

**Gustavus Adolphus College, Lutheran Church Archives,
St. Peter, Minnesota**

**United Lutheran Church in America.
English Evangelical Lutheran Synod of the Northwest.
Records of the English Evangelical Lutheran Synod
of the Northwest, 1890-1963.**

LCA Collection 11

United Lutheran Church in America, English Evangelical Lutheran Synod of the Northwest. Records of the English Evangelical Lutheran Synod of the Northwest, 1890-1963. LCA Collection 11. 16 Records Center Cartons and 4 1/2 Hollinger boxes.

ABSTRACT:

The Northwest Synod collection contains correspondence, reports, committee information, educational materials, publications, and information about various organizations in the Synod. A large portion of the collection consists of correspondence between the Northwest Synod and its various congregations. The bulk of the collection consists of materials from when R.H. Gerberding and Paul E. Bishop were Synod presidents.

The English Evangelical Lutheran Synod of the Northwest, more commonly known as the Northwest Synod, formed during September 1891 as an English speaking organization. It covered the area from Milwaukee, Wisconsin to Seattle, Washington. The Synod had three conferences: the Central Conference, the Western Conference, and the Wisconsin Conference. The Synod ended subsequent to their 1962 Merger. At this point, the Northwest Synod consolidated with the Augustana Evangelical Lutheran Church, the American Evangelical Lutheran Church, and the Finnish Evangelical Lutheran Church of America to form the Lutheran Church of America.

HISTORICAL NOTE:

The English Evangelical Lutheran Synod of the Northwest (Northwest Synod) formed on 23 September 1891 at Memorial Church, St. Paul, Minnesota. The newly organized body was a synod within the General Council of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in North America. Up until this time, most congregations within the General Council were located in the eastern United States and had German backgrounds. A number of early leaders within the fledgling Northwest Synod had been linked with the Swedish Augustana Synod. The shift for many individuals and congregations from a Swedish to an English tradition was not overly contentious.

In an effort to foster greater Lutheran unity, the General Council merged with two other Lutheran bodies, the General Synod and the United Synod of the South, to form the United Lutheran Church in 1918. The Northwest Synod remained relatively unchanged following this merger. Very few congregations from the other church bodies were within the Northwest Synod's geographic region. The physical territory for the synod was expansive, covering the area from Milwaukee to Seattle, but there were relatively few Lutherans living between Minnesota and Washington.

The Northwest Synod was divided into three conferences. These included the Central Conference, the Western Conference, and the Wisconsin Conference.

Shortly after the formation of the United Lutheran Church, the Northwest Synod established the Northwestern Lutheran Theological Seminary. The school was founded in Chicago but actions were taken to have the seminary moved to Fargo, North Dakota. Then, the Seminary was relocated to Minneapolis, Minnesota.

The United Lutheran Church in America merged along with the Augustana Evangelical Lutheran Church, the American Evangelical Lutheran Church, and the Finnish Evangelical Lutheran Church of America to form the Lutheran Church in America during 1963. It was at this point that the Synod of the Northwest was dissolved with congregations merged into a handful of new synods. The seminary's end came when the body merged with Luther Theological Seminary to form Luther Northwestern Theological Seminary, known since July 1994 as Luther Seminary.

NORTHWEST SYNOD PRESIDENTS	
Presidents from 1891 to 1920 retained their duties as active pastors while serving as part-time presidents.	
G.H. Gerberding	1891-1893
William K. Frick	1894-1901
George H. Trabert	1901-1903
A.J.D. Haupt	1904-1905
A.J. Reichert	1905-1911
A.F. Elmquist	1911-1916
G. Keller Rubrecht	1917-1927
R.H. Gerberding	1927-1948
Paul E. Bishop	1949-1959
George L. Lundquist	1959-1962

Explanation of the word Synod

The following definition is from *The Encyclopedia of the Lutheran Church*.

“Lutherans in America have used the term ‘synod’ as designating (1) an entire body of territorially or linguistically or theologically united congregations (e.g., Indiana Synod . . .) and (2) as designating a body of clerical and lay delegates representing all the congregations within a synod (sense 1) or a district of it.”

*** Information obtained from the following sources.**

Flesner, Dorris A., ed. *70th Anniversary Review: The English Evangelical Lutheran Synod of the Northwest 1891-1961*. n.p. 1960.

English Evangelical Lutheran Synod of the Northwest, 1891-1916: Historical and Reminiscent Sketches. n.p. 1916(?).

“History of Luther Seminary.” Luther Seminary.

<http://www.luthersem.edu/about/history.aspx?m=3381> (accessed on 18 February 2010).

