



Smithsonian

National Museum of American History Kenneth E. Behring Center

Thrivent Financial Collection

NMAH.AC.1418

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Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives Center, National Museum of American History
Title:	Thrivent Financial Collection
Date:	1902 - 2014
Identifier:	NMAH.AC.1418
Creator:	Thrivent Financial for Lutherans (Donor) Lutheran Brotherhood (Creator) Aid Association for Lutherans (Creator)
Extent:	0.3 Cubic feet (1 box)
Language:	Collection is in English. Some materials are in German.
Summary:	Collection documents the faith-based philanthropic organization, the Aid for Association for Lutherans, the Lutheran Brotherhood, and later Thrivent Financial.

Administrative Information

Ownership and Custodial History

Donated to the Archives Center by Thrivent Financial in 2017.

Preferred Citation

Thrivent Financial Collection, Archives Center, National Museum of American History

Restrictions on Access

Collection open for research on site by appointment. Unprotected photographs must be handled with gloves.

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Biographical / Historical

The Aid for Association of Lutherans (AAL) was organized in 1902 by members of the Lutheran Church in Appleton, Wisconsin for the purposes of giving to its members, aid for their wives and children in case of death and to provide assistance to themselves in case of sickness, accident and old age. The Luthern Union was founded in 1917 and later changed its name to the Luthern Brotherhood (LB) in 1920. The AAL and LB merged to form Thrivent Financial for Lutherans in 2002 and would grown to become on of the largest fraternal benefits societies in the United States. Today, the company is known as Thrivent, a not-for-profit financial services organization. It offers financial products and services including life insurance, annuities, mutual funds, disability income insurance, credit union products,

money management, brokerage services, retirement planning and more. Additionally, Thrivent provides volunteer services to charitable organizations, schools, congregations and individuals in need. In 2014, Thrivent allowed non-Lutheran Christians to join.

Scope and Contents

The collection includes early founding documents of Thrivent's predecessors, Aid Association for Lutherans (AAL) and Lutheran Brotherhood (LB), including articles of incorporation, by-laws, magazines published by both organizations; magazines published by Thrivent; ballots; song books (for AAL or LB gatherings); placemats; contracts; photographs; brochures, and recruitment brochures.

Arrangement

1 series.

Names and Subject Terms

This collection is indexed in the online catalog of the Smithsonian Institution under the following terms:

Subjects:

- Charities
- Fund raising
- Religious institutions

Container Listing

Box 1, Folder 1	Articles of Incorporation and by-laws, 1902
Box 1, Folder 2	Aid Association for Lutherans, brochures, 1911, undated
Box 1, Folder 3	Aid Association for Lutherans, songbooks, 1902-1957
Box 1, Folder 4	Brotherhood Contract (life insurance), undated
Box 1, Folder 5	Luthern Directors, photographs, 1917, undated
Box 1, Folder 6	The Bond, 1929, 1976, 1991
Box 1, Folder 7	The Correspondent, 1904, 1918, 1975-1976,
Box 1, Folder 8	Thrivent Magazine, Winter 2012
Box 1, Folder 8	Thrivent Magazine, Summer 2013
Box 1, Folder 8	Thrivent Magazine, Spring 2014
Box 1, Folder 9	Photographs of Bob Gandrud, 1997-1998
Box 1, Folder 10	Brochures, pamphlets, and ephemera, 1950s-2007 Notes: Includes ballots, a Christmas card, placemat, coloring book, and brochures and pamphlets detailing activities of the Luthern Brotherhood, such as the blood donor program and work with the habitate for Humanity.