

NEWSLETTER

Lutheran Historical Society of the Mid-Atlantic 2023 Annual Meeting and Program Saturday, September 9 at 9:00 a.m. A.R. Wentz Library, United Lutheran Seminary, Gettysburg

9:00 a.m.	Gather, Welcome, Devotions
9:30 a.m.	Keynote Address
10:45 a.m.	Break
11:00 a.m.	Panel Discussion
11:45 a.m.	Annual Meeting
12:00 noon	Lunch

The program is FREE and there is a \$10 cost for lunch. No lunch cost for high school, college, and seminary students. Registration is required. To register, complete the registration form (see second page of this document) or register online at www.LutheranHistoricalSociety.com



Keynote Presenter: The Rev. Matthew Borrasso *The Art of Exegesis: An Analysis of the Life and Work of Martin Hans Franzmann*

Matthew E. Borrasso lives with his wife and children in the Lexington Park area of Maryland where he serves as pastor at Trinity Lutheran Church. He earned a B.A. in Theology from Concordia University—Chicago (2008), an M.A. in Christian Ministry from Northern Seminary (2012), an M.Div. from Concordia Seminary, St. Louis (2014), and an S.T.M. from United Lutheran Seminary (2018). He is currently a Ph.D. student at the University of Birmingham (UK) researching the practical effects of Lutheran hermeneutics in the LCMS and ELCA regarding issues of human sexuality. His presentation focuses on his St. Paul, Biglerville Prize winning book.

Panel Discussion: Church Record Keeping through Transitions: What should we keep?

The panel will help congregations retain the records from experiences like the pandemic, as well as introduce best practices for digital record keeping.

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SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- *LHSMA returns to in-person meetings*
- *Board elects Matthew Riegel as president*
- *ELCA Model Constitution sets guidelines for maintaining congregation statistics*
- *Celebration of Life for Dr. Michael J. Kurtz to be held in Annapolis*
- *Pastor John Peter Shindel served more than 20 congregations in 19th century*
- *Membership renewal due by March 31*

President's Corner - Spring 2023

How does one mark this transition? The Rev. Stephen "Steve" Herr concludes his fifteen-year presidency of the Lutheran Historical



Society of the Mid-Atlantic. A stele near the Wentz Library seems appropriate, or, better yet, a board minute typed on acid-free paper hidden inside an archive box among the mid-twentieth century materials in the closed stacks where it will be found by some future historian who will recognize it for the treasure it is.

Fifteen years as president of a voluntary association is no small thing. Any of us with a little personal antiquity know how life has changed and culture has shifted since the reestablishment of our society. We know the challenges involved, and

Herr has not only done the work but has done it well. The mere fact that our society is still here, when other historical societies have folded or gone dormant, is testimony to his leadership coupled with your willingness to continue to the work. While it has become cliché to mention the pandemic, failure to acknowledge the extra challenges posed to a society such as ours would be a grave omission. We are a society that has traditionally conducted its major

Fifteen years as a president of a voluntary association is no small thing.

work in connection with in-person gatherings. We are also a society, as mentioned *supra*, dependent upon volunteer involvement. Neither of those things were made any easier by these past three years. Now, it has been a little rocky working our way out of the pandemic, but, had not Herr been at the helm, you would probably be reading a notice of dissolution now

instead of a new "President's Corner."

I know, it is somewhat customary to outline a platform for the year ahead or to give some sort of self-introduction. There will be time enough for that in the next newsletter. At this time, it is meet, right, and salutary that we mark our out-going president's efforts and faithfulness (and give thanks that he continues to lend his expertise and energy to so many projects behind the scenes). So, if you have a bottle near you, make a pour, and raise your glass. Fellow historians, to Herr!

*The Rt. Rev.
Matthew Lynn Riegel,
S.T.M., President
Lutheran Historical
Society of the
Mid-Atlantic
West Virginia-Western Maryland
Synod, ELCA
304-363-4030
<http://WV-WMD.org>*

(Continued from page 1)



The Rev. Dr. Maria Erling,
Professor of Modern Church History and
Global Mission, United Lutheran
Seminary

Victoria Jesswein,
Assistant Archivist,
United Lutheran Seminary Library



LHSMA 2022 - 2023 Board of Directors

Board Members

Matthew Riegel
President
Mark Oldenburg
Vice President

John Deeben
Secretary
Lee Knapp
Treasurer

Victoria Jesswein
Archivist/Historian
Jon Diefenthaler
Maria Erling

Kevin Hepler
Steve Herr,
Kristi Keller
Louise Meledin

Jeffrey Pannebaker
Sean Titus
Paul Tomkiel

Board Emeriti

Susan Hill
Donald Housley



Lutheran Historical Society of the Mid-Atlantic

2023 Annual Meeting and Program Saturday, September 9 at 9:00 a.m.

A.R. Wentz Library United Lutheran Seminary, Gettysburg

REGISTRATION FORM

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

I plan to attend the September 9 LHSMA program and annual meeting: _____

Boxed lunches will be catered by The Ragged Edge. The lunch will include a sandwich, chips, cookies, and bottled drink.

