

NEWSLETTER

LHSMA Board Happenings

By John Deeben

The Board of Directors of the Lutheran Historical Society of the Mid-Atlantic met virtually via Zoom on January 19, 2021. President Steve Herr called the meeting to order at 5:03 PM and opened with prayer.

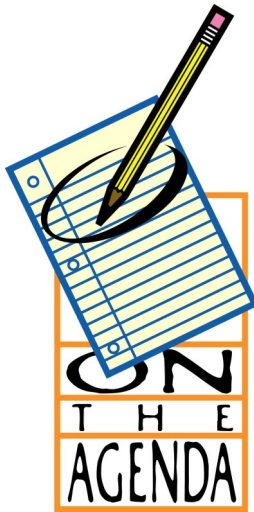
The meeting agenda was accepted by acclamation. The minutes from October 22, 2020, were distributed electronically before the meeting. A motion to accept the minutes was made by Dave Flesner, seconded by Sean Titus. **Approved.**

Under Officers' Reports, President Steve Herr reported that, based on electronic action by the Board in December, the Wentz Prize for 2020 was awarded and the prize money has been distributed (see Committee report for additional details). Steve is working with the webmaster to update the society's website. Secretary John Deeben set February 28 as the submission deadline for the spring issue of the newsletter. Treasurer Lee Knepp shared a report covering Society finances to date, as well as copies of 2019 and 2020 calendar years for comparison. Annual membership receipts are down substantially. Valuations from the Seminary are still not entirely resolved. A motion to receive the report was made by Maria Erling, seconded by Mark Oldenburg. **Approved.**

Board members broke into brief committee meetings at 5:24 and reconvened at 5:39. The following committee reports were then presented:

Committee Reports:

- Membership:** John Deeben reported current membership figures as follows: 87 annual members, 46 life members, and 15 institutional members, four of which are life members. The committee will send out a membership renewal email blast as soon as possible, followed by a printed reminder in the spring newsletter and a hardcopy mailing if necessary. Members will be encouraged to renew by March 31
- Publicity:** Mark Oldenburg reported that the committee will be ready to publicize the fall program as soon as it is ready. It is not believed that any of the ELCA synods are meeting in person this spring.
- Program:** Maria Erling and Jon Diefenthaler will meet with the Lutheran Historical Conference on February 4, to go ahead with plans for the fall meeting on September 30-Oct. 2, 2021. A joint session at Gettysburg between the Conference and the Society will be planned for Saturday October 2. It might also be an appropriate time to award this year's Biglerville Prize.
- Historic Site Recognition:** Maria Erling reported that the committee brainstormed an idea to approach a congregation in upstate New York where Clara Barton formed the first chapter of the American Red Cross. There are no other pending applica-



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SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- Board working to recruit additional new members
- Joint session of LHSMA and Lutheran Historical Conference planned for this fall
- Benjamin Schaefer awarded 2020 Wentz prize
- Parish registers should be placed in fire-proof safe or a bank safe deposit box
- New and renewing LHSMA members encouraged to sign up for LIFE membership

(Continued on page 3)

President's Corner - Spring 2021

Greetings in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord and Risen Savior!

I hope this newsletter finds you and your family doing well. Our society keeps all those affected by the COVID-19 pandemic in our thoughts and prayers.



Our society's board of directors continues to meet regularly to advance the work of the society. This past year those meetings have all been virtual. I thank the all-volunteer board for their work and efforts to help the society to fulfill its mission and purpose during these challenging times. Late last year a panel of judges met and made recommendations on prize recipients for the Ab-

del Ross Wentz prize in American History. This year the St. Paul Biglerville Prize committee has begun its work with plans to award the prize later this year. You can learn more about these prizes and past winners on our website www.lutheranhistoricalsociety.com.

Our website contains a library of Mid-Atlantic Lutherans along with a short biography and picture (when possible). These histories can be found under the title "Featured Lutherans" and introduce

readers to many of those who have helped shape Lutheranism in this region. There are more stories to share and I invite you to help the society expand this collection. Please share a biography and picture of a Mid-Atlantic Lutheran with [in-](mailto:fo@lutheranhistoricalsociety.com)

fo@lutheranhistoricalsociety.com or mail it to Lutheran Historical Society of the Mid-Atlantic, 61 Seminary Ridge, Gettysburg, PA 17325.

At this time the society plans to hold its annual meeting in the fall in association with the meeting of the Lutheran Historical Conference. LHC is holding its meeting in Baltimore and Gettysburg on September 30 – October 2. Please stay tuned to our website and the summer newsletter for updates.

