

NEWSLETTER

2014 Spring Program to Focus on Lutheran Women

By Susan Hill

In her book, *You Have Stepped Out of Your Place: A History of Women and Religion in America* (Westminster John Knox Press, 1996), author Susan Hill Lindley commented that religious studies have been a rich resource for the overall study of women's progress in America. "Scholars found that American women have been disruptive and submissive, challenging and supportive. They have been slaves, preachers, missionaries, reformers, critics, and pillars of the home and morality." Women's work in the church has been both a template and a frustration for women's de-

velopment as it provided a place to hone skills of leadership out of the ordinary and the extraordinary while still maintaining barriers for centuries to women's achievement. The story of women's progress complex yet transformational, eking out day by day the meaning of "equal under God" in church and society, is a fascinating one. Some pieces of it, as revealed by the presenters at the Lutheran Historical Society's Spring Program, will provide an insightful overview as well as specific examples of women of the mid-Atlantic on the move,

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For updated information log on to www.lhsmidatlantic.com.

Building for Worship: A Structural History of St. James Evangelical Lutheran Church, Gettysburg, Pennsylvania

By David E. Flesner

Over a span of more than 200 years, the congregation of Lutherans known today as St. James Evangelical Lutheran Church in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, has built and rebuilt structures in which they might worship the Triune God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

I. The Union Church Years

It is not clear from historical records exactly when German Lutherans, migrating westward with some settling in Adams County, first saw themselves as a congregation in Gettysburg. Itinerant preachers would now and then pass through the region and gather the faith-

ful for worship. Rev. Joseph B. Baker in his 1921 "authentic history of St. James Lutheran Church of Gettysburg, Pa." presented 1789 as the start of Lutheran and Reformed Germans in Gettysburg worshipping in a log school house on the corner of East (now Stratton) and High Streets, which is the location of Trinity United Church of Christ today. We do know that in 1803 "the German Presbyterian [Reformed] and Lutheran Inhabitants of the Town of Gettysburg and its vicinity" tried unsuccessfully to raise money to construct a church building for joint use by both groups. In 1994, St.

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SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- Four women to make presentations for 2014 spring program
- After multiple fires across the centuries, St. James Lutheran Church still vital in Gettysburg
- LHSMA 2014 membership renewal requested by March 31
- Interior and exterior pictures of St. James Lutheran Church through the years

President's Corner - Autumn 2013

Most unexpectedly late this summer a gentleman from Carlisle, Pennsylvania, arrived at Christ Lutheran Church in Gettysburg. In this 150th anniversary year of the Battle of Gettysburg, the Gettysburg churches have become accustomed to many visitors and history explorers. What distinguished this visitor from the many other visitors was that he came bringing a gift of history.

Dean Hankinson is a designer and maker of stained glass and owns a business in Carlisle. His grandfather, Henry B. Hankinson, owned a stained glass business in Newark, New Jersey, and in 1917 the congregation council of Christ Lutheran Church contracted with him to install twelve stained glass windows in addition to ceiling and lighting repairs. The original clear glass windows at Christ Lutheran had been destroyed during the Battle of Gettysburg and replaced with clear glass. Dean brought to the church that day the original contracts his grandfather and congregational representatives had signed. He found the documents among his



grandfather's papers and donated these original source materials to the congregation. These documents answered many questions raised by congregational historians regarding the interior renovations of the church building including the stained glass windows.

His visit to Christ Church came a few days before our recent LHSMA board meeting at which we discussed the importance of supporting and encouraging congregations to preserve materials for their archives in order to better tell their congregation's history. His gift is a reminder of the importance of primary sources and documents. Indeed there is value in preserving documents for future generations to understand and interpret better the past.

The Lutheran Historical Society of the Mid-Atlantic's mission as stated in our constitution is: *The Society is to preserve, to document, and to share the history of Lutherans and Lutheranism in the Middle Atlantic and adjoining areas.* While the work for preserving, documenting, and sharing takes plan-

ning and preparation. We also benefit from the serendipitous and surprising. I encourage society members to be engaged in this important mission work in their congregations and to encourage new generations of historians and archivists to become engaged in these endeavors.

