

## Introduction

This year marks the 15<sup>th</sup> year of operation for the Region 3 Archives. I continue in the Archivist position at ½ time, shared with the same position at Luther Seminary. We benefit from this joint arrangement of staff and office/storage space. The Region 3 Archives collection is the largest collection of the 9 ELCA regional archives. The arrangement continues to work well, with Luther Seminary giving space (and increasing amounts of it) and access to the student worker pool for Region 3 Archives storage and tasks. We also benefit from our 8 regular volunteers who help with a wide variety of projects.

## Use of Region 3 Archives

Our website presence ( [www.luthersem.edu/archives](http://www.luthersem.edu/archives) ) on the internet continues to increase our visibility and usefulness to a wide range of patrons. Luther Seminary “hosts” our site and provides valuable technical support for it. It was revised and updated twice this past year. In terms of our “audience”, our primary concern is for the congregations and individuals of Region 3, but we serve anyone with a reasonable research request. People reach us through e-mail, phone calls, letters and walk-in visits.

- The Region 3 Archives assisted a total of 862 patrons with a variety of reference requests. As always, the single largest user group are congregations (over 70%), with synod and churchwide offices, students and other individuals comprising the remainder. This indicates an increase over last year’s use figures.
- Daniels worked on-site with all 9 synod offices, collecting permanently valuable office files and assisting with records storage and retention plans for each office. He averaged 4 times in each office during the year, combined with on-site visits with area congregations (64).
- Daniels spoke at 16 adult forum and seniors study groups in congregations throughout Region 3 this past year. The emphasis of these presentations was on the role of memory and heritage in congregational life as a part of mission planning. He also used the opportunity to inform congregations of the wide variety of archives and history services available through the Region 3 Archives.

## Collection growth

- Received 167 linear feet of synod office records from the 9 offices
- Gathered an additional 265 congregational histories, total number of files now over 5,400
- Collected mission history materials (photos, letters, histories, etc.) from 8 missionaries, 46 linear feet
- Added 345 biographical pieces to files on clergy and lay leaders, total now 4,700 files
- Received 12 additional oral history interviews and transcripts from former church leaders, seminary faculty and congregations.
- An additional 64 congregations microfilmed their valuable records through the Archives “brokered” microfilming program.

## Outreach and Education

- Daniels led workshops on congregational heritage and church memory at 6 synod assemblies in 2003.
- Over 750 copies of “Memory Work: A Guide for ELCA Congregational Archives and History” (our training manual for congregations) to church members and individuals.
- Daniels conducted small group training sessions on “archives basics” for congregations at 6 Region 3 sites.

## Professional Development

- Daniels is an active member of several professional archives organizations, including the Society of American Archives, the Midwest Archives Conference and the Twin Cities Archives Roundtable.
- In the spring of 2003 Daniels was re-admitted to the Academy of Certified Archivists for a 5 year period, based on involvement in continuing education work and participation in professional conferences.
- Daniels is serving a final term as Vice-President of the Lutheran Historical Conference, a pan-Lutheran group for historians, archivists and librarians.

Respectfully submitted 2.6.04

Paul A. Daniels, Archivist, ELCA Region 3/Archivist, Luther Seminary