May you and yours have a blessed Eastertide.

Sincerely in Christ,

*Pastor Stephen R. Herr,
President*

*Lutheran Historical
Society of the
Mid-Atlantic*

April 3, 2021

*Our website contains
a library of
Mid-Atlantic Lutherans
along with a short
biography and picture
(when possible).*

Welcome New Members

LHSMA welcomes the following new members to the Society:

Annual Memberships Upgraded to Life Memberships:

David Durbin - *Mechanicsburg, PA*
Rev. Benjamin T. Phelps - *Kanai, AK*
Trinity Lutheran Church - *McClure, PA*

Annual Memberships:

Wanda Jane Hoover Taylor - *Palmyra, PA*

The Annual Membership Drive is underway. Kindly renew your membership with the Application Form in this issue. Please indicate if you need a "hard copy" to apply. Membership involves you in supporting various efforts to lift up Lutheran history in the Mid-Atlantic area.

Please notify us of any corrections.

by John Deeben

LHSMA 2020 - 2021 Board of Directors

Board Members

Stephen Herr
President
Mark Oldenburg
Vice President

John Deeben
Secretary
Lee Knepp
Treasurer

Maria Erling
Archivist/Historian
Karen Christian
Beth Clementson

David E. Flesner
Andrew Frantz
Kevin Hepler
Kristi Keller

Louise Meledin
Sean Titus
Paul Tomkiel

Board Emeriti

Susan Hill
Donald Housley
Michael J. Kurtz

A Brief Biography:

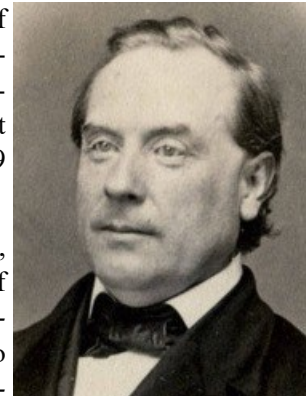
Martin Luther Stoever

Professor Martin Luther Stoever, an American Lutheran educator and writer, was born on February 17, 1820, in Germantown, Pennsylvania. He graduated from Pennsylvania (now Gettysburg) College in 1838. Although he originally intended to go into ordained ministry, Stoever entered the education field instead, becoming principal of a classical academy in Maryland from 1838 to 1842. He headed the preparatory department of Pennsylvania College from 1842 to 1851, and then taught history, Latin, and political economy from 1851 until his death. He was the college's first history professor.

In 1850 he served for a brief period as interim president of Pennsylvania College following the retirement of Charles P. Krauth. Stoever received an honorary doctorate from Hamilton College in 1866, and a Doctor of Laws from Union College in 1869. He was also of-

fered the presidency of Girard College in Philadelphia in 1862, as well as a professorship of Latin at Muhlenberg College in 1869 but declined both.

In literary matters, Stoever served as editor of the *Literary Record and Linnæan Journal* from 1848 to 1849, and editor of the *Evangelical Quarterly Review* from 1849 to 1870. His biographical articles on Muhlenberg, Philip P. Mayer, and other writings about Lutheran history earned Stoever the sobriquet of "The Plutarch of the Lutheran Church." Martin Luther Stoever died at Germantown, Pennsylvania, on July 22, 1870.



By John Deeben



Board Happenings, cont.

(Continued from page 1)

tions for consideration. More information is needed about some of the sites already listed on the society website .

- **Nominating:** No report, will meet later in the year .
- **Wentz Prize:** Steve Herr reported that the committee is working through a review of the current guidelines. The committee offered a recommendation to formalize the electronic action of the board to award the 2020 prize to Benjamin Schaefer for his paper "Avoiding the Hornet's Nest: Woman Suffrage and Synodical Conference Lutherans" (\$2500), and to award honorable mentions to Kris-

ten Barnes, Alex Aakre, and Christopher Royce in the First-Degree Seminarian category (\$100), and Matthew Borrasso in the Graduate Student category (\$250), on motion by Steve Herr, seconded by Lee Knepp. **Approved.**

- **Biglerville Prize:** Sean Titus reported that two candidates for the prize have been nominated for this year. The committee will need to add a non-board member to begin the review process for the nominated works .

There was no Old or New Business

The next board meeting (via Zoom) is scheduled for May 25 at 5:00 PM

The board meeting adjourned at 5:52 PM on motion by Jon Diefenthaler, seconded by Sean Titus. **Approved.**

Managing Church Records: What Happens Before they Become Archival?

