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Open Letter

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April 1, 1965

An Open Letter

To the Pastors of
The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

BRETHREN:

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, through its Work Program Conferences, the Budget Review Committees, the Board of Directors, and upon recommendation of the Council of Administrators, has made the **CONCORDIA THEOLOGICAL MONTHLY**, the professional magazine for the clergymen in the Synod, a regular visitor in the home of every pastor and professor in the Synod.

My purpose in communicating to you through the **CONCORDIA THEOLOGICAL MONTHLY** itself is to emphasize a few important items.

First, unless the **CONCORDIA THEOLOGICAL MONTHLY** is read diligently by all pastors it cannot serve to its full potential. Here is a magazine serving all our pastors and professors and enabling them to grow in theological knowledge and thought. Nearly all professions have a professional magazine. The **CONCORDIA THEOLOGICAL MONTHLY** is ours.

Secondly, the clergymen in the Synod need a regular stimulant for earnest theological study. The **CONCORDIA THEOLOGICAL MONTHLY** aims to bring this stimulant eleven times a year.

Thirdly, I would call attention to the need for individual evaluation of the theological trends both within and without the Synod. In this connection I should caution the readers to expect to see some presentations in **CONCORDIA THEOLOGICAL MONTHLY** which do not say things in the way in which we are accustomed to hear them. The old concepts of *Lehre und Wehre* may appear in a different dress but will nevertheless be there, perhaps not all at the same time. The writers may at times present one side of a subject which later will receive a reply by way of rejection, further exploration, or approval.

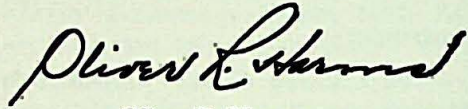
Another thing, in a church body as large as ours one can hardly expect everyone to express himself in the same way as others do. Much less ought we to expect one person to speak for all. However, conclusions reached dare never stand in contradiction to Scripture or the historic Lutheran Confessions. There is some evidence that the claim of adherence to the Confessions may not be much more than lip service. Every significant statement made should be able to stand the severe scrutiny of Scripture and the Confessions.

The **CONCORDIA THEOLOGICAL MONTHLY** hopes to achieve the objective of unifying the theological progressions on all fronts. I believe we can achieve a consensus by a careful leadership which is completely immersed in the Scriptures and our Confessions.

OPEN LETTER

My prayers ascending to the throne of a loving Father are for true unity in our Synod. We can achieve this true unity by careful study in a way of sharing our findings patiently and faithfully. As I pray I remember the Detroit convention will give us an opportunity to evaluate the way we have come and to set new goals. May the God of all grace grant us faithfulness and courage.

Blessings to you all!

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Oliver R. Harms". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned to the right of the main text block.

Oliver R. Harms