

NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 27, NUMBER 2

SUMMER 2016

Science and Religion at the LHS/MA Spring Program

Tuesday, April 19, 2016

by Mark Oldenburg

On Tuesday, April 19, the Lutheran Historical Society of the Mid-Atlantic presented the morning lectures at Gettysburg Seminary's Spring Academy Week. Giving historical depth to the week's concentration on theology and science, these presentations were made by James C. Burkee of Concordia University, New York, and Stephen Herr, president of the Society.



Burkee was recently awarded the St. Paul, Biglerville Prize by the Society for his book, *Power, Politics, and the Missouri Synod: A Conflict That Changed American Christianity*, published in 2011 by Fortress Press. He is Vice Provost of Graduate and Online Academic Affairs of Concordia College, New York. Drawing on research done for that work and done since, Burkee described the way that issues of faith and science affected the life of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod in the mid- and late-twentieth century. He focused particularly on the influence and opinions of Herman Otten, publisher of the *Christian News*, and the ways in which they shaped controversies in the LC-MS related to creation, evolution, and abortion.

Herr, who is pastor of Christ Lutheran Church, Gettysburg, PA presented the teachings of Milton Valentine, 19th century president of both Gettysburg College and Gettysburg Seminary. Valentine, who is known as an American representative of the mediating theology of Nineteenth Century German Mediating Theologian Isaak Dorner, was a fervent proponent of including the discoveries and theo-

ries of modern science in the classroom of church-related colleges. While not uncritical of Darwinism, he was open to its insights at a time when many of his contemporaries were attacking and denying science. Valentine's openness to the modern age was of a piece with his appreciation for the historical critical method in biblical studies, and with the tradition of Gettysburg Seminary in general.

About 175 people attended the morning's program, including Society members, Seminary students, and members of area congregations. Tuesday had the largest attendance of any event in that week, which was connected with and supported by a grant given to Gettysburg Seminary by the American Association for the Advancement of Science, aiming at including scientific literacy in the core curriculum and common life of seminaries. Other events of the week included updates on the Dover School Board case, related to the teaching of creation science in public schools; a theological reflection of urban nature; implications of science for theological anthropology; and the incorporation of science in coursework in Old Testament, Pastoral Care, and Worship.

The year 2016 marks the third year in which the Lutheran Historical Society has held its spring program and annual meeting as part of Gettysburg Seminary's Spring Academy Week. This collaboration continues to offer the Society a larger audience than it could draw by itself, and allows it to contribute historical consideration to this important lifelong learning event.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

President's Corner	2
Welcome Newest LHSMA Members	2
A History of Salem Lutheran Church	3
Member Profile: Paul Tomkiel	4
A Note on the Rev. Daniel Wiseman	6
LHSMA Mission and Purpose	6
LHSMA Membership Renewal Form	7
Lutheran Historic Site Recognition Program	8



SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- *James Burkee and Stephen Herr lecture for Spring Program*
- *Lutherans planning for 500th anniversary of Reformation*
- *Member Joan Patches shares overview of coming publication*
- *Member Paul Tomkiel shares personal profile*
- *Rev. Daniel Wiseman - first Lutheran African-American pastor in our nation's capital*

President's Corner - Summer 2016

On October 31, 2017, Lutherans around the world including here in the Mid-Atlantic region will commemorate and observe the anniversary of the Lutheran



Reformation. On that day Martin Luther posted his 95 Theses arguing against the sale of indulgences and initiating a reform movement which would ultimately reshape the Christian Church. Over the last decade Lutherans and other Protestants have been preparing for this significant anniversary. Visit the Luther decade website www.luther2017.de/en to learn more. This October 31 Lutheran leaders

around the world will gather in Lund, Sweden (where the Lutheran World Federation was founded in 1947) to worship with Pope Francis as part of this observance.

Over the past 500 years Lutheran churches have celebrated other significant Reformation anniversaries. These anniversaries draw attention to the rich theological legacy of the Reformation and its impact for our faith today. This coming year is a wonderful opportunity to deepen our knowledge and appreciation for the theological and historical significance of the Reformation.

Over the past 30 years the society's work has focused on Lutheran history primarily in the 18th, 19th, and

"These anniversaries draw attention to the rich theological legacy of the Reformation and its impact for our faith today."

20th centuries throughout the Mid-Atlantic. Now with this 500th anniversary, I encourage the society as well as the church in its many expressions to utilize this opportunity to reconnect with the earliest elements of Lutheran history. May this upcoming anniversary year be a time of renewal, reform, and re-discovery!

