

# Reformation Notes

NEWS FOR PARTNERS OF THE RICHARD C. KESSLER REFORMATION COLLECTION • SUMMER 2018 • NUMBER 53



## *Looking Back and Looking Forward with the Kessler Collection*

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*Just a few of the more than 160 new Kessler Collection acquisitions from 2017.*

## THE REFORMATION AT 501 YEARS

*Richard Manly Adams Jr.*

*Margaret A. Pitts Assistant Professor in the Practice of Theological Bibliography and Director of Pitts Theology Library*

People often ask me what it means to work in a “theology library.” On the one hand, the answer is straightforward—we collect materials in the academic field of theology and related disciplines. That, however, does not quite capture the distinction between a theology library and an academic library. Being a theology library also means we recognize that the materials we collect have ongoing relevance for individuals and communities all around the world. That is, our collections do not merely document conversations of the past, but perhaps more than in any other discipline, in theology materials from the past are central to conversations of the present and future. This idea of making past conversations accessible for new conversations in new contexts has always been central to the focus of the Richard C. Kessler Reformation Collection. 2017 was a major milestone for the collection, marking not only the 30th anniversary of its founding, but also the 500th anniversary of the posting of the 95 theses by Martin Luther, the figure at the center of the collection. It was appropriate, therefore, to spend 2017 in a historical mindset, looking back and commemorating that significant act and the many repercussions it created in the 16th century. As a theology library, though, we cannot be content simply to document the history. Rather, it is our responsibility to show how the documents in this world-renowned collection can inform

*continued on next page*



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*The Reformation at 501 Years (continued)*

the present. What is the relevance of the 16th century for the conversations Christians are having in the 21st century?

That question sets the conversation for our Reformation Day at Emory program in 2018, which is titled “The Reformation at 501.” The day’s programming will be driven not by the questions the reformers were seeking to answer, but rather the questions with which contemporary Christian theologians, in the church and the academy, are wrestling. Those questions become the lens through which we explore these treasures of the 16th century, asking if the academic and ecclesial struggles of the past can help us make progress with our challenges today. Our exhibition gallery this fall will be organized by what the United Methodist Church and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America have defined as the key issues facing them in the 21st century, and our panel of speakers will address how the reformers’ works in the Kessler Collection are relevant for Christian theology, even 501 years after Luther’s defiant act.

The day will begin at Pitts Theology Library with registration and time to explore the exhibition gallery. The exhibition is entitled *Looking Back, Looking Forward: Reading the Reformation through the Lens of Contemporary Christianity*. I will then welcome our guests and begin the day officially with a presentation of the

recent activities surrounding the collection, asking if collecting these rare documents is important today (spoiler alert: I think it is).

We will then move to Emory’s Cannon Chapel for our worship service. Reformation Day at Emory is more than an academic presentation; it also includes a wonderful worship service. That service has become an opportunity to highlight star preachers in the Lutheran tradition, and this year is no exception. Our worship service will feature Pastor Tiffany C. Chaney, pastor and mission developer of Gathered by Grace, an ELCA mission serving young adults in the Montgomery, Alabama, and Tuskegee, Alabama, communities. She is active in the wider church, serving as a member of the ELCA African Descent Strategy Team and ELCA Nominating Committee, serving as communications chairperson for the national African Descent Lutheran Association, and serving on the Southeastern Synod’s Mission Outreach and Renewal Committee and as chairperson for the Diaspora Conference. Chaney has been invited to preach and teach at congregations, conferences, and retreats about topics including racial justice, evangelism, postmodern ministry, poverty, asset mapping, and strategic planning. A bi-vocational pastor, Chaney also serves as system director of Business Development for Baptist Health, a three-hospital health system based in Montgomery.

The afternoon program of Reformation Day is typically more “academic” in focus, but this year we blur the lines between church and academy by asking how issues that face the contemporary Christian church and Christian theologians might be addressed by looking to the

past. Our panel will feature presentations by three leading theologians. Professor Amy E. Marga is associate professor for systematic theology and division chair at Luther Seminary, St Paul. She is the author of *Karl Barth’s Dialogue with Catholicism in Göttingen and Münster* (2010), the translator of *Karl Barth’s The Word of God and Theology* (2011), and a contributing translator to *Barth in Conversation: Volume 1, 1959–1962*, (2017). She is also the author of several articles and essays about Karl Barth’s theology. She is a member of the North American Karl Barth Society and the American Academy of Religion. Her recent projects and scholarly presentations have focused on feminism and mothering in the Christian tradition.

