Department for Theology and Public Witness

Publications Catalogue

September 2015
September 2015

Many LWF publications can be downloaded without login at

http://www.globethics.net/web/the-lutheran-world-federation-dn/collection-articles or at http://www.lutheranworld.org/resources/dtpw

Liberated by God’s Grace. 2017—500 Years of Reformation

In these four booklets, theologians from all parts of the world reflect on the main theme and three sub-themes (Liberated by God’s Grace: Salvation—Not for Sale; Human Beings—Not for Sale; Creation—Not for Sale) of the Lutheran World Federation’s commemoration of the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation. This collection of essays provides profound insights into the crucial issues and challenges daily faced by the members of the worldwide Lutheran communion in very diverse contexts. The theological concept of justification by God’s grace and its consequences for different dimensions of life serve as the main guiding principles for the essays, each one of which is accompanied by three questions that invite to further contextual reflection on the subject.


Religious Plurality and the Public Space. Joint Christian–Muslim Theological Reflections. LWF Studies 1/2015

Religious plurality is a vital element of many societies across the globe. Different visions of life and religious commitment not only shape people’s private lives but have an intrinsic public dimension. Societies need to find ways to acknowledge and deal with this diversity in the public space. Religious communities and theologians are challenged to interpret their own traditions in ways that enable the constructive engagement with religious plurality. In this volume, Christian and Muslim scholars from different parts of the world together explore the meaning of public space. In relation to their contexts, they examine how public space can be understood as a shared space and discuss the meaning of secularity in plural societies.


Understanding the Gift of Communion. The Quest for a Shared Self-Understanding of the Lutheran Communion. A Reader

As the Lutheran communion journeys towards the Reformation Anniversary in 2017, maintaining the integrity of the communion where disagreements have emerged between member churches has become a concern in light of how churches respond to certain ethical challenges. The articles in this publication review and reflect on shifting socio-ethical paradigms in light of the gospel of Jesus and explore subjects such as the theological significance of the concept of communion and its impact in relation to global dynamics; Lutheran ecclesiological insights in relation to insights during the Reformation; the concept of communion in the LWF’s bilateral dialogues; the importance of linking autonomy and accountability in relations between churches; the meaning of communion in a multireligious context; and the power dynamics between churches.

“Women on the Move: From Wittenberg to Windhoek” Toolkit

The project “Women on the Move: From Wittenberg to Windhoek” (WMWW) celebrates the leadership and participation of women in the ongoing Reformation 1517—2017. The WMWW toolkit gives an introduction to the project. It equips women in the global Lutheran communion to take part by sharing texts, images and videos with other women. The toolkit has two major sections: Her-stories – with guiding questions and several elements to be developed by individual readers; Women doing theology - including theological reflection and publications and the women theologians’ network. The toolkit is made up of a number of elements available for individual download. A cover folder with an inspiring image of Catharina crossing over the threshold provides a convenient holder for stories and ideas collected on the journey toward 2017. The folder is available in standard printing and press (delivery to service provider) formats. Use the toolkit to revisit and reflect on the past together with other women, and to empower the present. Experience how it makes visible women’s contributions to the spreading of ongoing reformation ideas and ways of living.

Available online only at http://www.lutheranworld.org/content/resource-women-move-wittenberg-windhoek-toolkit


Despite their richness, the Psalms also raise some interpretive challenges. How do we read such difficult passages as the one which advocates the violent destruction of one’s enemies? This collection of essays by renowned international scholars addresses such issues as historical and contemporary Lutheran and ecumenical interpretations of Psalms and provides valuable interpretive insights for theologians, biblical scholars, pastors, counselors and students.


On the basis of the results of earlier Lutheran-Reformed dialogues and the theological foundations (relating to ecclesiology and ministry) articulated in this report, Lutheran and Reformed churches have now a greater potential to reach full communion. The report recommends several practical steps toward more fully living out the reality of this communion. It also includes several contextual observations on challenges faced and creative responses to these in different parts of the world reaching out for unity between Reformed and Lutherans. The document marks the end of a six-year dialogue process.