By John Deeben

Church Archives



Over the years, the Lutheran Historical Society of the Mid-Atlantic has shared much information on how to preserve historical church records and organize or incorporate such material into a congregation's archives. Indeed, the archival-track topics covered at LHSMA's reoccurring Congregational Heritage Workshops are usually among the most popular and heavily attended sessions. What happens, however, before congregational records are retired and become archival? What records are important to the life and mission of a congregation, how should they be handled while they are still actively used to facilitate the daily business of a congregation, and how long should they be kept before they are finally retired from active to archival? These are important aspects of the archival profession that constitute Records Management, which is a vital part of the life cycle of any record as it progresses from creation to final disposition, or from active to historical. The following information on how to manage church records are based on guidelines© developed by the ELCA's Office of the Secretary. More information is available on the ELCA website at www.elca.org.

Congregations typically create and retain records that are vital to its daily operation and activities, legal protection, and financial security, all of which contribute to its eventual historical record. For the well-being

of the congregation, each type of record has a specific life cycle and needs appropriate care. The first part of this overview looks at the Parish Register.

Parish registers historically have included information about the composition of the congregation in the form of membership lists, and a record of activities vital to the worship life of the church, such as baptisms, confirmations, marriages, funerals, and communion participation. They may also include lists of pastors of the congregation, ELCA-rostered lay workers, other professional lay workers such as choir directors and organists, and rosters of congregational officers. The pastor of the congregation is responsible for maintaining the parish register and keeping it up to date.

The parish register is a permanent record and requires the utmost care. The parish register is a hardcopy record and should be kept in a fire-proof safe while in use. You may use a computer program for managing the parish register in the administration of your congregation. This database itself, however, does not constitute a parish register.

As a permanent record, old parish registers should be placed in a fire-proof safe in the congregation's archives, or in a bank safe-deposit box.

© *Records Retention Schedule for Congregations of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America*. Edition current as of November 19, 2012. Office of the Secretary, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. These guidelines may be copied for use in the congregation provided copyright is acknowledged.

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



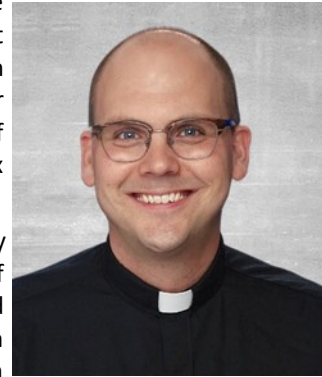
Lutheran Historical Society

Of the Mid-Atlantic

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Gettysburg, Pennsylvania

Lutheran Historical Society announces A.R. Wentz Prize Winner

The Lutheran Historical Society of the Mid-Atlantic announces that the Reverend Benjamin Schaefer is the winner of the 2020 A.R. Wentz Prize in American Lutheran History for his paper "Avoiding the Hornet's Nest: Woman Suffrage and Synodical Conference Lutherans" in the award's PH.D./M.A. category. Schaefer serves as the pastor at Mount Calvary Lutheran Church in Redding, California and shared that he was humbled and honored to receive the society's Wentz Prize. Schaefer's paper topic was timely for 2020 given the centennial anniversary of the passing of the 19th Amendment to the United States Constitution giving women the right to vote. Schaefer's thesis indicated that "Biblical truth and cultural norms led most within the Synodical Conference to oppose the women's suffrage movement and its goals for society and the church, while those same voices praised the abilities and contributions of women." In addition, the society awarded honorable mention to Kristen Barnes, Alex Aakre, Christopher Royce and Matthew Borrasso for their papers.



Abdel Ross Wentz, for whom the award is named, was a leading figure in 20th century Lutheranism. From 1916-1956 he was a professor of Church History and later President of Gettysburg Theological Seminary. He was the first Vice-President of the Lutheran World Federation and the lead writer of its first constitution. The Wentz family established an endowment to provide prize money for the best historical paper on Lutheranism in North America. The prize can be awarded each year in two categories: 1) first degree seminarian and 2) M.A or Ph.D. graduate students. The prize is in the amount of \$2,500. Read more about the prize and the work of the Lutheran Historical Society of the Mid-Atlantic on its website: www.lutheranhistoricalsociety.com

Schaefer was born in Flagstaff, Arizona, and raised in Minneapolis, Minnesota. He graduated *summa cum laude* from Martin Luther College in New Ulm, Minnesota receiving further theological and pastoral training at Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary. After completing his seminary education and his vicarage at Shepherd of the Mountains Lutheran Church in Reno, Nevada, he was ordained into the holy ministry of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod at First German Lutheran Church in Manitowoc, Wisconsin in 2009. Following a nine-year pastorate at First German Lutheran Church, he has served as pastor of Mount Calvary Lutheran Church in Redding, California for the past three years. He is also a member of the WELS Historical Institute Board. In 2020 he was awarded a Master of Sacred Theology in Church History from Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary. He is currently a graduate student with the University of Nottingham, England, pursuing a master's degree in Systematic and Philosophical Theology. Schaefer is married to Anna Zarling Schaefer and they have been blessed with five daughters.

