these nations still stand as a stirring testimony to the vigorous advance of Calvinism where we would least have expected. The Confessions of these East European communities are translated now into English for the first time (James T. Dennison, *The Reformed Confessions of the 16th and 17th Centuries in English Translation*, Volume II published in April; Volume III, forthcoming, will include several more Confessions from this region—in order to purchase Vol. II, see nwts.edu for a link to the publisher). They still stir the hearts of Reformed Christians with their witness to “the faith once for all delivered to the saints.”—JTDennison

NEW STUDENT

From the Land of the Rising Sun to the Evergreen State by way of Penn's Woods and by-ways in between, NWTS welcomes Stephen Lauer, his wife, Felicia, and their three-year-old son, Isaac. The family hails from Indianapolis where they attended Covenant OPC (Larry Wilson, pastor). Stephen is also under the care of the OPC Presbytery of Ohio. He is the son of Woody Lauer and his wife, Laurie, OPC missionaries to Japan. It was there that he was initially educated, learned Japanese (he is fluent) and returned to the States to attend Grove City College (PA). Here he became attracted to Felicia—in a Greek class (no doubt parsing verbs). Felicia is a Hoosier (Indianapolis) native, where they settled following graduation. Stephen went to work for a few years in a cabinet-making shop, but is now ready to answer the Lord's call to ministry. When asked whether he wants to be a pastor or a missionary, he replies, "Yes!" We welcome them to our student body and our small but stimulating academic community.



Please include the Lauers and our retuning students (David McPherson and Steve MacKenzie) in your prayers.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Reformation Celebration: October 29, 2010. NWTS will once again feature a Reformation presentation at the Lynnwood OPC at 7:30pm that Friday evening. Jim Denison will discuss Calvinism in Eastern Europe, 1540-1570. The public is invited to this free celebration.

New Series on Hebrews. With the new fall semester at NWTS, we will feature a series on the epistle to the Hebrews each Thursday evening from 7-9pm at the seminary. All are welcome.

Coming in the Spring 2011: a series on Thursday nights on Paul's Letter to the Galatians by Prof. Scott Sanborn.

Board Meeting

The Board of NWTS met by conference call July 24 to review the work of the seminary and adopt a \$148,000 budget for fiscal 2010-2011. The Board also concurred with the recommendation of the Faculty to suspend the print version of the seminary journal (*Kerux: The Journal of Northwest Theological Seminary*) with the December 2010 number. This will mark 25 years (1986-2010) of publication. *Kerux* will become a free, online, electronic journal effective January 2011. All future and back issues of the journal will be posted free of charge at Kerux.com. New articles will be available each May, September and December and may be downloaded as soon as they are posted.

The Hungarian *Confessio Catholica* (1562) on Justification

Justification before God takes place through God's grace alone, given gratis on account of the merit of Christ, through the imputation of His righteousness and the forgiveness of sins, not imputing our sins to us, but covering them by faith to demonstrate the righteousness of God, which are given to us entirely passively apart from our strength or merit.

GIVING

We have been sustained by the gracious providence of God through the faithful gifts of our donors. We bless the name that is above every name and register our deep gratitude to those who have mailed checks, transferred stock and debited their credit cards on our behalf. We are encouraged in our work by God's blessing, not only in a new student and returning students, but also in the on-going loyalty of our financial supporters. Please realize that you are precious to us in the Lord.

Several corporations have a "Matching-Gift" program by which employees may donate to non-profits (like NWTS) and the corporation will match the gift, thus increasing the contribution. The latest company to approve NWTS for its Matching-Gift campaign is the Boeing Corporation. Microsoft and Verizon are also Matching-Gift corporations from which we benefit through our thoughtful donors. Our readers may wish to check with their employers for a Matching-Gift program where you work.