Available online only at http://www.lutheranworld.org/sites/default/files/DTPW%20Reformed-Lutherans%202014_0.pdf
Religion: Help or Hindrance to Development? Documentation 58/2013, Kenneth Mtata (ed.)

The decline of religion in the Western world used to be regarded as a direct consequence of development, and it was assumed that this would also occur in the global South once the same levels of economic development had been reached. The current flourishing of religion in the global South and the increased awareness of its significance in the global North prove that religion continues to play a crucial role. In those contexts where religion frames reality, development cannot ignore religion. This collection of essays by scholars and development practitioners from Africa, Asia, Europe and Latin and North America explores the fascinating interface between religion and development as well as the negative and positive potential of religion in development.

Evangelische Verlagsanstalt/The Lutheran World Federation, ISBN 978-3-374-03772-8 (www.eva-leipzig.de), € 12.00; CHF 15.00; USD 15.00, plus postage and packing. Also available in German.

LWF Gender Justice Policy

The LWF Gender Justice Policy, approved by the LWF Council in 2013, is a tool to enhance the communion’s journey towards inclusiveness. Developed in a participatory process, it has grown out of experiences in member churches, is enriched by the biblical and theological bases of our Lutheran identity, and provides guidance and methodologies for contextualizing action plans and strategies and integrating gender as a crosscutting priority in all of the communion’s work.

The Lutheran World Federation, ISBN 978-2-940459-31-5, free of charge. Postage and packing for bulk orders. Also available in French, German and Spanish. The Lutheran World Federation, ISBN: 978-2-940459-31-5, free of charge. Postage and packing for bulk orders. Also available in French, German and Spanish. (German copies from Ulrike.Hansen@Mission-EineWelt.de ; French: Rev. Jeannette Ada Maina mainaada@yahoo.fr ; and Spanish: Elizabeth Arciniegas lizalara16@gmail.com.)


In 2017, Catholics and Lutherans will jointly look back on events of the Reformation 500 years ago. At the same time, they will also reflect on 50 years of official ecumenical dialogue on the worldwide level. During this time, the communion they share anew has continued to grow. This encourages Lutherans and Catholics to celebrate together the common witness to the Gospel of Jesus Christ, who is the center of their common faith. Yet, amidst this celebration, they will also have reason to experience the suffering caused by the division of the Church, and to look self-critically at themselves, not only throughout history, but also through today’s realities.

“From Conflict to Communion” develops a basis for an ecumenical commemoration that stands in contrast to earlier centenaries. The Lutheran–Roman catholic Commission on Unity invites all Christians to study its report both open-mindedly and critically, and to walk along the path towards the full, visible unity of the Church.

“You have the Words of Eternal Life.” Transformative Readings of the Gospel of John from a Lutheran Perspective, Documentation 57/2012, Kenneth Mtata (ed.)

The Bible remains the main resource for faith communities. How can it be read fruitfully in ways that strengthen the community of readers in their faith, witness and service to the world? In what ways can convergence be found in diverse, sometimes conflicting, interpretive contexts? This collection of essays seeks to attend to these and similar questions. The focus on the three interpretive poles highlights these as central to biblical interpretation. The Gospel of John is used as a base text, read in light of different contexts and through the lens of the ecumenical, Lutheran and Reformed traditions. This book is the first in a series that will further explore the relationship between these hermeneutical poles.


The report of this bilateral dialogue commission bears witness to a new phase in the maturity of relations between Anglican and Lutheran churches and focuses on diakonia and the fullness of its expression. It engages the reader in its stories of the churches’ faithful ministry and draws fully on perspectives from the global diversity that is transforming the lives of both communions.


The global financial crisis has left large numbers of people around the world distraught, devastated and robbed of their human dignity. Exploring questions of economic justice, spirituality and morality, the authors recognize that structural greed is at the very core of the current crisis.