The society also announces a call for papers for the 2021 prize. Any first-degree seminary student regardless of denominational affiliation and anyone enrolled in a degree program at the M.A. or Ph.D. level are eligible to apply. Paper topics should be history papers on some aspect of Lutheranism in North America. Full details can be found on the society's website. Questions can be directed to Pastor Stephen Herr, President of the Lutheran Historical Society of the Mid-Atlantic, 717-334-5212, info@lutheranhistoricalsociety.com or Lutheran Historical Society of the Mid-Atlantic, 61 Seminary Ridge, Gettysburg, PA 17325.

Lutheran Historical Society of the Mid-Atlantic
61 Seminary Ridge
Gettysburg, PA 17325
www.info@lutheranhistoricalsociety.com

Membership Renewal Notice

Dear Lutheran Historical Society of the Mid-Atlantic Members and Friends:

**Don't
Forget**

This is your friendly reminder that membership renewals for 2021 are now due. Payment of annual dues (\$20 per household or institution) is requested between January 1 and March 31, 2021; however, we accept new members anytime! Please feel free to use the membership form in this issue to renew or join.

For those members who have already renewed, we send you a very big **THANK YOU!!**

Don't want the hassle of remembering annual dues? Then we encourage you to consider a one-time payment of \$250 for a **LIFE MEMBERSHIP!** Both annual and LIFE memberships provide important financial support for the essential activities of the Society, including our annual meeting, scholarly programs, awarding of the Wentz and Biglerville prizes for worthy Lutheran scholarship and publications, recognition of historic Lutheran sites, and Congregational Heritage Workshops, to name a few.

Friends, if you are not a member or have received a complimentary or trial membership, we encourage you to **COME JOIN US!** We are very happy to welcome you! LHSMA is very appreciative of the involvement and support of our current members, and we are always eager to greet new members!

Another Biography:

Simon Snyder

Simon Snyder was the third Governor of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, serving three terms from 1808 to 1817. A Jeffersonian Democrat, he also served in the Pennsylvania House of Representatives and was elected three times as Speaker in 1804, 1805, and 1807. Born in Lancaster on November 5, 1759, the politician started his business career as an apprentice to a tanner in York, Pennsylvania, in 1774. In 1784, Snyder moved to Selinsgrove, Pennsylvania, where he opened a gristmill. His first electoral office was as justice of the peace, which he held for twelve years.



As governor, Snyder led the state through the War of 1812. Following the conclusion of his third term, he was elected to the Pennsylvania State Senate in 1818, but he died of typhoid fever on November 9, 1819, before he could assume office. He was the first governor elected in Pennsylvania who was of German Lutheran descent.

By John Deeben





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 32, NUMBER 1

Another Biography:

Mary Elizabeth Markley

First woman on the national staff of a Lutheran denomination. Mary Markley, daughter of the Reverend A. B. Markley, was born in Millerstown, Pennsylvania. She graduated from Ursinus College (1902) and received a master's degree in English from Agnes Scott College in Decatur, Georgia, before becoming supervisor of the Service House for the National Commission for Soldier's and Sailors' Welfare (1918-1919).



Markley became secretary for the Board of Education of the United Lutheran Church in 1919 and served until 1946. Her responsibilities included visitation to colleges and seminaries and recruiting missionaries for overseas work. She was a board member of the Lutheran Nurses Guild, the Women's Missionary Society, the Lutheran Student Association, and the National Christian Council. Her efforts opened doors for other women to enter professional church work.

By Maria Erling

A student was asked to list the 10 Commandments in any order. His answer? "3, 6, 1, 8, 4, 5, 9, 2, 10, 7".

Bill Keane, creator of the Family Circus cartoon strip tells of a time when he was penciling one of his cartoons and his son Jeffy said, "Daddy, how do you know what to draw?"

I said, "God tells me."

Jeffy said, "Then why do you keep erasing parts of it?"

