

# NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 35, NUMBER 2

SUMMER 2024

## *Society to Host Lutheran Historical Conference for Joint Fall Program October 12, 2024*

*By John Deeben*

On Saturday, October 12, 2024, the Lutheran Historical Society of the Mid-Atlantic will conduct its Fall Program and Annual Meeting by hosting the Lutheran Historical Conference in Valentine Hall on the Gettysburg Campus of the United Lutheran Seminary.

The event is taking place in conjunction with the final day of the Lutheran Historical Conference's 2024 Biennial Meeting, which is being held at Christ Lutheran Church in Inner Harbor in Baltimore on October 10–12, 2024.

The theme for the LHC meeting is "Lutherans Uniting and Dividing." The Saturday conference is free to LHSMA members, with the Society also providing lunch for all attendees. The schedule of events for the day is as follows:

- 10:00–10:15: Welcome and Remarks by Mark Oldenburg, Vice President, LHSMA
- 10:15–11:45: Paper Session #6: Lutherans in Pennsylvania
  - ✓ Jonathan M. Wilson: "Federkrieg: A German Lutheran's War of the Pen, Waged on American Soil"
  - ✓ Richard B. Baumann: "Decline, Demise and Fragmentation of Lutheranism in Eastern Pennsylvania: What Does this Mean?"
  - ✓ Stephen R. Herr: "Milton Valentine: The General Synod's General Theologian"
- 12:00: Lunch in the Seminary Refectory sponsored by the LHSMA.
- 1:00: LHSMA brief Annual Business Meeting (election of board members)

There should be ample parking in the event lot across the street from Valentine Hall (next to the Wentz Library). No advance registration is necessary for this event. LHSMA members are also welcome to attend the other LHC conference sessions in Baltimore on October 10–11 and to register as guests if they wish to be added to the list for meals on Friday. For more information, please see the LHC conference event page at

<https://www.luthhistcon.org/lhc-biennial-meeting>.

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### SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- *Biennial Meeting at Christ Lutheran Church, Baltimore*
- *Commission review of Lutheranism structure*
- *Managing Church Correspondence Records*
- *2024 Abel Wentz Prize will award \$2,500*
- *Members encouraged to consider a Life Membership to LHSMA*
- *Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church, Hollidaysburg, PA shares archives*

## President's Corner - Summer 2024

I sit on the Commission for a Renewed Lutheran Church, a committee appointed by the Church Council of the ELCA as



authorized by the 2022 Church-wide Assembly of that de-

nomination. It is charged with examining the purpose statements of the ELCA's three expressions (Churchwide Organization, synods, and congregations) and the organizational structures of the denomination with an eye to a possible reconstituting convention. The Commission held its first meeting just over one year ago. Both within the Commission and in many, many conversations I've had outside the Commission, the question of what it means to be a Lutheran church in terms of purpose and structure have arisen. Now, to be sure, many people have very clear notions as to the answer. Equally clear is the lack of agreement among the answers when voiced. When I am asked, "What do Lutherans think the purpose of the church is, and how do Lu-

therans think it should be structured?" I often respond, "Which Lutherans?"

If we want to talk about Lutherans writ large, we should be honest about the fact that Lutherans are not on the same page, not across the world and not within this nation. There are differences of opinion between the various

*"Which Lutherans?"  
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affiliation; it asks  
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well.*

American Lutheran polities, and there are differences within each polity. Examining the documentary trail of denominational constitutions and intra- and inter-Lutheran polemical writings will tell you that these differences in opinion are also a matter of time. *Which Lutherans?* not only asks about geography and affiliation; it asks about place in time as well.

In our recent Schmucker at 225 conference, some of this was on display. Stephen Herr's examination of Schmucker's engagement of the Franckean Synod question touched upon the question of purpose: including a *sine qua non* with respect to abolitionism. This was *no sine qua non* for the General Synod. Schmucker's own ideas

about (what I would call) ecclesiastical federalism could not, as a matter of ecclesiology, allow him to assent to the Franckean demand. My paper on Schmucker's Fraternal Appeal pointed to his notions of ecclesiastical purpose, structure, and authority, notions rejected by the General Council.

If we look closely at the formations of, mergers among, and schisms in American Lutheran polities from the time of the Ministerium of Pennsylvania to this day, we can discern the fault lines in Lutheran ecclesiology. Further digging discloses to us the external influences that worked upon the church (e.g., Schmucker's ecclesiology owes a great debt to American federal republicanism) as well as the peculiar histories of each branch of the Lutheran family tree.

Unfortunately, too many assert this or that position (of their own liking) as the only position that rightly bears the name Lutheran. Worse yet, some don't even mention that other interpretations exist within the Lutheran family. Among all the different ideas on Lutheran ecclesiology that may be found in the historical record, I have my favorites,

*(Continued on page 3)*

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### LHSMa 2023 - 2024 Board of Directors

#### Board Members

Matthew Riegel  
*President*  
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*Vice President*

John Deeben  
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Lee Knepp  
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Jeffrey Pannebaker  
Sean Titus  
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#### Board Emeriti

Susan Hill  
Donald Housley  
Stephen Herr  
*(President Emeritus)*

## President's Corner, cont.

*(Continued from page 2)*

even those that I think should be reclaimed and implemented, but, in this, there are two things I try to do: 1) be honest about the other ideas that are found in the record, exercising as much Eighth Commandment charity as I can muster and 2) advance the models I prefer not out of antiquarian interest but because I think that they might actually work better than other options in this time and place.

