



Concordia University Chicago



Rosa J. Young (1890-1971)

Dr. Rosa J. Young Opportunity Scholarship

Providing support to African-American students pursuing church-related professions at Concordia-Chicago and serving the Church, their families and the world no matter their vocation.



CONCORDIA
UNIVERSITY
CHICAGO

1864



Above: Rosa Young counseling young women who were teaching students at Alabama Luther College, 1961.
Below: Photo of Ms. Young in 1949. Photos from Concordia Historical Institute website.

Dr. Rosa J. Young Opportunity Scholarship at Concordia-Chicago



Dr. Young, 1961

The **Dr. Rosa J. Young Opportunity Scholarship** is a special collaboration between Concordia University Chicago, the LCMS Foundation, and the Lutheran Church Extension Fund to honor the memory and inspiration of Dr. Rosa J. Young, the first woman to be honored by the LCMS with an honorary doctorate in 1961. Her work

improved education and religious instruction in the black community and led to the eventual founding of Concordia College in Selma, Alabama.

The Dr. Rosa J. Young Opportunity Scholarship will support African-American students at Concordia University Chicago who intend to enter into church vocations in the Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod. Recipients of the scholarship will be students wanting to become pastors, teachers, directors of Christian education, and other professional vocations.

Concordia University Chicago invites you to support us in endowing the Dr. Rosa J. Young Opportunity Scholarship. Matching funds will be available from the LCMS Foundation/LCEF once an initial \$25,000 is raised and your gifts to CUC will be matched up to a total of \$275,000!

Concordia University Chicago's ultimate goal is \$275,000 in contributions so the matching funds will increase the endowment available to \$550,000 in direct support of African-American students at Concordia-Chicago. Join us as we celebrate Dr. Young's legacy with this scholarship and honor the 50th anniversary of her passing.

To support this opportunity, contact:

Scott D. Ward

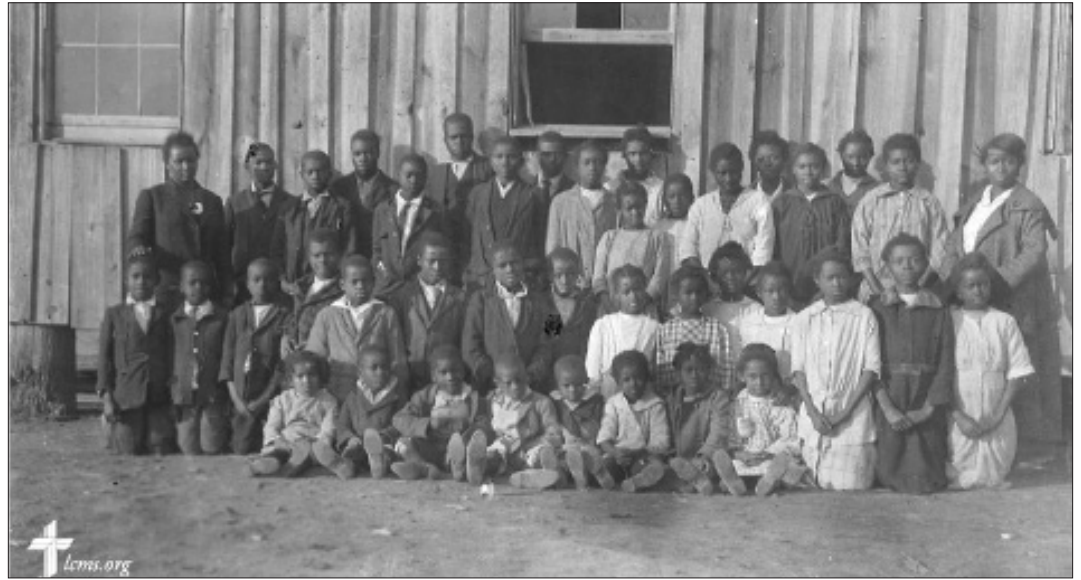
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Rosa Young, 1949



Above: Rosa Young is on the left side of this photo at Midway School, Midway, Wilcox County, AL, January 9, 1918. Photos from Concordia Historical Institute website.

Rosa J. Young History

Rosa J. Young (1890-1971) was born into an ordinary rural Alabama life. Even so, this “mother of Black Lutheranism in central Alabama” accomplished extraordinary things for her community and the kingdom of God. She played an instrumental role in the founding and development of 30 Lutheran elementary schools and 35 Lutheran congregations throughout Alabama’s Black Belt region.

Dr. Young approached Booker T. Washington for help with funding a school she set up in rural Alabama; his personal aide suggested that she contact the LCMS which had a history of founding Black Lutheran missions in the rural South; which led to the eventual founding of Concordia College in Selma, Alabama.

Widely known as an advocate for the education of rural children, Dr. Young’s legacy is unparalleled as an educator, confessor and church planter for Christ and His Church. She was awarded an honorary doctorate by Concordia Theological Seminary during their commencement service in May 1961. She was both the first woman and the first African-American to be honored in this way by the Lutheran Church.

Dr. Young led a life of service, accomplished so much to the Glory of God, and enabled others to do the same, including the following:

- She taught more than 2,000 students, impacting their lives forever with her faith and her belief in the importance of education, at a time when education for children of sharecroppers was limited;
- Many of her students entered the Holy Ministry or became parochial school teachers at her urging, impacting many others with their fidelity to her vision;
- She was influential in the founding of the Alabama Lutheran Academy and College in Selma, AL, aimed at training students to become teachers and preparing young men to continue their education at seminary.

OUR MISSION

Steadfast in Jesus Christ as revealed in the Holy Scriptures, Concordia University Chicago promotes academic rigor in its liberal arts and professional programs; grounds students in objective truth, integrity, and excellence; and practices faithfulness to the Confessional teachings of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, as it forms students for vocations in church, family, and the world.



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