

NEWSLETTER

Lutheran Historical Society of the Mid-Atlantic

Annual Meeting & Fall Program Recap, Nov. 30, 2021

The Lutheran Historical Society of the Mid-Atlantic met virtually via Zoom for its 2021 annual meeting and Fall program on Tuesday, November 30, 2021. President Steve Herr called the annual meeting to order at 7:02 PM and welcomed the membership.

The annual meeting minutes from the October 22, 2020, were reviewed by Secretary John Deeben, and then **approved** on motion of Jon Diefenthaler, seconded by Kevin Hepler.

Treasurer Lee Knepp reported the current balances of the society's accounts, and noted that all bills have been paid to date. Expenses have been down but the balance has increased slightly. A motion to accept the Treasurer's Report was made by David Flesner, seconded by Kevin Hepler. **Approved.**

Jon Diefenthaler reported that the 2021 St. Paul/Biglerville Prize was awarded to Matthew E. Borrasso for his book, *The Art of Exegesis: An Analysis of the Life and Work of Martin Hans Franzmann*. Matt was present for the virtual meeting and expressed his gratitude and provided a little bit of background about himself.

Under New Business, Vice President Mark Oldenburg reported for the Nominating Committee. The committee

recommended Kevin Hepler, Victoria Jesswein, Stephen Herr, Mark Oldenburg, and Paul Tomkiel to fill open 3-year terms. Mark opened the floor for further nominations. There being none, the committee asked for the society membership to approve these board appointments, on motion of Lee Knepp, seconded by Kristi Keller. **Approved.** President Herr thanked outgoing board member David Flesner for his service, and welcomed newcomer Victoria Jesswein to the board.

The annual meeting adjourned at 7:15 PM on motion of Jon Diefenthaler, seconded by Hepler. **Approved.** The online event then moved into the Fall Program portion of the evening, which featured presentations by the 2019 and 2020 A. R. Wentz Prize winners. The Reverend Joel Otto received the 2019 prize for his paper "The Church Grows under the Cross: WELS Mission Expansion, 1929–1983." Otto is a professor of church history and education as well as the Dean of Students at Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary in Mequon, Wisconsin. He explained that the main premise of his paper centered on how the Wisconsin Synod was able to do quite a bit of challenging mission work under difficult circumstances.

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SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- Annual meeting again held virtually
- New Board member - Victoria Jesswein - also Archivist/Historian
- 2022 renewed memberships encouraged
- Pastor Matthew Borrasso awarded Biglerville Prize
- Details for preserving church legal records
- Archives for Keller Memorial Lutheran Church, Washington, DC

(Continued on page 3)

President's Corner - Winter 2021

Advent and Christmas greetings to each of you in the name of Emmanuel, God with us, Jesus Christ, the Son of God. Amen.



For the second year in a row our society held its annual meeting virtually. The pandemic continues to limit our opportunities to gather in person. Nevertheless, the work of the society continues. In this newsletter, you can read of the awarding of the St. Paul Biglerville Prize. Thanks to the prize

committee for its work in reading and reviewing the nominated works. At the annual meeting/program we were grateful to have two past winners of the A.R. Wentz Prize present their award-winning papers. Joel Otto from Wisconsin and Ben Schaefer from California provided insightful and engaging presentations that sparked good discussion. Both the St. Paul Biglerville and the Abdel Ross Wentz Prizes enable the society to foster scholarly re-

search in Lutheran history in America. Visit our webpage for a list of past winners and learn more about the prizes.

At the annual meeting the society elected Victoria Jesswein to its Board of Directors. She serves as the assistant archivist at United Lutheran Seminary. Welcome Victoria! Our thanks to outgoing board members, David Flesner and Andrew Frantz, for their service.

In their service on the board they made important contributions. We look forward to recognizing them more

extensively at our next in-person event. Thank you to all our board members for their service. LHSMA is an all-volunteer organization and their enthusiastic work lifting up Lutheran history in the Mid-Atlantic region is appreciated.

