

NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 22, NUMBER 1

SPRING 2011

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Mark your Calendars!!

Lutheran Historical Societies planning. . . 2012 Trip to Germany

The Lutheran Historical Societies of the Mid-Atlantic and of Eastern Pennsylvania invite members to consider a trip to Germany:

Tentatively scheduled for May 17–30, 2012

The venture will focus on locations important to both Henry Melchior Muhlenberg and Martin Luther, including Eisenach and Wartburg Castle, Einbeck (Muhlenberg's birthplace), Erfurt, Marburg, Groshennersdorf, Herrenhut, and Worms.

Organized by Christian Tours Europe, in partnership with the ELCA Wittenberg Center and the Francke Foundation in Halle, the trip will be led by

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LHSMA to Celebrate **Henry Melchior Muhlenberg** *2011 Spring and Fall Programs*

Spring Date: **Tuesday, May 3, 2011**

Location: Lutheran Theological Seminary at Gettysburg

The year 2011 is a significant anniversary year for Lutherans in America. It was on September 6, 1711 that Henry Melchior Muhlenberg was born. Primarily educated at Halle, the center for German Pietism with its deep interest in social

ministry and overseas mission activity and support, Muhlenberg was ordained and served a small parish for two years before being chosen by the Halle elders to fulfill a request from three congregations in southeastern Pennsylvania needing pastoral

care. He accepted the call, crossed the Atlantic and arrived in Philadelphia in late 1742. What was intended to be a three-year term call instead lasted until Muhlenberg's death 45 years later. In the process, Henry Melchior

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SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- Lutherans join with AME Church to honor Alexander Payne
- Spring program presentation to be given by Muhlenberg expert John E. Peterson
- Article explains details for gathering and organizing congregational archives
- Gettysburg Seminary and Adams County (PA) receive grants to renovate Schmucker Hall

President's Corner

Recently I attended a meeting held by our community's "Daughters of the American Revolution." At this meeting local Gettysburg students received awards for essays written about Paul Revere. The essay contest corresponded with the 275th anniversary of Paul Revere's birth. I was delighted and encouraged to hear the several fifth and sixth graders read their winning essays. The contest invited the students to approach the topic of telling the story of Paul Revere from an autobiographical perspective. The students and

their essays reinforced my conviction that there are many effective ways to teach history and that such endeavors which encourage students to explore history through the use of the written word continue to have merit.



"Our Society seeks to encourage the exploration of Lutheran history by all ages. ... will help cultivate new generations of Lutheran historians, archivists, and scholars..."

Our Society seeks to encourage the exploration of Lutheran history by all ages. The society currently offers three writing contests: the

Youth History contest for middle and high school youth, the Abdel Ross Wentz prize to seminarians

and graduate students, and the St. Paul Biglerville Prize for works of mature scholarship. On behalf of the board of directors I invite you to encourage students to participate in these contests. By doing so, you will help cultivate new generations of Lutheran historians, archivists, and scholars. Information on these contests can be found on our webpage.

Remember our annual meeting on Tuesday, May 3 in Gettysburg with the topic on Henry Melchior Muhlenberg. I hope to see you there!

Sincerely in Christ,
Stephen Herr
President

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LHSMA board member Dr. Andrew J. White, Hagan Professor *emeritus* at the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia.

Details are still in the planning stages, but if you would like to obtain a Prospectus or field questions about the trip, please contact:

Jack White
717-261-5724
jackmimi@hotmail.com.

by John Deeben

LHSMA 2010 - 2011 Board of Directors

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Gettysburg Seminary Marks Payne Bicentennial

Press Release by John Spangler

On February 16, 2011, The Lutheran Theological Seminary at Gettysburg marked the 200th anniversary of the birth of one of its most distinguished alumni, Daniel Alexander Payne, with a festival service of Holy Communion. The evening service was sponsored in partnership with Payne Theological Seminary, the African Methodist Episcopal (AME) Church, and area congregations served by current AME seminarians and alumni. Leaders of the AME Church who joined Gettysburg Seminary in celebrating the life of Payne included the Right Rev. Richard F. Norris, Bishop of the

AME Church's First District, and the Rev. Dr. Leah Gaskin Fitchue, President of Payne Seminary. Daniel Alexander Payne served as a Bishop of the AME Church and later president of Wilberforce University in Wilberforce, Ohio. In October 2010, Payne was the topic of the Lutheran Historical Society of the Mid-Atlantic's Fall Program held at the Lutheran Church of the Holy Comforter in Baltimore, Maryland.



