Law and Grace: Martin Luther, Lucas Cranach, and the Promise of Salvation is the title of the 29th-annual Reformation Day at Emory program, scheduled for Thursday, October 27 (complete program on page 8). This year we will explore the renowned Reformation painting of Lucas Cranach the Elder, Law and Grace, from the standpoints of art history, biblical studies, and theology. 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 devoted to the elaboration of the Cranach painting.

This year’s chapel service features the Candler singers, musicians, and a sermon by Anthony A. Briggman, assistant professor of the history of early Christianity (Candler School of Theology), entitled, “Grace Then, Grace Today, Grace Always.” Prof. Briggman came to Candler in 2011 and in 2016 won a Crystal Apple Award for Excellence in Graduate Education/Instruction. His research has focused on Irenaeus of Lyon and the theology of the early church. As in years past, the Candler Singers will offer a musical presentation at the luncheon that follows, this year under the direction of David B. Daniel, Candler’s new director of chapel music.

The afternoon program will consist of three engaging lectures that unfold the significance of Cranach’s iconic painting. Opening the afternoon program is Prof. Bonnie Noble’s lecture, “Law and Gospel and the Strategies of Pictorial Rhetoric.” This illustrated presentation examines...
Impressions of Law and Grace

Lucas Cranach the Elder (1472–1553) was one of the best-known German artists of the 16th century. As a witness at his wedding and as godfather to his first son Johannes, the image that most have of Martin Luther is based on his portrait of Cranach’s painting. The work contrasts several iconographic motifs from the Old Testament and New Testament images. The lecture will explore the remarkably complex role that Scripture plays in this work and discuss the iconography of Scripture in the painting. LeMon has studied at Stellenbosch University in South Africa (2001–2002), where he currently holds the title associate professor extraordinaire. He is an ordained elder in the Virginia Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church.

Prof. Jonathan Strom has appeared in several Reformation Day at Emory programs, and this year his lecture will close the afternoon program: “Cranach, Law and Gospel,” and the Protestant Theological Tradition.” Here Strom illuminates the impact of Cranach’s work on the Reformation and the years that followed. Arriving at Cranach to teach church history in 1997, Strom is currently associate dean of faculty and academic affairs and the director of international initiatives. His research interests include Pietism in continental Europe, the history of the Protestant clergy, and the emergence of modern forms of pietry and religious practice. He has written widely on the clergy, lay religion, and reform movements in post-Reformation Germany and is the author/editor of three books, most recently Pietism and Community in Europe and North America, 1650–1850 (Brill, 2010). A Fulbright Scholar, Strom has also received grants from the Lilly Foundation, the Association of Theological Schools, and Emory’s University Research Committee.

All events are free of charge and open to the public.

“Here I stand . . .” Luther Exhibitions USA 2016

2017 marks the 500th anniversary of Martin Luther’s 95 Theses, his protest against the sale of indulgences and commonly viewed as the beginning of the Protestant Reformation. This anniversary will be observed with exhibits, lectures, and other programs around the world.

In the United States three major exhibits will commemorate Luther’s work, thanks to the generosity of the German Federal Foreign Office and the creativity of four German museums: the State Museum of Prehistory Halle, the Luther Memorials Foundation Saxony-Anhalt, the Deutsches Historisches Museum Berlin, and the Foundation Schloss Friedenstein Gotha. Each exhibit is different but all open simultaneously in October at the Morgan Library & Museum in New York, the Minneapolis Institute of Art; and the Pitts Theology Library in Atlanta (here with support of the Halle Foundation, Atlanta).

These three splendid exhibits feature materials that have never before left Germany and reveal something of the cultural and historical richness of Luther’s homeland in Central Germany. Together they introduce American audiences to the world of Luther and invite all to visit Germany in 2017 to see the rest.

A special case is the Kaiser Collection's copy of Veit Dürerichs Summaria über die gantze Bibel (Summary of the Entire Bible, Nuremberg, 1548), which has a 16th-century binding of blind-tooled pigskin that adapts Cranach’s allegory of law and grace by depicting the left half of the image on the front cover and the right half on the back cover: The book’s cover thus mirrors the Bible's story, as it moves from judgment and death in the Garden of Eden to grace and life in Christ’s final victory in Revelation.
The 28th Reformation Day at Emory program took as its theme “Scripture and Reform: The Ten Commandments as Jewish Law, Christian Gospel, and Civic Code,” and keynote lectures elaborated the role of the Decalogue in the Hebrew Bible, Luther’s reform, and contemporary American life. Here are moments from the day’s events.

Zwingli and the Lord’s Supper

The Kessler Reformation Collection acquired Zwingli’s Actio[n] oder Brauch des Nachtmals, Gedechtnus, oder Dancksagung Christi . . . (1525) in 2010. This rare volume helps document the vigorous debate between Luther and Zwingli about the Lord’s Supper, one of the most divisive issues among Protestants in the third decade of the 16th century.

We are delighted that Jim West translated Zwingli’s work into English for the first time and has provided an introduction to help readers understand its significance. We also are grateful to Prof. Kurt K. Hendel of the Kessler Collection’s Scholars Advisory Committee for reviewing West’s translation.

The generous support of Walker and Nancy Ray in honor of Susan Snow Hope has allowed the Pitts Theology Library to publish this translation in both electronic and print formats so that students and scholars alike may have ready access to the work at no charge:


The electronic version of the work is available for download at pitts.emory.edu/files/publications/ZwingliLordsSupper.pdf.

