

LUTHERAN HISTORICAL CONFERENCE

NEWSLETTER

2010 CONFERENCE ARRANGEMENTS

You are cordially invited to the 25th Biennial meeting of the Lutheran Historical Conference, to be held at Luther Seminary, St. Paul, Minn., on October 1-3, 2010.

We will have a wonderful conference this year on the theme "Lutherans and Learning," exploring the myriad ways that American Lutherans have promoted learning and education in their congregations, in their missions and outreach, and in their institutions. The program includes:

- ◆ 17 paper presentations over three days
- ◆ a keynote address by Dr. Darrell Jodock, Gustavus Adolphus College
- ◆ a Saturday bus tour of historic congregations involved with education
- ◆ collegiality and opportunities to interact with others interested in American Lutheran history

Enclosed please find a detailed listing of the conference events, as well as a registration form. Please return the registration form as soon as possible so that we can plan for the number of attendees.

For lodging during the conference, two possibilities are:

1. Radisson Hotel, Roseville, Minn. — 1-800-333-3333 or 651-636-4567.

They will have a block of double rooms for this time at \$85.00 a night (plus 10.125% tax). Please make arrangements for these rooms directly with the Radisson – this block of rooms will be held until September 27th. Transportation to and from the hotel will be arranged.

2. Stub Hall, Luther Seminary campus — Kathy Schultz, 651-523-1619, or stubhr@luthersem.edu.

Luther Seminary has a block of nicer dormitory-style rooms with shared bathroom facilities, singles for \$30.00 a night, and a few doubles for \$40.00 a night. These rooms are available on a first-come-first-served basis – please make arrangements for these rooms directly.

If you have any questions or comments about this conference, please contact:

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We look forward to seeing you at this meeting!

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BOOK REVIEW: *Last on Grant*

Pfatteicher, Philip H. *Last on Grant: The History of the First English Evangelical Lutheran Church in the City of Pittsburgh*. Minneapolis: Lutheran University Press, 2010.

Reviewed by Richard O. Johnson, Peace Lutheran Church, Grass Valley, Calif., and adjunct professor of church history, Fuller Theological Seminary.

Those who know Philip Pfatteicher's many contributions to the history and practice of Lutheran liturgy may be surprised to find him writing a congregational history. It is in one sense a labor of love, for Pfatteicher has served as an associate pastor of First English Evangelical Lutheran Church in Pittsburgh for a number of years. But Pfatteicher has also produced a valuable contribution to the historiography of Lutheranism in America, one of interest to any student of American Lutheran history.

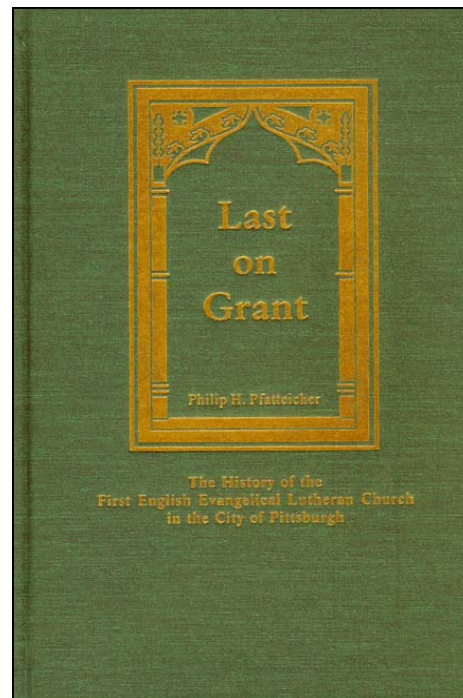
The congregation itself is historically significant. It was founded in 1837 by John Christian Frederick Heyer, "Father Heyer" of missionary fame. Other early pastors included William A. Passavant and Charles Porterfield Krauth, both hugely important figures in mid-19th century Lutheranism. Among the "sons" of the parish going into the ministry were J.H.W. Stuckenberg, George Henry Gerberding, and W.A. Passavant, Jr., who would all make significant contributions to the next generation of Lutherans. These characters alone would render the congregation's history of great interest.

But Pfatteicher has gone beyond the usual "names and dates" approach and considered how the congregation reflects and represents the theological and cultural struggles of the time. He tells us of the struggle to call a new pastor in 1866, when half the Council supported the General Synod while half were sympathetic to those planning to form the new General Council—a reminder that congregations divided over "denominational issues" are not merely a contemporary phenomenon.

Like any historian, Pfatteicher has his opinions. Yet his "opinions" come out in gently humorous ways (it was "fortunate," he suggests, that a call to Samuel Sprecher, a prominent follower of S.S. Schmucker, was declined).

Pfatteicher has read the congregation's minutes closely and often presents accounts of discussion that enlighten the history of various liturgical or other practices — things that are usually overlooked by historians with a wider focus. So we learn, for instance, about the debate over the introduction of individual communion cups. He even picks up on the implications of terminology. For example, in the 1920s, Holy Communion was "held" at particular times.

But the focus is by no means solely on the liturgy. There is much discussion about the congregation's mission—from its hosting the first conse-



cration of a Lutheran deaconess in America, to its commitment to stay in the city when many congregations were moving to the suburbs. "The persistent question for a confessional church," he writes, "is whether there are limits to which traditional religious teaching and practice can be renegotiated in response to changes in the cultural landscape. . . . [A]dherence to the tradition is not isolationist or reactionary. It is indeed the way forward into the future." In Pfatteicher's telling of the story, First English Evangelical Lutheran Church has always been a congregation with a fragile future but a secure purpose. Both its history and its present resolve are worth pondering by all who are committed to the preservation and health of confessional Lutheranism in the United States.