If you would like to get involved in the society's work and purposes outlined on our webpage and in this newsletter, please contact me at info@lhsmidatlantic.com or at 717-334-5212. Please join us on April 29 at our annual program and meeting held at Gettysburg Seminary. Have a blessed autumn and holiday season.

Sincerely in Christ,

Stephen Herr, President

October 2013

Welcome New Members

LHSMA welcomes the following new members since our Summer 2013 Newsletter:

New Life Membership:

Rev. Laura Olsen - Spokane, WA

Please notify us of any corrections to the list.



LHSMA 2013 - 2014 Board of Directors

Officers

Stephen Herr <i>President</i>	John Deeben <i>Secretary</i>
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Board Emeriti

Donald Housley
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HISTORY OF ST. JAMES, GETTYSBURG, PA

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James voted to recognize 1802 as the year the congregation was founded, instead of 1789 as claimed by Baker.

In 1804, the Lutherans received permission to worship on Sundays in the newly completed Court House in the center of the town square. In 1811, the Germans

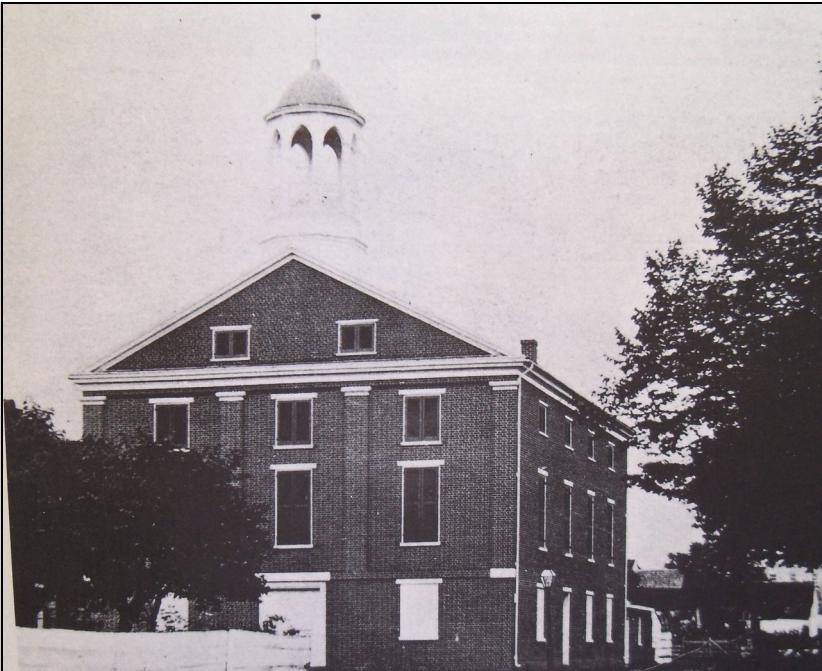
in 1814, the *Adams Centinel* reported that J.G. Schmucker (father of Samuel Simon Schmucker) conferred "the name of St. James Church" on the new church. In 1821, a third fundraiser allowed them to add a 100-foot steeple to the Union Church.

The first resident Lutheran pastor, Johann Herbst, Jr. (1819-1828), was involved with the starting of Gettysburg Seminary in 1826 and was on their initial Board of Directors. He was influential in securing Gettysburg over Hagerstown and Carlisle as the location of the proposed seminary. Since the Lutherans at the Union Church only had two Sundays a month, half in German and half in English, there was only one Sunday a month available for seminary faculty to preach in English to seminary students attending Lutheran worship services. Consequently, a separate Christ Church was built and was consecrated in 1836 to serve the English-speaking needs of the seminary and Pennsylvania College (founded in 1832 and now called Gettysburg College). Benjamin Keller was called as pastor of both the German Church (1836-1851) and the English Church (1836-1839).

During the 1840s there were tensions brewing between the Lutheran and Reformed congregations of the Union Church. In 1840, the Lutherans established the "Sabbath School Society of Saint James' Church." In 1841, they

wanted to build a Sunday School house jointly with the Reformed congregation, but were turned down by the

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The first St. James building at York and Stratton Streets. Erected in 1848. Cupola was added several years later. (Picture, c. 1866)

tried again and were successful this time in raising enough money to build a two-story brick "Union Church" structure shared by both congregations, each worshipping on alternate Sundays. At the consecration

ELECTRONIC NEWSLETTER NOTICE!

