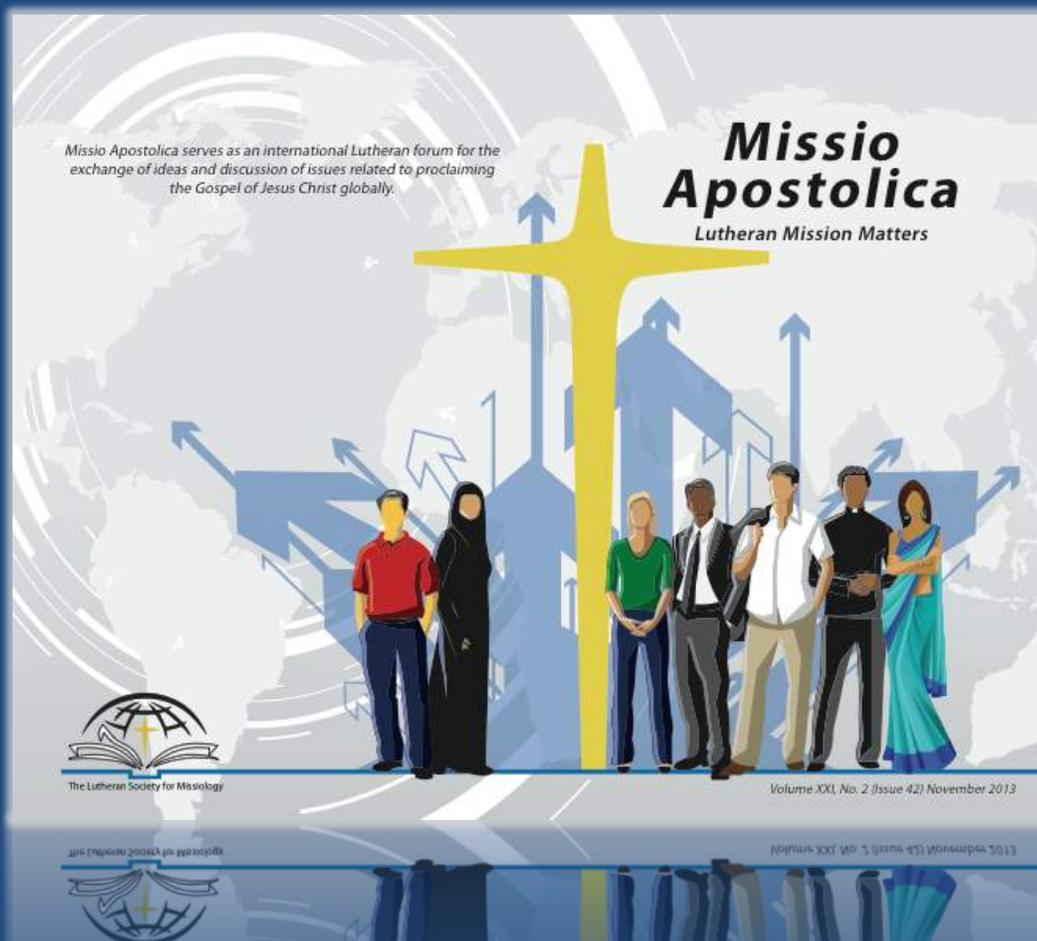


LUTHERAN MISSION MATTERS

Lutheran Society for Missiology 2016



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LSFM Executive Director 2016 Report

Primary areas of development during the last 12 months have been growth in the LSFM email list, displays at conferences, by-law revisions, and movement towards the availability of LSFM articles in other languages and countries. In 2016, LSFM published a special issue (January 2016) addressing missional themes under discussion at the LCMS convention, mailing it to all convention delegates through a generous donation. This was followed up with five emails that highlighted various articles from the January and May 2016 issues to the 1123 delegates, along with 811 members for a total of 1934 recipients. At least one article was printed and passed out to a floor committee in preparation for the convention. A special area was set up on the web site to provide [resources](#) for discussion. For the first time, LSFM set up a display at Best Practices for Ministry 17-18 February, 2016, passing out information about LSFM and collecting 216 new emails of interested individuals. By-law revision has been the focus for the Executive Committee to improve organizational structure and responsibilities. The editorial committee produced a reprint of *Nau! Mission Inspired: The story of Henry Nau* by John F. Nau at the suggestion of a LSFM member, to celebrate the 60th anniversary of Henry Nau's death on May 17, 1956. The book is available through the [LSFM web site](#). Finally, the LSFM missionary profiles have been recovered after suffering almost total corruption 4 years ago. They are not yet available online, but that is a project for 2017.