Furthermore we received the sad news of the October 28th death of Joan Patches who lived in York, PA. Joan was a long-time member of our society who attended the annual meeting and

program regularly. In 2018 she completed a project she had worked on for many years with the publication of A History of Salem Lutheran Church, with People and Places of Kissel Hill, Warwick Township, Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, 1823-2018. Joan will be missed, and our sympathy and prayers are with her family and friends. If you have news or updates on other society members, please let us know at lhsmidatlantic@gmail.com

I continue to encourage members to submit short biographies of Mid-Atlantic Lutherans for our Featured Lutheran segment on our website. If you are interested, please contact me for details. Check out the Featured Lutheran page on our website to learn more about Lutheran history in this region.

May you and yours have a blessed Advent, joyous and merry Christmas, and happy and healthy New Year!

Sincerely in Christ,

*Pastor Stephen R. Herr,
President*

*Lutheran Historical Society
of the Mid-Atlantic*

December 1, 2021



LHSMA 2021 - 2022 Board of Directors

Board Members

Stephen Herr
President
Mark Oldenburg
Vice President

John Deeben
Secretary
Lee Knepp
Treasurer

Victoria Jesswein
Archivist/Historian
Karen Christian
Beth Clementson
Jon Diefenthaler
Maria Erling
Kevin Hepler
Kristi Keller

Louise Meledin
Sean Titus
Paul Tomkiel

Board Emeriti

Susan Hill
Donald Housley
Michael J. Kurtz

Membership Renewal Notice

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

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!



LHSMA Annual Meeting, Fall 2021, cont.

(Continued from page 1)

The Rev. Benjamin Schaefer spoke about his 2020 prize-winning paper, "Avoiding the Hornet's Nest: Woman Suffrage and Synodical Conference Lutherans." Schaefer currently serves as the pastor at Mount Calvary Lutheran Church in Redding, California. In his remarks, Schaefer noted the implications of the suffrage movement for society and how Biblical truth and cultural norms impacted it. The Synodical Conference initially viewed the issue from a cultural perspective, but eventually dealt with it more in terms of Scripture. A lively Q&A discussion ensued. The Fall Program concluded at 7:57 with prayer offered by Mark Oldenburg.

By John Deeben



Meet New Board Member Victoria Jesswein

United Lutheran Seminary archivist Victoria Jesswein was elected to the board of the Lutheran Historical Society of the Mid-Atlantic during the society's annual meeting on November 30, 2021. At the board's follow-up reorganization meeting, Victoria



was appointed to serve as the society's archivist/historian. Regarding her election and appointment, Victoria noted, "I'm looking forward to getting involved with the Historical Society and serving on the Board as Archivist. Originally from East Texas, I moved to Gettysburg in May 2021, when I started in my current position as Archivist at United Lutheran Seminary. I grew up Lutheran (LCMS), and I received my Master's in Archives and Records Management from the University of Liverpool. I'm excited to learn about, share, and preserve Lutheran history in the Mid-Atlantic region!"

Victoria received a B.A. with Honors in Linguistics and German Studies in 2018 from the University of Texas at Austin. She also holds a Certificate of Continuing Education in Medieval Studies from the University of Cambridge. Victoria has extensive

experience with libraries and archives including reference services, preparing programs and exhibitions, appraisal, arrangement and description of material, digitization, paleography, and codicology. She also has a special interest in endangered culture and language libraries/archives, LGBTQ+ studies, rare books, and special collections, as well as experience with tutoring and teaching. Prior to coming to United Lutheran Seminary, Victoria served as a reference librarian at Sam Houston State University, Paleography Librarian and Department Ambassador at the University of Liverpool, and was an archive intern at Lincoln College, University of Oxford.

At ULS, Victoria manages, processes, and provides access to the ELCA Region 8 Archives and the United Lutheran Seminary Archives including answering reference questions, appraising, arranging, describing, and preserving archival records, researching and reviewing archival donations and records transfers for historical value, building and maintaining the archival database, and compiling statistics and reports. She also trains and manages student workers and participates in professional development and continuing education. The LHSMA archives, housed at the A. R. Wentz Library on United Lutheran Seminary's Gettysburg campus, will be in good hands for the foreseeable future!

