

# NEWSLETTER

## *LHSMA Board Happenings*

### *March Meeting*

*By John Deeben*

The board of directors of the Lutheran Historical Society of the Mid-Atlantic met virtually via Zoom on March 29, 2022. President Steve Herr called the meeting to order at 7:05 PM.

Motion to approve minutes of the previous meeting, made by Kevin Hepler, seconded by Mark Oldenburg. **Approved.**

#### **President's Report:**

President Herr reported that board member Beth Clementson has resigned to focus more time and attention on a new call. Herr also noted that the virtual annual meeting went well.

**VP Report:** Vice President Mark Oldenburg raised a question whether the Nominating Committee should come up with interim candidates to fill board vacancies or hold the openings until the next annual meeting.

**Secretary's Report:** No report.

**Treasurer's Report:** Treasurer Lee Knepp distributed paper copies of the report. Prize evaluations: Wentz—\$114,168; St. Paul/Biglerville—\$89,341. All bills are paid to date. Motion to approve the report made by Jon Diefenthaler, seconded by Kevin Hepler. **Approved.**

**Archivist/Historian's Report:** No report.

President Herr led a discussion on strategic planning, where we are as a society since the COVID-19 pandemic began, and where we want to go and what poten-

tial goals to accomplish. There is an opportunity to reset with a clean slate. Suggestions: use prize funds to underwrite society activities; be more generous with prize funds and runner-up candidates; there is a need for more commitment to programming. President Herr noted that the society does fill an important void that emphasizes Lutheran history. Archivist/

historian Maria Erling observed that we have the records at the seminary but insufficient finding aids for access, maybe the society should have a say in what records should be emphasized. We can advocate for better support of the archives. Other suggestions: tie archival collections to public programs; extend Wentz prize beyond seminarians to others; sync partnerships with other Lutheran bodies; perhaps follow through with more recognition of church anniversaries; flip the model of recognizing historical sites, to provide more assistance; we should do our part in helping the church document its COVID experience.

As a way forward, President Herr suggested some working groups to make recommendations, including: 1) prizes 2) partnerships 3) archives 4) pandemic programming 5) site recognition.

The board also reaffirmed committee assignments established at the board meeting last fall.

**Other Business:** Since there will be no

*(Continued on page 5)*



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### SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- *LHSMA Board continues to hold virtual meetings*
- *Board plans for in-person annual fall meeting*
- *Celebration of Life for Bishop George Mocko held last fall*
- *ELCA Model Constitution sets guidelines for congregational financial records*
- *LHSMA members encouraged to submit annual payment if still due*
- *Annual Meeting set for October 15, 2022*

## President's Corner - Summer 2022

On Pentecost the church celebrates the gift of the Holy Spirit, our advocate, counselor, and helper.

The Lutheran Historical Society of the Mid-Atlantic preserves and promotes the faithful witness and work of Spirit-

led Lutherans in the mid-Atlantic region. The last two years have curtailed many of the initiatives of the society. In response, the board has met several times in the first half of 2022 with the hope of revitalizing our society's important efforts to advance the study and preservation of Lutheran history in America.



ing increased partnerships with other Lutheran historical societies and organizations including the Lutheran Historical Conference and the Lutheran Historical Society of Eastern Pennsylvania. The Lutheran Historical Conference will hold its biennial meeting in 2024 in Baltimore and our society will partner to assist the Conference in its event.

In an effort to encourage scholarship in Lutheran history in America, the board expanded the Abdel Ross Wentz Prize to include hon-

orable mention status in each of its categories. A third category has been added to allow post-graduates, clergy and lay, to submit a paper for the prize. Three categories for the A.R.

*Our society's future is bright and we continue to provide an important service to the church of Jesus Christ.*

If you have not had an opportunity to renew your membership for 2022 I encourage you to complete the form in this newsletter or complete it online by visiting our webpage

[www.lutheranhistoricalsociety.com](http://www.lutheranhistoricalsociety.com).

Your membership dues help ensure the society has the resources it needs to complete its mission. Thank you for your membership and donations!

This year the board established three working groups to address areas of outreach, collaboration, and expansion of LHSMA programming. One group is develop-

ing increased partnerships with other Lutheran historical societies and organizations including the Lutheran Historical Conference and the Lutheran Historical Society of Eastern Pennsylvania. The Lutheran Historical Conference will hold its biennial meeting in 2024 in Baltimore and our society will partner to assist the Conference in its event.

