

NEWSLETTER

2023 LHSMA Annual Business Meeting Recap

The Lutheran Historical Society of the Mid-Atlantic held its Annual Meeting on September 9, 2023 at the A.R. Wentz Library on the Gettysburg Campus of United Lutheran Seminary. President Matthew Riegel called the annual meeting to order at 11:57 AM, welcomed the membership, and offered opening devotions. A quorum for the meeting was established. President Riegel shared the meeting agenda. Maria Erling moved to accept the agenda as presented, seconded by Kevin Hepler. **Approved.**

The minutes from the November 30, 2021 annual meeting were distributed by Secretary John Deeben, and then **approved** as presented.

Report of the Nominating Committee: On behalf of committee chair Mark Oldenburg, President Riegel presented the following nominees to fill open 3-year terms on the board: John Deeben, Jon Diefenthaler, Kristi Keller, Lee Knepp, and Jeffrey Pannebaker. No further nominations from the floor. President Riegel appointed Sean Titus and Paul Tomkiel as tellers to distribute, collect, and tally paper ballots. Sean Titus later reported that the slate of nominees was approved.

Under Officers Reports, President Riegel discussed an idea to have ambassadors for each synod to strengthen the society's connections. Secretary John Deeben set October 1 as the deadline to submit material for the Fall newsletter and encouraged the whole membership to contribute items of interest. On behalf of the whole board, Deeben then presented a motion to adopt proposed revisions of the society's Governing Documents, as previously shared electronically with the membership. President

ANNUAL MEETING

Riegel offered a General Consent motion to replace the reading of the revised Constitution and By-Laws in their entirety. **Approved.** Paul Tomkiel moved, and seconded by Maria Erling, to amend proposed Article IV, Section 1, Paragraph 2 by substituting "business meeting immediately following" with "next regular meeting subsequent to." **Approved.** Tomkiel moved, and seconded by Steve Herr, to authorized the secretary to correct article and section designations, punctuation, and cross-references and to make such other technical and conforming changes as may be necessary to reflect the intent of the Society in connection with the general revision of the Governing Documents of The Society adopted in this session. **Approved.** The membership then voted on the original motion as amended. **Approved.**

Treasurer Lee Knepp reported the society's treasury was stable, with current balance at \$16,538.

Finally, Archivist Victoria Jesswein reported that post-1989 archival material for the society has been merged with previous material to create one continuous collection.

Under Standing Committee Reports, the St. Paul/Biglerville Prize committee again offered congratulations to Matt Barrasso for his fine work and excellent presentation for the annual meeting. The Historic Site Recognition reported that descriptions for sites already recognized by the Society are in the works, to be posted on the Society's website.

The annual meeting adjourned at 12:16 PM and the membership proceeded to enjoy a catered box lunch.

By John Deeben

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SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- *First in-person annual meeting since 2019*
- *Membership hears two presentations during meeting*
- *Schmucker anniversary celebration set for February 2024*
- *Membership renewal reminder*
- *Members encouraged to consider a Life Membership to LHSMA*
- *New museum in Gettysburg*

President's Corner - Autumn 2023

First off, thanks to all those who attended our annual meeting and program and extra thanks to those who made it happen, especial-



ly Steve Herr (program lead), Lee Knepp (registrar and treasurer), Maria Erling,

Victoria Jesswein, and Matthew Borrasso (presenters).

As you can tell from John Deeben's minutes, we tackled a significant piece of work in our business meeting, the revision of our governing documents, governing documents so old that they could legally drink in Pennsylvania. In the next issue of our newsletter, I hope to take some time to explain the structural changes that should afford us greater flexibility and efficiency as an organization.

For this issue, let us talk about ambassadors. Kevin Hepler, Mark Oldenberg, and I got to talking about how we might boost the Society's visibility and advance our work among the various Lutheran judicatories with territory in our primary geographical area of interest. Out of this conversation came the idea of ambassadors, members

of the Society who are designated to represent the Society to those synods, districts, provinces, *etc.* willing to receive them.

While evolution can be expected, here's a rough outline:

- An ambassador will promote the work of the Society in the judicatory, forwarding announcements of programs offered by the Society to appropriate judicatory communicators.
- When provided by the Society, an ambassador will seek inclusion the Society's report to the judicatory in the judicatory's convention/assembly/*etc.* bulletin of reports.
- When reasonable and proffered by the judicatory, an ambassador will address the assembly as an agent of the Society—an admittedly unlikely possibility.
- An ambassador will also assist the judicatory, congregations in the judicatory, and individuals (clergy and lay) in the judicatory to access information about the Society, resources produced by the Society, and communication with the Society.
- An ambassador will advise the Society should an opportunity

present itself for the Society to advance its work in a judicatory.

