

LUTHERAN HISTORICAL CONFERENCE

NEWSLETTER

2008 CONFERENCE PAPER TOPICS

The following is a preliminary list of papers submitted for the 2008 LHC Biennial Meeting, to be held at Wagner College, Staten Island, N.Y., October 11-14, 2008, on the theme "American Lutherans Engage the World." The list is subject to changes.

- Julieanna Frost, Sienna Heights University, "Images of the Inupiaq: The Photography and Mission Work of Helen C. Frost."
- Kathryn Galchutt, Concordia College, New York, "Art Simon: From Lower Manhattan to Bread for the World."
- Michael Church, Metro New York Synod, "Trexler's Travels: Samuel Geiss Trexler and the Emergence of International Lutheranism."
- Kim-Eric Williams, University of Pennsylvania, "Laughing with the Lenape: Swedes and Native Americans in Colonial Delaware."
- Andreas Mielke, independent scholar, "300 Years Ago: Joshua Kocherthal's Exodus from Europe (October 1708)."
- L. DeAne Lagerquist, St. Olaf College, "Fellow Workers: Lutheran Public Engagement." (On Cordelia Cox).
- Melissa James, Graduate Theological Union (student), "Institutionalizing Engagement: Examining the History of the Lutheran Diaconate in North America."
- Kathy Graumann, Salem Lutheran Church, Rosehill, Texas, "History of Salem Lutheran Church, Rosehill, Texas."
- David Grafton, Lutheran Theological Seminary, Philadelphia, "An Early American Perspective on Islam: Lewis Eichelberger and His Sources."
- Marilyn Stauffer, associate archivist, ELCA Region 9, "Sister Margaret Fry at Willow Run."
- David Settje, Concordia University, Chicago, "Lutherans, Watergate, and Morality: Engaging the Political Realm."
- Elisabeth Unruh, Concordia University, Chicago (student), "Lutheran Responses to the Equal Rights Amendment."
- Daniel Grimminger, Mount Union College, "Liturgical Cross-Pollinization Among Lutherans and Episcopalians."
- Rachel Vagts, Luther College, "Hanna and Marie Larsen at the Schreuder Mission in Zululand."
- Mark Granquist, Luther Seminary, "The Zion Society for Israel and Lutheran-Jewish Relations."

More information about conference registration and housing will be available in the August edition of this newsletter.

Volume 46, No. 2
May 2008

ISSN 0460-0274
<http://luthhist.org>

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BOOK REVIEW: EXPANDING HORIZONS FOR AMERICA'S LUTHERANS: THE ABDEL ROSS WENTZ STORY

Wentz, Frederick K. *Expanding Horizons for America's Lutherans: The Abdel Ross Wentz Story*. Seminary Ridge Press, Gettysburg, Pa., 186 pages, 2008.

Review by the Rev. Howard J. McCarne, Bishop, retired, Central Pennsylvania Synod, Lutheran Church in America.

He was a farm boy from Maryland who was acclaimed as a scholar, a teacher, and a seminary president. To his peers he was the "Dean of American Lutheran Historians," and to worldwide Christendom he was a leading figure in the founding of the Lutheran World Federation and the World Council of Churches. This is the faith-journey of Abdel Ross Wentz as told by his son who, like his father, is a scholar, teacher, parish minister, and seminary president.

God gave A.R. Wentz the marvelous gift of a family that "taught him to fear God and love the church, so that he had been raised in the nurture and admonition of the Lord"(p.1). In that cradle of faith his life was shaped for the fu-

ture. The stage was set when at the age of eleven he felt the call of the Spirit to enter the ordained ministry. The response of his father, mother, six brothers, and four sisters was to hold a conference in which they agreed to mortgage the farm to finance his preparation for that calling. Throughout his life these family roots nourished the way he thought and the way he lived.

The second gift that God gave A.R. Wentz was an unusually quick mind that always was inquisitive, that thought with great definition and commitment, and that constantly was reaching out to explore the world in which we live. As Fred Wentz began to tell the faith-journey of his father, it was to discover that everything he did was to expand an understanding of life and to lead America's Lutherans into that experience. So that became the title of the book.

