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# historical footnotes

the biannual newsletter of concordia historical institute

**moving lutheran history forward—together**

## “Pressed into Service by the Word of God” Museum Exhibit

### Documenting the History of Luther and the Reformation through Rare Books and Coins

On February 18—the 471st anniversary of the death of Martin Luther—Concordia Historical Institute opened a major exhibit of rare books and coins documenting the 500-year history of the Reformation.

Under the title “Pressed into Service by the Word of God,” this special exhibit explores—through books and coins—the history of Martin Luther (1483–1546) and the Reformation that the 95 Theses ushered in on October 31, 1517.

For 500 years, both the printing press and the coin press have given witness to the truths of the Word of God rediscovered. More importantly, the title “Pressed into Service” focuses on men and women pressed into service for the sake of Christ and the Gospel.

The theme of the exhibit is summed up by Martin Luther’s faithful confession at the Diet of Worms on April 18, 1521: “I am bound by the Scriptures I have quoted; my conscience is captive to the Word of God.”

“This is a special opportunity to view choice books, coins and medals—some from the 16th and 17th centuries—from Concordia Historical Institute’s Rare Book Collection and Reformation Coin and Medal Collection,” notes CHI Executive Director Daniel Harmelink. “These choice artifacts are rarely on exhibit and have been hand selected to give a fresh and challenging perspective on the Reformation and its on-going influence over the last 500 years. We invite you to come and enjoy these historic artifacts of the Reformation.”

The exhibit proper consists of 12 large banners and 11 display cases full of rare books, coins and medals that chronicle the development

of the Reformation from the time of Jan Hus (+1415) to the present.

*“I am bound by the Scriptures I have quoted; my conscience is captive to the Word of God.”*

—Martin Luther at the Diet of Worms, April 18, 1521

The theme of each display case unpacks the title of the exhibit.

*Pressed into service by the Word of God:*

- to give a courageous witness
- to give up trying to earn salvation
- to boldly trust God’s mercy
- to return to the final authority
- to faithfully stand

- to reflect the mercy of Christ
- to clarify and preserve
- to point to Christ and his redemption
- to faithfully defend the truth
- to freely believe, teach and confess
- to joyfully confess Christ into eternity.

In addition to the 12 banners

and 11 display cases the exhibit also includes framed portraits of Luther from the late 18th century to the early 20th century. A large hand-carved Luther-rose from the early 20th century and display of Luther *Notgeld* (German emergency money) has also been added to the exhibit.

The “Pressed into Service” exhibit is suitable for not only adults but also

youth—especially students taking classes for First Communion or Confirmation.

Regular exhibit hours for the museum exhibit are Mondays through Fridays (9:30 AM to 3:30 PM) at the CHI Exhibit Hall, 804 Seminary Place, Clayton, Missouri 63105 on the campus of Concordia Seminary.

Special lectures and an exhibit catalog are being planned for the spring and summer of 2017.

The exhibit is scheduled to close on November 10, 2018—the 535th anniversary of the birth of Martin Luther. The exhibit is wheelchair accessible.

More information about the mission and ministry of Concordia Historical Institute and the exhibit “Pressed into Service by the Word of God” is available on CHI’s website: [concordiahistoricalinstitute.org](http://concordiahistoricalinstitute.org). Please call 314-505-7900 for more information or to order a printed exhibit catalog.

Groups of over 20 people are encouraged to make reservations to view this special exhibit.





## Bound and Captive by the Word of God

What does it mean to be pressed into service by the Word of God?

The exhibit explores—through books and coins—the history of Martin Luther (1483-1546) and the Reformation that began on October 31, 1517. The two hundred years both the printing press and the coin press have given witness to the Word of God rediscovered. This exhibit focuses on what these two centuries point to: men and women pressing into service for the sake of Christ and His Word.

In the 16th century, Luther's "95 Theses" were printed and spread throughout Europe. The printing press was a key factor in the Reformation.



The Reformation is summed up in Luther's statement at the Diet of Worms (1521): "I have no other Scriptures I have read than the Bible. I believe that what is captive to the Word of God."

...and ...

...and ...

...and ...

...and ...

...and ...

...and ...

...and ...

...and ...

...and ...

concordia historical institute

This Concordia, or Book of Concord, is actually one of the Dresden 1580 printings, of which seven distinct versions have been identified by Dr. Thomas A. Von Hagel. This copy best fits the description of Edition A in his classification.

It was owned by Alfred Fuerbringer, president of Concordia Seminary from 1953-1969.

The unique feature of this copy is the title page, which is really for the Formula of Concord, for which there is no evidence of having been published separately before the Book of Concord.

