

For Mary Jane Haemig, LQ annual meeting, April 17, 2026

Kudos to Mary Jane for her outstanding work as LQ Book Review Editor. She has done a stellar job not only with her selection of books for review and her patience in the editing process but also in the wide array of authors she has courted, some of whom are deeply on board with the LQ agenda and others less so. Her leadership has broadened the base of interest in LQ to a wider circle. With her promptness and courtesy, she has served as an outstanding ambassador for LQ and has placed LQ into a wider audience. We know that many LQ readers turn first to the reviews and then the articles! In this regard, she has been one of the most important LQ editors. Thank you, Mary Jane, for your diligent, kind, and conscientious work!



Mark Mattes

If memory serves, I first encountered you perhaps at some scholarly conference as a freshly minted Harvard Ph.D. with a deep interest in the practical sides of the Reformation. Here was someone who could follow in the footsteps of her advisor, Mark Edwards, I thought. I was wrong. You have contributed far more than he ever did, especially in your indefatigable work as editor of book reviews for Lutheran Quarterly.

Without casting aspersions on your predecessors, I can state without contradiction that you took a floundering part of our operation and turned it into a gem, in some ways the centerpiece of the journal. At least in my case, when Lutheran Quarterly arrives in my mailbox, I turn first to the reviews, both to see what has been newly published but, almost as important, to see what colleagues are saying about those works.

Now, it is true that without Mark Mattes, we would have had only half the reviews, but let me say something about the reviews that I wrote. As you may not know, I am a proud man. I tend to think that what I have written, I have written (to coin a phrase). But without fail and in the gentlest possible ways, you turned my sometimes verbose, often obscure reviews into good prose and solid logic. I cannot thank you enough for your work.

Working with you and Paul as editors of Lutheran Quarterly, I have come to appreciate your insight into the running of the journal, the various personnel decisions made, and the

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books we should publish. In fact, truth be told, there were times when one of those e-mails from Paul would clog my inbox, I would think to myself, "I'll just wait for Mary Jane to respond, and then I'll simply agree with her." It worked every time!

In short, you (along with our intrepid editor-in-chief) have made my work with *Lutheran Quarterly* a true joy, as we have worked together (in the immortal words of OKO) to remember and remind. Thank you for all of your efforts.

In Christ,
Timothy J. Wengert

Mary Jane,

On the eve of your retirement as Book Review Editor, I am pleased for this opportunity to express my gratitude for your excellent years of service to the mission of LQ. LQ's longtime treasurer, David Hardy, never failed in the midst of our many consultations to express his appreciation of the fine selection of books for review and the authoritative stable of reviewers, ever expanding. I echo his appreciation. Many thanks for your years of dedicated service.

Bud Thompson

Dear Dr. Haemig,

Congratulations and God's blessings as you retire from your editorial role with *Lutheran Quarterly*! Your work with the journal has been a gift to the church and the academy—and to me. When I contacted you during my PhD work about the possibility of writing some reviews, you responded graciously, gave me helpful feedback, and sent subsequent review invitations. This has helped me grow as a scholar.

I'm also thankful to have had you as a professor at Luther Seminary. In Reformation History and Lutheran Confessions classes with you (including one term as your TA), I learned a great deal from your clear teaching about the catechism and other topics. I'm also glad that you taught us students how to write a proper précis! This has been a useful skill to have.

All the best to you in what is to come.

Sincerely,

Andrew Ronnevik (Martin Luther Seminary, Lae, Papua New Guinea)

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I worked with Mary Jane as Associate Book Review Editor for about ten years. I was impressed by her passion for choosing both books and reviewers with care for inclusivity. That meant LQ reviews included books and reviewers from all branches of Lutheran and Reformation areas. I especially enjoyed our quarterly meetings in her Luther Seminary office. She would have books scattered all around her, some on chairs, some on the floor. Then she'd ask, "What do you think about this one?" Or, "Know someone who might be interested in reviewing this?" In short, it was a joy to work with her. And I thank her for including me in the review process.