Featured Lutheran Bio:

Samuel Whitaker Pennypacker

By John Deeben

Samuel Whitaker Pennypacker was born April 9, 1843, in Phoenixville, Chester County, Pennsylvania. As a student during the Civil War, he served in Company F, 26th Pennsylvania Emergency Militia during the Gettysburg campaign, fighting in a brief skirmish north of Gettysburg on June 26, 1863. Pennypacker returned to studying law at the University of Pennsylvania, graduating in 1866. The following year he became president of the Law Academy of Philadelphia.

Pennypacker's public service began in 1885 with his appointment to the Philadelphia Board of Education. He was then admitted to the bar of the Supreme Court of the United States in 1887. Two years later he

(Continued on page 5)

Faith in the Time of Covid:

Is Your Church History of the Pandemic Being Preserved?

By Karen Christian

The COVID-19 pandemic has certainly put a strain on all aspects of life over the past year and a half. Congregations of all denominations have been forced to “pivot” into new and unfamiliar ways of conducting business virtually while trying to stay solvent, remain relevant, and care for the needs of their members from a distance. The results have often been surprising and innovative and should be documented for posterity. Here are a few thoughts on how the resulting experiences of the pandemic can be preserved.

Congregations have Council minutes, birth and death records and financial records because that is required. But that can be enriched by photos or written memories of what church life was actually like during the pandemic.

There were Zoom meetings, Bible studies and even Zoom music performances, but did anyone take a screen shot of that or save it to a thumb drive or the cloud? Communion was not administered for months and then there were communion “pods”. Is there a photo of a communion pod for your archives? Is there a written memory of the distribution procedures that were new? How were Christmas and Easter services different?

The deaths were recorded as a number, but is it recorded that there were no funerals? How did the

pastor manage hospital visitations? Is there a photo of a gowned and masked pastor? (That could be recorded for the archives.)

Was there a photo taken of outside worship or indoor

worship with distancing?

Was a copy of the sign

-in sheet for contact tracing kept or other written directions for the congregation?

Has a written memory been made of the electronics nightmare of creating a church service for those at home? The federal grant will be mentioned in the Council minutes, but there may be more to that story that could be recorded.

Was the church active in creating cloth masks for the hospitals? A written memory or pattern of the mask and ministry could go in the archives.

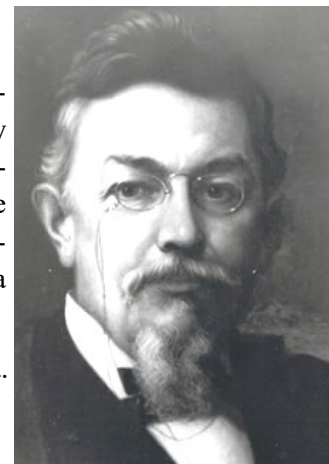
The memory of the pandemic and empty shelves at the grocery store is already fading. Please act now to archive this COVID-19 pandemic and how God was at work in your church and community.



(Pennypacker, Continued from page 4)

began serving a judgeship on the Court of Common Pleas of Philadelphia, becoming president judge in 1897. In 1900 he became president of the Historical Society of Pennsylvania. In 1902 Pennypacker was elected the 23rd Governor of Pennsylvania, serving from January 20, 1903 to January 15, 1907. During his term, the Child Labor Act of 1905 was approved, which set a minimum age and work standards for young factory and mine workers. He also established the Pennsylvania State Police, the first statewide police force in America.

After retiring from politics, Pennypacker opened a law office in Philadelphia. He died on September 2, 1916 at his home in Schwenksville, Montgomery County.



LHSMA Board Happenings

By John Deeben

The board of directors of the Lutheran Historical Society of the Mid-Atlantic met virtually via Zoom on August 24, 2021. President Steve Herr called the meeting to order at 5:01 PM and Sean Titus opened with prayer. President Herr opened the floor for personal updates.

The minutes from January 19, 2021, were distributed electronically before the meeting. A motion to accept the minutes was made by Lee Knepp, seconded by Jon Diefenthaler. **Approved.** A motion to approve the meeting agenda was made by Dave Flesner, seconded by Kevin Hepler. **Approved.**

Officers' Reports:

President Steve Herr reviewed recent society activity, including the awarding of the Wentz Prize at the end of 2020.