Was the title page the one originally planned for the Concordia, or might it have been prepared in anticipation of a separate printing of the Formula of Concord? In a memo to President Fuerbringer, dated 5/31/57, Dr. A. C. Piepkorn states that the "title page of the present edition is that of the original printing of Matthew Stöckel and Gmel Bergen at Dresden." However, Dr. Piepkorn provides no source for the information and does not refer to the unique title and the distinct differences in wording from the other 1580 Dresden printings of the Book of Concord.

The date, M.D.LXXIX (1579), has clearly been copied and patched in from the colophon, the dates on which varied from 1579-1581 in the Dresden 1580 printings. It is not necessarily the date on the original title page. All other Dresden printings are dated M.D.LXXX (1580) on the title page.

## Rare 1579 Version of the Book of Concord on Display

### One-of-a-Kind Title Page for an Early Printing of the Formula of Concord

The text of the title page is as follows:

*Formula Concordiae  
das ist*

*Christliche / Heilsame / Reine Vergleichunge / in der welcher die Göttliche Leer den vornembsten Artickeln unserer warhafftigen Religion / aus heiligen Schrift / in kurtze bekantnis oder symbol und Leerhaffte Schrifften/: welche allbereit vor dieser zeit von den Kirchen Gottes Augspurgischer Confession / angenommen und approbirt: / vorfasset.*

*Sampt bestendiger / in Gottes wort wolgegründter / richtiger / endlicher widerholung / erklerung und entscheidung deren Streit / welche unter etlichen Theologen / so sich zu ermelter Confession bekant / fürgefallen.*

*Alles nach inhalt der heiligen Schrift / als der einigen Richtschur der Göttlichen warheit / und nach anleitung obgemelter in der Kirchen Gottes / approbierten Schrifften.*

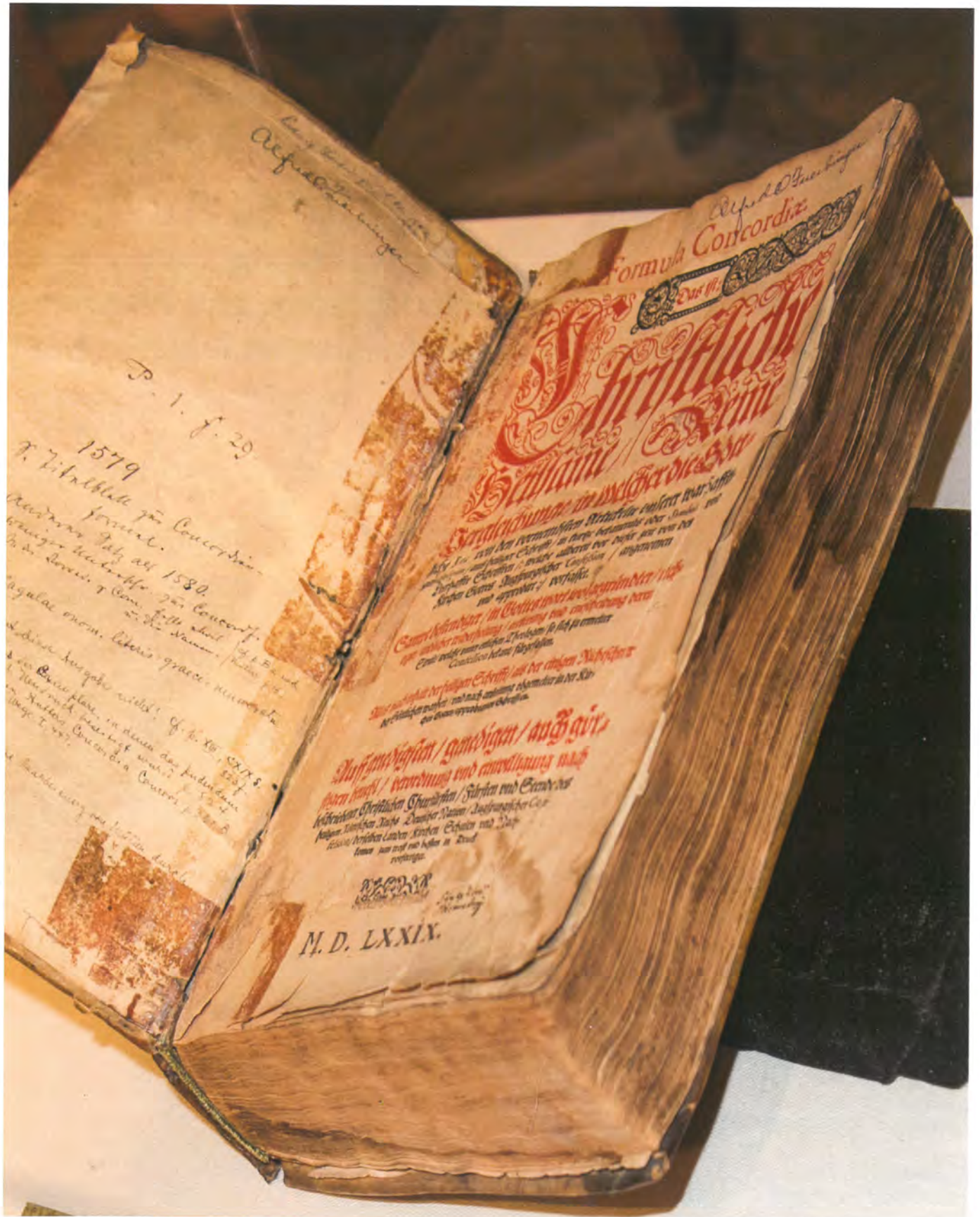
*Auff gnedigsten / genedigen / auch günstigen beuehl / verordnung und einwilligung nach beschriebener Christlichen Churfürsten / Fürsten und Stende des heiligen Römischen Reichs Deutscher Nation / Augspurgischer Confession / derselben Landen / Kirchen / Schulen und Nach komen zum trost und besten in Druck vorfertiget*

