DID THE REFORMATION FAIL?
THE DEBATE CONTINUES

M. Patrick Graham

In the year that marks the 500th anniversary of Martin Luther’s 95 Theses, the Kessler Reformation Collection celebrates its own 30th anniversary. The Pitts Theology Library marked Luther’s anniversary with its spring 2017 exhibit, *The Image of a Fractured Church: Martin Luther and the 95 Theses*, and in the fall Pitts opens an exhibit that surveys the rich variety of materials in the Kessler Collection and highlights some of its most important pieces, *From Wittenberg to Atlanta: The Richard C. Kessler Reformation Collection at 30 Years*.

“Did the Reformation fail?” is the question that we pose for the 30th-annual Reformation Day at Emory program, scheduled for Thursday, October 26 (complete program on page 8). We have invited three church leaders to respond to the question and lead us all in an exploration of the impact of Luther and the German Reformation after 500 years. The day’s events will begin with registration and reception, followed by a review of highlights from the year’s acquisitions and the new exhibit of treasures from the Kessler Reformation Collection.

This year’s chapel service features the Candler singers, musicians, and a sermon by Rev. Katherine Museus, associate pastor, St. Andrew Lutheran Church (Franklin, Tennessee). Pastor Museus studied theatre arts, religion, and music at Hamline University (St. Paul, Minnesota), received an MDIV from Vanderbilt Divinity School, and an MA in the history of Christianity from Luther Seminary. After serving as a pastoral intern at St. Andrew, the congregation called her as
In 1529 the Catholic theologian Johann Cochlaeus published a book in which he sought to portray Martin Luther as inconsistent and unreliable. The title page woodcut of this work has become an iconic representation of how Martin Luther was seen by his contemporary opponents: a human torso with seven heads, recalling the beast of Revelation 13:1. Each head is labeled to remind the viewer of Luther as professor, monk, infidel, priest, religious fanatic, church inspector, and revolutionary. While Cochlaeus is correct in pointing out that there are many sides to Luther, another image of the Reformer emerges from the imprints held in the Kessler Reformation Collection.

First, there is Luther the reformer, who wrote the 95 Theses that sparked the Reformation, who was excommunicated by Pope Leo X, and who appeared before Emperor Charles V at the Diet of Worms. The Kessler Collection holds a 1519 printing of the 95 Theses, a 1520 printing of the papal bull threatening Luther with excommunication, an eyewitness account of the Diet of Worms, and the Edict of Worms that placed Luther under imperial ban. So, by collecting the works of Luther and his supporters as well as those of his opponents, the Kessler Reformation Collection has worked to advance our understanding of this talented but complex figure who changed the course of early Lutheran hymnals in America. Finally, there is Martin Luther the man, the historical person, whose life is documented in writings by friends like Philipp Melanchthon and by foes like Johann Cochlaeus. The latter’s biography of Luther is perhaps the most comprehensive contemporary account of his life. In addition, Luther’s private life is reflected in his Table-Talk, sayings and stories about the Reformer that were collected and preserved by his students and associates.
The 29th Reformation Day at Emory program took as its theme, “Law and Grace: Martin Luther, Lucas Cranach, and the Promise of Salvation,” and keynote lectures explored the renowned Reformation painting of Lucas Cranach the Elder, Law and Grace, from the standpoints of art history, biblical studies, and theology. Here are moments from the day’s events.

From Wittenberg to Atlanta: The Richard C. Kessler Reformation Collection at 30 Years is the fall exhibit celebrating the first three decades of the Kessler Collection in the 500th anniversary year of Luther. The exhibition is curated by Armin Siedlecki and showcases key works by Martin Luther, his colleagues, and his opponents, including the September Testament (1522), early printed Bibles, first editions of the Augsburg Confession (1530), and the Canons and Decrees of the Council of Trent (1564). The exhibition will be open during library hours from August 4 until November 27, 2017. Docent-led tours will be available bi-weekly on Friday afternoons (register at pitts.emory.edu/exhibits). Those interested can schedule tours for adult or K–12 groups at alternate times as well by contacting Rebekah Bedard (rebekah.bedard@emory.edu or 404.727.5094). All tours will be free of charge and open to the public.

