

NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 30, NUMBER 2

SUMMER 2019

Lutheran Historical Society of the Mid-Atlantic

Annual Meeting, April 9, 2019

Dining Hall, Gettysburg College Campus

The annual meeting of the Lutheran Historical Society of the Mid-Atlantic was held on April 9, 2019, in the Dining Hall on the Gettysburg College campus. President Steve Herr called the meeting to order at 6:10 PM and welcomed the membership. Herr noted this was the first time the society has hosted an evening banquet and lecture program.

President Herr determined that a quorum for the meeting existed.

A motion to accept the meeting agenda as submitted was made by Lee Knepp, seconded by Maria Erling. **Approved.**

The minutes from the April 17, 2018, annual meeting were **approved** on motion of Kevin Hepler, seconded by Mark Oldenburg.

Officers Reports:

- President's Report: President Herr thanked all members for their attendance, as well as current board members for their service. He also thanked former board member Marianne Brock and retiring board members Jill Ogline Titus and Jane English for their service.
- Vice-President's Report: No report.
- Secretary's Report: No report.
- Archivist/Historian's Report: No report.
- Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Lee Knepp submitted a written report on the Society's finances from January 1 to April 4, 2019, as well as a report from January 1 to December 31, 2018, for comparison. Balances remain stable. The treasurer's report was **approved** on motion of Jon Peterson, seconded by Mark Oldenburg.

Award Updates: President Herr recognized Pastor Benjamin Phelps, winner of the 2018 Wentz Prize, who was in attendance. Entries for the 2019 Wentz Prize are due on August 31, 2019. The St. Paul/Biglerville Prize is due to be awarded again in 2020.

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 Beth Clementson, Maria Erling, John Fehringer, Louise Meledin, and Sean Titus. Standing to fill two

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SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- LHSMAs annual dinner/meeting a success
- New Board members elected for 2019-2020
- All Board officers returning for coming year
- Pastor Benjamin Phelps speaks at annual meeting on Friedrich Wyneken
- Board committees start planning for the coming year
- Archives for Holy Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church, Wilmington, DE

President's Corner - Summer 2019

The Lutheran Historical Society of the Mid-Atlantic recognizes the importance of the preservation and promotion of the history of Lutheranism in this region. The society emphasizes how this rich history and heritage of Lutheranism continues to shape



and impact the church's ministry and mission. We seek to accomplish those goals by offering lectures, discussions, and pilgrimages to American Lutheran heritage sites.

The A.R. Wentz and St. Paul, Biglerville prizes promote scholarship concerning Lutheranism in America. The historic site recognition program seeks to raise awareness of places that have significance in Mid-Atlantic Lutheranism, while also encouraging congregations to develop their own preservation and sharing of their history. In order to help congregations throughout the region develop their archives and the telling of their history, a congregational heritage workshop is being planned for next spring. Look for an announcement with details in the

fall edition of this newsletter

Our annual meeting in April focused on Henry Gereke and his chaplaincy to the Nazi war criminals tried at Nuremburg for crimes against humanity. The lecture was a look back at the ministry of a Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod pastor and United States Army chaplain in the aftermath of World War II. Keynote Tim Townsend told the historical story of Gereke, however, he also succeeded in inviting participants to reflect deeply on themes

of human sinfulness, war and peace, as well as justice and mercy. His exploration of Gereke was not only a story of the past, but also of the present. It spoke of the value of military chaplaincy and the challenge to min-

ister to those who have done great harm to other human beings. It invited us all to see how one man's actions help us reflect on our own time, actions, ethics, and moral action.

The 2018 Abdel Ross Wentz prize winner Pastor Benjamin Phelps from Kenai, Alaska spoke briefly about his winning paper concerning the confessionalism of Friedrich C.D. Wyneken. Wyneken became the second president of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod.

Phelps reminded readers of Wyneken's commitment to Lutheran confessionalism amidst a pan-Protestant religious environment on the American frontier. Phelps's study reminded readers of the importance of the Lutheran confessions and their continuing importance and place in the church today. I found the Wyneken study reinforced the importance of the Lutheran confessions and their applicability in our time as they were for Wyneken in his.

Thank you to all who attended our annual meeting, evening banquet and lecture. We had a great turnout for the banquet and meeting with close to one hundred in attendance for the Townsend presentation. I encourage each member to invite at least one person to join the society this summer. Check out our various programs and updates at www.lutheranhistoricalsociety.com

God's blessings to all for a healthy, historical, and fun summer!

Sincerely in Christ,

*Pastor Stephen R. Herr,
President*

*Lutheran Historical Society
of the Mid-Atlantic*

July 20, 2019

50th Anniversary of the
Lunar Landing

Thank you to all who attended... We had a great turnout for the banquet and meeting with close to one hundred in attendance for the Townsend presentation.



