



A NEW ERA FOR LUTHERAN HISTORY

Can you imagine what those Spanish sailors thought in 1492, when the ships under the command of Christopher Columbus landed on the shores of San Salvador? Had they found India or another land even stranger? What sort of people, beasts, and lands would they find? Would they find arable land, new foods, or even gold? They knew it was a new era in history, whatever the New World had in store for them.

The Concordia Historical Institute has recently set sail for a new "shore" as it makes plans and creates designs for the new museum at the International Center of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. As these designs begin to take flesh, the Institute realizes that a new era is dawning for Lutheran history! Like the sailors on the shores of San Salvador, we don't know at this time all that this era has in store for us. But we do know that through the church's museum, Lutherans will become more aware of their uniqueness and accomplishments in America—accomplishments, which have been possible only by the grace of God. For many people, the experience of this museum will become a rite of passage into a world that they had previously only dimly perceived.



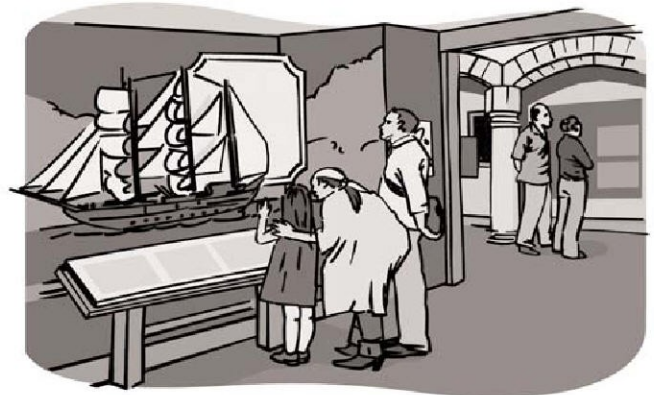
First Room - Luther and the Reformation

The museum designer's sketches are presented here for the first time in print, for the benefit of our members and their friends. They will soon be seen in church pub-

lications, brochures, and this summer, with your help, in every congregation of the synod.

The basic idea of the museum is to tell the story of the Missouri Synod. But this cannot be done in isolation, apart from the story of the Reformation, the broader context of American Lutheranism, and global Lutheranism. The goal is to present the story by various means in a way that is both thick and simple, i.e., thick enough to engage the expert in American Lutheranism, and simple enough to be apprehended by a grade-school child. It will include art, photos, artifacts, text, descriptive signs, video, audio, judicious lighting, professionally designed and executed surfaces, complementary colors—in a word, everything in a modern museum's bag of tricks.

As depicted in these sketches, the museum is currently conceived as five large rooms, devoted to these themes: 1) *Luther and the Reformation*; 2) *Colonists and Missionaries to America*, including emigration of various nationalities, mission societies, and the trials of colonists; 3) *Walther's Reformation*, including the origin



Second Room - Colonists and Missionaries to America

of the Missouri Synod, Walther's theological and ecclesiastical influence, and the Lutheran parochial school; 4) *From Saint Louis to the World*, including synodical work among ethnic groups and global missions; 5) *Modern Ideas, Old-Fashioned Religion*, including radio, Valparaiso University, television, demographic studies, ecumenism, neo-confessionalism, and the Internet.

(Continued from page one)



Third Room - Walther's Reformation

All of this work cannot be accomplished without your support, which is absolutely crucial this year. Those of our members who have supported us in the past should not see this museum as simply another project, but akin to the purchase of a house for an average family. Like that purchase, it may occur once every fifteen to thirty years, with a commensurate long-term look at affordability, investment, usefulness, and simple practicality. In the case of the Institute, it has been over fifteen years since our last capital expenditure for the 1989 addition. The present project will include renovation of the 1979 addition for new archival space, which is sorely needed.



Fourth Room - From Saint Louis to the World

Therefore I, as the director, come to you asking for your significant gift for the Museum and Expansion Project in the calendar year 2006. Without your gift, and without your assistance in making this project known to your congregations, the project will not happen. With your gift and assistance, a new era will dawn

for Lutheran history and in the hearts and minds of the people around the world to whom we proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

If you are able to give at this time, please use the attached envelope and write on your check's memo line "Museum and Expansion Project." If you are unable to give at this time, please use the Pledge Form below and send it to our office. We would like to receive all pledge forms and donations by October 1, 2006. If you are a member of Thrivent Financial for Lutherans, I encourage you to include a completed Giving Plus form with your donation (see form on page 4).



