

NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 29, NUMBER 2

SUMMER 2018

SAVE THE DATE:

LHSMA Annual Meeting and Program

Tuesday, April 9, 2019

Gettysburg College, Gettysburg, PA

Banquet and meeting followed by keynote presentation by Tim Townsend



Speaking on his book: *Mission at Nuremberg: An American Army Chaplain and the Trial of the Nazis* (Harper-Collins Publishers, 2014.) Townsend explores the ministry of Lutheran Pastor Henry Gerecke with 21 Nazi leaders awaiting trial at Nuremberg.

Stay tuned to the next edition of the LHSMA newsletter and our webpage - www.LutheranHistoricalSociety.com for registration details

Membership Renewal Reminder

By Jim Mummert

The formal Membership Drive for 2018 has ended, but if you forgot to renew your membership for this year kindly consider activating your Annual Membership by submitting the annual fee of \$20.00 using the enclosed form on page 7 of this newsletter. If you are receiving this newsletter but have not initiated membership, this is the perfect time to do so. Your membership will be extended to December of 2019. Avoid keeping track of deadlines for dues by becoming a Life Member at only \$250!



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SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- LHSMA to celebrate 30 years in 2019
- Seven new members join LHSMA
- Board elects Sheila Joy as new Archivist/Historian
- John Christian Frederick Heyer was the first missionary sent out by Lutherans in America.
- Good turnout experienced for Spring Program
- Archives for St. John's, Lutheran Church, Snydertown PA

President's Corner - Summer 2018

2019 will mark the 30th year since the Lutheran Historical Society of the Mid-Atlantic was reorganized following a thirty-seven-year hiatus. Founded in 1843 by Samuel Simon Schmucker the Lutheran Historical Society helped



foster awareness of Lutheran history throughout the Mid-Atlantic region. For over 100 years the society helped populate with books the growing collection at the Gettysburg Seminary library. As the society approaches this anniversary we

give thanks to God for the vision and efforts of those involved in reactivating our organization. A number of those leaders rest eternal in the Church Triumphant and may light perpetual shine upon them. Several of those involved continue to participate in our society and I hope you will be able attend the annual meeting on April 9, 2019.

Part of the agenda that night will be to recognize those individuals who helped with the reorganization. While we have some records of those years, I invite any members who were involved in the work to

get the society functioning again to please be in touch with me at 717-334-5212 or

pastor@christgettysburg.org.

Even as we give thanks to God for a wonderful annual program and luncheon in April focusing on the upcoming 400th anniversary of Lutherans in North America, plans are underway for next year's annual gathering. The 2019 annual meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 9th on the campus of Gettysburg College. The format will be different this year with an evening banquet followed by a public lecture on the college campus. Our keynote speaker will be Tim Townsend, an award winning author and journalist. Townsend's book *Mission at Nuremberg: An American Army Chaplain and the Trial of the Nazis* (HarperCollins Publishers, 2014) explores the ministry of Lutheran pastor Henry Gerecke with twenty-one Nazi leaders awaiting trial.

Townsend along with 2018 annual meeting speaker Mark Granquist received the society's St. Paul, Biglerville Prize in 2017. Details and registration materials will be announced by the end of the year. We hope you will mark your calendars for this exciting event.

I want to thank the board of directors for their service and welcome our newest board member

Shelia Joy. Shelia serves as an archivist and cataloger on the staff of the A.R. Wentz library at United Lutheran Seminary. We give thanks to God for the service of Deaconess Marianne Brock who has concluded her service on the board. Marianne's leadership with the publicity committee and her many contributions to the board's overall work will be missed.

Thank you for your support of the society and I encourage every member to invite at least one person to join the society this year. God's blessings for a wonderful remainder of the summer to you all.