The Biblical Foundations of the Doctrine of Justification. An Ecumenical Follow up to the Joint Declaration on the Doctrine of Justification, Presented by a task force of biblical scholars and systematic theologians from the Lutheran World Federation, the Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity, the World Communion of Reformed churches, and the World Methodist Council

In October 1999, representatives of the Catholic Church and the Lutheran World Federation signed the historic Joint Declaration on the Doctrine of Justification, ending centuries' of disagreement and conflict over the crucial subject of justification, the original point of disagreement between Catholicism and Lutheranism. They committed themselves to continue their dialogue on the central tenets of faith and brought in Methodist and Reformed scholars to contribute their insights on the scriptural bases of the doctrine of justification.

This volume is the fruit of that dialogue and the fulfillment of that promise, an exploration by biblical scholars and systematic theologians from four Christian traditions, striving to achieve mutual understanding in a spirit of listening and sharing.


While work is central to human flourishing, the way in which it is understood and practiced has the potential both to affirm and to assault human dignity. Drawing on the social sciences, this book contributes to the current discussion on the ethics of work from the perspective of the Lutheran theological heritage as it is expressed in the different contexts of the communion. Furthermore, it explores the various ways in which the Scriptures can be read in light of Luther’s understanding of vocation, and explores the implications of affirming the dignity of work in relation to questions of fair remuneration, gender and culture.


“It will not be so among you!” A Faith Reflection on Gender and Power

This resource of biblical and theological reflections highlights global experiences within the framework of the former Gender and Power program coordinated by the Women in Church and Society (WICAS) desk. It is intended as a discussion starter and a catalyst for concrete action and the development of meaningful gender justice processes in the Lutheran communion.

The Lutheran World Federation, 2010, free of charge. Also available in French, German and Spanish.

This commission’s work provides and excellent example of the ways in which international dialogues can build upon and continue efforts begun in local and regional settings. The report demonstrates how the search for reconciliation can be served by rigorous historical and theological study. Having begun its work by taking up the desire to address divisive legacies from the past, the commission makes concrete recommendations toward a future of greater unity.

The Lutheran World Federation and the Mennonite World Conference, ISBN 978-2-940459-00-1, CHF 15--, USD 15.--, € 12--, plus postage and packing. Also available in French, German and Spanish.

“Like Living Stones.” Lutheran Reflections on the One Holy, Catholic, and Apostolic Church, LWF Studies 02/2010, Hans-Peter Grosshans and Martin Sinaga (eds)

In this book, Lutherans share insights into how faith in the one holy, catholic, and apostolic church not only provides theological commonality among Lutherans, but also helps realize the social aspect of the Christian faith.


Freedom and Responsibility. Christian and Muslim Explorations, LWF Studies 01/2010, Simone Sinn and Martin Sinaga (eds)

How can Christian and Muslim ethical and theological reflection contribute to the wider discourse on human beings and actions, freedom and responsibility? The contributions in this book honestly name complex and often conflictual realities and point to seeds of hope in our societies and religious communities, thus deepening the understanding of human agency and freedom from a faith perspective.

Churches Holding Governments Accountable. A resource for reflection, discussion and action, Karen L. Bloomquist, John R. Stumme and Martin L. Sinaga

Churches have often overlooked or been unaware of the strong theological grounds for holding governments accountable for the common good of all. Clarifying this is the purpose of this resource, so that churches might become more confident of how the faith they confess provides impetus for this important work in their respective contexts.


Transformative Theological Perspectives, Theology in the Life of the Church series, vol. 6, Karen L. Bloomquist (ed.)

This final volume of the Theology in the Life of the Church series brings together some of the papers presented at the concluding consultation in 2009. Theologians from around the world address such questions as, How can the Lutheran theological understandings be reinterpreted in an increasingly interreligious and threatened world? How can theology be further developed in ways that are transformative of personal, social and global realities today?