Fifth Room - Modern Ideas, Old-Fashioned Religion

If you know of people who might be interested in giving a significant gift to this museum project, please forward their names, mailing addresses, and telephone numbers to me so that I might contact them personally (send to: Director Martin R. Noland, Concordia Historical Institute, 804 Seminary Place, Saint Louis, Missouri, 63105; phone: 314-505-7911; e-mail: mnoland@chi.lcms.org). Naming opportunities for plaques and whole rooms are available. Finally, please ask your pastor and congregational chairman to participate by ordering brochures and envelopes when they receive our mailing this summer, and by encouraging their members to give generously for this project.

Thank you for seriously considering how you might support this project financially, and for giving to the Institute the donation that you are able to give. Remember that you are ultimately benefiting the people of the church and general community through your generous gift!

My Pledge to Concordia Historical Institute

I pledge the amount of: \$ _____ to be sent by (date): _____ to be used for the CHI Museum and Building Expansion Project.

(Signature): _____

You may contact me. My name (print): _____

My address is (#, street or PO, city, state, zip): _____

My phone (optional) is: _____ My e-mail (optional) is: _____

Please mail this completed form to:

Concordia Historical Institute, 804 Seminary Place, St. Louis, Mo., 63105-3014

The GivingPlus® Program

An opportunity to increase your support of a variety of Lutheran organizations because of your membership in Thrivent Financial for Lutherans.

Member participation and eligible gifts

Thrivent Financial's GivingPlus Program is an example of the immediate, positive difference we can make together by contributing to the vitality of Lutheran ministries. Through the GivingPlus Program, your financial gift of cash, check or money order to enrolled organizations may be supplemented by Thrivent Financial. (Stock or mutual fund share transfers also are acceptable.)

The following types of Lutheran organizations providing services in the United States are eligible:

- ◆ Early childhood centers.
- ◆ Elementary schools.
- ◆ High schools.
- ◆ Post-secondary schools (colleges, universities and seminaries).
- ◆ Outdoor ministry centers (camps).
- ◆ Campus ministries.
- ◆ Social ministry organizations.
- ◆ Lutheran independent organizations and institutions.

Thrivent Financial members (benefit and associate) age 16 or older are eligible to participate in the GivingPlus Program. Thrivent Financial will contribute \$1 for every \$2 donated by members to eligible and enrolled Lutheran organizations, based on the following guidelines:

- ◆ Members can donate to two different eligible and enrolled organizations of their choice each year, and have their donations supplemented by Thrivent Financial.
- ◆ Member donations can be for *any* amount, up to \$600 for each organization per year.
- ◆ Thrivent Financial will contribute \$1 for every \$2 donated, up to a maximum supplement of \$300 per organization, per year.
- ◆ Members can donate whenever they like (e.g., monthly, quarterly, etc.). Each time, the supplemental dollars will be provided once the paperwork is received and processed.

Special bonus for volunteers

Supporting volunteerism is an important part of Thrivent Financial's mission. That's why we've included an extra benefit to the GivingPlus Program to recognize volunteer service.

When you contribute 25 or more hours of volunteer service to the organization you have supported with an eligible GivingPlus gift, Thrivent Financial will contribute an additional \$25 per year. (Be sure to fill in the volunteer hour bubble on the member gift form.)

Volunteer service includes unpaid time working on projects/activities or serving on a governing/task group for the recipient organization. Hours spent on Thrivent Financial chapter or congregational service team projects are **not** eligible for consideration.

Ineligible gifts

- ⊗ Worship offerings and donations to a congregation. Gifts that are intended for the congregation but are given or made payable to a Lutheran organization are not eligible as a GivingPlus donation.
- ⊗ Donations made on behalf of others.
- ⊗ Fund-raising activities, such as benefit dinners or auctions, golf outings, car washes, pizza or candy sales, etc. Any activity where donors receive goods, services or discounts for their gifts is not eligible.
- ⊗ Gifts that are not given directly to a specific organization.
- ⊗ In-kind contributions (e.g., the value of equipment or materials, commodities, donated time/service, etc.).
- ⊗ Tuition payments, registration fees, student or camper fees or any other charge where a named individual would receive goods, services or discounts in return for the donation.
- ⊗ Gifts to educational associations or professional affinity groups. Members must specify the particular recipient organization to which their gift is being made.
- ⊗ Gifts contributed through the Care in Congregations, Care in Regions or Care Abounds in Communities programs.