Sincerely in Christ,

*Pastor Stephen R. Herr,
LH SMA President*

Feast of Mary Magdalene

July 22, 2018

*For over 100 years
the society helped
populate with books
the growing collection
at the Gettysburg
Seminary library.*

Welcome New Members

LH SMA welcomes the following new members to the Society:

Annual Memberships:

Cynthia Baxter - *Butler, PA*
Bishop Robert Driesen - *York, PA*
Jeff Goodman - *Ephrata, PA*
Mark Granquist - *Northfield, MN*
Beth Hawk - *Lancaster, PA*
Bishop Matthew L. Riegel -
Morgantown, WV
Bishop Theodore Schneider -
Gaithersburg, MD

Please notify us of any corrections.

by Jim Mummert

LH SMA 2018 - 2019 Board of Directors

Board Members

Stephen Herr
President
Mark Oldenburg
Vice President

John Deeben
Secretary
Lee Knepp
Treasurer

Sheila Joy
Archivist/Historian
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 for the Lutheran Historical Society of the Mid-Atlantic met on May 16, 2018, at Valentine Hall on the Gettysburg Campus of United Lutheran Seminary. President Steve Herr called the meeting to order at 9:36 a.m. and welcomed the assembled board members. Personal introductions were made around the table for new board member Sheila Joy. John Fehringer provided opening devotions.

A motion to accept the meeting agenda as amended was made by Lee Knepp, seconded by Mark Oldenburg. **Approved.** Minutes from the meeting on January 17, 2018, were **approved** on motion by David Flesner, seconded by Paul Tomkiel.

Officer elections: Vice President Mark Oldenburg facilitated officer nominations for 2018. Oldenburg reported that all current officers are willing to serve another term, including Steve Herr as president, Mark Oldenburg as vice president, John Deeben as secretary, and Lee Knepp as treasurer. The committee also nominated Sheila Joy as archivist/historian. Maria Erling made a motion to elect the officers by acclamation, seconded by David Flesner. **Approved.** President Herr also reported that Marianne Brock offered her resignation from the board. A motion to accept the resignation

with sincere regret was made by Mark Oldenburg, seconded by Lee Knepp. **Approved.** Committee assignments for 2018 were also facilitated.

Under Officers' Reports, President Herr thanked board members for their help on the day of the



Spring program. Secretary John Deeben noted July 1 will be the deadline for the summer newsletter submissions. Treasurer Lee Knepp presented a report of the society's financial situation as of May 2, 2018. A motion to approve the report was made by Paul Tomkiel, seconded by David Flesner. **Approved.**

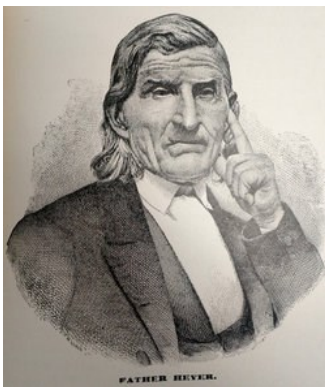
The board broke into individual committee meetings at 10:15, and reconvened at 10:50AM.

Membership Chair Jim Mummert reported that the society obtained 11 new members, meeting the 10% challenge set for 2018. There are currently 112 members, including 35 Life members. 24 members have not yet renewed for 2018. The committee offered a recom-

(Continued on page 4)



Featured Lutheran: John Christian Frederick Heyer



John Christian Frederick Heyer was the first missionary sent out by Lutherans in America. Born in Germany on July 10, 1793, he came to America in 1807 to escape the Napoleonic wars. He studied theology in Philadelphia and the University of Gottingen.

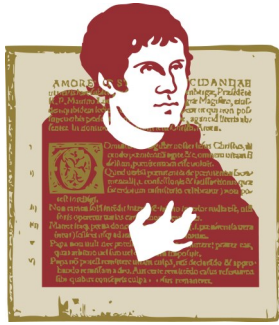
Back in America, he was licensed as a lay minister and preached in Pennsylvania and the Midwest. Ordained in 1820, he preached and taught at Gettysburg College and Seminary for twenty years. Heyer was commissioned in 1841 by the Ministerium of Pennsylvania as the first foreign missionary of the American Lutheran churches.

He spent fifteen years (1842–1837) founding missions in the region of Andhra, India. His health failed and he returned to organize churches in America, particularly Minnesota. In 1869 he returned to Andhra to reorganize the Rajahmundry mission. He then returned to Philadelphia to serve as chaplain of the new Lutheran seminary until his death on November 7, 1873.

