

# NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 25, NUMBER 1

SPRING 2014

## *LHSMA Announces Winners of the 2013 Abdel Ross Wentz Prizes*

Abdel Ross Wentz was a leading figure in American Lutheranism. From 1916-1956 he was professor of Church History and later President of Gettysburg Theological Seminary. At the time of his death, an endowment was created which provides prize money for the best two historical papers written on North American Lutheranism produced by ei-

ther first degree Lutheran seminarians or other graduate students at the PhD level. At the January board meeting, the recommendation of the Wentz Prize Committee was received by the board and two prizes were awarded for 2013, both written by ELCA seminarians.

The winners are Kristofer Coffman

from Luther Seminary in St. Paul, Minnesota, whose paper is entitled, *"Lord, I Have Come into Your Holy House: A brief History of the Norwegian Liturgy in America;"* and Victoria Larson, writing on *"The Case of the Last American Lutheran in China: The American Lutheran Response to the Imprisonment of Paul J. Mackensen, Jr.,"*

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## IMPORTANT NEWSLETTER NOTICE!

Dear LHSMA Members:

The cost of producing the society's newsletter consumes most of our annual budget. Due to escalating printing costs, the Lutheran Historical Society of the Mid-Atlantic will start issuing the newsletter in electronic form (PDF file format) **ONLY** to all members who have provided an email address, beginning with the Summer 2014 issue. This decision is being implemented to make more effective use of our limited income resources. Members with no email address on file **will continue** to receive the newsletter by mail. We will dispense with professional printing and revert to desktop publishing, and therefore only a limited run of hardcopies for each issue will be produced.

If you would like to continue to receive the newsletter in **print**, please send an email to newsletter editor John Deeben at [jdeeben@aol.com](mailto:jdeeben@aol.com). If you did not provide an email address with your membership application or renewal and would like to receive the newsletter electronically, please contact the editor as well.



### SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- *Congregation becomes first institutional life member of LHSMA*
- *Site Recognition Committee encourages nominees*
- *LHSMA 2014 Spring Program packed with activities as part of Seminary's Spring Academy*
- *2014 Fall Program scheduled for Saturday, October 4 in Philadelphia*

## President's Corner - Spring 2014

This year marks the 25th anniversary of the reorganization of the Lutheran Historical Society of the Mid-Atlantic. It was in 1989 that a number of persons



who believed in the importance of the history of Lutheranism in the Mid-Atlantic region reactivated the society, which had been dormant since 1952. For the last quarter century the society has worked to promote an appreciation and understanding of Lutheran history in this area. I give thanks to God for those founders who re-established the society and for the many who have labored these past 25 years to fulfill the mission and purposes of the society.

The society's work is largely accomplished by its fifteen-

member board of directors. I want to thank them for their service and energy. Without their dedication and commitment the programs and initiatives mentioned in this newsletter and on our webpage would not be possible. The board has been exploring ways to foster and grow the participation of society members. If you are looking for ways to serve or participate more deeply in the mission of the society, check out the "opportunities for service"

*"It was in 1989 that a number of persons who believed in the importance of the history of Lutheranism in the Mid-Atlantic region reactivated the [LH] society, which had been dormant since 1952."*

section in this newsletter. I invite every member to become more actively involved in the work of the society and encourage each member to re-

cruit one new person to join the society in 2014.

Please join us on Tuesday, April 29 for our annual program and meeting held at Gettysburg Seminary. Register now and

bring a friend! Have a blessed late winter and early spring.

Sincerely in Christ,

*Pastor Stephen Herr,*  
*LHSMA President*

February 2014

### Welcome New Members

LHSMA welcomes the following new members since our Fall 2013 Newsletter:

#### Annual Memberships:

Lorraine Knepp - McClure, PA  
Christel Wilson - Chambersburg, PA  
Lee & Barbara Kreidler - Allentown, PA

#### Life Memberships:

Bishop George Mocko - Gwynn Oak, MD  
Rev. Dr. Kim-Eric Williams -  
West Chester, PA  
Heidi Neiswender - Palmyra, PA

The Society would also like to recognize Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church, Milton, PA, who became our **first institutional Life Member** in 2013!

Please notify us of any corrections to the list.

## Wentz Prize

(Continued from page 1)

1952-1957." Each author will receive a \$2,500 check and an invitation to attend the Spring meeting of the Society if they are able to do so. Congratulation to both winners!

Members and friends of the society who may know of Lutheran seminarians or graduate students should encourage them to submit their papers by the end of August, 2014, for consideration for the prizes. To learn more about the Wentz Prize and the requirements for entering papers, visit the Society's website at [www.lhsmidatlantic.com](http://www.lhsmidatlantic.com).