Send your gift today!

Simply fill out the GivingPlus member gift form on the reverse of this flyer. Send it, along with your donation, to the Lutheran organization of your choice.

Questions about the programs? Call 800-THRIVENT (800-847-4836) and select option 3. Or, send an e-mail to GivingPlus@Thrivent.com.

The Thrivent Financial GivingPlus Program is solely a fraternal benefit of Thrivent Financial for Lutherans and not a guaranteed contractual benefit. The program is funded on a year-to-year basis and is dependent in part upon the financial success of Thrivent Financial for Lutherans. Since funds are limited, it may not be possible to fully support all eligible gifts in any given year. The interpretation, application and administration of the provisions of this program are the responsibility of Thrivent Financial for Lutherans. Its decisions on matters pertaining to the GivingPlus Program are final.

The GivingPlus Program and all Thrivent Financial fraternal benefit programs are reviewed and evaluated regularly. Thrivent Financial reserves the right to change, modify or discontinue the GivingPlus Program or any part of it.

GivingPlus® Member Gift Form



4321 N. Ballard Road, Appleton, WI 54919-0001
www.thrivent.com • e-mail: mail@thrivent.com
800-THRIVENT (800-847-4836)

Send this completed form, along with your gift, to the eligible Lutheran organization of your choice. The check must be made payable to the enrolled organization.
Note: A congregation is not an eligible recipient for this program. List only one member and one organization per form. Either the Thrivent Financial Member ID or Social Security number is required for the gift to be processed. Use black ink.

Thrivent Financial for Lutherans Member Information

Select ID type, write in either your **Thrivent ID** or your **Social Security number**, and fill in the bubbles below. Your Thrivent ID is a nine-digit number beginning with a "5."

Thrivent ID Social Security number

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Member name

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Address

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City

State

Zip

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Home phone number

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Volunteer hour information

Mark this oval if you have contributed 25 or more hours of volunteer service to this organization during the current calendar year.

Gift Information

Name of institution or organization receiving gift

Concordia Historical Institute

City

Saint Louis

State

Missouri

I certify that I am a Thrivent Financial for Lutherans member 16 years of age or older and that I am making this gift under the guidelines of the GivingPlus program. I understand this program is solely a fraternal benefit of Thrivent Financial for Lutherans and not a guaranteed contractual benefit. I understand the budget for this program is established annually and therefore all eligible gifts may not be supplemented. Finally, I understand that contributions by Thrivent Financial are subject to the guidelines of the GivingPlus® Program.

Signature of member

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Gift date

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Amount of individual member gift

Enter only whole dollars.

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For Use by Recipient Organization

Thrivent Financial for Lutherans Organization ID

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OR

Thrivent Financial for Lutherans Organization ID

If using stamp, place in space below.

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I certify that the stated gift has been received and satisfies the requirements of the Thrivent Financial GivingPlus® Program.

Signature of program coordinator

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4213



Lutheran Black History



by Christopher Lieske

January was the month in which African American Lutheran history was celebrated. Many African Americans have been prominent Lutherans in the United States, but their stories are often ignored or forgotten. In this issue, we discuss the stories of an African American Synod, institution, and pastor.

The story of the first and only African American Lutheran synod to have existed in the United States is one that is short. This synod was called the Alpha Evangelical Lutheran Synod of Freedmen in America. It was formed in the North Carolina region by African American preachers who were in the area. These preachers, and their congregations, were urged by the North Carolina Synod to form an independent African American synod in 1889. The new synod was founded based on the doctrinal stance of the United Synod of the South and governed by the constitution of the North Carolina Synod. Four pastors strong, this synod set out to attempt to conduct ministry among the African Americans in North Carolina. The Alpha Synod was founded on May 8, 1889, with Rev. David J. Koonts (also spelled Koontz) as its president. It had five congregations and 180 members. Unfortunately, the entirety of this synod's existence was plagued by

