

NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 29, NUMBER 1

SPRING 2018

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Lutheran Historical Society of the
Mid Atlantic

2018 Annual Meeting and Program Looking Toward 2019: Observing the 400th Anniversary of Lutherans in North America

Keynote Presenter

The Rev. Dr. Mark Granquist, Luther Seminary

Panel Discussion: Telling the Story Next: The Future of the History of American Lutheranism

Dr. Jill Ogline Titus

Associate Director of Civil War Institute,
Gettysburg College

The Rt. Rev. Matthew L. Riegel, Bishop
West Virginia-Western Maryland Synod (ELCA)

**Tuesday, April 17 at 9:00 AM-Seminary Chapel
United Lutheran Seminary, Gettysburg Campus**

8:30AM: Registration

9:00AM: Devotions and Welcome

9:30AM: Keynote Address

10:30AM: Break

10:45AM: Panel Discussion

11:30AM: Annual Meeting

If you would like to eat lunch in the seminary refectory following the meeting, please send a check for \$11 to Carla Pavlich at 61 Seminary Ridge, Gettysburg, PA 17325 **by April 11**, with "LHSMA lunch" in the memo line. The program is **FREE!**

www.LutheranHistoricalSociety.com
more information on page 4 of this newsletter



SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- *Condolences to Erling and Defenthaler families*
- *Four new members join LHSMA*
- *Board and Committees report at January meeting*
- *Charles Krauth served at Gettysburg College and Seminary during 19th century*
- *New Board members to be elected at Annual Meeting*
- *Region 8 Archives collects records for five ELCA synods*

President's Corner - Spring 2018

In 1619 a Danish expedition led by Jens Munk landed in North America while searching for the Northwest Passage to India. The chaplain for the group, Rasmus Jensen, celebrated the Lord's Supper on Christmas Day. Rasmus Jensen, a Danish Lutheran landed in North America and after an illness he died on February 20, 1619. He was the first Lutheran to set foot on the North American continent.



In less than one year Lutherans will observe the 400th anniversary of this significant event. Jensen would be the first of many to come.

In less than one year Lutherans will observe the 400th anniversary of Lutherans in America.

Twenty years later the Swedish minister, Reorus Torkillus,

preached and provided pastoral care near what is now Wilmington, Delaware. German Lutherans settled in Pennsylvania and were later followed by Norwegian, Finnish, and Danish Lutherans. Lutheranism's intersection with the nation began in its colonial period and has stretched throughout the Republic's history.

Where have we been and where are we headed as Lutherans in America as we mark 400 years of Lutherans in America? That is the question Dr. Mark Granquist from Luther Seminary will address when he offers a presentation entitled "Looking Toward 2019: Observing the 400th Anniversary of Lutherans in North America." This will be the keynote lecture at our annual meeting and program on April 17 at 9:00AM in the Church of the Abiding Presence

on the campus of United Lutheran Seminary. Granquist is the recipi-

ent of the 2017 Biglerville Prize for his book *Lutherans in America: A New History* (Fortress Press, 2015). I hope you will join us for this insightful program as we contemplate and look ahead to the 400th anniversary of Lutherans in North America.

Sincerely in Christ,

*Pastor Stephen R. Herr,
LHSMA President*

Tuesday in Holy Week
March 27, 2018

Welcome New Members

LHSMA welcomes the following new members to the Society:

Annual Memberships:

- Ruth A. Fry - *Baltimore, MD*
- Rev. Christopher Frye -
Chambersburg, PA
- Rev. Toby Holland - *Johnstown, PA*
- Rev. Gregg Knepp -
Whaleyville, MD

Please notify us of any corrections.

by Jim Mummert

With Sympathy...

A word of sympathy and our prayers for LHSMA board member Maria Erling upon the death of her mother, Marilyn, who died on March 20 in St. Peter, Minnesota. Her funeral took place on March 28 at First Lutheran Church in St. Peter, MN.

And also for LHSMA member John Diefenthaler whose wife, Vivi, died suddenly March 21. Funeral services were held at Our Savior Lutheran Church, Laurel, MD on Monday, March 26.



