

2009 Assembly Report

ELCA Region 6 Archives

In 2009, the ELCA Region 6 Archives worked diligently to treasure Lutheran stories through preservation, cooperation, transmission, and outreach.

Preservation. The Archives protects Lutheran stories through the proper storage of Lutheran records. In 2009, the Archives moved materials stored off-site to a more spacious location. In addition, 8 collections were processed—transferred to acid-free folders and boxes for better protection.

Cooperation. The Archives works with congregations and synods to preserve Lutheran stories. First, the Archives celebrated its fifth annual congregational history campaign in 2009. During the campaign, the Archives offered research assistance, congregational history help, and celebration ideas to congregations celebrating major anniversaries. The Archives also requested anniversary materials from congregations celebrating anniversaries in 2008. Thank you to all of the congregations that celebrated their history, recorded their history, and donated materials to the Archives.

Second, the Archives answered 14 advice inquiries, in which congregations and synods requested information about records management, congregational archives, congregational histories, cornerstones/time capsules, and the Region 6 Archives. As a result of an advice inquiry about establishing a congregational archives, the archivist conducted a tour of the Region 6 Archives for representatives from one congregation and answered their questions.

Transmission. The Archives not only collects and protects Lutheran stories, but it also shares those stories. The Archives answered 114 research inquiries in 2009. Inquiries included requests for baptism records, biographical information, historical information about congregations, and genealogical information.

Outreach. First, the archivist mentored a total of 5 Trinity Lutheran Seminary Summer Sampler students in June and July. The Samplarians learned about the Region 6 Archives, Lutheran history, the role of an archivist in the church, how to become an archivist, the difference between libraries and archives, and had the opportunity to ask many questions. Samplarians also had the opportunity to do hands-on archival work, including processing papers, processing photographs, accessioning acquisitions, and looking up a genealogy inquiry in a German-language parish register.

Second, the Archives hosted a student from Kent State University's School of Library and Information Science who was completing a practicum at Trinity Lutheran Seminary's Hamma Library. The visit included a tour of the Archives and an archival inquiry requiring research at Hamma Library.

Third, Trinity Lutheran Seminary has unveiled a new website. Now there is a link to the Region 6 Archives from the home page! There is also the ability to contact the Region 6 Archivist directly from the website. Thank you to the designers of Trinity's website for thinking of these improvements.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jennifer I. Long
ELCA Region 6 Archivist