The board has simplified the Historic Site Recognition program and encourages Lutheran historical sites to apply to be recognized by the society. Stay tuned to our webpage for updated details and to learn more about those sites already recognized by the society. The

board is working to identify a date and program for the 2022 annual meeting. Stay tuned for an announcement regarding the annual meeting to take place this fall. Finally, plans are underway for a Congregational Heritage Workshop in 2023.

Recently, board member Pastor Beth Clementson, who serves in the Southwestern Pennsylvania Synod, had to resign in light of accepting a new call. On behalf of our society, I thank her for her service on the board and its publicity committee. The Rev. Matthew Riegel, who serves as Bishop of the ELCA's West Virginia – Western Maryland Synod, accepted the society's invitation to serve on the board filling one of its current vacancies. I thank all who serve on the board. It is a volunteer position and without their hard work the mission of the society would not be accomplished.

Our society's future is bright and we continue to provide an important service to the church of Jesus Christ. Thank you for your support and contributions to the work and goals of the society.

May you have a safe, healthy, and blessed summer.

*Pastor Stephen R. Herr,  
President*

*Lutheran Historical  
Society of the  
Mid-Atlantic*

June 12, 2022  
Holy Trinity Sunday

### 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  
Jon Diefenthaler

Maria Erling  
Kevin Hepler  
Kristi Keller  
Louise Meledin

Jeffrey Pannebaker  
Matthew Riegel  
Sean Titus  
Paul Tomkiel

#### Board Emeriti

Susan Hill  
Donald Housley  
Michael J. Kurtz

**A Tribute to:*****Bishop George Mocko****Compiled by John Deeben*

The Reverend Bishop George Paul Mocko, a long-time Society and former board member, passed away at the Village at Augsburg, Baltimore, Md., on April 17, 2021.

Bishop Mocko was born and raised in Little Falls, New York, on Danube St., on the southside, in 1934. He was the son of George and Anna (Swancara) Mocko. George Sr. was a bicycle factory worker who was part of the substantial Slovak-American community that lived in that small city along the Mohawk River. George Mocko regarded his father as a hero for social justice since the elder Mocko strove to bring it about as a union leader. Unions were being attacked, often physically, by company men hired for that purpose. Bishop Mocko thought that his activities in the civil rights movement had something to do with his father's struggles.

George attended Little Falls Central Schools in 1952 and then graduated with honors from Hartwick College, a small liberal arts college which was at that time connected to the Lutheran Church. George was inspired by Holy Trinity Lutheran Pastor George Billy to become an ordain minister, and so he attended The Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia. At college he met an attractive nursing student, Beth Davidson. They were married right after college and over the years they nurtured a family of four children.

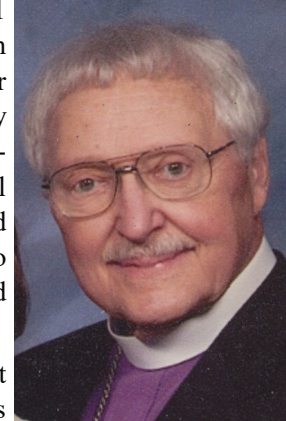
He was ordained in 1959 and became a pastor in Pine Grove Pa., as he described being in the midst of the Pennsylvania Dutch Bible Belt. He began his campaigns for civil rights immediately. He was also a pastor in Wilmington, De. George joined with other ministers in 1963 to picket a movie theater that discriminated against African Americans. He also worked to help achieve a public accommodations law and peacefully integrated housing.

Bishop Mocko came to Baltimore in 1978 as pastor of Ascension Lutheran Church in Towson. He was noted for his hard hitting, beautifully crafted sermons, all delivered in a deep, powerful voice. He regarded his voice as a special gift.

Life-threatening illness overtook him in 1987. He was diagnosed with colon cancer which metastasized to his lungs. Somehow, he survived and believed that it

may have been a miraculous cure because he had work to do.

The work eventually turned out to be the role of bishop. He was elected to become bishop of the Delaware-Maryland Synod in 1991 and he served for nine years in that position. He was noted for helping congregations torn by conflict and for the good relations he had with his loyal clergy. Those who observed him said he never seemed to get worn down by the job and that he enjoyed it.



