

LUTHERAN HISTORICAL CONFERENCE

## NEWSLETTER

### CALL FOR PAPERS FOR 2008 MEETING

2008 Biennial Meeting, Wagner College, October 11-14, 2008

#### "American Lutherans Engage the World"

North American Lutherans have maintained many ties to communities outside themselves: through continuing engagement with Lutheran homelands in Europe; through engagement with other religious groups on this continent; and through engagement in mission and ecumenical contacts outside of North America. These forms of engagement might also include the ministries of social service outreach, disaster relief, and work with newer immigrant communities. Paper proposals for this conference should examine some aspect of North American Lutheran history as it pertains to one or more of these three kinds of engagement. The focus will be on the interaction between North American Lutherans and the wider world, and how these interactions strengthened, challenged, diversified, or directed the development of North American Lutheran communities. Paper proposers should include a brief statement of how they envision their papers fitting into the conference theme.

Younger scholars or first-time presenters who have an interest in some aspect of North American Lutheranism are particularly encouraged to submit proposals.

Deadline for paper proposals: April 20, 2008.

To propose papers, or for additional information, please contact the program chair:

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### LHC BOARD MEETS IN CHICAGO

By Susan W. McArver, LHC president

The Lutheran Historical Conference board met at the Lutheran Center of the ELCA on October 12, 2007. At its meeting, the board discussed several issues related to the future of LHC and how it can best fulfill the four stated purposes of the organization outlined in its constitution.

The board is currently exploring ways to raise LHC visibility in the profession and to encourage the next generation of scholars to enter the study of Lutheran history. Plans discussed included placing more articles and information in an online format, organiz-

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Volume 45, No. 4  
November 2007

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

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## BOOK REVIEW: LUTHERANS AND THE LONGEST WAR

*Lutherans and the Longest War: Adrift on a Sea of Doubt about the Cold and Vietnam Wars, 1964 – 1975.* By David E. Settje. Rowman & Littlefield Publishers, 2007. 219 pp. Paper, \$29.95 ISBN 978-07391-1532-9.

By Kim Efird

David E. Settje examines many aspects of Lutheran involvement and discussion in the Cold and Vietnam Wars. He covers historical background including that of the Lutheran Church. He also includes the various shades of Lutheran opinion.

The author begins by discussing the Lutheran view of the Soviet Union and China. Early on Lutherans considered these countries to be a monolith. All agreed that Christians were denied their freedom and tortured in these Communist countries and their satellites. Lutherans accepted the belief that Communist states were totalitarian, but later that view would change.

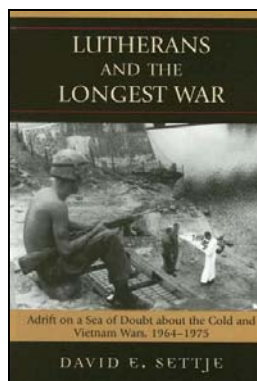
The author discusses domestic Communists, including holdovers from the McCarthy era. Some persons thought Pete Seeger encouraged the Communists and that the National Council of Churches was infiltrated. Later, people believed less in internal Communist subversion.

The book next addresses the topic of pro-Vietnam War views. Lutherans were concerned with Communist expansion. They accepted the domino theory, that if South Vietnam fell, Communism would expand to the rest of Indo-China, Southeast Asia, and beyond. Lutherans were demonizing North Vietnam, according to Settje. Conservatives talked about totalitarianism, torture, and atheism in North Vietnam. Conservatives believed in obeying the government. They felt that since John F. Kennedy, Lyndon Baines Johnson, and Richard M. Nixon thought the war was necessary, the U.S. should be in Vietnam. Conservatives held the opinion that it was a just war. They were fighting an evil and it honored America's soldiers if the U.S. stayed in Vietnam. If

America left, it was not supporting the troops and undermining the plight of U.S. soldiers held captive by North Vietnam as prisoners of war.

The anti-war movement was another topic in this book.

Those who were against the war did not believe that withdrawing from South Vietnam would cause Communism to spread. Persons classified as liberals believed the war was unjust, with many lives being lost. They also believed it was a civil war in that it was a war between the domestic National Front for the Liberation of South Vietnam (NLF) and the Republic of South Vietnam. Person against the war saw its end as supporting the troops in that its cessation would ensure more soldiers' lives would be spared and soldiers being held as prisoners of war would be released.



