



# REFORMATION NOTES

News for Partners of the Richard C. Kessler Reformation Collection  
Summer 1999, Number 15

## Reformation Day at Emory University

ENGAGING THE WORLD THROUGH WORSHIP:  
MARTIN LUTHER'S GERMAN MASS (1526)  
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 26, 1999

On Tuesday, October 26th, 1999, the Candler School of Theology celebrates the Richard C. Kessler Reformation Collection with a Reformation Day slate of events open to the public without admission charge. The theme of this year's day-long event is titled, "Reformation through Worship: Martin Luther's German Mass."

*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 2,200 pieces written by Martin Luther, his colleagues, and opponents and printed during their lifetimes.*

Luther's German Mass (*Deutsche Messe*), a landmark sixteenth-century document, stands as the centerpiece of this year's program. Deceptively simple and straightforward, its 1526 service order changed corporate worship in a fundamental way. Prior to this time, Latin was the exclusive language of the Western church. This 1526 landmark now allowed vernacular communal worship for the Wittenberg congregation and, consequently, for the entire German Lutheran Reformation movement.

*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.*

In addition, Luther's German Mass first sanctioned vernacular hymn singing within the Wittenberg congregational worship. There soon followed a veritable flood of marvelous German hymn texts and tunes, many of which are still sung today. For example, Luther's *A Mighty Fortress Is Our God* appeared just three years after the German Mass. Kessler Reformation concerts traditionally have included the audience's singing this most cherished chorale. This year, for the first time in Emory's twelve years of Kessler concerts, Luther's *Ein' feste Burg* will be sung both in the original sixteenth-century rhythm that Luther wrote as well as in the more familiar eighteenth-century version.

*For more information about the collection, contact:  
Dr. M. Patrick Graham  
Pitts Theology Library  
Emory University  
Atlanta, Georgia 30322  
(404) 727-4165  
libmpg@emory.edu*

Lutheran bishop Ronald Warren preaches at the 11:00 A.M. liturgy in Cannon Chapel. The order of service for this morning Eucharist will be based on the congregational chorale service of Luther's German Mass. The Candler Choraliers, under the direction of Marian Dolan, will present a Bach cantata at the 8:15 P.M. concert, where Timothy Albrecht performs Bach's organ Prelude and Fugue in E Flat Major, itself a tribute to Luther's German Mass.

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# Kessler Collection Update

M. Patrick Graham

With the addition of the 184th title to the Kessler Collection since September 1, 1998, a new record was set in annual acquisitions for the collection. These new materials include thirty-six items by Martin Luther, eight by Erasmus, six by Philipp Melanchthon, two by Johann Bugenhagen, and two by Karlstadt. In addition, there are the second (4 volumes; Venice, 1524–1525) and third (5 volumes; Venice, 1544–1546) editions of the Rabbinic Bible and the renowned, two-volume Zürich Bible (1536) with its 200 woodcut illustrations of biblical scenes and eighty woodcut initial letters and printers' devices. Many of these volumes will be on exhibit at the Pitts Theology Library on October 26, during the activities of Reformation Day at Emory.

As the lead article in this issue of *Reformation Notes* indicates, worship is



Saint Matthew, woodcut from the Zürich Bible, 1536.

the theme for this year's Reformation Day at Emory celebration, and Luther's German Mass (*Deutsche Messe*, 1526) is the highlight. This work was purchased by the library several years ago and joins the first Lutheran hymnal (the *Etlich Cristlich lider Lobgesang* or *Achtliederbuch* of 1524) and Luther's

translations of Scripture (e.g., *Das Neue Testament Deutzsch* or *September Testament*, 1522) in the Kessler Collection to give researchers access to some of the most important texts for the development of Protestant liturgy. The Pitts copy of the *Deutsche Messe* will be on display at the Kessler Concert this year, and in preparation for the program it has been digitized and mounted on the internet at <http://www.pitts.emory.edu/woodcuts/dm/k1526luthr.html>. All are invited to inspect the digital reproduction of this magnificent and influential piece of sixteenth-century liturgy—and then join us for Reformation Day at Emory to celebrate its achievement in leading people to worship.

M. Patrick Graham is Librarian and Margaret A. Pitts Associate Professor of Theological Bibliography.

## News and Notes

PROFESSOR TIMOTHY J. WENGERT OF THE SCHOLARLY ADVISORY COMMITTEE FOR THE KESSLER REFORMATION COLLECTION HAS JUST BEEN AWARDED THE MELANCHTHON PRIZE OF THE CITY OF BRETEN, GERMANY, FOR THE YEAR 2000. WENGERT IS AN INTERNATIONALLY RECOGNIZED MELANCHTHON SCHOLAR AND WITH THIS AWARD JOINS AN IMPRESSIVE LIST OF FORMER RECIPIENTS OF BRETEN'S MELANCHTHON PRIZE. WE CONGRATULATE PROFESSOR WENGERT ON HIS RECEIPT OF THIS HONOR.