I would like a lunch _____

Please select one of the wraps below

Tuna salad, spring mix, tomatoes _____

Chicken salad, spring mix, tomatoes _____

Ham, cheddar, spring mix, tomatoes _____

Turkey, swiss, spring mix, tomatoes _____

Hummus, tomatoes, carrots, spinach, roasted red peppers _____

If you need arrangements for a nut-free, gluten-free or vegan option check please check here. _____

Please complete this form and return by September 1 to:

Lee Knepp
P.O. Box 76
McClure, PA 17801

Managing Church Records, Part IV: Congregation Statistics/Information on Persons

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

Church Archives



is available on the ELCA website at www.elca.org.

Congregation statistical reports (Forms A and C) are required by the Synod. Congregations should retain current reports (Forms A and

C) in hard copy or in Portable Document Format (PDF) for 2 years. Reports may be destroyed as replaced by more recent data.

Files containing some or all of the following documents may exist for the pastor, other rostered persons, employees, registered seminary students, and volunteers: 1) Letters of call, 2) Letters of employment, 3) Letters of application, 4) Job descriptions, 5) Resumes, 6) Correspondence, 7) Honors and clippings, 8) Emergency notification forms, 9) Health-related documents, such as worker's compensation, 10) Letters of recommendation, 11) Background and reference checks, 12) Performance appraisals and letters of discipline, 13) Contracts, 14) Continuing education documentation, and 15) Documents related to compensation and benefits.

Right to privacy laws dictate that these files must be held in strictest confidence. However, the files must

be made available to the employee upon request. Keep these files locked at all times. If information, including background checks and letters of recommendation, attest to the employee or volunteer's fitness to fulfill a responsibility or perform a service, it should be retained for **50 years** after completion of service. If information relates to a worker's compensation or other claim by the employee, this should be retained until the matter is resolved. If the information relates to a possible claim or lawsuit by others involving the employee's conduct or duties, it should be retained in the synod office or under controlled access in the synod or regional archives for **50 years** after completion of service. As required, the file for a seminary student is sent to the seminary after he or she has signed for its release. It is not preserved in the congregation.

Place biographical information and career history for the congregation's staff in the congregation's archives. The other files may be shredded either upon completion of service or after 50 years, as noted previously.

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

2022 LHSMA Annual Meeting Recap

By John Deeben

The Lutheran Historical Society of the Mid-Atlantic met via Zoom on November 28, 2022 to conduct its annual business meeting.

President Steve Herr called the annual meeting to order at 7:02 PM and welcomed the membership and offered opening devotions. President Herr shared the meeting agenda. The minutes from the November 30, 2021 annual meeting were distributed electronically by Secretary John Deeben, and then **approved** on motion of Annabelle Wenzke, seconded by Kristi Keller.

Under Officers Reports, President Herr shared Treasurer Lee Knepp's report. The overall balance increased slightly over the past year. A motion to accept the Treasurer's Report was made by Paul Tomkiel, seconded by David Flesner. **Approved.**

Under New Business, John Deeben reported for the Nominating Committee and presented nominees Maria Erling, Louise Meledin, Sean Titus, and Matthew Riegel to fill open 3-year terms on the board, and to con-

firm Jeffrey Pannebaker for the open 1-year board position. There is one 3-year opening to be filled. There being no nominations from the floor, the membership proceeded to vote.

Approved. Paul Tomkiel reported for the Site Recognition Committee that Camp Nawakwa was recognized in October as a Lutheran Historic Site. President Herr thanked the committee for their work. President Herr reported for the Wentz Prize Committee that there were no submissions so far this year. There was no activity on the St. Paul/Biglerville Prize since it was just awarded last year.

The annual meeting adjourned at 7:15 PM on motion of Annabelle Wenzke, seconded by David Flesner. **Approved.**



BOARD MEETING



Membership Renewal Now Due!

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

This is your friendly reminder that membership renewals for 2023 are now due. Payment of annual dues (\$20 per household or institution) is requested between January 1 and March 31, 2023; 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!

Reminder

Board Member Emeritus Dr. Michael J. Kurtz Dies

Published by The Capital Gazette on Jan. 4, 2023

Dr. Michael J. Kurtz, 73, of Annapolis, Maryland, passed away peacefully at home on Saturday, December 17, 2022 from complications associated with congestive heart failure.