Copies of the work in print are available free of charge to those who submit their requests via the following webpage: www.pitts.emory.edu/publication.

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, 2015, we have received gifts from the following:

Mr. Lewis H. Engle and Mrs. Susan Engle
Mr. Richard S. Fisher
Dr. M. Patrick Graham and Mrs. Doris J. Graham
Dr. Scott H. Hendrix
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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
libmp@emory.edu • 404-727-4165
This year we celebrate the 29th anniversary of the founding of the Kessler Reformation Collection. Next year we’ll celebrate the 50th anniversary of Martin Luther’s 95 Theses and three decades of our work to build an internationally recognized collection. It seems appropriate, therefore, to pause and consider who supports the collection have done since 1987.

I came to work at the Pitts Theology Library as a cataloger in August 1988, and still remember attending the first Reformation Day at Emory exhibit and concert program two months later, keeping guard with an American library and another quarter are held by only one.

• The most important acquisition of all occurred in July 1987, when Richard Kessler’s generous support brought Luther’s September Testament to the collection.

• Each year since 1988, the Kessler Collection has celebrated its “Reformation Day at Emory” with programs of exhibits, lectures, music, and worship.

• The creation of the Digital Image Archive, now with almost 40,000 woodcuts and etchings from the 15th through the 19th century that are freely available to all for teaching and research, being used by thousands of people annually.

• Almost 150 friends of the collection have given more than $1,300,000 to develop this resource for the church and the academy and enhance its impact.

• Finally, the Kessler Collection moved into its new home in July 2014: a five-story facility with state-of-the-art storage for rare books, a beautiful art storage for rare books, a beautiful art storage for rare books, a beautiful art storage for rare books, a beautiful art storage for rare books, a beautiful art storage for rare books, a beautiful art storage for rare books, a beautiful art storage for rare books, a beautiful art storage for rare books, a beautiful art storage for rare books, a beautiful art storage for rare books, a beautiful art storage for rare books, a beautiful art storage for rare books, a beautiful

The Kessler Reformation Collection marks its 29th anniversary in 2016 and looks forward to its 30th anniversary coinciding with the 500th anniversary of Luther’s 95 Theses. The numbers of students, faculty, and others visiting the Pitts Library continue to grow, and library staff and docents have been kept busy with this increase in traffic, providing about 120 group presentations and tours to more than 2,200 persons during the past year. The Kessler Collection plays a major role in these instructional sessions, as well as in the library’s program of exhibitions and publications, in the Digital Image Archive, and much more.

The Kessler Collection added 38 books and pamphlets this year, as well as five prints. The total number of pieces in the Kessler Collection now stands at 3,735, of which 1,059 are works by Martin Luther himself. As has historically been the case, a large percentage of this year’s acquisitions of books and pamphlets are either completely new to the US (42 percent) or held by only one other American library (26 percent).

Twelve works by Martin Luther were acquired this year; two by Georg Major, John Eck, and Erasmus; and one each by Buccharus, Coeleasius, Melanchthon, and Zwingli. In addition, the first edition of the French translation of the Canons and Decrees of the Council of Trent (1564) came to the Kessler Collection this year, as well as a 1554 printing of John Eck’s most popular work against the Lutherans and other Protestants. In addition to these books and pamphlets, the library collaborates with the Michael C. Carlos Museum to negotiate the purchase of a group of prints from Albrecht Dürer’s Small Woodcut Passion (1509–1531). The Kessler Collection portion of these includes: Christ Crowned with Thorns, Doubting Thomas, Christ Washing Peter’s Feet, Resurrection of Christ, and Christ in Emmaus.

These are the first prints to come to Pitts from Dürer, perhaps the greatest German artist of the 16th century.

Albrecht Dürer, Small Woodcut Passion: Christ in Emmaus

An especially interesting acquisition this year was a Sammelband or collection of seven Reformation books and pamphlets that an early collector had compiled in 1557 or later and then given to a bookseller. The titles included are very rare (six of the seven works are not held by another American library), and there are interesting indications in the volume of how such a Sammelband was constructed: the owner’s instructions about the sequence of the pieces and the bookseller’s technique in building up the binding—leather over paper boards—by using printed sheets from earlier publications.
Reformation Day at Emory 2016

The 29th Reformation Day at Emory will be held on Thursday, October 27, and takes as its theme, “Law and Grace: Martin Luther, Lucas Cranach, and the Promise of Salvation.” This year’s program explores the renowned Reformation painting of Lucas Cranach the Elder, Law and Grace, from the standpoints of art history, biblical studies, and theology. 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, Professor M. Patrick Graham, Candler School of Theology—Lecture Hall, Pitts Theology Library (Room 360)

11:05–11:50 a.m. Chapel Service, Professor Anthony A. Briggman, Candler School of Theology, 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.—Cox Hall


2:15–3:00 p.m. “Lucas Cranach’s ‘Law and Grace’ and Scripture,” Prof. Joel LeMon, Candler School of Theology—Lecture Hall, Pitts Theology Library (Room 360)

3:10–4:00 p.m. “Cranach, 'Law and Gospel, and the Protestant Theological Tradition,” Prof. Jonathan Strom, Candler School of Theology—Lecture Hall, Pitts Theology Library (Room 360)

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.