Professor Deanna A. Thompson is professor of religion at Hamline University, where she also teaches classes in African American studies, women studies, and social justice. She has been awarded Faculty of the Year by faculty and students alike and recently was named the 2018 recipient of the John Wesley Trustee Award, the highest honor given at Hamline. A respected scholar in the study of Martin Luther and feminist theology, many of Thompson’s publications—including her book, *Crossing the Divide: Luther, Feminism, and the Cross* (Fortress, 2004)—focus on bringing Lutheran and feminist theology together in generative ways. Thompson was also one of thirty-eight theologians chosen by Westminster John Knox Press to get back to doing what theologians used to do: write commentary on scripture. Her theological commentary on Deuteronomy was released in 2014 and won Resource Book of

Chaney,  
Marga,  
Thompson,  
Lösel



# The Reformers' Handwriting Discovered at Pitts

the Year by the Academy of Parish Clergy. Her 2016 book, *The Virtual Body of Christ in a Suffering World*, focuses on the digital revolution and its potential for helping us better care for one another in the worst times of our lives. Thompson received a 2016–2017 sabbatical grant from the Louisville Institute, and her 2018 book, *Glimpsing Resurrection: Cancer, Trauma, and Ministry*, is the fruit of that sabbatical. Thompson is active in the American Academy of Religion, where she has served on the Board of Directors, as director of the Upper Midwest Region, and as co-chair of the Martin Luther and Global Lutheran Traditions Program Unit.

A response to these two presentations will be offered by Professor Steffen Lösel, associate professor of systematic theology at Candler. He focuses his research on Roman Catholic theology, with special emphasis on liturgical theology, the political mission of the church, and the relationship of theology and music and architecture. He has published a book on Hans Urs von Balthasar's theology of the cross and numerous articles on various other aspects of von Balthasar's theology, as well as on ecumenical ecclesiology and political theology. Currently Lösel is working on a theological commentary on the Johannine Epistles for Westminster John Knox's Belief series and a monograph that explores theological dimensions in the operatic works of Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, for which he has received a Henry Luce III Fellowship in Theology.

This should be a wonderful day of reflecting back and thinking about the church's future. We hope you will join us. ■

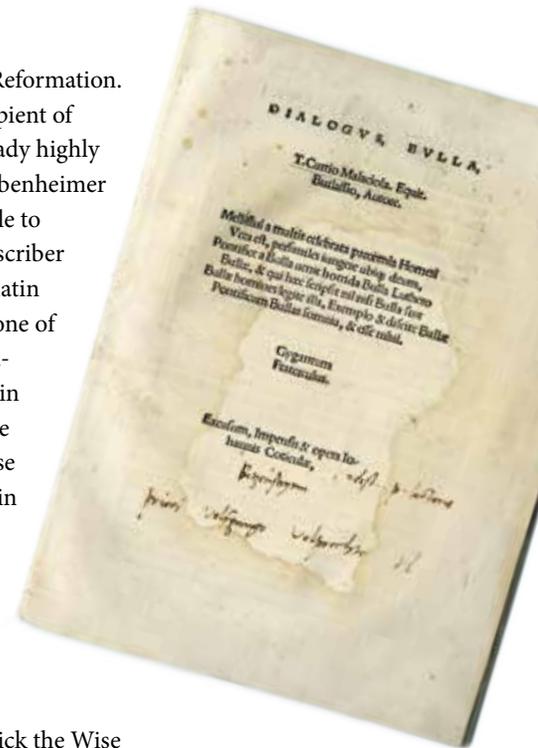
**Armin Siedlecki • Head of Cataloging and Rare Book Cataloger**

In fall 2017, an inscription on a satirical dialogue from 1520 (*Dialogus, Bulla ... 1520 MALA*) caught the attention of a prominent German Reformation historian. Professor Ulrich Bubenheimer is a retired professor of Protestant theology and religious education who taught at the Universities of Education at Reutlingen (1973–1987) and Heidelberg (1987–2009). Bubenheimer was studying the four-volume print bibliography of the Kessler Collection, published in 1999, when he thought he recognized familiar handwriting on an image of the title page. After requesting a high-resolution scan of the page, he determined that the three line inscription was indeed penned by Martin Luther and that the great reformer himself identified the author of the pseudonymous pamphlet as Johannes Petzensteiner (1487–1554), a fellow Augustinian who was later one of Luther's two travel companions on his return from the Diet of Worms to Wittenberg. Some 500 years since its publication, Luther has answered the debated question of the authorship of this pamphlet by inscribing the Kessler Collection's copy.