Select early printings of Erasmus’ Greek New Testament with his Annotationes

Honor Roll of Donors

Histories of great libraries are largely the stories of generosity—gifts of books and other materials, funds for acquisitions, and much more. After only 30 years, the Kessler Reformation Collection has grown to become the nation’s largest collection of early printings of Luther’s works, an achievement made possible only by the generosity of its enthusiastic supporters. Since September 1, 2016, we have received gifts from the following:

- The Honorable Dorothy Toth Beasley
- Mr. Lewis H. Engle and Mrs. Susan R. Engle
- Mr. Richard Nick S. Fisher and Mrs. Marilyn Fisher
- Dr. Alberto L. Garcia and Mrs. Moraima Y. Garcia
- Dr. M. Patrick Graham and Mrs. Doris Joan Graham
- Mr. Richard C. Kessler and Mrs. Martha J. Kessler
- Ms. Liesl C. Kii
- Dean Jan Love and Dr. Peter Carl Sederberg
- Mr. Jean Mori and Mrs. Elizabeth Nunn Mori

If you would like to join in this effort, please contact the library director at:

M. Patrick Graham, Pitts Theology Library, 1531 Dickey Drive, Ste 560, Atlanta, GA 30322
libmpg@emory.edu • 404.727.4165
Renewing Church and University

October 21, 2014

Emory Texts and Studies in Ecclesial Life, 7

(pitts.emory.edu/dia), but others have gravings of the Digital Image Archive remotely. Some use the thousands of citations in churches or at meetings of members of the library staff do present in the exhibit gallery and hear presentations by scholars, curators, or docents there. Still others engage the collection when by scholars, curators, or docents there. Those that are accessible online via the Pitts webpage at pitts.emory.edu/digitalcollections/.

The Kessler Collection has issued or made possible. Below is a listing of what has been compiled by Fred A. Grater; edited by Robin A. Leaver, Robert L. Marshall, and read by Dewey B. Weiss Kramer. Occasional Publications of the Pitts Theology Library. Atlanta: Pitts Theology Library, 2012.*


Interesting Catholic works acquired this year include the first edition of Philipp Melancthon's Hymni a Christiani. 1549) and John Hick's incredibly popular handbook refuting Martin Luther (Tübingen, 1527)—going through 90 editions in 1516 and 1518. Two particularly important works by Luther in this year's acquisitions were the first Strasbourg printing of his famous 1520 pamphlet, On the Freedom of a Christian, and his expanded report about the Diet of Worms (Augustus, 1521). In the latter, Luther gives his final statement at the assembly as, "May God come to my help. Amen. There I am." (Also added this year is a rare printing of the Edict of Worms [Vienna, 1524], which prohibited the publication, distribution, and reading of Luther's works.)

Finally, eight publications were acquired this year that relate to the arrival of the Reformation in Constance, an old city set on Lake Constance and the German-Swiss border. Two of these were written by Ambrosius Blarer, who brought the Reformation from Wittenberg to the city, and another by a Lutheran pastor from Eichstätt (near Lake Constance), On which joined Luther in critiquing the Catholic mass. Two more were by Catholics who opposed the new Protestant Reformation. One is不仅 will these publications support scholarship and teaching in the years

Mr. William E. and Mrs. June Wise

Mrs. Faye H. Holland

Mr. John A. and Mrs. Betty M.

Mrs. Rachel Davis

Mr. Joseph Bernard Fulp

Mrs. William H. and Mrs. Carol S.

Mrs. Carol A. Jenkins

Dr. Kristen Elaine Kvam and Mr. Arlin J. Buyert

Mr. Carl F. Lettow Jr.

Mr. William (Bill) E. Pielop III

Mr. Richard C. Kessler and Mrs. Martha Kessler

Dr. Paul F. Walter and Dr. Jonne Barney Walter

The Memorial Fund of St. Johns Evangelical Lutheran Church, Southeastern Synod Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

The Rev. Dr. Mark Andrew Scott and Mrs. Karen Green Scott

Dr. Russell E. Richey and Mrs. Merle Richey

Mr. Michael E. and Mrs. Betty M. Marcus

Dr. John M. and Mrs. Mary L. Marcus

Mr. David F. and Mrs. Gail S.

Mr. Carl F. and Mrs. Carol S.

Dr. Patricia A. McHenry

Mrs. Rachel Davis

Mr. Joseph Bernard Fulp

Mrs. William H. and Mrs. Carol S.

Mrs. Carol A. Jenkins

Dr. Kristen Elaine Kvam and Mr. Arlin J. Buyert

Mr. Carl F. Lettow Jr.