The book addresses topics such as evading the draft, conscientious objection, and the alliance between the civil rights and antiwar movements. Those fleeing to Canada to evade the draft believed it was the only way to avoid service, since they were not given selective conscientious objection status. Conscientious objectors had the support of the liberals, yet many of the conservatives

thought they were cowards. The civil rights movement connected with the anti-war movement in that Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. opposed the war and both movements discussed the morality of the war.

Despite Settje's good coverage, there were some inconsistencies in the book. In particular, the idea that conservatives believed Communism was a monolith. In other sections of the book, some



*Pete Seeger and Jim Collier performed at the 1970 convention of the Lutheran League of The American Lutheran Church, held in Madison Square Garden, New York, N.Y.*

conservatives are portrayed as believing that there were some differences in Communism. Also, Settje stated that most liberals or moderates felt that the war was wrong. But, he shows some cases of liberals seeing justification for the war. The author neglects to mention that in many ways the Vietnam War was a liberal's war -- some pro-war liberals refused to see the NLF and North Vietnamese as a positive force, a democratic movement, or as advocating self determination. These liberals saw the war as a positive force promoting democracy. Many liberals and moderates were conflicted about the war, but continued to support it until the end. Many pro-war people respected their anti-war counterparts and continued to believe that they were merely exercising their rights. They respected those who fled to Canada. Those liberals did emphasize that Chinese and Soviets were not a monolith. The author labeled some pro-war views as propaganda, but did not classify anti-war opinions as such.

In all, this book still has some good points. Settje consulted nearly every possible source. He spent much time thoroughly researching this material in the archives of Lutheran church bodies. He examined many of the Lutheran church periodicals as well as those of independent Lutheran groups. He explained his writing by informative footnotes. The author does show that the Lutherans views on the Cold and Vietnam Wars were similar to those of the country as a whole. With this book, Settje has added much information to Lutheran literature.

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### Compiled by

**Dr. James W. Albers,  
Mr. John N. Dickmeyer and  
Rev. Robert E. Smith**

This is the latest installment of the bibliography of items related to the history of Lutheranism in America. It covers items published in the calendar year 2006 and items from prior years which were missed in previous indexes. The 2006 and previous bibliographies are also available on the LHC Web Page: <http://luthhist.org>.

As in previous years, we once again appeal to LHC members for help in compiling next year's index. Although the tools of modern library research are excellent, such as searching World Cat, such searches are not, nor are they likely to become, exhaustive. Please send us citations of your own work as well as those of your colleagues. We are especially interested in local, private and unindexed theses of note. Send relevant citations to:

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### Journals Reviewed

*Archives Advocate*  
*Canadian Lutheran* <http://www.lutheranchurch-canada.ca/can/luth/>  
*Church History* <http://www.churchhistory.org/journal>  
*Consensus: A Canadian Lutheran Journal of Theology*  
*Concordia Historical Institute Quarterly*  
*Concordia Journal* <http://www.csl.edu/Publications.htm>  
*Concordia Student Journal*  
*Concordia Theological Quarterly* <http://www.ctsfw.edu/ctq>  
*Cresset* <http://www.valpo.edu/cresset/>  
*Currents in Theology and Mission*  
<http://www.lstc.edu/resources/publications.currents/>  
*Dialog*  
*Faith and Fellowship*  
*Faith-Life*  
*First Things*  
*For the Record: The Newsletter of the Canadian Lutheran Historical Association*  
*Forward in Christ: Northwestern Lutheran* <http://www.wels.net/sab/nl-page.html>  
*JEPD*  
*Journal of the New England Lutheran Historical Society*  
*Logia*  
*Lutheran Ambassador*  
*Lutheran Education*  
*Lutheran Forum*  
*Lutheran Partners*  
*Lutheran Quarterly* <http://www.lutheranquarterly.com>  
*Lutheran Synod Quarterly* <http://www.blts.edu/Publications/publctn.html>  
*Lutheran Witness* <http://www.lcms.org/witness/>  
*Missio Apostolica* <http://www.lsfmissiology.org/MissioApostolica.htm>  
*Seminary Ridge Review* <http://www.ltsg.edu/srr/index.htm>  
*Theologia (Mequon, Wis.)* <http://www.wlstheologia.net>  
*The Periodical: Lutheran Historical Society of Eastern Pennsylvania*  
*Trinity Seminary Review*  
*WELS Historical Institute Journal*  
*Wisconsin Lutheran Quarterly* <http://www.wls.net/Publications/WLQ/wlqindex.htm>  
*Word and World* <http://www.luthersem.edu/word&world/authorindex.shtm>