He frequently testified at the State House in Annapolis in order to protect the poor, the elderly, and others in need of social justice. He also visited and maintained relations with a sister parish in Managua, Nicaragua.

In his later life he lived in an apartment at the Village at Augsburg. While there he became blind from macular degeneration.

All through his life Bishop Mocko threw open his arms to welcome people, with a booming "Hi! I'm George Mocko." He was also quick for a joke and a hearty laugh. He was a kind, considerate, well informed, and utterly honest person. He so very earnestly worked to help people and do his part in making the world a better place.

He was the beloved husband of the late Elizabeth Carol Mocko (nee Davidson); devoted father of Paul Erik Mocko and his wife Ann, Kristopher George Mocko, Elissa Rose Mocko Hess and her husband Bill, and the late David Andrew Mocko and his wife Susan; loving grandfather of Krysten, Koryn, Andrea, Karyssa, Kasondra, Kolleen, Erik, and Alexis; cherished great grandfather of Mya, Darryk, Aelyn, and Haylee; dear brother of Ronald Mocko and his wife Kathy and Suzanne Perreault.

A celebration of his life was held on November 13, 2021 at Ascension Lutheran Church at 3:00 p.m. The celebration featured the hymns, psalms and readings that he requested.

# Managing Church Records, Part III: Financial 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](http://www.elca.org).

## Church Archives



The *Model Constitution for Congregations* (C12.05.e. and f.) states: "The Congregation Council shall ascertain that the financial

affairs of this congregation are being conducted efficiently, giving particular attention to the prompt payment of all obligations and to the regular forwarding of benevolence monies to the synodical treasurer. The Congregation Council shall be responsible for this congregation's investments and its total insurance program." Your congregation may have a financial management database that handles all of your accounting transactions. Retention of financial records in this overview refers to hard-copy documents. Preserve permanent records in hard copy. Such records as can include 1) Annual audit reports; 2) Treasurer's annual report to the congregation; 3) Budget approved by the congregation; 4) Bequests & endowments. With the exception of the Bequests and endowments, these records should be part of the minutes of the congregation's annual report. The original hard copies should be placed in the congregation's archives.

Other records only have a limited lifecycle, including 1) Investments in asset management; 2) Canceled checks or copies of canceled checks; 3) Bank reconciliations; 4) Payroll administration records such as W-2, W-4 forms and payroll registers; 5) Cash receipt journals; and 6) Record of member giving. The IRS mandates that you preserve these record for four years. For administrative purposes, you may wish to keep them for seven years. All records related to congregational spending are open. All records related to member giving are confidential and should be secured. Whether maintained as paper or electronic files, destroy these records at the end of the retention period.

Other records to consider are General invoices and Offering envelopes. For insurance purposes, you may wish to retain receipts or cancelled checks for major purchases as evidence of ownership, and then shred after three years. Offering envelopes do not need to be retained; destroy after counting and entering the data.

Detailed guidelines for the congregation's treasurer and financial secretary are available in *Resources for Congregational Treasurers and Bookkeepers*.

© *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



# *LHSMA Board Happenings*

## *May Meeting*

*By Mark Oldenburg*

The board of directors of the Lutheran Historical Society of the Mid-Atlantic met virtually via Zoom on May 3, 2022. President Steve Herr called the meeting to order at 10:01 AM.

Motion to approve minutes of the previous meeting, made by Kevin Hepler, seconded by Lee Knepp. **Approved.**

**President's Report:** President Herr noted that we have received one admission for the Wentz prize.

**VP Report:** No report.

**Secretary's Report:** No report.

**Treasurer's Report:** Treasurer Lee Knepp distributed copies of the report by email. Motion to approve the report made by Kevin Hepler, seconded by Jon Diefenthaler. **Approved.**

**Archivist/Historian's Report:** Victoria Jesswein and Stephen Herr noted that there was no policy of what would be collected for the Society archives, and it was generally agreed that such a policy would be useful. Jesswein will work on such a policy.

President Herr led a continued discussion on strategic planning, with reports from the prizes and partnerships, and the pandemic programming working groups.

