

# NOTES

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## *Lutheran Quarterly at 25* *Notes of Appreciation from 2011*

by PAUL ROREM, EDITOR

*Oswald Bayer, past, present, and future* (Spring 2011): 84

In this issue, *Lutheran Quarterly* (new series) starts off its twenty-fifth year of publication with a familiar name: Oswald Bayer. Oliver K. Olson's original idea of presenting Lutheran history and evangelical theology in a substantial yet winsome way found concrete expression in the works of the late and lamented Gerhard Forde (our original Vice President) and in translations of the Tübingen theologian Oswald Bayer. His life's work is the promising God, and it promises to bear fruit in generations to come. This is his nineteenth essay in our pages, not to mention two LQ Books (2003 and 2007), ranking him as our most-published author, along with Timothy Wengert and Robin Leaver.

To mark the completion of this quarter century a year hence, LQ will sponsor a lecture tour by Bayer to several U.S. Lutheran seminaries so that a new generation can hear him in person. His main lecture on those occasions, "A Public Mystery," will recognize LQ's VDMA logo: "The Word of the Lord Remains Forever." Join us if you are anywhere near any of these sites, or watch for the lecture's publication next year as the culmination of "LQ at 25."

March 6, 2012	LTSP (Philadelphia)
March 21, 2012	Concordia Seminary, St. Louis
March 23, 2012	Luther Seminary, St. Paul
March 23, 2012	LQ Banquet, Minneapolis
March 26, 2012	LSTC (Chicago)
March 28, 2012	Concordia Theological Seminary, Ft. Wayne

*The Founders* (Summer 2011): 176–77

In this the twenty-fifth year of publication for *Lutheran Quarterly*, new series, our thoughts and gratitude go to the founders.

All those involved in the early years know that the single reason this publication exists, humanly speaking, is Oliver K. Olson. Thirty years ago, Olson saw the need and the opportunity for a journal of Lutheran history and evangelical theology, in detail and depth. The original and venerable *Lutheran Quarterly* had ceased publication, and other Lutheran journals were mostly light fare for busy pastors and driven by opinionated editorials. He envisioned a pan-Lutheran global array of definitive articles and authoritative book reviews, with no editorials and no sermons. The historical essays could be long and detailed, as needed, and the theology was to be *sola fide* evangelical. Yet, how to start such an enterprise, and could it endure? His initiative and creativity, fueled by a dogged determination, inspired enough partners to make a start, almost *ex nihilo*. Every aspect of the operation reflected and still reflects his touch, from incorporation to production. Take the VDMA motto, for example. Olson knew its history, as now summarized under every Table of Contents and repeated below. But it was his eye for a design that yielded the now-familiar square logo that identifies *Lutheran Quarterly*:  $\frac{VD}{MA}$ . He raised money, recruited collaborators, edited, and proof-read, all with a singular vision that in fact became an enduring reality, against great odds. Oliver K. Olson is the founder to be recognized first as *LQ* turns 25, but he was not all alone.

Early on, several others caught the Olson vision for a new *LQ* and helped out with various aspects whether editorial, legal, or financial. Earl Ensberg, for example, was tireless as the founding treasurer, succeeded at the end of the first decade by David Hardy. Olson's Marquette colleague Ken Hagen served early on as Associate Editor. Several other names on the current masthead have also been there from the beginning, albeit in changing roles: Joseph Burgess, Roald Kindem, Robert Kolb, Carter Lindberg, Walter Sundberg Jr., and myself, Paul Rorem. Yet all of us know that one name no longer on the masthead should always be paired first with Oliver Olson as to the founding of *Lutheran Quarterly*, namely, Gerhard O. Forde.

Forde's essay "Radical Lutheranism" was the first article published, and remains the founding charter of *Lutheran Quarterly*. Furthermore, for many of us on the masthead, Forde in person was, in the words of Melanchthon's eulogy for Luther, "the man who taught us the gospel," as Associate Editor Timothy Wengert said when our teacher died. His sermons, essays, books, and quips live on in our pages, whether directly as in this issue's rousing Reformation Day address from 1967 and in his *LQ Books* or more indirectly in our own work as those shaped by "Radical Lutheranism."

