

# Lutheran Archives Center

## AT PHILADELPHIA

THE NORTHEAST REGIONAL ARCHIVES FOR THE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA

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September 1, 2022

Dear friends,

Our mission here at the Lutheran Archives Center at Philadelphia is to document and preserve the history of Lutheranism in the Northeast. More specifically, we provide a secure yet accessible repository of historical records for the synods, congregations, and agencies of ELCA Region 7. Our professional staff has made tremendous progress in cataloging the collections under our care and recently launched an online database to make them more accessible. We encourage you to visit our website to learn more about us and peruse our online finding aids and database.

We have recently signed an agreement with Ancestry.com to digitize all of the parish records in our holdings up to 1970. This includes baptismal, confirmation, marriage, and death records for several hundred congregations (mostly closed). For privacy and security reasons, only certain years will initially be made available online (baptisms through 1920, marriages through 1945, and deaths through 1970). Ancestry will also index these records, including those in German and other languages, to make them fully searchable. The records will then be made available worldwide to all Ancestry subscribers as well as to all members of the Lutheran Archives Center; they will also be available to access on site in our research library. This is an extraordinary opportunity to preserve and make accessible the unique information on these historical records, for which in most cases only one copy exists.

We would like to invite active congregations in ELCA Region 7 to have their parish records digitized as part of this project. All materials would need to be either shipped or hand-delivered to the Lutheran Archives Center, where Ancestry has set up a scanning facility. All incoming records would be tracked as temporary loans and stored in our climate-controlled, secure vault when not being scanned. There is a flat fee of \$250 to participate. If you have questions or would like to participate, please contact us at [info@lacphila.org](mailto:info@lacphila.org) or 215-248-6383 by October 14. Additionally, if you believe that we have records on deposit from your congregation and do not want to participate, please let us know by October 14.

Sincerely,



Lisa Minardi  
Executive Director