SCOPE AND CONTENT:

The Records of the English Evangelical Lutheran Synod of the Northwest Collection has nine series:

Administration, 1906-63 and undated includes official documents pertaining to the Northwest Synod. Included are financial materials, constitutions, and correspondence.

Anniversaries and Conventions, 1917-62 contains programs, correspondence, and planning materials for Synod anniversary celebrations and conventions.

Boards/Committees, 1905-62 and undated consists of meeting materials, publications, and reports for various boards and committees in the Synod. Included are various mission committees, the Executive Committee, and the Stewardship Committee.

Executive Committee, 1918-62, holds meeting minutes and materials from the Executive Committee of the Synod.

Mission Committees, 1905-62, is composed of meeting materials, publications, and general information for the various mission committees in the Synod. Included are foreign missions, missions to Native Americans, and social missions.

American Mission Committee, 1926-57, includes publications, correspondence, and general information for mission committees whose primary work was in the United States.

Home Missions Committees, 1905-58 and undated, consists of meeting minutes, correspondence, and reports for mission committees whose primary work was in individual households.

Joint Commission on Lutheran Unity, 1959-62, includes correspondence and general information for a joint-committee between the Northwest Synod and other Lutheran Synods.

Stewardship Committee, 1929-62 and undated, comprises of correspondence, meeting materials, and newsletters for the Stewardship Committee of the Synod.

Congregations, 1917-54 and undated consists of dedication materials, financial reports, and lists of sacraments at various congregations in the Synod.

Correspondence, 1927-58 includes various correspondence between members of the Synod.

Correspondence with Congregations, 1888-1962 and undated, includes correspondence between the Northwest Synod and its various individual congregations.

There are nine geographic regions:

- Canada, 1906-62
- Illinois, 1941-63
- Michigan, 1932-56
- Minnesota, 1888-1962
- Montana, 1912-56
- North Dakota, 1888-1957
- South Dakota, 1922-50

Washington, 1902
Wisconsin, 1901-61 and undated

Education, 1913-62 and undated contains materials related to education policies and procedures in the Synod.

Lutheran Education Advance Fund (LEAF), 1913, 1955-62 and undated is composed of publications, correspondence, committee information, reports, and general information for this initiative to raise money for Lutheran education.

Secondary Education, 1920-58 and undated holds reports, propaganda, and publications relating to Carthage College and Northwestern Lutheran Theological Seminary.

Student Organizations, 1941-62 and undated involves correspondence, reports, and publications for various organizations run by Lutheran students in the Northwest Synod, including the Lutheran Student Association and Lutheran Student Foundation.

Summer Education, 1930-62 and undated consists of correspondence, meeting information, general information, promotional materials, and photographs for various summer education programs in the Synod, including summer camps run by each of the three conferences. Some of the photographs are identified

Organizations, 1898-1962 and undated holds information regarding various groups in the Synod. Included are the Luther League, Lutheran Brotherhood, and Lutheran World Action, and Stewardship Sector Program.

Facilities, 1921-62 and undated has correspondence, promotional materials, and reports for various Synod operated facilities. The majority of this series pertains to care for the elderly.

Luther League, 1898-1962 and undated, holds correspondence and publications for the Luther League at the Synod level.

Minnesota Luther League, 1898-1962 and undated, contains reports, newsletters, and general materials for the Minnesota branch of the Luther League.

Lutheran Welfare Society, 1928-62 and undated is composed of correspondence, meeting minutes and reports for the Lutheran Welfare Society.

Lutheran Welfare Society of Minnesota, 1934-61 and undated holds budgets, correspondence, and meeting materials for the Minnesota body of the Lutheran Welfare Society.

Lutheran Welfare Society of Wisconsin, 1933-62 and undated consists of correspondence, programs, and reports for the Wisconsin body of the Lutheran Welfare Society.

Women's Missionary Society, 1936-55 and undated contains correspondence, publications, reports, and rosters for the Women's Missionary Society.

Miscellaneous, 1913-62 and undated includes various publications and planning materials for the Synod.

RESTRICTIONS:

There are no restrictions on use of this collection for research purposes. The researcher assumes full responsibility for observing all copyright, property, and libel laws as they apply.

Researchers must use collection in accordance with the policies of the Lutheran Church Archives, the Folke Bernadotte Memorial Library, and Gustavus Adolphus College.

COLLECTION CITATION:

United Lutheran Church in America, English Evangelical Lutheran Synod of the Northwest. Records of the English Evangelical Lutheran Synod of the Northwest, 1890-1963 and undated. LCA Collection 11. Gustavus Adolphus College, Lutheran Church Archives, St. Peter, Minnesota.