One of Forde's students is the final founder to be here recognized, indeed to be pulled out from the back room of editing every issue. The original Managing Editor is still quietly at that job twenty-five years later, Virgil (Bud) Thompson. All these years he has faithfully contacted every author, tended to every business transaction, and copy-edited every page of every issue. Soon they will number 100, and they all reflect his attentive care for this enterprise. No one else has kept at the same (enormous) job all twenty-five years. All *LQ* readers past, present and future are in his debt as is everyone else on the masthead. Olson's persistent vision and Forde's persuasive voice have found the right ally in Bud Thompson's quiet diligence as founding Managing Editor for a quarter century, so far.

Books, as in Book Review editors and *LQ Books*, are worthy of a separate Note on "*LQ* at 25," in the next issue. For now, here is a reminder of VDMA:

<sup>VID</sup><sub>MIA</sub> The symbol on our cover *Verbum Domini Manet in Aeternum* (1 Peter 1.25), was adopted as motto by Luther's sovereign, Frederick the Wise, and his successors. The original "Protestant" princes walking out of the imperial Diet of Speyer 1529, unruly peasants following Thomas Muentzer, and from 1531 to 1547 the coins, medals, flags and guns of the Smalcaldic League all bore the most famous Reformation slogan, the first Evangelical confession: the Word of the Lord remains forever.

*Reviews and Books* (from Autumn 2011): 332–34

From the beginning, *Lutheran Quarterly* (new series) has been committed to books, first and foremost to the regular book review section ably staffed over this quarter century by a trio of editors, but also to publishing our own books, specifically (but not exclusively) *Lutheran Quarterly Books* from Eerdmans Publishing Company. On both fronts, our twenty-fifth year has witnessed significant expansion.

When Oliver K. Olson launched *LQ* in the 1980s, he immediately recruited Carter Lindberg of Boston University as the first Book Review Editor. Lindberg's contacts with a wide network of reviewers and his personal investment of labor and postage gave *LQ* a full decade of reviews, down to 1998 when Steven Paulson took on the task. Moving from Concordia College (Moorhead, MN) to Luther Seminary, Paulson kept up the flow of reviews and secured institutional support for all that mail during his five years as Book Review Editor. When we launched *LQ Books* in 2003, Paulson became an Associate Editor and Mary Jane Haemig, also of Luther Seminary, became Book Review Editor. Since then, Haemig and her extensive array of reviewers have steadily increased the size and significance of the review section, as evident in this issue and throughout our entire anniversary year. Authors, publishers, librarians, subscribers, and general readers, not to mention *LQ* editors, can thank Lindberg, Paulson and now especially Haemig for twenty-five years of book reviews.

As for book publishing, an early *LQ* issue (vol. II, no. 1; Spring 1988) became *The Church in New Sweden*, ed. Oliver K. Olson, upon that colony's 350<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Several installments of *LQ* 1987 and 1988 became the *History of the Church in Namibia* by Shekutaamba Nambala in 1994, edited behind the scenes by Walter Sundberg. In 1991, three installments from the Göttingen Theological Faculty became available as a single volume, *An Opinion on the Condemnations of the Reformation Era*. All of these titles, still available from the managing editor of *Lutheran Quarterly*, were never distributed as widely as their valuable contents deserved, since we, unlike commercial publishers, are not professional book distributors.