400 Years of American Lutheranism: 2018 Spring Program Recap

By John Deeben

The Spring program of the Lutheran Historical Society of the Mid-Atlantic took place on April 17, 2018, on the Gettysburg campus of United Lutheran Seminary. The society enjoyed a healthy turnout as members gathered in the auditorium of Valentine Hall to hear keynote speaker the Rev. Dr. Mark Granquist, Luther Seminary, reflect on “Looking Toward 2019: Observing the 400th Anniversary of Lutherans in North America.”



Granquist began by noting two potential dangers of reflecting on history. The first was romanticizing the past: we must be careful to not mythologize aspects of history as a “Golden Age” because that is usually not how it felt to the people who lived through those times (they did not have the hindsight that we enjoy in the present). We must also be careful about demonizing history, which incorporates the idea that we don’t need to think about the past because the present is so much better.

There were scattered reports of Lutherans in America before 1619. A Danish expedition to find the Northwest Passage included Rasmus Jensen, a Lutheran monk, who died in February 1620 after the expedition became trapped in Hudson Bay. Lutheran beginnings in America, therefore, were not auspicious. Lutheranism in America had an accidental nature about it, there were no planned colonies, just small groups and families. Lutherans in Europe, moreover, were not keen to see their brethren migrate to the New World. They left, however, for economic reasons, including land and employment. Some left seeking religious freedom. There were few religious centers in America, especially for Lutherans.

According to Granquist, a rough religious pluralism evolved over time in America, centered on voluntary Christianity (not sponsored by the State), which was a new experience. A new Lutheranism had to be invented to fit the linguistic structures of the new American society, but there were no guarantees that it was going to work. Despite the uncertainties, Lutherans grew. In the 19th century they excelled in evangelism, and so by

(Continued on page 6)

LHSMA Board Minutes

(Continued from page 3)

mentation to continue the 10% goal for 2019. The committee also recommended to continue recruiting new pastors who move into Region 8 synods. Publicity Chair Mark Oldenburg reported that the display boards should be updated quickly. The committee also recommended to approach the seminary library to see if one display board could be permanently set up there, and also have one in the refectory during the summer. The committee also wants to support the newsletter as well as the website, including posting interesting pictures of items from the archives. The committee would like to be more efficient at handling program information, and perhaps work on a new logo for the society that will be useful for social media and reproduction.

Program Chair Jill Titus reported a goal to produce an excellent spring program centered on Tim Townsend (Biglerville Prize winner) and his publication on the Nuremburg Trials. An evening program might draw a wider public audience in late March or early April. His-

toric Site Recognition Chair Paul Tomkiel reported that the committee discussed several possible individuals to recognize. The committee wondered if the site plaques that have been placed to date should be checked to see if they are still okay (in light of our experience in having to replace the David Day plaque). The committee reviewed the current list of sites and noted that West Virginia-Western Maryland Synod is the only Region 8 synod without a recognized site.

There was no Old Business. Under New Business, there was some discussion about goals for 2019, including 1) 10% increase in membership; 2) Historic Site committee will revisit submission criteria and try to bring a recommendation for a new site by the August meeting; 3) next year’s spring program will be planned by the August meeting; 4) an ad-hoc constitution committee (Herr, Oldenburg, Deeben) will revisit the society’s organizational structure; and 5) Program committee will explore the possibility of organizing another edition of the Congregational Heritage Workshops.

The board meeting adjourned at 11:55AM with closing devotions by President Herr.

2018 Annual Meeting

by John Deeben

The Lutheran Historical Society of the Mid-Atlantic gathered for its annual business meeting in Valentine Hall on the Gettysburg Campus of United Lutheran Seminary on April 17, 2018. Vice President Mark Oldenburg called the meeting to order at 11:45 AM and welcomed the membership. After Vice President Oldenburg determined that a quorum existed, a motion to accept the meeting agenda as submitted was made by David Flesner and seconded by Paul Tomkiel. **Approved.**

The minutes from the April 25, 2017, annual meeting were **approved** on motion of Nelson Strobert, seconded by Jon Peterson.