The syntax is difficult to translate into English. Following is a "best attempt:"

The Formula of Concordia is the Christian healing benefit /, a pure collation, in which the divine teachings with chief articles of the true religion / from Holy Scripture / is a short confession or symbol and instructive writings; which was prepared before this time by the church from God's Augsburg Confession / accepted, approved / and tested; altogether enduring / in God's word rightly established, ultimately continued, explained and recapitulated in the dispute / which among certain theologians who profess the afore mentioned confession / for the satisfaction of all according to the Holy Scripture as the only guide of divine truth and according to the guidance of God's church / accepted documents / the most gracious / merciful / also profitably ordered / ordained and approved according to the described Electors / princes and estates of the Holy Roman Empire of the German nation / Augsburg Confession / the same lands / churches / schools and descendants to the comfort and greatest good in print produced.

This historical treasure from the Concordia Historical Institute Rare Book Collection can be viewed at CHI's museum at the International Center of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod at 1333 N. Kirkwood Road in Kirkwood, Missouri until November 10, 2018. Regular exhibit hours for the museum are Mondays through Fridays (8:15 AM to 3:30 PM).

— David Berger, Professor Emeritus,  
Concordia Seminary, Saint Louis



M. D. LXXIX.

For the last 29 years, spring has been the time for a variety of students of Lutheran history to gather for Concordia Historical Institute's Walther Roundtable to share current research as more from the writings and life of Missouri Synod's first president is re-discovered and shared with the Church.

The Walther Roundtable Committee planned an exceptionally rich presentation for the May 9th meeting. In addition to three major presentations there was also time devoted to a variety of reports and announcements touching on Walther research.

The presentations for 2017 began with a discussion of C. F. W. Walther's Reformation-related sermons. Dr. Harmelink began his presentation, entitled "As Heirs of the Lutheran Reformation, Joyfully Contend for the Pure Doctrine!," by noting that of the 35 Reformation-related sermons of Walther, 21 have been translated into English. "These sermons give insight into how Walther understood Luther and the Reformation and also reveals how Walther used historical information surrounding the Reformation in his preaching task." Harmelink argued that Walther's use of historical sources in his preaching is selective and intentional. "It is called into service in order to preach both Christ and his redeeming work, that the congrega-

## Annual Walther Roundtable Discusses 19th century Pleas for Service to Lutherans in North America

### C. F. W. Walther's Guidelines for Pastors, Reformation Sermons, and Walther's Recounting of Reformation Jubilees Past

tion might freely respond in joy, faithfully contend for the undeserved gifts given through the Lord's servant Luther, the Lutheran Reformation, and its continuing

fruits. Harmelink ended his presentation with a plea for more of Walther's sermons to be transcribed and translated into English. A select number of original Walther Reforma-

tion sermon manuscripts were put on display for the special day.

The Rev. Dr. Thomas Manteufel, Chair of the Walther Roundtable Committee, then presented an



English translation of a C. F. W. Walther article published in 1867 installments of *Der Lutheraner*.

