

## Consensus

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# Foreword

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## Foreword

This issue of *Consensus* brings together a rather diverse collection of essays. This diversity, however, seems to us at the Lutheran Theological Seminary, Saskatoon, to make an important point about what this journal is intended to be, namely, a vehicle for a broad range of writers, subjects, and approaches, all of which relate to Lutheranism in Canada.

The lead essay by Professor Walter Freitag of LTS commemorates an event of critical importance for us at LTS and for all Western Canadian Lutherans: the founding of the Lutheran College and Seminary at Saskatoon seventy-five years ago—on November 20, 1913, to be precise. Professor Freitag's essay commemorates this significant anniversary by looking at the prehistory of this institution which was one of the two seminaries that merged to form the present Seminary in Saskatoon.

The second essay by Professor Egil Grislis of the University of Manitoba, Winnipeg, is the first of four essays by Professor Grislis on the subject of "Pastoral Authority in a Lutheran Perspective" which will appear in successive issues of *Consensus*. These essays were originally presented as lectures at the 1987 Eastern Synod Leadership Conference sponsored by the Eastern Synod (ELCIC) and Waterloo Lutheran Seminary and held at Wilfrid Laurier University, Waterloo, Ontario. The present essay discusses Martin Luther and the problem of authority; the other three essays will focus on "The Profile of Authority for Luther's Followers" (Fall 1988), "The Lutheran Pastor and the Meaning of Authority" (Spring 1989), and "Authority and Pastoral Practice" (Fall 1989).

In the next essay on "Preservation and Salvation: The Significance of Eschatology for the Mission of the Church", Professor Robert A. Kelly of Waterloo Lutheran Seminary attempts

to provide some clarity on the ethical issues of war and peace and the church's attitude toward nuclear weapons. His analysis of current views—including the Lutheran Council in Canada's 1985 statement on "War and Peace"—and his challenge to the Lutheran church in Canada to be "an instrument of global peace-building and the preservation of creation" make this an important contribution.

The Reverend Henry Edwards of Elmira, Ontario, who is on the Eastern Synod's clergy roster and also a Ph.D. candidate at the University of St. Michael's College, Toronto, brings an ecumenical dimension to this issue of *Consensus* with his comparison of the Lutheran justification-sanctification theme with the Eastern Orthodox concept of *theosis*. The essay, which combines history and theology, introduces the reader to both the historical and the current ecumenical dimensions of this theological issue.

With this Number we introduce a section devoted to responses to articles from readers. The editors will consider reasoned responses which will contribute positively to theological dialogue. We are hopeful that this may be not an occasional feature only, but an on-going one.

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