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"CELIBACY AND GENDER IN SIXTEENTH-CENTURY CHRISTIANITY" IS THE TITLE FOR THE EXHIBITION OF SIXTEENTH-CENTURY ITEMS IN THE WOODRUFF LIBRARY, JULY 29–SEPTEMBER 30, 1999. MOST OF THESE MATERIALS DERIVE FROM THE KESSLER REFORMATION COLLECTION AND HAVE BEEN PLACED ON EXHIBIT FOR THE FIFTH CONGRESS OF THE INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF MARRIED PRIESTS, HELD AT EMORY UNIVERSITY FROM JULY 28 TO AUGUST 1, 1999. THIS EXHIBITION REFLECTS ASPECTS OF THE DEBATE ON THE ISSUE OF CLERICAL CELIBACY AND THE PLACE OF WOMEN IN THE SIXTEENTH CENTURY.

# Reformation Day at Emory

OCTOBER 26, 1999

9:30 A.M. "The Joy of Bach: Bach the Lutheran" *Professor Timothy Albrecht*  
Glenn Memorial Auditorium

This organ lecture recital by University Organist Albrecht will elaborate the Lutheran roots of Bach, who has been described by Professor Robert L. Marshall as the "greatest composer of the Lutheran church" and perhaps "the most important Lutheran in history."

11:00 A.M. "Festival Reformation Communion Service" *Bishop Ronald B. Warren*  
Cannon Chapel

The preacher for this year's Reformation Day at Emory chapel service will be Bishop Warren of the Southeastern Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. The service will be based on Luther's German Mass. Its rich tones will be familiar to Lutheran ears but a new experience for the non-Lutherans who hear the great Reformer for the first time.

2:00 P.M. "Luther and the Digital Age" *Dr. Daniel Rettberg & Dr. Richard Wright*  
Pitts Theology Library

These two members of the library staff will present some of the most recent advances in the use of digital technology to make the text and art of the sixteenth century available to international audiences at the end of the twentieth century.

7:45 P.M. Concert Preview *Professor Timothy Albrecht*  
Cannon Chapel

Building on the traditions of the last two years, there will be a concert preview to explain aspects of the Bach compositions in this year's performance. This year, Professor Albrecht will offer the preview.

8:15 P.M. "Engaging the World through Worship: Martin Luther's German Mass"  
Cannon Chapel

The twelfth Kessler Reformation Concert celebrates the achievement of Luther's *Deutsche Messe*, a stunning sixteenth-century effort to engage the German people in worship by setting the liturgy in the language of the people.



## STANDING 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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Dr. M. Patrick Graham  
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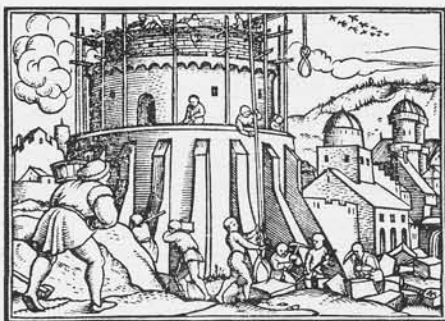
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# Marginalia—of Babel and Bibles



Tower of Babel, woodcut from the Zürich Bible, 1536.

Daniel J. Rettberg

In our last issue of *Reformation Notes* (Spring 1999, Number 14), this column noted the advent of the study of Greek and Hebrew among fifteenth- and sixteenth-century Christian scholars. Before then, Latin had reigned supreme as the language of Christian scholarship, and the Vulgate had been the most widely used Latin Bible in the West. With the resurgence of the study of Greek and Hebrew, some might think that the study of the Bible had been made unnecessarily complex, that in fact these scholars had begun erecting their own “tower of Babel.” In real-

ity, however, these scholars saw themselves as bringing about clarity and rescuing the Bible from confusion. Christian scholars became increasingly convinced that any teacher or scholar relying on the Latin Bible alone was at a serious disadvantage in expounding Scripture. Martin Luther himself is reputed to have said, “Therefore they have correctly said, ‘The Hebrews drink from the fountainheads, the Greeks from the rivulets, and the Latins from the ditches.’” (*Table Talk* [Weimar edition], 3271a). Therefore, the Protestant reformers sought to recover Scripture in the original languages of Hebrew and Greek—that is, to drink from the purest source—and then translate it into the languages of their contemporaries.

The Pitts Theology Library has made several important acquisitions for the Kessler Collection in this regard during the last year. The library has held the first (1517) and fifth (1617–1619) editions of Daniel Bomberg’s Rabbinic Bible for some time, but this year has added the second (1524–1525) and third (1547–1548) editions of the work. The library also has acquired a 1562 printing of the complete Luther Bible, as well as a 1536

printing of the complete German Bible released by the Swiss reformers in Zurich. The Swiss scholars drew on Luther and on another German translation of the Hebrew Prophets issued in Worms in 1527. Both the Luther and the Zürich Bibles are illustrated lavishly with many wood engravings. The library also has added to the Kessler Collection two Latin printings of the Bible that derive from Catholic scholars. The first was issued in 1528 by the Dominican Sante Pagnini and enjoyed extensive use by Catholics and Protestants alike. It was a literal translation informed by impressive Hebrew scholarship. The other Latin Bible, a 1558 printing of the Vulgate by Jean Benoit (1484?–1573), a professor of theology at Paris, included marginal references to the passages where his text of the Vulgate differed from Hebrew and Greek sources. No Babel of Bibles here, but eloquent witnesses to the linguistic skill and scholarly passion of sixteenth-century biblical scholarship.

*Dr. Daniel J. Rettberg is Rare Book Librarian at the Pitts Theology Library.*



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