
Lutheran University Press

Background Information

Lutheran University Press is an imprint of Kirk House Publishers, a privately-owned, independent publisher. The imprint was established to be a voice of Lutheran colleges, universities, and seminaries at the intersection of faith and the academic disciplines.

With nearly 60,000 students in thirty-eight Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) colleges, universities, and seminaries the Lutheran University Press imprint will focus attention on this enormous educational enterprise. Through the publication of significant works, Lutheran University Press supports the mission of Lutheran colleges, universities, and seminaries by furthering their fundamental commitment to the dissemination of knowledge and by extending their outreach to the larger Lutheran community.

Lutheran University Press provides faculty and staff of Lutheran colleges and seminaries as well as Lutheran faculty at other institutions a means of getting their research, scholarship, and creativity before their academic peers and the church-at-large. In addition, Lutheran University Press, similar to other university presses, provides a publishing avenue for faculty who are required to publish for a tenure track. While initially conceived to support the institutions of the ELCA, the imprint will serve faculty of all Lutheran institutions of higher education and all Lutheran faculty.

Kirk House Publishers was established in 1994 by Leonard Flachman and Karen Walhof in response to requests by individuals and educational institutions for assistance in publishing manuscripts and conference proceedings. The Lutheran University Press imprint was begun in 2004 because the majority of those seeking assistance in getting their work published were faculty members at ELCA institutions. The 2006 combined catalog has more than 125 titles.

Leonard Flachman was the first director of the publishing arm of the Ethiopian Evangelical Church - Mekane Yesus. Upon returning to the USA he spent 20 years as director of product development for Augsburg Publishing House. From 1988 to 1993 he was assistant to the president at Augsburg Fortress Publishers. Karen Walhof was on the editorial staff of Augsburg Publishing House for 15 years, and for five years she managed the Augsburg Fortress office in the Chicago offices of the ELCA. Both remain active in congregation, synod, and churchwide activities.

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