Note well, judicatories of all Lutheran polities in our primary geographical area of interest are included in this scheme. Our society is not parochial in as much as we are interested in Lutheran history not just the history of one particular Lutheran polity. It probably makes sense that an ambassador is a member of the judicatory with which the ambassador works, though this is not a requirement. It should go without saying that an ambassador can be either clergy or laity. An ambassador does not need to be a member of the Society's board of directors.

If you are interested in being an ambassador, please contact me. It would be good to have at least a handful of ambassadors before the assembly/convention season is in full swing. In fact, it would be good to have some before season for submitting reports for those assemblies/conventions is upon us.

The Rt. Rev.
Matthew Lynn Riegel,
S.T.M., President
Lutheran Historical
Society of the Mid-Atlantic
West Virginia Western Maryland
Synod, ELCA
 304-680-5388; riegel@wv-wmd.org
<http://WV-WMD.org>

LHSM 2023 - 2024 Board of Directors

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Matthew Riegel
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 Mark Oldenburg
Vice President

John Deeben
Secretary
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Victoria Jesswein
Archivist/Historian
 Jon Diefenthaler
 Maria Erling

Kevin Hepler
 Stephen Herr
 Kristi Keller
 Louise Meledin

Jeffrey Pannebaker
 Sean Titus
 Paul Tomkiel

Board Emeriti

Stephen Herr
 Susan Hill
 Donald Housley

Fall Program Explores Biblical Scholar, Poet and Hymn Writer

Martin Hans Franzmann and Church Record Keeping

For the first time since 2019 the Lutheran Historical Society of the Mid-Atlantic gathered for an in-person annual program and meeting. Over thirty people participated in the September 9 event held in the Library Lecture Room of the A.R. Wentz Library on the campus of United Lutheran Seminary. LHSMA President Matthew Riegel welcomed participants and led devotions by sharing lyrics from one of Franzmann's hymns. Program chair Stephen Herr introduced the keynote speaker the Rev. Dr. Matthew Borrasso. Borrasso won the 2021 St. Paul Biglerville Prize for his book *The Art of Exegesis: The Life and work of Martin Hans Franzmann*, published by WIPF and Stock in 2019.

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 who helped to reestablish this organization in 1989.

Borrasso was raised in the Chicago area and attended Concordia University-Chicago where he earned a B.A. in Theology with a minor in Biblical Languages. He holds graduate degrees from Northern Seminary, Concordia Seminary, and United Lutheran Seminary. Earlier this year he completed his Ph.D. work at the University of Birmingham in the United Kingdom. Dr. Borrasso is an ordained pastor in the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod and currently serves as pastor of Trinity Lutheran Church in Lexington Park, Maryland. Borrasso previously served as pastor of Redeemer Evangelical Lutheran Church in Parkton, Maryland.

The title of Borrasso's presentation was "His Life as High Doxology: An Introduction to the Artful Exegete Martin Hans Franzmann. Utilizing the lyrics of Franzmann's hymn, *O God, O Lord of Heaven and Earth*, and Franzmann's own words, Borrasso shared the

(Continued on page 4)

President Emeritus Corner

I want to extend my appreciation and thanks to the board of directors for the surprising conferral of LHSMA president emeritus status. It was an honor to serve the society as its president for the past fifteen years. The society's work in preserving and promoting the history of Lutheranism in the mid-Atlantic region remains an important resource for the Lutheran Church.

I thank all the officers and board members I had the opportunity to work with during my tenure. Our society is an all-volunteer organization. The energy and effort of the board keeps the society moving forward and fulfilling its mission. I also want to thank my good friend and colleague Bishop Matthew Riegel for his willingness to serve as president. The society has been well served by faithful presidential leadership and I recall with thanksgiving the service of former society presidents Michael Kurtz, Tim Spence, and Kurt Strauss. Riegel's leadership will undoubtedly advance the society's mission and goals in this post-pandemic era. I look forward to my continuing participation in the society and thank the members of the society for your support and involvement.

Sincerely,

Pastor Stephen Herr

President Emeritus

October 7, 2023

Commemoration Henry Melchior Muhlenberg, 1787



Fall Program, cont.

(Continued from page 3)

Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod professor's life story, theology, and impact. Franzmann's strength as a teacher came through as Borrasso described his approach to exegesis including an emphasis on listening and isagogics.

Church Archives



Church Archives Franzmann appreciated and valued the words of life, the good news of God, and its ability to shape and inspire humanity. Towards the end of his presentation, Borrasso explored Franzmann's understanding of Christian unity and in relation with the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod. Dr. Borrasso concluded with Franzmann's emphasis on the cross as the spot where humanity ultimately "become beggars and God becomes king. Amen."

