

ANDREW SCHULZE

Human Dignity, Equality and Unity under God

BORN: **MARCH 8, 1896** Cincinnati, Ohio

DIED: **MARCH 30, 1982** Berkeley, Calif.

ANDREW SCHULZE WAS A WHITE LUTHERAN PASTOR who called for improved race relations during the critical years of the Civil Rights Movement in America. After graduating from Concordia Theological Seminary in Springfield, Ill., Schulze served African-American congregations in Springfield (1924–1928), St. Louis (1928–1947) and Chicago (1947–1954).

Schulze recognized the need to promote the ideal of equality of human beings as God's creations. Starting in the 1930s, Schulze called upon The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod to end the status of black congregations and schools as “negro missions” and to help them become fully self-supporting and self-governing entities. Influenced by Schulze's urging, the Synod acted in 1947 to bring about change.

During this time, Schulze was an early advocate for integration, encouraging the acceptance of black students in Lutheran schools, especially where segregation laws prohibited their attendance in white public schools.

In 1953, Schulze was instrumental in founding the Lutheran Human Relations Association of America (LHRAA) and served full-time as its executive secretary. The LHRAA worked to advance the Civil Rights Movement, furthering race relations in a positive, constructive way according to biblical principles of Christian love and care for all people. Based at Valparaiso University, the LHRAA sponsored summer institutes for Lutheran church workers and laity on a variety of topics related to race relations. Schulze also served as the editor of and a frequent contributor to *The Vanguard*, the official publication of the LHRAA.

While peacefully protesting for civil rights in Georgia in 1962, Schulze, along with other religious leaders, was arrested. After six days in jail, he was released. He was one of the first white pastors participating in the Civil Rights Movement.

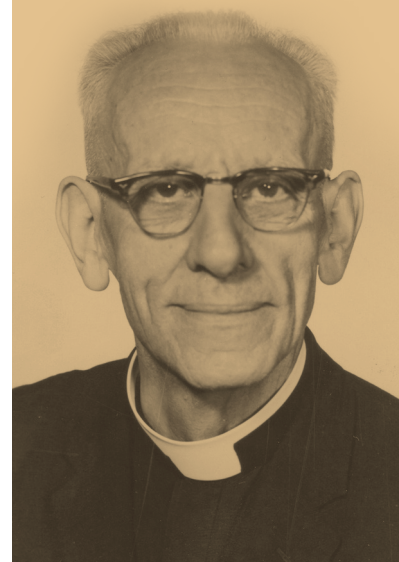
Schulze spent his career working in Lutheran churches and communities calling for a recognition and realization of human dignity, equality and unity according to the Christian teaching of creation. In his book *Fire from the Throne*, Schulze wrote, “We are the offspring of God” (Acts 17:29 KJV). This thought is basic to the whole understanding of the race issue. The human family is one” (p. 65). Schulze understood the fallen nature of human beings and recognized the problems resulting from human sin. Still, he emphasized that Christians have the freedom — and the responsibility — to act for the good of others around them in the world. Schulze drew attention to Jesus' parable of the Good Samaritan as having a message of Christian engagement in the difficult days of the Civil Rights Movement. His work and message led Lutherans to renewed efforts of love and care for all neighbors.

For more information about the 175th anniversary of the LCMS, visit lcms.org/175.

DISCOVER MORE

Kathryn M. Galchutt, *The Career of Andrew Schulze, 1924–1968: Lutherans and Race in the Civil Rights Era* (Macon, Georgia: Mercer University Press, 2005).

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