

## Consensus

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Volume 26

Issue 1 *The Baptismal Journey: Adventures on the River of Life*

Article 1

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5-1-2000

# Acknowledgments

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### Recommended Citation

Riegert, Eduard R. (2000) "Acknowledgments," *Consensus*: Vol. 26 : Iss. 1 , Article 1.  
Available at: <http://scholars.wlu.ca/consensus/vol26/iss1/1>

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# DEDICATION

to

Debbie Lou

Michael

Keri

Karen

James

artists to the glory of God

## Acknowledgments

These lecture-presentations were prepared initially for the National Worship Conference of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada, under the theme, “The River of Life – A Baptismal Journey”, at the Vancouver School of Theology, University of British Columbia, 5-9 August 1998. An enthusiastic reception there prompted an invitation to repeat four of them – under the theme, “Adventures on the River of Promise: The Baptismal Journey” – at “Discovery ’99: Festival of Faith and Life”, a Leadership Conference sponsored by the Eastern Synod of the ELCIC and Waterloo Lutheran Seminary, at Erindale College, University of Toronto in Mississauga, 10-13 June 1999. To the multitude of people who initiated, planned, oversaw, and carried through these events, I am deeply grateful.

To publish the bare *text* of the presentations is to publish only one-fifth of the presentations. For the National Worship Conference, the Planning Committee selected four presenters: Debbie Lou Ludolph of Kitchener, Ontario, a professional singer and church musician, the Rev. Michael Mills of Toronto, Ontario, a graphic artist, Keri Wehlander of Burnaby, British Columbia, dancer and poet, and myself, a Homiletician, and assigned us the task of making *integrated presentations* on five sub-themes. (The sub-themes had been proposed by the Rev. Donald Johnson, pastor of Gloria Dei Lutheran Church in North Vancouver; the integrated approach was proposed by the Rev. André Lavergne, pastor of Trinity Lutheran Church, New Hamburg, Ontario.) When I had prepared the text, we began the creative and exciting labor of integrating into it the independent work of each artist. In Vancouver we drew into our community of artists the musicianship of the Rev. Karen Johnson-Lefsrud, in Mississauga that of the Rev. James Brown. As a result, each theme presentation became a dynamic drama of voice, song, interpretive movement, visual art, and musical accompaniment – a drama which regularly “overflowed” to engage and involve the entire assembly.

While I dedicate this publication to these five artists, it is a pleasure to acknowledge yet again my huge debt to them, and to express my pro-

found gratitude for the opportunity of working so congenially with them. I salute their genuine artistry, their devotion, and their integrity.

At the same time I record with pleasure my thanks to the many people – peers, colleagues in ministry, and dedicated lay persons – who enthusiastically endorsed the presentations and urged their publication.

To my wife Ladona I extend my happy thanks for her companionship on the journey, and for her firm hand on the paddle.

I am grateful to the *United Church Observer* and to Larry Krotz for permission to reprint his article, "Remembering Charlie's Changed Life"; and to Penguin Putnam Inc., New York, for permission to reprint lines from James Weldon Johnson's sermon, "Let My People Go".