

NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 23, NUMBER 1

SPRING 2012

Spring Program:

Lutherans & Slavery

Tuesday, April 17, 2012

Lutheran Theological Seminary at Gettysburg

Please join us on April 17, 2012 for the LHS-MA's Spring program and Annual meeting. Both events will take place in Valentine Hall at the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Gettysburg. Following registration and coffee in Beekman Commons and the Coffee Shop from 9:00 to 9:30, the event will begin with welcoming remarks and

devotions by LHS-MA President Steve Herr. Keynote speaker, Dr. Richard M. Chapman, Associate Professor of History at Concordia College, Moorhead, Minnesota will present "A Tale of Two Lutherans: Schmucker, Bachman, and the Question of Slavery." Chapman's address, especially appropriate at the beginning of the 150th anni-

versary year of the Civil War, will examine ways that Schmucker and Bachman, two leading Lutheran churchmen of the nineteenth century, illustrated the impact of region and regional politics on American Lutherans regarding the slavery question. The effects of Schmucker's and Bachman's Lutheran pietism and Lu-

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Coming in September:

Congregational Heritage Workshops

By John Deeben

The Lutheran Historical Society of the Mid-Atlantic will once again host the Congregational Heritage Workshops on Saturday September 15, 2012. The day-long event will be held in Valentine Hall on the campus of the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, and will feature several tracks of concurrent lectures on a variety of topics promoting the study, preservation, and celebration of Lutheran history in the Mid-Atlantic region. Drawing upon the

expertise of noteworthy history, archival, and genealogy professionals, the workshops offer a perfect educational opportunity not just for pastors and lay congregational leaders, but also archivists, librarians, church historians, anniversary planning committees, members of congregational and synodical history committees, and anyone with an interest in keeping and writing history.

The planned sessions and speakers include:

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SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- Several speakers planned for Congregational Heritage Workshops
- "Early Christian Architecture and Spirituality" to be theme of Fall Program
- Article continues to explain details for gathering and organizing congregational archives
- Controversy over Sunday school takes two congregations to court in 1870's

President's Corner - Spring 2012

The board of directors met in January to continue the work of shepherding the society. The board has been blessed by a dedicated and hard-working group of individuals. I thank them for their time and effort. In addition to conducting business, the board addressed strategic issues and opportunities for the society. We continue to believe that our organization plays an important role in lifting up Lutheran heritage and history in the Mid-Atlantic region. While not overseeing an archival collection, the society looks to support the archival work of the Lutheran church as well.

With a New Year upon us I invite all members to assist the society in its mission and goals. Here are some concrete ways for you to help.

1. I ask that each member recruit one additional member to join the Lutheran Historical Society in 2012. Membership dues are very modestly priced

"... Get involved and help the Lutheran Historical Society of the Mid-Atlantic in its efforts to promote and preserve Lutheran history in our region."

at \$20. Help us get the message out and advance the cause of Lutheran history.

2. The society continues to award three prizes for different types of scholarship. The Lutheran Youth History Contest invites middle and high school youth to use modern technology to tell the story of an individual or of a congregation. The A.R. Wentz Prize invites seminary and graduate

students to write a paper on a topic of Lutheranism in America. The St. Paul, Biglerville Prize is awarded every 2-3 years for mature work of scholarship in the American Lu-

theran field. Go to our website to learn more about these prizes and encourage scholars of all ages to get involved.

3. Finally, make plans to attend one or more of our programs this year. Information can be

found elsewhere in the newsletter about programs we are offering in 2012.

Get involved and help the Lutheran Historical Society of the Mid-Atlantic in its efforts to pro-

mote and preserve Lutheran history in our region. I look forward to seeing you at the annual gathering on April 17, 2012 in Gettysburg.

Sincerely in Christ,

Stephen Herr, President

February 2012



Welcome New Members

LHSMA welcomes the following new members since our Fall 2011 Newsletter:

Individual Members:

Eleanor Hillegas - Harleysville, PA

Barbara & Daniel Johnson - Boyerstown, PA

Phyllis Ann White - Chambersburg, PA

Please notify us of any corrections to the list.