PROCESSED BY:

Jeff A. Jenson processed part of this collection and developed portions of the finding aid during February 2010.

Ellen Dow, student worker, processed part of this collection and updated the finding aid during December 2022.

DIGITAL CONTENT:

Portions of this collection have been digitized and are available online through our [digital collections](#).

SUBJECT HEADINGS:

English Evangelical Lutheran Synod of the Northwest (U.S.)
English Evangelical Lutheran Synod of the Northwest (U.S.) -- Periodicals.
United Lutheran Church in America.

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Audits, 1926-29	20	6
Audits, 1930-35	6	17
Audits, 1936-39	6	18
Audits, 1940-44	6	19
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Audits, 1950-53	6	21
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Audits, 1957-59	6	23
Audits, 1960-62	6	24
Consolidation Agreements for the Northwest Synod and Minnesota Conference, 1962	18	52
Constitution and By-Laws of the English Evangelical Lutheran Synod of the Northwest, undated	21	8
Distribution of Assets from 1962 Merger, 1961-63	18	17
Health Insurance Correspondence, 1958-62	1	18
Health Insurance Information, c. 1960	1	19
Health Insurance Plans, c. 1960	1	19
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"Items for the President's Report" Correspondence, 1919	18	10
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Loans and Mortgages, 1926 and 1937	17	33
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Military Chaplains' Publications, 1960-62 and undated	1	33
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Pastoral Appointment Correspondence, 1921-72	1	47
Pastor Transfers and Dismissals, 1928, 1946-49, and 1956	1	49

Pastor Vital Statistics Forms, c. 1950	1	50
Pastor Vital Statistics Information, c. 1950	1	50
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Pension Plan Reports, 1960-61	1	52
Report of the President, June 1906	6	25
Secretary's Book, 1907-19	6	2
Seven Year Program, 1925-32	1	62
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Travel Insurance Correspondence, 1961-62	1	79
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1938 Anniversary Appeal Reports, 1938-39	1	1
1941 Jubilee Movie, 1941	1	3
50th Jubilee Correspondence, 1939-41	1	4
50th Jubilee Materials, 1940-41	1	5
70th Anniversary Correspondence, 1960-61	1	6
70th Anniversary Planning Materials, 1960-61	1	6
Central Conference Convention Materials, 1949-53	1	10
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Minutes of the Wisconsin Conference 28th Semi-Annual Convention, 1917	18	8
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Carthage College Relocation Committee Meeting Minutes, 1954-56	1	85
Central Committee of Wisconsin-Upper Michigan Synod Joint Commission on Lutheran Unity Meeting Correspondence and Minutes, 1960-62	18	15
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Church Finance Corporation Materials, 1928-30	1	87
Church Vocations Committee Materials, 1957-62	1	88
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Committee on Cooperation Materials, 1921	1	94
Committee on Worship Materials, 1959-61 and undated	1	96
Fair Housing Committee Meeting Minutes, 1960-62	1	98
Madison Regional Home Mission Committee, 1944-59 and undated	2	4
Minneapolis Lutheran Council, 1962	1	37
Minnesota Merger Committees, 1960-62	2	5
Minnesota Merger Discussion Committee Meeting Minutes, 1959-62	18	13
National Lutheran Council Correspondence, 1960	2	6
Parish Education Committee Materials, 1944-62 and undated	2	7
Publications from Stewardship Committee, 1929-39 and undated	2	17
Seven Year Plan Committee Meeting Minutes, 1925-32	2	8
Sons of the Ministry Committee Meeting Minutes, 1955	2	10
Students for the Ministry Committee Meeting Minutes, 1937-57	2	19
Students for the Ministry Committee Reports, 1937-57	2	19
Synodical Examining Committee, 1950-62	2	20
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Meeting Minutes, March 1918-6 May 1935	6	3
Meeting Minutes, September 1930- May 1937	6	4
Meeting Minutes, September 1937-May 1940	6	5
Meeting Minutes, September 1940-June 1943	6	6
Meeting Minutes, 10 September 1943-20 September 1946	6	7
Meeting Minutes, 5 December 1946-10 December 1948	6	8

