

LUTHERAN HISTORICAL CONFERENCE

NEWSLETTER

BIENNIAL MEETING AT SOUTHERN SEMINARY

Lutheran Identity and Regional Distinctiveness is the theme of the 23rd biennial meeting of the Lutheran Historical Conference in Columbia, S.C. on October 12-14, 2006. The conference, meeting on the campus of Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary, will feature fourteen academic papers and a panel discussion beginning Thursday at 11:00 a.m. with registration and concluding Saturday at 12:30 p.m. Participants will have the opportunity to join with the entire Southern Seminary community for worship in Christ Chapel on Thursday evening.



The Governor Thomas Bennett House, site of 2006 LHC Banquet.

Thanks to the generous support of Thrivent Financial for Lutherans, a highlight of the conference is a day-long trip to Charleston, cradle of Lutheranism in South Carolina. Participants will tour and hear papers at St. John's Lutheran Church (formally organized 1742) before an afternoon bus tour of historic Charleston.

Featured on the tour will be a stop at the Charleston Museum (America's First Museum, founded 1773) for a special display and presentation on the life and work of the Rev. John Bachman (1790-1874), pastor of St. John's, scientific colleague of the naturalist John James Audubon, and prime mover behind the founding of the South Carolina Synod, Southern Seminary and Newberry College.

The annual LHC reception and banquet will be held at the antebellum Governor Thomas Bennett House and will feature the indigenous southern cuisine of a "Low Country Boil" before returning to Columbia in the evening.

Several housing options are available as described in the conference brochure, ranging from very basic campus housing to a downtown convention hotel. Participants may book airline flights into Columbia, SC (approximately 13 miles from the campus) or Charlotte, N.C. (approximately 90 miles away) Two conference hotels provide complimentary shuttle service to and from the airport. The local arrangements committee will provide pick-up and return service at the airport for others who request it. Transportation from hotels to the campus will be provided daily during the conference.

Conference brochures with details on program, housing and registration have been mailed to all members of LHC. The same information may be found on the LHC website: www.luthhist.org. For questions about the program, contact Russell Kleckley at kleckley@augsborg.edu and for local arrangements, contact Susan McArver at smcarver@ltss.edu.

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NOMINATIONS FOR BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The nominating committee is pleased to present the following candidates for six-year terms on the Board of Directors of the Lutheran Historical Conference. Three positions are to be filled by the LHC members at the business meeting to be held at the upcoming biennial meeting at Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary in Columbia, S.C. The directors to be elected will replace Mark Braun, president, Marvin Huggins, vice-president, and Carolyn Hoover Sung, treasurer, whose terms are expiring.

James W. Albers

After 14-years in administration at Valparaiso University, Jim has been teaching full-time in the Department of Theology since 1998. His courses deal with church history from the Reformation to the present, particularly American Christianity and Lutheranism. He also teaches regularly in Valpo's Freshman Core. With 20 VU faculty, he participated in a 9-session (half-day each) seminar on Religion and American Culture. (Guest resource persons included Jon Butler, Amanda Porterfield, Margaret Bendroth, and George Marsden.) He has co-prepared more than 20 annual bibliographic indexes for the LHC newsletter. Several of his papers appear in Essays and Reports. Over the years he has served on the LHC board and related roles, including president. Other pertinent memberships include WELS Historical Institute (Associate), AAR, and ASCH. During a spring 2007 sabbatical he will research bibliographic aspects of Lutheranism and American religious pluralism.

John Daggan

John Daggan has been the volunteer archivist for the Metropolitan New York Synod of the ELCA since 2002, at which time he also joined the Lutheran Historical Conference. Although he has no formal training in archival science, his experience in caring for the records of his home congregation, Trinity Lutheran Church in Staten Island—which included transcribing hundreds of par-

ish record entries from German script—and his close proximity to the archives at Wagner College apparently qualified him for the position. His chronic inability to say no when asked to help his church sealed the deal. He is the author of "A Short History of Trinity Lutheran Church," written for the upcoming sesquicentennial celebration in October 2006.

Susan McArver

Dr. McArver is associate professor of educational ministry and church history at Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary, Columbia, S.C. She received her Ph.D. in American religious history from Duke University, where her dissertation focused on southeastern Lutheranism from 1886 to 1918. She has written and presented many articles and lectures about the history of Lutheranism in the South, most recently focusing her work on the history of Southern Seminary as it observed its 175th anniversary, including the co-authoring of a new history of the seminary, *A Goodly Heritage*. She is a past member of the LHC Board of Directors.

Luther W. Oelke

Luther W. Oelke, a native of Texas and retired ELCA pastor, is the son of an ALC pastor, grandson of a ULC pastor and nephew of ULC and ALC pastors. Living in several states during his youth and his own parish ministry and in frequent contact with clergy relatives, an appreciation of Lutheran regional history developed early. After serving two parishes, he accepted a call to Texas Lutheran University in 1972. While director of university relations he began working with both the university and the Texas ALC and LCA judicatory archives. Following the formation of the ELCA, a regional archives to serve the south half of ELCA Region 4 was formed at the university. He has served as volunteer archivist there and for the university since his retirement from TLU in 2000. A 1959 graduate of TLU and a 1964 graduate of Trinity Lutheran Seminary, he is a member of the Lutheran Histori-

cal Conference and the Concordia Historical Institute. Special interests include the careers of TLU presidents, the Ohio Synod's work among Hispanics in the Rio Grande Valley in the 1920s and the St. Chrischona outreach to Texas in the second half of the 19th century.