problems. They were short on money, and had to be helped initially by the North Carolina Synod. Additionally, the synod's president, D. J. Koonts, died of food poisoning on May 27, 1890. By January 1891, things had fallen apart to the point that the synod's convention was postponed, and the Synodical Conference's Board of Missions was asked for help. While the Synodical Conference provided the needed money and pastors, the work of the Alpha Synod soon came to an end. By 1900, all four of the pastors who served the Alpha Synod were either dead, resigned, or working with a synod outside the Synodical Conference. The North Carolina field ended up being one of the largest fields of African American mission work served by the Synodical Conference.



Miss Rosa Young

The origin of Concordia College in Selma, Alabama, can be traced to 1922. On November 13, 1922, this historically African American college was originally opened as the Alabama Lutheran College, with a high school and one year of college. The school's purpose was to meet the growing need for qualified teachers in the Alabama mission field schools. When discussing Concordia College, Selma, the most often mentioned name is Rosa Young, who was indeed an impor-

tant part of the work in the Alabama field. But another important individual in the origin of Concordia, Selma, is Rev. R. O. L. Lynn (1891-1955). Rev. Lynn was the professor who first opened Alabama Lutheran College in 1922 with the goal of training African Americans for work amongst their brothers and sisters. He was its first president, serving until 1948. Rev. Lynn was later to serve at Immanuel Lutheran College in Greensboro, North Carolina, as well, until his death in 1955.

One man active in African American work for 45 years was Rev. Dr. Joseph G. Lavalais (1913-1983). He was the first African American pastor accepted into The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. The story of what it took for him to break the color line is interesting. African American work was

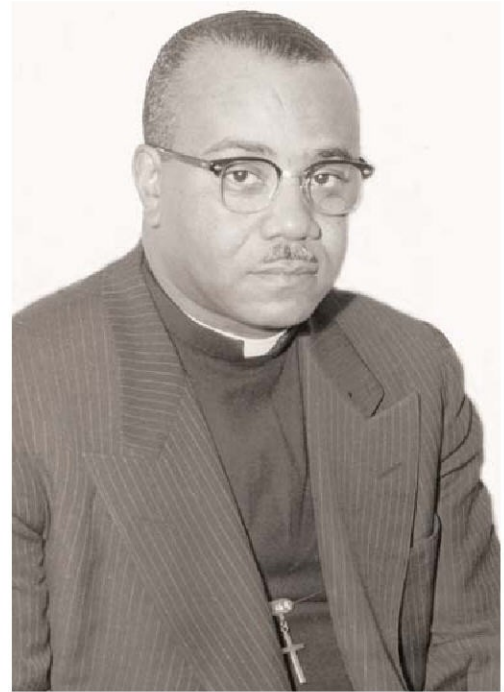
(Continued from page five)



Immanuel Lutheran College, Greensboro, North Carolina



Rev. R. O. L. Lynn



Dr. Joseph G. Lavalais

done under the auspices of the Synodical Conference. Lavalais had been called to serve an African American congregation in Philadelphia, St. Philip Lutheran Church. His predecessor had been a white pastor and a member of the LCMS. The white pastor had attended the Eastern district conventions as an advisory member, as he served a congregation that was not part of the district. He consistently rode along with a neighboring pastor to these conventions. When the first convention came while Lavalais was serving, he was invited along as well. At the convention, new personnel were asked to come forward and sign the constitution. Lavalais did so, and became the first African American pastor of the LCMS. Lavalais continued to be a trailblazer, as the first African American elected to the Synodical Conference Mission Board and as the first African American elected to the Synod's Presidium, when he was elected Second Vice President in 1981.