LHSMA 2011 - 2012 Board of Directors

Officers

Stephen Herr <i>President</i>	Donald Housley <i>Secretary</i>
John Deeben <i>Vice President</i>	Lee Knepp <i>Treasurer</i>

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Fall Program Scheduled at Two Locations

By Sue Hill

The ELCA discussion guide, "Worship Space and Christian Assembly," asserts the following principles of space for worship:

- Throughout the history of the Christian church, worship and worship space have been related.
- Early Christians spoke of their communal shelter and worship space as the "house of the church."
- Gathered in Christ, the worshipping assembly is a place where God makes a home.
- Here in the midst of the people we have the availability of God in Christ as he comes to us through preached and sacramental Word.
- The primary criteria for ordering worship spaces are sound worship practices.
- Music, the visual arts, and the environment of our worship spaces embody the proclamation of the Word.
- Each piece of liturgical furniture and area of liturgical action has its own character and requirements.
- Worship is enhanced when all furnishings taken

together possess a unity and harmony with each other and with the architecture of the room.

All that said, how are such ELCA principles, based on long-standing Christian practice, influenced by our tradition and how are they embodied in the present era of worship renewal? Dr. Gerald Christianson, professor of Church History, emeritus, of the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Gettysburg, will address these and other related questions in his lecture, "Early Christian Architecture and Spirituality," the keynote address for the LHS-MA's Fall Program.



The program will be held Saturday morning, October 20, 2012 at St. James Lutheran Church, Gettysburg, PA and again on Tuesday afternoon, October 23, 2012 at Grace Lutheran Church in State College, PA. Please mark and save one of these dates on your calendars and plan to attend this fascinating program. More details of each event will follow in upcoming communications. ■

A Friendly Reminder to Society Members:

Please remit your 2012 dues as soon as you receive your renewal notice from Treasurer Lee Knepp: \$20/calendar year.



ELECTRONIC NEWSLETTER NOTICE!

The Lutheran Historical Society of the Mid-Atlantic will start offering its annual newsletter (3 issues per year) in electronic form (PDF file format) to interested members. If you would like to receive the newsletter electronically, please send an email to newsletter editor John Deeben at jdeeben@aol.com and put "LHSMA Newsletter" in the subject heading. Members who elect to receive the newsletter electronically will NOT have a hardcopy sent to their mailing address in an effort to reduce postage costs.



The Work of a Congregational Archivist or Archives Committee - Part IV

Submitted by John Deeben

How Should Materials be Preserved?

Location

The archives should be located in a locked, fire-proof room, area, or filing cabinet that is least affected by extremes of light, heat, dryness or humidity. The ideal storage environment has a temperature of 67 degrees Fahrenheit, plus or minus two degrees, with relative humidity of 47 percent, plus or minus two percent. If this ideal cannot be met, an area that can maintain conditions close to these, with minimal fluctuations is best.

Storage Containers

Archival materials should be placed into archival file folders or envelopes made of acid-free or lignin-free paper. Folders form the primary support for preserving the documents. If open shelves are used, folders are placed in acid-free boxes, or document cases, available in sizes to fit standard letter- and legal-size paper, pamphlets and oversized materials such as parish registers. Document cases protect records from direct light and dirt. (Note: Acid-free folders and boxes are available from manufacturers who specialize in archival products.)

Care for Records

When placing materials into folders and document cases, all fastening devices—metal paper clips and staples, rubber bands, and string—should be removed. These items may be a source of deterioration.

Materials should not be folded to fit into containers. Oversize materials, such as blueprints, confirmation photographs, and other large items should be stored flat if at all possible. Map cases would be advisable if a large number of such items need preservation. Do not try to unroll items, since brittleness may cause documents to crack.

Water, chemical sprays, adhesives and lamination cause irrevocable damage to paper and photographs. Cleaning or repair of documents requires special techniques and restoration work should only be undertaken by professionals.

When records have become severely damaged or deteriorated, carefully place items into folders and containers and seek professional advice. The axiom,

“when in doubt, do nothing,” should apply until a professional can assess what is needed to stabilize or restore damaged documents. Costs of such treatments are expensive and special budgeting or fund raising might be needed to complete such work.

Documents should not be marked with permanent ink. If any marks are made for identification purposes, use pencil. Another axiom is the “rule of reversibility:” only do things to the documents that can be reversed, such as erasing a pencil notation.

Photographs, negatives, slides, audio and video recordings, and artifacts should be filed separately from paper documents. Negatives should be stored separately from associated prints. These items have chemical properties that are more active or unstable compared to paper, so extra care in providing appropriate sleeves, folders and boxes is important as well as storing them in a location without temperature and humidity extremes.