Suzanne Hequet

Mary Jane, you are an exceptional scholar, but more importantly you are an exceptional person: a good friend and a wise witness to the gospel. Lutherans aren't big on either merit or glory, but you have earned the former and deserve the latter within the realms of this earthly kingdom; and both, of course, within the gracious generosity of our Lord Jesus Christ. With both admiration and affection,

Sarah Hinlicky Wilson

Dear Mary Jane,

Looking back at several decades of email correspondence with you, I can't help but marvel at the many ways we have crossed paths and collaborated—An SCSC panel, a Luther and Lutheranism consultation, Luther dictionary entries, numerous book reviews, chatting about former students—even travel tips and lunch recommendations. Thank you for your gracious work in so many areas of teaching, scholarship, and building Lutheran communities. Your impact has been immeasurable.

Michael Halvorson, Pacific Lutheran University

Editors, and especially book review editors rarely receive the credit they ought to get for their efforts, behind the scenes at a journal. But Mary Jane Haemig deserves our highest appreciation for all the work she has done for *Lutheran Quarterly* over these past many years. Book reviews are such an important part of any journal, and she has done a magnificent job in this role. It is not just the vast quantities of reviews that she has procured and edited, but also the quality of them, which has been excellent. And just think of the contacts she has made, pulling in reviewers across the disciplines and around the world. Congratulations, Mary Jane, for a job so very well done.

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Mark Granquist

Although I am a father, a called and ordained pastor, and a PhD myself, you will always be "Professor Haemig" to me. I can recall the painful process of learning to write for the first time as a 21-year-old in your introductory Reformation history course at Luther Seminary. You made me rewrite my first assignment for you (a précis on *The Freedom of a Christian*) three times before you deemed it acceptable for submission. Yours is still one of the loudest, most demanding, and most helpful editorial voices in my head as I write (and rewrite) sermons, devotions, lectures, and even personal correspondence! I have no doubt that you could improve this little note of thanks with your red pen, but please accept it for what it is: a humble and sincere word of appreciation from one of your lifelong students.

Mark Dixon

Thank you, Mary Jane, for your tireless work over many years to make the LQ book review section a treasure of high-quality, accessible scholarship. I have some sense of the amount of organizing, communicating, goading, and proofreading involved in these reviews, but I know that so much of the work goes unseen. Please know that it does not go unappreciated! The book review section of any journal is the most important section, in my opinion, and LQ's has been a model of breadth, depth, and clear writing under your leadership.

Anna Johnson

Mary Jane was the first professor to give me an opportunity to TA. I still have the Fall 2004 Reformation History and Spring 2005 Lutheran Confessions courses listed on my CV. She also asked me to help with the North American Luther Forum at Luther Seminary in 2006, which was a great experience for someone with academic interests. At Lutheran Quarterly it has been a pleasure to work with her. To call Mary Jane punctual would be an understatement. She is always ahead on her work. So much so, that her supervision of the Book Review section has saved me from many mistakes I otherwise would have made. Congratulations to her on many years of service as our Book Review Editor and on her retirement from this position.

Nicholas Hopman

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Of the making of books that might be or should be of interest to the readers of *Lutheran Quarterly*, there is no end. Mary Jane Haemig has peered and peeled through a massive stack of publishers' catalogs and websites and engaged in conversations with colleagues and authors, to find a broad selection of relevant, often cutting-edge, titles that are of interest and relevance to our readership. And she has done that for a quarter century! She has shared her grasp of what is going on in the world related to Lutheran scholarship with countless readers around the globe. We have all profited from this exposure to new perspectives on our Lutheran heritage and its place in twenty-first century church and society. Her immense network of capable evaluators has provided us with windows to the wider world of discussion of the history and current relevance of the theology that finds its roots in Wittenberg five hundred years ago and blossoms today on six continents. With deepest thanks and appreciation for opening these windows for us, we express our gratitude for this splendid service to the life of the church and its scholarship.

