

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America Region 6 Archives

Times of transition and change are pivotal. Such times provide the opportunity to consider the past, understand how the past informs the present, and then utilize that knowledge to discern a new vision for the future. In 2016, the ELCA Region 6 Archives cooperated with others to preserve the Lutheran stories of the past, share those Lutheran stories in the present, and outreach so that more Lutheran stories might be available in the future.

Preservation

In 2016, the Archives received 82 accessions, including congregational histories, closed congregation records, and synod records. With the help of Trinity Lutheran Seminary student workers Emily Seitz and Stephanie Engel, and volunteer Rich Ferne, Archives records were preserved by removing staples, paperclips, and tape, placing print records in acid-free folders, and placing photographs in acid-free sleeves.

Transmission

The Archives helped share the stories of Lutheran history by providing information for 101 research inquiries from clergy, congregations, synods, and individual researchers about baptisms, confirmations, congregational history, family history, local history, and biographical information. To facilitate research, 89 records were cataloged in the Archives' PastPerfect cataloging software.

Outreach

The Archives participated in the following outreach opportunities in 2016:

- Helped congregation members, clergy, and synod staff with 18 advice inquiries about records management, compiling congregational histories, and other questions
- Held the Archives' Annual Congregational History Campaign, in which the Archives offered ideas and research help for celebrating anniversaries and compiling histories to congregations with major anniversaries in 2016
- Presented a Congregational Records Management lunch talk to Trinity Lutheran Seminary students
- Gave a brief presentation to Trinity Lutheran Seminary's Leadership in Context class
- Participated in the ministry fairs at the Southeast Michigan Synod Assembly, Northwestern Ohio Synod Assembly, and Indiana-Kentucky Synod Assembly
- Provided a quick references and resources box for each Region 6 synod to help congregations manage their records during times of transition and other congregational life events
- Conducted Archives tours for members of the ELCA Region 6 Steering Committee
- Shared helpful information on the Archives webpage and Facebook page:
www.tlsohio.edu/elca-region-6-archives and www.facebook.com/ELCARegion6Archives

Cooperation

The Archives is grateful for the cooperation of Region 6 congregations, the Region 6 synods, Trinity Lutheran Seminary, clergy, researchers, and others who preserve Lutheran records, share Lutheran stories, and provide outreach opportunities for the Archives to help others preserve and share our Lutheran heritage.

Respectfully submitted by

Jennifer Long Morehart
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America Region 6 Archivist