



Lutheran Historical Society **Of the Mid-Atlantic**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Gettysburg, Pennsylvania

Lutheran Historical Society announces A.R. Wentz Prize Winner

The Lutheran Historical Society of the Mid-Atlantic announces that The Reverend Victoria Larson is the winner of the A.R. Wentz Prize in American Lutheran History for her paper “Maude McDaniel: Amplifying a Lutheran Laywoman’s Voice in Twentieth-Century Biblical Interpretation” in the award’s PH.D./M.A. category. Larson’s work explores Lutheran biblical interpretation in the last century and in particular sheds light on the contributions Lutheran laywomen made. The judge’s panel noted her solid archival work, clear writing, well-argued conclusions as reasons that elevated her paper. In addition, the society awarded honorable mention to Victoria Jesswein for her paper “German Language Use at Pennsylvania Lutheran Seminaries” and to Richard Hershberger for “The Missouri Synod in Nineteenth Century Baltimore.”

Abdel Ross Wentz, for whom the award is named, was a leading figure in 20th century Lutheranism. From 1916-1956 he was a professor of Church History and later President of Gettysburg Theological Seminary. He was the first Vice-President of the Lutheran World Federation and the lead writer of its first constitution. The Wentz family established an endowment to provide prize money for the best historical paper on Lutheranism in North America. The prize can be awarded each year in a number of categories: 1) first degree seminarian and 2) M.A or PH.D. graduate students 3) Post-Graduate and 4) Amateur Historian. The prize is in the amount of \$2,500. Read more about the prize and the work of the Lutheran Historical Society of the Mid-Atlantic on its website: www.lutheranhistoricalsociety.com

Larson is an ordained pastor in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, and has served at Trinity Lutheran Church (Steelton, PA) and Good Shepherd Lutheran Church (Westborough, MA). She holds degrees from the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Gettysburg (now United Lutheran Seminary; M.Div. '14) and Yale Divinity School (S.T.M. '15). She is currently pursuing a Th.D. at Duke Divinity School studying liturgics and homiletics. These interests also find expression through Barn Geese Worship, a worship resource group she co-founded to provide robust resources for lectionary preachers and worship planners. She lives in Durham, North Carolina with her dog, Zinzendorf.

The society also announces a call for papers for the prize due on September 30. Paper topics should be history papers on some aspect of Lutheranism in North America. Full details can be found on the society’s website. Questions can be directed to Pastor Stephen Herr, President of the Lutheran Historical Society of the Mid-Atlantic, 717-334-5212, info@lutheranhistoricalsociety.com or Lutheran Historical Society of the Mid-Atlantic, 61 Seminary Ridge, Gettysburg, PA 17325

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