If scrapbooks are to be assembled for anniversaries or other historical observances, be aware that most adhesives will permanently damage original documents and photographs. A scrapbook cannot be considered a means to permanently preserve materials, but rather serve as a memento for a specific occasion. Whenever possible, use only duplicates or copies to compile a scrapbook, so that when it is used during special occasions you will not be endangering the original documents to theft, vandalism, etc.

Records should be inspected periodically for atmospheric and vermin damage, and adequate safeguards and protective measures should be taken if evidence of such damage is found.

Under normal circumstances, vital records such as minutes, membership records and ministerial acts should not be removed from the church premises, except for restoration or microfilming. In certain cases, ELCA synodical/regional archives may be willing to store records for congregations. ■



CONGREGATIONAL HERITAGE WORKSHOPS

(Continued from page 1)

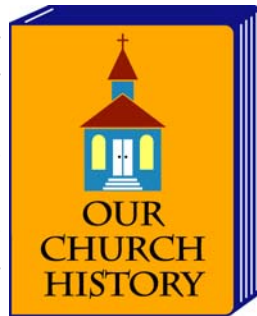
- Organizing Archives for Small Churches (Rev. Richard Berg, Evangelical & Reformed Historical Society, Lancaster);
- Oral History (Dr. Michael Birkner, Gettysburg College);
- Pennsylvania German Baptismal Records (John T. Humphrey, Washington, DC);
- Preserving Archival Records and Artifacts (John Peterson, Lutheran Archives Center, Philadelphia);
- Library Resources for Lutheran History (Rev. Dr. Maria Erling, Gettysburg Seminary);
- Writing Congregational Histories (Dr. Don Housley, Susquehanna University, retired);

- Planning Major Anniversaries and “Dealing with Dirty Linen” - How to Handle the Negative Aspects of Anniversary Planning and Congregational History (Rev. George Handley, retired); and
- An Overview of Local Lutheran Records at the Adams County Historical Society (Wayne Motts, ACHS Executive Director).

The day's activities will end with a presentation for all participants on the renovations to Schmucker Hall that are currently underway in anticipation of the 150th anniversary of the Battle of Gettysburg in 2013. The talk will be given by Rev. John Spangler,

Executive Assistant to the President for Communication and Planning at Gettysburg Seminary and president of the Seminary Ridge Historic Preservation Foundation.

Please watch the mail for an official program flyer and registration form, pick them up at the Spring program and annual meeting on April 17, or download the registration materials from the Society's website at www.lhsmidatlantic.com. Discounted fees will be available for Society members as well as groups attending from the same congregation, so encourage your friends and church family to partake of a fun-filled day of history and education! ■



Spring 2012 Program

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theran educational values on racial hierarchies and future race relations will also be addressed.

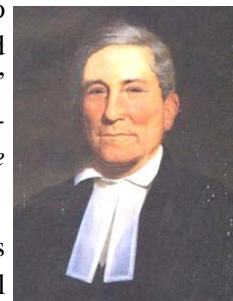


Samuel Simon Schmucker

In addition, two Adams County historians, Timothy Smith and Debra Sandoe McCauslin, will discuss the local impact of slavery in their presentation, “How Slavery Affected Folks in Adams County.” Tim Smith is a research historian at the Adams County Historical Society and a licensed battlefield guide at the Gettysburg National Military Park. He has written numerous articles, pamphlets, and books about Gettysburg. Debra Sandoe McCauslin is the founder of “For the Cause,” a corporation committed to restoring and preserving sites of historical importance in and

around the Gettysburg area, including Yellow Hill Cemetery. She organized and leads the historical program, “Freedom lies just to the North: The Underground Railroad in Adams County.” Debra is the author of *Reconstructing the Past: Puzzle of the Lost Community at Yellow Hill*.

The morning presentations will be followed by the Annual meeting of the Historical Society, including the election of board members. A catered lunch will be served in the Coffee Shop and the day will conclude at 1:30PM. The lectures are free to the public and are held in conjunction with Gettysburg Seminary's Spring Convocation events. The cost for the Society lunch will be \$15. Please watch the mail for a program flyer and registration/lunch reservation form, or use the form included here to make your reservation. We look forward to seeing you! ■



John Bachman

Rising from the Phoenix of Controversy: Emmanuel Lutheran Church at Wolf's Crossroads, Northumberland County, 1884–1885

Submitted by John Deeben

Church Archives



Congregations sometimes follow unusual or unexpected paths in their history as they strive to establish their own unique identities. On June 5, 1847, members of the Lutheran and German Reformed faithful gathered at the Lantz School House in Upper Augusta Township, Northumberland County, Pennsylvania, to organize a new union church called Lantz Emmanuel. Such a joint venture was very common at the time, typifying the evangelical efforts as well as the longstanding relationship between the Lutheran and Reformed faiths in the United States during eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. This particular union church operated in harmony for more than twenty years. A short time after the end of the Civil War, however, the joint congregations of the Lantz Emmanuel Lutheran and Reformed Church experienced a crisis that resulted in the separation of the two bodies and the removal of the Lutherans to a new location.