Secretary John Deeben set July 9 as the submission deadline for the summer issue of the newsletter.

Treasurer Lee Knepp shared a report covering society finances to date, as well as a copy of the 2020 report for comparison, and a copy of the annual Form 999-N filing with the IRS. Reimbursements for two readers for the Wentz prize have been received so far. There is no update on valuations for the prize funds. A motion to receive the report was made by Kevin Hepler, seconded by Maria Erling. **Approved.**

Archivist/Historian Maria Erling reported that there is now an assistant archivist working at the seminary, Victoria Jesswein. She is based on the Gettysburg campus and is proficient at reading old German handwriting!

Committee Reports:

Board members broke into brief committee meetings at 5:16 and reconvened at 5:34. The following committee reports were then presented:

- ◆ **Membership**—Committee chair John Deeben reported updated membership figures, including 106 annual members, 48 Life members, and 15 institutional members (four of which are Life members). To date, 25 annual members have paid their dues for 2021. Another renewal reminder will be printed in the summer newsletter, and there will also likely be a separate

email reminder. Efforts will be made to renew previous committee initiatives to give complimentary 1-year memberships to incoming seminarians and new Region 8 pastors.



- ◆ **Program**—Kevin Hepler reported no action items. Maria Erling will meet with the Lutheran Historical Conference planning committee on June 1. The society will tentatively plan for a Saturday October 2 joint session, which will include a brief annual

meeting and possibly the presentation of the Wentz Prize. A call for papers for the LHC sessions can be included in the summer newsletter.

- ◆ **Historic Site Recognition**—Paul Tomkiel reported that the committee is looking at St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Dansville, NY, which sponsored the first chapter of the American Red Cross. Maria Erling will review the society's archives for old applications. The committee will take another look at the application procedures, with the view of changing it from a competitive award to a straight "apply and receive" process.
- ◆ **Wentz Prize**—Steve Herr reported that given the pandemic and resulting limited access to archives, the deadline will be extended to September 30 this year.
- ◆ **Biglerville Prize**—Sean Titus reported that the prize is on track to be awarded this fall. The panel will meet on August 17 to discuss and review the nominees, and will have a recommendation ready for the next board meeting.

There was no Old Business.

New Business:

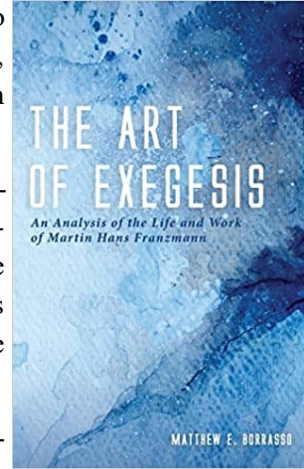
President Steve Herr offered two items for the board's future consideration:

- 1) a suggestion to invite the last two Wentz prize winners to do an online program for the society, and
- 2) a strategic question: what should be our long-term financial goals regarding standing account balances?

The board meeting adjourned at 5:58 on motion by Kevin Hepler, seconded by Jon Diefenthaler. **Approved.**

LHSMA Awards Biglerville Prize to Matthew Borrasso

The Lutheran Historical Society of the Mid-Atlantic announces that the Reverend Matthew Borrasso is the winner of this year's awarding of the St. Paul, Biglerville Prize in American Lutheran History. Borrasso has written a book entitled *The Art of Exegesis: The Life and work of Martin Hans Franzmann* (WIPF & Stock, 2019), which explores Franzmann's contributions to biblical hermeneutics as these developed, and became a focal point of controversy, within the context of both the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod from the late 1920s through the mid-1970s.



The Biglerville Prize is awarded every two to three years by the Society to recently published works of mature scholarship in the field of the history of Lutheranism and Lutheran churches in America. The award includes a sum of \$3000, and the winner is invited to offer a presentation to the Society of their work. The prize was established by St. Paul Lutheran Church in Biglerville, Pennsylvania in honor of the Reverend Frederick Weiser.

