



ARCHIVES *Advocate*

Northeast Regional Archives • Evangelical Lutheran Church in America • Vol. 7 No. 1, Summer/Fall 2022

FROM THE DIRECTOR

Dear Readers,

After a long hiatus due to COVID-19, the Lutheran Archives Center has recently reopened for in-person research. We are excited to welcome researchers back to our facility and look forward to helping them access our resources. Advance appointments are required and may be scheduled Monday through Friday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. We also continue to offer long-distance research services for a fee. More information about both options has been added to our website.

Changes in staffing are underway. Melissa Bergoffen, our project archivist working with the Ministerium of Pennsylvania collection and funded by a Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission grant, will conclude her work at LACAP this fall and begin an archaeology graduate program in Greece. Laurie Mueller, our processing archivist helping with the backlog of records from closed congregations, has moved on to a new position as the office administrator at Good Shepherd Lutheran in King of Prussia, PA. Joining us this fall as the new processing archivist is Juliana Rhinehart, who worked in the Dickinson College archives and recently moved to Mt. Airy, where her partner is attending United Lutheran Seminary. Linda Beck, our steadfast archives volunteer, continues to help with processing and is currently organizing the records of St. John's English Lutheran Church of Philadelphia, founded in 1806.

In June, we launched the online version of our Past Perfect database so that anyone with computer access can browse our collections. Nearly 2,000 records are currently available, and more are being added every week. Highlights include the contents of the Augustana Museum, nearly 1,000 books from our research library, and the records of recently closed congregations which have been fully processed. The Ministerium of Pennsylvania collection is also being added in phases. In many cases, electronic finding aids with detailed lists of the contents are available in the database. This is a huge step forward for the archives to be able to share so much information about our holdings online.

In a continuation of that theme, we are thrilled to announce that the Lutheran Archives Center is partnering with Ancestry.com to digitize our parish records. Consisting of birth/baptism, confirmation, marriage, and death records from hundreds of congregations, much of this material is unique and exists only in manuscript form. Ancestry will scan all of the records and prepare searchable indexes—including for the records in old German script. These images and the written records will then be made fully searchable online via Ancestry.com to their subscribers as well as to members of the Lutheran Archives Center. Onsite researchers will also be able to access the Ancestry database from our research library. We are most grateful to Ancestry.com for taking on this massive project and excited that all of this historic material will be digitally preserved and made accessible online.

To help us with these efforts to preserve and share the history of the Lutheran Church in America, we ask for your support. Your financial contributions help us to hire processing staff and purchase archival supplies—both essential for the preservation of our Lutheran heritage. Please consider making a generous donation to support the Lutheran Archives Center, either online at lacphila.org/donate or via check in the enclosed envelope.

Sincerely,

Lisa Minardi
Lisa Minardi
Executive Director



The Lutheran Archives Center staff gathered in front of a new wall banner that welcomes visitors to the archives. From left to right: Melissa Bergoffen, project archivist; Sheila Joy, archivist; Lisa Minardi, director; and Laurie Mueller, processing archivist

Thank you for your support!

Ministerium of Pennsylvania Collection Project

by Melissa Bergoffen, Project Archivist



Highlights of items found within the former Ministerium of Pennsylvania Collection, including a constitution from 1792, minutes from 1971 and 1850, printed minutes in both English and German, a financial ledger, and the Ministerium's seal from 1830.



The former Ministerium of Pennsylvania's seal, which depicts a vineyard and a hand bearing a sword.

Much has changed since I began as LACAP's Project Archivist working with the Ministerium of Pennsylvania (MoP) Collection just over one year ago. The most obvious change is that we have officially renamed this collection *Lutheranism in America, 1748–1988: Ministerium of Pennsylvania through Lutheran Church in America*. After inventorying the collection and becoming familiar with its vast scope, I found the original MoP title to be somewhat inaccurate; the MoP collection still forms the bulk of the collection, but it is only a part of the whole. There have been other behind-the-scenes changes. When I first started,

I mainly worked onsite to inventory and assess the collection. In recent months, I have been working remotely—using the inventory spreadsheet I created—in order to digitally arrange the collection.