Under Officers' Reports, Vice President Oldenburg presented a written report from President Steve Herr, who was unable to attend. President Herr thanked all members in attendance as well as current board members for their service. Herr noted the success of the October 7, 2017 event to recognize the University of Maryland Memorial Chapel as a historical site, which included a panel discussion on women's ordination. He also noted that three newsletters were produced for the society during 2017, and that no paper submissions were received for the Wentz Prize. President Herr also thanked Briant Bohleke for his service on the board and for his tenure as the society's archivist/historian.

There were no reports from the Vice President, Secretary, or Archivist/Historian. Treasurer Lee Knepp submitted a written report on the Society's finances from January 1 to April 6, 2018. Knepp observed that the society is not flush with money but remains viable. A \$500 donation was received from emeritus board member Michael Kurtz. The society is also up to date with the IRS's filing status. The treasurer's report was **approved** on motion of Jim Mummert, seconded by Kevin Hepler.

Award Updates: Entries for the 2018 Wentz Prize are due on August 31, 2018. The St. Paul/Biglerville Prize will not be given out in 2018 (per the prize stipulations, it is only awarded every 2-3 years), but preparations will be made to issue the prize in 2019 or 2020.

Under New Business, Vice President Mark Oldenburg reported for the Nominating Committee. The committee presented the following names to fill five

open seats on the board for a 3-year term, including David Flesner, Kevin Hepler, Steve Herr, Mark Oldenburg, and Paul Tomkiel. The floor was then opened for additional nominations. There being none, nominations were closed and a motion to approve the slate of candidates by acclamation was made by Lee Knepp, seconded by Jon Peterson. **Approved.** Vice President Oldenburg also presented the nomination of Sheila Joy to fill the remaining 2-year unexpired term of Briant Bohleke, who resigned. A motion to approve the nomination by acclamation was made by Paul Tomkiel, seconded by Nelson Strobert. **Approved.**

Under Announcements for the Good of the Order, a representative from the Lutheran Historical Society of Eastern Pennsylvania brought greetings to the society. Membership chair Jim Mummert shared current member statistics, including 36 Life members, 47 members paid for 2018, and 24 members who have not yet paid. Total current membership is 107. Paul Tomkiel invited members to enter submissions for the next Historic Site recognition.

The annual meeting adjourned at 11:58 AM and the membership departed for lunch.



Lutheran Disaster Response

Lutheran Disaster Response brings God's hope, healing and renewal to people whose lives have been disrupted by disasters in the United States and around the world. When the dust settles and the headlines change, we stay to provide ongoing assistance to those in need.

Gifts to Lutheran Disaster Response designated for "U.S. wildfires" will be used to help those affected by wildfires in Northern California until the response is complete. Together, we can help provide immediate and long-lasting support. Give today to support this response and others like it.



www.elca.org

Lutherans in America

(Continued from page 4)

1900 Lutherans were the third largest religious group in the United States. The decade between 1917 and 1927 proved to be the most critical years for Lutherans in the 20th century as immigration ended, use of English accelerated, and as a result Lutherans were thrust into positions of leadership and cooperation.

Following the main presentation, a panel consisting of Granquist, Dr. Jill Oglie Titus, Associate Director of the Civil War Institute at Gettysburg College, and the Rt. Rev. Matthew L. Riegel, Bishop of the West Virginia-Western Maryland Synod (ELCA), discussed “Telling the Story Next: The Future of the History of American Lutheranism.” Offering a perspective from outside the field, Dr. Titus observed that Lutheranism

seems to be underrepresented in the historiography, probably due to smaller numbers compared to other denominations. Lutherans should become more integrated in the historical study of the next 400 years. We need to fit Lutherans into the broader tapestry. Bishop Riegel noted forthrightly that Lutheran history is history, and must be told to help us understand who we are. Lutherans in America are a mongrel tradition, there really isn’t a national church, but all groups of Lutherans influence each other. Granquist agreed with the insights of the other panelists, and noted the practicalities of studying Lutheranism going forward: Lutherans are different but not different enough, and so we need to make our history accessible for non-Lutherans.

