

Eastertide 2019

Dear Friends in Christ Jesus,

This is a tremendously significant study. It is of the quality that we have come to expect from the LCMS Commission on Theology and Church Relations (CTCR).

Social media has changed our world. It has changed the world's perception of Christ and the Church. It has changed Christians' attitudes and capacities regarding community, communication, preaching, truth, authority and much more.

Among its many thought-provoking insights, this study asks if perhaps the drastic decline in church membership over the past two decades is not in some large measure due to the rise of social media. (A recent study found that from 1938 to 1998, church membership in the U.S. fell only 2 percent. In the past 20 years, however, it has fallen 20 percent.) This document will find broad use in the LCMS and beyond.

God help us all to make the best and most thoughtful use of the media available, in light of the clear Word of God.

Thank you, CTCR!

Rev. Dr. Matthew C. Harrison, President
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