Sincerely in Christ,

*Pastor Stephen Herr,
LHSMMA President*

July 4, 2016, Independence Day

Welcome New Members

LHSMMA welcomes the following new members to the Society since our Spring 2016 Newsletter

Annual Memberships:

Jonathan Adams - *Gettysburg, PA*

Patrick Ballard - *Gettysburg, PA*

Wicky L. Barnes - *Gettysburg, PA*

Cynthia K. Baxter - *Butler, PA*

Martha Sue Boyd - *Hummelstown, PA*

Julie R. Bringman - *Washington, DC*

Dr. James Burkee - *Bronxville, NY*

Beth Clementson - *Gettysburg, PA*

Jennifer Crist - *Harrisburg, PA*

Del A. Del - *Harrisburg, PA*

Andrew R. Geib - *Gettysburg, PA*

Beth Ann R. Hawk - *Lancaster, PA*

Kimberly K. Hintzman - *Frederick, MD*

Pam Illick - *Columbia, PA*

Kristi Keller - *Ellicott City, MD*

Christine Kirchner - *Gettysburg, PA*

Michelle Kunkle - *Irwin, PA*

Ellen Lundie - *Gettysburg, PA*

J. Andrew McCaffery - *Altoona, PA*

Kristen M. Papson - *Erie, PA*

Kevin Stout - *Gettysburg, PA*

Sean & Jill Oglie Titus - *Gettysburg, PA*

Chasity Wiener - *Fallston, MD*

Please notify us of any corrections to the list.

by Jim Mummert

"This grace of God is a very great, strong, mighty and active thing. It does not lie asleep in the soul. Grace hears, leads, drives, draws, changes, works all in man, and lets itself be distinctly felt and experienced. It is hidden, but its works are evident."

— Martin Luther

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A Summary of:

A History of Salem Lutheran Church

By Joan Patches

Editor's Note: LHSMA member Joan Patches shares a descriptive overview of her forthcoming publication on the history of Salem Lutheran Church of Kissel Hill.

A History of Salem Lutheran Church with People and Places of Kissel Hill, Warwick Township, Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, is an attempt to weave together threads of a congregation and its neighborhood from early evangelical immigration years to today. Photos and drawings throughout help tell the story.

The cover of this history shows the outside of the church building in the 19th, 20th and 21st centuries. Early interiors and a current floor plan of the sanctuary and educational addition grace the inside cover.

The "Title Page" follows with a photo of original communion ware. The "Preface" is rather lengthy considering all the people and necessary research it took to build this story. It explains how this work began as a college thesis in 1957 and why it took so long, including connections, which led from person to person, to libraries and more individuals and further places. It tells what became of primary sources and their present conditions.

The manuscript continues with sections explaining the neighborhood, a bit about the founders of Kissel Hill, road names and address changes from rural routes to house numbers. It foreshadows the map of Kissel Hill adapted from the 1957 frontispiece for background of the landmarks. And then 70 landmarks follow the map.

Next we get to the history's first half: "To Begin With." This goes into the early evangelical immigrants adapting from their church lives in Europe to becoming Americanized. Reformed and Lutheran congregations shared the building, a common economic necessity in this new land. This section also tells about buying the land upon which they built Salem in "the style of the time," a red brick, rectangular structure with galleries on three sides and a wineglass pulpit with "corkscrew" stairs. Laying the cornerstone, first communion service, first officers, how the two congregations worked out their union relationship, and use of German language that first generation give us an inkling of those early years. The creeds are included here because they meant so much

to the founders.

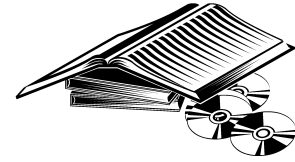
The wineglass pulpits drew attention to the Eucharist. No picture or drawing of Salem's has surfaced, but long-suffering detective work and unexpected surprises have given three others to show the style of the time. Old White Church in Schuylkill County and Zion UCC Church, Brickerville, each has a single stairway to their wineglass pulpit.

Trinity UCC Church, York, had two winding stairways which must have been like Salem's because Salem still has double stairways to its Courtroom-style pulpit.

Emphasis changed from Eucharist to Judgement about the mid 1800's. In 1872 Salem removed the wineglass pulpit and put in a tall judgment-style pulpit, likely as tall as the previous one, so people in the galleries could hear the messages. Members of Salem sawed the tall pulpit in half horizontally in 1910 because the galleries were no longer filled for services. Instead of speaking to empty pews, the pastor was closer to the people.