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Albers, James W. "Stories of Lutherans and Race: A Bibliographic Retrospective." [Review article on Kathryn Galchutt, The Career of Andres Schulze; Karl Lutze, Awakening to Equality; Karl Lutze, Of Walls and Doors; and Jeff G. Johnson, Black Lutherans--The Untold Story] *The Cresset* [Valparaiso University] 70 (2006) No. 1: 20-28.

Baepler, Richard. "John Strietelmeier: witness to his generation." [LCMS Pastor and Valparaiso University administrator] *Concordia Historical Institute Quarterly* 79 (2006) No. 2: 71-109.

Barth, Karl. "Address at 2005 awards banquet." [Delivered at Concordia Historical Institute Awards banquet] *Concordia Historical Institute Quarterly* 79 ( ) No. 2: 66-70.

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Braun, Mark. "The Black Geneva piety of the Wisconsin Synod: an analysis of the changing view of the relationship of doctrine and liturgy within the WELS." [Part one] *Concordia Historical Institute Quarterly* 79 ( ) No. 3: 180-194.

Cario, William R. "One blessing after another: a history of Concordia University Wisconsin." *Concordia Historical Institute Quarterly* 79 (2006) No. 2: 110-132.

Collver, Albert. "Lay Elders -- A Brief Overview of Their Origin in the Missouri Synod: Implications for Today." *Concordia Journal* 32 (2006) No. 1: 38-53.  
<http://www.csl.edu/lmg/Publications/cjian06.pdf>. [File contains complete issue].

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Erling, Maria. "The Mission Identity of American Lutheranism." *Seminary Ridge Review* 9 (2006) No. 1: 12-22.

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St. Louis: Concordia Publishing House, 2000; Note: Copyright and permission information in first footnote.].

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"Life of Glenn E. Reichwald 1927-1995.." [A brief biography of Reichwald, followed by a sermon he delivered] *Lutheran Synod Quarterly* 45 (2006) No. 2-3: 238-247.

"Life of Juul B. Madson 1920-Present.." [A brief biography of Madson, followed by a sermon he delivered] *Lutheran Synod Quarterly* 45 (2006) No. 2-3: 258-266.

"Life of Milton H. Otto." [A short biography of Otto, followed by a sermon he delivered] *Lutheran Synod Quarterly* 45 (2006) No. 2-3: 216-225.

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Mayes, Benjamin T. G. "Reconsidering Grabau on Ministry and Sacraments." *Lutheran Quarterly* 20 (2006) No. 2: 190-212.

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Nestingen, James A. "A Tribute to Gerhard Forde and Lou Smith." [Obituary of Gerhard O. Forde and Louis A. Smith] *Logia* 15 (2006) No. 4: 7-8.

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Paulson, Steven D. "Funeral Sermon for Gerhard O. Forde." Comp. Arnold O. Lehmann. *Logia* 15 (2006) No. 4: 11-14.

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Groh, John E. *New Light on Freistatt Missouri: The Fritz Groh Waiss and Wiedman Family Legacies Meet*. Au-

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# LOUIS VOIGT 1925-2007

## ARCHIVIST, PHILANTHROPIST, SCHOLAR, LUTHERAN

By Daniel Jay Grimminger, Obl.O.S.B.

Few words could fully describe Louis Voigt, a long-time member of the Lutheran Historical Conference, who died on August 3, 2007, at the age of 82. For everyone who encountered Louie, his kind and gentle manner was striking. However, he was just as determined to stand up for his deepest beliefs without compromise. The title of this short tribute lists a few roles that Louie took on over the years as he served Christ and the Church, usually in the background, unnoticed.