MEMORIALS

Rev. Clark Bailey given by Rev. & Mrs. Eugene W. Juergensen
 Rev. Ocie & Jane Behringer given by Mr. Rockwell Scherzer
 Norene Bejcek given by Rev. & Mrs. Eugene W. Juergensen
 Erich & Gertrude Bergt given by Ellen Glanzer
 James Ermler given by Mrs. Susan E. Hecht
 Leo Kaeding given by Rev. & Mrs. Eugene W. Juergensen
 Marcia Jean Lauer given by Mr. & Mrs. Harold R. Kaden
 Elsa (nee Streufert) Manske given by Mr. & Mrs. Scott J. Meyer
 Rev. Everett W. Meier given by Lois Meier
 Clyde Miller given by Rev. & Mrs. Eugene W. Juergensen

Rev. Harold Reiss given by Mr. & Mrs. Robert J. Rodefeld
 Leslie Simpers given by Red Hat Society, Kirkwood, Mo.
 Leslie Simpers given by Patrice Russo
 Mrs. Ruby Thaete given by Dr. George J. Bruening
 Dr. Julius A. Walther given by Marie T. Bergmann

HONORS

Rev. Vernon Gundermann's retirement given by Mr. & Mrs. Gerald Grommet
 Dan & Ruth Hutchison given by Mr. & Mrs. Harvey Wilkening
 Rev. Arthur Theodore Kuehnert given by Rev. Richard H. Meyer
 Tabor Dedication given by Mr. Martin Weidenbach

CONCORDIA HISTORICAL INSTITUTE
AWARDS PROGRAM NOMINATION FORM

Each year Concordia Historical Institute honors individuals and groups who have rendered significant service to the mission of preserving our American Lutheran history and heritage during the previous year. The CHI Awards Committee will be meeting in the coming months to consider publications that appeared and activities that were carried out in the calendar year 2005 that meet these qualifications. The committee will also consider nominations for the Distinguished Service Award for people who have made outstanding contributions to American Lutheran history and archives. To place an individual or group in nomination for any of the categories, please complete this nomination form and return it to CHI by April 1, 2006.

Name of Nominee: _____

Address: _____

Title of Work (article, book, project, etc.): _____

Nominated by: _____

Address: _____

Phone number: _____

Documentation submitted with the nomination will become part of the Institute's collection, unless other arrangements are made. Please supply sufficient documentation for the Awards Committee to make a judicious decision. Please send two copies when submitting a publication or other media.

Categories (check one):

Distinguished Service Award: this award is granted to an individual "whose contributions and service to the cause of American Lutheran history and archives is exemplary"

Congregational Anniversary or History: historical works that cover one congregation or parish, or the products of a congregational anniversary, including all materials and activities produced by the anniversary committee

District or Regional History: historical works that cover a group of congregations within a church-body, such as the LCMS "districts" or "circuits" or ELCA "synods," or geographical regions, such as states, counties, or cities, etc.

Institutional History: historical works that cover a particular agency of a church, such as an auxiliary, social ministry organization, college, parish school, or a general ministry, such as the chaplaincy

Family History: historical works that deal with families that are either predominantly Lutheran or which contain unique biographical information about a major American Lutheran person

Major Publications: books, either popular or scholarly, dealing with a major topic or serving as a reference work

Journal Articles and Other Brief Publications: articles in professional journals and popular magazines will be considered, as well as essays published in brochure or tract form

Non-Print Media, Events, Displays and Performances: any presentation of historical materials using non-print media, e.g. film, video, audio, multi-media presentations, computer programs, Web sites, displays, performances, parade floats, and historic celebrations

Historic Preservation: submissions are for programs for, or specific instances of, historic preservation, including archives, museums, manuscript collections, art collections, historic artifacts, historic buildings, or historic properties

Other: any entry not described in the previous eight categories

Youth: this award is granted to an individual of age 17 or younger in any category listed above

Description for Nomination of an Unpublished Program and Project: On a separate piece of paper, summarize the program for which nomination is being made. Describe in detail the program and the person's special contribution to it, giving appropriate names and dates. Include a discussion of supporting documentation in your description, if necessary. Documentation may include photos, news clippings, brochures, testimonials, scrapbooks, slides, tapes, etc. Mail or deliver this nomination form and supporting documentation to Concordia Historical Institute

Concordia Historical Institute is a not-for-profit organization, serving as the
Department of Archives and History for The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod

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TO OUR FRIENDS OF HISTORY:



SPRING 2006 ISSUE



Concordia Historical Institute staff and consulting architect, Ken Gornet, meeting with salesmen from the Peterson Group to discuss "compact shelving" plans for the new archives space. (Left to right: David Rutledge, Marvin Huggins, Martin Noland, Phil Peterson, Jack Wallace and Ken Gornet)