By James Vigen

### LHSMA 2013 - 2014 Board of Directors

#### Officers

Stephen Herr	John Deeben
<i>President</i>	<i>Secretary</i>
Mark Oldenburg	Lee Knepp
<i>Vice President</i>	<i>Treasurer</i>

#### Other Board Members

Brian Bohleke	Kevin Hepler
Peggy Brookshire	Susan Hill
Maria Erling	Barbara Luebbe
John Fehring	Judy Simonson

#### Board Emeriti

Phil Teigen	Donald Housley
James B. Vigen	Michael Kurtz
Annabelle White	Fred Wentz

# Lutheran Historic Site Recognition Program

By Phil Teigen

The Lutheran Historical Society of the Mid-Atlantic (LHSMA) seeks nominations for its Historical Site Recognition Program. The program recognizes individuals, congregations, and other institutions in Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) Region 8, whose history or biography bears witness of their baptismal covenant to present and future generations.

The LHSMA has recognized these seven sites already:

- Zion Lutheran Church,  
*Baltimore, MD*
- David Day Gravesite, Union Cemetery,  
*Selinsgrove, PA*
- William A. Passavant Home,  
*Zelienople, PA*
- Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Holy Trinity,  
*Lancaster, PA*
- Greenville Hall, Thiel College,  
*Greenville PA*
- Christ Lutheran Church,  
*York, PA*
- Luther Place Memorial Lutheran Church,  
*Washington, DC*

Recognition consists of a commemorative essay prepared by the Site Recognition Committee; appropriate images of the site added to the LHSMA website; presentation of a plaque for mounting

at the site itself; and a \$750 grant for preserving the site's historical records, or for disseminating knowledge of the site's history.

The Site-Recognition Program aims specifically to recognize sites where an event important in the history of Mid-Atlantic Lutheranism

took place or where an individual (clerical or lay), congregation, or synodical agency practiced an innovative or sustained ministry. The Program also recognizes sites possessing distinctive architecture, singular artistic value, or exceptional craftsmanship, and sites possessing unusual potential for documenting the history of Mid-Atlantic Lutheranism, e. g., archaeological sites, archives, special collections, gravesites, out-door sculpture.

The Society's Site Recognition Committee welcomes nominations from members of the Society. To nominate a site please print out and complete the questionnaire on the LHSMA website and mail before **September 1, 2014** to:

Site Recognition Committee  
LHSMA  
61 Seminary Ridge, Gettysburg, PA 17325

To contact the Site Committee with questions, or for additional information, email [phil41@icloud.com](mailto:phil41@icloud.com).



*Celebrate Our Heritage*

## Lutheran Church History Contest for Middle and High School Youth

The Lutheran Historical Society of the Mid-Atlantic announces this yearly contest which invites youth to submit a multimedia presentation (e.g. DVD, PowerPoint, etc.) that tells a story either about the history of their congregation, a particular person in the congregation who has played a significant role in its life, or an important event, mission or ministry that has shaped the congregation. A \$250 prize will be awarded in both the middle school and high school categories. Deadline for submissions is June 30. Contest rules and details can be found at the society's webpage [www.lhsmidatlantic.com](http://www.lhsmidatlantic.com). Email [info@lhsmidatlantic.com](mailto:info@lhsmidatlantic.com) with questions or contact Pastor Stephen Herr at 717-334-5212.



By Steve Herr

## 2014 Spring Program / Annual Meeting / Luncheon

### *Seminary Chapel, Lutheran Theological Seminary at Gettysburg*

### *Tuesday, April 29, 2014*

*The Spring Program will take place as part of Gettysburg Seminary's Spring Academy, but please register for the program using this form.*

8:30 AM – Registration and Coffee

9:00 AM – Chapel Service

Hymn Festival of Women Authors with Gettysburg Connections

9:15 AM Recognition of the Winners of the Society's Biglerville and Wentz Awards

9:30 AM – Lecture

*"Finding New Paths to Service: Women Innovators in Eastern Lutheranism"*

Speaker: **Maria Erling**

Professor of Modern Church History and Global Missions (LTSG)

10:40 AM – Panel

*"Shape Shifting: The Feminine Leadership of Mary Stuckenburg (1839–1934),  
Elsie Singmaster, (1879–1958), and LaVene Grove (1884–1970)"*

Panelists: **Marianne Brock, Susan Hill, and Jean LeGros**

Society Members

11:30 AM – Annual Meeting

Lunch in the Seminary Refectory may be purchased on this form.

