About This Issue

Few topics in Luther studies have generated more dispute than the “two kingdoms.” As Notger Slenczka probes Luther’s theological arguments, they lead yet deeper to the “hidden God” and to one of the most disputed topics in the whole history of doctrine, Lutheran and otherwise, namely, God and evil. Author of Das Tod Gottes und die Leben des Menschen (2003), Slenczka is Professor of Systematic Theology at Humboldt University, Burgstrasse 26, D–10178 Berlin; notger.slenczka@cms.hu-berlin.de.

“Theological Exegete and Ecclesial Rebel” captures the distinctive power and appeal of Ernst Küsemann, the subject of our previous overview by Roy Harrisville in LQ Autumn 21 (2007): 294–319. Walter Klaiber studied with the provocative Tübingen Professor 1962–1965 and was his assistant 1969–1971, publishing his 1972 thesis as Rechtfertigung und Gemeinde in 1982. Küsemann’s way of explicating the Pauline “justification of the ungodly” lives on in our pages (see reference below to a new book of LQ essays) and in Bishop Klaiber’s books on creation (2005), Romans (2009), and “Jesus’ Death and Our Life” (2011). Klaiber lives in retirement at Albrechtstrasse 23, D–72072 Tübingen, Germany; walterklaiber@web.de.

The anniversary year 2017 is fast approaching, but what should interest the historically–minded is not only 1517 and that elusive “posting” of the 95 theses but also how subsequent centuries marked their own Reformation centennials. The Tricentennial year 1817 is another topic for a different issue; Sarah K. Nytroé’s subject here is 1917, specifically the issues complicating the American Quadricentennial such as the Great War. Nytroé’s research, and her parallel interests in Roman Catholics and Pentecostals, flows from her 2009 Boston College Ph.D. dissertation, “Religion and Memory in American Public Culture 1890–1920.” She teaches history at De Sales University, 2755 Station Avenue, Center Valley, PA 18034–9568; sarah.nytnoe@desales.edu.

This first issue after our milestone of 25 years and its modest anniversary celebrations concludes with several Comments on historical–theological items of interest and another large and strong array of book reviews, as has become our new norm thanks to Book Review Editor Mary Jane Haemig and many reviewers. “LQ at 25” has produced several items also available to our readers: a complete index of all our authors for this quarter century on our website www.lutheranquarterly.com; a jubilee volume of essays on Justification is for Preaching by Oswald Bayer, Gerhard O. Forde, Mark Mattes, Steven D. Paulson and others, edited by Virgil Thompson, now available from Pickwick Publications (www.wipfandstock.com); and Oswald Bayer’s anniversary lecture (March 2012) in our next issue, “A Public Mystery.”