

# NEWSLETTER

## Spring Program:

## *Continuing Re-formation of the Church*

**Tuesday, April 25, 2017**

**Lutheran Theological Seminary at Gettysburg**

The annual Spring Meeting of the Society will once again take place at Gettysburg Seminary during the Spring Academy Week on Tuesday, April 25, 2017.



Once more, it is being held in conjunction with the Spring Academy at Gettysburg Lutheran Seminary. It will be a delight to be surrounded by students, faculty, and alumni eager to learn – many of them prospective members of the society!

Gettysburg Seminary's Spring Academy Week in this, the 500th year after the posting of the 95 Theses, will focus on the continuing Re-Formation of the Church. Appropriately, the Society's contribution on Tuesday morning will focus on the story of the preservation and celebration of the Reformation for the last half-millennium. More information about the whole week will be available at <http://www.ltsg.edu/academics/lifelong-learning/spring-academy>.

The morning sessions for this year's program include a presentation on "Reformation Celebrations in American History" at 9:30 by Maria Erling, Professor of Modern Church History and Global Mission at Gettysburg Seminary and LHSMA board member, followed by a talk on "Brining Martin Luther to Washington, DC" at 10:15 by fellow board member Philip Teigen, historian at the National Library of Medicine. Both lectures will be followed by a panel discussion on "How We Are Celebrating the Reformation in Local Congregations" at 10:45, and then

the Society's annual business meeting at 11:30AM.

This year Society members will also have the opportunity to attend a selection of afternoon workshops. At 2:00PM there will be presentations on "What We Found in Our Archives" by Brian Evans of First English Lutheran Church, Pittsburgh, PA, and "The Re-Formation is Personal: How Shame Resiliency and Self-care Equip You for Public Church," by Kristen Kane and Bianca Vasquez of Luther Place, Washington, DC. At 3:00PM there will be a session on "Updating Outreach" by Jennifer Crist, Community of Hope, Harrisburg, PA, and an "Update on United Lutheran Seminary" presented by Advancement officers from Gettysburg Seminary. Note that the registration fee will include your participation in the afternoon workshops, should you wish to stay (Brian Evans' workshop session should be of particular interest to the members of the Society).

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 the society's registration form (reprinted in this newsletter) 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 12 – we will be unable to offer lunch to any registration sent later than that.

*Please see program agenda and registration form located on page 3.*

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

President's Corner	2
Welcome Newest LHSMA Members	2
Spring Program and Registration Form	3
Featured Lutherans: Conrad Weiser	4
Additional Historic Sites Named	5
LHSMA Board Happenings	6
2017 Fall Program Announced	8
Society Member Fred Shilling Passes	8



### SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- *For Spring Program, LHSMA to focus on the story of the preservation of the Reformation*
- *Former LHSMA Board member Barbara Luebbe passes*
- *Lutheran Conrad Weiser known for work with Native Americans*
- *LHSMA board names historic sites in Maryland and Pennsylvania*
- *Fall Program to commemorate ordination of first female Lutheran pastor*

## President's Corner - Spring 2017

Throughout its many years the Lutheran Historical Society has been blessed with faithful volunteers passionate about sharing the story of Lutheranism



in the Mid-Atlantic region. One of those persons was former Lutheran Historical Society board member Barbara Luebbe. Barbara died on February 7 with a funeral service held on February 25 at St. John's United Church of Christ in Chambersburg. Barbara brought enthusiasm and energy to the LHSMA board especially with regard to membership. She was a tireless advocate for the society seeking to broaden its reach and connect new people to its mission and purpose. Barbara's contributions to the society helped it grow as others in the region learned about the society and its work.

*"Barbara [Luebbe] brought enthusiasm and energy to the LHSMA board especially with regard to membership."*

Barbara was born in New Haven, Connecticut, the daughter of Leona and Walter Schoenrock. After completing schooling in New Haven, she earned a Bachelor's degree from Hartwick College in Oneonta, NY, and a Master of Religious Education from Yale Divinity School. She was married to the Reverend Paul Frank Luebbe for 49 years until his death in 2006. Following graduate school, Barbara worked for the National Board of the Lutheran Church in both Philadelphia and Baltimore. She wrote Christian Education materials for Augsburg Fortress and supervised youth work in a large church in Baltimore. She would go on to teach elementary school and was an avid musician. She played the piano, directed choirs, and participated in the bell choir.