Most of Louie's life was spent in Ohio, where he was steeped in Ohio Lutheranism. Born on April 21, 1925, to a family with roots in Hannover, Germany, Louie was trained to take on the family plumbing business, G. H. Voigt Co., later selling his interest to his brother so that he could pursue his vocation in the church.

The Second World War prevented him from entering college, however, when he was drafted to serve in the U.S. Army in Germany (225th Infantry Regiment, 63<sup>rd</sup> Division).

Later, Louie entered Wittenberg University in Springfield, Ohio, where he would graduate with his baccalaureate degree in 1962 and continue at the Hamma School of Theology, where he earned a divinity degree. Because his hearing was damaged while he was serving in World War II, he opted against being ordained, as he believed he would not be able to hear others adequately if he served in the role of pastor. For this reason, he took training in library science and eventually became the librarian at his alma mater, Hamma, in 1965. His other studies included work at Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, and in Germany during a sabbatical year.

In 1979, he married Reevea Stott, who he had known at Wittenberg. She survives him and has moved back to Springfield where she lived prior to

moving to Napoleon to reside with Louie at the Lutheran Home for the last few years of his life.

For many years, Louie served as the LCA, and later ELCA regional archivist at Wittenberg University, a position he held until recently. His work as an archivist was meticulous and unparalleled. His Ohio pastor card file is one-of-a-kind, tracking all Lutheran pastors who served in the state from the earliest years through the twentieth century. He was always willing to help others and it is fitting that after the archival collection Louie cared for was merged with the Region 6 ELCA Archives at Columbus that it was renamed the Louis Voigt Archives.

Louie's retirement was full. He continued new activities for the sake of ministry in daily life. In the 1990s he bought Heidelberg printing presses from the Rev. Frederick Otto, a Lutheran pastor who owned and operated Chantry Music Press in Springfield. He then allowed a printer to make a living by running the presses for a minimal fee. Later Louie would sell the presses to this man, investing personally in this new business. About the time Louie bought the presses, he also purchased the St. Luke Lutheran Church building on Plum Street in Springfield to house his books, the printing presses, and a philanthropic enterprise he and his wife had worked on for many years.

Each year Louie and Reevea received donations of old clothing — tons of old clothing — in order to sort and ship it by way of Lutheran World Relief on large pallets to needy people in other countries. But, this was a seasonal job. Throughout the rest of the year, Louie would accept donations of books to be shelved in the St. Luke Church for anyone who was interested. This "Pastor's Book Exchange," as Louie called it, a free service, eventually became the non-profit organization St. Luke's Lutheran Mission. It grew to include a hygiene pantry, which gave away supplies to caregivers in the greater Springfield-Dayton area.

Louie was a wealth of knowledge and guidance. He was known for helping young students and scholars as well, and he was popular for having stacks of books waiting for them upon their arrival. This author remembers many visits to the Voigt residence and the St. Luke Church where a desk full of books and a warm bed were ready for use. This dedication to help young scholars often went to the extent of self sacrifice. He even paid one scholar's bills in full and bought him a car upon completion of the young man's graduate work. Louie was clearly a philanthropist, but he was also a scholar.

Louie's main scholarly interest was hymnology and the German chorale. He would say repeatedly that it was in this kernel of hymns- the *Kernlieder* or early Reformation chorales- that the Christian Gospel lives and is best proclaimed. As a scholar he had a sizable book collection that was always available to others. His scholarly output included several articles and books/booklets, including: "Hannover Influence in Ohio Lutheranism" (LHC Essays and Reports, vol. 13, 1988); *A Weimar-American index of Luther's works : how to find translations of Weimar Ausgabe passages in the American edition of Luther's works* with Walter R. Saupe, and *Hymnbooks at Wittenberg: A Classified Catalog of the Collections of the Hamma School of Theology*, which is still a valuable resource for Lutheran hymnologists and musicologists.

Above all else, Louie considered himself a Lutheran, who was reared in Ohio Pietism, but embraced the confessional teachings of historic Lutheranism. His steadfast belief in key Lutheran doctrines, especially justification by faith, was always refreshing in a time when many Lutherans have become generic evangelicals void of a discernable Lutheran identity. May Louie's work and faith be an example to all.

