

LETTER from the Lutherans at Albany to the Amsterdam Consistory. May 15/25, 1669

Reverend, Attentive, Highly and Well Learned Pastors and Elders adhering to the Unaltered Augsburg Confession at Amsterdam. Reverend, Prudent Gentlemen:

We, the joint Consistory and members here at Albany, cannot sufficiently express and make known to your reverences our great joy and happiness at the safe arrival here on the 20th of April, old style, of the Reverend and Learned Magister Jacobus Fabricius, who, on the 25th ditto, or Sunday Misericordias Domini,⁴⁵ in the name of the Holy, Highly-praised Trinity, preached the first sermon here, for which we, first of all, all together heartily praise and thank Almighty God for having heard and answered our prolonged wishes and prayer and also for letting shine in these American regions the light of his Holy Gospel, a light for the enlightenment of the heathen at the price of his lost Israel, hoping that by the grace of God the same may shine in these American parts as long as the world exists, for which may God grant his mercy. Amen.

Further, we, the consistory and all the members here at Albany, jointly thank your reverences, pastors, elders and deacons at Amsterdam, deeply and from the bottom of our hearts for the sending over (under the wonderful providence of God) of the Reverend Magister Jacobus Fabricius; and, as we cannot repay your reverences for this great benefaction except by a hearty expression of gratitude to God and your reverences, we pray God, who is the rewarder of all goodness, that He may please to reward and repay your reverences for it.

Furthermore, whereas we are here a poor, plain community, of small means (though rich in God), therefore, our brotherly and friendly request to your reverences to lend us the helping hand and to assist us, as there is much need of everything, as you yourselves well know what is required for a congregation which is first founded. We would not trouble your reverences in the least if it were not highly necessary and if this congregation (through God's blessing) comes to prosper, we shall gratefully reimburse your reverences for all that you may have advanced to us.

Ending herewith, we commend you Reverend Gentlemen, pastors, elders and deacons, after hearty greetings from all of us, to the gracious protection of the Most High.

In Albany, the 25/15th May A^o. 1669.

Your reverences' friends and fellow-brethren in Christ, the pastor and deputed elders of the Christian congregation adhering to the Unaltered Augsburg Confession there.

By me, Hans Dreper

[Addressed:] Reverend, Prudent, Learned Pastors and joint leaders of the Christian congregations adhering to the Unaltered Augsburg Confession in Amsterdam.

[Endorsed:] New York 1669. Received in Consistory the 7th Aug.

⁴⁵ *The second Sunday after Easter. The date was April 25, old style, or May 5, new style.*