Outstanding challenges are many and diverse. As previously reported, the Lutheran Society for Missiology and our Journal *Lutheran Mission Matters* enjoys a good reputation and circulation among those who knew and worked alongside Dr. Wong Yong Ji, Dr. Alan Buckman, Dr. Robert Scudieri, Dr. Steve Hughey, and Dr. Eugene Bunkowski. New leadership and structures have arisen in the LCMS, neither of which are connected to LSFM. LCMS Inc., is now producing its own missions journal called *Journal of Lutheran Mission*. This is a positive development as it provides insights on LCMS mission strategies, thereby offering LSFM an opportunity

for Lutheran dialogue on concerns and challenges facing missions in the 21st century. Unfortunately, Lutherans are becoming more polarized on missional issues over time, making constructive dialogue difficult to facilitate. In addition, online habits make it increasingly difficult to connect with new readers, who seem reluctant to invest the time necessary to read 3000 word articles. There is a need to take LMM articles and produce shorter, web-based messages/posts summarizing articles to give the reader incentive to invest in reading longer articles.

As Executive Director, my current priorities are to develop better promotion of the journal through social media, email blasts, and informational displays at conferences. I am also working with the Executive Committee to organizing a skunkwerks sometime in the next 10 months. The goal is to craft a forward-looking vision for Lutherans around the idea of recontextualization. Victor Raj explains recontextualization this way:

“Traditional theologians read the text to justify the doctrinal position of his church. A recontextualizing theologian interprets reality theologically, taking into serious account the original meaning of the text as well as its relevance (meaning) to the community in which the text is newly presented (preached, taught, given witness...). Contextualization is NOT a brand-new idea. ‘Context’ changes at least in every generation, if not sooner. Recontextualization respects and honors the text and the community equally.”

Recontextualization is critical for Lutherans engaged in missions at this point in history. The goal is for this skunkwerks to provide future direction and vision for the LSFM work in the coming years.

The following list represents the authors who wrote for *Missio Apostolica*, most of whom had never written for the journal before:

List of LMM Articles for the January 2016

- **Dale A. Meyer:** Messengers of the Message: preparing Tomorrow’s Pastors
- **Gerhard C. Michael, Jr.:** One Pastor’s Efforts to Nurture: A Congregation of Priests
- **John Nunes:** *Missio Trinitatis*: Averting the Trifurcation of Witness, Service, and Life Together
- **Gerald Perschbacher:** God’s Plan, My Mission
- **Robert Newton:** The Word, the Baptized, and the Mission of God
- **Dean Nadasdy:** Vocation and Mission: The Role of the Laity in the Mission of Christ
- **Paul Heebboth:** Faithful and Missional from the Beginning: One Hundred Years of LCMS Mission

- **Chad Lakies:** The Religious Context in the North Atlantic World: God’s Mission in a Secular Age
- **Dust Kunkel:** Category Error, Common Sense, and the Office of the Public Ministry in the Lutheran Church – Missouri synod
- **Michael T. Von Behren:** Rehabilitating the Doctrine of the Call: building Strength and Agility for Mission
- **Matthew Borrasso:** Useless and Bankrupt: Confession and Mission in Light of the symbols
- **Volker Stolle:** How Lutherans Have Done Mission: A Historical Survey
- **Douglas L. Rutt:** Vocation in Missiological Perspective