Michael was born on May 8, 1949, in Fruitland Park, FL, to the late Warren P. and Eleanor Kurtz. Michael was preceded in death by his beloved partner and wife, Cherie Loustaunau, who passed away November 21, 2019. Dr. Kurtz was a Visiting Professor at the University of Maryland's College of Information Studies where he directed the archival specialization track in the Master of Library Science program. Previously, he worked for 37 years as a professional archivist, manager, and senior executive at the National Archives and Records Administration, retiring as Assistant Archivist for Records Service. While at NARA, Dr. Kurtz initiated and led several national initiatives that have lasting impact on access and preservation of government records, including the creation of the National Declassification Center; the implementation of the 2002 E-Government Act; the declassification and release of some 8 million pages documenting U.S. government involvement with war criminals (as chair of the Interagency Working Group on Nazi and Imperial Japanese War Crimes); and the creation of the International Research Web Portal relating to Nazi-era looted cultural assets.

Michael's academic background centered in history, with a specialty in American Civil War as well as post-Nazi Germany. He received his doctoral degree from Georgetown University in Washington, DC. Michael

was a teacher and researcher at heart, co-founding the Advanced Information Collaboratory (2020) where he continued in his retirement to advise and mentor students and colleagues on the future of digital archives and records management. He was completing an upcoming book "The American Archival Experience: From Colonial Times to the 21st Century" at the time of his death. Invested in both the Annapolis and Magothy-Chelsea communities, Michael joined the Magothy-Chelsea Community Lutheran Church in Pasadena (MD) in 1989. In 2008 he was ordained a Lutheran Minister and became associate pastor. Michael served as President of the Lutheran Historical Society of the Mid-Atlantic and authored several biographies including of his pastoral education mentor, Reverend Robert B. Lantz. In Annapolis, Michael was a member of the International Club, serving as its President. He was an avid supporter of the arts and served as Trustee and Vice Chair of the Annapolis Symphony Orchestra (ASO) Board of Trustees and President of the Friends of the Annapolis Symphony Orchestra (FASO). Michael's passion for music was evident in his financial leadership and organizational drive behind ASO's international tour to Spain (2021) and his ongoing support for the Annapolis Symphony Academy where youth from diverse backgrounds receive top level music and performance education.

Michael was well-loved for his kindness, pervasive good humor, and attention to the needs of others. Since the passing of his wife Cherie in 2019, Michael enjoyed a rich community life at Baywoods of Annapolis where he will be missed for his generosity and kindness. Michael's planned giving demonstrates his caring thoughtfulness across a spectrum of needs from music and arts, to wellness programs, to grants that address a wide range of community needs. A celebration of Michael's life will be held at a later date at St. Martin's Lutheran Church, Annapolis.

 A decorative horizontal border at the bottom of the page featuring a series of white flowers with yellow centers and green leaves, arranged in a slightly wavy line.

THE LUTHERAN HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF THE MID-ATLANTIC



The 2023 Abdel Ross Wentz Prize in American Lutheran History

Abdel Ross Wentz (pictured above on the left) was a leading figure in American Lutheranism. From 1916-1956 he was a professor of church history and later President of the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Gettysburg. Wentz (pictured at left above) also served as the first Vice-President of the Lutheran World Federation. His family established with the Lutheran Historical Society of the Mid-Atlantic an endowment providing prize money for the best history paper on a topic related to Lutheranism in America. The prize is in the amount of \$2,500 and can be awarded in four categories. Read more about Wentz and the prize on the society's web site: www.lutheranhistoricalsociety.com

Papers for consideration by the prize committee should include a cover sheet which includes the following 1) author's contact information (address, phone, email) 2) institutional affiliation (if applicable) 3) degree program (if applicable) 4) category for which the paper qualifies should be submitted electronically to Pastor Stephen Herr at info@lutheranhistoricalsociety.com

Submission deadline is September 30, 2023



Requirements:

- Four categories
 - 1) First degree seminarian
 - 2) M.A./Ph.D. graduate student
 - 3) Post-Graduate: Pastor, Layperson, and/or Faculty member
 - 4) Amateur Historian
- Paper should be 25-35 pages in length, double spaced using Turabian Manual or Chicago Manual of Style
- The identity and the institution of the author (if applicable) along with the category the paper qualifies for should be on a separate cover sheet from the manuscript
- Papers are to be in the **field of history** dealing with some aspect of **Lutheranism in America**
- Open to all writers regardless of religious identification or denominational affiliation



