

“Jews of the Luthertown Wittenberg” exhibit and events promote understanding and healing

LSTC hosted the Chicago premiere of the powerful exhibit, “Jews of the Luthertown Wittenberg in the Third Reich” during the month of November. This traveling exhibit was created by the Saxony-Anhalt Centre for Political Education and Luther Centre in Wittenberg, Germany to increase understanding and healing among Lutherans and Jews.

Luther’s own writings on Jews assisted Hitler’s National-Socialists of Germany to gain control of German churches in 1933. “Jews of the Luthertown Wittenberg in the Third Reich” bears witness in artifacts and photographs, to the life and systematic destruction of Jews living in Wittenberg from 1933-1945.

Dr. Esther Menn, professor of Old Testament, worked with partners around the world to develop programs related to the exhibit.

The German Consulate of Chicago hosted the opening reception for the exhibit on October 25. It included remarks by the exhibit co-sponsors titled, “Remembering Lives: The Jews of Luthertown Wittenberg in the Third Reich.”

A seminar, “Jews and Christians: Germany and Chicago,” was held on October 31 featuring a lecture by the Rev. Albrecht Steinhäuser, director of communication, Church of Saxony; and remarks by Rabbi Elliot Gertel, Congregation Rodfei Zedek,

Chicago; and the Rev. Dr. Terrence Baeder, pastor, Zion Lutheran Church, Tinley Park, Ill.

Thursday, November 9, LSTC and McCormick Theological Seminary held the annual Kristallnacht Remembrance and Commitment Service in LSTC’s Augustana Chapel. A panel discussion, “What Can the Barmen Declaration Teach Us Today?” took place at noon that day with Ms. Victoria Barnett, U.S. Holocaust Museum; Dr. Robert Cathey (McCormick Theological Seminary); Dr. Kurt Hendel, LSTC; and Dr. Vitor Westhelle, LSTC.

That evening, Ms. Barnett delivered the lecture, “Dietrich Bonhoeffer’s Legacy in a Post-Holocaust World.”

“Jews of Luthertown Wittenberg in the Third Reich” co-sponsors of were the Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago, McCormick Theological Union, The Catholic-Jewish Studies Program of the Cardinal Bernadin Center at Catholic Theological Union, The German Consulate of Chicago, the Lutheran Centre in Wittenberg, and the Hamburg Sister City Organization.



James Kenneth Echols, Esther Menn, and Consul General Wolfgang Drautz, German Consulate of Chicago, at the exhibit opening reception

50-Year grads reunite at LSTC

On May 13–14, 2006, 35 graduates from LSTC's predecessor schools gathered to celebrate their 50th reunion. Four of the six predecessor schools were represented: Augustana Theological Seminary, Central Lutheran Theological Seminary, Chicago Lutheran Theological Seminary, and Concordia/Seminex. Graduates from Grand View Seminary were included in the reunion book.

On Saturday evening, participants shared a meal and caught each other up on their 50 years of ministry. "It was an enlightening evening," said Robert Conrad, LSTC's professor emeritus of Christian education and a 50-year grad. "I also saw classmates I hadn't seen in 50 years." Conrad graduated from Concordia/Seminex.

Morris Niedenthal, professor of homiletics, emeritus, was a member of the Chicago Lutheran Theological Seminary (Mayood, Ill.) class of 1956.

Vance Ekstrom, Augustana Theological Seminary, summarized the gathering for members of the Augustana Theological Seminary, with descriptions

of the commencement service where the 50 year grads were honored with a standing ovation. "As the congregation applauded, it seemed to me that the M.Div. candidates turned and looked at the 35-plus of us with particular attention, as if they were thinking, 'So this is what they look like after 50 years in the ministry.'" Augustana graduates distinguished themselves by presenting gifts totaling more than \$2,775 to LSTC to support the Class of 2006's "Greening the Chapel" project.

Mark Herbener (Concordia/Seminex) presided at the Sunday morning worship for the 50 year graduates. Byron Swanson (Augustana) was the assisting minister. Brady Faggart (Maywood) preached and LaDonna Chalstrom and David Hurty were lectors for the service.

In their years of service to the church, the 50 year grads have been pastors, professors, missionaries, chaplains in various settings, mission developers, and administrators. Thanks be to God for their many gifts to the people of God.



Back: Herbert Carlmark, Byron Swanson, Wellington Witkop, Warren Best, David E. Miller, Brady Faggart, Thomas BeMiller, Robert Werberig, Mark Herbener, Robert Conrad, Luther Olson
Middle: Arnold Thoren, Eugene Henry, Roger Rotvig, Robert Stromberg, Vance Eckstrom, Donald Nelson, Robert Chalstrom, Julius Peterson
Front: David Hurty, Lester Lamm, John Rinde, Vernon Hintermeyer, Harold Skinner, Morris Niedenthal, Stanley Yoder