The Lutheran Historical Society of the Mid-Atlantic will start offering its annual newsletter (3 issues per year) in electronic form (PDF file format) to interested members.



If you would like to receive the newsletter electronically, please send an email to newsletter editor John Deeben at jdeeben@aol.com and put "LHSMA Newsletter" in the subject heading. Members who elect to receive the newsletter electronically will NOT have a hardcopy sent to their mailing

address in an effort to reduce postage costs.

2014 Spring Program

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making things new.



The Lutheran Historical Society of the Mid-Atlantic's (LHSMA) Spring Program for 2014 will once again be scheduled just prior to the opening of the Gettysburg Seminary's Spring Academy Week. Presenters will be Dr. Maria Erling, Marianne Brock, Susan Hill, and Jean Legros. The program will consider women of the church as historical innovators and transformers. Dr. Erling, Professor of Modern Church History and Global Missions and Director of Teaching Parish at Gettysburg Seminary, will present the keynote address: "Finding New Paths to Service: Women Innovators Who Transformed Eastern

Lutheranism." Brock, Hill, and Legros, all graduates of Gettysburg Seminary, will introduce specific Lutheran women and their work, each the subject of these three women's master's theses: Nawakwa's Women Leaders, Elsie Singmaster Lewars, and Mary Stuckenburg, respectively. Brock is currently director at Camp Nawakwa, Hill is the author of *Heart Language: Elsie Singmaster and Her Pennsylvania German Writings*, and Legros, retired from a career in college administration at Gettysburg College, is now serving as gift officer for the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Gettysburg.

Opening day for the Spring Academy will be Tuesday, April 29, 2014, and the LHSMA morning session will begin with chapel in the Seminary Chapel at 9:00 AM. Participants in the LHSMA morning program will have the option to attend other of the Seminary's Spring Academy offerings as well. More information will be available to you soon by mail and by internet. Stay tuned!! Plan to attend!! ■

St. James Evangelical Lutheran Church

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Reformed congregation. Later attempts by the Lutheran congregation to separate from the Reformed congregation with offers to sell their interest in the joint property were rejected by the latter. A bitter legal conflict ensued. On May 20, 1846, the "Evangelical Lutheran Congregation of St. James' Church Gettysburg Pennsylvania" received its charter of incorporation "by an act of the Supreme Court of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania."

II. Our Own Building

After receiving its charter, St. James started in 1847 to raise funds to build a new church. A lot on the corner of York and East Streets was essentially donated (sold for ten cents) by George Smyser. The cornerstone was laid on April 26, 1848, and the church was dedicated on December 31 of

that same year, with separate services in German and in English. It cost \$4,425 to build the two-story brick church with exterior dimensions 48 feet by 70 feet. The Sunday School purchased a "Melodian" (Melodeon reed organ) to accompany the choir, which was

located in the rear gallery of the nave.

In order to satisfy the complaint of the German contingent to have more than one service a month in German, the council in 1857 con-

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Old St. James Church - 1910 Nave of 1888 Building

ST. JAMES, GETTYSBURG, PA

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tracted with Seminary professor C.F. Schaeffer to preach a service in German every other Sunday afternoon. This appeared to be working well until one Sunday in 1858 when Dr. Schaeffer presided over a full liturgical service and was wearing a clerical robe, all without permission of the council. Council responded by passing resolutions "to dispense with the using of the clerical robe in public worship" and "to adhere to the liturgy of the General Synod in the altar service" The German portion of the congregation proceeded to withdraw from St. James and form a third Lutheran church in Gettysburg, St. Paul's German Lutheran Church, with Dr. Schaeffer as pastor conducting services in McConaughy's Hall located across the street from the present-day Majestic Theater and where the old *Gettysburg Times* building now stands. In 1860, St. James dropped all preaching in German. Dr. Schaeffer abruptly left Gettysburg Seminary in 1864 for a position at the new Lutheran Seminary in Philadelphia. Consequently, in May of 1865, all thirty-five communicant members who had left St. James to found St. Paul's returned and were received back into St. James. The new pastor, Edward Breidenbaugh (1865-1872), restarted the practice of preaching in German on the last Sunday of each month.