This article's title, translated as: "Some Reports about the Manner and Style in Which Reformation Celebrations, including Half-century Anniversaries, Were Conducted in Earlier Times." Dr. Manteufel opened his presentation with by saying, "Walther's theme, stated in the opening paragraph, is that all Reformation celebrations should make clear that Luther 'laid the foundation stone for the great work of the reformation of the church, which brought freedom to millions from the bods of soul-binding tyranny of

souls, the pure, saving Gospel and eternal comfort of God in life and death, turned the whole world upside down and brought a visitation of grace upon all of Christendom, whose blessing we also today still enjoy in this newly discovered western land."

"Walther devotes a great deal of space to Pastor Klaus Harms' influential publication of 95 Theses for the then current 1817 Reformation Jubilee."

This year's third presenter was Dr. Richard Warneck, professor emeritus at Concordia Seminary, Saint Louis. His paper described the place of C. F. W. Walther's *Pastoral Theology* for the Office of Public Ministry today.



Luncheon fellowship at the 2017 Walther Roundtable with Dr. Harmelink, Dr. Warneck, Dr. Schmidt, Dr. Brauer and Dr. Manteufel.

Dr. Warneck, citing the English translation of Walther's *American—Lutheran Pastoral Theology* said, "How refreshing ... and timely is Walther's ... Pastoral Theology, ... Engaging is his humble, quiet but demonstrable use of Holy Scripture as the *formal principle*, the primary source and norm, the final authority for pastoral thought, judgment, and action. This confessional stance and use of the Scriptures opens the door to primacy of the Gospel, the forgiveness of sins in Christ appropriated in repentance and faith, indeed, the principal matter in the practice of the Office of the Public Ministry. Walther is uncompromising and non-accommodative in affirming the scriptures as *norm* in pastoral matters; and this is rejuvenating in

a time when the press for self-understanding and self-realization by means therapeutic has measurably affected practical theology."

Dr. Warneck is the author of the forthcoming book, *Pastoral Ministry: Theology and Practice*, slated for release by Concordia Publishing House in early 2018.

It was announced that the Walther Roundtable for 2018 will be held on Monday, February 5 with presentation centering on C. F. W. Walther and the Doctrine of Election.

Presenters for 2018 tentatively include Walther Roundtable Chair Dr. Thomas Manteufel, and Dr. Timothy Dost, associate professor of Historical Theology and faculty secretary at Concordia Seminary, St. Louis.



For decades now conventional wisdom has taught that the best thing to do with old paper documents and photographs is to digitize it. However, digitizing a piece can be tricky and the digitization process has the potential of damaging the original.

Historians and archivists continue to argue that digitizing historical items and then discarding the originals is never an acceptable practice. Digitizing documents, books, photographs, audio/visual material, artifacts and fine art sounds straight-forward, but the process is technical and needs to be carried out responsibly and with a vision of how the digitized product will be used in the future.

Based on years of scanning and photographing, Concordia Historical Institute has assembled eleven helpful guidelines for digitizing historical records.

**1. Damage to the item during the process of digitizing must always be the last resort.** The digitization process must ensure that damage does not occur to the historical book, photograph, document or artifact.

One of the best examples of this is the way-too-popular practice of chopping off the spine of a bound volume in order to feed individual pages through a flat-bed scanner. This destruction of the bound volume makes digitization much more economical, but significantly damages the piece.

Another consideration must be made when scanning fragile or thin pages that may be damaged if

fed through an automated document feeder.

A third factor is the exposure of documents, photographs, artifacts and fine art to harsh light during the digitization process. Keep to a minimum exposure to strong light sources throughout the process.

Costs incurred in the scanning process must be only one of the factors in determining how best to digitize a historically significant piece—especially if permanent damage to the historical object may occur.

**2. Scan in color with a gray card.** Documents and photographs—even black and white photographs—should be scanned in full

color. A gray card that allows for correcting white balance should be included in the digital scan or digital photograph.

Significant paper documents with black ink should also be scanned in color with a gray card if there is a possibility that the image will be used in future publications, museum exhibits, posters or publicity materials. Color scans can also help in future transcriptions of text on paper, especially in the case of handwritten documents.