About 1869–70, a dispute arose when the Lutherans initiated an effort to establish a Sunday school in the union church. Although both congregations would administer the proposed school, the German Reformed group opposed the venture. Misunderstanding and internal strife ensued after the Lutherans attempted to open the Sunday school anyway, under the direct control and guidance of their pastor. The Reformed members responded with legal action, appealing to the county courts for an injunction to stop the effort. The county refused their petition, but the state supreme court then overturned this decision.

The higher court determined that Sunday school was not a “divine service” but rather a lay instructional activity, and therefore fell outside the mutual compact between the two congregations. This compact, as narrowly defined by the Lantz Emmanuel church constitution, only provided for joint ventures of a sacred nature, specifically comprising divine worship and catechism instruction. All other activities were disallowed without mutual consent.

The legal ruling, however, did not end the matter. In 1873 the 5th Conference (later the Danville Conference) of the Evangelical Lutheran Ministerium of Pennsylvania, took up the issue and appealed to the East Susquehanna Classis of the Reformed Synod, asking them to allow the Lutherans to hold Sunday school. The Reformed Classis responded by dispatching a fact-finding committee to Lantz Emmanuel, to investigate and possibly reconcile the two sides. In May 1874, however, the committee astonishingly declared the controversy to be irreconcilable. They determined that the Lutheran and Reformed members had been living in strife over the issue for as long as twelve to fourteen years, and that the disagreement “would probably continue as many years longer.”

The Sunday school dispute in fact continued to fester for almost ten more years, until in 1883 the Lutherans finally decided to dissolve their association with the union church. On June 9, 1883, the Lutheran congregation council drafted a set of resolutions. These resolutions acknowledged that such an impasse had been reached over the creation of a Sunday school that any further effort

to press the matter would lead to insurmountable conflict between the two congregational bodies. Rather than concede the issue, however, the resolutions authorized the suspension of monetary support for the current church building, and called for a division of all jointly held property that would lead to an amicable but final separation of the two congregations. The Lutheran membership adopted these recommendations on July 7, 1883, and two days later handed a signed copy over to the Reformed consistory, along with a request for their immediate cooperation to expedite the matter.

The Lutherans waited more than eight months for the Reformed members to respond, with no result. Finally, in the spring of 1884 they determined to move ahead on their own. On April 26, 1884 a congregational meeting took place following the worship service, during which it was decided to find a new location for the Lutheran congregation. “After due consideration, and hearing of opinions of different members,” church leaders Amos Reed and Joseph Emerick offered a motion for the congregation to “proceed at once to make arrangements to erect a suitable building for the purpose of holding Divine Worship.” The motion carried, and Joseph Emerick and John Lentz were appointed a committee to solicit subscriptions for the building project and select a new location for the church and cemetery, preferably in the neighborhood of Wolf’s Crossroads in Upper Augusta Township. Joel Wolf, who owned a considerable homestead at the country intersection, soon donated a one and one-half acre plot to the congregation. The land

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Emmanuel Lutheran Church, cont.

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was situated directly at the main intersection between Little Shamokin Creek Road and the Tulpehocken Highway (modern-day Route 890).

Plans for the new church proceeded at a moderate pace. Throughout the summer, more than \$1,000 in subscriptions was raised within the congregation. On November 27, 1884 the membership appointed a formal building committee, comprised of Daniel Klinger, Joseph Emerick, and William B. Eister. Two months later, on January 27, 1885, formal plans for the church building were adopted. According to the Congregational meeting minutes:

Different opinions were expressed both as to size and style of [the] building. [It was finally] resolved (and building committee so instructed) to build the church fifty feet long, thirty-four feet wide, sixteen feet high and with a recess back of the pulpit. Also suggested to have four windows on each of the two sides and one on each side of the entrance.