And this brings me to probably the most exciting change: the *Lutheranism in America* Collection is now available to the public! Thanks to the recent launch of our new PastPerfect collections database, you can now find records on the Ministerium of Pennsylvania (1748–1853), Philadelphia Lutheran congregations, and the Muhlenberg family. In the coming months, the entire *Lutheranism in America* Collection will

Collections Database Goes Online

by Sheila Joy



Before processing, this section of the collection was a jumble of books, loose manuscripts, and boxes of documents. After processing, the series is neater, has been consolidated to save space, and is now searchable via our PastPerfect database.

become available online. Images of objects found within the collection, such as those illustrated nearby, are also being included online.

Although my time with this collection is coming to an end, I will continue to add more items to the website, as well as make finding aids for the collection. I'm so proud of how far this collection has come, and I can't wait for all of you to navigate the collection and find information about our collection and Lutheranism in America that you didn't know before!

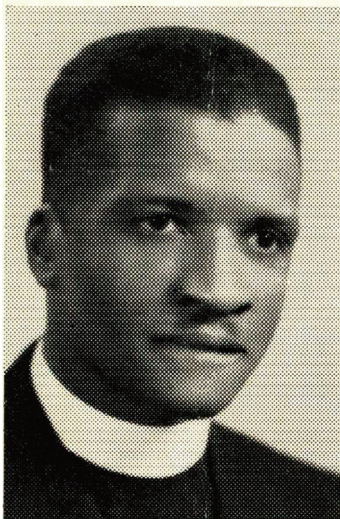


www.lacphila.org

Screenshot of our new online collections database hosted by PastPerfect Online. To start browsing our collections, visit <https://lacphila.pastperfectonline.com>

The Archives team is very excited to announce that we have officially launched our searchable online collections database! You may now browse our collections anytime, for free, at the following link (also on our homepage): <https://lacphila.pastperfectonline.com>. To view records that are currently available online, select the "random images" tab or browse through the archives, photos, libraries, and/or objects tabs to see what is in each of these categories. If you are looking for something more specific, you can click on the "keyword search" or "advanced search" tabs and type in what you are looking for. For example, a search for "Augustana Institute" generates 205 results. Many collections also contain an image along with their record which allows researchers to preview the material without coming to the archives in person. Thus far, all our reference library books are available online, along with a variety of recently processed church collections, photographs, and objects. We will be actively adding collections to the database as we process them, so new items will be added every month.

This launch has been a longtime coming and has been a major goal since I started my position in April 2020, back when our PastPerfect software was still in its packaging. In the two years since we have made great progress, from gaining intellectual control of our collections through the creation of inventory lists and finding aids, to the ongoing processing of new and backlogged collections, to learning the ins and outs of PastPerfect to get everything online that you see today. We would not have gotten this far without the help of our staff including former processing assistants Courtney Smith and Danielle McCleary; former processing archivist, Laurie Mueller; project archivist, Melissa Bergoffen; and our volunteer extraordinaire, Linda Beck.



The First Black ELCA Congregation in Pennsylvania: Rev. Allen G. Youngblood and Annunciation Lutheran Church

by Sheila Joy, Associate Archivist

One of the most rewarding parts of my job as an archivist is assisting people with their research. I recently received a phone call from Robert (Bob) Youngblood who was looking for photographs relating to his father, the Rev. Allen G. Youngblood, to piece together his early history as a young Black pastor in Philadelphia. At the time, I did not realize how much I would discover about Rev. Youngblood's legacy and contributions to Philadelphia. He was responsible for developing, constructing, and leading the first Black ELCA congregation in not only Philadelphia but the entire state of Pennsylvania.

Rev. Allen G. Youngblood was born on November 19, 1902, in Barnesville, Georgia. After graduating from the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia in 1945, he was ordained by the Ministerium of Pennsylvania. Shortly thereafter he received a call from the Board of American Missions (BAM) to serve as board missionary. Established in 1942, BAM was originally created as a World War II emergency relief mission. After the war it focused on providing Lutheran ministry in rural and urban areas. BAM provided services and funds to build and establish new congregations. It also studied racial and cultural change and its effects on church congregations. In 1944, while Youngblood was studying at LTSP, the Ministerium hired the Rev. Jesse Route of New York City to survey Black communities in various Philadelphia neighborhoods. The following year,



Rev. Youngblood with his LTSP graduating class, 1945.