LHSMA 2017 - 2018 Board of Directors

Board Members

Stephen Herr
President
Mark Oldenburg
Vice President

John Deeben
Secretary
Lee Knepp
Treasurer

Marianne Brock
Jane English
Maria Erling

John Fehringer
David E. Flesner
Kevin Hepler

James A. Mummert
Jill Oglie Titus
Paul Tomkiel

Board Emeriti

Susan Hill
Donald Housley
Michael J. Kurtz

LHSMA Board Happenings

By John Deeben

The Board of Directors of the Lutheran Historical Society of the Mid-Atlantic met in Valentine Hall on the Gettysburg campus of United Lutheran Seminary on January 17, 2018. President Steve Herr called the meeting to order at 9:48AM and board member Paul Tomkiel provided opening devotions. After approval of the meeting agenda and acceptance of the minutes from the August meeting, the board reviewed and accepted the Treasurer's report as submitted by Lee Knepp. President Herr appointed a committee composed of himself, Knepp, and another to be named later, to study possible uses of the Wentz Prize endowment.

Under committee reports, Membership chairman Jim Mummert reported on the few recent accessions and renewals of membership. The society has eight members who have paid dues for 2018, including one new member. The current Membership Drive will run to the end of March; if we gain 11 new members in the next three months we'll have met the challenge set by President Herr of growing the membership by ten percent – noting that in round figures we have approximately 100 members now, including 33 Life Members.

The Publicity Committee reported that the society's website and information boards are being updated, and the

boards need venues to be displayed. Maria Erling suggested that we reactivate our Facebook page and use it to recognize congregational anniversaries by linking to their pages. This led to a wider discussion of the use of social media in publicity. The chair asked the Publicity Committee to consider this topic and begin work on that effort, if it seems feasible.



BOARD MEETING

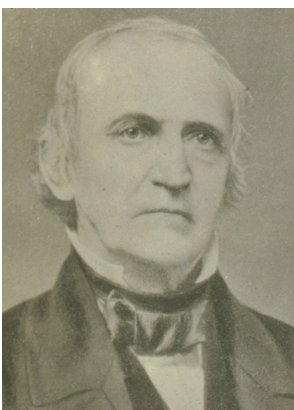
The Program Committee reported that the Spring program will most likely feature 2017 Biglerville Prize winner Mark Granquist. The Gettysburg College History Department is also interested in hosting Biglerville Prize co-winner Tim Townsend in Fall 2018 or Spring 2019. The Historic Site Recognition Committee reported that the October event at College Park was a great success despite some logistical challenges. Vice President Mark Oldenburg reported for the Nominating Committee that he will be in touch with the Class of 2018 in regards to the Spring board elections. There will also be two (2) two-year unexpired terms that will need to be filled.

The board meeting adjourned at 11:11AM.



Featured Lutheran: Charles Philip Krauth

By John Deeben



Charles Philip Krauth was born May 7, 1797 in Montgomery County, Pennsylvania. In 1819 the Ministerium of Pennsylvania licensed Krauth to preach. After serving Lutheran congregations at Martinsburg and Shepherdstown, Virginia, he was called in 1827 to Philadelphia to take charge of the recently organized English congregation.

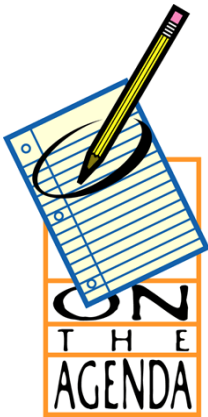
He became a trustee of the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Gettysburg in 1826 and of Pennsylvania (now Gettysburg) College in 1832. At the college, he served as professor of Intellectual and Moral Science, and then in 1833 he was elected professor of Biblical and Oriental Literature at the seminary.

The following year, in 1834, Krauth was unanimously elected president of Pennsylvania College, a position he held until 1850 when he resigned to devote his time exclusively to duties in the theological seminary. From 1850–1861 Krauth also edited the *Evangelical Review*. Krauth died at Gettysburg, Pennsylvania on May 30, 1867.

2018 Spring Program and Annual Meeting

By John Deeben

The Lutheran Historical Society of the Mid-Atlantic will host its Spring program and Annual meeting on April 17, 2018, at the Seminary Chapel on the Gettysburg Campus of United Lutheran Seminary.



Continuing with the observance of anniversary celebrations, and following on the heels of a very successful 500th Reformation Anniversary, the theme for this year's program is "Looking Toward 2019: Observing the 400th Anniversary of Lutherans in North America."