There was a deep appreciation by all who enjoyed his teaching. Perhaps it is expressed best by Dr. Kenneth Senft (retired Executive Director of the Division for Mission in North America of the Lutheran Church in America): "Dr. Wentz was a teacher who enabled stu-

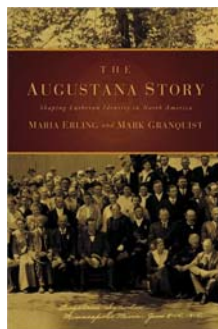
dents to move from an understanding of church that was parochial and isolated to a vision of church that was ecumenical and global....When Dr. Wentz returned from his meetings in church-wide and ecumenical responsibilities, he shared those experiences with us."

His deep commitment to Jesus Christ as Lord and his perception of the church that involves the way we live together as Christians and as citizens of the world — all this affected how he served as the President of Gettysburg Seminary and how he assumed leadership in the National Lutheran Council, the Lutheran World Federation, and the World Council of Churches. He was consumed by a sense of outreach that pervaded the training of people for parish ministry and the relationships that he fostered among Christians worldwide.

We are grateful for this faith-journey of Abdel Ross Wentz, for it tells us how God used a farm boy to transform our thinking about ourselves as Lutherans and as Christians who live in a world of expanding horizons.

NEW RESOURCES

On April 16 Augsburg Fortress Press released *The Augustana Story: Shaping Lutheran Identity in North America* by the Rev. Dr. Maria Erling of Gettysburg Seminary and Dr. Mark Granquist of Luther Seminary. This is the first book since 1960 to chronicle the history of the Augustana Lutheran Church, which was founded in 1860 primarily by Swedish immigrants. The Augus-



tana Lutheran Church was the largest organization ever founded by Swedish Americans, and it gave birth to a large number of literary works, colleges, and hospitals, as well as a theological seminary.

The Augustana Story

explores such topics as making Lutheran connections in America, transitioning to being an American denomination, and Augustana's place in a wider religious context.

NEW MEMBERS

The following are new members who have joined LHC since our last newsletter:

Dr. Mary Jane Haemig
Assoc. Prof. of Church History
Luther Seminary
2481 Como Ave
Saint Paul MN 55108

Tri-Synod Archives
Passavant Center/Thiel College
75 College Ave
Greenville PA 16125

Brigitte Conkling
214 Midland Ave
Tuckahoe NY 10707

Brigitte is the archivist for Concordia College New York (Bronxville) and for the Atlantic District LCMS. She previously worked at the Concordia Historical Institute in St. Louis.

GLADYS SUELFLOW-KRAUSE 1924-2008

Gladys Sueflow-Krause, age 83 of DeKalb, Ill., died peacefully April 2 at her home. She was born June 28, 1924 in Mequon, Wis., a daughter of the late Emil and Hulda (Riemer) Gierach. She was baptized, confirmed and educated at Trinity Lutheran Church in Freistadt, Wis., and graduated from Milwaukee Lutheran High School in 1942. On June 16, 1946, she married the Rev. August R. Sueflow in Freistadt. They enjoyed wedded bliss for 53 years in St. Louis, Mo. August was the Director of the Concordia Historical Institute for nearly 50 years. He preceded her in death August 28, 1999. On September 28, 2002, she married the Rev. E. George Krause of DeKalb.

Gladys worked for 30 years at Concordia Seminary in St. Louis. She served as research director and editor of five volumes of *Books of Remembrance*, a series of biographies of some 1200 pastors of the LCMS, and was director of publicity, recording secretary of the faculty, and director of campus activities. She also held various offices in the Concordia Seminary Guild, including vice-president, president and program chairman. She authored *Glimpses Into The Past*, a brief history of the guild. In 1986 Gladys was awarded the Stephanas Servant of Saints Award by the Seminary, one of only three individuals who received this award from the school's Board of Regents.

Gladys was a charter member of the CHI Auxiliary, founded in 1952, and held several posts in the organization. For its 40th anniversary, she wrote *Forty Years Behind the Scenes*, a brief history of the auxiliary. In 1996 she was awarded the Distinguished Service Award by CHI.