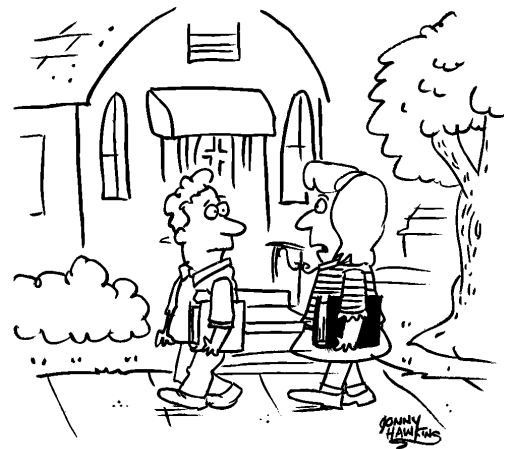
Following the program, members remained on hand for the annual business meeting (see separate article on page 5) and then the gathering adjourned for lunch.

The Lutheran Historical Conference’s Biennial Meeting

October 4-6, 2018

California Lutheran University
Thousand Oaks, California

Visit www.luthhistcon.org
for more information



“They must have had some form of email.
The Apostle Paul wrote the epistles.”

Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service

We are a church that does God’s work in the world and in local communities pursuing justice, peace and human dignity for and with all people.



In partnership with Lutheran congregations and Lutheran social ministry organizations, Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service has welcomed more than 379,000 refugees to the United States since 1939. This ongoing partnership and work is driven by God’s love for all people and a vision for congregations to be welcoming and generous centers for mission and ministry.

The work of the ELCA through Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service includes responding to people caught in conflict and facing persecution, advocating for their needs and interests, helping people access resources for basic human needs, working with foster care programs for minors, legal assistance, developing new and innovative service programs and partnerships, and much more.

Join us in this courageous work of serving and loving our neighbors in the name of Jesus Christ. Learn more about Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service today.

www.elca.org



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.

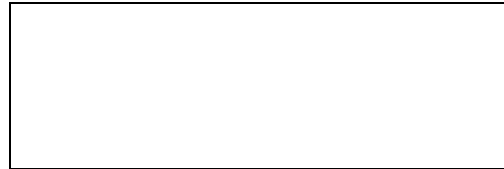
Address corrections are helpful.

Send replies via email to:

Stephen Herr

info@lutheranhistoricalsociety.com

Subject: LHS Newsletter



VOLUME 29, NUMBER 2

From the Region 8 Archives

Among the diverse holdings of the ELCA Region 8 Archives at the A.R. Wentz Library, Gettysburg Campus, United Lutheran Seminary, are noncurrent records of Lutheran congregations, including historical records of disbanded congregations, from five Region 8 Synods, including Alleghany, Delaware-Maryland, Lower Susquehanna, Metropolitan Washington, DC, and Upper Susquehanna Synod. In this issue, we highlight the records of the following congregation:

ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH, SNYDERTOWN, NORTHUMBERLAND CO., PA

(Upper Susquehanna Synod)

- Altar Guild Minutes, 1955–1966, 1967–1984, 1984–1989
- Cemetery Association Minutes, 1933–2005
- Council Minutes, 1957–1975, 1990–2005
- Luther League Records, 1935–1936
- Miscellaneous Records
- Parish Register, 1900–1964
- Plum Creek Charge Minutes, 1896–1940 (Includes Eden Evangelical Lutheran Church, Plum Creek; St. John's Lutheran Church, Snyderstown; St. Peter's Evangelical Lutheran (White) Church, Hallowing Run; and Zion Lutheran and Reformed Stone Church, Augustaville)
- Record Books, 1872–1896, 1897–1931

For more information, researchers should consult the guidelines to Research Inquiries for the Region 8 Archives Collections on the United Lutheran Seminary website at

<http://library.uls.edu/subjects/guide.php?subject=region8policies>.