List of LMM Articles for the May 2016

- **Richard Gahl:** An Examination of Strategic Mission Plans Before and After 2010
- **Paul Mueller:** International Partnerships: A reflective Assessment
- **Andrew Bartelt:** Keeping Our Balance in our Own Context: Keeping the Cross in Cross-cultural and Taking the Con Out of Contextualization
- **Michael T. Von Behren:** Celebrating the Ministry of Licensed Lay Deacons: A Theological Review of the Task Force Report on 2013 LCMS Convention Resolution 4:06a
- **Robert Scudieri:** “Here is the Church, Here are the People...”: Ecclesiology Is the Servant of Soteriology
- **Theodore J. Hopkins and Mark A Koschmann:** Faithful Witness in Wounded Cities: Congregations and Race in America
- **John Nunes:** Martyria and Mission: The Witness of Creative Disruption
- **Gregory P. Seltz:** Confessing the “Real Present Jesus”; the Power to Overcome Cultural Barriers with the Good News of the Gospel
- **Scott Yakimow:** Signs of Transformation: Communicating the Gospel in an Age of Nones and Dones
- **Eugene Bunkowske:** The Biblical Nature of Mission: God’s Mission in Action
- **Victor Raj:** Scattering for Gathering
- **William Utech:** Sermon: I Will Build My Church

List of LMM Articles for the November 2016

- **Joel P. Okamoto:** God, the Gospel, and Modern Science: Reflections on the Church’s Witness and Message in a Scientific Age
- **Timothy P. Dost:** Odd Bedfellows? Churchly Employment of Science and Technology
- **Gary Locklair:** Intelligent Computers in a Christian Worldview
- **Michael Knippa:** Features of Human Anatomy: Marshall McLuhan on Technology in the Global Village
- **John P. Juedes:** Music Technology, Worship, and Missions
- **John W. Kennedy, III:** Privilege, Tragedy, Doubt, Science, and Faith—a Personal Story
- **Gillian M. Bond:** Where Faith and Science Meet: An Opportunity for Cross-Cultural Outreach

- **David O. Berger:** Science vs. Religion or Religion vs. Religion?
- **John F. Perling:** Pastor, what about. . . ?

In addition, five videos were published/posted onto <http://LSFM.Global> in 2016
[LSFM Banquet 2017 Keynote by Rev. Dr. John Nunes](#)
[LSMF Banquet 2016 Presentations and Q&A](#)
[The “Whole Church” Dimension of Deacons in the LCMS by Dr. John Juedes](#)
[Ministry of Deacons in the Lutheran Church by Dr. John Juedes](#)
[Deacon Discussions by Dr. John Juedes](#)
[Trailer for “Category Error...and the LCMS](#)

The following is a quick SWOT analysis from my perspective, on where the LSFM is currently situated based from my desk. Overall, there is a strong past, transitional issues at present, with a strong future possible.

STRENGTHS	WEAKNESSES
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • History & Name Recognition • Core Membership consisting of current supporters/members (Small) • Functional digital platforms (Facebook/Web/Snowfall) • Lutheran Mission Matters, a well-respected journal • ATLA indexing of all issues online and available through libraries. • Financial Reserves able to keep LSFM going for years. • Access to former missionaries and scholars with institutional history of LCMS Missions dedicated to the future of Lutheran missions. • Historical information of Missionaries and 63 Profiles 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Small Print Circulation • Low readership, in part because Missio Apostolica is reaching a very Narrow Audience and low awareness among Lutherans of LMM materials. • Limited availability of our current Website, which is primarily depending upon people visiting the site and pulling information from it. • Low return on LSFM membership. • Lacks of automatic renewals result in membership losses.
OPPORTUNITIES	THREATS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All CSL Graduates from 2004 forward have worked with the LSFM Executive Director during their pastoral formation (over 1000 students) • Lack of Vision forward for 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A Society is only as strong as its active members, and few recognize themselves as members, with fewer being active within that membership. • Unclear vision as to why the

Lutherans in statistic decline creates a vacuum that the LSFM can work to fill with a missional vision forward.

- Diaspora Missions is largely untapped by any National Lutheran Voice.
- Office of International Missions and the LCMS do not understand Sodality (Missions beyond Altar and Pulpit) LSFM can help educate and lead
- Ethnic Groups have no voice, but have a strong opinions looking for expression. (Executive Director has worked with ever EIIT Gradate since the program began, as a starting place)
- General Dissatisfaction with current mission efforts

society exits; lack of organizational goals and direction.

- Organizational Dynamics of the LCMS, where Synod often acts as the watchdog (See Dreaming of Bythnia in May 2014).
- Authors who submit articles are getting zero feedback (making it difficult to get a second submission from them)