Driven out of South Carolina, Payne was welcomed in Gettysburg by the Seminary's founder, Samuel Simon Schmucker, and became the first African American to receive formal theological education in a Lutheran school. Payne studied at Gettysburg from 1835 to 1837 and engaged in ecumenical outreach ministries sponsored by Lutheran organizations for several years before becoming a leader in the AME Church. Some called Payne "the

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Spring Program on Muhlenberg Scheduled for May 3rd

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Muhlenberg emerged as the leading patriarch for American Lutherans.

In 2011 the Lutheran Historical Society of the Mid-Atlantic will highlight the life, ministry, accomplishments and progeny of Henry Melchoir Muhlenberg at both our Spring and Fall meetings as we celebrate the 300th Anniversary of his birth. The LHSMA Spring Program will take place on Tuesday, May 3, 2011 with a presentation on:

**"The Lutheran
Patriarch - And More"**
by noted Muhlenberg expert
John E. Peterson

A graduate of St. Olaf College with a degree in Church History as well as a member of the Lutheran Historical Society of the Mid-Atlantic, Peterson has served for over 30 years as Curator of the Lutheran Archives Center at Philadelphia (affiliated with and located on the campus of the Lutheran Theological Seminary at

Philadelphia). The Lutheran Archives Center houses the extensive collection of the Ministerium of Pennsylvania, including Muhlenberg's journals which are currently being restored. As a highlight of Peterson's program, a "Show and Tell" of the first restored volumes will take place.

The Spring Program will take place at Valentine Hall on the campus of the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Gettysburg, Pennsylvania. The pro-

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SPRING PROGRAM ON HENRY MELCHIOR MUHLENBERG

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gram will be held once again in conjunction with the Seminary's annual Spring Convocation. **Registration with coffee begins at 9:00 AM**, followed by the main presentation. As part of the program, the Society will also recognize Philip Forness, the 2010 Wentz Prize winner, as well as the winner of this year's Youth History Contest. The Society's brief Annual Meeting, to include the election of board members, will be held immediately after the morning program, and will be followed by a catered lunch.

The 2011 Fall Program will take place at Trappe, Pennsylvania, and will feature docent-guided tours of several major Muhlenberg sites. Further details will be included in the next newsletter.



Celebrate Our Heritage

Registration for the Spring Program lunch costs \$12.00. To register,

Please send you name and address, along with a check made payable to **LHS-MA**, to:

Lee Knepp, Treasurer

P.O. Box 76,

McClure, PA, 17841.

Please include a phone / email contact.

George Handley and John Deeben

Payne Bicentennial

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Rosa Parks of the 19th century," in recognition of his courageous path-breaking lifelong work for civil rights.

The Right Reverend Richard F. Norris, Bishop and Presiding Prelate of the AME's First Episcopal District, presided over the service of Holy Communion in the Church of the Abiding Presence on the Gettysburg Seminary campus. Rev. Dr. Leah Gaskin Fitchue preached for the gala worship celebration.

Choirs from LaMott (Philadelphia) and Bethel (Carlisle) AME churches also lifted their voices to lead the service in giving praise to God.

"February of 2011 is a very special moment for our school and the entire Church in that it marks the 200th anniversary or bicentennial of the birth of Daniel Alexander Payne," said Michael Cooper-White, President of Gettysburg Seminary. "This giant of the Church in the 19th century established a legacy unsurpassed by any other Gettysburg Seminary alumnus as he served as pastor and AME bishop, as well as founding president of Wilberforce University in Ohio."

Call for Church History Profiles

Church Archives



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 LHSMA President, Stephen Herr (pastor@christgettysburg.org), or Vice President, John Deeben (jdeeben@aol.com).

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

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

Submitted by John Deeben

The ELCA offers great advice to congregations on how to get started preserving and organizing their historical records. The following article is reprinted with permission from the ELCA Archives Office. It may also be located on the ELCA web site at <http://www.elca.org/who-we-are/history/elca-archives/a-brief-guide-for-archives-of-congregations.aspx>.