"Moving Along" tells about the Sunday School starting in a one-room schoolhouse a half mile from the church and eventually moving to the church. In 1884 and 1885 Salem sent members to establish St. Peter, Neffsville, and St. Paul, Lititz. The demise of the Reformed Congregation seems to have happened at the end of the 19th Century. Organizations developed, grew, changed, and some disappeared. In 1922 a Conference committee recommended Salem be closed and used for annual or biennial memorial services. There were discussions with Synod to be part of multiple charges or team ministries. From 1922 to 1949 Pastors Knittle and Shelley supplied without controversies. Proposals for additional space begun in 1933 were realized in 1960. Rev. Paul Whitmoyer supplied from June 1949 until he was called to be Salem's fulltime pastor in 1950. The story continues as Salem moved along with student pastors, vice pastors, interim and supply pastors, and several full-

Church Archives



(Continued on page 4)

Member Profile: Paul Tomkiel

By Paul Tomkiel

I was asked by our Vice President, Mark Oldenburg, to write a brief history of myself and also to tell the story of how I came to be a member of the LHSMA.

My name is Paul Tomkiel. I am the pastor called to St. Paul Lutheran in Pine Grove Mills, Pennsylvania. My parents hail from the Anthracite Coal region of Pennsylvania in northern Schuylkill County. My father's side of the family is of Polish descent and my mother's side is, as we affectionately term it, European Polyglot that is culturally rural Pennsylvania Dutch. My mom was raised in the German Reformed tradition (now United Church of Christ) and my father was raised Roman Catholic. After graduating high school, they both went to college. My mom graduated with her bachelor's in three years so that she could marry my dad and live with him as he finished his degree. After my dad graduated, he was commissioned in the US Army as a second lieutenant, and then my parents went where the Army sent them.

While in active duty, my parents were working to

figure out which denomination they would attend. In this discernment, they met Lutheran Chaplains who encouraged them to consider Lutheranism. My father felt at home with the liturgical tradition, and my mother found agreement with the theology. By the time I was born in 1989, my parents were thoroughly Lutherans.

After being caught in the early 1990s drawdown of military forces, my parents settled in Carlisle, Pennsylvania. This was close to family living across the Commonwealth and also afforded the benefits of living near a military post. We became members of St. Paul Lutheran in Carlisle and were quickly incorporated into the life of the congregation. My parents, my two younger sisters, and I attended Sunday School and were trained as a variety of worship leaders.

When I was in late elementary, I attended the day-camp sponsored by the Cumberland County Historical Society. Here I was introduced to how exciting and interesting history is beyond the textbook.

(Continued on page 5)

SALEM LUTHERAN CHURCH

(Continued from page 3)

timers, the most recent being Pastor Allison Bowlan who began her fulltime position in September 2015.

Meanwhile members worked together to keep the church repaired and comfortable; to maintain communion ware and who should take care of it; kept up with educational material, confirmations, and new members. There is even discussion in Council Minutes concerning where the church mail should be delivered. Dr. Joseph Baker's special Homecoming Services have a special place. Dedications of different worship materials, of the Memorial Organ named for one of Salem's fallen soldiers, and the WWII Honor Roll all held significant meanings. Renovations of the original building are touched on briefly. Many little nuances take readers back in time into now.

"Documents" are next. Typed, but not original, documents used in the old thesis are included to show formal language and thinking of the times. Among them are: The Agreement for the Land; Con-

stitutions and By-Laws of the Sunday School and Congregation; the 1899 Charter of the Church (The 1824 Charter which Dr. John Loose mentions in a letter to Pastor Shannon has not been found); some Council Minutes for references; names on the Community Honor Roll for persons serving in WWII; Pastor Whitmoyer's Call Letter; and Facts about the Parsonage. Other interesting pieces are the letter from Dr. John Loose to Pastor Shannon; a letter to the president of Synod protesting St. Paul Lititz congregation's resolution to separate from Salem; and letters of condolences upon deaths of a pastor and a member of Salem.

"Sources" name archival libraries, books, newspapers, and persons who made this work happen. The final page has Last Words:

May God the Father
 God the Son,
 And
 God the Holy Spirit
 Use this work to build up
 His kingdom on earth,
 In this place and wherever
 He sends us.

