

### Report on the 5<sup>th</sup> Conference of the International Loehe Society

From July 24-July 27, Wartburg Seminary hosted the 5<sup>th</sup> Conference of the International Loehe Society (ILOeS) under the theme “Christian Identity in Crisis: The Legacy of Wilhelm Loehe as Inspiration for the Church Today.” Over 40 participants gathered on campus and a handful of others joined the presentation sessions by Zoom. Participants came from Germany, Switzerland, Australia, Canada, and the United States.

The idea for such a society originated in conversations between Wartburg Seminary professors Craig Nessian and Thomas Schattauer about bringing together people with interest to explore the work of the Franconian Lutheran pastor Wilhelm Loehe as a living legacy for the church today. With the engagement of representatives from institutions that trace their roots to Loehe—the Gesellschaft für Innere und Äußere Mission, Diakonie Neuendettelsau (now Diakoneo), Missionswerk Bayern (now Mission EineWelt), Concordia Seminary (Fort Wayne), and Wartburg College, Waverly, Iowa, the organizing conference was held at Wartburg Seminary, Dubuque, Iowa, July 2005. Subsequent conferences were held in Neuendettelsau (2008), Concordia Seminary, Fort Wayne, Indiana (2011), Neuendettelsau (2014). After an extended hiatus that included a virtual conference in 2021, ILOeS is again back on track to meet every three years.

The days of the conference were full with presentations (twelve in all!), opening and closing worship services, and good fellowship over breaks and meal times. The papers presented at this year’s gathering add to a growing body of work on Loehe and the legacy of individuals and institutions influenced by him. They include historical and theological explorations, critical assessments, and reflections for the church and in its life and mission today. You are invited to explore the extraordinary

range of topics in the [list of presentations](#). Especially noteworthy is the presence of contributions from some younger scholars as well as the forward trajectory of much of this work on Loehe and his contemporaries. The papers are to appear (in English and in full) in the online journal [Currents in Theology and Mission](#), either July 2024 or January 2025. [Participants at the conference and ILoeS members and friends can access preliminary versions of the papers (in English and in German) [here](#) with the password sent to you.]

In addition to the presentation sessions, there was opportunity for a trolley tour of historic Dubuque and a day-long excursion that took us to Wartburg College, Waverly, Iowa, and to two churches founded by Loehe *Sendlinge* (sent ones): St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Waverly, and St. Sebald Lutheran Church, in the rolling countryside near Strawberry Point. At St. Sebald, the group visited the farm site where Wartburg Seminary was located from 1857-1874.

Loehe Theological Conference V resulted from many months of collaboration among the officers of the Society: Christian Weber (Basel), Thomas Schattauer (Minneapolis), Thomas Kothmann (Regensburg), and Jacob Corzine (Chicago). The Society is most grateful for the generous support provided for the conference by the German American National Congress (DANK), Diakoneo, Gesellschaft für Innere und Äußere Mission, Wartburg College, and most especially Wartburg Theological Seminary. Sadly, Thomas Kothmann was not able to attend due to serious illness. He died shortly after the conclusion of the conference. We remember him and his loved ones in prayer and give thanks for his contributions to the Society.

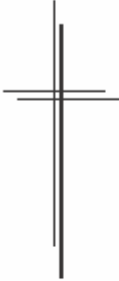
Over the course of our days together at the conference, a genuine sense of camaraderie and spiritual community developed among the participants. Let's call it *Gemutlichkeit* and *Gemeinschaft*! It was refreshing to see a number of new and younger faces, both men and women, among the participants at the conference. The good spirit and good learning at this year's conference are encouragement to look to the future of the International Loehe Society. Planning for the next conference in Neuendettelsau 2025 is already underway.

## Governing Council 2023-2025

The current members of the ILoeS Governing Council (Christian Weber, Thomas Schattauer, and Jacob Corzine) are pleased to announce those who have agreed to serve in the next triennium. Weber and Schattauer will continue as co-presidents. Matthias Honold and K. Detlev Schulz will be the co-secretary/treasurers. Matthias is director of the Central Archive and Library at Diakoneo, Neuendettelsau, and has been involved with the Society since the organizing meeting in Dubuque 2005. Detlev is professor of Pastoral Ministry and Missions at Concordia Seminary, Fort Wayne, and began his involvement with the Society at our meeting in Fort Wayne 2011. We are grateful to Detlev and Matthias for their willingness to serve.

Jacob Corzine, co-secretary/treasurer since 2014, requested to step aside from his responsibilities. The death of Thomas Kothmann, co-secretary since 2014, opened that position. Many thanks to Jacob for his partnership in the work of the Governing Council, and prayers in remembrance and thanksgiving to God for Thomas.

