

NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 21, NUMBER 2

SUMMER 2010

Dr. Nelson Strobert to Speak on Daniel Alexander Payne At LHSMA Fall Program Saturday, October 23, 2010

Location: Lutheran Church of the Holy Comforter, Baltimore, MD

Rev. Dr. Nelson T. Strobert, Professor of Christian Education and Director of Multicultural Programs at the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Gettysburg, will be the featured speaker at LHSMA's Fall Program on Saturday, October 23, 2010. Members and friends of the Society will gather at the Lutheran Church of the Holy Comforter, 5513 York Road, Baltimore, Maryland, to hear Dr. Strobert's address on Daniel Alexander Payne, Gettysburg Lutheran Seminary trained African-American clergyman and a major shaper of the African Methodist Episcopal Church in the 19th century. A parish pastor at Bethel AME Church in Baltimore, Payne became a

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Palmyra Student Wins Inaugural Lutheran Church History Contest for Youth

The Lutheran Historical Society of the Mid-Atlantic recently awarded Zachary Engle, son of Tim and Jennifer Engle of Palmyra, first prize in its inaugural Lutheran History Contest for Youth. Engle received the award on April 20th at the society's annual meeting in Gettysburg where he also presented his project to over 75 attendees. The Palmyra Middle School student preceded keynote speaker Dr. Maria Erling, a professor at Gettysburg Seminary, who presented on the history of the Lutheran Youth movement in the

United States. Engle presented a history of Salem Evangelical Lutheran Church in Lebanon where he and his family are members.

The young historian highlighted the rich history of Salem Lutheran Church, which has had many distinguished pastors beginning with John Caspar Stoeber and includes current Lower Susquehanna Synod (ELCA) Bishop B. Penrose Hoover. The Reverend James Tanner, the current pastor at Salem, noted his and the congregation's excitement for

Engle's award. Along with his family in attendance, Engle appreciated the fact that Pastor Tanner, along with other members of the congregation, traveled from Lebanon to the campus of the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Gettysburg, where the Historical Society meeting took place, to see the presentation and the award ceremony.

This is the first year the Lutheran Historical Society of the Mid-Atlantic has offered a prize in Lutheran Church history

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SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- *During Spring program, members considered past, present, and future of youth ministry in ELCA*
- *LHSMA expands size of Board of Directors*
- *Panel will discuss issues of racism during Fall program*
- *John Deeben discusses building of Eden Lutheran Church during the 19th century*
- *LHSMA welcomes six new members*

President's Corner

Greetings to all members and friends of the Lutheran Historical Society of the Mid-Atlantic! I hope this finds you enjoying these summer days despite the heat. I would like to share with you some exciting happenings with the society. At our annual meeting we elected new board members and were able to expand the board to our constitutional provision for fifteen board members. This increase of six new board members will certainly help the society as it prepares to move forward and fulfill its mission. You will find a picture of the board and their names located elsewhere in this newsletter. The board will meet in late August and I look forward

ward to working with this talented group as we explore how we might grow the society and consider how to best maintain the exciting programming we already have in place.

At the annual meeting in April the society awarded its first prize in the Lutheran Church History Contest for Youth to Zach Engle. I hope the society will be able to continue to sponsor this prize and encourage young people to become involved in church history. I encourage all our members to invite young persons to participate in next year's contest.

"...I hope the society will be able to continue to sponsor this prize and encourage young people to become involved in church history..."



I hope to see you all at the Fall program in Baltimore which will feature one of our society's members, Dr. Nelson Strobert, presenting on Daniel Alexander Payne. A flyer with registration details will be sent out later this summer. I encourage all society members to invite others to join the society and help us stir interest in the rich heritage of the Lutheran Church.

May God's peace be with you!

Sincerely in Christ,
Stephen Herr

New Board Members Elected

At the annual meeting of the society on April 20, the society elected six new members to its board of directors and re-elected three current members. Peggy Brookshire of Springfield, VA and John Philip Kline of Cornwall, PA were elected to a one year term. Judy Simonson of Artemas, PA and Andrew White of Chambersburg, PA were elected to serve a two year term. Finally, James Vigen of Riverdale, MD and John Fehringer of New Oxford were elected to a three year term of service along with incumbents Susan Hill, Barbara Luebbe, and Maria Erling.