Mr. William (Bill) E. Pielop III

Mr. Richard C. Kessler and Mrs. Martha Kessler

Dr. Paul F. Walter and Dr. Jonne Barney Walter

The Memorial Fund of St. Johns Evangelical Lutheran Church, Southeastern Synod Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

The Rev. Dr. Mark Andrew Scott and Mrs. Karen Green Scott

Dr. John M. and Mrs. Merle Richey

Mr. Richard C. and Mrs. Martha K.

Mr. Karl E. and Mrs. Laura Van Til

Mr. Paul F. Walter and Mrs. Jena Barnegat

Nancy E. and Mr. William S.

Mr. William K. and Mrs. Linda Richards

Mr. Richard C. Kessler, Chair

Mr. Roy T. Wise, Secretary

Bishop H. Allan Smith

Prof. M. Patrick Graham

Dean Janview

Mrs. Betty Marie

Mr. William E. Pielop III

Mr. Matthew Pierce

Dr. Walter J. For

Mrs. Laura Van Til

M. Patrick Graham

The Kessler Reformation Collection celebrates its 30th anniversary this year. Established on October 1, 1987, with an agreement signed by James T. Laney and Richard C. Kessler, the collection has almost tripled in size over the decades that followed and now stands at 3,874 items, 1,073 by Luther himself. Most of these materials were issued between 1517 and 1570, although some antedate that period and so illumine the context in which Luther and the German Reformation arose.

The Kessler Collection added 140 books and pamphlets this year, including 15 by Luther, seven each by Erasmus and Flacius Illyricus, 16 by Melancthon, four by Coelanus, and three each by Zwingli and Ulrich von Hutten. In addition, there is one incunabula: Boethius' Consolation of Philosophy (Cologne, 1500), which was among the most influential works on the development of medieval Christianity and the Theologica Germanica, and which Luther issued editions in 1516 and 1518. Not only will these publications support scholarship and teaching in the years to come, but they will be used in the library's exhibit program, which attracts thousands of visitors annually, and their illustrations will be added to the more than 60,000 images in the Digital Image Archive (pitts.emory.edu/dia).
Reformation Day at Emory 2017

The 30th Reformation Day at Emory will be held on Thursday, October 26, celebrating the 30th anniversary of the founding of the Kessler Reformation Collection and marking the 500th anniversary of Martin Luther's 95 Theses. This year's program explores the question, “Did the Reformation fail?” by inviting bishops from the Lutheran and Methodist Churches and an archbishop from the Catholic Church to share their perspectives and thinking with us. Register today by calling 404.727.6352.

9:00–9:45 a.m. Registration, Reception, and Review of Exhibit Gallery—Lecture Hall, Pitts Theology Library (Room 360)

9:45–10:45 a.m. Program introduction and presentation of recent acquisitions—Lecture Hall, Pitts Theology Library (Room 360)

11:05–11:50 a.m. Chapel service, Reverend Katherine Museus, associate pastor, St. Andrew Lutheran Church, Preaching—Sanctuary, Cannon Chapel

12:15–1:15 p.m. Luncheon Musical Program, David B. Daniel, director of chapel music and the Candler Singers. Cost: $10 per person, Registration required by calling 404.727.6352.

1:30–4:30 p.m. “Did the Reformation Fail?” Panel presentations and discussion. Bishop Julian Gordy, Southeastern Synod, ELCA Bishop Larry Goodpaster, Candler School of Theology Archbishop Wilton Gregory, Archdiocese of Atlanta Lecture Hall, Pitts Theology Library (Room 360)

4:30–8:00 p.m. Break for dinner, Emory Village or Emory Point restaurants recommended

8:00–9:00 p.m. Kessler Reformation Concert, collaboration between the Emory University Chorus, Eric Nelson, conductor and the Emory University Orchestra, Richard Prior, conductor. With Jonathan Easter, organist.—Emerson Concert Hall, Donna and Marvin Schwartz Center for Performing Arts

Based on full participation, 0.5 C.E.U. will be awarded by Candler School of Theology, Emory University. To receive credit, participants must attend all Reformation Day events, print the request form (http://goo.gl/IPZIM8), and submit it, along with a $10 payment check (checks made payable to Emory University) to Pitts Theology Library, 1531 Dickey Drive, Suite 560, Atlanta, Georgia 30322.

SCAN THE QR CODE IMAGE WITH YOUR SMARTPHONE FOR MORE INFORMATION ON REFORMATION DAY.