

Comments from Participants at the 2022 Conference

Thank you for the work that you are doing, critically exploring the legacy of Wilhelm Loehe: challenging assumptions, bringing new insights and helping us learn more about who we have been, in service of who we are becoming.

**Kristin Johnston Largen, President
Wartburg Theological Seminary**

This year's gathering of the International Loehe Society once again demonstrated the resilience of Wilhelm Loehe's legacy and variegated refractions of that legacy in contemporary church life. I especially appreciated the impulses for pastoral theology and missiology in several of the papers. For me a highlight of this year's conference was Stephen Pietsch's treatment of Loehe view of the pastoral office. I was pleased with the global scope of the conference as we had speakers not only from the ELCA and LCMS but also from Australia, Canada, and Germany.

**John Pless, Assistant Professor of Pastoral Ministry and Mission
Concordia Theological Seminary (Fort Wayne)**

It was inspiring to meet so many Loehe scholars, and to learn more about his life, theology, ministry and work. The sacrifices of so many so long ago, to answer the call to word and sacrament and to service in many places around the world gave me a deep appreciation and renewed dedication to my own call to follow and to serve Jesus. Seeing the history, buildings and communities springing from their efforts reminds us that our faith is not in vain!

**Harlan Kaden, Pastor
Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Lake Wilson, Minnesota**

Our inheritance from Loehe is a commitment to engage the open questions of our church, of our confessions, of our society.

**Peter Heide, Pastor
Baraboo, Wisconsin**

As the spouse of a student, I always wondered, "Who was this guy Wilhelm Loehe? Why is the chapel named for him?" This week I learned Loehe embodied, "Where learning leads to mission and mission leads to learning."

**Susan Heide
Baraboo, Wisconsin**

All the presentations were excellent and showed a great range of scholarship and perspectives connected to Pastor Loehe.

**Martin Lohrmann, Associate Professor of Lutheran Confessions and Heritage
Wartburg Theological Seminary**

Gathering at Wartburg Theological Seminary, we experienced the spirit of life together in Christian community. The conference theme helped us retrieve and claim the witness of our founder, Wilhelm Loehe, for the challenges of mission in our time.

**Craig Nesson, Professor of Contextual Theology and Ethics
Wartburg Theological Seminary**

As a person living in Neuendettelsau I found it interesting how many participants knew about Neuendettelsau and had visited our small town. The lectures showed the large influence Loehe had on the development of Lutheranism in America in spite of controversies and limitations. I appreciated getting acquainted with personalities of LCMS and better understand their history and theological standpoints.

**Hermann Vorländer, Direktor i.R
Missionswerk der ELKB, Neuendettelsau**

It was a very interesting conference that gave a differentiated picture of the significance of Loehe's work for today. The various lectures were reflective and on the highest level.

**Mathias Hartmann, Vorsitzender
Diakoneo, Neuendettelsau**

As a first-time participant in the International Wilhelm Loehe Society, I assumed that the presentations and discussions would be engaging and scholarly--and that assumption was well-founded. I did not anticipate, however, the invigorating level of collegiality and camaraderie that the meeting engendered. In the USA, the fractured Lutheran churches (particularly between the ELCA and the LCMS), do not often allow scholars from the respective communions to occupy the same spaces. The Loehe Society provides a rich setting for learning and for the kind of "mutual care and consolation" that Martin Luther valued so highly.

**William R. Russell, Coordinator
The Lutheran Confessions' Project, Lutheran World Federation**

It was an excellent experience for me to interact with the other participants while being at our beloved Wartburg Seminary. It was also an excellent way to begin some sabbatical time in Iowa as it provided much food for thought and reflection. The most meaningful thing for me was to hear how Loehe's approach to pastoral care and ministry was so servant oriented. In fact it was very diaconal in nature. I am an ordained pastor who previously was a diaconal minister. I came to understand that a diaconal orientation or approach to ministry as an ordained pastor can be integrated in a very holistic way. This is a way of ministry for me that allows me to embrace my call to ordained ministry while continuing to have a diaconal self-identity.

**David Thoresen, Pastor
Atonement Lutheran Church, Sebring, Florida**