**3. Archive digital files in TIFF format.** The type of digital file produced impacts future stability and accessibility of the digital

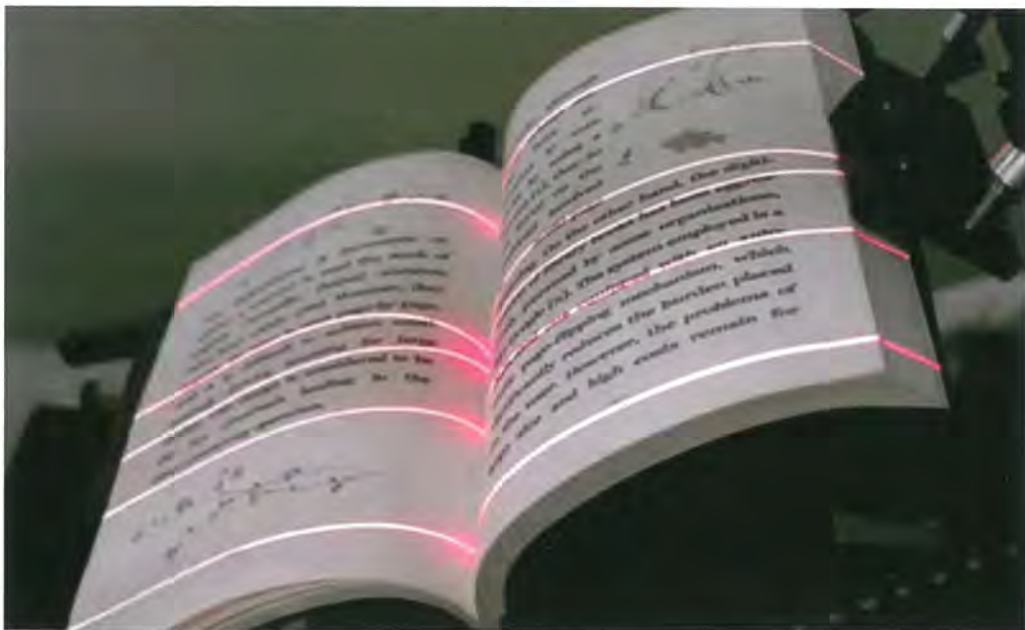
image. While JPEG format is popular, TIFF format is usually recommended to insure the highest long-term level of image file integrity without data corruption or loss of quality.

**4. Crop the image only after scanning or photographing the piece.** There is the temptation to scan or photograph only the image or text, independent of the paper borders around it. Digitizing the entire surface of the document or photograph ensures that the “context” of the image or text is digitally preserved.

Zooming in on only the image on the paper is less of an issue with digital scanners with larger beds and

## The Ins and Outs of Digitizing Historical Records

### Best Practices for Preserving Fragile Documents and Sharing them Digitally



<http://www.cbc.ca/strombo/news/the-future-of-scanning-physical-books-this-robot-can-read-250-pages-a-minut>

higher resolution cameras that allow for post-production cropping.

**5. When it comes to digital photography, it's all about the lighting.** Scanners and cameras depend on appropriate light. While the light source for flat bed scanners is fixed, digitizing a document, photograph or artifact with a digital camera is much more complicated. Incorrect lighting can create unnecessary shadows, create glare or shift colors. Diffused light is often preferable to direct light. Experiment with different lighting sources and placement to achieve a digital image that looks natural and best represents the mass, detail and color of the original.

**6. Consider using a standard of 600 dpi for digital images.** Digital images need to hold up when enlarged, especially if the original document or photograph is larger. While 72 dpi is the norm for internet website pages, digital files produced at 600 dpi or greater will help insure that future publication of the image will not break up and become pixelated.

The resolution of a digital image can always be reduced for future use.

**7. Avoid the temptation to "Photoshop" digital images.** Scratches in photographs and tears in paper documents can now be "fixed" with sophisticated computer programs that promise to eliminate image "blemishes." However, integrity of the digital image is seriously compromised when "imperfections" are

manipulated post-production. The goal is not a "perfect" image but a digital file that most accurately represents the original—even if that original is in less than perfect condition.

Use post-production imaging software only to correct (white balance) and not "enhance."

**8. Do not re-staple or re-paper clip documents after digitizing.** Staples and paper clips not only corrode but also damage documents by leaving impressions, holes and rust.

After carefully removing staples and paper clips from documents, place grouped pages into an archival quality folder with a note explaining that **"The enclosed documents were originally stapled / clipped together. These fasteners were removed for preservation purposes. Please leave these pages in the order you find them and keep them within this folder."**

**9. Include metadata or keywords to ensure your digital file is "findable."** Nothing is more frustrating for the historian or archivist than an old photograph of an unidentified group of people at some unidentified church. The metadata that properly identifies the document or photograph must be kept with the digital file if it is to be found and used in the future.

Computer programs allow identifying tags to be included in digital files. Ask the question, "What keywords will facilitate the discovery of this file for future researchers?"