Joel Pless

Joel Pless was born in Elgin, Ill., in 1960. He holds A.A. and B.A. degrees from Concordia College, Ann Arbor, Mich., and M.Div and S.T.M. degrees from Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary, Mequon. He served as pastor of St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church and Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church of rural Wausau, Wis., from 1986 to 2000. He also taught part-time for two years at Northland Lutheran High School in Mosinee, Wis. He is presently serving as an assistant professor of theology at Wisconsin Lutheran College, Milwaukee. He is finishing a Ph.D. in historical theology at Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, and is the pulpit assistant at St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church, Mukwonago, Wis. Professor Pless's area of interest is late 19th and early 20th century American Lutheranism.

David Settje

David Settje is currently associate professor of history at Concordia University, River Forest, Ill., and chair of the history department. He received his BA from Valparaiso University, Valparaiso, Ind., and his Ph.D. from Kent State University, Kent, Ohio, in 2001, after defending his dissertation, "Has the Tiger Changed Its Stripes? Lutheran Responses to the Cold War, Fears of Internal Communist Threats, and the Vietnam War, 1964-1975." He has presented papers at several Lutheran Historical Conference biennial meetings and served on the Local Arrangements Committee in preparation for the joint Lutheran / Episcopal conference in June 2004. His book, *Lutherans and the Longest War*, is slated for publication this fall by Lexington Books.

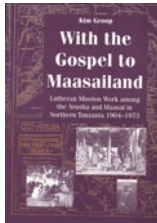
NEWS BY/FOR/ABOUT MEMBERS

Susan Wilds McArver, has recently co-authored *A Goodly Heritage: The Story of Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary, 1830-2005* with Scott Hendrix of Princeton Theological Seminary as part of the seminary's 175th anniversary celebration. The 30- page booklet, featuring history and photographs from archi-

val sources, is available free from the Development Office of Southern Seminary. Write or e-mail John Harmon (jharmon@ltss.edu) at LTSS, 4201 N. Main Street, Columbia, SC 29203 or call the seminary at (803) 786-5150.

NEW RESOURCES

With the Gospel in Maasailand, Lutheran Mission Work Among the Arusha and Maasai in Northern Tanzania, 1904-1973, is a new publication by Kim Groop, a Finnish church historian. Published in English, the book covers the original Leipzig Mission work in Tanzania, the Augustana Lutheran Church (U.S.) mission, the end of colonization and the development of an indigenous Lutheran church. To see a copy of this publication, a Pdf file is available at: <http://bibbild.abo.fi/ediss/2006/GroopKim.pdf>. For further information, contact: Åbo Akademi University Press, <http://www.abo.fi/stiftelsen/forlag/> or kgroop@abo.fi.



New Lutheran films are available from the American Theological Library Association, via their NEH funded project, "Christianity and the Encounter with World Religions, 1850-1950." The Women's Missionary Society periodical for the General Council and five Augustana Board of Foreign Missions publications are now on film:

- *Lutheran Mission Worker*, 1908-1919, 2 reels; ATLA #2006C-S026.
- *Kina Missionaren*, 1909-1925, 2 reels; ATLA# 2006C-S005.
- *The Augustana Foreign Missionary*, 1926-1938, 2 reels; 2006C-S006.
- *Augustana hednamissionstidning*, 1927-1938, 2 reels; ATLA # 2006C-S007 [Swedish language version of The Augustana Foreign Missionary].
- *Glimpses from Central Honan*, 1922-1923, 1 reel; ATLA film 2006C-S002.
- *Honan Glimpses*, 1923-1927, 1 reel; ATLA film 2006C-S003.

For more detailed information on what has been filmed, you can check the ATLA preservation on-line catalog:

http://www.atla.com/preservation/preservation_catalog.html. All films are distributed via: Scholarly Resources-Thomson Gale, 12 Lunar Dr., Woodbridge, CT 06525; Phone: 800-444-0799; Fax: 203-397-3893; gale.sales@thomson.com.

The ELCA Archives, with Yale Divinity Library, has completed additional microfilming of global mission records. To date, most records dat-

ing prior to World War I in the ELCA collection have been filmed and the filming will continue for all records through the time of the church mergers of 1960 and 1962. The following series are now on film:

- Augustana Association of Christian Missions, Records, 1891-1919, 3 reels
- Augustana China and Board of Foreign Missions, Minutes, 1923-1962, 5 reels

The films from this project had been available through ATLA as above, however, a new distributor is being sought by Yale. For further information in the meantime, contact the ELCA churchwide archives: 800-638-3522, ext. 2818 or archives@elca.org

A new biography of a home missionary of the Augustana Lutheran Church has been written by two grandchildren of the missionary. The Life of S.J. Kronberg (1840-1925) was written by Frank and Judi Kronberg, who are members of Christina Lake Lutheran Church, which was the last congregation served by S.J. Kronberg for 30 years. His missionary work took place in three west central Minnesota counties, Douglas, Grant and Ottertail. In addition to Christina Lake, Pastor Kronberg founded 16 other churches in the area. He also founded the first high school in the area in 1899, which later folded into Northwestern College, Fergus Falls. For more information on this book, contact: Dr. Ben Arlen Johnson, Christina Lutheran Church, 22156 County Rd. NW, Evansville MN 56326.

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WHAT WILL THE NEXT LHC NEWSLETTER CONTAIN?

This newsletter will be able to fulfill its intended purpose of being a clearinghouse of information for archivists, historians and librarians only if you provide material for it.

Please send material for publication to the editor. Items of interest to readers will include notice of research in progress, new appointments, publications,

meetings and celebrations planned or held, bibliographical materials and generally anything of interest to LHC members.

The editor cannot promise to print everything received, although all submissions are welcomed. 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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FOR THE NEXT NEWSLETTER

Deadline: October 15, 2006