The fascinating presentation introduced an important twentieth century Lutheran leader from the LCMS tradition. Borrasso's weaving of Franzmann's hymnody and writing into the presentation brought Franzmann to life and helped participants again a deeper appreciation for his theology, teaching, and hymnody.

The morning's program concluded with presentations from the Rev. Dr. Maria Erling and ULS Archivist Victoria Jesswein on Church Record Keeping. This topic drew in several congregational leaders, historians, and archivists looking for helpful information in their own quests to chronicle their own congregation's story. Dr. Erling is an ELCA pastor who has taught Church History at United Lutheran Seminary since 1999. She has focused on the use of primary sources, especially Lutheran periodicals in order to teach seminarians what was happening in the churches. Professor Erling has authored numerous articles and chapters in several books about contemporary Lutheranism, ecumenism, and mainline Protestantism, and coauthored with Mark Granquist, *The Augustana Story*, Augsburg Fortress, in 2008 – also a St. Paul, Biglerville Prize winner. Victoria

Jesswein has worked as Archivist at United Lutheran Seminary since 2021. She is responsible for maintaining the institutional records of the seminary, archives of local Lutheran organizations, and the archives of ELCA Region 8 synods and closed congregations. Both Erling and Jesswein serve on the LHSMA board with Jesswein also serving as the society's archivist/historian.

In her presentation Erling explored the importance of church record keeping and chronicling congregational history. She stressed the importance of asking questions, exploring connections, and determining what are the objects and illustrations that can help tell your congregation's story. Dr. Erling encouraged participants to use materials from church structures that congregations belong to and to utilize the holdings at the Wentz library. In writing a congregation's history, Erling highlighted the importance of interviewing members, looking beyond pastors for patterns in congregational life, being honesty in addressing difficult situations or conflict, and using your imagination. Erling noted "A shared understanding of your history creates a basis of trust that enables a healthy future."

Jesswein commenced her presentation by discussing the importance of record keeping amidst a significant cultural altering event like the pandemic. She moved on to share information about a Records lifestyle and details about how to maintain physical archives. She concluded her presentation by discussing the challenges and strategies for archiving digital materials. Jesswein reminded participants that the ELCA Region 8 archives are housed at the A.R Wentz library. A tour of the seminary and Region 8 archives by Jesswein followed lunch.

Participants appreciated the depth and thoughtfulness of the presentations each of which was inspiring and insightful. Overall, it was wonderful to be together again in person, to welcome new LHSMA members, rekindle connections, and enjoy conversations about Lutheran history and archives.

Stephen Herr

2023 Annual Meeting Program Chair





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

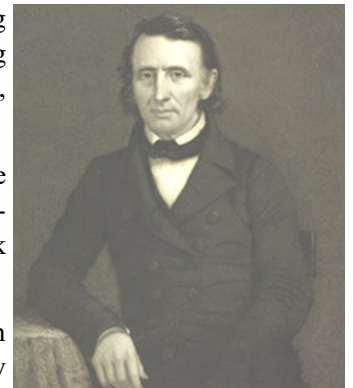
SCHMUCKER 225!

By John Deeben

Save the date of Saturday, February 24, 2024 for a symposium commemorating the 225th anniversary of Samuel Simon Schmucker's birth. In addition to founding our society, Schmucker was the founder of Gettysburg Seminary, Gettysburg College, and Christ Lutheran Church, Gettysburg.

The event will take place on the campus of Gettysburg College and include presentations and panels about Schmucker, his views on slavery, and his legacy. Presenters include Maria Erling, Michael Birkner, Susan McArver, Nelson Strobert, Mark Oldenburg, Jill Oglie Titus, Matthew Riegel, and Stephen Herr.

The program begins at 9:00 a.m. and will conclude at 3:30 p.m. Lunch will be in the Gettysburg College Dining Hall. Save the date for this important event and stay tuned to the society's website and mailings for registration details.



