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# Adventuring for Christ: The Story of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Canada

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## **BOOKS IN REVIEW**

### ***ADVENTURING FOR CHRIST: THE STORY OF THE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH OF CANADA***

**GEORGE O. EVENSON**

**Calgary: Foothills Lutheran Press, 1974.**

**301 Pages. \$4.95**

The history of a church body is seldom easy to write. Where such a history must take up the strands of history of several bodies which have merged, the task would seem monumental. Yet this is the task which is successfully undertaken in this history of the ELCC. It could well be an incentive for other major Lutheran bodies to do some more historical writing on their particular tradition in Canada.

The book openly builds on previous, more limited histories. Yet the author has also done some substantial gathering of new material gleaned from various archival sources and from interviews with persons who have lived the history which the book documents.

The sometimes overwhelming amount of detail is arranged in a form which is logical and informative. One gets the impression that virtually every congregation and pastor has been mentioned. Each institution of the church has been included. A more thorough presentation of the story of the ELCC could hardly be imagined. In zealously presenting so much detail, however, the book is sometimes too heavy on data and frequently takes on the character of chronology to the detriment of history.

The material in the book seems scanty on the period of the 1920's and 1930's. The role of the Lutheran Immigration Board and the Canadian Lutheran Immigration Aid Society, for example, receive virtually no attention. Since L. F. Tank was the first president and E. Schmok the manager for many years of the L.I.B. (both pastors of the Ohio Synod's Canada District), this omission is surprising. It is understandable, however, since material on the L.I.B. is not likely to be found in church archives.

The task of historical research into Canadian Lutheranism is not complete. Much research data still needs to be found and analyzed. The author is commended for the diligent digging and thorough presentation which he has done in carrying out this study. Others are now challenged to do likewise.