

JOURNAL OF LUTHERAN Mission

March 2014 | Vol. 1 | No. 1

Table of Contents

MISSIO DEI BY SCOTT R. MURRAY	6
EVANGELICALISM: THE HEARTBEAT OF AMERICAN PROTESTANTISM AND THE AWKWARD COMPANION OF AMERICAN LUTHERANISM BY WALTER SUNDBERG	8
RESPONSE TO WALTER SUNDBERG BY LAWRENCE R. RAST, JR.	16
ECCLESIOLOGY, MISSION AND PARTNER RELATIONS: WHAT IT MEANS THAT LUTHERAN MISSION PLANTS LUTHERAN CHURCHES BY ALBERT B. COLLVER	20
THE FUTURE OF MISSION IN THE LCMS: COLLABORATION BY JACK PREUS	28
TEACHING THE FAITH ONCE DELIVERED BY CHARLES P. ARAND	32
CHALLENGES TO TEACHING THE FAITH AS A COMPONENT OF MISSION STRATEGY BY TERRY CRIPE	40
WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO MISSOURI? BY RANDALL L. GOLTER	44
LCMS MISSION: A PARADIGM OF ITS OWN BY KLAUS DETLEV SCHULZ	46
RESPONSE TO DETLEV SCHULTZ'S "LCMS MISSION — A PARADIGM OF ITS OWN" BY WILLIAM W. SCHUMACHER.....	56
A THEOLOGICAL STATEMENT FOR MISSION IN THE 21ST CENTURY BY MATTHEW C. HARRISON	60
BOOK REVIEW: "YOU HAVE THE WORDS OF ETERNAL LIFE:" TRANSFORMATIVE READINGS OF THE GOSPEL OF JOHN FROM A LUTHERAN PERSPECTIVE	70
BOOK REVIEW: INTO ALL THE WORLD: THE STORY OF LUTHERAN FOREIGN MISSIONS	78

© 2014 The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod.
Reproduction of a single article or column for parish
use only does not require permission of *The Journal
of Lutheran Mission*. Such reproductions, however,
should credit *The Journal of Lutheran Mission* as the
source. Cover images are not reproducible without
permission. Also, photos and images credited to
sources outside the LCMS are not to be copied.

Editorial office:
1333 S. Kirkwood Road,
St. Louis, MO 63122-7294,
314-996-1202

Published by The Lutheran Church—
Missouri Synod.

Please direct queries to
journaloflutheranmission@lcms.org.

This journal may also be found at www.lcms.org/journaloflutheranmission.



To the Reader

WHY A LUTHERAN JOURNAL ON MISSION?

AS I READ August Friedrich Christian Vilmar's delightful little book *The Theology of Facts Verses The Theology of Rhetoric*, it seemed to me that something similar had occurred in the field of Lutheran mission. Vilmar laments a theology that had drifted into esoterica and speculation, quite at odds with the solid facts of the Gospel. It seemed time to dispel with the rhetoric of missions and discuss the facts, to set the record straight so to speak, and more than that, to act. We aim here for a missiology of facts and action, not a missiology of rhetoric.

The rhetoric since the 19th century, even from Lutheran authors, stated that Martin Luther and those who followed him were not interested in mission. This understanding defines "mission" primarily as "going" to foreign lands rather than "making disciples by baptizing and teaching." When one understands mission in the way of our Lord Jesus in Matthew 28 as "making disciples," the Reformation itself becomes one of the greatest missionary activities in the history of the Church. There is a rhetorical tradition, however, that seeks to place Lutheran confessional ecclesiology (particularly Article VII of the Augustana) over against and even at odds with "mission." This rhetoric drives a wedge between confessional theology and missional commitment. This is a false dichotomy. Because the Lutheran Confessions are a correct exposition of the Holy Scriptures, The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod affirms that the Confessions are, in fact, a correct exposition of the Holy Scriptures and, therefore, cannot be any more of a hindrance to mission than the Holy Scriptures themselves.

Dr. C. F. W. Walther, the founder of the Missouri Synod, was convinced that the Church as Church is responsible for proclaiming the Gospel to the world.

He writes, "Here we see that it is the people of the New Testament, or the Holy Christian Church, that God has prepared or established, to show forth His praise in all the world. That means that the church is to make known the great works of God for the salvation of men, or that which is the same thing, to preach the Gospel to every creature. Even Isaiah gives this testimony, having been enlightened by the Holy Spirit: The true mission society that has been instituted by God is nothing else *than the Christian church itself*, that is the totality of all those who from the heart believe in Jesus Christ."¹

It is our desire to follow the tradition of mission that led to the founding of the Missouri Synod, to highlight and expound good examples of Lutheran missiology and to raise the height and breadth of discussion on mission so that every member of the Missouri Synod prays for the mission of the church, engages in it him/herself and supports it each according to their vocation.

The premier issue of this journal reflects papers and responses from the Summit on Lutheran Mission held in San Antonio, Texas, in November 2013. That event, the first of its kind, focused on Lutheran identity in mission. The desire is that the journal will encourage further discussion and dialogue around Lutheran mission.

We have solicited a large list of contributing editors not only from around the Missouri Synod, but from around the world who have made contributions in the field of Lutheran mission. We look forward to their future contributions. We also look forward to hearing from you, the reader, regarding our current issue as well as future issues.

The Harvest is plentiful. Let's go, therefore, making disciples of all nations by baptizing and teaching!

President Matthew C. Harrison

¹ C. F. W. Walther. "The Mission Society Established By God," in *The Word of His Grace*, 17-34. (Lake Mills: Graphic Publishing Co., 1978), 20.