Abraham Essick (1861-1864)

was the pastor of St. James during the battle of Gettysburg in July of 1863. Just the previous year, he had confirmed Mary Virginia Wade on April 20, 1862.

"Jennie" Wade was the only Gettysburg civilian killed during the battle. As with other churches in Gettysburg, St. James was used as a hospital for five weeks. There was extensive damage to the building as a result, and the cost of repair was approximately \$2025. A bill was sent to the United States government, but it was not until 1915 (over 50 years after the battle!) that St.

James received a reimbursement check for all of \$120. A Mason & Hamlin reed organ was installed in 1865 to replace the Melodian.

In 1888, during the pastorate of Joel E. Swartz (1881-1894), there was a major remodeling of the 1848 St. James church building. The

exterior design of the 1888 remodeled church building dramatically changed the look of the earlier 1848 building. A new facade was built,



Exterior of the 1888 Remodeled Church Building

rectangular windows became rounded on top, and a bell tower was constructed. Inside the church, the rear gallery was removed, the choir loft was moved to the front, and new pews were purchased. The total cost of the renovation was

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A Friendly Reminder to Society Members:

Please remit your 2014 dues between January 1 and March 31 when you receive your renewal notice from Treasurer Lee Knepp: \$20 per calendar year.



Structural History of St. James Lutheran Church

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\$5,600. A new Vocalion reed organ was also purchased. Some other highlights during Pastor Swartz's tenure were the formation of the Mite Society and the

Women's Missionary Society in 1882 and the Christian Endeavor Society in 1888. An Estey pipe organ was installed in 1903 to replace the Vocalion.

III. New Building and Rebuilding

The second century of existence for St. James involved even more building for worship. The very energetic and charismatic pastor, Joseph B. Baker (1909-1922), exhibiting both wit and determination during his tenure, was a strong leader of the congregation. He started *The Messenger* monthly newsletter in 1909, oversaw the construction of a grand new church building, sponsored revivals along with other Gettysburg churches, and witnessed a significant increase in church membership.

On January 10, 1910, the congregation decided to build a new church after having debated for several years whether to rebuild or remodel to meet the increasing need for more space. The bid accepted by the congregation for constructing the new building was \$34,913. On Monday, March 13 of 1911, demolition of the old church began, followed by construction of a new church



St. James Lutheran Church, Gettysburg, Pa. (1912)

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MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL NOTICE!

For Your 2014 Calendar Planning:

Are you already entering important dates in a 2014 calendar?? Please don't miss **this** one!



LHSMA Annual Membership Renewal, with dues (\$20 per household or institution), is requested between January 1 and March 31. Your membership **PROVIDES SIGNIFICANT SUPPORT** for our several Lutheran Historical Society projects, some of which we can attend and some which we learn about through the Newsletter.

**Remember
Your Dues**

However, if you are not a member, Come Join Us! An application form is on the back page of this Newsletter. If you have never been a member and join between October 1 and December 31, the last quarter of the year, this one time your annual dues will also include all of 2014. **We'll be very happy to welcome you!**

We are very appreciative of the involvement and support from our present members, and we are always eager to greet new members.

Structural History of St. James Lutheran Church

(Continued from page 6)

on the same site. A Sunday School wing was included in the new design. Its chapel was built according to the "Akron plan" in which the worship space was surrounded by connecting individual classrooms on two levels. A new parsonage was constructed next to the church. During the construction, the congregation worshiped in Brua Chapel at Pennsylvania College. The church cornerstone was laid on June 9, 1911. Dedication was September 15, 1912, and the mortgage was paid off in 1919.

The next significant structural event was during the pastorate of Earl J. Bowman (1923-1934). An Austin pipe organ was installed in 1925, replacing the Estey organ of 1903. Then early in the morning of October 31, 1928, St. James Lutheran Church was destroyed by a consuming fire believed to be caused by a short circuit of some wires in the organ. Arrangements were made to hold worship services at the Majestic Theater (just across the street from the former site where the Germans of St. James had worshiped as St. Paul's Lutheran Church from 1858 to 1865). The church was rebuilt using the same basic plan as in 1911, but with a "modern Lutheran chancel" and an expanded Sunday School wing. Instead of a high central pulpit and no altar, the rebuilt church had a raised central altar flanked

on both sides by a pulpit and a lectern. A new Austin pipe organ replaced the one destroyed in the fire. The rebuilt church was dedicated on December 8, 1929.

