

NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 27, NUMBER 1

SPRING 2016

Spring Program:

The History of Faith & Science

Tuesday, April 19, 2016

Lutheran Theological Seminary at Gettysburg

The Spring Meeting of the Society will once again take place at Gettysburg Seminary during the Spring Academy Week, Tuesday, April 19, 2016. It will be a delight to be surrounded by students, faculty, and alums eager to learn – many of them prospective members of the society!

Gettysburg Seminary's Spring Academy Week this year will focus on "*The Place of Science in Christian Life*." It will address topics from care for the environment to the theological implications of evolutionary theory to the uses of neuropsychology in congregational singing. The Society's contribution will focus on the history of faith and science – fairly distant (19th century theologian Milton Valentine) and fairly recent (mid-20th century controversies in the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod). More information about the whole week is available at <http://www.ltsg.edu/academics/lifelong-learning/spring-academy>.

The morning will close for us with our annual meeting, including the elec-

2:00 PM "God, Evolution, Intelligent Design and Dover, PA: A Hopeful Retrospective" (Presenter: Warren Eshbach, Adjunct Professor of Congregational Ministry, LTSG, Former District Executive, Pennsylvania Church of the Brethren)

3:00 PM "God, Evolution, and Intelligent Design: A Vision for the Future" (Presenter: Joseph Shane, Associate Professor of Chemistry and Science Education, Shippensburg University)

See program agenda and registration form located on page 3.

tion of members to the Board. Members may also register for a lunch at the Seminary refectory, and are welcome to remain for the afternoon's programs at the seminary. A registration form was mailed to Society members, and is included in this newsletter.

You may be getting a separate registration form for all of the Spring Academy from Gettysburg Seminary. You're welcome to use that form if you're planning to attend the events on Tuesday evening, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, or Saturday, but **please use this registration form for Tuesday morning and afternoon** – it will allow us to get credit for our members attending that day. Please mail your registration form and check to Lee Knepp by April 5 – we will be unable to offer lunch to any registration sent later than that.

Note that the registration fee will include your participation in the afternoon sessions, should you wish to stay. The afternoon sessions include:

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

President's Corner	2
Welcome Newest LHSMA Members	2
Spring Program and Registration Form	3
Board Member Steps Down	4
Electronic Newsletter	4
A New History of Lutherans in America	5
Life and Work of Rev. J.C. Frederick Heyer	6
Lutheran Historic Site Recognition Program	8



SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- *Spring Academy Week to focus on "The Place of Science in Christian Life"*
- *Two lectures included in 2016 LHSMA Spring Program*
- *Barbara Luebbe steps down from LHSMA Board*
- *Fortress Press issues "Lutherans in America: A New History"*
- *LHSMA recognizes gravesite of Lutheran missionary Frederick Heyer (1793-1873)*

President's Corner - Spring 2016

Writing to John Adams from his home at Monticello in 1816, Thomas Jefferson commented "I



like the dreams of the future better than the history of the past." Indeed the future brings possibilities and opportunities that the past cannot. The past, however, shapes the future. History informs the perspectives that embrace a new future and envision its potential and prospects. Certainly the future has the potential to be exciting and hopeful, but nevertheless the past and its history also remain exciting. The past invites inquiry, exploration, and investigation. We delve into the past to understand better ourselves, our culture, our communities, and our relationship with God.

The Lutheran Historical Society of the Mid-Atlantic seeks to cultivate and nurture interest in the past in order to assist in inspiring the dreams of the future. Mar-

tin Luther's hopes for the church helped reform and renew it. His study of the past and Holy Scripture shaped his theology, writing, and understanding of God's relationship with all creation. Both past and future are linked together, calling us to understand from whence we come and directing us into the unknown.

For the past 27 years the Lutheran Historical Society of the Mid-Atlantic has sought to encourage Lutherans in this region to embrace their history. The society seeks to connect our appreciation and knowledge of the past with our futures. I challenge the society's members and friends to embrace this mission and expand the work of this organization. Invite others to join the society. Encourage children and youth to become interested in the history of their congregation and the Lutheran church in this area and beyond. This continues to be important work and makes a significant contribution to the life of the Lutheran church,

synods, and congregations in the Mid-Atlantic region.

On April 19 the Society will gather for its annual meeting and program at the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Gettysburg. I encourage all members to join us that morning and lunch afterwards so that we may enrich our understanding of the past, plan for the future, and enjoy the present.

Sincerely,

*Pastor Stephen Herr,
LHSMA President*

Commemoration of
Martin Luther,
Renewer of the Church, 1546
February 18, 2016

"The past invites inquiry, exploration, and investigation. We delve into the past to understand better ourselves... and our relationship with God."

