UNIVERSITY OF KWAZULU-NATAL
PIETERMARITZBURG CAMPUS
MAIN EXAMINATION: NOVEMBER 2014
SYTH370 P2: LUTHERAN THEOLOGY

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LUTHERAN THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY IN TSHWANE

DURATION: 3 HOURS  TOTAL MARKS: 100

INSTRUCTIONS:
1. This paper consists of 3 pages. Please ensure that you have all of these pages.
2. Answer BOTH SECTIONS.
3. Answer FOUR questions from Section A, and ONE question from Section B.
4. You must read and understand the question before answering.
5. It is to your advantage to write clearly and legibly.

SECTION A
60 MARKS

Answer any FOUR questions.
Each question is marked out of 15 points.

1. How did Luther’s theology develop from a late medieval theology, through a theology of humility, to a theology of grace?  (15)

2. How does Luther differentiate Law and Gospel, and why is this important in the context of his soteriology?  (15)

3. What is Luther’s hermeneutical principle, and how does it relate to his central theological impetus?  (15)

4. Is it possible to reach salvation outside the church? Reflect on this question in terms of a critical appropriation of the nature and calling of the church in Luther’s theology.  (15)

5. Say you would find yourself in prison for some reason or other. You discover that you share your cell with a Seventh Day Adventist, a member of the Dutch Reformed Church
and a Catholic. All of them have a criminal record. You decide to have Bible studies and prayers together. Is this group of Christian convicts a valid expression of the church? The group has no access to an ordained pastor, and you decided to celebrate Holy Communion. Would the sacrament be valid? Reflect on this question in terms of a critical appropriation of the understanding of the office of ministry in Luther’s theology.

6. Does baptism help single individuals to get right with God, or is it a ritual through which the community of believers accepts the baptized person into its fellowship in the name of God? Reflect on this question in terms of a critical appropriation of the understanding of the baptism and faith in Luther’s theology.

7. Someone states: It’s so easy for your Christians; because of the grace in Christ you do not need to be concerned with good works. Reflect on this statement in terms of a critical appropriation of the understanding of the relation between faith and works in Luther’s theology.

8. May one resist the command of public authorities? Reflect on this question in terms of a critical appropriation of the understanding of the dual reign of God in Luther’s theology.

SECTION B
40 MARKS

Answer any ONE question.
Give critically reflected answers to the following questions.
Each question is marked out of 40 points.

9. What is Luther’s theology of justification? Apply the structure of his theology to the need of people nowadays to be recognized as worthy through achievement and consumption.

10. What is Luther’s theological hermeneutics? How does it relate to his central convictions? How does this hermeneutics relate to historical-critical study of the Bible, and liberationist or contextual hermeneutics?

11. What is Luther’s understanding of God? How could you utilize this understanding of God to react to modern, science-oriented atheism?
12. How did Luther respond to the Catholic and the Zwinglian view of the Eucharist? What is Luther’s understanding of the sacraments, and how did Luther relate faith and sacraments? (40)

13. What is Luther’s view on sexuality and marriage? Give a critical appraisal, and apply this ethical approach to the situation in South Africa, marked by high divorce rates, violence in relationships, and HIV infections. (40)

14. Discuss Luther’s economic ethics critically, and apply his thinking to the challenges posed by consumerist exploitation of people and the environment. (40)

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