Bubenheimer is an authority on 16th-century paleography, and Pitts' partnership with him has been of great benefit to the Kessler Collection. Bubenheimer has already been able to bring his expertise to bear on several other occasions. A recent acquisition of a satirical poem about the pope (*Eyn Clag vnd Bitt ... 1520 CLAG A*) bears a gift inscription to Duke Johann Friedrich (1503–1554), the later elector of Saxony who became the most significant political (and military) backer of

the Lutheran Reformation. While the recipient of this gift is already highly significant, Bubenheimer was further able to identify the inscriber as George Spalatin (1484–1545), one of the major intellectual figures in Germany at the time and a close friend of Martin Luther and of Erasmus. Spalatin also served as secretary to the Saxon Elector Frederick the Wise (1463–1525) and was the tutor of the elector's nephew Johann Friedrich, to whom he had presented this short tract in 1521 when the young Duke was only 18 years old. Prof. Bubenheimer has also transcribed and translated manuscript annotations on other Kessler items.

Bubenheimer's discoveries add a personal dimension to these pieces, imbuing the two pamphlets with a certain life and vibrancy, but also helping to reconstruct the historical context of the writings. Furthermore, they highlight the importance of digitization and access, as the ability to provide high resolution images facilitates paleographic analysis in ways that historians of previous generations could hardly imagine. Perhaps even more important is the capacity to share and distribute such digitized images to researchers in Atlanta as well as scholars in Germany and around the world. ■



*Dialogus, Bulla, (1520 MALA)*

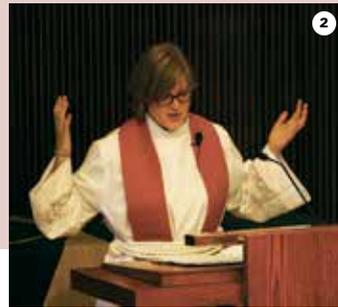


*Ulrich Bubenheimer*

# 2017 Reformation Day at Emory

# 30<sup>th</sup>

The 30th Reformation Day at Emory focused on the question, “Did the Reformation Fail?” The day featured ecclesiastical leaders from the United Methodist Church, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, and the Archdiocese of Atlanta, all considering the success of the Reformation from their perspectives. The day also included the largest display of new acquisitions from the Kessler Collection ever staged—more than 160 items. Here are moments from the day’s events. For more information and to listen to these perspectives, visit [pitts.emory.edu/reformationday](http://pitts.emory.edu/reformationday).



## Fall Exhibition: Looking Back, Looking Forward

The 500th anniversary of Martin Luther’s 95 Theses in 2017 provided the opportunity to reflect on the history of the Reformation. The first year after this quincentenary may serve as an invitation to consider also what lies ahead. The Reformation was intended to remove corruption within the church and to right what had gone wrong. Few, if any would suggest that this effort can ever be carried out completely and the Reformation should perhaps be seen not as an event, but rather as a process. A phrase sometimes attributed to Augustine of Hippo but popularized by Karl Barth that captures this idea is *Ecclesia semper reformanda*—“the Church is always to be reformed.” This exhibition will present books and documents from the Richard C. Kessler Reformation Collection to shed light on the original context of the Reformation and to invite discussion on how these documents can inform the issues and concerns of today. The selection of the materials was governed in part by the “Future Directions” initiative of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America and by the “Four Areas of Ministry Focus” outlined by the United Methodist Church. The exhibition will be open during library hours ([pitts.emory.edu/hours](http://pitts.emory.edu/hours)).



One of the newest acquisitions of Pitts to be featured in the exhibition is an original plenary indulgence, issued by Pope Leo X to raise money for a Carmelite convent (Santa Maria) on the island of Gorgona, off the Tuscan coast.