Construction of the new church building moved forward rather swiftly after that point. Members of the congregation, who collected and hauled the building materials to the project site, carried out much of the work. A cornerstone ceremony took place at the building site at 9:30 a.m. on Whit Sunday, May 24, 1885. Services were also held the previous evening at the old Lantz Church, before which the council and building committee gathered to examine the items for the cornerstone time capsule. Articles approved for the time capsule included an 1884 Bible, an 1883 church book, a Sunday school song book, a copy of Luther's Small Catechism in both English and German, a list of the members of the general council in 1884, and a list of the Ministers of the General Council for 1880. Also enclosed was a handwritten history of the congregation.

The new Emmanuel Lutheran Church was finally completed in the fall of 1885. The first official services took place in the new building on November 6, 1885. Rev. J. R. Groff, President of the 5th Conference of the Evangelical Lutheran Ministerium of Pennsylvania, delivered the sermon. The following Sunday, on November 8, 1885, the new edifice was formally dedicated. The council met for the first time in the new church on November 17, 1885. At that time they moved to settle final accounts

with the Reformed congregation of Lantz Emmanuel Church. Aware that the Reformed members, who were still "joint-owners with us of the old church property, as well as of the personal property contained therein," were finally "desirous of a division of properties and settlement of rights," the council appointed a committee to negotiate terms of settlement with a similarly-appointed body from the Reformed side. The terms would be "binding as soon as ratified by the respective congregations."

On February 27, 1886 the committee presented a draft of the final terms of settlement with the Reformed congregation. The report read:

The undersigned having been appointed a committee to negotiate with the Reformed Congregation formerly occupying the Old Emmanuel's Church generally known as Lantz's Church with us would respectfully report that they agreed to sell the property (real estate) for the sum of one hundred & eighty-five dollars (\$185.00) the personal property being amicably divided between the two congregations.

The church council approved the terms of separation and duly brought the matter before the congregation on March 14, 1886. At that meeting, the membership unanimously accepted the proposal (voting 22-0), and the necessary paperwork was drawn up to transfer "all rights and privileges of the Lutheran congregation in the old church property" to the Reformed Church. With that action the Emmanuel Evangelical Lutheran Church formally severed its affiliation with the Old Lantz Church and embarked upon a new spiritual course. The building committee for the new church continued on for another two years, mainly overseeing administrative details, and was finally released from duty on February 15, 1888. (It is interesting to note that less than one year after the Crossroads church was completed, the Reformed members at Lantz Emmanuel built a new one-story brick church of their own along the upper side of the Little Shamokin Creek Road, the cornerstone of which was laid April 8, 1886. Quite ironically, this new church contained a Sunday school room at one end—leading one to question what the original controversy was really all about!) ■

Muhlenberg Journal Restoration Project - Final Update

The Lutheran Historical Society of the Mid-Atlantic is pleased to announce that our participation in the Muhlenberg Journal Restoration Project, sponsored by the Lutheran Archives Center in Philadelphia, has concluded with a resounding success! The Society raised \$3,625 towards a joint \$6,000 pledge with Gettysburg Seminary, which covers the cost to restore one journal volume.

LHSMA NEWSLETTER

Lutheran Historical Society of the Mid-Atlantic

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Web: www.lhsmidatlantic.com

*"Preserving, documenting,
and sharing the history of
Lutherans and Lutheranism in
the Mid-Atlantic and
surrounding areas."*

We're on the Web!

www.lhsmidatlantic.com

Lutheran Historical Society of the Mid-Atlantic Newsletter

ISSN 1049-6424

The Lutheran Historical Society of the Mid-Atlantic, in the interest of the preservation and cultivation of Lutheran history in Central and Western Pennsylvania, Maryland, Delaware, West Virginia, and the Metropolitan Washington, D.C. area issues this newsletter two to three times a year.

Notes of announcements, projects, historical celebrations, genealogical concerns, notes of church or Synodical activities, and notes from other historical societies are solicited.

Address corrections are helpful.

Send replies via email to:

Stephen Herr

info@lhsmidatlantic.com

Subject: LHS Newsletter



VOLUME 23, NUMBER 1

Lutheran Historical Society of the Mid-Atlantic MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Congregation (if applicable): _____

I desire membership in LHSMA as a: _____ New Member or, as a: _____ Renewal.

_____ \$ 250 Life Membership

_____ \$ 20 Regular Membership (renewable annually by March 31)

_____ I wish to give a Special Gift. Please send me more information on the Special Gift Program of the society.

I am interested in:

_____ Research

_____ Reading

_____ Publishing

_____ Other: _____

Please complete this form and your check made payable to **LHSMA** and mail to:

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21 North Brown Street
PO Box 76
McClure, PA 17841

Spring 2012