The Lutheran Historical Society of the Mid-Atlantic gives

thanks to God for the life and faithful service of Barbara May Schoenrock Luebbe. Our sympathy is extended to Barbara's five children and their families including her daughter Gretchen Luebbe, who has for many years served as the compiler and formatter of the society's newsletter.

Those wishing to make a memorial donation can send it to St. John's United Church of Christ, 1811 Lincoln Way East, Chambersburg, PA 17202 in support of their music program. Please write "music program" in the memo line of the check. Condolences can be sent to

[www.geiselfuneralhome.com](http://www.geiselfuneralhome.com)

Rest eternal grant her, O Lord, and let light perpetual shine upon her.

Sincerely,

*Pastor Stephen Herr,  
LHSMA President*

February 28, 2017

Commemoration of Samuel  
Simon Schmucker (1799-1873)

### Welcome New Members!

LHSMA welcomes the following new members (all annual memberships) to the society:

Rev. Rebecca Ajer, Littlestown, PA  
Rev. Donald Costow, Quarryville, PA  
Rev. Jennifer Fuhr, Wexford, PA  
Rev. Brandon Johns, Evans City, PA  
Rev. Allison Leitzel, Erie, PA

Rev. Sandra Olson, Morris Run, PA  
Rev. Michael Parsh, Oil City, PA  
Rev. Matthew Pensinger, Mt. Joy, PA  
Rev. Darcy Reis, York, PA  
Rev. Michael Richard, Arendtsville, PA  
Rev. Sarah Rossing, Youngstown, PA  
Rev. Kenneth Taylor, Huntingtown, MD

*Please notify us of any corrections to the list.*

### LHSMA 2016 - 2017 Board of Directors

#### Officers

Stephen Herr      John Deeben  
*President*          *Secretary*  
Mark Oldenburg      Lee Knepp  
*Vice President*      *Treasurer*

#### Other Board Members

B. Bohleke      Maria Erling  
*Historian/Archivist*      John Fehringner  
Marianne Brock      David Flesner  
Jane English      Kevin Hepler

#### Board Emeriti

James A. Mummert      Susan Hill  
Philip Teigen      Donald Housley  
Jill Ogline Titus      Michael J. Kurtz

**2017 Spring Program Agenda  
Tuesday, April 25, 2017**

Seminary Chapel  
Lutheran Theological Seminary at Gettysburg  
61 Seminary Ridge, Gettysburg, PA 17325  
717-334-6286; [www.ltsg.edu](http://www.ltsg.edu)

8:30 AM – Registration and Coffee

**(Please register with Lee Knepp in the back of the chapel rather than at the seminary tables.)**

9:00 AM – Opening Prayers

9:30 AM – Lecture

*“Reformation Celebrations in American History”*

Speaker: **Maria Erling**

Professor of Modern Church History and Global Mission, LTSG

10:15 AM – Lecture

*“Bringing Martin Luther to Washington, DC”*

Speaker: **Philip Teigen**

Historian, National Library of Medicine

10:45 AM – Panel

*“How We Are Celebrating the Reformation in Local Congregations”*

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 workshops  
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.**

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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: (\$11 per person) x \_\_\_\_\_ persons \_\_\_\_\_

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

## Featured Lutherans: *Conrad Weiser*

By Kevin Hepler

Pennsylvania German, “Dutch” pioneer, interpreter, diplomat, farmer, soldier, tanner, judge, successful businessman and family patriarch, Conrad Weiser is best known for his work with Native Americans. As Indian agent for several colonies, especially Pennsylvania, but also New York and Virginia, he negotiated every peace treaty from 1732 up to and during part of the French and Indian War. Attacks upon his own community ultimately caused him to personally respond with military service. While this may seem like the final failure of his diplomatic efforts, the prior decades of peace on the colonial American frontier remain a testimony to his commitment to peace. His work remains such an example of the value of peacekeeping that a pamphlet biography of his life, subtitled “Pennsylvania Peacemaker,” was distributed to representatives of the United Nations early in its history, attempting to unsuccessfully influence their selection of the City of Brotherly Love, Philadelphia, as world headquarters.



Not as well-known is that Weiser was a deeply spiritual individual and an active lay Christian leader in his day and place. Born 2 Nov 1696 in the Lutheran Duchy of Württemberg, now part of Germany, he like so many persons of deep faith experienced episodes of great doubt. While periods of discernment led to flirtations with other Christian doctrines, Lutheran *Soli Deo Gloria* and *Solus Christus* were the lenses which defined his overall faith experience.

