

Endorsements

“Here is a book filled with treasures. Drawing upon thorough research, confessional integrity, biblical literacy, and astute perception of church and world, the authors invite us into a rich conversation. Their immensely important question for any who care about the church’s witness is: How do we know that this is church, and what are the signs that this assembly is truly the body of Christ? Join the conversation! We will all be richer for it.”

— Bishop Robert A. Rimbo, Southeast Michigan Synod, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

“In a time when the fabric of the church is being torn by mistrust of leaders, disagreements over ecumenical agreements and issues of sexuality, and contention over worship designed for a consumer culture, Gordon Lathrop and Timothy Wengert take hold of the strands that are the historic marks of the church and weave them as the cloth of a trustworthy ecclesiology—a wonderful encouragement for the church, its pastors, and its bishops!”

— Bishop Roy Riley, New Jersey Synod, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

“These closely integrated essays confessionally document and liturgically illustrate that the church is itself an essential part of the Christian gospel. Everything the Holy Spirit does in and through an authentic community of saints, whether at worship or in mission, is meant to be governed coherently by the proclamation of God’s holy Word and the celebration of God’s blessed sacraments. So God’s gracious gospel and our religious gimmicks cannot scripturally co-exist. It’s either Christ’s church or it’s no church, no matter how cool the show, how slick the pitch, or how large the entertained crowds.”

— William H. Lazareth, Jerald C. Brauer Distinguished Professor of Lutheran Studies Carthage College, Kenosha, Wisconsin