Survivors include her husband George; one daughter, Kathryn (Rev Dr. Craig) DuBois of Plymouth WI; one son August (Yvonne) Summerfield of Koloa HI; and five grandchildren.

MEMBER NEWS

Kim-Eric Williams received the Royal Order of the Polar Star, First Class, at the Residence of the Ambassador of Sweden in Washington, DC, on March 17.

Williams was recognized for his work as Archivist and four-time Governor of the Swedish Colonial Society, as Swedish Lecturer at the University of Pennsylvania and Translator of the multi-volume Gloria Dei Records Project.

He serves as an archivist at the Lutheran Archives Center at Philadelphia

and is the editor of *Archives Advocate*. He is an 11th generation descendant of three 17th-century Swedes.

The Order of the Polar Star is only awarded by the King to non-Swedish citizens for distinguished service to the country. It was established by King Frederick I in 1748.

The Rev. Raymond Earle Davis, Jr. passed away April 4. Born June 7, 1929 in Orangeburg, S.C., he attended the University of South Carolina and the

Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary. Ordained by the United Lutheran Church in America, he served as a pastor in South Carolina, Georgia, and Alabama. He also served as secretary of the Weekday Church Schools and Vacation Church Schools for the Lutheran Church in America. Survivors include his wife of 56 years, Rachel Rawls Davis, two daughters, six grandchildren, and five great-grandchildren.

WANTED: STORIES OF LUTHERAN "SAINTS"

The Little Lutheran, a new publication for children age 6 and younger, their parents and teachers, needs your stories about interesting historical Lutherans (or predecessors of the Lutheran faith). Whether living or dead, famous or little-known, these sinner-saints are ordinary people who followed/follow God's call to do extraordinary things.

The Little Lutheran publishes these historical profiles as well as brief, current biographies of other children in this age group from around the world. Other main pieces in *The Little Lutheran* are: Bible and Bible-based stories, prayers, rituals, songs, poems, and activities.

Previously published saints in *The Little*

Lutheran include: Martin Luther, Katie Luther, Albert Schweitzer, Gabriela Cuervos, Elizabeth von Thuringia, and (still living) Fern Lee (documentary filmmaker), Stross Newcom (16-year-old high schooler with spina bifida), and Bill McDonald (former Tuskegee Airman, 2007 Congressional Medal recipient).

Submissions should:

- be 400 words or less. (*The Little Lutheran* staff will edit submissions down to 60 to 100 words, and make the language accessible for very young children.)
- share as much as possible about one childhood moment or encounter that influenced this saint's vocation in life.

- tell what the saint went on to do (or is now doing) in response to God's calling.
- need not necessarily show only "good" moments -- some mistakes are OK, too, and will be appreciated by little ones who know all about being naughty, but being loved.

Interested? E-mail either submissions or suggestions to: elizabeth.hunter@thelutheran.org. By US mail (include your phone number or email) send submissions to: Elizabeth Hunter, The Little Lutheran magazine, 5th floor, 8765 W. Higgins Road, Chicago, IL 60631.

Joel Thoreson, Editor
Newsletter
Lutheran Historical Conference
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
8765 W. Higgins Rd.
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BOOK REVIEWS

Those interested in contributing book reviews or wishing to suggest a book, please contact David Settje at David.Settje@CUChicago.edu.

Each review should be between 500 and 750 words long, be sent as a MS Word document or in a compatible format, and specifically evaluate the book and its Lutheran content/context.

WHAT WILL THE NEXT LHC NEWSLETTER CONTAIN?

This newsletter is intended as a clearinghouse of information for archivists, historians and librarians. It needs **you** to provide material for it.

Please send material for publication to the editor. Items of interest include notice of research in progress, new appointments, publications, meetings and celebrations planned or

held, bibliographical materials, and anything of general interest to LHC members.

The LHC Newsletter is issued four times a year: February, May, August and November. The November issue includes the annual "Index of Writings in the Field of American Lutheranism." The deadline for each issue is the 15th of the month prior to each

issue. Please send items to:

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8765 W. Higgins Rd.
Chicago, IL 60631
Joel.Thoreson@elca.org

FOR THE NEXT NEWSLETTER

Deadline: July 15, 2008