With these elections the Board expanded from nine members to fifteen members which is the maximum number the Society's constitution allows. The nominating committee under the direction of Vice-President John Deeben worked hard and successfully to fill all the seats on the society's board. The expanded board will provide additional leadership as the society strives to fulfill its mission and work.

Welcome New Members

LHSMA welcomes the following new members since our Spring 2010 Newsletter:

New Members:

Charles Dahl Drenning -
Woodsboro, MD
Jonathan Haseley -
Niagara Falls, NY
Marvin Huggins - St. Louis, MO
Philip Teigen - Kensington, MD
Madelleine Thomas -
Burlingame, CA

New Life Member:

Dale Eck - Macungie, PA

Please notify us of any corrections to the list.

LHSMA 2010 - 2011 Board of Directors

Officers

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

Other Board Members

Peggy Brookshire	Susan Hill	Judy Simonson
Maria Erling	John "Phil" Kline	James Vigen
John Fehringer	Barbara Luebbe	Andrew White
George Handley	George Mocko	

Board Emeriti

Charles Glatfelter
Michael Kurtz
Fred Wentz

Spring Program Considers:

“What Happened to the Luther League?”

Lutheran Historical Society of the Mid-Atlantic (LHSMa) president, Rev. Stephen R. Herr, welcomed nearly 70 members and friends of the society to the annual Spring Program on Tuesday, April 20, 2010 at 10:00 AM in the Valentine Hall Auditorium of the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Gettysburg's campus. For the second year in a row, the society's event preceded the Seminary's Spring Convocation offering a historical lecture and program of interest in the morning time slot just prior to the convocation's 11:00 AM registration.

Rev. Dr. Maria Erling, associate professor of the History of Christianity in North American Lutheranism and Missions and director of Teaching Parish, was the speaker for the society's event. While researching for her recent book, *The Augustana Story: Shaping North American Lutheranism*, co-authored with Mark Granquist and published in 2008 by Augsburg-Fortress Press, Erling discovered Luther League archives that enticed her into exploration of the once-vital Lutheran youth organization.

Erling believes the ongoing history of the Augustana Lutheran Church is indebted to the Luther League which was first named in 1895 and then nationally organized in the 1920's with a focus on young adults. Building leaders in the Lutheran tradition was a central goal in the organization and the church benefited from many individuals who participated in the training. In times of war and economic crisis, the church responded by building na-

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Results of Lutheran Church History Contest for Youth

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to middle and high school students. In awarding the prize to Engle, president of the society, Stephen Herr, noted the society's commitment to helping youth develop an interest in church history. The society hopes to continue this prize on an annual basis.

Established in 1843 and reorganized in 1989, the Lutheran Historical Society of the Mid-Atlantic seeks to preserve, to document, and to stir interest in the rich Lutheran traditions which are the foundation of the church. Specifically, the society fosters knowledge and the use of Lu-

theran history in Lutheran synods, congregations and individuals throughout the mid-Atlantic area. More information about the society can be found at

www.lhsmidatlantic.com or contact Stephen Herr at 717-334-5212.



Contest Photo

Pictured to the left are:

First Row: Lila Lebo (archivist at Salem Lutheran Church in Lebanon), Zachary Engle, Jen Engle, The Rev. Michael Cooper-White, (President of the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Gettysburg), Tim Engle

Second Row: Keith Lebo, The Rev. H. James Tanner (Pastor of Salem Lutheran Church, Lebanon), The Rev. Stephen Herr (President of the Lutheran Historical Society of the Mid-Atlantic), The Rev. Mark Olson, (Director of Admissions at LTSG)

What Happened to the Luther League?

(Continued from Page 3)

tional and international awareness and a passion for mission into youth participants. The Lutheran World Federation involved youth in their work in the 1940's challenging them to be aware of world conditions and to think through their roles in the world and the church. Intentional leadership training schools developed for youth in the 1950's and gathered participants together in cities like Boston and Minneapolis/St. Paul.

In the 1960's, after the merger that resulted in the Lutheran Church in America, the structure for youth work changed. Erling told of a loss of zeal for youth work in the LCA that led to a corresponding loss of planning and financial support to benefit youth programming. "Youth Ministry" became the buzz word in the context of growing student social and political unrest. Luther League seemed to describe another era. It

seemed too traditional for a world concerned with liberation theology in third world countries. Luther League's administrative training gave way to youth ministry's therapeutic or counseling focus. The plug was pulled on Luther League in the 1970's.