PAUL TOMKIEL

(Continued from page 4)

Also during my summers as an elementary schooler, my family began to be regulars at one of Camp Nawakwa's family camps. As many of you know, Nawakwa was founded in 1929 by the Rev. Dr. Michael Hadwin Fischer as a place for our faith to be strengthened. As such, worship is foundational to life at Nawakwa. After our first year, my family made Nawakwa our yearly vacation spot.

Immediately after my eighth grade year and one week after my confirmation on Pentecost Sunday, 2003, I attended the Harrisburg Area Confirmation Camp that is hosted by Camp Nawakwa. It was during this week that I finally discerned my call to the ministry of Word and Sacrament. This realization of my call naturally shaped the way I pursued my academic career.

In searching for colleges, I wanted to attend a Lutheran college. At the suggestion of my band director, I looked at Susquehanna University. I fell in love and I managed to attend, graduating May 15, 2011. While at Susquehanna I majored in Religion and Economics. While I was enrolled there, SU celebrated its sesquicentennial and encouraged students to be reflective on our history. I therefore spent some time throughout my years in the archives of SU. Often times I had a direction I would be studying, but that would lead to surprising new discoveries.

During the summer breaks from studies, I worked at Camp Nawakwa and worked with, and became friends with, Sr. Marianne Brock who is Nawakwa's director. Marianne's love of the history of Nawakwa would find its way into our daily lives as staff members. With my predisposition to loving history, this stuck with me and I found a love and excitement for Nawakwa's history.

On May 1, 2011, my mom died and entered the Church Triumphant. Part of my grieving was to hold onto my genealogical history through my mother's side. This caused me to pay attention to my cultural heritage

as a member of the "fancy" Pennsylvania Dutch.

I began attending classes at Lutheran Theological Seminary at Gettysburg in the fall of 2011. While I graduated May 15, was called to May 31, and ordained June 4 all in the span of a month, my official entry into the Society happened while I was at Gettysburg.

During the fall semester of my Mid-dler year, I was a student in Maria Erling's History of Lutheranism class. I first heard about the Society when Maria was trying to drum up entries for the Abdel Ross Wentz Prize. She suggested that our semester papers, if extended by a few pages, could qualify for entry. This was just icing on top of my overall enjoyment of the class. "I could get paid for entering a paper I am already writing? What a deal!" I mused to myself.

During the class, my love of history joined with the heritage of Nawakwa and the history of Susquehanna University. My essay took shape around the suspension of Susquehanna University's theological department, from which Dr. Fischer had graduated. I took the responsibilities in writing my essay with highest regard. Not only did I spend time in the A.R. Wentz Library stacks but also in the archives of Susquehanna University. In my exploration, I had fun. It was a joy to put the pieces of the puzzle of history together.

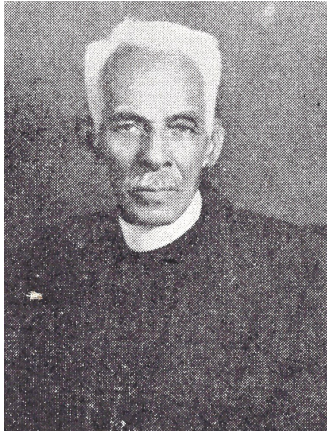
Unfortunately, I could not complete the length required for entering the A.R. Wentz Prize. However, I found the process exhilarating. I also found that the LHSMA was a group with whom I could continue to discuss how cool Lutheran history is. What finally sealed my desire to join was that the Society had, among its members, Marianne Brock and a variety of my seminary professors. Once it was my birthday in 2013, my dad asked what I wanted, and I told him that I wanted a lifetime membership with the Lutheran Historical Society of the Mid-Atlantic. Thankfully, that's what he gave me.



A Note on the Rev. Daniel E. Wiseman (1858–1942)

By Phil Teigen

Rev. Daniel E. Wiseman served the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Our Redeemer in Washington, D. C., from its founding until his death in 1942. The



first Lutheran African-American pastor in the nation's capital, he was the only one during his lifetime. Although not the first Lutheran African-American pastor east of the Alleghenies, no other served as long or as successfully as he did.