## Death Notice for Thomas Kothmann



Je schöner und voller die Erinnerung,  
desto schwerer die Trennung.  
*Dietrich Bonhoeffer*

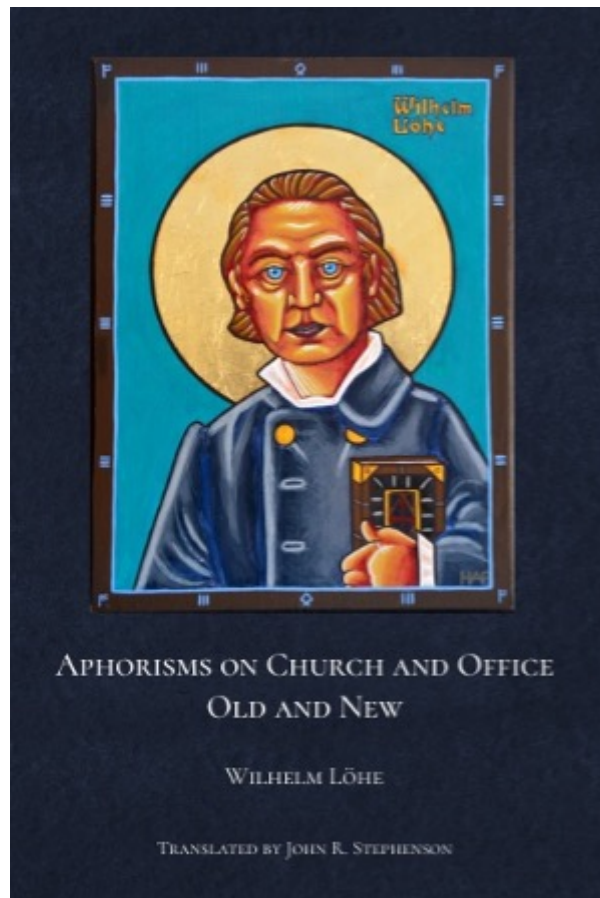
In Liebe und Dankbarkeit für die gemeinsame  
Zeit, die jedoch leider viel zu früh ein Ende  
fand, nehmen wir Abschied von

**Prof. Dr. Thomas Kothmann**  
\* 22.04.1965 † 04.08.2022

Wir vermissen Dich schmerzlich  
Dr. Heike Kothmann  
Constanze Kothmann  
Maximilian Kothmann

95180 Berg, Issigauer Str. 14  
Die Trauerfeier findet am 11.8.2022 um 14.00 in der Jakobus-  
Kirche Berg statt mit anschließender Beisetzung auf dem Friedhof.

## Announcement of New Translation of Loehe's Aphorisms by John Stephenson



**Published by:**

**Concordia Lutheran Theological Seminary, St. Catharines**

**Available from [Lulu](#)**

**Endorsements:**

*The nineteenth century was ripe with controversy over church and office. Wilhelm Löhe found himself in the midst of the debate, but not as an academic theologian. Löhe was a pastor and the Aphorisms bear the marks of a shepherd writing to clarify the nature of the office and its relationship to the church. Thanks to the diligence of Dr. John Stephenson, English-speaking readers have access to Löhe's developing thought on the pastoral office in his Aphorisms of 1849 and 1851. While not everything in the Aphorisms is applicable for the Lutheran Church in our day, readers are given access to an important voice that needs to be heard as we are challenged to think theologically about the nature of the church, her life, and mission, in relation*

*to the office instituted by Christ. This volume should find a place not only in seminary classrooms but as a book for study, discussion, and debate in pastoral conferences.*

*Rev. Dr. John T. Pless*

*Assistant Professor of Pastoral Ministry and Missions*

*Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, Indiana*

*John Stephenson has done the English-speaking world a great service in preparing these translations of Wilhelm Löhe's Aphorisms on church and office from 1849 and 1851. Although many have acknowledged Löhe's role in giving shape to North American Lutheranism through his Sendlinge, access to the writings of this influential pastor-theologian and renewer of the church has been far too limited.*

*The Aphorisms took shape in the context of debates about structures of the church and its ministry within the European landscape of Löhe's own Bavarian Landeskirche. They also offer the fullest account of Löhe's thinking about matters that emerged among the churches of German Lutheran immigrants on the North American continent. In a larger historical perspective, these writings from Löhe contribute to the ongoing reflection about the church in the circumstances of the modern world. Löhe's Aphorisms reveal the scriptural, spiritual, confessional, and fundamentally catholic foundations of his tireless efforts to renew the church as a distinctive and responsive community of disciples. That project remains ever relevant.*

*Rev. Dr. Thomas H. Schattauer*

*Professor Emeritus of Liturgics*

*Wartburg Theological Seminary, Dubuque, Iowa*

*Co-President, International Loehe Society*

## Membership and Dues for 2023

You can become a member of the International Loehe Society by submitting a payment for dues at this [link](#). Dues are \$30.00 per year.

Members are encouraged to [renew](#) their membership for 2023. Please consider renewing your membership for the current triennium 2023-2025 for \$90.00. In addition there is opportunity at the same link to make a donation to the Society.

Membership dues—and donations—are a critical means of support for our conferences every three years and for the publication of the proceedings from those meetings. Any questions, contact Thomas Schattauer

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