The size of the original piece, copyright notices and information regarding the location of the document within the collection can also be included as part of the digital files produced.

**10. Don't simply scan a page of text. OCR it.** Digital files are much more

discoverable if the text in the graphic image is actual text. Use the OCR features of your software to make words in the graphic image searchable text.

**11. Do the necessary homework before purchasing equipment and beginning the digitization process. Consult printed and online guidelines for specific types of items to be digitized.**

Specific types of items to be digitized have their own characteristics and therefore their own guidelines for obtaining the most accurate digital files. Equipment that will yield positive results for one type of item will be less than satisfactory for another. Take time to research best approaches before starting the actual digitization process. There are valuable printed and online guidelines available that will decrease the possibility that the results of the digitizing efforts will be disappointing.



<http://agenealogistinthearchives.blogspot.com/2017/02/remove-staples-like-archivist.html>

This striking red brick church was built in 1885 by German Bavarians who first settled in Perry County in the summer of 1838 (before the Saxon immigration). Naming their town Friedenber<sup>g</sup> (Hill of Peace), the congregation worshiped in members' homes until a log church was built north of Cinque Hommes Creek (south of Perryville) in 1846. From 1852 to 1885 the congregation worshiped in a church on the Frankenberg hill overlooking Cinque Hommes bottom. (Peace Lutheran Cemetery is still located at this site along Highway 61.)

Before regular services ended in 1980, the congregation's membership extended from Perryville all the way to the Mississippi River opposite Chester, Illinois. Peace Lutheran Church continues to be remembered as the mother church of four daughter congregations: Immanuel Lutheran Church in Perryville, Zion Lutheran Church in Crosstown, Zion Lutheran Church in Longtown, and a Lutheran congregation at Point Rest (no longer active). Peace Lutheran Church also helped Lutherans at Ste. Genevieve organize a local congregation in 1867.

In addition to the church building, the Hill of Peace Memorial site includes a historic log cabin and modern reception hall (rebuilt after a fire in 2012).

The Peace Lutheran School building across from the church is a visual reminder of the high value placed on Christian education by the settlers.

## A Hidden Historical Treasure in Friedenber<sup>g</sup>, Missouri

### The Hill of Peace Lutheran Memorial Continues to Trumpet the Early History of Lutheranism in North America



The facilities of the Hill of Peace Lutheran Memorial are available for conferences, family reunions, church retreats, anniversaries, weekend camp-outs, or even a country picnic. To make reservations or take a tour of the memorial, please contact the Hill of Peace Lutheran Memorial Advisory Council in Friedenber<sup>g</sup> at 573-517-0102.



Research of local congregations, schools and church workers may be greatly aided by investigating one of the 35 regional archives of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod.

Please check with the district business office to contact a district archivist or to access the district archives.

## District Archivists are Available to Help Navigate Regional LCMS Archives

Dr. Barbara J. Adler  
Michigan District Archivist

Mr. Bruce J. Benne  
Pacific Southwest District Archivist

Pat Boysen  
Mid-South District Archivist

Rev. Nolan R. Bremer  
Northwest District Archivist

Mr. James Brese  
Eastern District Archivist

Rev. Albert H. Buelow  
Iowa West District Archivist

Mr. John H. Hallman  
Northern Illinois District Archivist

Rev. Donald M. Hayas  
SELC District Archivist

Rev. Gunard W. Heikkila  
Minnesota North District Archivist

Mr. Anthony J. Iovine  
New Jersey District Archivist

Ms. Marcia E. Kollmann  
Atlantic District Archivist

Rev. Allen E. Konrad  
Iowa District East Archivist

Ms. Judith A. Koucky  
Southeastern District Archivist

Dr. Harry F. Krueckeberg  
Rocky Mountain District Archivist

Mr. Dean Landman  
Kansas District Archivist

Ms. Nancy Lee  
Mid-South District Archivist

Mr. Kevin D. McCarthy  
New England District Archivist

Rev. Jason C. Menagh  
Montana District Archivist

Rev. Fred A. Muenchow  
Oklahoma District Archivist

Mrs. Vicki Nicely  
Southern Illinois District Archivist

Rev. Roger W. Olson  
Indiana District Archivist

Rev. David W. Palomaki  
Nebraska District Archivist

Ms. Vicki Peihl  
North Dakota District Archivist

Dr. Paul Hoffman  
Ohio District Archivist

Ms. Tera Rice  
Wyoming District Archivist

Rev. David P. Rowold  
New Jersey District Archivist

Rev. David P. Stechholz  
English District Archivist

Mr. Wayne L. Steensma  
South Dakota District Archivist

Mrs. Joyce A. Swedean  
Minnesota South District Archivist

Rev. David W. Totsky  
South Wisconsin District Archivist

Rev. Ralph L. Woehrmann  
Central Illinois District Archivist

Rev. Karl H. Wyneken  
CA-NV-HI District Archivist



**Local and Regional Lutheran Archives are Available to Move Your Research Forward**

## Those Who have Gone Before Commemorating Rostered Missouri Synod Church Workers

(January)

