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The Future of Consensus

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THE FUTURE OF CONSENSUS

The year of our Lord 1985 saw the ending of one era of Lutheranism in Canada, and heralded a new era. The formation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church In Canada, effective 1 January 1986, prompted considerable restructuring of inter-Lutheran and other activities. Among these, the demise of the Division of Theology of the Lutheran Council in Canada raised the urgent question of the future of *Consensus*. This "Canadian Lutheran Journal of Theology" was authorized by the Division of Theological Studies (as it was then called) in November 1974. Initially published on a year's trial period, the little journal survived not only the year but a decade and more under the capable editorship of Dr. Norman J. Threinen and the magic touch of his extraordinary secretary, Ms. Esther Koslowsky.

However, the end of the Division of Theology threatened to orphan *Consensus*. Fortunately, the two seminaries of the Evangelical Lutheran Church In Canada, Lutheran Theological Seminary in Saskatoon and Waterloo Lutheran Seminary in Waterloo, gave a spirited response to the problem, *and with the next issue Consensus becomes the journal of these two seminaries.*

The belated publication of this fourth number of Vol. 11, 1985 underscores our determination to continue a work well begun. It is fair to say that *Consensus* has both nurtured and chronicled the maturation of Canadian Lutheran scholarship. Originally designed "to be a vehicle for sharing with Lutheran pastors and lay persons documentary results of the official merger negotiations" (Vol. 1, No. 1, January 1975), the journal moved on to publish the papers presented at the biannual meetings of the Division of Theology. These too were preoccupied with the inter-Lutheran search for pulpit and altar fellowship, since that was the mandate given the Division. When the Lutheran Merger Commission assumed that task, the Division turned its attention to other subjects, most notably the relevance of Luther today and crucial areas in contemporary ethics. So it was that in these latter years *Consensus* came to claim the full implications of its sub-title, "A Canadian Lutheran Journal of Theology."

It is our hope and expectation that we may by way of editorial policy, authorship, and readership continue the inter-Lutheran legacy and develop an ecumenical dimension appropriate to the new autonomous character of Lutheranism within the Canadian mosaic.

While the decision to continue *Consensus* is firm, matters relating to publication are still under discussion. Editorial policy is being revised. We are considering the possibility of a bi-annual publication schedule since that would allow us to expand the journal to include a book review section. The matter of subscriptions is also being reviewed. Information on all these matters will be forthcoming in the next issue.

With the establishment of a new Editorial Board it is "meet and right" to express gratitude to the persons who served on the former Editorial Committee: from 1975 to 1979, David Granskou, William Hordern, Adrian Leski; from 1980 to January 1981, Egil Grislis, William Hordern, Adrian Leske; from April 1981 to 1985, Egil Grislis, William Hordern, John Wilch. And it is especially a joyful thing to thank Norman Threinen and Esther Koslowsky for their editorial and production work through all those years.