The archivist or archives committee of a congregation is primarily concerned with collecting and appraising, preserving and protecting, arranging and describing and making accessible original historical documents and records of the congregation. An archivist is not necessarily the historian or interpreter of the congregation's history. The archivist or archives committee should work in close cooperation with the pastor and congregation council as well as others creating records. Policies for the archives should be established by vote of the council, in cooperation with and at the advice of the archivist or archives committee. The following information includes steps to take in establishing a committee, as well as some of the tasks that would be included in a job description for an archivist or archives committee.

1. Identify an individual to serve as archivist and/or create an archives committee.
 - A. Establish a committee according to constitutional provisions for a congregational committee, including approval by the congregation council.
 - B. Seek persons who have an interest in the history of the congregation and good organizational skills.
 - C. Include pastor, parish secretary, or other relevant persons as ex-officio committee members.
2. Survey and identify locations of all historical records for possible retention in the congregation archives (Information on what types of materials constitute the essential historical records of a

congregation will be included in the next edition of the LHSMA newsletter).

- A. Consult with those responsible for records creation as to how and when records move into archival custody.
 - B. If none exists, encourage a records management program be adopted for all records, in order to manage them through the life cycle – active, inactive, to archives.
 - C. For records created electronically, verify that policies on back-up of computer data are in place to prevent losses.
 - D. Verify that all vital records are identified and a plan is in place for copies to be made for disaster recovery. Encourage development of a full business continuity plan.
3. Identify and maintain space that can be used to store records of long-term historical value. As part of that work, consideration should be given to:
 - A. Creating a policy to limit access to the archives to authorized and/or designated persons only.
 - B. Ensuring the space is free from extreme temperature and humidity changes, as well as protected from disasters such as fire and floods.
 - C. Ensuring the space stays clean and includes shelving and filing cabinets for records storage and a work table for those organizing the archives and for those who will use the materials.
 4. Organize materials according to archival methods, by who created the records, not by subject.
 - A. Bring records discovered through survey into archival custody.
 - B. Create a method for ongoing receipt of mate-

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Archivist Work

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rials into the archives, including a record of personal donations. This can include working with aspects of the congregational records retention schedule, so that records are moved from "current" to "archival" status in a consistent way.

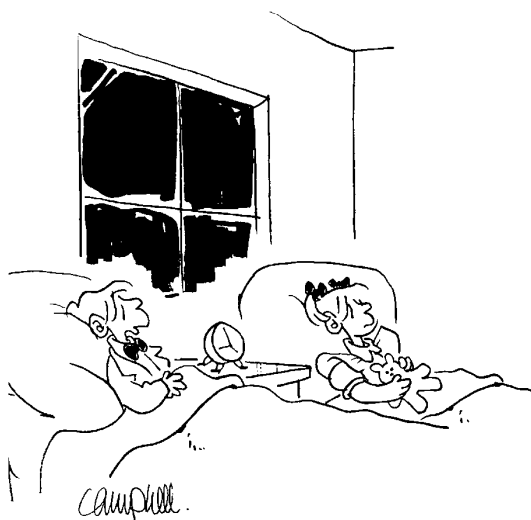
- C. Locate current and former organizational charts, directories of leadership, or other items that may provide information on what individuals and groups were active at any given time.
- D. Group similar things together from governance and program groups, and check for missing items, such as minutes, reports and correspondence. Locate missing items or seek to recreate records or information if needed.
- E. Involve various persons to locate materials, including possibly donating personal copies of items or personal records to substitute or complement the records already available.
- F. Label boxes and file drawers as to contents

and prepare container lists – lists of folders or volumes with a brief physical description of contents and inclusive dates.

- G. Write further descriptive information such as historical notes, description of the scope and contents of the records, or missing materials.



5. While organizing the records, make preservation assessments:
 - A. Determine what archival supplies are needed.
 - B. Re-folder and re-box materials using archival supplies.
 - C. If records are greatly deteriorated, seek help from a professional archivist.
 - D. For non-paper records special considerations will be needed.
 - E. After determining what preservation activity may be needed, plan and prioritize what items should and can be done first.
6. Create policies for the archives:
 - A. General policy on use and access.
 - B. Specific guidelines may be needed for specific records that are confidential and relate to individual privacy needs.
 - C. Approval of archives policies should be done according to the governance for the congregation.
7. Convene meetings of the archives committee as necessary and report regularly to the congregation council on progress, concerns and approval of policies and procedures related to archives and record keeping.