Robert Kolb

Mary Jane Haemig was a helpful, faithful, and responsible colleague who contributed to a learning environment for students and faculty. As an editor she provided perspectival help to writers. It is good and fitting that she and her work should be celebrated.

Paul Westermeyer

Mary Jane, I cannot thank you enough for your tireless work as LQ's book review editor for the past 95 issues. Thank you! Job well done!! I'm especially grateful that you always kindly and gently corrected my submissions and thereby greatly improved them. I wish you all the best! God's peace in Christ be with you!

Matt Becker

Mary Jane, I am very grateful for our collaboration on several book reviews for LQ over the years. You were very perceptive of the books that were of interest to me and your edits were impeccable. Thank you for your service in this arena! I pray for you joy in every new endeavor. Shalom!

Craig Nesson

I am grateful for this opportunity to express my gratitude for the outstanding work Mary Jane Haemig has done over the years as the Book Review Editor for *Lutheran Quarterly*. While she solicited and appreciated my reviews, she made every effort to improve them with

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detailed edits and revisions. I have also come to admire Mary Jane for the unflagging encouragement she has consistently given to her likely successors in the field of Lutheran church history. Her mentoring of the new Book Review Editor, Martin Lohrmann, is clearly an example of this. Equally admirable to me is Mary Jane's willingness to bring her first-rate skills as a Reformation historian to bear upon studies of Lutheranism in America. Here she likewise has assumed an exceptional leadership role in the Lutheran Historical Conference. I count Mary Jane as a dear friend, and I am delighted to know that she will remain an Associate Editor of LQ and LQ books.

Jon Diefenthaler

As publisher of the *Lutheran Quarterly Books* series and many other contributions to the ever-growing literature on Lutheranism and the Reformation, Fortress Press gives thanks for Mary Jane Haemig's valuable work as LQ book review editor over the past 23 (!) years. The LQ review section is a reliable source for thoughtful, measured assessments of the literature in this field. Mary Jane has cultivated a stable of reviewers who hold authors to high standards, and as head of Fortress I enjoy the challenge of attempting to meet them. The field has benefited immeasurably from her careful stewardship.

Laura Gifford, editor-in-chief, Fortress Press

Mary Jane, your exemplary work as book review editor is greatly appreciated. Your graciousness and your precise and focused hand can be seen from the selecting of appropriate reviewers for the books, to the careful editing of the submitted reviews. Your contributions, not only as a book review editor, but as a world-class Luther scholar, are much appreciated. Thank you!

Gordon A. Jensen

For 95 issues, almost 24 years, and approximately 1,600 reviews, Mary Jane Haemig has been Lutheran Quarterly's stalwart Book Review Editor. Since 2003, she has chosen titles, contacted publishers, invited reviewers old and new, edited the reviews, and patrolled the page proofs for every issue, all with dependable excellence. The LQ Directors often singled out the Book Review section for accolades at their annual meetings. She has even mentored her successor, Martin Lohrmann of Wartburg Seminary who will move from Associate Book Review Editor to take charge of this essential portfolio as of April 1, 2026. Haemig herself will continue as Associate Editor of LQ and LQ Books (Fortress). Authors, publishers, scholars, students, and all LQ readers are in her debt, but especially the editor. After all, those reviews took good care of more than 3,200 pages and a load off the editor's mind for all those quarters. Thank you, Mary Jane, and welcome, Martin!

Paul Rorem, the Oliver K. Olson Editor of *Lutheran Quarterly*, as in LQ 40 (2026): 111.

