

ELCA REGION 8 ARCHIVES ANNUAL REPORT 2018

April 18, 2019

The ELCA Region 8 Archives are managed by the A. R. Wentz Branch of the United Lutheran Seminary Library, providing archival services for the eastern portion of Region 8. Sheila Joy, Archivist and Cataloger for ULS and Region 8, continues to manage the day to day operations of the Region 8 Archives. Evan Boyd, Library Director and Archivist of United Lutheran Seminary, supervises her work and sets archives policy.

2018 was a year of processing collections and assisting researchers via telephone, email, and walk-in. Goals for the Region 8 Archives this year included meeting with synod representatives, continuing to research and process materials from synod offices, and creating volunteer opportunities.

The Library hired its first student assistants and offered a paid summer internship. Students spent most of their time processing collections while our intern, Ms. Anne-Louise Monn, spent her internship processing six congregations, wrote for the [Branches United blog](#), and reached out to synod offices to update contacts and strengthen communication with the synods.

Ms. Joy's time is still split between three major areas of work: the Region 8 Archives, the Seminary Archives, and cataloging materials for the Wentz Library. Although the workload is heavy, Ms. Joy continues to find ways to manage her time between the three areas, making processing of Region 8 collections a top priority over the summer. Having a student worker and summer intern helped to complete these projects in an efficient manner. The archives continue to actively seek student workers, interns, and volunteers to assist in its processing work.

Mr. Boyd and Ms. Joy submitted a proposal for the ELCA Regional Archives Grant to digitize and make available online the minutes of the General Synod and the General Council. The grant was approved in February 2019 and the grant period will be March 1, 2019-February 28, 2020. The archives is very excited to receive this grant of \$2,907.60.

The library and archives continue to be an evolving organism and space continues to be an area of concern. Mr. Boyd and Ms. Joy have begun implementing a space reorganization to better utilize our building. Currently, around 170 active congregations have material in our archives, but we no longer accept materials for active congregations. We will continue to urge active congregations to manage their own archives, rather than have us care for them.

Major Actions, 2018

- Received 67 research inquiries, up from 56 the previous
- Hosted 8 in-person research visits
- Received materials from Allegheny and Upper Susquehanna Synods
- Processed 12 collections from Lower Susquehanna, Delaware-Maryland, Metro DC, and

- Upper Susquehanna that have long waited to be processed
- Successfully submitted an ELCA grant proposal for digitization

Goals for 2019-2020

- Meet with Synod representatives
- Continue to receive and process materials from synod offices
- Host church visits in collaboration with Advancement office
- Collaborate with Seminary professors and outside universities

It continues to be a pleasure to serve the needs of Region 8 synods.

If you have questions, concerns, or interested in volunteering with the archives in any way, please contact Evan Boyd via email at eboyd@uls.edu