

ELCA Region 4-South Archives

The ELCA Region 4-South Archives exists to assist the church in remembering the history of the antecedent synods of the ELCA located in Texas, Louisiana, and in parts of New Mexico and Arkansas. We are housed in the Lutheran Ministry Building on the campus of Texas Lutheran University. The bishops of the three Texas-Louisiana synods provide oversight to the archives, established in 1988 by the newly formed Evangelical Church in America.

The collection includes the parish records of disbanded congregations, historical information about disbanded and active congregations, synod files of deceased rostered leaders, minutes and various records of judicatories, their institutions and organizations, and historical photographs, films, and recordings. It also maintains a library of publications related to Lutheran church history.

Staffed by volunteers, the archives continues to

- update rostered leaders biographical information;
- maintain active congregation files with important events and historical data;
- receive and catalog pertinent documents/photos/records/books relating to the history of the Lutheran Church in the three synods;
- welcome guests who wish to research topics relating to the churches in our synods, recently a Norwegian pastor and lay person looking for information in the records and historical documents of the Norwegian seaman's church in Galveston;
- process requests from all over the world (Australia, Canada) and many states in the United States for copies of documents/photos/records pertaining to baptisms and other family history—in 2020 we processed 18 requests; in 2021, 26; thus far in 2022, 8;
- help with research requests for individuals who cannot come to the archives;
- furnish information to congregations who want to know about preserving records in their own congregations.

Our online catalog may be accessed at swtsynod.pastperfectonline.com

We may be reached by telephone at 830-379-9900 or by email at archives@swtsynod.org. Johnana Clark is the archivist, assisted by librarian Shirley Bowie, and historian emeritus Rev. Luther Oelke.