Meeting Minutes, 22 February 1949- 11 December 1950	6	9
Meeting Minutes, February 1951- December 1954	6	10
Meeting Minutes, 1955-57	6	11
Meeting Minutes, March 1958-November 1960	6	12
Meeting Minutes, January 1961- August 1962	6	13
Mission Committees, 1905-62		
Committee on Indian Missions Materials, 1961	1	95
Foreign Mission Committee Materials, 1929-62	2	1
Inner Missions Committee, 1925-39, 1952-61, and undated	2	3
James J. Raun, Board of Social Missions, Correspondence, 1960-62 (1 of 2)	20	3
James J. Raun, Board of Social Missions, Correspondence, 1960-62 (2 of 2)	20	4
Social Missions Committee Information, 1948-62 and undated	2	9
Social Missions Committee Publications, 1948-62 and undated	2	9
American Mission Committee, 1926-57		
American Missions Together Publication, 1948	17	29
Annual Supplement to the Quarterly Reports, 1937	7	23
Applications for Mission Aid, 1937-38	18	22
Arthur M. Knudsen Correspondence, 1936-38	7	18
Arthur M. Knudsen Correspondence, 1939-40	7	19
Arthur M. Knudsen Correspondence, 1941-42	7	20
Arthur M. Knudsen Correspondence, 1943-46	7	21
Board of American Missions Correspondence, 1934-42	1	81
Board of American Missions Fundamental Documents, 1926 and 1956-57	6	1
Board of American Missions Reports, undated	1	82
“Christ for the Changing Countryside: The Mission Responsibility of the Lutheran Church in Minnesota” Publication, 1948	17	30
Church Extension Loans, 1935-37	18	25
Donald Houser Correspondence, 1957-62	18	6
Elwood L. Bowman Correspondence, 1940-45	7	7
Elwood L. Bowman Correspondence, 1946-49	7	8
F.F. Fry Correspondence, 1926-30	7	11
F.F. Fry Correspondence, 1931-33	7	12
H. Torrey Walker Correspondence, 1935-36	7	24
H. Torrey Walker Correspondence, 1937-39	17	31
John F. Seibert Correspondence, 1922-27	7	13
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John F. Seibert Correspondence, 1930-31	7	15
John F. Seibert Correspondence, 1932-36	7	16
Karl S. Henry Correspondence, 1946-48	7	17
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Puerto Rico and West Indies Reports and Studies, 1945-46	7	22
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Z.M. Corbe Correspondence, 1926-32	7	9
Z.M. Corbe Correspondence, 1933-35 and 1946-48	7	10
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Board of Home Missions and Church Extension Constitution, 1919	6	1
Board of Home Missions and Church Extension Meeting Minutes, March 1919-September 1927	6	14
Board of Home Missions and Church Extension Meeting Minutes, November 1927-1930	6	15
Board of Home Missions and Church Extension Meeting Minutes, January 1931- February 1934	6	16
Fargo Regional Home Mission Committee Minutes, Correspondence, and Photographs, 1945-56	18	28
Home Mission Correspondence, 1925-45	18	21
Home Mission Committee Correspondence, 1916-27	7	1
Home Mission Committee Correspondence, 1921	18	3
Home Mission Committee Correspondence, 1932-36	18	7
Home Mission Committee Correspondence, 1927, 1944, 1952, and 1955	2	2
Home Mission Committee Number 2, 1932	17	34
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Home Mission Council, 1937, 1943, and undated	1	99
Inter-Synodical Home Mission Council Meeting Minutes, 1930-31	17	19
J.S. Herold Correspondence, 1923-24	7	6
Lutheran Home Mission Council Meeting Minutes, 1931-35	17	20
L.V. Downing Correspondence, 1943-58	7	4
Minnesota Field Missionary Reports, 1924-25	18	24
Minnesota Lutheran Regional Home Missions Committee Correspondence, 1945-55	17	25
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Minnesota Lutheran Regional Home Missions Committee Correspondence, 1961-62	17	27
Minnesota Lutheran Regional Home Missions Committee Lectures, 1945-55	17	25
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Minnesota Lutheran Regional Home Missions Committee Meeting Minutes, 1958-62	17	24
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M.J. Bieber Correspondence, 1920-21	7	3
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Montana Regional Home Mission Committee Minutes and Correspondence, 1948-56	18	29
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Regional Home Missions Planning and Organization Materials, 1943-48	18	26
Reports from Congregations, 1905, 1918, and 1926-27	7	25
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Michigan Congregations Vital Statistics and Cumulative Histories, c. 1930s and 1950s	18	37
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Model Constitutions for Congregations, 1956 and 1959	6	1
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Photograph of Church of the Good Shepherd, St. Louis Park, Minnesota, 1949	18	35
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Reports on the Lutheran Church in Minneapolis, 1929-30	1	59
St. James Evangelical Lutheran Church Reports, 1927	4	8
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Christian Growth Series Correspondence, 1939 and 1944-46	1	12
Hugh Sharp Correspondence, 1934-36	1	20
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Martin Veaux Correspondence, 1927-34	1	28
Northwest Synod-Norwegian Synod Seminary Correspondence, 1921	1	45
Organization Day Correspondence, 1942-43	18	35
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