In an effort to fill in a gap in relating church history to present day Lutheran youth, LHSMA has instituted an annual Lutheran Church History Contest for students in middle school and high school. Eighth-grader Zachary Engle, a youth from Salem Evangelical Lutheran Church, Lebanon, Pennsylvania, attended the spring program on April 20th at the invitation of the society to present his 2010 prize-winning PowerPoint submission, "My Congregation's Story." As winner of first prize in the middle school category, Zachary received a certificate and congratulations from President Herr as well as a check for \$125 from the society for his efforts.

Zachary was accompanied to the event by his parents, his pastor, and friends from his congregation. Seminary president Rev. Michael Cooper-White greeted and congratulated Zachary on behalf of the Seminary. Seminary Director of Admissions, Rev. Mark W. Olson, presented Zachary with a Seminary T-shirt and other items of interest to youth bearing the Seminary's logo. Zachary and his family were guests of the society for lunch and later enjoyed a student-guided Seminary campus tour.

The contrast of hearing about the historical Luther League and then hearing from a current participant in Lutheran youth ministry was both pleasing and thought-provoking. The morning's events served the membership well: informing us of the past, inviting us to engage in the present, and challenging us to plan for the future.

2010-2011 LHSMA BOARD OF DIRECTORS



First Row: Peggy Brookshire, Susan Hill, John Deeben, Judy Simonson, Barbara Luebbe, George Handley

Second Row: George Mocko, Andrew White, Maria Erling, Stephen Herr, James Vigen, Lee Knepp, Don Housely

Not Pictured: John Philip Kline and John Fehring

Building a “Paradise” in the Wilderness: The Eden Evangelical Lutheran Church at Plum Creek, Northumberland County, 1844–1845

John Deeben

In the early nineteenth century, the Plum Creek district of Augusta Township, Northumberland County, Pennsylvania, though moderately populated, represented a main point of settlement outside the county seat of Sunbury. One of the principal thoroughfares of the township, the Plum Creek Road, ran the entire length of the valley. Linking the Tulpehocken Road (Route 890) with the Old King’s Highway (Route 61), it facilitated travel from Sunbury southward to Shamokin. Through the fertile pastures of the valley also flowed Plum Creek, a small tributary of Shamokin Creek that provided the main drainage for that area of the township. Along this well-watered and accessible valley many of the most well-known settlers of the county, including John Philip Weiser (great-grandson of Conrad Weiser), made their homesteads.

Under the leadership of Lutheran minister John Peter Shindel, the Plum Creek settlers gathered to organize a congregation called the Eden Evangelical Lutheran Church on April 21, 1844. The accessibility of existing churches in the area certainly influenced the rise of this particular congregation. Although the Plum Creek Valley occupied a central location within the county and provided a thruway for east-west travel, the established churches in 1844—Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church in Sunbury, the Zion Lutheran and Reformed “Stone” Church in Augustaville, and St. John’s Lutheran Church in Snyder town—lay beyond the fringes of its settled boundaries. Many of the Plum Creek settlers who founded Eden belonged to the Augustaville congregation, but the inherent difficulties of nineteenth-century travel—in the age of horsepower and unpaved, muddy country lanes—posed frequent problems to regular worship attendance. This logistical factor highlighted in a very physical sense the need for a more convenient, centralized place of worship.

The evangelical influence of the Lutheran faith in the Northumberland hinterland provided an even more fundamental impetus for the organization of the Eden congregation. A major part of Pastor Shindel’s mission

as he rode the county circuit involved the cultivation of new conclaves of Lutheran followers. His success in establishing new churches in the wilderness (including St. John’s at Snyder town and Immanuel Lutheran Church in Little Mahanoy Township in 1828, and Trinity Lutheran Church in Selinsgrove, Snyder County, in 1843) very likely inspired the Plum Creek settlers to form their own congregation. That the Stone Church congregation at this time began to experience some divisions over new ideas being introduced by Shindel no doubt influenced their course of action even more.

Even before the Plum Creek settlers formulated the articles of agreement for their new congregation, they began construction of the first church building. Preliminary work commenced about March 25, 1844 on a plot of ground along the Plum Creek Road donated by Philip Weiser from his extensive homestead. The cornerstone was laid a month later, on April 21, and the one-story frame structure was completed on November 2, 1844. During that time, a variety of work was carried out by men of the congregation as well as many of their community neighbors. Surviving building account records reveal much interesting and detailed information concerning the nature of the work involved and the manner in which it was performed.