Featured Lutheran:

Rev. Jeremiah P. Schindel

By John Deeben

Rev. Jeremiah P. Schindel was born May 15, 1807, in Lebanon, Pennsylvania, the son of Rev. John Peter and Susanna (McCullough) Schindel. Jeremiah was a Lutheran minister, married to Elizabeth (Masser) Schindel. When he was five years old, his family moved to Sunbury, Northumberland County, Pennsylvania. At the age of 17, Jeremiah moved to Harrisburg to learn the printing and newspaper trade. The Ministerium of Pennsylvania licensed him to preach on June 10, 1830, at Lancaster, and he was ordained in Harrisburg by Rev. Dr. C.R. Demme, president of the synod and his father, who was then the secretary of the synod. Schindel served congregations at Bloomsburg, Mifflinburg, Catawissa, Danville, Mahoning and Chillisquaque. Later, other congregations were added at Roaring Creek, Briar Creek, Berwick, and Conyngham,

In 1837, he went to Siegersville in Lehigh County, Pennsylvania, serving Jordan Lutheran Church, and Allentown. From 1859 to 1861, while a pastor in that area, Schindel served as a State Senator at Harrisburg, representing Lehigh and Northampton Counties. He

then joined the Army and served as a chaplain in the 110th Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry during the Civil War. After the war, Schindel returned to Lykens Valley and served a charge consisting of St. John's, Berrysburg; Elizabethville; Huber's; Miller's; Fetterhoff's; Pillow; and Stone Valley. He also served as minister of Simeon Lutheran Church, Gratz, Dauphin County, from 1865 to 1870. Schindel died July 2, 1870, at Allentown and was buried in the Union-West End Cemetery.



The society's webpage contains other short biographical sketches of Lutherans from the Mid-Atlantic region. We hope to grow this online collection as another way to preserve and promote Lutheran history in the Mid-Atlantic. Help us grow this library of "Featured Lutherans." Submit a brief biographical sketch a Lutheran from the Mid-Atlantic Region. Your biographical sketch should be 150–200 words and include a picture (if possible). You can email your submission to info@LutheranHistoricalSociety.com.

Visit Gettysburg's Newest Museum

Beyond the Battle Museum is now officially open to the public! Our exhibits tell the remarkable story of ordinary eyewitnesses and their extraordinary experiences before, during, and after the Civil War. Through twelve interactive exhibit galleries packed with rare artifacts, the museum explores the story of Gettysburg like you've never seen or heard it before.

Caught in the Crossfire, the museum's premier exhibit, is an immersive experience that uses cutting-edge technology to place visitors inside a meticulously reconstructed farmhouse during the Battle of Gettysburg. Visitors will see, hear, and feel what it was like for one Gettysburg family to be overrun by invading forces and trapped behind enemy lines.

Beyond the Battle Museum is located inside the new home of the Adams County Historical Society at **625 Biglerville Road**, less than one mile north of the center of Gettysburg.

<https://www.achs-pa.org/visit/>



Membership Renewal 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, 2024; 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!!**

*Friendly
Reminder*

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!

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**

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The Lutheran Historical Society of the Mid-Atlantic, in the interest of the preservation and cultivation of Lutheran history in Central and Western Pennsylvania, Maryland, Delaware, West Virginia, and the Metropolitan Washington, D.C. area issues this newsletter two to three times a year.

Notes of announcements, projects, historical celebrations, genealogical concerns, notes of church or Synodical activities, and notes from other historical societies are solicited.

Address corrections are helpful.

Send replies via email to:

Matthew Riegel

info@lutheranhistoricalsociety.com

Subject: LHS Newsletter



VOLUME 34, NUMBER 3

Featured Lutheran:

Mary Gingrich Stuckenberg

By Jean LeGros

For some, the name Mary Gingrich Stuckenberg (1849-1934) is synonymous with working with the Woman’s Christian Temperance Union, raising funds for the American Church in Berlin, or founding the Woman’s Home and Foreign Missionary Society of the General Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church. For others, she is known as the wife of John Henry Wilbrand Stuckenberg, the noted Lutheran theologian, pastor, author, teacher, sociologist and Civil War chaplain. (Mary called him “Wilburn” and her “heart friend.”) Yet here in the mid-Atlantic Mary also touched the lives of countless members of the Gettysburg College community as founder and first president of the Woman’s General League of Gettysburg College. Founded in 1911, the League’s initial purpose was to raise funds in support of the College’s religious programs and activities. Using a model she developed some thirty years earlier to encourage participation in the Woman’s Home and Foreign Missionary Society, Mary recruited and mobilized Lutheran women in cities and towns across Pennsylvania and Maryland to form branch leagues in their communities in support of the General League. Today a chapter of the Woman’s General League is one of the oldest volunteer organizations in existence at Gettysburg College. Over the past 100 years, the League has raised more than \$1 million for chapel, curricular, co-curricular, coeducation and other purposes.



Mary lived in Gettysburg on and off during her lifetime. She was a member of the woman’s auxiliary at Christ Lutheran Church. Her cremated remains are buried with Wilburn’s in a grave in the National Cemetery. Together, they left a rich collection of letters and papers to Gettysburg College. These are now catalogued in Musselman Library’s Special Collections department at the College.

