

Letter 311: 29 November 1526, [Zurich], Ulrich Zwingli to Johannes Oecolampadius, Capito, and the Strasbourg preachers

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[*Summary*]: Zwingli is not familiar with the contents of [Heinrich Brennwald]'s letter to his son Jodocus, but does not think that Oecolampadius and the Strasbourg reformers have reason to be concerned [cf. above, Ep. 309]. [Heinrich] acted out of love for his brother [Felix Brennwald], of whom Zwingli does not approve. At the Disputation of Baden, the city council and people of Zurich were urged to allow at least one mass. When [Caspar von Mülinen] reported this in Bern, a partisan of the Reformation noted that Catholic efforts were in vain. The mass was bound to be abolished. Zwingli reports on the measures taken to break the opposition of those who accept pensions from foreign powers to the detriment of the gospel teaching. These men are traitors and their counsel corrupt. Zwingli has learned of their actions through intercepted letters and through other channels. A committee of eleven has been struck to investigate the matter. Jacob Grebel, the father of the Anabaptist Conrad Grebel, was beheaded for having received more than 1,500 gulden from the pope. Others [i.e. Felix Brennwald and Thomas Wellenberg] fled, but are now trying to return. Zwingli's [*Antwort über Dr. Strussen Büchlin*] will be published soon [Zurich: Froschauer, January 1527]. Zwingli has not yet begun his Latin response to Luther [i.e. *Amica exegesis ... ad Martinum Lutherum*, published in Zurich: Froschauer, March 1527], but will have it ready for the Frankfurt fair. Zwingli considers Plutarch's *Parallel Lives* a useful text. Since the Aldine edition of the text is expensive [*Plutarchi quae vocantur Parallela*, Venice: Aldus, 1519], he suggests that [Andreas] Cratander reprint them in two volumes, the first of which could be ready for sale at the next Frankfurt fair and the second at the autumn fair. Zwingli predicts that they will sell well in Strasbourg, Basel and Nürnberg.