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## Consensus in a new format

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## **Welcome to a brand new issue of *Consensus* in a brand new format!**

**A**fter a two year hiatus *Consensus* is returning in an on-line format. We will retain our practice of publishing twice a year. Information on up-coming issues will be available at this site and at the websites of our sponsoring bodies, Lutheran Theological Seminary in Saskatoon and Waterloo Lutheran Seminary.

This new format is the result of a great deal of planning by Dr David Pfrimmer (Principal-Dean of Waterloo Lutheran Seminary), Dr Kevin Ogilvie (President of Lutheran Theological Seminary in Saskatoon), Dr Chris Eberhart (LTSS) and Dr Tim Hegedus (WLS). We also offer thanks to Rev Cliff Reinhardt who served for many years as Managing Editor of the print editions of *Consensus*. Thank you, Cliff, for your tremendous dedication to *Consensus* over the years!

This issue entitled “Theology and Context(s)” features a number of essays that reflect the emphasis on context in contemporary theology. Mark Kleiner, who recently graduated from LTSS, provides an insightful paper on the development of the thought of James Cone, who was one of the first to take the black experience seriously as a context for Christian theology. Rev. Rick Pryce shows how locating a Biblical passage in its geographical and topographical context sheds important light on the text that is useful for preaching. Laura Sauder studies the status of women in the Hebrew Bible, New Testament and Mishnah, all key sources for our knowledge of ancient Judaism. Dr Alan Lai discusses the significance of the theme of “empire” in current theology and its meaning for seminary education. Finally, Bob Chodos shows how themes associated with the Virgin Mary in traditional Christianity also find their place in the ancient Hebrew Scriptures.

We hope that readers will enjoy *Consensus* in its new format.