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VD The symbol on our cover, *Verbum Domini Manet in Aeternum* (I Peter 1.25), was **MA** 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.

About This Issue

V/D
M/A Continuing our series of essays examining traditional doctrinal *loci*, this issue presents the work of Christ, confession and absolution, and the church. “Christ, the Hated God,” co-authored by Steven D. Paulson and Nicholas Hopman, examines the work of Christ to bring about new men and women of faith. With bold language following Luther, Paulson and Hopman contend that Christ’s work is to remove the law from sinners precisely because sinners cling to the law as their means of self-justification. Christ rightly proclaimed is the death not only of law, but also of sin; thus the source of genuine righteousness is found in faith. Paulson is Professor of Systematic Theology at Luther Seminary, 2481 Como Ave. St. Paul, MN 55108; spaulson@luthersem.edu. Hopman is pastor of Peace Lutheran Church. He resides at 15518 Deerwood Loop, Park Rapids, MN 56470; nhopman001@luthersem.edu.

V/D
M/A John T. Pless presents how absolution is the concrete means whereby God liberates people from the power of sin, frees their consciences, and so unleashes new life in Christ. Absolution is the eschatological word: God’s final verdict on sinners rendered in the present. Since 2000, Pless has served as Assistant Professor of Pastoral Ministry and Missions at *Concordia Theological Seminary*, 6600 N. Clinton, Fort Wayne, Indiana 46825; John.Pless@ctsfw.edu.

V/D
M/A Cheryl Peterson, author of *Who is the Church? An Ecclesiology for the Twenty-First Century* (Fortress, 2013), seeks here to transcend the debate over whether the church is best understood “functionally” as the setting for the preaching office or “ontologically” as an organic and visible extension of Christ. Instead, she proposes that it is to be seen hermeneutically as both a “creature of the word” and as empowered by the Holy Spirit who establishes community. The church is characterized not only by its sacramental life but also by its witness to the world in the practices of forgiveness and peace. Peterson serves as Associate Professor of Systematic Theology, *Trinity Lutheran Seminary*, 2199 East Main Street, Columbus, Ohio 43209; cpeterson@tsohio.edu.

V/D
M/A Continuing a secondary series on translations of Martin Luther into global languages, Nelson Rivera here reviews “Luther in Spanish.” Rivera is Associate Professor of Systematic Theology and Hispanic Ministry at *The Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia*, 7301 Germantown Ave., Philadelphia, PA 19119; nrivera@Ltsp.edu. Rounding out this issue are some Notes, specifically about our new publishing agreement with Johns Hopkins University Press and some publications forthcoming, and then another substantial helping of Book Reviews.