

BAPTISM, BROTHERHOOD, AND BELIEF IN REFORMATION GERMANY

When Martin Luther mounted his challenge to the Catholic Church, reform stimulated a range of responses, including radical solutions proposed by Anabaptist theologians. But how did ordinary Anabaptists, men and women, grapple with the theological and emotional challenges of the Lutheran Reformation? Historiography has neglected Anabaptism in central Germany, since the movement was composed of scattered groups, had no famous leaders, and does not seem to have been numerically strong. *Baptism, Brotherhood, and Belief in Reformation Germany* challenges assumptions about the marginal significance of Anabaptism in the region. It was an important part of the confessional landscape, and the choices these ordinary Anabaptist men and women made were one among several solutions to the challenges raised by religious change. Understanding their decisions not only sets a new agenda for understandings of Anabaptism, but also provides novel insights into how religious identities were formed in the Reformation era.