**1 Pat Graham and Robert Silliman**

**2 Reverend Katherine Museus**

**3 Richard C. Kessler and Bo Adams**

**4 Bishop H. Julian Gordy, Bishop Larry M. Goodpaster, and Archbishop Wilton D. Gregory**

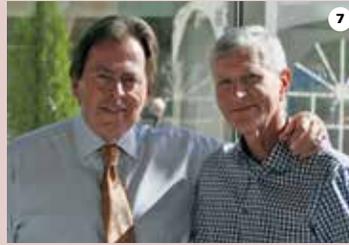
**5 Roy T. Wise**

**6 Jonne Walter and Dewey W. Kramer**

**7 Richard C. Kessler and Lew Engle**

**8 Dean Jan Love**

**9 Martha Kessler**



## 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, 2017, we have received gifts from the following:

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# The Kessler Collection in the Digital Age

*Richard Manly Adams Jr.* What does it mean to provide access to a world-renowned collection in the digital age? All of us recognize that digital technologies and the internet create more opportunity than ever to see books and artifacts previously only available to those who had the luxury of visiting the great museums and libraries of the world.

At Pitts, though, we think about access in a much broader sense. We want patrons around the world not only to be able to view the treasures of the Richard C. Kessler Reformation Collection, but we want them to experience and understand the importance of these documents. It is one thing to view images or see the Latin or German text, it is another thing to have a guided tour through these works. To this end, we have launched an exciting new digital publication effort this year. Pitts is teaming up with Emory's Center for Digital Scholarship

and world-renowned scholars to create digital critical editions of some of the most important works in the Kessler Collection. The first of these is a digital edition of the 1521 *Passional Christi und Antichristi* (1521 LUTH WW), which we lovingly refer to as the Reformation's first comic book. This rare pamphlet contains 13 pairs of woodcuts, designed by Lucas Cranach the Elder (ca. 1472–1553), each contrasting an image from the life of Christ with a mocking depiction of the pope. Each woodcut is accompanied by a German caption, consisting of passages from scripture and canon law. Our team of scholars, consisting of a historian, a theologian, an art historian, and a paleographer, will write annotations about the work, to be embedded on specific places on the digital pages of this pamphlet. Annotations will provide translations of the captions and the marginalia as well as the context for this important work. So, as readers

virtually flip the pages of this rare pamphlet, they will be able to click on parts of the page and learn about what they are seeing. We are excited for this new form of public scholarship, and we look forward to future digital critical editions of Kessler items. ■

# An Update on Kessler Reformation Collection Aquisitions

*Richard Manly Adams Jr.* While we cannot keep pace with acquisitions from 2017, which was the most prolific collecting year for the Kessler Collection in recent memory, the collection continues to grow at an astounding rate, now surpassing 3,900 items. It remains, by far, the largest North American collection of materials related to the Lutheran Reformation. In 2018, we have added some unique items that not only will be featured in exhibitions and presentations but will draw the attention of Reformation scholars. For example, we recently added several manuscript items, such as a 1534 letter from Luther's friend George Spalatin (1484–1545) addressing Henry VIII's recent divorce from Catherine of Aragon. This year we have digitized the entire manuscript collection, soon to be available online. We also added some important *Sammelbände*, collections of several Reformation works bound together. These collections are important beyond their (already important) constituent parts. They show us which works were read in conversation with one another. For example, we recently received a volume containing seven different works, some theological and some focused on secular topics, including one work by Luther and three by Philipp Melanchthon (1497–1560), bound with a work by the German musicologist Sebald Heyden (1499–1561). All are new titles in the Kessler



*This is one of the pairs of Cranach woodcuts in the Passional. Here a contrast is drawn between Christ's chasing the money changers out of the temple and the Pope's selling of indulgences (And, of course, Ulrich Bubenheimer is working on these wonderful manuscript annotations; he will be providing transcriptions, translations, and interpretations in this digital critical edition.).*



### Standing Advisory Committee for the Kessler Reformation Collection

Policy direction for the Reformation Collection is provided by a standing committee composed of representatives of Emory University and the local and national Lutheran community.