BAM developed a new project to create a Black Lutheran church in the city of Philadelphia. Youngblood was called to assist with this goal.

The new Black congregation, known as the Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Annunciation, was organized on November 15, 1945, with 53 charter numbers. Services were initially held in Rev. Youngblood's home at 886 North 40th Street. A year later, the closure of St. Stephen's Lutheran Church at 40th Street and Powelton Avenue in West

Philadelphia, provided a new home for the congregation. Annunciation's first service in their new building was held on January 5, 1947. Rev. Youngblood served until 1952 when he accepted a call to Ascension Lutheran Church in Toledo, Ohio. Annunciation served the community for another six years before merging with Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church in Roxborough (active 1905–98). While in Philadelphia, Rev. Youngblood also worked with the Haverford Center for Youth and Christ Lutheran Church on Diamond Street in

Philadelphia (est. 1949), led by Rev. Edward Dixon of the American Lutheran Church.

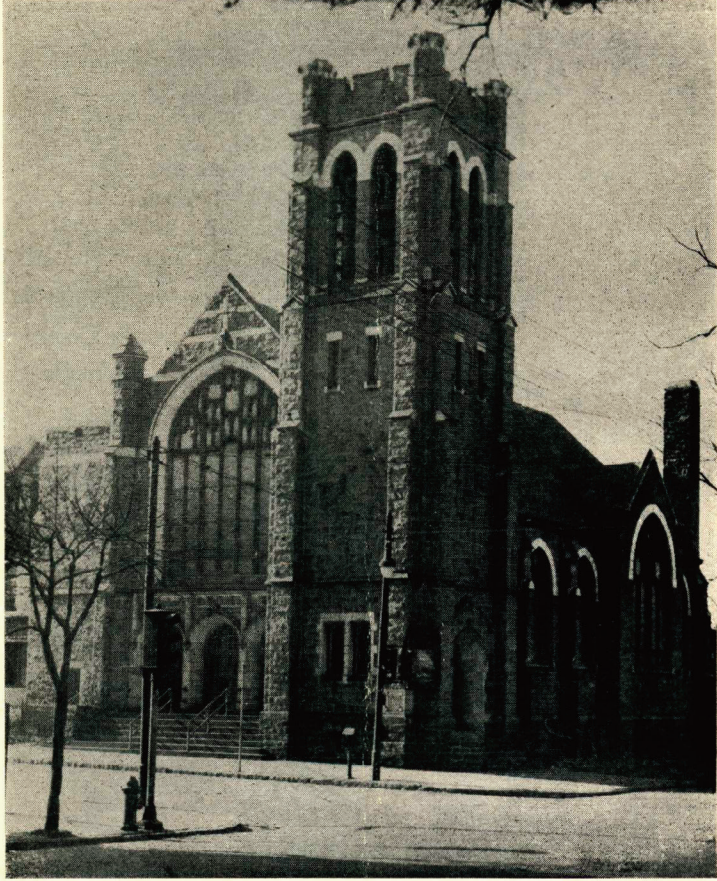
During his time in Ohio, Rev. Youngblood started two other congregations: Ascension Evangelical Lutheran Church in Toledo (1952–60) and Advent Lutheran Church in Cleveland (1960–71). In 1972, he was called to serve Holy Trinity Lutheran Church on St. Croix, U.S. Virgin Islands, but only served there a short period before he passed away in Cleveland on March 23, 1973. Rev. Youngblood was survived by three sons and his wife, Thelma, who served in pastoral roles as well. On September 17, 2006, she was ordained as pastor of Kingshill Lutheran Church on St. Croix and became the first female ordained pastor in the Lutheran Church of the Virgin Islands.

Rev. Youngblood's legacy includes mentoring other young Black pastors such as the Rev. Dr. James E. Gunther (1932–2015), who briefly served at Nativity Lutheran Church and Tabernacle Lutheran Church in Philadelphia, and later Transfiguration Lutheran Church in Harlem, New York. In 2018, Rev. Gunther donated a collection of records to the Lutheran Archives Center documenting his work at Transfiguration. Rev. Youngblood also mentored the Rev. Dr. Richard Stewart, a retired pastor and former LTSP professor. Dr. Stewart has done extensive research on Black Lutheran history. Today he is leading an ongoing oral history project to record, preserve, and share the history of Black Lutherans. Because the written history of early Black Lutheran figures is so scarce, it is incredibly important to gather oral histories of those who are still living with us today to preserve their legacies and tell their stories. The Lutheran Archives Center is proud to share in this work.

