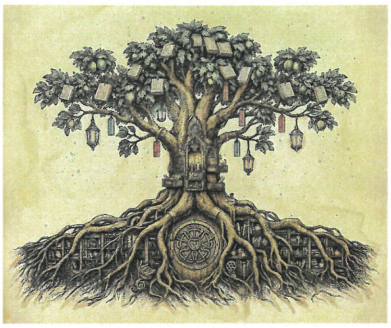
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CONCORDIA HISTORICAL INSTITUTE

TREASURING & TRUMPETING LUTHERAN HISTORY

FOR ALL THE SAINTS

With your continued help we are moving forward in treasuring & trumpeting your Lutheran history



Dear Friends and Members of Concordia Historical Institute:

Thank you for your faithful partnership in preserving and proclaiming our shared Lutheran story through the work of Concordia Historical Institute. As the official Department of Archives and History of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, CHI continues to be entrusted with treasures—documents, photographs, books, artifacts, and fine art—that tell how Christ has been at work in His Church across generations. These are not simply "old things"; they are tangible witnesses that teach, comfort, and encourage God's people today.

In the past year, your prayers and gifts have allowed CHI to strengthen its role as the premier provider of Lutheran historical resources in North America. Our archives now safeguard more than 2.6 million documents and over 1,400 individual collections, along with thousands of artifacts and works of fine art, all carefully organized and preserved so that congregations, districts, scholars, and laypeople can "rediscover their history." Our two museums—at our CHI exhibit hall on the campus of Concordia Seminary, St. Louis and at the LCMS International Center in Kirkwood—have welcomed visitors to stand before Reformation-era artifacts, view Luther-related items, and walk through exhibits that connect Lutheran identity with mission and mercy in the present. Our publications, including the *Concordia Historical Institute Quarterly*, continue to foster serious engagement with Lutheran history, whether reflecting on the 1974 Concordia Seminary walkout or commemorating 125 years of Lutheran missions in Latin America.

Building on these recent offerings to the church and community, we are now poised to take a bold step with the ***Cabinet of Lutheran Curiosities*** initiative. This vision grows naturally out of CHI's long experience mounting exhibits that bring together rare books, coins, fine art, and other artifacts from the time of Martin Luther and the Reformation to the present. The Cabinet of Lutheran Curiosities will draw from CHI's unmatched collections to create a dynamic, rotating experience—a kind of Lutheran ***Wunderkammer***—that invites visitors, students, and online audiences to encounter surprising, beautiful, and sometimes unexpected narratives and objects that each tell a Christ-redeemed story. ***In an age of distraction and historical amnesia, this initiative will allow us to place carefully chosen "curiosities" from across centuries side by side, opening the door to catechesis, conversation, and renewed appreciation for God's faithfulness in every generation.***

To move this initiative from concept to reality in the coming months, we must make significant investments in several key areas. We need to conserve and prepare fragile items for public display, design and fabricate exhibit materials that can flex with changing themes, and create high-quality digital imaging and online access so that the Cabinet can reach those who are unable to walk into our physical museums. This work will also strengthen CHI's broader mission: each item that is researched, conserved, photographed, described, and shared from the Cabinet becomes more discoverable for pastors, teachers, and researchers who rely on CHI to trumpet their amazing story.

For these reasons, I am asking you to make a special spring gift to CHI above and beyond your regular support. Your generosity will help underwrite initiatives such as the Cabinet of Lutheran Curiosities, and other ***resources that will serve the understanding and the identity of the Church for years to come.*** Whether your gift is $100, $500, $1,000, or more, ***you will be helping CHI "move Lutheran history forward—together" in a way that is both faithful to our heritage and engaging for new generations.***

Please take a moment today to respond using the enclosed reply card or by visiting our website, where you can learn more about CHI's mission, our collections, and the many ways your support makes a difference. On behalf of our board, staff, and the many pastors, teachers, students, and laypeople we serve, thank you for considering this special appeal. ***May the Lord of the Church, who has been faithful to His people across the centuries, bless you richly as together we treasure and trumpet the story of His work among Lutherans in North America and around the world.***

God's richest blessings in Christ,

The Rev. Dr. Daniel N. Harmelink, Executive Director

804 SEMINARY PLACE
SAINT LOUIS, MO 63105
314-505-7900
concordiahistoricalinstitute.org