LHSMA 2019 - 2020 Board of Directors

Board Members

Stephen Herr
President
Mark Oldenburg
Vice President

John Deeben
Secretary
Lee Knepp
Treasurer

Sheila Joy
Archivist/Historian
Beth Clementson
Maria Erling

John Fehring
David E. Flesner
Andrew Frantz
Kevin Hepler

Louise Meledin
James A. Mummert
Sean Titus
Paul Tomkiel

Board Emeriti

Susan Hill
Donald Housley
Michael J. Kurtz

Featured Lutheran: Elsie Singmaster Lewars

Elsie Singmaster (Lewars) was an O. Henry and Newberry award winning author of short stories and books during the first half of the twentieth century. Singmaster is well known for her stories about the Pennsylvania Germans from whom she descended on her father's side. A resident of Gettysburg from 1900-1958, she also wrote widely about the Battle of Gettysburg. In 1907, she was graduated from Radcliffe College, Cambridge, Massachusetts. Singmaster was a lifelong Lutheran. She worshipped at Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church in Gettysburg and served broadly in church and community leadership capacities. She wrote *Martin Luther, The Story of His Life* in 1917 to help celebrate the Lutheran-sponsored Quadra-centennial of the Reformation. Singmaster was the daughter of John Alden Singmaster, professor and president at the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Gettysburg from 1900 until his death in 1926.



Welcome New Members

LHSMA welcomes the following new members to the Society:

Annual Memberships:

Rev. Patrick Ballard - *Baltimore, MD*
 David E. Durbin - *Mechanicsburg, PA*
 Rev. Benjamin Phelps - *Kenai, AK*
(Recent Wentz Prize recipient)

Annual Membership Upgraded to Life Membership:

Dr. Robert L. Driesen, Retired Bishop - *York, PA*
 David E.. Flesner - *Gettysburg, PA*
 Kristi Keller - *Ellicott City, MD*

Please notify us of any corrections.

by Jim Mummert

LHSMA Annual Meeting Minutes, cont.

(Continued from page 1)

unexpired 1-year terms are Andrew Frantz, Kristi Keller, and James Mummert. The floor was then opened for additional nominations. There being none, nominations were closed, ballots were distributed, and the membership proceeded to vote.

Announcements: President Herr recognized the Gettysburg College history faculty who were attending the banquet, including William Bowman, Pete Carmichael, Michael Birkner, and Jill Oglie Titus. Herr also recognized the United Lutheran seminarians who were attending as special guests. Vice President Oldenburg then announced the results of the board elections: the slate of nominees for the open 3-year terms were approved, while Frantz and Mummert were selected to fill the unexpired 1-year terms.

President Herr then invited Pastor Phelps forward to make brief remarks about his Wentz Prize paper, "Awakened to Confessional: The Doctrinal Development of F.C.D. Wyneken and Its Place in the Course of Lutheranism in America."

The annual meeting adjourned at 6:45 PM on motion by Annabelle Wenzke, seconded by Jon Peterson, and the membership proceeded to the College Union Building to attend the Spring Program lecture by Tim Townsend.

Respectfully Submitted,

JOHN P. DEEBEN, Secretary

LHSMA Board Happenings

By John Deeben

The board of the Lutheran Historical Society of the Mid-Atlantic met on May 22, 2019. President Steve Herr called the meeting to order at 10:32 AM at Valentine Hall, United Lutheran Seminary (Gettysburg Campus). President Herr welcomed board members to the meeting and led introductions around the table as well as opening devotions and shared some historical background about the society for the benefit of newly elected members.



Treasurer Lee Knepp distributed a report of the society's finances covering the period January 1 through May 14, 2019, and a report for calendar year 2018 for comparison. General finances are okay. Confirmation of IRS filing was accomplished. A motion to accept the treasurer's report was made by John Fehringer, seconded by Jim Mummert. **Approved.**

The minutes of the January 24, 2019 board meeting were distributed and a motion to approve was made by David Flesner, seconded by John Fehringer. **Approved.**

President Herr proceeded to facilitate the board reorganization for 2019. Vice President Mark Oldenburg reported for the Nominating Committee that the current incumbents - including Steve Herr, President; Mark Oldenburg, Vice President; John Deeben, Secretary; Lee Knepp, Treasurer; and Sheila Joy, Archivist/Historian - are willing to stand for reelection. There were no additional nominations from the floor. John Fehringer made a motion to close nominations and approve the slate of nominees, seconded by Sean Titus. **Approved.** President Herr then determined assignments for each standing committee, including Publicity, Membership, Program, and Historic Site Recognition.