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Over many decades, I have always benefited from Mary Jane's clear and kind judgment. Collaborating with her means having someone at your side who is deeply reliable. I wish her many more fruitful years for her inspiring research on Lutheran spirituality - she will have a keen reader in me. *Ad multos annos.*

Volker Leppin

Lutheran Quarterly

INSTRUCTIONS FOR EDITORS OF BOOK REVIEWS:

A Tribute to Mary Jane Haemig in the Form of the LQ Book Review Style Guide

1. Readers will want to be informed of the substance of the book, as well as learn the reviewer's critical evaluation of it. As editor, your task is to cover the multitude of sins committed by the reviewer – grammatical, logical, and rhetorical – so that readers maintain confidence in *Lutheran Quarterly* as a reputable scholarly journal. This will be harder than it sounds.
2. Readers will also want to know your view of who would be most interested in the book or of how the book might be used: Might this be useful for undergraduate religion classes? For use in congregations? Or would it best be used for a door stop? Note: When telling the truth, be “wise as serpents,” because you will invariably see the author or the author's friends at conferences.
3. Reviewers should follow the directives of *The Chicago Manual of Style*, but they will not. Every scholar has invented their own style guide, which they follow religiously. It is your job to translate their idiosyncrasies into something that Nick Hopman will approve of.
4. Begin editorial work by clicking on the “track changes” feature. Use the color red liberally in editing. If so much red and so many strikethroughs have been used that a reviewer's confidence will be existentially shaken if you show them the edited text, then click on “accept all changes” and send them a clean version of what can at this point only generously be called “their text.” Ask if this meets with their approval. They will say yes. In this way, you will have protected the reviewer's ego enough that you can call upon them again when the well of potential reviewers inevitably runs dry.
5. Reviews should be 600 - 650 words. Robert Kolb and Tim Wengert will ignore this rubric and write however much they please.

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6. Reviews are due six months after receiving the book. As a courtesy, reviewers are supposed to contact the editor if their review is delayed. In fact, editors will begin sending gentle reminders for up to two years before giving up and writing the reviews themselves.
7. Reviewers should type their name, institution, and location at the end of their review. Do not neglect to proofread these! Reviewers will occasionally misspell their own names.
8. *Lutheran Quarterly* reserves the right to make editorial changes, to rewrite reviews entirely (see points 1 and 4 above), and to flatter, badger, or guilt-trip reviewers into continuing to write for LQ in perpetuity.
9. As of April 1, 2026, Mary Jane Haemig is no longer serving as Supreme Book Review Editor in Chief. However, her successor will forever be guided by the question: “Is this good enough for Mary Jane?” The answer will usually be “no.”

Submitted with deep appreciation for Dr. Haemig’s wisdom, service, and scholarship, April 2026

Martin J. Lohrmann

LQ readers and reviewers have been blessed by the diligent and careful work of Mary Jane Haemig over the years. She knows the books and scholars to be reviewed, she knows how to edit lightly and wisely and she has ever been watchful and kind to those reviewing books. God bless her in her future endeavors!

Gracia Grindal

Mary Jane, it’s been a pleasure to work with you over the years. Your scholarship, your encouragement of other scholars, your kindness, your clarity, and your humor are all gifts you have blessed us with. I’m particularly appreciative of how you’ve brought your historical acumen to bear on the core practices of preaching, teaching, and prayer, showing the relevance of our rich Reformation heritage for the life and work of the church today.

Kit Kleinhans

Book review editors are the unsung heroes of scholarly communication. They play a vital role in making journal readers aware of current scholarship on a broad variety of topics. For