Some participants in the concluding consultation of the Theology in the Life of the Churches program reflect theologically on such diverse practices as reading the Bible; worship; baptism; forgiveness of sin; church discipline; inclusion of children at the Eucharist; spiritual care of the dying; stigmata as marks of Christ; sexual taboos; engaging political powers; and theological formation in daily life.

**God, Creation and Climate Change. Spiritual and Ethical Perspectives, LWF Studies, 2/2009, Karen L. Bloomquist (ed.)**

Biblical scholars, theologians and ethicists from around the world creatively probe, revise and develop perspectives, from Christian and other traditions, that can inspire, guide, empower and sustain us for making the significant changes in worldviews, practices and policies needed at this kairotic time.


**One Holy, Catholic and Apostolic Church. Some Lutheran and Ecumenical Perspectives, LWF Studies 1/2009, Hans-Peter Grosshans (ed.)**

Lutheran as well as contributors from other denominations explore how they understand the church as being one holy, catholic and apostolic.


**Lutherans Respond to Pentecostalism, Theology in the Life of the Church Series, vol. 4, Karen L. Bloomquist (ed.)**

A number of mostly African theologians explore how Lutheran as well as other churches are responding to the challenges posed by the spread and influence of diverse expressions of Pentecostalism throughout the world.

Not Just Numbers. Examining the Legitimacy of Foreign Debts. LWF Documentation 53/2008, Martin Junge and Peter N. Prove (eds)

Recent discussions have focused increasingly on the concept of the legitimacy or illegitimacy of external debt. This book gives an overview of the involvement of churches and NGOs and their attempts to bring the concept of illegitimacy into the political debate of debt relief and responsible lending. Theological and ethical perspectives are presented, as well as a conceptual discussion regarding the concept of debt illegitimacy. Regional perspectives from authors around the globe present a diversified picture regarding the understanding of illegitimate debt and the same time constitute a valuable resource for further discussion on the subject.


Accepted by God—Transformed by Christ: The Doctrine of Justification in Multilateral Ecumenical Dialogue. A Study on the Doctrine of Justification by the German Ecumenical Study Commission (DÖSTA)

A study by the German Ecumenical Study Commission (DÖSTA), involving representatives of the Protestant and Roman Catholic churches, as well as delegates from the Orthodox, Old Catholic, Baptist, Mennonite and Methodist churches. The commission's statement is a helpful example of a regional attempt to facilitate the reception process within the wider communion.


Deepening Faith, Hope and Love in Relations with Neighbors of Other Faiths, Theology in the Life of the Church Series, vol. 2, Simone Sinn (ed.)

Writers from different parts of the world develop theological reflections arising from their specific interreligious engagement in order to deepen commitment to and theological discernment within interreligious relations.

The Lutheran World Federation, ISBN 978-3-905676-60-0, CHF 15--., USD 15.--., € 12--., plus postage and packing.
Bridges instead of Walls. Christian-Muslim Interaction in Denmark, Indonesia and Nigeria, Lissi Rasmussen (ed.)

The analyses and comparison of specific conflicts and peace building efforts between Christians and Muslims in Denmark, Indonesia and Nigeria and attempts to determine the role of religion in each of these situations reveal insights into how effective bridges can be built in contexts such as these.


“So the poor have hope, and injustice shuts its mouth.” Poverty and the Mission of the Church in Africa, LWF Studies 01/2007, Karen L. Bloomquist and Musa Panti Filibus (eds)


Leadership and Power in the Ministry of the Church, Reinhard Boettcher

This discussion resource seeks to encourage reflection and discussion in the churches on how leadership and power are exercised in light of central biblical and theological understandings.


A collection of essays and articles by some members of the Lutheran communion, illustrating their experiences and concerns, the ways in which they are working for human rights in their different contexts, and how they relate this work to their faith principles. Their writings offer inspiration and examples to other who may feel called to a human rights ministry.


