

Lutheran Services - An expression of the diaconal witness of the Church

A summary of the core theology of diaconal witness (or “diaconia”) in the work of Lutheran Services in the LCAQD

1. Diaconal witness (diakonia) is core to the very essence of the Church.
2. Diaconal witness is the expression of the Lord Jesus’ call to his people to serve as he served. (Mark 10:45)
3. Diaconal witness is shown where the people of God live out their baptism in service to the world.
4. Diaconal witness is centred in the “ministry” of the Church (CA5) in which the Lord Jesus commissions his people to proclaim the gospel in word and deed.
5. Diaconal witness is grounded in the revelation of the Triune God as the creator and preserver of life.
6. Diaconal witness is inspired by the servant heart of Jesus Christ.
7. Diaconal witness is created through the call of Jesus Christ for his people to deny themselves, to take up the cross and follow him.
8. Diaconal witness is informed by the purposeful development of the work of care in the communities of the early Church, testified especially by the New Testament letters. (Acts 6)
9. Diaconal witness is the expression of the body of Christ caring for the parts of the body (I Cor 12)
10. The Lutheran reformation established the work of care as the response of faith in which the Holy Spirit brings forth good works in the lives of believers.
11. The Lutheran reformation located diaconal witness in the theology of the “priesthood of all believers”. The work of the Church belongs to all the people of God including worship (leitourgia), witness (martyria), and service (diakonia).
12. The Lutheran reformation emphasised the freedom of the Christian to become servants of others as Christ serves. This service does not merit God’s grace.
13. The Lutheran reformation determined that all the work of the Church is grounded in the teaching of the Old and New Testaments.
14. The Lutheran reformation upheld the need to adequately train those who are to serve in the name of the Church.
15. The Lutheran reformation distinguished between the office of the public ministry for the proclamation of the word and administration of the sacraments and the complementary ministries of the Church serving the needs of the “whole” person.
16. In our modern era ‘diaconal witness’ is often a significant public face of the Church as God extends his loving action into our communities through the work of the church, as it is expressed by our community care agencies. Therefore, the Lutheran Church needs to continually revisit how we frame this work in a theology that expresses Lutheran theology’s confessional integrity and theological rigour.
17. Diaconal witness ensures that people are engaged with God’s love in everyday life.