Registrants are welcome to attend the Tuesday afternoon lectures at the Seminary chapel free of charge. You may also be receiving a registration form for Gettysburg Spring Academy Week from LTSG, which you are welcome to use to register for the other days and events.

Please complete this form and mail it along with your check made payable to LHSMA to:

Lee Knepp, LHSMA

P.O. Box 76

McClure, PA 17841

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone Number or Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Registration Fee (Spring Program): (\$20 per person) x \_\_\_\_\_ persons \_\_\_\_\_

Lunch at the Seminary Refectory: (\$8 per person) x \_\_\_\_\_ persons \_\_\_\_\_  
(space is limited for this lunch)

Total Enclosed: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

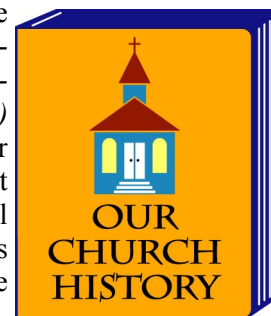
# LHSMA Awards the Biglerville Prize for 2014

By Annabelle Wenzke

*Power, Politics, and the Missouri Synod: A Conflict that Changed American Christianity* by Dr. James C. Burkee has won the St. Paul, Biglerville Prize for 2014. The prize is awarded every two or three years by the Society to a recently published book of mature scholarship in American Lutheran history. It was established by St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Biglerville to honor their pastor, The Rev. Frederick Weiser, at the time of his retirement. It includes a \$3000 award and was last awarded in 2011.

Burkee's book relates the individuals and events that led to the schism in the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod in the 1970's. A scholarly history of this period had not been written until Burkee, a member of LCMS, began to examine the period referred to as "Seminex" and to ask questions about what really happened in this period. He soon discovered that the wounds were still very deep and the topic relatively untouched. His splendid research includes interviews by the participants as well as church records and the recently available papers of J. A. O. (Jack) Preus, president of LCMS from 1969 to 1981. This is a sad tale of denominational conflict, but it is not

just denominational history. Rather it "is modern church history writ large. It is yet another tale of epic struggle between the forces of modernism and conservatism in American religious life." (*Power*, 2) Burkee discovered that far from being a disagreement about theology or Biblical authority, as church officials had sought to portray it, the conflict was primarily directed and exploited by the social and political views of its leaders, particularly Herman Otten and Jack Preus.



The research in the book is extensive, deep and most importantly, fair. As his research progressed, Burkee withheld judgment on the events of the church but finally emerged as a critic who rejects the tactics and arguments of the "winning" (conservative) side. The result is a book that is sad, instructive and revelatory. It is a fine example of what the Biglerville Prize seeks to honor.

## Need a Little Humor in Your Life?

*When Lent gets way too long and purple, consider this – and laugh!*

### Ten Reasons Ash Wednesday (and Lent) is better than Christmas:

10. No braving the malls looking for Lent gifts
9. No pressure to send "Merry Ash Wednesday" cards
8. No explaining why using chi-rho isn't "X-ing Jesus out" of Lent
7. No dominionist fundagelicals trying to fight culture wars by putting "Jesus resisting temptation in the wilderness" displays on public property
6. No celebrity holiday albums
5. No Ash Wednesday sitcom specials
4. No saccharine email forwards about "the true meaning" of Ash Wednesday
3. No tacky Ash Wednesday sweaters
2. "Remember you are dust and to dust you shall return" extremely difficult to use in consumer marketing strategies
1. Nobody ever says, "Ash Wednesday is really all about the children."



(From the blog of Dave Barnhart)



## *2014 Fall Program to Explore German-American Lutheran Language Conflict*

*By Susan Hill*

“Germans, don’t mix with others! Remain Germans! You will remain so through language: Language unites you firmly; only love and honor it sincerely! No other language will replace yours. Only the mother tongue describes truly what the soul experiences, thinks, feels, and explores. Preserve it, a mirror of the people, then no external force will ever rob it, but will be repelled by the union of the people with the language.” Ernst Ludwig Brauns, author of emigrant manual, 1829 (quoted in Friederike Baer, *The Trial of Frederick Eberle*, New York University Press, New York and London, 2008).

Seeking familiarity of culture and language, German-American immigrants typically clustered in ethnic neighbor-

hoods or villages while transitioning to citizenship in their new land. Traditional Lutheran religious worship services conducted in the mother tongue helped to preserve German identity amid a predominantly English-speaking population. While many believed the right to language choice was guaranteed by American democratic principles, others, who envisioned an America united by one language, claimed the use of German by immigrants was unpatriotic and, in fact, created a “wall of partition between inhabitants of the same land.” The battle between languages reflected the multilingual nature of the young country, but it became a point of passionate conflict within the German Lutheran community itself. LHSMA’s fall program pre-

senters will examine the language question in emerging eastern American Lutheran congregations and institutions.