He migrated while still a child with his parents, siblings and other Palatines, first to London, then to the Schoharie region of New York. In his youth, he definitely learned of the deep Native American spirituality along with their language and culture when he lived with them at the behest of his father. After floating down the

Susquehanna as a young man, he built his own home in 1729 near what would become the town of Womelsdorf, PA, then a wilderness only opened to white settlers several years earlier. There, Weiser saw the challenges early Lutherans faced in the absence of spiritual leadership from trained and ordained pastors. In particular his own, original congregation in the local region, Reeds/Stouchsburg, PA, was embroiled for years in the local polity struggle known as the Tulpehocken Confusion.

During this period, Weiser perhaps went through his deepest spiritual struggles. For a time he lived away from his own home and wife, monastically residing in the German Seventh Day Baptist (Dunkard) religious community at Ephrata, PA. He was also involved with the Moravian church. Finally, when other members of Reeds chose to split from the continuing dissension and form another congregation, Weiser became a founding (1743) member of Christ Lutheran/Stouchsburg. There he served on the church council, and among other things, donated the original church pews. Considered the founder of Reading, Berks County seat, he helped found Trinity Lutheran (1753) and at its dedication, prepared a German hymn of 13 stanzas for the occasion. He also assisted other denominations to obtain land for their churches in the new city. Not coincidentally, during the same time period, one of Weiser's daughters, Anna Maria, married the patriarch of the American Lutheran church, Henry M. Muhlenberg--only one of the other many Founding Fathers who were part of that early American network of Conrad Weiser.

Speaking to white men following Weiser's death in 1760, an Iroquois said, ““We are at a great loss and sit in darkness...as since his death we cannot so well understand one another.”

(Continued on page 5)

## *LHSMA Recognizes Two New Historic Sights*

*By Phil Teigen*

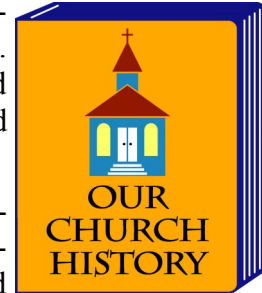
At its January meeting, the LHSMA board recognized two new historical sites as highly significant to the history of Lutheranism in the Mid-Atlantic Region. It chose the Memorial Chapel at the University of Maryland, College Park, as Registered Site 9. Memorial Chapel is noteworthy because it was there that the Maryland Synod (Lutheran Church in America) ordained the first Lutheran woman in the United States, Rev. Elizabeth Platz, on November 22, 1970.

The board also selected Salem Evangelical Lutheran Church, Lebanon, Pennsylvania, as Registered Site 10. Long recognized for its commitment to historically-sensitive preservation and use of its buildings and records, the board wished especially to recognize the congregation's exemplary outreach to genealogists and historians.

Site recognition plaques will be presented to both sites at a future date. Each recognition comes with a \$750 archival grant from the society to help preserve Rev. Platz's papers and Salem's congregational records.

Sites previously recognized by LHSMA include:

1. Zion Lutheran Church, Baltimore, MD
2. David Day Gravesite, Union Cemetery, Selinsgrove, PA
3. William A. Passavant Home, Zelienople, 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



## Conrad Weiser

*(Continued from page 4)*

There are many physical memorials bearing his name in southeastern Pennsylvania. Conrad Weiser's homestead in northern Berks County, Pennsylvania is a state park and museum. Nonetheless, recognizing his spiritual depth and contributions to American Christian history, the

Episcopal Church, USA includes his date of death (13 July) on its liturgical calendar.

In conclusion, it is reasonable to say that of all the titles he carried and the activities in which he participated, Conrad Weiser was first and foremost, a peacemaker. He clearly absorbed and practiced the spiritual lessons he had learned. His story deserves retelling in our troubled world as a lesson in how communication can be a pathway to understanding and harmony.

## *LHSMA Board Happenings*

*By John Deeben*

The Board of Directors of the Lutheran Historical Society of the Mid-Atlantic met at Valentine Hall on the campus of the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Gettysburg on January 18, 2017.

