

MEMORIAL (2010-05)

Subject: *Correcting the belief that Creation was about 6,000 years ago*

WHEREAS 1) it has always been the practice within the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod to say that Creation was "about 6,000 to 10,000 years ago" (which necessarily adds at least 40 unrecorded generations to the 20 known generations in the 2,000 years from Adam to Abraham); and

WHEREAS 2) our official WELS "voice" has, in the past 13 years, twice told us in Christmas meditations that Jesus' birth in Bethlehem happened "about 4,000 years" and, again, "4,000 years" after God's first promise of a Savior, in Eden; and

WHEREAS 3) Northwestern Publishing House is selling creationist publications by sectarian organizations believing (in line with Creation being about 6,000 years ago) that Noah's Flood year happened in real time at 2349-2348 B.C.; and

WHEREAS 4) such a sectarian belief is total nonsense; and

WHEREAS 5) WELS properly teaches that Noah's Flood was worldwide and that its effect was to drown everybody except for the family of Noah; and

WHEREAS 6) suggesting a better date for the Flood such as approximately 6000 B.C. would give secular people (properly informed regarding the realities of Neolithic archeology) lots less to laugh at when considering issues raised by Christian apologetic; and

WHEREAS 7) this would even bring such an ancient site as "Gobekli tepe" (on a high plateau east of the Tigris River) within the possibility of being the "city" that was named for Cain's descendant, Enoch; therefore be it

Resolved that the Presidium of the Minnesota District of the WELS, in consultation with the WELS Presidium, encourage our people responsible for teaching and publishing in WELS to adopt a practice such as saying that Creation was "most probably up to 10,000 years ago," which would be in line with American bristlecone pines and European oaks having growth rings going back to at least 6000 B.C.

Mr. Gerhold L. Lemke, Good Shepherd, Cedar Rapids, Iowa