H 10
P 5 A 6 1

"Hitherto Hath the Lord Helped Us"
I Sam. 7:12.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 5, 1947
WE ENTER



The New Church Home
The Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Annunciation
Fortieth Street and Powelton Avenue
(Powelton Ave. is 1 block North of Market St.) West Philadelphia, 4, Pa.
Rev. Allen G. Youngblood - - - Pastor

Program from Annunciation's first service in its new building at 40th Street and Powelton Avenue on January 5, 1947.

Sources

Advent Evangelical Lutheran Church Choir Booklet, Jubilee 20th Anniversary Celebration Concert, May 23, 1982. The Rev. Dr. Richard N. Stewart Collection, Lutheran Archives Center at Philadelphia

Advent Bulletin, The Rev. Dr. Richard N. Stewart Collection, Lutheran Archives Center at Philadelphia

Evangelical Lutheran Ministerium of Pennsylvania and the Adjacent States. *Minutes of the Proceedings of the Annual Convention of the Evangelical Lutheran Ministerium of Pennsylvania and the Adjacent States, 1944, 1947.*

Augustana News

by Kim-Eric Williams, Curator



Photograph of the New England Conference Convention, 1920. Lutheran Archives Center at Philadelphia, Augustana Institute Collection, 2022.0019.001. Gift of Pastor John Keogh

A fascinating panoramic photograph of the New England Conference of Swedish Lutheran Churches' Eighth Annual Convention, held on May 2, 1920, was recently donated to the Augustana Institute. It shows all the pastors and spouses who had participated in the "Great Missionary Generation" in New England, when in 40 years more than 80 congregations were organized. The conference—the first synod in New England—was only eight years old and still growing. The 1920 convention took place at Salem Lutheran Church (now Faith) in Quincy, Massachusetts. This congregation had built a sanctuary of granite from the hill on which the building stood; the photo shows the delegates gathered beside the church in what is now their rock garden. No hotels were needed. Delegates stayed with friends or

members of the congregation and all sessions were held in the sanctuary. The photograph, measuring 28 by 9 inches, was donated by Immanuel Lutheran Church in Attleboro, Massachusetts. To preserve this fragile original photograph, a copy was made and framed for display in the Augustana Museum.

The Augustana Institute continues to collect Augustana memorabilia from the northeast territories of the old New York and New England Conferences for its museum, located in the Brossmann Center on the Philadelphia campus of the United Lutheran Seminary. After the Swedish Colonial Society's collection is moved to be closer to their activities in Tinicum Township, we will then have empty space for new additions to the Augustana Museum. We are especially

searching now for works by Olof Grafström and Birger Sandzén as well as a model of the Bertel Thorvaldsen statue of Christ, "Come unto me."

Our friend, Jacob Schaad Jr., at age 100, has finally published his book *Swedes and Deeds: The Ups and Downs of Upsala College*. He was news editor at Upsala during the 1960s and comes with both a newspaperman's storytelling ability and an insider's knowledge. His sense of humor shines throughout the 150 pages of text and historic photos. The book was published by Christian Faith Publishing and may be ordered online in paperback, hardcover, or digital versions.

St. Martin de Porres Lutheran Church: A Journey of Service

by Pastor Nelson Quiñones

The statue of San Martín de Porres is a relic of the Hispanic Lutheran church that bore his name from 1988–2018 in Allentown, Pennsylvania. The statue was donated to the congregation by the Luis Salazar family at the church's beginning. It is now in the collection of the Lutheran Archives Center at Philadelphia.