A faithful, loyal, and beloved pastor, he served all the spiritual needs of his congregation. In addition he led, or spoke for, more than a dozen civic organizations. For twenty years he chaired the Lucretia Mott Elementary School Parent and Teacher Association, the Howard Park Civic Association, and a variety of Howard University Alumni Associations. For thirty years he was a Director of the District's Anti-Tuberculosis Committee. In addition to these long-term commitments, he organized and raised funds for summer camps, war bonds, hospitals, the unemployed, and veterans, among others. Throughout his career, he was a member of the District's Interdenominational Ministerial Union. This organization of African-American pastors promoted spiritual growth among

its members and actively participated in the religious and political life of the city, including resistance to white supremacy and Jim Crow practices.

Born in St. Thomas, Danish West Indies, Wiseman immigrated to Brooklyn, New York, as a teenager, attending high school there and joining St. Matthew's (English) Lutheran Church. General Synod pastors Michael W. Hamma (1836-1913) and John George Butler (1826-1909), recognizing Wiseman's potential, persuaded him to attend Howard University's Theological Department. Graduated in 1884 he started a Sunday School soon thereafter leading to the establishment of Our Redeemer Lutheran Church in 1885. The Maryland Synod ordained him in 1886. One of Howard University's most distinguished theological graduates, he received honorary degrees from the University in 1909 and 1924. For his work among the poor and dispossessed, he became known as the "mayor of the city's neglected element." The centennial history of the Maryland Synod characterized Wiseman and his congregation this way: "The church, though small from the standpoint of membership, has stood in the forefront in all movements for the welfare of humanity. It has not only preached a gospel of regeneration, repentance, and faith as being essential in the making of Christians for the other world, but it has tried to instill in the minds of its members and hearers the necessity of these things for the present as well as for the life to come."

MISSION AND PURPOSE

LHSMA's Purpose:

The mission of the Lutheran Historical Society of the Mid-Atlantic is to preserve, to document, and to stir interest in the rich Lutheran traditions which are the foundation of the church. Specifically, the Society intends to foster knowledge and use of Lutheran history in the synods and congregations and among individuals.

The Society carries out its mission by:

- Encouraging the collection and preservation of archival materials;
- Stimulating interest in synodical and congregational history;
- Assisting scholarly research;
- Publishing a newsletter; and
- Maintaining communication with others active in the field of Lutheran church history.



Lutheran Historical Society Of the Mid-Atlantic

Application for Membership/Membership Renewal

(Please submit this Annual Membership Renewal form.)

(Please print or write clearly. Thank you!)

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Congregation (*if applicable*): Please list name, town, and denomination.

I desire membership in LHSMA as a ____ New Member or as a ____ Renewal.

Date of application: _____

____ \$250 Life Membership for an individual or institution

____ \$ 20 Annual Membership for an individual or institution

(Annual membership is for a calendar year.)

____ I wish to give a donation to the society (see below for details). Amount \$ _____

I am interested in the following:

____ Research

____ Reading

____ Publishing

____ Other: _____

Financial gifts to further the work of the Society are always welcome and greatly appreciated. Such gifts may be mailed to LHSMA, in care of the treasurer, Lee Knepp, at the address below. LHSMA is a 501C-3 organization and your gift is tax deductible as permitted by law.

Please complete this form and your check made payable to LHSMA. Mail to:

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

Lutheran Historical Society of the Mid-Atlantic

61 Seminary Ridge
Gettysburg, PA 17325

Email: info@lutheranhistoricalsociety.com
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*“Preserving, documenting,
and sharing the history of
Lutherans and Lutheranism in
the Mid-Atlantic and
surrounding areas.”*

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**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@lutheranhistoricalsociety.com

Subject: LHS Newsletter



VOLUME 27, NUMBER 2

Upcoming Deadline for Historic Site-Recognition Program

By Phil Teigen

Through its Historical Site Recognition Program, the Lutheran Historical Society of the Mid-Atlantic (LHSMA) recognizes individuals, congregations, and other institutions, whose history or biography bears witness of their baptismal covenant to present and future generations.

To fulfill this purpose the LHSMA recognizes 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 LHSMA 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, grave-sites, out-door sculpture.

Recognition consists of a short

essay and appropriate images of the site added to the LHSMA website; presentation of a plaque for mounting at the site; and a \$750 grant for preserving the site's historical records or disseminating historical information about the site.

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 our website at:

<https://www.lutheranhistoricalsociety.com/historic-site-recognition/> and mail before September 1, 2016 to:

Lutheran Historical Society of the
Mid-Atlantic
c/o Site Recognition Committee
61 Seminary Ridge
Gettysburg, PA 17325

To contact the Site Committee with questions or for additional information email Site Committee Chair Phil Teigen at phil41@icloud.com.