"Mom's really worried about being late for Easter Sunrise Service, isn't she?"

Watch for Part II coming in a future newsletter.

Update on Schmucker Hall Renovations

In a press release by Communications Associate Kati Geibenhain, dated October 12, 2010, the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Gettysburg announced that a joint venture with the Adams County Historical Society (ACHS) to rehabilitate the iconic Schmucker Hall (Old Dorm) received critical lead support thanks to Governor Ed Rendell's authorization to release \$4 million in funds from Redevelopment Assistance Capital Program (RACP). The support, announced by State Senator Rich Alloway, represents the concerted efforts of the senator, Governor Rendell and local stakeholders. In the release of the funding, the Governor noted, "[this project] will be a valuable asset to the community of Gettysburg, the Commonwealth of PA, and in no small measure, a gift to our Nation."

The sole focus of the joint venture is the \$11.7 million project to preserve the 1832 building, said to be one of the most important surviving Civil War buildings not owned by a public entity. The goal of the \$11.7 million rehabilitation is to create a state of the art museum interpreting the first day of the Battle of Gettysburg, its role as the largest fixed field hospital in Gettysburg, and its role in

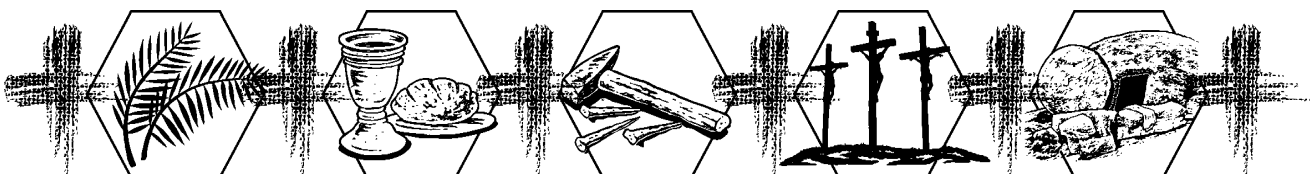
the African American experience, Underground Railroad, and religion and the churches in the 19th century conflict.

An analysis of the economic impact of the Schmucker Hall project found that it will create almost \$5 million annually in new spending and \$23 million during the construction period that will stimulate economic activity in the regional economy. "Funding this project has been a challenge in the present economic climate," said Em Cole, Executive Director of Voices of History, the joint venture created to raise funds for the rehabilitation and plan the museum, "but this set of leading grants is crucial to seeking additional fund raising." The museum project is expected to be funded by public and foundation grants and private gifts, with interim financing as needed. Bradley Hoch, Chair of the ACHS Board, added, "Our continuing fundraising efforts need to be successful. The ACHS and Seminary must complete the project before July 1, 2013, which is the 150th anniversary of the battle and the projected grand opening of the museum."

The building that in modern times has become known as Schmucker Hall has been at the

center of important facets of the American story. Named for the founder of both the Seminary and the Gettysburg College, it was from 1832 onward a center of spiritual growth, religious lecture, study, and preparation for public ministry as the main building of Gettysburg Seminary. On July 1, 1863, the Seminary building stood at the center of the Union army's defense against the advancing Confederates west of Gettysburg. Union Cavalry General John Buford scouted the Confederate army and planned with General John Reynolds from the building's cupola. As the events of the day unfolded, it quickly became the largest field hospital of the battle, hosting more than 600 wounded soldiers, about 70 of whom died in the building.

The rehabilitation of Schmucker Hall is the last remaining project included in the 1999 "Interpretive Plan" outlining the priority projects for the Borough of Gettysburg designed to provide enhanced historical experiences for visitors to the National Military Park and the town. Gettysburg's Seminary Ridge Museum in a rehabilitated Schmucker Hall now becomes the flagship of planning for the 150th commemoration of the famous battle taking place in 2013.



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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www.lhsmidatlantic.com

Lutheran Historical Society of the Mid-Atlantic Newsletter

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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 22, NUMBER 1

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.

- _____ \$ 350 Life Membership
- _____ \$ 50 Contribution Membership
- _____ \$ 40 Family Membership (*two persons in the same household and any children under 18 years of age*)
- _____ \$ 20 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

Spring 2011