The Keynote speaker for the morning will be the Rev. Dr. Mark Granquist, Associate Professor of the History of Christianity at Luther Seminary in St. Paul, MN. Dr. Granquist was a co-winner of the society's 2017 St. Paul/Biglerville Prize for his authoritative work, *Lutherans in America: A New History* (Fortress Press, 2015). Granquist will be followed by a panel discussion on the topic "Telling the Story Next: the Future of the History

of American Lutheranism."

The panel will be led by society board member Dr. Jill Ogline Titus, Associate Director of the Civil War Institute at Gettysburg College, and The Rt. Rev. Matthew L. Riegel, Bishop, West Virginia-Western Maryland Synod (ELCA).

This event is free and open to the public, so no advance registration will be required. Attendees may check in at the Seminary Chapel beginning at 8:30AM on April 17. Devotions and Welcome will be at 9:00 followed by the Keynote Address at 9:30. The Panel discussion will begin at 10:45, and will be followed by the society's annual business meeting at 11:30. The business meeting will include the election of board members.

Lunch following the meeting will be on your own, but if any attendees would like to eat lunch in the Seminary refectory (across the street from the Chapel), please send a check for \$11 to Carla Pavlich at 61 Seminary Ridge, Gettysburg, PA 17325 **by April 11**, with "LHSM Lunch" in the memo line. The Spring program promises to be very informative and we hope to see everyone there!

You Might Be A Lutheran If...

From many different sources

www.oldlutheran.com/humor/ymbali1.shtml

...when someone mentions red and green (in terms of Christmas), you immediately think of a battle over hymnals.

...you forget to put water in the baptismal font but never forget to put water in the coffee pot.

...they have to rope off the last pews in church so the front isn't empty.

...you're watching "Star Wars" in the theatre and when they say, "May the force be with you," the theatre replies, "and also with you."

...Bach is your favorite composer just because he was Lutheran, too.

...you hesitate to clap for the church choir or special music because "it just wasn't done that way in the old days."

...you know all the words to the first verse of "Silent Night" in German but can't speak a word of it.

...you have an uncontrollable urge to sit in the back of any room.

...you think that an ELCA Lutheran bride and an LCMS groom make for a "mixed marriage."

...your congregation's first two operating rules are "Don't change" and "Don't spend."

...you notice the Kool Aid stock shoots up during the Vacation Bible School season.

...Commandment #11--If it's never been done that way before, don't do it.

...it's 110 degrees outside and you still have coffee after services.

...the most mail you receive all year is from the Stewardship Committee.

...you can't have a meeting without having a meal.

...sharing the peace during the service takes more time than the sermon.

...you count coffee among the sacraments.



Region 8 Archives: An Overview of Resources

by John Deeben

Members of LHSMA should be familiar with the wonderful resources available at the Region 8 Archives, located in the A.R. Wentz Library on the Gettysburg campus of United Lutheran Seminary. The following information is reprinted from the Region 8 Archives page on the United Lutheran Seminary website, with permission from Library Director and Archivist Evan E. Boyd.

The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) Region 8 Archives is the official repository for five synods of ELCA Region 8: **Allegheny Synod, Delaware-Maryland Synod, Lower Susquehanna Synod, Metropolitan Washington D.C. Synod, and Upper Susquehanna Synod.** The Archives collects records of historical value created by the five synods and their respective disbanded congregations, according to ELCA records retention schedules. The archive's homepage is at <http://library.uls.edu/>.

The Archives also houses historical records from two ELCA Region 8 predecessors: the Central Pennsylvania Synod of the Lutheran Church in America and the Maryland Synod of the Lutheran Church in America.

Synod records generally include annual assembly materials, meeting minutes, and information on congregations. Congregation records mainly include parish registers, council meeting minutes, and publications such as newsletters and anniversary history booklets. See our Collections web page for more information at <http://library.uls.edu/subjects/guide.php?subject=region8collections>.

With a few exceptions, our collections only contain records from Lutheran congregations affiliated with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) or one of its predecessor bodies such as the American Lutheran Church (ALC), the Lutheran Church in America (LCA), or the United Lutheran Church in America (ULCA). Researchers seeking records from non-ELCA congregations should contact the archives of the appropriate denomination.

Active ELCA congregations are primarily responsible

for maintaining their own archives. Therefore, we recommend that researchers interested in the records of an active congregation contact the church's staff before contacting us. To obtain information on active congregations, please visit the ELCA's Find a Congregation web page at <http://www.elca.org/tools/FindACongregation>.