To solve problems of marketing and distribution, we then hit upon an ideal partnership with Eerdmans Publishing Company, thanks to Bill Eerdmans' personal interest in our first *LQ* Book by Oswald Bayer and in the prospect of publishing more by Gerhard Forde. Since 2003, our dozen titles have sold nearly 25,000 copies of Lutheran history and evangelical theology, thanks to authors Bayer, Forde, Robert Kolb, Robin Leaver, and Robert Bertram, with editor–authors Timothy Wengert, Mark Mattes, and Steven Paulson supplying most of the work. Simply perusing the titles demonstrates for us at *LQ* what a remarkable contribution these books have made for the English–speaking public interested in Lutheran theology and history.

*Living by Faith: Justification and Sanctification*, by Oswald Bayer, translated by Geoffrey W. Bromiley (2003).

*Harvesting Martin Luther's Reflections on Theology, Ethics, and the Church*, edited by Timothy J. Wengert (2004).

*A More Radical Gospel: Essays on Eschatology, Authority, Atonement, and Ecumenism*, by Gerhard O. Forde, edited by Mark C. Mattes and Steven D. Paulson (2004).

*The Role of Justification in Contemporary Theology*, by Mark C. Mattes (2004).

*The Captivation of the Will: Luther vs. Erasmus on Freedom and Bondage*, by Gerhard O. Forde (2005).

*Bound Choice, Election, and Wittenberg Theological Method: From Martin Luther to the Formula of Concord*, by Robert Kolb (2005).

*A Formula for Parish Practice: Using the Formula of Concord in Congregations*, by Timothy J. Wengert (2006).

*Luther's Liturgical Music: Principles and Implications*, by Robin A. Leaver (2006).

*The Preached God: Proclamation in Word and Sacrament*, by Gerhard O. Forde, edited by Mark C. Mattes and Steven D. Paulson (2007).

*Theology the Lutheran Way*, by Oswald Bayer, translated by Jeffrey G. Silcock and Mark C. Mattes (2007).

*A Time for Confessing*, by Robert W. Bertram, edited by Michael Hoy (2008).

*The Pastoral Luther: Essays on Martin Luther's Practical Theology*, edited by Timothy J. Wengert (2009).

It is a further pleasure to unveil our newest Eerdmans title, complete with a special offer enclosed with this issue: Gracia Grindal's *Preaching from Home: The Stories of Seven Lutheran Women Hymn Writers*, from Elisabeth Cruciger in Luther's time through a half dozen Scandinavian poets to Grindal's own literary journey. With many still to come, *LQ* Books from Eerdmans are a direct expression of *Lutheran Quarterly's* original purpose: to explore themes of Christian faith and life from the perspective of the Lutheran Confession of faith.

Yet, there are still more books than these, since our authors and editors have several other outlets for material from *Lutheran Quarterly*. We are pleased to announce that our series of essays on twentieth-century Lutheran theologians (Mark Mattes, editor) will be published in 2012 by Vandenhoeck and Ruprecht (Göttingen). This collection, including the current installment on Hermann Sasse by John T. Pless, will appear in their new series "Refo 500," along with other anticipated *LQ* volumes. Finally, and most specifically for "*LQ at 25*," managing editor Virgil Thompson, building upon our relationship with Wipf and Stock, which in 2008 published Hans J. Iwand, *The Righteousness of Faith according to Luther* from *LQ* 21 (2007), will produce a jubilee volume of highlights from our whole history: *Justification is for Preaching*. Thompson has collected and edited a baker's dozen of strong statements on justification and preaching by Oswald Bayer, Gerhard Forde, Steven Paulson, Mark Mattes, James Nestingen, and others, along with a special Foreword by Oswald Bayer. Along with the Bayer lecture tour in March 2012, there could be no better anniversary expression of our basic commitment, *LQ's* very reason for existing, than this new book on preaching God's justifying Word.