## LHC BOARD cont'd

(Continued from page 1)

ing and participating in specialized sessions at other professional meetings such as the American Academy of Religion (AAR) or the American Society of Church History (ASCH), and serving as more of a presence at the ELCA's Association of Teaching Theologians. The board discussed specific ways to encourage student participation in its annual meetings, including the possibilities of reduced dues for student members and travel supplements.

The board made plans for the 2008 biennial meeting at Wagner College in New York on the theme: "Lutherans Engage the World". The board also established a preliminary theme for 2010, "Lutherans and Education".

The annual LHC Bibliography will appear soon in an online format on the website. *Essays and Reports 2002* (St. Louis, Mo.) will appear in print by the end of this year. *Essays and Reports 2004* (the Lutheran-Anglican Historical Conference held in Chicago) is in process. *Essays and Reports 2006* (Columbia, S.C.) will be published as soon as all papers are received.

## NEW RESOURCE

*Esbj! The Heart and Mind of a Professor*, by Robert Esbjornson, in collaboration with the Rev. Dennis J. Johnson, was published recently, gathering Esbjornson's papers, chapel talks, and sermons from his years of teaching in the department of religion at Gustavus Adolphus College from 1950-1983. Esbjornson, a rostered pastor in the ELCA, died October 27, 2007.

This book is described as the memoirs of Esbjornson's 33-year career as a religion professor at Gustavus as well as a collection of his writings. Johnson provides the narrative that places Esbjornson's writings into context. "My role was also that of an editor who took the wealth of material available to me and selected samples of the wide range of topics addressed by Esbj (pronounced Es-be)," Johnson said. "It is my hope to open the reader to the heart and mind of a professor who had an extraordinary influence on students in his 33-year career."

Johnson has served Gustavus in many administrative

A constitutional revision subcommittee, chaired by Maria Erling, will bring recommendations regarding any needed amendments to the Wagner meeting in 2008. A subcommittee chaired by LHC Vice President Mark Granquist will bring a proposal to the membership in 2008 regarding the possibility of inaugurating an annual *Yearbook*, while still maintaining the publication of *Essays and Reports*. A membership subcommittee, chaired by Kathryn Galchutt, is working on visibility issues, particularly those related to student recruitment. Jeanine Letcher will chair the nominating committee while Joel Thoreson will work on developing a records retention policy for the LHC. All of these board members welcome your input and suggestions.

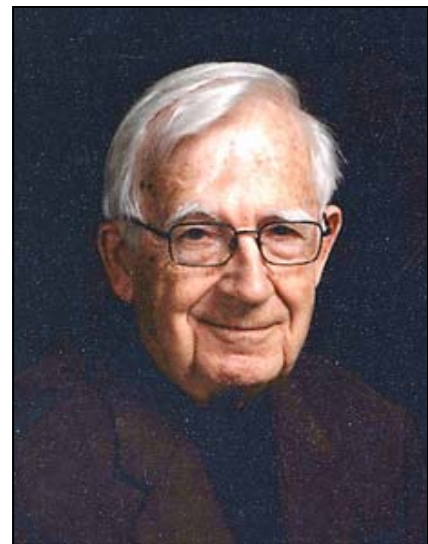
Finally, the board authorized an increase in dues, the first in many years. Those joining or renewing membership before December 31, 2007, will pay \$25.00 and those joining on or after January 1, 2008 will pay \$35.00.

If you have any questions or comments about any of the matters discussed at this meeting, or proposals related to the work of the Lutheran Historical Conference, please do not hesitate to contact me at [smcarver@ltss.edu](mailto:smcarver@ltss.edu).

roles including vice president for church relations, vice president for college relations, interim vice president for development and interim president. He retired in 2003.

The book may be ordered through the Gustavus Book Mark, at e-mail: [jdschult@gustavus.edu](mailto:jdschult@gustavus.edu).

The cost is \$15.00 for the 126-page paperback.



Robert Esbjornson

Joel Thoreson, Editor  
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## BOOK REVIEWS

Those interested in contributing book reviews or wish to suggest a book, please contact David Settje at [David.Settje@CUChicago.edu](mailto: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 evaluate specifically the book and its Lutheran content/context.

## WHAT WILL THE NEXT LHC NEWSLETTER CONTAIN?

This newsletter will be able to fulfill its intended purpose as 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.

Although all submissions are welcomed, the editor cannot promise to print everything received. 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: January 15, 2008**