During the pastorate of Ralph R. Gresh (1941-1955) and after a two-year planning committee study, the congregation recommended in February of 1949 that there be redecoration and minor remodeling of the nave, redecoration of the Sunday School facilities, and finishing the basement area under the nave to provide extra space. The completed project was dedicated on September 11, 1949. In 1958, the parsonage adjacent to the church was renovated to form a parish house for Scout activities, office space, and a new church parlor.

IV. Rebuilding Again

In 1967, St. James called two young men, Frederick A. Foltz and E. Edward Keyser, to be co-equal pastors. Their very effective team ministry lasted for 35

years (the longest tenure at St. James) until both retired in 2002. Their start was literally a trial by fire as on the evening of January 27, 1969, St. James once again experienced a major fire that severely damaged the nave, but left the walls standing. Around this time there were several suspicious church fires in the Gettysburg area. Arrangements were made for the congregation to worship at the Seminary Chapel.

The congregation decided in September of 1969 to stay at its central location in town and rebuild. The



Nave of 1912 Building

traditional nave was redesigned into a contemporary style with a tent-shaped ceiling and the altar and pulpit in the center of the long wall that covered over the previous east windows. The new two-person pew benches were movable and placed to surround the movable altar platform on three sides. Unique, modern stained glass windows replaced the destroyed windows on the west wall. The Sunday School wing had not been as seriously damaged as the nave, and it was remodeled to include a floor that separated the earlier large chapel into two separate floors. The rebuilt church was dedicated on May 23, 1971.

In 1997–1998, St. James carried out a construction project to expand the church into a complete rectangle that included the "old" church and an additional area opened up by demolishing the adjacent Parish House. This improved the overall flow of traffic within the

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Structural History of St. James Lutheran Church

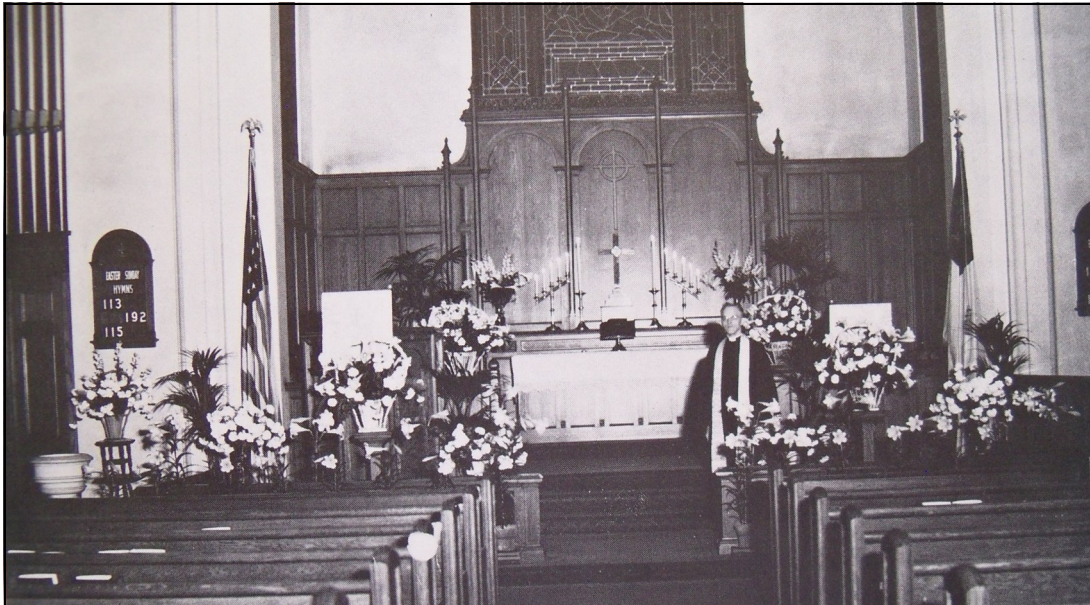
(Continued from page 7)

church to include the sanctuary, a gathering area, office space, and more Sunday School and Child Care spaces. Again, the congregation worshiped at the Seminary Chapel during the construction.