LHSMA’s Fall Program, *Tradition or Context: German Lutheran Congregations Confront the Melting Pot*, will convene on **Saturday, October 4, 2014, from 9:30 AM – 3:30 PM in Philadelphia**, Pennsylvania’s port city where many German immigrants first stepped onto American soil. The program will be held at Paul’s Run Liberty Lutheran campus, 9896 Bustleton Avenue, and will include with a tour of Philadelphia Lutheran Seminary Archives, 7901 Germantown Pike.

Keynote speaker for the day will be Dr. Friederike

*(Continued on page 7)*

## *Opportunities for Service*

*By Steve Herr*

- Volunteers are needed to staff the society’s display table throughout the day on Tuesday, April 29 at Gettysburg Seminary. Contact Pastor Steve Herr at [pastor@christgettysburg.org](mailto:pastor@christgettysburg.org) or 717-334-5212 if you can help.
- Volunteers are needed to staff the society’s display table at the Lower Susquehanna Synod Assembly on June 6 and 7 at Messiah College. Contact Pastor Steve Herr if interested at [pastor@christgettysburg.org](mailto:pastor@christgettysburg.org) or 717-334-5212
- Encourage your congregation’s youth to participate in the Lutheran Youth History Contest. Consider serving as a project mentor to the youth in your congregation.
- The society has several committees which would welcome your participation. These include the Program, the Lutheran Youth History Contest, Publicity and Membership committees. Contact Pastor Steve Herr if interested at [pastor@christgettysburg.org](mailto:pastor@christgettysburg.org) or 717-334-5212.



## MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL NOTICE!

**LHSMA Annual Membership Renewal**, with dues (\$20 per household or institution), is requested between January 1 and March 31. Your membership **PROVIDES SIGNIFICANT SUPPORT** for our several LHSMA projects which represent a wide spectrum of Lutheran historical interests, some of which we can attend and some which we learn about through the Newsletter.

**Regarding March 31: Are you ready for "A very big THANK YOU"?** If you are among the many who have returned their Renewal Form and dues: we send you a big THANK YOU! If you haven't, we hope you will send your Renewal with dues very soon. For further information about the scope of our projects which your dues help to finance, see the enlightening articles in the Newsletters and also on our website ([www.lhsmsmidatlantic.com](http://www.lhsmsmidatlantic.com)).

**If you're not a member, Come Join Us!** An application form is on the back page of this Newsletter. If you have never been a member and join between October 1 and December 31, the last quarter of the year, your annual dues will also include all of 2015. **We'll be very happy to welcome you!**

We are very appreciative of the involvement and support from our present members, and we are always eager to greet new members.

## 2014 Fall Program, cont.

(Continued from page 6)

Baer, Assistant Professor of History, Pennsylvania State University, Abington and winner of LHSMA's 2011 Biglerville Prize, for her book, *The Trial of Frederick Eberle: Language, Patriotism, and Citizenship in Philadelphia's German Community, 1790–1830*. Baer's topic will be "Like 'wolves in sheep skins.' The Struggle to Introduce English into Philadelphia's St. Michael's and Zion, c 1790–1830."

Dr. John Frantz, Professor of History, Emeri-

tus, Pennsylvania State University, will present "The Ecumenical Henry Melchior Muhlenberg," and Rev. Dr. Karl Krueger, Library Director and Professor of History of Christianity at Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia, will offer "What Goes Around Comes Around: The Language Wars at Philadelphia Lutheran Seminary, 1885–1895."

The cost for the day, including continental breakfast and lunch, will be \$40 per person. Please use the form below to register.

Please complete this form and mail it along with your check made payable to LHSMA to:

Lee Knepp, LHSMA  
P.O. Box 76  
McClure, PA 17841

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone Number or Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Registration Fee (Fall Program): (\$40 per person) x \_\_\_\_\_ persons \_\_\_\_\_

Total Enclosed: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

## LHSMA NEWSLETTER

Lutheran Historical Society of the Mid-Atlantic

61 Seminary Ridge  
Gettysburg, PA 17325

Email: [info@lhsmidatlantic.com](mailto:info@lhsmidatlantic.com)  
Web: [www.lhsmidatlantic.com](http://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](http://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](mailto:info@lhsmidatlantic.com)**

**Subject: LHS Newsletter**



VOLUME 25, 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:

Lee Knepp, LHSMA  
21 North Brown Street  
PO Box 76  
McClure, PA 17841

Spring 2014