The Apostolicity of the Church, Study Document of the Lutheran–Roman Catholic Commission on Unity, The Lutheran World Federation and the Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity

This study document is a contribution toward deepening communion between the Roman Catholic and Lutheran churches. It points to further steps toward their visible unity by treating 1) the New Testament witness as foundational for the apostolicity of the church, 2) the apostolic gospel and the elements of the church's apostolicity, 3) the apostolicity of the ordained ministry, and 4) was in which faith and teaching are maintained in the truth of the apostolic gospel.


Witnessing to God’s Faithfulness. Issues of Biblical Authority, LWF Studies 02/2006, Reinhard Boettcher (ed.)

In what sense is the Bible the Word of God? In what sense is it authoritative for Lutheran Christians and the life of the church? How does this affect our interpretation? In interaction with one another, theologians from different parts of the world explore these and other key questions, and identify some common ground amid their differences.

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<tr>
<th><strong>The Diaconal Ministry in the Mission of the Church, LWF Studies 01/2006, Reinhard Boettcher (ed.)</strong></th>
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<td>The main presentations and final statement of a global consultation on the diaconal ministry are brought together in this publication. Churches are challenged to reexamine how they understand and order the diaconal ministry as an expression of diakonia as a core component of the church’s mission in society.</td>
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<th><strong>Lutheran Ethics at the Intersections of God’s One World, LWF Studies 02/2005, Karen L. Bloomquist (ed.)</strong></th>
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<td>The intent of this book is to shed light on how different cultural perspectives intersect and affect how ethical concerns are viewed and evaluated, even within the “grammar” of one confessional tradition. Articles here are likely to expand contextually limited views on topics such as sexuality, human rights, democratization, technology and property. Furthermore, it provides insights into how discussions on ethical questions might take place in a global communion of churches.</td>
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<td>The Lutheran World Federation, ISBN 3-905676-47-8, CHF 15--, USD 15.--, € 12--, plus postage and packing.</td>
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<th><strong>Koinonia: Services and Prayers, Liturgien und Gebete, Services et Prières Liturgias y Oraciones, Päivi Jussila and Gail Ramshaw (eds)</strong></th>
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<td>Parallel texts in English, German, French, and Spanish.</td>
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<td>Includes: Daily Prayer (Morning Prayer, Prayer During the Day, Prayer at Midday, Evening Prayer, Night Prayer), Prayers and Blessings, the Christian Calendar, Holy Communion, Service of the Word with baptismal renewal, Meditation on the Creed, selected Psalms.</td>
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Agape: Songs of Hope and Reconciliation—Lieder der Hoffnung und Versöhnung—Chants d’Espérance et de Réconciliation—Cantos de Esperanza y Reconciliación, compiled by Maggie Hamilton and Päivi Jussila

Includes hymns and songs from Africa, Asia, Latin America, Europe, and North America.


The Doctrine of Justification: Its Reception and Meaning Today, LWF Studies 02/2003, Karen L Bloomquist and Wolfgang Greive (eds)

Based on the historic 1999 Joint Declaration on the Doctrine of Justification between Lutherans and Roman Catholics, these articles arose from a 2002 ecumenical symposium that reflected on what justification actually means to people today in churches around the world, the impact this agreement was having on different churches, and the implications for further ecumenical pursuits. This volume explores the significance of justification by God’s grace for faith, values, and unity, both for individuals and as churches.


In an effort to achieve better mutual understanding, the Lutheran World Federation and the Seventh-day Adventist General Conference sponsored bilateral conversations between 1994 and 1998. This book is the result of these landmark meetings.

Churches say “No” to Violence against Women. Action Plan for the Churches

This action plan for the churches is a challenge to LWF member churches to face the painful issue of violence against women in all its forms present in each church’s respective context.

With theological reflections and suggestions of ways to accompany churches in addressing this critical issue.


DTPW seeks to keep the cost of its publications as low as possible, with the expectation that those who are able to pay will do so. For prices of multiple copies, please contact DTPW. Orders may be sent to Mercedes Restrepo: mre@lutheranworld.org