100 Issues (from Winter 2011): 435–36

The twenty–fifth year of *Lutheran Quarterly*, new series, has already announced Oswald Bayer’s lecture tour in March of 2012 (Spring, p. 84), honored the founders (Summer, pp. 176–177), and noted the book review section and LQ Books (Autumn, pp. 332–34). Here in issue number 100, we feature and thank the authors of the 406 essays we have published, an exceptionally diverse array of 273 individual scholars who have shared their work with you our readers and with posterity in this journal of record. Such a large number of authors means that many of them contributed just once, or perhaps twice, out of their specialties. The complete index of authors for these twenty–five years, listing each of their contributions, is available on our website ([www.lutheranquarterly.com](http://www.lutheranquarterly.com)). There are several stalwarts who have contributed a handful of essays each, but only a very few break into double figures in our list. Robert Kolb has given us a dozen essays over the years, and Timothy Wengert is tied with Robin Leaver for the second slot at seventeen articles. Pride of place goes to Oswald Bayer, whose essay in this issue is his twentieth with us.

To celebrate this modest jubilee of twenty–five years, we have chosen not to publish self–referential reflections about *Lutheran Quarterly*, its history and/or its contributions to the literature of history and theology, but rather to do in a special way what *Lutheran Quarterly* seeks to do every year, namely, to bring evangelical theology and reliable Lutheran history to our readers for the sake of the future. Specifically, we will be bringing Oswald Bayer himself to five U.S. Lutheran seminary campuses in March of 2012: Philadelphia for a week in mid–March, March 21 at Concordia St. Louis, Luther Seminary St. Paul on March 23 and with an LQ Banquet at Augsburg College, then March 26 at the Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago, and March 28 at Concordia Ft. Wayne. Bayer’s address, “A Public Mystery,” will point to God’s *promissio* and invoke the LQ motto, “The Word of the Lord endures forever” (1 Peter 1.25, from Isa 40.8). Furthermore, within this 100<sup>th</sup> issue, you will find a special offer/announcement of our jubilee volume, *Justification is for Preaching*. Managing editor Virgil Thompson has selected a dozen powerful essays about God’s justifying ways and the proclamation

thereof, by Bayer, Gerhard Forde, Steven Paulson, Mark Mattes, James Nestingen, and others, prefaced by new insights from Bayer. Like the upcoming Bayer lecture tour, this new volume is not really about *Lutheran Quarterly*, but it is what *Lutheran Quarterly* can and should do, and has been doing for twenty-five years, thanks to the faithful help of so many authors and donors. *Ad multos annos!*

*From the Editorial Staff and Directors of Lutheran Quarterly*

On the occasion of this twenty-fifth Jubilee year, the Directors and Editorial Staff of *Lutheran Quarterly* wish to acknowledge and honor its editor, Dr. Paul Rorem, for guiding the journal with erudition, patience, and diplomacy over the last fifteen years. We are grateful for his loyalty to the theological direction of the new series, his uncompromising professional benchmark of academic quality, his persistence in maintaining a collegial spirit amongst his staff, and his daily commitment to oversight of our journal. Many thanks, Paul, for your good work!

## The Jubilee Lecture “A Public Mystery,”

by OSWALD BAYER

To celebrate the first twenty-five years of publication, *Lutheran Quarterly*, new series, is pleased to join the seminaries listed below in hosting the public lecture, “A Public Mystery,” by Oswald Bayer. In the lecture Professor Bayer contends for and explicates the Christian gospel as the Word of God’s *promissio*, which according to Isaiah 40:8 and I Peter 1:25 “endures forever.” The Word of God enters the—apocalyptic—public sphere and yet it remains a mystery. The mystery is that of the divine name. Unlike all other mysteries, especially the agonizing mystery of evil and the hardness of heart, the mystery of God’s name is not a riddle that disappears once you have solved it. It is the mystery of the eternally rich, inexhaustible, living God. By adopting God’s promise as its motto—“The Word of the Lord Endures Forever”—*Lutheran Quarterly* stands within the tradition of faith which believes that not only the church but creation itself owes its existence to this promise of God.

*Lutheran Quarterly* is grateful for the partnership of the seminaries (listed below), along with Our Savior’s Lutheran Church, Edison, New Jersey, who have joined in hosting Professor Bayer’s lecture.

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