Welcome New Members

LHSMA welcomes the following new members to the Society since our Summer 2015 Newsletter:

Annual Memberships:

Rev. Christopher Frye, St. Luke
Lutheran Church - *Scotland, PA*
Rev. David J. Petr - *Street, MD*

Please notify us of any corrections to the list.



LHSMA 2015 - 2016 Board of Directors

Officers

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

Other Board Members

Brian Bohleke <i>Historian/Archivist</i>	John Fehringer
Marianne Brock	David Flesner
Maria Erling	Kevin Hepler
	Susan Hill

Board Emeriti

James Mummert	Donald Housley
Judy Simonson	Michael Kurtz
Phil Teigen	

2016 Spring Program / Annual Meeting & Luncheon

Tuesday, April 19, 2016

Seminary Chapel
Lutheran Theological Seminary at Gettysburg
61 Seminary Ridge, Gettysburg, PA 17325
717-334-6286; www.ltsg.edu

8:30 AM – Registration and Coffee

9:00 AM – Opening Prayers

9:30 AM – Lecture

“Milton Valentine on Faith and Science”

Speaker: **Stephen Herr**

Pastor, Christ Lutheran Church, Gettysburg
President, Lutheran Historical Society of the Mid-Atlantic

10:40 AM – Lecture

“Science and Biblical Interpretation: the LC-MS in the 1970’s and 1980s”

Speaker: **James C. Burkee**

Vice Provost of Graduate and Online Academic Affairs, Concordia College, NY
Winner of the LHSMA Biglerville Prize

11:30 AM – Annual Meeting

Lunch in the Seminary Refectory (to follow the Annual Meeting) may be purchased on this form.

Registrants are welcome to attend the Tuesday afternoon lectures
at the Seminary chapel at no additional 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 your check made payable to LHSMA and mail by April 14 to:

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

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

Telephone Number or Email Address: _____

Registration Fee: (\$20 per person) x _____ persons _____

Lunch at the Seminary Refectory: (\$9 per person) x _____ persons _____

Total Enclosed: _____

BOARD MEMBER BARBARA LUEBBE STEPS DOWN



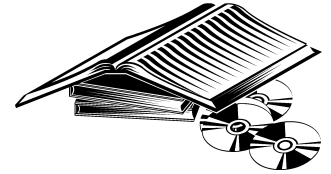
At its January meeting the Board of Directors accepted with regret the resignation of Barbara Luebbe due to her health concerns. The board acknowledged her seven years of service and her diligent work as chair of the Membership Committee. Barbara made significant contributions to the Society and was an enthusiastic champion for its mission. Thank you Barbara for your faithful service. You will be missed.

By Steve Herr

JOHN CASPER STOEVER

A pioneer German Lutheran pastor in Pennsylvania, Stoever was born in the Lower Palatinate. He arrived in Philadelphia in 1728, having had some private theological training, and soon began a ministry that lasted for a half a century. After several years spent in the Philadelphia area, during which he was ordained, he moved into Lancaster County about 1735 and eight years later into what is now Lebanon County, where he spent the rest of his life. Stoever ministered to many of the Lutherans in these two areas and organized a number of congregations for them. Between 1735 and 1743 he made a dozen or more trips west of the Susquehanna River and as far south as Virginia, performing pastoral services for many of the Germans, and some others, he found there. His personal register records a total of more than 2,000 baptisms and 1,400 marriages. This does not include others which he entered only in congregational registers. Although he was eventually received into the ministerium which Henry Melchior Muhlenberg and his associates

Church Archives



(Continued on page 5)

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. 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. 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.

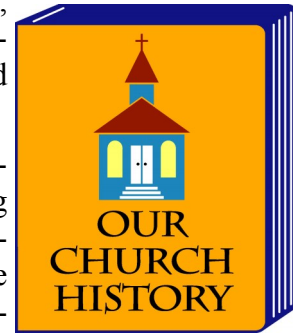
Book Note:***A New History of Lutherans in America****By Phil Teigen*

Readers of this newsletter will be pleased to know that Fortress Press has issued a paperback version of *Lutherans in America: A New History*, by Mark Granquist. The first national history of Lutherans since 1975, it incorporates important events such as the formation of the ELCA, parallel conflicts in the Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod, and the emergence of women as fuller participants in ELCA’s preaching, teaching, and parish life. Chiefly an institutional study, *A New History* provides an account of several centuries of inter-synodical cooperation – sometimes successful and sometimes not. Granquist’s skillfully crafted narrative, thorough knowledge of Lutheran and American history, and accessible prose make *A New History* the most readable history of Lutheranism since Abdel Ross Wentz’s, *A Basic History of Lutheranism in America* (1955).