NEW RESOURCES

The story of Lutheran pension plans in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and its predecessor bodies is told by Lowell G. Almen in his new publication *More to the Story: The Legacy and Promise of Lutheran Pension and Benefit Plans*.

Produced at the request of the ELCA Board of Pensions, Almen looks at the churches' efforts to serve their clergy through pensions and benefits, as the plans change from special grants for widows and "sick and old preachers" in colonial days, to the first formal plan by the General

Synod in the 1830s, to the development plans in all of the predecessor bodies in the 20th century.

More to the Story is available from Lutheran University Press at www.lutheranupress.org.

ERICH R.W. SCHULTZ, 1930-2010

The Rev. Erich R.W. Schultz, an LHC founding member and longtime librarian and archivist at Waterloo Lutheran Seminary, Waterloo, Ontario, passed away at the age of 80 on June 26, 2010.

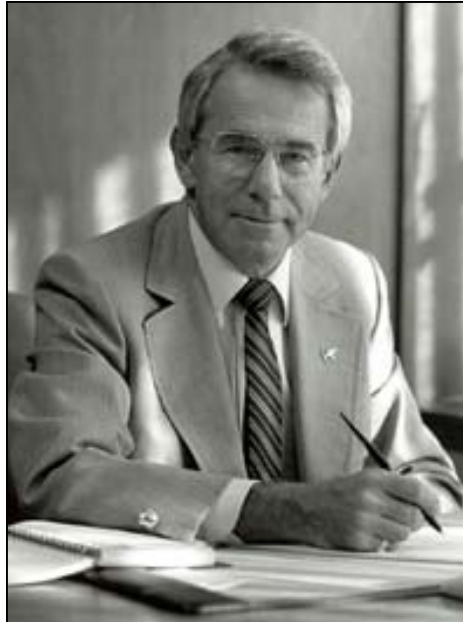
Present at the founding of the LHC in 1962, Schultz was elected to the Board of Directors in 1964, including a period as vice president from 1968-1970. In 1966 he hosted the LHC meeting at Waterloo.

Schultz received his B.A. from Waterloo College in 1951, his B.D. from Waterloo Lutheran Seminary in 1957, his M.Th. from the University of Toronto (Knox College) in 1958, and his B.L.S. from the University of Toronto in 1959. From 1954-1956 he was a minister at St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Ellice Township. He was the librarian at Waterloo Lutheran Seminary from 1959-1960, and was the university's librarian and archivist from 1960 until his retirement in 1991. Waterloo Lutheran University dropped

its church affiliation in 1973 and became a public institution, adopting the name Wilfrid Laurier University.

Schultz passed away during the Eastern Synod Assembly, a biennial meeting of the Eastern Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada that founded Laurier. He was being honored for his 50 years of service as the church's archivist.

"Bishop Michael Pryse spoke about the wonderful partnership that the Eastern Synod enjoys with Laurier,"



Erich R.W. Schultz

said David Pfrimmer, principal-dean of the Waterloo Lutheran Seminary. "He went on describe how this partnership led the church archives to being housed at Laurier and how Erich played such an important role in this transition."

Born in Rankin, Ontario, Schultz will be lovingly remembered by his aunt, Norma Geelhaar; cousins, Pauline

(Clifford) McTaggart and Ruth Ann (Bob) Paetz; his godsons, David Paetz and Andrew Liddle; and their families.

LUTHER COLLEGE WINS NHPRC GRANT

Luther College, in partnership with Vesterheim Norwegian-American Museum, has received a grant of \$119,898 from the National Historical Publication and Records Commission for a project designed to survey and make accessible significant Norwegian-American records housed at the two institutions.

The project, titled "Journeys to America: Illuminating Hidden Collections at Luther College and Vesterheim Norwegian-American Museum," will include the completion of a shelf survey of the collections, assessment of basic conservation needs, and the migration of existing collection-level data into a searchable online database.

With NHPRC support, the basic arrangement and description of the collections will be enhanced to improve access to the collections for core con-

stituencies and professional scholars in the U.S. and abroad.

"This partnership between Luther College and Vesterheim Museum will strengthen both of our collections and expand opportunities for research in our collections, continuing a long tradition of collaboration between our institutions," said Rachel Vagts, Luther College archivist and director of the grant-funded project.

Although scholars have described the collections at Luther and Vesterheim as being rich in materials, these collections have not been used as widely as collections at other Norwegian-American institutions, Vagts said.



Rachel Vagts, Luther College Archivist

Creating a searchable online catalog where researchers from around the world have access to the Norwegian-American collections will add to the breadth of scholarship in the field of Norwegian-American studies and improve scholarship in emigration studies as a whole.

The project will set the stage for building an online consortium of institutions in the

U.S and Norway, creating one-stop digital access to materials related to the study of Norwegian emigration, Vagts said.

Joel Thoreson, Editor
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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.

NEEDED: YOUR NEWS!

This newsletter is intended as a clearing-house 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.

Please send items to
Joel.Thoreson@elca.org.

Have You Renewed Your Membership?

If the mailing label on your newsletter shows an expiration date (Exp:) of "09" or less, please renew now for 2010. Send a check for \$35.00, payable to the "Lutheran Historical Conference" to

Marvin A. Huggins
Membership Secretary
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