Officers' reports followed. President Herr thanked everyone for their willingness to serve on the board. Herr noted the society continues to have a role to play in the wider society as a whole. Herr also thanked everyone who helped plan or otherwise participated in the Spring program. Thirty-seven people attended the society dinner, and over 100 attended the lecture by Tim Townsend.

Secretary John Deeben sent around the updated board list for additions and corrections to contact information. The Summer newsletter deadline was set as July 1.

Archivist/Historian Sheila Joy reported two recent acquisitions, including VHS tapes of the society's 1996 annual meeting from David Flesner, and miscellaneous material from Tim Spence. A spreadsheet of materials still missing from the society's archives will be distributed to the board and publicized in the newsletter.

The board then broke into committee meetings at 11:40, reconvened at 12:10 PM, and made the following reports.

- **Membership:** Jim Mummert reported an idea to correspond with pastors to send potential names of members who might be interested in Lutheran history. It will probably take a year to develop this particular recruitment idea. We also need new stationery and envelopes for the society. A printed report on membership numbers was distributed to the board, showing 40 life members, 82 annual, and 10 institutions.
- **Publicity:** Mark Oldenburg reported two display boards are going out to upcoming synod assemblies. Work is still progressing on a new logo design. Beth Clementson volunteered to be the board's social media guru. Some interest in the society came back from the targeted invitations that were sent out for the Spring program.
- **Program:** Steve Herr reported that the banquet format for the annual meeting/Spring program was successful but not sure if it can be replicated if the program topic is not broad enough. The Lutheran Historical Con-

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Member Biographies:

Andrew Frantz

A lifelong Lutheran and native of the Lehigh Valley, Andrew Frantz currently lives in Gettysburg where he is a seasonal park ranger at Gettysburg National Military Park. He holds history degrees from the College of William & Mary and the University of California and has previously worked at a number of historic sites and museums across the country, including the Yorktown battlefield, Colonial Williamsburg, Old Salem Fort McHenry, and Hampton National Historic Site. He primarily studies the military, political, and religious history of the British empire in the seventeenth and eighteenth century (especially in North America) as well as the world wars. He and his wife, Rebecca (the pastor at St. John's, Littlestown), are expecting their first child in October.

Sean Titus

The Rev. Sean Titus serves as pastor of Trinity Lutheran Church in Jefferson (Codorus, Pennsylvania). In addition to holding a M.Div. from the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Gettysburg (now United Lutheran Seminary), he also holds a M.A. in history from the University at Buffalo. He formerly taught history and geography at Chincoteague High School in Chincoteague, Virginia. He is a native of western New York State, and is the husband of former board member, Jill Titus.



LHSMA Board Minutes:

(Continued from page 4)

ference will be coming next fall to the Baltimore or Gettysburg area; details are still evolving. The committee wonders if the annual program should be tied to the LHC fall event, and we do something more local in the spring. The possibility was also raised to do a Congregational Heritage Workshop in conjunction with the annual meeting in the spring.

- **Historic Site Recognition:** Sheila Joy noted that plaques are needed for Linwood House and Salem Lutheran Church, Lebanon. Ap-

plications are now being accepted for new sites to recognize.

- **Nominating:** The committee will reorganize with Mark Oldenburg and John Deeben, with John Fehringer serving as a consultant.

There was no Old Business. Under New Business, some goals were identified for next meeting, including a resolution of remaining details for the next annual meeting. The society's bylaws and constitution have not been reviewed since 2002; standing rules since 2014. An ad-hoc group may be appointed to review those documents at a later date.

The board meeting adjourned at 12:55 PM with recitation of the Apostle's Creed.



New Board Members - Left to Right: Andrew Frantz, the Rev. Beth Clementson and the Rev. Sean Titus

What Jesus never said:

“Feed the hungry only if they have papers.”

“Clothe the naked only if they’re from your country.”

“Welcome the stranger only if there’s zero risk.”

“Help the poor only if it’s convenient.”

“Love your neighbor only if they look like you.”

— James Martin, S.J.

Unfundamentalist.com



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.”*

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lutheranhistoricalsociety.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

info@lutheranhistoricalsociety.com

Subject: LHS Newsletter



VOLUME 30, 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:

HOLY TRINITY EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH WILMINGTON, DE

(Delaware-Maryland Synod)

- Annual Congregational Reports 1971-2003
- Congregation Member Record Cards
- Congregational Meeting Minutes/Reports
 - * 1924-1925, 1928-1942, 1944-1945, 1947-1951, 1957-1970
- Council Minutes
 - * 1906-1934, 1938-1954, 1956-1990
- Legal Papers
- Miscellaneous Papers
- Parish Registers
 - * 1906-1956, 1955-2003

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>.