After a few years of interim pastoral leadership following the Foltz/Keyser retirement, the congregation called Michael E. Allwein as Senior Pastor in 2004, and then Jeanette D. Leisk as Associate Pastor in 2008. In 2009, the Zimmer pipe organ was refurbished by R.J. Brunner & Co. At the present time (2013), St. James is in the midst of fundraising for a Worship Area Renewal project to replace pews and redesign the sanctuary and

surrounding space.

Lutheran worship utilizes not only a building and an organ, but also a worship manual. The congregation used the *Book of Worship* of the General Synod during much of the 19th century and reaffirmed its use in 1922 and after the fire in 1929. It was not until 1942 that they adopted the *Common Service Book with Hymnal* (black CSB). In 1958, they moved to the *Service Book and Hymnal* (red SBH). In 1979, Minister of Music Timothy E. Braband utilized the Adult Choir to assist the congregation in its transition to the *Lutheran Book of Worship* (green LBW). Since September 9, 2007, the congregation has used the *Evangelical Lutheran Worship* (cranberry ELW) as its worship resource.



1944 Modern Chancel of St. James 1929 Building - Decorated for Easter Day, April 9, 1944.
Dr. Ralph Gresh stands in the chancel.

There is a lot more to the history of St. James Evangelical Lutheran Church of Gettysburg, Pennsylvania. I have chosen to focus on the buildings used for worship, starting with German Lutherans coming into Gettysburg and covering over two hundred years of buildings constructed to the glory of God.

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You know you're a Lutheran when:

- * It's 100 degrees, with 90% humidity, and you still have coffee after the service;
- * You hear something really funny during the sermon and smile as loudly as you can;
- * Donuts are a line item in the church budget, just like coffee;
- * The communion cabinet is open to all, but the coffee cabinet is locked up tight;
- * When you watch a 'Star Wars' movie and they say, 'May the Force be with you,' you respond, '*and also with you*'.



History of St. James Lutheran Church

Additional Pictures



St. James Lutheran Church, 1998



2013 Contemporary Nave of 1998 Building

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Notes: Most of the material for this expository article comes from the following three books:

- (1) *History of St. James Evangelical Lutheran Church of Gettysburg, Penna: 1775-1921* by Rev. Joseph Baer Baker in 1921 and reprinted in 1969 by Times and news Publishing Company, Gettysburg, Pa.;
- (2) *Living in the Light: A Short History in Word and Picture of St. James Evangelical Lutheran Church, Gettysburg, Pennsylvania* by A. Roger Gobbel with Elaine C. Matthews and printed in 1989 by the Craft Press, Inc., Chambersburg, Pa.;
- (3) *Centennial History of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod of West Pennsylvania: 1825-1925* by Adam Stump and Henry Anstadt and printed in 1925 by J.R. Kerr & Bro., Chambersburg, Penna.

I thank Susan Hill for editorial suggestions. ■



Lutheran Historical Society of the Mid-Atlantic

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*“Preserving, documenting,
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Lutherans and Lutheranism in
the Mid-Atlantic and
surrounding areas.”*



**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:

Stephen Herr

info@lhsmidatlantic.com

Subject: LHS Newsletter



VOLUME 24, NUMBER 2

**Lutheran Historical Society
of the Mid-Atlantic
MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION**

Name: _____
Address: _____

Phone: _____
Email: _____
Congregation (if applicable): _____

I desire membership in LHSMA as a: _____ New Member or, as a: _____ Renewal.

_____ \$ 250 Life Membership

_____ \$ 20 Regular Membership (*renewable annually by March 31*)

_____ I wish to give a Special Gift. Please send me more information on the Special Gift Program of the society.

I am interested in:

_____ Research

_____ Reading

_____ Publishing

_____ Other: _____

Please complete this form and your check made payable to **LHSMA** and mail to:

Lee Knepp, LHSMA
PO Box 76
McClure, PA 17841