The symbol on our cover, *Verbum Domini Manet in Aeternum* (I 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.

---

**About This Issue**

The Sacrament of the Altar

*Gordon A. Jensen*

Commemoration of the Reformation in Germany and Lund

*Theodor Dieter*

Luther and Lutherans on Confession, “the Forgotten Sacrament”

*Karl-Hermann Kandler*

Exploring the Legacy of Paul Althaus

*Ryan Tafilowski*

**Comment**

Luther in Slovak

*Lubomír Batka*

**Notes**

94

**Book Reviews**

96
Some loci are bigger than others. Last year Gordon Jensen covered baptism with such compact balance that we asked him to do the same for the Lord’s Supper. Jensen’s earlier essay on “Luther and Bucer on the Lord’s Supper,” LQ 27 (2013): 167–187, also pointed toward his current work on the Wittenberg Concord of 1536, as we shall see in a forthcoming essay and book. He is currently on sabbatical from his position as the William Hordern Professor of Theology at Lutheran Theological Seminary Saskatoon, 114 Seminary Crescent, Saskatoon, SK S7N 0X3, Canada; gordon.jensen@usask.ca.

Some anniversaries are bigger than others. With 2017 finally here, Theodor Dieter reflects on the quincentennial of the Reformation, now including the visit of Pope Francis to the Lutheran church in Lund, Sweden, on October 31, 2016. Among his many publications, the most pertinent to this topic and to that visit was his work as a major consultant on the text discussed here: From Conflict to Communion, Lutheran-Catholic Common Commemoration of the Reformation in 2017, published jointly by the Lutheran World Federation and the Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity. Thus, his perspective, as he says, is from the inside. Dieter, t.dieter@ecumenical-institute.org, is the Director of the Institute for Ecumenical Research, 8 rue Gustave-Klotz, F-67000, Strasbourg, France.

When Luther and the Lutheran Confessions refer to confession or penance, they mean a private and individual pastoral act, now rare. Karl-Hermann Kandler traces how private confession decreased in practice in Lutheran lands, yet never disappeared entirely, with some specific examples from Freiberg in Saxony, his home base. First published in Luther 87 (2016), this comprehensive and condensed history was translated by Jacob Corzine, jacob.corzine@me.com. k-h-kandler@arcor.de; Enge Gasse 26, 09599 Freiburg, Germany.

Welcome to Ryan Tafilowski, an American Ph.D. candidate in theology and ethics at the University of Edinburgh who has also studied in Mainz and Tübingen. His thesis is on the theology of Paul Althaus, as glimpsed here in an essay on the disputed legacy of the Erlangen theologian. For an introductory overview of Althaus, see Hans Schwarz, “Paul Althaus 1888–1966,” LQ 25 (2011): 28–51, as revised for Twentieth-Century Lutheran Theologians, ed. M. Mattes (Vandenhoeck & Ruprecht, 2013). School of Divinity, University of Edinburgh, Mound Place, Edinburgh, UK, EH1 2 LX; s0894365@sms.ed.ac.uk.

This issue concludes with a few Notes and the usual treasury of book reviews, thanks to Mary Jane Haemig, but first comes a report on “Luther in Slovak” in a series of Comments also curated by Haemig. Lubomír Batka is the director of the current project of translating some of Luther’s work into Czech and (literary) Slovak at the Evangelical Lutheran Faculty of Comenius University in Bratislava, where he is the Dean. batka@fevth.uniba.sk.