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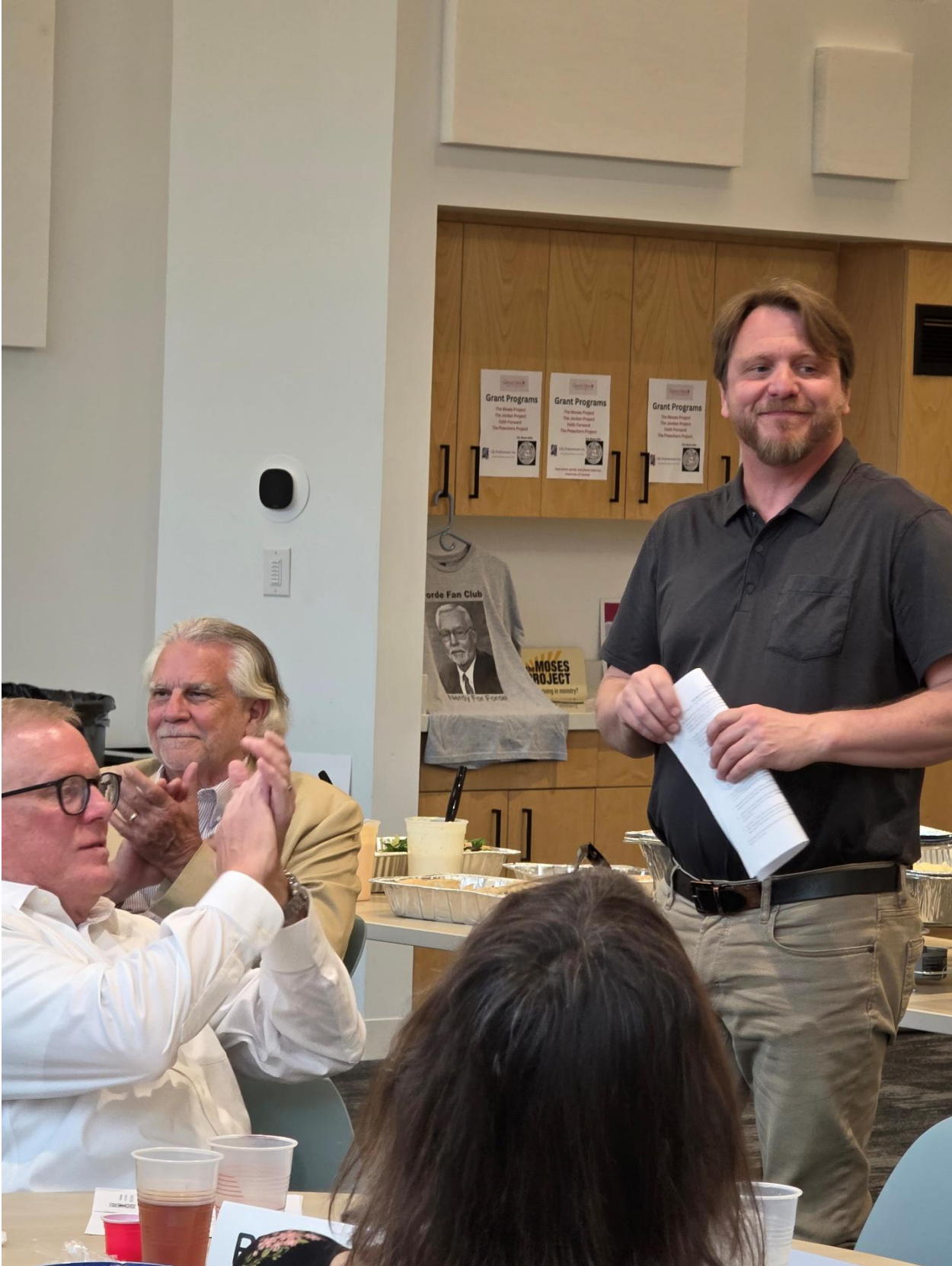
well over two decades, Mary Jane Haemig has faithfully performed this service for Lutheran Quarterly. Her oversight of the review process, from matching books with appropriate reviewers, through sending gentle reminders to meet deadlines, to editing the final copy, has contributed substantially to the journal's reputation and usefulness. To these other responsibilities she has also worked with her successor, Martin Lohrmann, to ensure a smooth transition. Thank you, Mary Jane, for all the time and effort you have contributed to Lutheran Quarterly, and best wishes for the future!

Amy Burnett

Dr. Mary Jane Haemig has served the readers of *Lutheran Quarterly* well in her judicious selection of books for review, appropriate pairing of books with reviewers who have demonstrated expertise in the discipline, and a sharp editorial eye for details. Her knowledge of the Reformation and of contemporary Lutheranism coupled with her professionalism has contributed to the reliability of *Lutheran Quarterly* as the flagship journal of Lutheran history and theology in the English-speaking world.

John T. Pless





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