For those of us who tend to focus on local or regional history, national histories are especially important. Reading them encourages and enables us “to find a balance between concern with difference and concern with continuity” (Rowan Williams, *Why Study the Past? The Quest for the Historical Church* [2005], p. 10). If we focus too strongly on difference, a local congregation, or an event, for example, we will write ex-

cessively celebratory histories. If we focus too much on continuity, we will write boring, excessively abstract histories, lacking the savor of particular places, events, and persons.

Reading national histories is like undertaking foreign travel. When visiting foreign countries we learn about people, culture, and histories different from our own. At the same time, however, with explicit or implicit comparisons and contrasts, we gain insights about ourselves and our homeland. As with travel, so with history. When reading outside our initial interests in Lutheran history, we learn about Lutherans in other eras – say, the Jim Crow South, Dust Bowl Kansas, or Gold Rush Alaska – and in other places – say, Florida, the Mississippi Valley, or Washington state. At the same time, by making implicit or explicit comparisons and contrasts, we gain insights about our historical interests and, ultimately, about ourselves. This is how historical understanding and historical consciousness grows.

**JOHN CASPER STOEVER***(Continued from page 4)*

organized in 1748, Stoever was essentially an independent pastor. Strong willed, determined, and apparently often obstinate, he was usually a controversial figure, but at a time when ordained ministers were few and far between in the Pennsylvania field, John Casper Stoever provided services for many hundreds of Lutherans and others

who wanted them. He collapsed and died in 1779 while conducting a confirmation service, and was buried in the graveyard of the Quitopahille or Hill church, near Cleona, Lebanon County. *By Charles H. Glatfelter (1924-2013)*

Visit the society’s website for a glimpse into other featured Mid-Atlantic Lutherans. Have someone from Mid-Atlantic Lutheranism you would like to see featured, please contact the society at www.lhsmidatlantic.com

Lutherans Celebrate the Life and Work of Rev. J. C. Frederick Heyer (1793-1873), Pioneering Foreign Missionary

By Phil Teigen

On June 14, 2015, the Lutheran Historical Society of the Mid-Atlantic (LHSMA) recognized the gravesite of pioneering Lutheran missionary, Rev. J. C. Frederick Heyer (1793–1873), as its eighth site significant in the history of American Lutheranism. A large bronze plaque marks the new site, located in Friedens Lutheran Cemetery, Friedens, Pennsylvania.

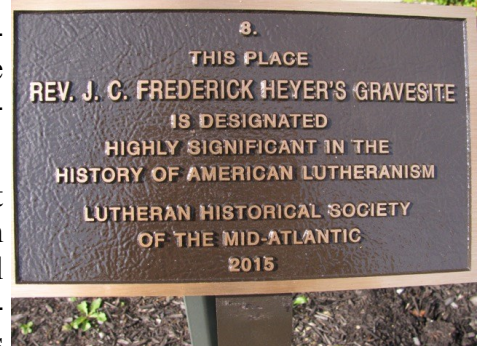
The celebration of Rev. Heyer's life and work began at 9:15AM with Rev. Dr. Maria Erling, professor of Modern Church History and Global Missions at Gettysburg Seminary, speaking to members



of Friedens Evangelical Lutheran Church about Rev. Heyer's significance for the history of American Lutheranism. At the 10:30AM service, Prof. Erling presented the memorial plaque and a \$750 preservation grant to Friedens' pastor, Rev. Edward B. DeVore, on behalf of the LHSMA.

Known as a missionary in Pennsylvania and Minnesota, Rev. Heyer also initiated foreign mission work by American Lutherans in 1842, when he travelled to India and established a permanent mission there. Born in Germany in 1793, Rev. Heyer died in Philadelphia in 1873, after making three missionary journeys to India.

John Fehringer, Susan Hill, Kevin Hepler, and Phil Teigen comprise the 2015–2016 Site Committee.



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 Annual Membership Renewal by March 31 for the current calendar year)

(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: lhsmidatlantic@gmail.com
Web: www.lhsmidatlantic.com

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

We're on the Web!
www.lhsmidatlantic.com

**Lutheran Historical
Society of the
Mid-Atlantic Newsletter**

ISSN 1049-6424

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

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

Address corrections are helpful.

Send replies via email to:

Stephen Herr

lhsmidatlantic@gmail.com

Subject: LHS Newsletter



VOLUME 27, NUMBER 1

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:

1. Zion Lutheran Church, Baltimore, MD
2. David Day Gravesite, Union Cemetery, Selinsgrove, PA
3. William A. Passavant Home, Zeligentown, PA
4. Greenville Hall, Thiel College, Greenville, PA
5. Luther Place Memorial Lutheran Church, Washington, DC
6. Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Holy Trinity, Lancaster, PA
7. Christ Lutheran Church, York, PA
8. Father Frederick Heyer Gravesite, Friedens Lutheran Church, Friedens, PA

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, grave-sites, 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, 2016** 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.