Born Martín de Porres Velázquez on December 9, 1579, in Lima, Peru, de Porres was a lay brother in the Dominican Order. He was beatified in 1837 and later canonized by Pope John XXIII in 1962. He was noted for seeking interracial harmony and particularly remembered for his work on behalf of the poor, having established a children's hospital and an orphanage. San Martín de Porres is the first Black Saint in the Americas. During his lifetime, de Porres was relegated to work with a broom in his hands and experienced the struggles faced by Blacks of mixed ethnicity. His service to God was what the people of St. Martin identified with in Allentown.

On December 11, 1988, St. Martin de Porres Lutheran Church was organized as a congregation in the Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod. Then Bishop Herbert W. Chilstrom of the ELCA wrote a letter to the members of St. Martin in which he stated, "Your congregation's service of organization last December was historic: you are the first new congregation organized in your synod since the ELCA was formed. And, as a Hispanic congregation, you are a living expression of our deep hope that the ELCA will become a truly inclusive church."

For 30 years, St. Martin served the Latino population and Allentown community-at-large with projects such as *Fiestas del Corazón* (Fiestas from the Heart), a



Statue of San Martín de Porres from the St. Martin de Porres Lutheran Church, Allentown, Pa. Collection of the Lutheran Archives Center at Philadelphia, 2022.0011.002. Photo by Sheila Joy

faith-based enterprise that provided economic development by catering Latin food; and the *Academia de Fe y Liderazgo* (Academy of Faith and Leadership), which developed faith leaders by teaching church history,

theology, music, and various worship settings for its multicultural ethnicities. Described by one writer as a "little United Nations," St. Martin's membership included people from Colombia, Ecuador, Guatemala, Nicaragua, Panama, Peru, Puerto Rico, and the Dominican Republic as well as those of German heritage. Its *Luceros de la Fe* (Bright Stars of the Faith) ministry helped children with special needs.

St. Martin served as a sanctuary congregation to assist persecuted refugees; a social worker aided families, children, and youth. St. Martin also provided bilingual assistance to non-English speakers with interpreting and translating services. The Hispanic Political Caucus with the incentive to "Get Out The Vote" was initiated at St. Martin. Helping St. Martin in these endeavors both financially and through partnerships were the Allentown Area Lutheran Parishes (AALP), the Lutheran Church in America, the ELCA, and the Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod.

AALP led the initial endeavor to sustain the new Hispanic Lutheran Mission. Once St. Martin was organized, pastoral support was provided by partnering with St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Allentown. The St. Martin's congregation eventually dwindled and ultimately held its last Spanish-speaking worship service on November 4, 2018 (All Saints Sunday)—concluding 30 years of ministry in the Allentown communities of Little Lehigh, Cumberland Gardens, Hanover Acres, and Riverview Terrace. St. Martin never owned a church building. The statue of San Martín de Porres identifies a people who swept with faith, witness, and service in God's ministry.

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Newsletter of the
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at Philadelphia

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AT PHILADELPHIA

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PRESIDENT'S LETTER

In the mid-1800s, English author Anthony Trollope wrote a six-volume series entitled *The Chronicles of Barchester*, detailing the fictional cathedral town of Barchester. He offers a thoughtful, entertaining, and often comedic take on the 19th century English clerical world. In one of the novels, an Oxford professor is brought in by the local clergy to reign in the aspirations of the bishop's abrasive chaplain. At one point in the drama, the bishop asks the professor how things are going in Oxford and gets the wry reply, "We dream our dreams." In Trollope's novel, things do not go well for the chaplain, who ends up leaving the cathedral in disgrace, while the professor's protégé is made the cathedral dean of Barchester. The professor's dreams are realized, albeit in a different direction than first anticipated.

"We dream our dreams." At the Archives Center we too have dreamed our dreams. Over the past decades, our wildest dreams have included getting a searchable list of our collections onto the internet and perhaps sharing a few photographs of choice artifacts online. Our accomplishments have now far surpassed our wildest dreams. As our Executive Director's letter reports, we not only have a searchable list of our collection online via our Archives website, but we are also in the process of digitizing much of our collection with Ancestry.com, which will make our archives available the world over for researchers and genealogists. Some of our biggest dreams are becoming a reality in ways that we could not have even imagined decades ago. We invite you to check it all out by visiting our website and touring the archives sometime in-person. Please join us as we move in these new, exciting directions—and please continue your prayerful support of this important regional ministry!

Sincerely,

J. Francis Watson
President of the Board