We should not be shy about reminding people, especially in the midst of modern church debates, that there has been no one way to think about the nature, purpose, and structure of the church. There may be better and worse ways to think about these things, and they may be better

or worse in terms of both eternal and temporal concerns. Still, they are many, a pluralism or polities stretched across the historical narrative. Reminding people of this won't resolve the conflicts between advocates of different models, but it might just disabuse some of their ecclesiological tunnel vision. Maybe even a little charity born of the humility that history should teach us will seep into our conversations. Greater mutual understanding is a good thing, and if we don't remind people, who will?

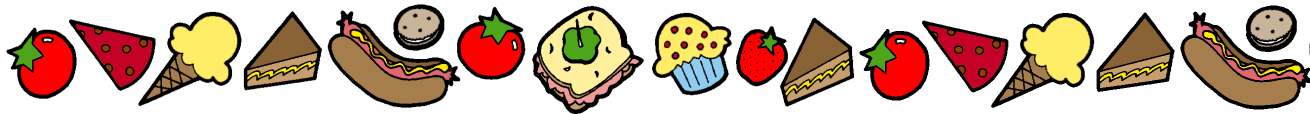
*The Rt. Rev.*

*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>*



## Managing Church Records, Part VI: Correspondence

*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).

During the course of carrying on congregational business, the pastor and staff may produce or receive correspondence of various types: Ex-officio as chief executive officer of the congregation; Correspondence to and from officers of the congregation and the bishop of the synod; personal correspondence.

E-mail is especially vulnerable to loss. E-mail that represents the policies, program, and ongoing life of the congregation should be printed out.

Place only letters that describe the program and ongoing life of the congregation in the congregation's archives.

Church  
Archives



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## THE LUTHERAN HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF THE MID-ATLANTIC



### The 2024 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](http://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 – all should be submitted electronically to Pastor Stephen Herr at:

[info@lutheranhistoricalsociety.com](mailto:info@lutheranhistoricalsociety.com)

**Submission deadline is September 30, 2024**



#### 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





# **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**

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](http://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](mailto:info@lutheranhistoricalsociety.com) or Lutheran Historical Society of the Mid-Atlantic, 61 Seminary Ridge, Gettysburg, PA 17325

Lutheran Historical Society of the Mid-Atlantic  
61 Seminary Ridge  
Gettysburg, PA 17325  
[www.info@lutheranhistoricalsociety.com](http://www.info@lutheranhistoricalsociety.com)

**Featured Lutheran:*****Maude Elizabeth Aurand McDaniel****By Victoria Larson*

Maude Elisabeth Aurand McDaniel (1930–2019) was the granddaughter, daughter, niece, wife, sister, and aunt of Lutheran ministers. Having earned a Masters in Christian Sociology from the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Gettysburg in 1953, she often claimed she would have been a pastor herself if she had been born a decade later.

McDaniel bequeathed her papers to United Lutheran Seminary upon her death, providing a robust and consistent record of her thoughts and experiences across fifty-plus years of American history. Her unpublished manuscripts on the history of the Church and the Bible provide a particularly rare glimpse into how a twentieth-century Lutheran laywoman performed biblical interpretation. McDaniel lived out her Christian vocation as a minister's wife, a singer, a writer, a Sunday school teacher, and a mother of three children, and lies buried next to her husband, Lee, in Gettysburg.

***Membership Renewal Due Anytime***

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

This is your friendly reminder that membership renewals for 2025 are due within the next several months. Payment of annual dues (\$20 per household or institution) is requested between January 1 and March 31, 2025; 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](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:**

**Matthew Riegel**

**[info@lutheranhistoricalsociety.com](mailto:info@lutheranhistoricalsociety.com)**

**Subject: LHS Newsletter**



VOLUME 35, 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 non-current records of Lutheran congregations, including historical records of disbanded congregations, from five Region 8 Synods, including Allegheny, Delaware-Maryland, Lower Susquehanna, Metropolitan Washington, DC, and Upper Susquehanna Synod. In this issue, we highlight the records of the following congregation:

**ZION EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH,  
HOLLIDAYSBURG, PA  
(Allegheny Synod)**

- Council Minutes
  - 1844–1849
  - 1860–1868
- Historical Society Minutes 1926–1928
- Newsletters 1963–1972
- Parish Registers
  - 1824–1846
  - 1840–1889 (Marriages, Confirmands and Members)
  - 1848–1871
  - 1872–1884
  - 1885–1914
  - 1911–1919
  - 1920–1937
- Sunday School Association Minutes 1943–1960

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>.