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To Proclaim, to Instruct and to Discipline

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- 1) The analysis of the materiality of Protestantism is as important to understanding the Reformation as is the study of the Protestant discourse reflected in written sources.
- 2) The role of the image and of seeing was not completely played out due to the emphasis on the Word in the Dutch Reformed churches, contrary to the deep-rooted idea of the visually barren Dutch Reformed church interior. Text decoration can rather be seen as an inventive reconciliation of the Word and the image in churches.
- 3) An understanding of reading as a visual practice is required to understand the nature and perception of text panels and text paintings in churches.
- 4) Sets of texts centred around the Ten Commandments and placed in and around the chancel should be interpreted as coherent ensembles, and in their spatial and liturgical context; they provided spiritual instruction for the celebration of the Lord's Supper, they were visual reminders of its exclusivity and Reformed nature and markers of the rejection of the Catholic Eucharist.
- 5) The analysis of the spatial setting of text panels and text paintings confirms the idea that the Reformation of churches involved a process of adaptation of existing structures rather than their complete eradication, despite the thoroughness of the Reformed 'cleansing' of the formerly Catholic church interiors.
- 6) Despite the Protestant rejection of the pre-Reformation concept of the church building as a holy place, churches retained some of their special status after the Reformation. The Reformation of churches involved the adaptation and reformulation of their importance and status, and the display of texts became a means to express or signal this status in churches.
- 7) Text decoration became a universal visual marker of Protestant identity in churches belonging to different denominations in regions around the North Sea in the sixteenth century.
- 8) Looking beyond borders is necessary to understand the particularities of the forms, texts, spatial settings and liturgical relevance of text decorations in churches belonging to different Protestant denominations in different regions.
- 9) Looking beyond borders was as beneficial to this thesis as it was to its author.
- 10) Unknown means unloved; In the late sixteenth and seventeenth centuries, the Reformed churches of medieval origin were public buildings, used by a wide local community which felt connected to the church. Opening old churches today to a public that is much wider than a Reformed religious community will likely contribute to their connection with churches, and thereby to the preservation of churches.