

The Doctrinal Resolutions of the Missouri Synod

Within the organization known as "The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod," the national convention held every three years is the highest human authority. To be sure, it only advises congregations on matters not delineated in the Scriptures and the Lutheran Confessions. At the same time, it has applied Scriptures and the Confessions to various pressing or controversial issues throughout its history. The synod has consistently given counsel to its members that was practical, evangelical, and thoroughly Biblical.

Do you know what the Synod has said in convention about various subjects and when? Here are some examples: uniformity in worship (1847), Christian burial of the impenitent (1848), the importance of liturgical life (1849), private confession (1850), secret societies such as the Freemasons (1853 & 1854), millennialism (1857), usury and just contracts (1869), parochial schools (1890), and the Scriptural obligation to support church-workers financially (1914). These are just a very few examples of doctrinal resolutions from the German period of the synod's history (1847-1926). These German language resolutions have until now remained inaccessible, except to those who read German and have access to the original convention reports. This is not even to mention the hundreds of resolutions from the English period of the synod (1929 to the present).

Now you can obtain for your personal use and research the complete texts of the doctrinal resolutions of the Missouri Synod. Concordia Historical Institute is now publishing these documents on a single CD disk under the title, "The Doctrinal Resolutions of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, 1847-2004, including Summaries of German-Period Minutes, Descriptions of Source Materials, and Indexes." The documents total over 2,000 pages when printed. Besides extensive indexes, the CD disk has a search capability. At the nominal price of \$15.00, plus shipping and handling, the CD disks are readable on any personal computer with current operating systems (Windows XP/ME/98/95, and Macintosh OS X/9/8; search function may not work in OS X). The documents are in PDF file format, which requires a free Adobe Acrobat reader (available from www.adobe.com). A form to order the CD disk is included in this *Historical Footnotes* insert for your convenience.

These documents will be eminently useful for all national and district convention delegates, for pastors and other professional church workers, and for all lay persons interested in the history of their church. These primary source documents will be invaluable to historians of all types, in order to understand the key events and decisions in the life of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod.

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