Researchers often ask if we have a copy of a baptism, confirmation, or marriage certificate. It is not a common practice for Lutheran congregations to keep a second copy of such certificates, and therefore very few exist in our collections. In nearly every case, the only record we will potentially have is the entry in the congregation's parish register noting that the baptism, confirmation, or marriage took place. Therefore, individuals who do not have the original certificate or a facsimile will doubtfully ever be able to obtain another copy.

Researchers can view materials in our collections of synod and disbanded congregation records **by appointment only**.

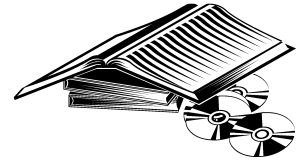
There are some fees to conduct research in the ELCA Region 8 Archives collections. Information about those fees can be found on our fees web page.

Researchers should note that due to our scarce resources, some limitations exist to the services we can offer.

1. **We are not able to conduct general research.** Our staff will at least determine if our holdings include congregation or synod records that may contain the information researchers are seeking. We will also attempt to fulfill simple requests, such as supplying a record of baptism or confirmation to individuals who require the information to become a member of a Lutheran congregation, to be married in a Lutheran church, or to convert to another faith.

(Continued on page 6)

Church Archives



*"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*

Region 8 Archives

(Continued from page 5)

2. **We do not have a database of individuals that we can search to find baptism, confirmation, marriage, or burial records.** Our church records are indexed on paper by congregation name only. When researchers are seeking information on particular individuals, they must provide the name and location of the congregation with which the person was affiliated.
3. **We do not have record of every Lutheran congregation.** From our catalog of church records, we can list those congregations in a particular city, town, or township for which we have materials. However, our index does not necessarily include all Lutheran congregations that ever existed in a given vicinity.

Many of the older materials in our collections are in very fragile condition. Generally, we do not allow access to original materials that may suffer damage if handled. We understand that this may disappoint some researchers. However, our policy simply reflects the reality of the situation: most of the items in our collections are one of a kind and irreplaceable. Therefore, preservation is a higher priority than access.

Fortunately, however, many of the older parish records in our collections are available in alternate formats

such as microfilms, paper transcriptions, or published volumes. Because *we have very few of these materials in our collections*, we will gladly refer researchers to other sources that may have them. We believe this policy offers the best option—it allows us to preserve the original records, while the information they contain is still available to researchers.



Researchers should submit an inquiry so that our staff can determine whether records are available in our collections that might contain the information they are seeking. When research questions are simple and specific, our staff can often provide answers without individuals having to visit the Archives. However, if it is necessary for individuals to conduct their own research on materials in our holdings, then an appointment can be arranged.

To submit an inquiry, please email us at region8archives@uls.edu, including the following information:

1. Name and location of congregation(s) or name of synod(s). All of our records are indexed by names of congregations and synods. Please provide us with as much additional information as you can about the organization you're interested in.
2. Nature of research. Please be as specific as possible. If known, include the types of records you're interested in and any dates, locations, and names.



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
Web: 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!

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

Subject: LHS Newsletter



VOLUME 29, NUMBER 1

ELCA Presiding Bishop, Other Church Leaders, Support Jerusalem Churches

CHICAGO (March 14, 2018) – Addressing recent efforts in Jerusalem to confiscate church lands and tax church properties, the Rev. Elizabeth A. Eaton, presiding bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA), along with leaders from the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, the Armenian Church of America and The Episcopal Church, have sent a letter of support to the heads of churches at the Holy Sepulchre in Jerusalem.

In addition to Eaton, the letter was signed by His Eminence Daniel Cardinal DiNardo, archbishop of Galveston-Houston and the president of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops; His Eminence Archbishop Vicken Aykazian, ecumenical director and legate, Diocese of the Armenian Church of America (Eastern); and the Most

Rev. Michael B. Curry, presiding bishop and primate, The Episcopal Church.

The letter expresses “fervent solidarity with you, your churches and the entire Christian community in the Holy Land as you face repeated challenges to the Status Quo that ensures a Christian presence in this most holy of places.”

The four church leaders also sent a letter to Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Jerusalem Mayor Nir Barkat expressing concern about the recent proposals and tax plans.

The letter states, “If enacted, these measures would have the effect of creating a situation that jeopardizes the very survival of the Christian community in the Holy Land.”

<http://www.elca.org/News-and-Events/7917>