All facets of labor on the church building were organized by subscription. Men from the congregation and surrounding community first pledged a monetary sum in support of the project. They then had the option of paying cash, donating the value of their pledge in building materials, or working the sum off in sweat equity. This arrangement proved satisfactory to the men who actually worked on the project; in fact, many donated their time as well as their financial resources. A few months after the church was completed, on March 15, 1845, they signed a statement in which they agreed “to pay the Sum of our Subscriptions and we that have work[ed] over our Subscription and gave materials to Building said house, be considered in full,

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Eden Church

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Paid what we have done Over our Subscriptions.”

Actual labor on the church took place in several stages, and comprised a variety of artisan activities. Between March and November 1844, more than twenty work parties were organized. The men performed an array of jobs, from simple preparatory work such as hauling materials to the building site, cutting boards and shingles, and mixing mortar for the foundation, to more intricate carpentry jobs. These latter tasks included masonry work on the foundation, shoring timber (building the stud walls), making wooden lathes (thin, wooden strips nailed to the interior framework, upon which the plaster finish was applied), plastering, and whitewashing the church. Most of the preparatory work took place from March to June, with the heavy construction occurring from August through November.

All of the men who worked on the building project contributed varying amounts of time and labor. For the most part, those who belonged to the congregation, particularly the council officers, performed a majority of the labor. Daniel P. Conrad, for example, spent several days in April and May hauling materials and cutting wood. In August he delivered more boards and spent one day making lathes. Then, during October, he hauled lime, sand and bricks for four days, made lathes one day, filled concrete at the walls one day, and helped whitewash the building. Conrad also lent a hand with the finish-up work on November 12, the last day of the project. In a similar manner, George Savidge delivered two pounds of nails, at eight cents per pound, for window frames on March 27. In April he spent two days transporting materials with three horses. During May he bought 4,000 shingles and another pound of nails, spent one day shoring timber, and another day hauling. On August 17 he delivered another load of boards with Daniel Conrad, and then spent a half-day making lathes. On September 11, Savidge brought more lumber from a neighboring sawmill. During October he spent a half-day tending the plasterer, and a half-day mixing sand. Finally, on November 2, he helped put finishing touches on the church. In addition, Savidge donated the catechism and the Record Book. John Dreher, George Fausold, Samuel Krieger, and Philip Weiser all donated similar amounts of time and labor. As well, Henry Fausold built ten door and window frames, while his

brother George Fausold built the doors and the altar.

While these council members performed the majority of the work on the church, other members and neighbors in the community offered assistance. The oldest member of the congregation, 79-year-old Christian Krieger, spent one day in June boring shingles (a job worth fifty cents towards his initial pledge), and then paid the balance of his five-dollar subscription in cash. Similarly, William Reeser and Joseph Fausold spent two days on masonry work in April, Joseph Krigbaum five days on general labor, Henry Savidge two days on labor and two days in October slacking lime and whitewashing the church, and Jonathan Fausold two days on general labor. Fausold also paid \$2.68 towards the general subscription fund, and another \$1.32 to his brother George to complete his \$5.00 pledge. Non-members—friends and neighbors from the Zion Lutheran & Reformed “Stone” Church congregation in nearby Augustaville—also donated materials to the project. Peter Lazarus provided an oak and two pine trees for lumber, Daniel Bostian two days worth of carpentry work, Samuel Savidge eight bushels of lime, Henry Malick two dollars worth of boards, and Lewis Dewart fifty pounds of nails. Jacob Raker, Jacob Bloom and John Wolf also gave 215 feet, 200 feet, and 167 feet of boards respectively.

The final cost of the Eden Lutheran church building totaled \$267.56. The existing list of expenditures in the building records outlines an interesting array of items purchased by the building committee. In addition to paying \$9.37 for such materials as boards, bushels of lime, brick nails and putty, the congregation spent 20 cents for a lock and hinges, 61 cents for hinge bolts, and \$1.62 for oil. As far as a heating system for the church was concerned, a coal stove was purchased from Johannes Dreher for \$7.00, stove pipe for \$3.47, and two loads of coal for 87 cents. An extra \$4.00 was paid to Daniel Wensel for plastering, while John Brown received one dollar for sawing.