**Prizes and Partnerships** recommended that there be consultation with the Lutheran Historical Conference before their biennial meetings, especially the 2024 gathering in Baltimore. That group also suggested meeting via zoom with the Lutheran Historical Society of Eastern Pennsylvania.

Regarding prizes, the group suggested continuing conversation with ULS about funding, aiming at a memorandum of understanding. President Herr noted that he and Victoria Jesswein have found the original documents. Given the amount of funding now available,

they recommended that the judges be given the power to award increased monetary prizes to honorable mentions. Regarding the Wentz prizes, they further recommended gathering MDiv candidates via zoom to increase awareness and interest and that post-doctoral submissions be welcomed as well as those for graduate students (a third Wentz prize might be added to the existing two).

**Pandemic** made recommendations in three areas: archives, program, and papers (report attached). The Program Committee will consider a program including pandemic reflections in the near future. The working group will consult with Victoria Jesswein about the ability of the archives center to host a collection of pandemic documents and reflections.

The **Archives** and **Historical Site Recognition** groups made no report but were urged to continue working. The Archives group was particularly asked to recommend how the Society could facilitate the on-going care and accessibility of archives in Region 8, including making the Tri-Synodical archives more available and integrated, and using trained volunteers.

Committee Reports: **Nominating** recommended the election of Bishop Matthew Riegel to fill the open seat in the class of 2022. **Approved.**

**Membership** will be sending out a membership note.

**Program** will work on a Congregational Heritage Workshop which might be the fall program surrounding our annual meeting. This workshop could include training in oral history. John Deeben and Victoria Jesswein would be natural additions to the committee for this event.

Next board meeting will include specific planning for the annual meeting. June 9, 7:00 PM via Zoom. The board meeting adjourned at 11:03 AM..

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*(March Meeting, Continued from page 1)*

spring newsletter, we will plan for an early summer issue, with June 1 as the deadline for material. The newsletter will need a tribute to late board member Bishop George Mocko. Annual meeting: possibly an in-person meeting in the Fall, either September or October. Start thinking about program ideas. Vacancies on the board: Nominating Committee can start now to recruit interim candidates.

Next board meeting will be Tuesday, May 3 at 10 AM via Zoom.

The board meeting adjourned at 8:12 PM.

## *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
  - ✓ 1906–1909
  - ✓ 1909–1918
  - ✓ 1918–1934
  - ✓ 1938–1954
  - ✓ 1956–1979
  - ✓ 1980–1990
- Legal Papers
- Miscellaneous Papers
- Parish Registers
  - ✓ 1906–1939
  - ✓ 1940–1956
  - ✓ 1955–1992
  - ✓ 1993–2003

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>.





# **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](mailto:info@lutheranhistoricalsociety.com)  
Web: [www.lutheranhistoricalsociety.com](http://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](http://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](mailto:info@lutheranhistoricalsociety.com)

**Subject: LHS Newsletter**



VOLUME 33, NUMBER 1

**Save the Date:**

***2022 Annual Meeting & Fall Program***

*By John Deeben*

Save the date, members! The Lutheran Historical Society of the Mid-Atlantic will return in person for the first time in two years when we gather on Saturday, October 15, 2022, for our Fall Program and Annual Meeting! We will meet in Valentine Hall on the Gettysburg campus of United Lutheran Seminary. Matt Borasso, winner of the St. Paul, Biglerville Prize in 2021, will present on his award-winning work, *The Art of Exegesis: An Analysis of the Life and Work of Martin Hans Franzmann*.



In addition, a panel led by Dr. Maria Erling and ULS archivist Victoria Jesswein will discuss the importance of archival preservation during the COVID pandemic for congregations and institutions. We will work to make this a hybrid event, if possible, in case there are members who would prefer to attend virtually. The tentative schedule is below. A formal flyer with registration information will go out at a later date.

October 15, 2022 Fall Program & Annual Meeting:

- 9:00 a.m.: Gather
- 9:15 a.m.: Welcome
- 9:30 a.m.: Matt Barasso presentation
- 10:45 a.m.: Break
- 11:00 a.m.: Panel discussion with ULS Archivist Victoria Jesswein and Dr. Maria Erling discussing the importance of congregations preserving archival materials from the pandemic.
- 11:45 a.m.: Annual Meeting
- 12:00 Noon: Lunch

