

Landwehr, Arthur J and Wall, James M

Elmhurst Ministers Write *Press-21-72* Books On Theology, Cinema

The Rev. Arthur J. Landwehr, pastor of the First United Methodist church, Elmhurst, and the Rev. Dr. James M. Wall, of 451 S. Kenilworth, Elmhurst, editor of the Christian Advocate and a member of Landwehr's congregation, will be honored at an autographing party from 3 to 5 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 30, in Wesley Hall of the church.

Rev. Landwehr's book, "In the Third Place" was recently released by Abingdon Press, in paperback form. Dr. Wall's book, "Church and Cinema" was published by Eerdmans Publishing Co., Grand Rapids, Mich., and is available in both hard cover and paperback.

Calling for an end to the polarizations centering in political revolution or maintaining status quo, Rev. Landwehr's book pushes toward a new position that does not rest upon neutrality or compromise which he terms the "theology of the third place."

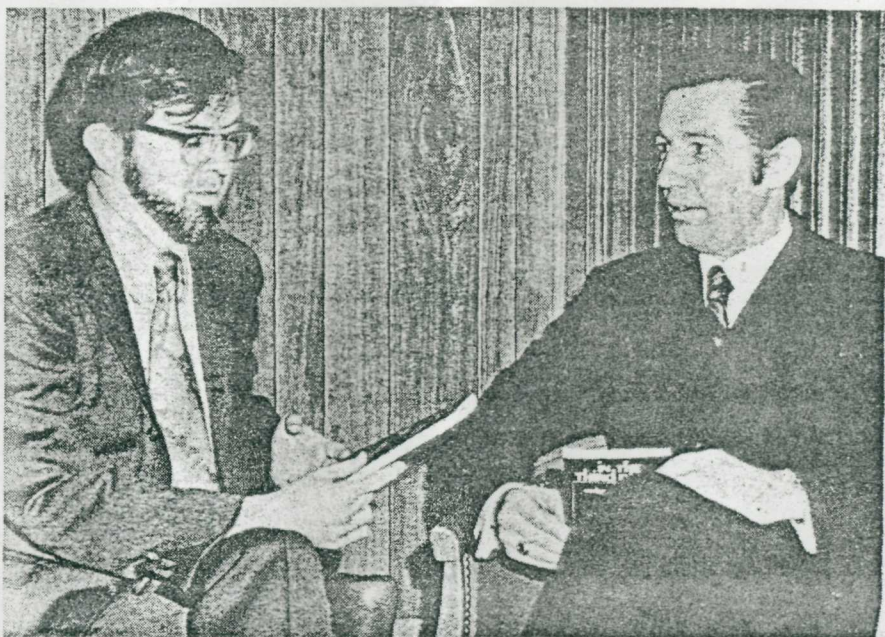
Dr. Wall's book recognizes the

motion picture as an important communications medium, as an influential social phenomenon and as an art form unique in this century. He offers an approach to critical evaluation of film, but writes from a Christian perspective.

Dr. Wall, an ordained Methodist minister, does film criticisms for several publications. He is a member of the film education committee of the National Council of Churches Broadcasting and Film Commission and has worked closely with the film industry's current film

rating system. He has also taught cinema arts in several colleges and universities.

Rev. Landwehr is widely known throughout the Chicago area for his columns on ecumenism entitled "Ecumenical Insights." He has spoken to college audiences, and addresses the Iowa annual conference of the United Methodist church. His book evolved from these talks.



AUTHOR, AUTHOR—Books written by the Rev. Arthur Landwehr, right, of the First United Methodist church, Elmhurst; and the Rev. Dr. James M. Wall, 451 Kenilworth, editor of the Christian Advocate and a member of Landwehr's congregation, have been recently released and will be the subject of an autographing party to be held from 3 to 5 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 30, in Wesley hall of the church. Rev. Landwehr's book, "In the Third Place," calls for an end to polarizations in religions. Dr. Wall's book, "Church and Cinema," comments on the importance of the motion picture as a communications medium. Both books are available in paperback in local bookstores.

Elmhurst Press

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by PATRICIA WALKER

The Rev. Arthur Landwehr is a familiar sight in Elmhurst: In his ministry for the First United Methodist church he walks—usually at double time—up, across and down the streets of town. Wrapped in a black coat, his tall frame exudes an intense energy visible to passersby.

He is also familiar as author of The Press Publications column, Ecumenical Insights. Now he has assembled his communications skills, his energy and, above all, his knowledge of an enthusiasm for the Word and the World of God, and put these into a remarkable little book.

Titled "In the Third Place: An alternative for the Christian," the short (128) pages are packed full of new insights that are sure to provide thought-provoking meditations and hopefully, may inspire individual action.

Published by Abingdon, the book is an expansion of lectures Rev. Landwehr has given before various groups in the Midwest. In the book, he calls for an end to polarizations that divide today's congregations, caused by two basic views.

Explaining that there are those who advocate a political revolution and, secondly, those who prefer the status quo, Rev. Landwehr pushes toward a new position, not neutral and not compromising. This he calls his theology of the Third Place.

He further explains that his book is an attempted "excursion into the world with a radical theology for an age that is dabbling in revolution."

What is this new, radical theology? It is, in fact, the ancient theology, a return to Christian beginnings or Apostolic tradition. It is a return to Jesus and his Word. It is a return to the concept that the church is, first of all, the individual who must hear the Word and carry it out.

Rev. Landwehr's challenge is strongest to the church-structure of today. He condemns the "jet set God talkers" and the church that "tinkers with the age of discontinuity and simply echoes it." he also deplores that "the church has conformed to (the world's) schizoid state."

He challenges the individual Christian, whether a member of the clergy or laity, whether a church-goer or non-church-goer. His phrases sometimes startle: "Our Father In Heaven, hollow be your name. Our kingdom come and yours none too soon . . ."

These challenges and calls for action venture into every aspect of the world, from hypnotism and drugs, to war, abortion, and politics; to television, technology and nuclear energy. On each topic he sheds a new light, maybe soft pink, sometimes dirty gray, but generally a stark and brilliant white.

His controversial insights are intriguing and ring with authority but he always backs up his words with quotes from today's leaders in every field: Marshall McLuhan and Alvin Toffler; Martin Luther King and Rod McKuen; Eric Fromm and Jean-Paul Sartre; John Barth.

Rev. Landwehr's "third place" alternatives offer hope by emphasizing faith and love. He tries to show that a return to Jesus and his Word and a committed emphasis on the Eucharist will improve this sad

world by beginning with the soul of each man.

He even identifies and describes anew the Jesus to whom we must return. Jesus, he says, is the root as well as the prophet, the priest and the pioneer. Jesus also is, says Landwehr, a radical, a radical in the "manner of a modern Che Guevara."

For this book, some may label Rev. Landwehr a radical. He certainly tears apart many ideas prevalent today in the church. But he offers new building blocks and sounds a clarion call: "Is not there anybody anywhere taking the risk of restoring Christ to the world?"