Borrasso is an ordained pastor in the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, and currently serves as pastor of Trinity Lutheran Church in Lexington Park, Maryland. He holds graduate degrees from Northern Seminary, Concordia Seminary, and United Lutheran Seminary. Borrasso previously served as pastor of Redeemer Evangelical Lutheran Church in Parkton, Maryland.

This year's winning work, *The Art of Exegesis: The Life and work of Martin Hans Franzmann* is important not just because it provides a biography of the life of Franzmann, who is perhaps better known among Lutherans for the hymns he authored and his poetic expositions of Scripture, but also because it places Franzmann's career in the context of larger trends in twentieth-century American Lutheranism, particularly in regards to how the topic of biblical inerrancy as it was approached within the church and its seminaries. The Society awards the Biglerville Prize to Borrasso for his fine scholarship and his dedication to the study of Lutheran history.

The Lutheran Historical Society of the Mid-Atlantic is a non-profit organization with a mission to preserve, nurture, and encourage the understanding of and appreciation for Lutheran history in America broadly, but with particular interest in the Mid-Atlantic region. For more information on the Society, please visit the following website: www.lutheranhistoricalsociety.com

*Music is a higher revelation than
all wisdom and philosophy.*

~ Ludwig von Beethoven

Managing Church Records, Part II:

Legal and Vital Records

By John Deeben

The following information on how to manage church records is 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 lifecycle and needs appropriate care. The second part of this overview looks at Legal and Vital Records.

Legal and Vital records cover important aspects of the life of the congregation. They include documents pertaining to the establishment of the congregation, such as:

- 1) the Charter and Articles of Incorporation; and
- 2) the Constitution, bylaws, and continuing resolutions.

There are important records that relate to the physical property of the congregation, including:

- 3) deeds, titles, surveys, leases, mortgages, and easements;
- 4) blueprints and construction drawings;
- 5) insurance policies (both current and retired); and
- 6) current service or construction contracts and warranties.

Important personnel-related documents include:

- 7) copies of Letters of Call to the pastors and ELCA rostered church workers;
- 8) employment contracts; and
- 9) personnel handbooks and employee benefit programs.

Other important records of a legal or vital nature include:

- 10) documentation creating endowment funds

and for bequests, gifts, and endowments;

- 11) minutes of regular and special congregational meetings;
- 12) minutes of the congregation council and its executive committee;
- 13) policy documents (which may be in continuing resolutions; and
- 14) tax-exempt status reports and documentation or the congregation's nine-digit federal employer identification number.

All of these records, of course, should be maintained while they are current. The legal and property records should be secured in a fire-proof safe or by maintaining copies in an off-site location. The constitution should be kept current, and any revisions sent to the synod for approval. All of these records are permanent and should eventually be placed in the congregation's archives. For certain legal records of a current nature, such as the constitution, it would be appropriate to retain reference copies in the archives while the originals are kept in secured storage.

© *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.

sending you
**Warm
Wishes**





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.

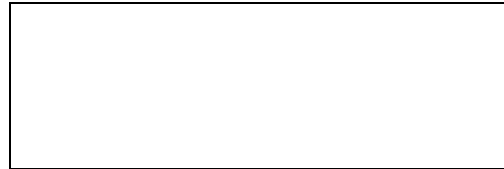
Address corrections are helpful.

Send replies via email to:

Stephen Herr

info@lutheranhistoricalsociety.com

Subject: LHS Newsletter



VOLUME 32, NUMBER 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:

KELLER MEMORIAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

WASHINGTON, DC

(Metropolitan Washington, DC Synod)

- Account Book, 1931–1942
 - ✓ 1944–1950
 - ✓ 1951–1960
 - ✓ 1965–1968
- Building Committee Minutes, 1891–1892
- Corporate Seal
- Council Minutes,
 - ✓ 1882–1897
 - ✓ 1898–1904
 - ✓ 1904–1916
 - ✓ 1916–1931
 - ✓ 1932–1937
 - ✓ 1938–1943
- Papers
- Parish Registers,
 - ✓ 1891–1922
 - ✓ 1923–1934
 - ✓ 1935–1945
 - ✓ 1946–1969
- Sunday School Record Book, 1903–1905

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>.