An Early Lutheran Circuit Rider: **Pastor John Peter Shindel (1787–1853)**

by John Deeben

Perhaps one of the most well-known Lutheran circuit riders in central Pennsylvania in the early nineteenth century was Rev. John Peter Shindel. During his long career



in and around Sunbury, from 1812–51, Shindel personally organized several of the small Lutheran churches in the hinterlands of Augusta Township, Northumberland County. Shindel was born in Lebanon, Pennsylvania, on October 3, 1787. After entering the pastoral field, he was assigned to Sunbury by the Lutheran Ministerium of Pennsylvania in 1812, and

was formally ordained in Philadelphia in 1816. Shindel's regular pastoral duties encompassed a large number of congregations in the Sunbury area. He served Zion in Sunbury from 1812–51, and Jacob's Church, St. Peter's in Elysburg, and the Zion Stone Church at Augustaville from 1812–50. Shindel presided over the dedication of the first permanent church buildings at Jacob's and the Zion Stone Church in 1816.

Shindel's circuit duties also took him to a very wide range of additional churches throughout his career. To the north of Sunbury, Shindel served in Northumberland from 1817–23. There, he led the dedication service of St. John's Evangelical Lutheran on August 30, 1818. He may also have preached occasionally in Milton and at Immanuel's Lutheran Church in Muncy. In the lower end of

Northumberland County and beyond, Shindel attended the Pillow congregation from 1830–43, Stone Valley from 1822–35, St. John's in Lyken's Valley from 1814–43, and Gratz from 1827–43. He also served St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Cameron Township from 1827–45. There, he conducted the first communion service on May 24, 1832. In Shamokin, local coal operators William and Reuben Fagely, in response to increased activities by Mormon missionaries, persuaded Shindel to hold occasional services at the Central schoolhouse from 1840–45. Across the Susquehanna River in Snyder County, finally, Shindel regularly traveled to Freeburg, Grubb's Church, and the Hassinger Lutheran Church in Middleburg from 1819–20, Schnee's Church from 1819–23, Kratzerville from 1820–35, and the First Lutheran Church in Selinsgrove from 1819–43.

During his career, Pastor Shindel also founded several Lutheran churches. These included St. John's Lutheran Church in Snyder County and Immanuel Lutheran Church at Hunter's Station, Little Mahanoy Township, in Northumberland County in 1828; Trinity Lutheran Church in Selinsgrove in 1843; and the Eden Evangelical Lutheran Church at Plum Creek in Augusta Township in 1844. Shindel served these churches until his retirement in 1851; Immanuel Lutheran Church he served until 1842. In all, John Peter Shindel attended to well over twenty congregations until shortly before his death at Sunbury on October 26, 1853. In doing so, he became without question one of the foremost promoters of the Lutheran Church in central Pennsylvania during the first half of the nineteenth century.



Camp Nawakwa recognized as historic Lutheran site - October 23, 2022 (Article and additional picture on page 10.)



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:

Matthew Riegel

info@lutheranhistoricalsociety.com

Subject: LHS Newsletter



VOLUME 34, NUMBER 1

Camp Nawakwa Recognized as Historic Lutheran Site

By John Deeben

On October 23, 2022, The Lutheran Historical Society of the Mid-Atlantic recognized Camp Nawakwa as an important Lutheran historic site. Camp Nawakwa has been an outdoor gathering place for Lutherans since 1929. LHSMA recognized Nawakwa for its rich 90+ year history of faith formation through summer camp and retreat ministry, and for developing leaders who serve in south central Pennsylvania and around the world. The recognition program took place during Nawakwa's Fall Foliage Day, beginning with a worship service led by LHSMA board member Rev. Paul Tomkiel, who is also the chair of the Historic Site Recognition Committee. Society President Steve Herr also offered remarks, with other board members in attendance including Archivist/Historian Victoria Jesswein, Rev. Dr. Maria Erling, Treasurer Lee Knepp, and Dr. Kevin Hepler.

Located near Biglerville, PA in Adams County, Camp Nawakwa is part of the Lutheran Camping Corporation of Central Pennsylvania, along with Camp Kirchenwald in Lebanon, PA, and The Wittel Farm at Elizabethtown, PA. For more information on Camp Nawakwa, please see the Lutheran Camping Corporation of Central Pennsylvania's website at <https://www.lutherancamping.org/>.

*Pictured
from left to
right, board
members
Victoria
Jesswein,
Lee Knepp,
Rev. Dr.
Maria Erling,
Dr. Kevin Hepler,
Rev. Steve Herr,
LCC Executive Director*



Mike Youse, board member Rev. Paul Tomkiel, and Nawakwa Director Mindy Shively.