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*Albrecht Dürer's Crucifixion from his Large Passion (ca. 1511) (note Dürer's distinctive "AD" signature at the bottom)*

*A 1534 letter written by George Spalatin (1484–1545) to Duke Magnus III of Mecklenburg-Schwerin (1509–1550) addressing Henry VIII's divorce from Catherine of Aragon*

Collection, and they come bound together in a beautiful contemporary pigskin binding.

While the Kessler Collection focuses on the theological conversations of the 16th century, it also holds nontheological materials that provide the context for the work of the reformers. A beautiful example was acquired this year, a striking first edition of a collection of works on the study and restoration of the Latin language by the

eminent Italian humanist, Lorenzo Valla (c. 1407–1457), whose writings had a strong influence on Erasmus. This volume is bound in brown calfskin and a rubricated manuscript leaf was used as the end paper. Past ownership is indicated by inscriptions on the title page.

The collection has become so well-known internationally that we often receive significant donations of materials. In this year, for example, two beautiful Albrecht Dürer (1471–1528) woodcuts were donated to the Kessler Collection from a book collector in Germany. These images (along with 65,000 others) are now available in our Digital Image

Archive ([pitts.emory.edu/dia](http://pitts.emory.edu/dia)). As collectors start to deaccession their holdings, hoping to keep collections together and accessible, the Kessler Collection's reputation puts us in a wonderful position to grow this collection through donations.

You should also know that the Pitts commitment to the Kessler Collection extends far beyond the collection's precisely defined collection development policy. That is, using non-Kessler funding sources, each year we acquire materials that supplement the collection, though these acquisitions fall outside of the Kessler Collection boundaries. For example, this year we were able to add a real prize to our incunabula collection, the so-called "Poor man's Bible," a Latin Vulgate printed in 1491 in Basel by the famous printer Johann Froben (c. 1460–1527). This was Froben's first publication, and it was the first Bible printed in the smaller octavo format. It is an important indicator of the attempt before Luther to make the Biblical text more accessible. While this is not a Kessler item, we will be using it often in many presentations of the Kessler Collection.

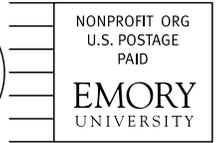
The 31st anniversary is shaping up to be yet another flagship year of building this important collection. Each year the challenge of growing the collection becomes more difficult, as more selections from auction catalogs have to be skipped over because we already own them (what a great problem to have). We are proud of what we continue to build, and we look forward to sharing with you how this collection has a significant impact on scholarship and learning. ■



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# Reformation Day at Emory 2018

The Richard C. Kessler Reformation Collection is a repository of rare and valuable documents produced in connection with the Protestant Reformation. The collection now contains more than 3,900 pieces written by Martin Luther, his colleagues, and his opponents, and printed during their lifetimes.

Supported by the vision and resources of Lutheran laypeople Richard and Martha Kessler and partners throughout the Southeast, the collection is housed in the Pitts Theology Library of Candler School of Theology. It provides a rich resource for scholars of the Reformation and for clergy and laity who seek to understand the history of the Christian faith.

For more information about the collection, contact:  
Richard Manly Adams Jr.  
Pitts Theology Library  
Emory University  
Atlanta, Georgia 30322  
404.727.4165  
rmadams@emory.edu

The 31st annual Reformation Day at Emory will be held on Thursday, October 25. This year's program explores the theme "The Reformation at 501 Years," inviting scholars from around America to share their perspectives on how the works of the Reformation period are relevant for contemporary Christian theology. Register today by visiting [engage.emory.edu/ref2018](http://engage.emory.edu/ref2018). If you have registration questions, please call 404.727.6352.

- 9:00–9:45 A.M.** Registration, Reception, and Review of Exhibition 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, Tiffany C. Chaney, pastor/mission developer of Gathered by Grace, Preaching—Sanctuary, Cannon Chapel
- 12:15–1:15 P.M.** Luncheon musical program, David B. Daniel, director of chapel music and the Candler Singers—Michael C. Carlos Museum, Ackerman Hall  
**Cost: \$12 per person, registration required by visiting [engage.emory.edu/ref2018](http://engage.emory.edu/ref2018)**
- 1:30–4:30 P.M.** "The Reformation at 501 Years" Panel presentations and discussion.—Sanctuary, Cannon Chapel

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 ([form.jotform.com/20505722251](http://form.jotform.com/20505722251)), 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.

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