

Archivist Report to the Central Illinois District - LCMS meeting in convention July 8-10, 2012

Dear Fellow Redeemed,

As part of the Christian life, it is quite common to say or hear words of thanksgiving for all of God's Blessings. Typical of such words are the words of the Psalmist who says, "Oh give thanks unto the Lord for He is good and His mercy endures forever." Psalm 107:1.

Such words were part and parcel of the undersigned vocabulary since the last Convention as he worked with the District Archives to make in so far as possible an accurate and easily available record of what the District has done in terms of the Great Commission so that current and future generations may see for themselves how Gracious God has been to our District since its founding, May 24, 1907.

What follows is a brief summary of activity since 2009.

The Archivist is on indefinite appointment by the District Board of Directors and has been assisted by an advisory Board which has consisted from time to time by the following : Ralph Nitz, Ed Krueger, Harold Olsen, Mary Olsen, Stuart Fliege, Pastor Mike Koschmann, Pastor Mark Miller, The Rev Charles Johnson, and, The Rev President David Bueltmann, Ex Officio. Its authority is advisory and has been very helpful in guiding the Districts' Archival work. They serve voluntarily and may serve as they are willing and able.

The District Archives consists of some 155 congregational files which we believe should consist as a minimum the following:

Articles of Incorporation

Original Constitution and by Laws and subsequent revisions of same

Resolution authorizing the creation of the congregation

Resolution of the District accepting the congregation into District and Synod

The Archives was reorganized along District Constitutional lines so that materials may be referred to by category: Administration, Evangelism, Stewardship ,etc. Also, other categories were created to reflect the diversity of interest the District has maintained since its inception: LCUSA, Advanced sites, Concordia Seminary, etc. and more recent acquisitions such as Association of Lutheran Churches and the Lutheran Ministerium.

On-going projects and their results include:

The Updating of the History of the District by 2nd VP Miller is progressing into its second chapter which begins with the reaction of the District to the St Louis Seminary crisis of the early 70's.

Translation work by Dr and Mrs. Wolf Fuhrig of Jacksonville, Illinois, of minutes of pastors conferences in the early years of the 20th Century written in the German language. This now exceeds some 500 pages.

Pictures of all District Presidents are being assembled and prepared for mounting at the entrance to the District Office.

Significant volunteer help in organizing many boxes of materials have come from Fred Durbin

(Trinity, Taylorville), Janice Schluter (St John, Beardstown), William Ferrell (Trinity, Casey), Mary Olsen (Trinity, Springfield), and Joel Woehrmann of Springfield.

Some 9 boxes of District Administration materials are being processed for electronic storage as this is being written with some 15 boxes remaining. This effort is by a local company and is perceived as the most cost-effective means of electronically storing the materials.

A call throughout the District for individuals to serve as Archivists for their congregations has gained 25 willing individuals.

The Archives was moved from the basement to the main floor with the aid of some students from Springfield Lutheran High.

The Archivist has attended two Synodically sponsored Archival conferences at the Concordia Historical Institute, St Louis. Much was learned and of the Districts represented, CID stands far better off than some and somewhat below others.

Laminated blue prints of local Lutheran Institutions are now available for public display.

Among items which should be considered so as to make the Archives more effective are more operating funds, a larger facility so that the materials can be more effectively displayed, more congregational participation in terms of increasing donations of significant materials to the Archives, training conferences for congregational archivists, and strong consideration be given the hiring of someone with at least a BA in archival science so that among other things, the materials may be more researchable and solid conclusions be drawn about how effective our overall work on our Lord's behalf has been.

May Our Gracious God lead us to all the above and to other areas in accordance with His will.

Respectfully Submitted April 15, 2012,

The Rev Ralph L. Woehrmann, B.A., M.Div., M.A.
Archivist,
Central Illinois District - Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod