

**The Lutheran Historical Society of Eastern Pennsylvania
President's Report**

November 16, 2019

Our visit today reminds us that each congregation has a treasure, sometimes buried but quite often right out where everyone can see. It may be an historic building, famous person in the cemetery, an artifact, stained glass windows, a classic organ, artwork, a legend or story or (like today) a mural by a famous local artist. Each is a memorial and testimony to a vital ministry in that place. The society sponsors pilgrimages to visit these congregations and historic sites.

Several important things happened this past year. First, we were able to arrange two pilgrimages. On September 21, 2019 we visited St. Michael's Lutheran Church in Sellersville to celebrate their 150th Anniversary and to view a historic handwritten document and an Anniversary Quilt, highlighting the ministries of the congregation. Today (November 16) we visit Immanuel Lutheran in Norwood to celebrate the 80th Anniversary of murals painted by Philadelphia artist Mirian Tindall Smith. Several of our board members were able to visit the congregation at the official anniversary service last month. I was able to visit two colonial era congregations with Lutheran connections in Lehigh County, celebrating anniversaries of over 250 and 275 years: Christ, Lowhill (now UCC) and Egypt Community Church. Both congregations are in our guidebook.

Second, we launched a website and it is becoming very sophisticated. Along with the website came a newsletter. We continue to publish the 'Periodical', our long-established journal. We awarded the Congregational History Award to St Michael's, Sellersville for their quilt. Thanks to those who made these things happen. We continue to work on restoring the "Ross Church Photo Collection" poster panels. I have done some preliminary work on a second volume of the guidebook for congregations after 1775 to perhaps 1860.

Several of us attended the synod assemblies and were quite successful in getting congregations (particularly in southeastern Pennsylvania) interested in hosting pilgrimages. Hopefully we will have more than two pilgrimages next year. As you know we are a totally volunteer organization. All the society's work is done by our members or our board; many of you are here today. Our membership is small but respectable and our members are aging. We need to rebuild our board as we have lost two this past year. We will elect at least one new board person today. If you are interested please consider becoming a member, joining the board or participating in our other projects or activities. We are solely supported by membership dues and private contributions. I thank all of you for the work you do for the society, and for the opportunity to serve you are your president. Thank you.

Respectfully submitted

The Rev. Richard B. Baumann
President