The subscription pledges to pay for these expenses only amounted to \$169. So many members overpaid their pledges, however, that the actual sum collected came to \$242.48. Johannes Dreher, for example, pledged five dollars but actually contributed \$13.62 in work and materials. George and John Savidge, George and Henry Fausold, Samuel Krieger, Philip and Solomon Weiser, and Joseph Krigbaum all followed suit.

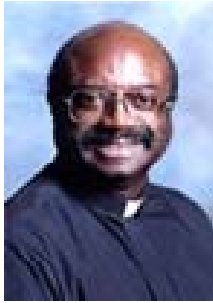
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LHSMA Plans Fall Program for Baltimore

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bishop in the African Methodist Episcopal Church in 1848. He was one of the founders of Wilberforce University in Ohio. In 1863 he became its first president, and the first African-American president of a college in the United States. Strobert will discuss ways this theologian and educator helped to bridge the gap between black and white, slave and free, as a person of the gospel.

Following Strobert's remarks on Payne, a panel of Delaware-Maryland Synod (ELCA) pastors and administrators will address the topic: "Daniel Payne, the continuing issues of racism." Panel mem-



bers will be Rev. Ginny Price, assistant to the bishop; Linda Chinnia, retired principal in Baltimore City Public Schools and co-coordinator of synod assembly and volunteers; Rev. Michael Guy, pastor of St. Philip's Church, 501 N. Caroline St. in Baltimore; Gerry Grant, former chair of the synod multicultural committee; and Rev. David Eischenhuth, pastor of the Lutheran Church of the Holy Comforter, a Baltimore multi-cultural congregation. Bishop George P. Mocko, retired from the Delaware-Maryland Synod, will moderate the panel.

The program will begin with registration and coffee hour at 9:30 AM and will conclude at 1:00 PM.

SAVE THE DATE AND PLAN TO JOIN US!

Eden Church

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The \$25.08 deficit in the overall building cost was quickly covered by an additional offering of \$11.55 received at the cornerstone laying on April 21, 1844, and another collection of \$18.02 taken during the dedication ceremony for the new edifice. The offering collected at the first communion service in January, 1845 provided another \$3.32. It could therefore be said that faith and generosity as well as hard work made the first permanent sanctuary of the Eden Evangelical Lutheran Church a reality. The building served the congregation well for almost 30 years until a larger, two-story brick structure (which still exists to the present day) was built at the same location in 1873.



"I was reading about eternity on the Internet and accidentally hit 'enter.'"

Call for Church History Profiles

Church Archives



ter on historical profiles of ELCA Region 8 congregations.

In the spirit of promoting and disseminating more information about our Lutheran heritage, the Lutheran Historical Society of the Mid-Atlantic would like to start a regular feature in the society's newsletter on historical profiles of ELCA Region 8 congregations.

If your congregation is preparing or has already published a church history, please consider submitting a brief historical sketch of 1000-1500 words to the Lutheran Historical Society of the Mid-Atlantic, Attn: President Stephen Herr, 61 Seminar Ridge, Gettysburg, PA 17325.

All submissions will eventually be posted to the Society's web site at www.lhsmidatlantic.com.

LHSMA NEWSLETTER

Lutheran Historical Society of the Mid-Atlantic

61 Seminary Ridge
Gettysburg, PA 17325

Email: pastor@christgettysburg.org
Web: www.lhsmidatlantic.com

*“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

pastor@christgettysburg.org

Subject: LHS Newsletter



VOLUME 21, NUMBER 2

LHSMA Membership Application

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Congregation (if applicable): _____

For **Family Memberships** only: Please list spouse and all children under 18 to be included in membership: _____

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

- _____ \$ 250 Life Membership
- _____ \$ 50 Contribution Membership
- _____ \$ 40 Family Membership (*two persons in the same household and any children under 18 years of age*)
- _____ \$ 25 Individual Membership
- _____ \$ 15 Senior (62+) Membership
- _____ \$ 15 Student Membership
- _____ \$ 25 Institutional Membership (*i.e., libraries, colleges, seminaries, etc.*)

(All memberships, except Life, are renewable annually.)

_____ 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 return this form and your check made payable to **LHSMA**:

Lutheran Historical Society of the Mid-Atlantic

61 Seminary Ridge

Gettysburg, PA 17325

Summer 2010