Kuhn, Donald A., 1929-2017  
Lemke, Susan A., 1941-2017  
Maehr, Martin, 1932-2017  
Rastl, Marvin L., 1924-2017  
Ronschke, William Paul, -2017  
Spiro, Dan J., 1926-2017  
Weis, James M., 1936-2017  
Rockrohr, David K., 1935-2017  
Fiedler, Patricia F., 1940-2017

(February)

Bleeke, John H., 1929-2017  
Meyer, Richard L., 1939-2017  
Piper, Michael Greg, 1962-2017  
Klatt, Betty Jane, 1937-2017  
Zehnder, George, 1930-2017  
Kaeding, Hugo C., 1928-2017  
Neuman, Isabella Emma Caroline, 1926-2017  
Rosenberg, Donald A., 1921-2017  
Blankenburg, Max Charles, 1943-2017  
McCullough, William, 1934-2017  
Wyssmann, Robert W., 1927-2017  
Lindemann, Albert H., 1913-2017  
Boettcher, David N., 1941-2017  
Goehner, Ellen Dorothy Hoyer, 1923-2017

(March)

Knuth, Edward W., 1955-2017  
Dinda, Richard J., 1927-2017  
Biar, Henry H., 1935-2017  
Rapp, Gerald Dean, 1935-2017  
Wise, Rodney A., 1955-2017  
Behnken, Kenneth Wayne, 1927-2017  
Wengert, Dean Dwight, 1933-2017  
Kirchhoff, W. James, 1935-2017  
Neitsch, Sandra Gersch, 1949-2017  
Hilgendorf, Hilbert Paul, 1931-2017  
Marcis, Albert M., 1924-2017

Boysen, Albert Milton, 1934-2017  
Faszholz, John Edward, -2017  
LeBeau, Edward W., 1942-2017  
Garvue, Donald Richard, 1935-2017  
Wenger, Lois Ruth, 1938-2017  
Westrick, Earl J., 1931-2017  
Mader, John Ahrens, 1932-2017

(April)

Hass, LeRoy Leon, 1922-2017  
Martin, Wayne S., 1937-2017  
Hoeft, Robert, 1929-2017  
Reck, Thomas Paul, -2017  
Gayer, Donald K., 1939-2017  
Engelbrecht, Luther Theodore, 1928-2017  
Klatt, Eberhard Georg Friedrich, 1935-2017  
Rutz, Viola Larkin, 1932-2017  
Lasanske, Roland Rueben Ernst, 1919-2017  
Goehner, Edward Clarence, 1925-2017

(May)

Gartner, Allen Albert, -2017  
Konetzki, Elle Lucinda Louise, 1957-2017  
Schmidt, Karl W., -2017  
Jahn, Robert, 1934-2017  
Hagen, Levine, -2017  
Schultz, Martin, 1962-2017  
Moriarity, Daniel, 1948-2017  
Nitschke, Frederic, 1925-2017

(June)

Schmidt, Edward Elmer, 1936-2017  
Oesch, Gene, 1930-2017  
Hecht, William H., 1933-2017  
Homrighausen, Edgar, 1924-2017  
Fehrmann, Walter Edgar, 1922-2017  
Walkenhorst, Louis Ruth, 1932-2017  
Burgdorf, Edith A., 1933-2017  
Widmann, Richard Warren, 1931-2017

Each month the reference department of CHI enters names and dates in its necrology of those members who are rostered with the LCMS. This information is obtained from the "In Memoriam" notices located in the *Lutheran Witness* Online Notices. The following list is for individuals who have died in the month noted and where CHI has obtained an obituary from a news source. This list is meant to compliment the "In Memoriam" notices.

Dr. Ross A. Wagner's love for history moved him to make a difference in the lives of those around him. In 1992 he was instrumental in the founding of the Sappington-Concord Historical Society in South Saint Louis. He continued as the archivist and a board member for the society.