- President Steve Herr reported letters were sent to former board member Susan Hill notifying her of her emeriti status and to Judy Simonson thanking her for her service on the board.
- Vice President Mark Oldenburg presented the Nominating Committee's slate of candidates for board elections at the annual meeting in April. The nominees include B. Bohleke, Marianne Brock, John Deeben, Lee Knepp, and Jon Diefenthaler for a 3-year term, and Paul Tomkiel to fill Judy Simonson's unexpired term (1 year).
- Under committee reports the following action items were approved by majority vote:
  - \* Recommendations by the Historic Site Recognition Committee to designate:
    - ✓ the Memorial Chapel at the University of Maryland, where Rev. Elizabeth Platz was ordained in 1970, as Historic Site No. 9, and
    - ✓ Salem Lutheran Church in Lebanon, Pennsylvania, as Historic Site 10 (in lieu of no action being taken to recognize a site in 2016).
  - \* The St. Paul/Biglerville Prize Committee reported that two books have been identified as finalists for the 2017 prize: Mark Granquist, *Lutherans in America: A New History*, and Tim Townsend, *Mission at Nuremberg: An American Army Chaplain and the Trial of the Nazis*. A final decision to award the prize will be made in February.
  - \* The Wentz Prize Committee reported that an award for 2017 will be made to first-year seminarian Hans Eric Becklin for his paper, "Herbjorn Gausta's Good Shepherd (1895) at First Lutheran Church, Decorah, Iowa: Printed American Visual Culture as Painted Norwegian-American Lutheran Propaganda." No award will be given for the doctoral candidate category.
- Under New Business, Lee Knepp reported on the death in 2016 of longtime society member Rev. Frederick K. Schilling. A brief write-up about Schilling will be included in the spring newsletter.



### **CATCHING UP? (ANNUAL RENEWAL REMINDER)**

Are you "catching up" with your annual membership renewal? We realize that some persons may have forgotten that we had set an earlier renewal due date: March 31, yearly. If that happened to you, know we still love you, and we ask you to please complete everything in the Membership Renewal Form in this newsletter on the opposite page and send it with your annual dues of \$20 per household to Lee Knepp, as indicated on the Membership form. Our dues help to fund our many historical activities and projects that could not be carried out otherwise.

*Friendly  
Reminder*



# **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](mailto:Info@lutheranhistoricalsociety.com)  
Web: [www.lutheranhistoricalsociety.com](http://www.lutheranhistoricalsociety.com)

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

**We're on the Web!**

[www.lutheranhistoricalsociety.com](http://www.lutheranhistoricalsociety.com)

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

ISSN 1049-6424

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

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

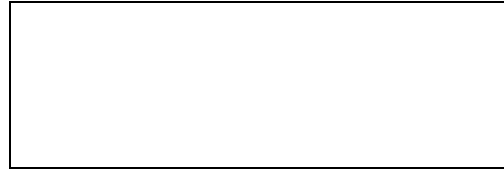
**Address corrections are helpful.**

**Send replies via email to:**

**Stephen Herr**

**[info@lutheranhistoricalsociety.com](mailto:info@lutheranhistoricalsociety.com)**

**Subject: LHS Newsletter**

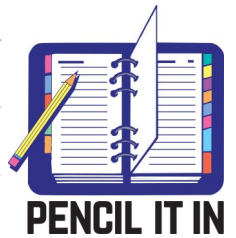


VOLUME 28, NUMBER 1

## Save the Date!

### LHSMA FALL PROGRAM, OCTOBER 7, 2017

The Lutheran Historical Society of the Mid-Atlantic will hold a fall program on October 7, 2017, at Memorial Chapel on the campus of the University of Maryland, and Hope Lutheran Church, in College Park. The program, centered on the selection of Memorial Chapel by LHSMA as an important site in the history of American Lutheranism, will commemorate the 1970 ordination of Rev. Elizabeth Platz as the first ordained female Lutheran pastor. Please watch for more specific program details, speakers, and registration materials in summer 2017.



## LONGTIME SOCIETY MEMBER FRED SCHILLING PASSES

The society notes the death of Frederick K. Schilling, Jr. of Columbia, MD on April 27, 2016 at the age of 93 years. After his retirement as a senior officer of the Central Intelligence Agency, Fred served in numerous lay leadership positions in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and its predecessor the Lutheran Church in America. He was elected to the boards of the church-wide Division for Professional Leadership and the Deaconess Community, and chaired the Division of Ministry of the Delaware-Maryland Synod. He had served on the board of the National Lutheran Home for the Aged at Rockville, and for many years provided valued counsel as a board member of our society. Fred authored a church history of Second English Lutheran Church at Baltimore.

Probably the following quote excerpted from his memorial site offers a most fitting tribute to Fred: “No one who had ever met Fred was a stranger to him from that moment on. He was one of the most intelligent, caring, and humble people I ever had the good fortune to know. The Godly life he led was a consistent but subtle inspiration to others to do the same.”