But Ross was not only instrumental in preserving and promoting local Saint Louis history; he also treasured and trumpeted the history of the Lutheran Church—in Saint Louis and beyond. Ross was a long-time member of Concordia Historical Institute and as a professional historian who taught history at Kirkwood High School and Saint Louis University, he shared his passion for promoting the importance of history with many he met. His many hours volunteering at CHI in the reference and research department enhanced many of the thousands of biographical

## Generous Estate Gift Moves Lutheran History Forward

### Ross A. Wagner's Legacy to the History of the Lutheran Church in North America

files maintained by the Institute.

Ross was active as a historian, archivist and farmer until he was called home by His Lord on December 30, 2016.

Concordia Historical Institute celebrates Ross' passion to forward the history of the Lutheran Church—a passion that has now been memorialized through a generous gift from his estate for the ongoing work at CHI.

"Ross Wagner freely gave of his time and talents during his long career as an archivist and professional historian," said Executive Director Harmelink. "His long hours at the reference desk at Concordia Historical



Ross while attending a CHI Volunteer Luncheon in April 2007.



Institute is a continuing example of dedication to the mission and ministry of the Institute.

Ross' desire to continue the work of CHI through an very generous estate gift is a gracious example of making a lasting mark on the ability of CHI to continue it's work of retrieving, preserving, cataloging, and sharing

historical treasures with the church and community."

*Your estate gift can make a lasting difference in moving Lutheran history forward—together.*

*Please contact Daniel Harmelink at the Institute to discuss your plans to leave an enduring legacy that will further the mission of CHI.*

**MELIM Online****New CHI Project Shares the History of Lutheran Missions in India**

Concordia Historical Institute is excited to announce a new project that will document and share an untold chapter of the history of Lutheran missions: the story of MELIM (Missouri Evangelical Lutheran India Mission).

Through the generous donations of both families of MELIM missionaries and individuals committed to making the history of MELIM more accessible, CHI has begun the task of digitizing and uploading hundreds of primary source documents related to MELIM.

The story of MELIM begins in the 19th century with the Missouri Synod's support of the Leipzig Lutheran Mission (LLM).

K. G. T. Naether and T. F. Mohn, who were working in the southeast part of Tamil Nadu broke away from the LLM due to doctrinal differences. These two missionaries then petitioned the LCMS for direct support of their work in India. The Missouri Synod agreed to their request and in 1895 Naether and Mohn moved to Krishnagiri and Ambur in northern Tamil Nadu to begin a new mission there. Their mission work was carried out under the banner of Missouri Evangelical Lutheran India Mission (MELIM).

Naether continued to sow the seeds of the Gospel until he contracted the plague and died in 1904.



MELIM missionary families attending the Nagercoil Missionary Conference in 1931.

Mohn continued missionary work for a few more years.

The outreach of Naether and Mohn was continued by groups of missionaries sent from the LCMS. A number of churches, schools and healthcare clinics in the Ambur-Krishnagiri region were established and expanded.

In 1907 MELIM missionaries received a "Macedonian call" from Christians in Nagercoil in the princely state of Travancore to establish a MELIM station there.

The LCMS sent missionaries to work in Nagercoil in south Travancore in 1911. Concordia Theological Seminary was established in 1924.

MELIM missionaries began work in Trivandrum (present day Kerala) in 1912. These missionaries in Travancore and Ambur, along with local pastors and teachers formed congregations,

schools and hospitals for new Tamil and Malayalam-speaking believers in the Gospel. Subsequently, the India Evangelical Lutheran Church (IELC) was established in 1958.

The MELIM missionaries, together with IELC pastors, teachers, and lay-workers continued with theological training, strengthening congregations, primary and secondary school instruction, and medical missions. Outreach expanded to Muslims, those in urban settings, women and other socially marginalized groups, literacy and music programs began as opportunities to share the Christian Gospel.

However, by the one hundredth anniversary of MELIM in 1995, most missionaries had left MELIM and India. The IELC continues to minister, teach and serve tens of thousands

of Christians in hundreds of congregations throughout Tamil Nadu, Kerala, and Sri Lanka.

The MELIM Online project is especially critical as many journals, files, photographs and artifacts from MELIM missionaries are at increasing risk of being lost.

Join CHI in furthering an appreciation and clearer understanding of an untold chapter in Lutheran missions: the work of MELIM missionaries and their families for the sake of Christ's redeeming Gospel.

Prayerfully consider a donation that will help MELIM Online preserve and present online by retrieving, cataloging documents and artifacts from MELIM missionaries and their families.

Help CHI share an untold chapter in the history of Lutheran missions in India.



Oh, may Thy soldiers, faithful, true and bold,  
Fight as the saints who nobly fought of old  
And win with them the victor's crown of gold.  
Alleluia! Alleluia!

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