

## ELCA REGIONAL ARCHIVES

Collecting records from synods  
and congregations



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America  
God's work. Our hands.

### Regional Archives

The ELCA synodical and regional archives collect records relating to synods and congregations, including records from dissolved congregations. Some may also have records from early ELCA predecessor bodies.

### Region 1

The core of the collection at the Region 1 archives is mainly from ELCA synods in that area and the Norwegian and Swedish predecessor districts and conferences, but the collections also include such items as the recently deposited records of Holden Village, Chelan, Wash.

Alaska, Idaho, Montana, Oregon, Washington

Josh Smith  
ELCA Region 1 Archives  
Archives and Special Collections  
Mortvedt Library  
Pacific Lutheran University  
Tacoma, WA 98447  
(253) 535-7586  
E-mail: [archives@plu.edu](mailto:archives@plu.edu)  
<https://www.plu.edu/archives>

### Region 2

Materials on the work of synods in the region are found at the Region 2 archives, as well as core collections from The American Lutheran Church and the Lutheran Church in America districts and synods and their predecessors. A recent addition to this collection was the records of the former LCA Rocky Mountain Synod.

Arizona, California, Colorado, Hawaii, New Mexico, Nevada, Utah, Wyoming

Robin Lujan  
ELCA Region 2 Archives  
Southwest California Synod  
1300 E. Colorado St.  
Glendale, CA 91205  
(818) 937-4761  
[archives@socalsynod.org](mailto:archives@socalsynod.org)

### Region 3

The Region 3 Archives holds records of the work of ELCA synods in the region. It also houses materials from the Norwegian Lutheran Church of America, later named the Evangelical Lutheran Church, which merged in 1960 into The American Lutheran Church, and records from the NLCA's predecessor bodies: The United Norwegian Lutheran Church, the Hauge Synod, and the Norwegian Synod. The records of the Lutheran Free Church are also deposited here. In addition, it has district and congregational information and materials from Lutheran foreign missions.

Minnesota, North Dakota, South Dakota

Paul A. Daniels  
ELCA Region 3 Archives  
2481 Como Avenue  
Saint Paul, MN 55108-1496  
(651) 641-3205  
E-mail: [pdaniels@luthersem.edu](mailto:pdaniels@luthersem.edu)  
<https://www.luthersem.edu/archives/>

Though not a current synodical archives, the Lutheran Church Archives at Gustavus Adolphus College holds administrative records of Minnesota affiliates of the Lutheran Church in America (LCA), and its predecessors, the Augustana Synod and the United Lutheran Church in America. Predecessor and supporting synods have included the Minnesota Conference and Synod, the Red River Valley Conference and Synod, and the English Evangelical Lutheran Synod of the Northwest. In addition, there are congregational histories, biographical files regarding clergy and church leaders, and microfilmed Swedish Lutheran church records (ending about 1930).

Jeff A. Jenson  
College and Lutheran Church Archivist/ Academic Librarian  
Gustavus Adolphus College  
800 West College Avenue  
St. Peter, MN 56082-1498  
(507) 933-7572  
E-mail: [archives@gustavus.edu](mailto:archives@gustavus.edu)  
<https://gustavus.edu/go/archives>

## Region 4

For Arkansas, Oklahoma:

Arkansas-Oklahoma Synod  
4803 S Lewis Ave.  
Tulsa OK 74105  
(918) 492-4288  
E-mail: [sara@aokoffice.org](mailto:sara@aokoffice.org)

For the Central States Synod, the archives are located at Bethany College, Lindsborg, Kan., which had been the traditional location of the archives of the former Augustana Kansas Conference and its successors.

For Kansas and Missouri:

Denise Carson  
Bethany College Archives  
Wallerstedt Library  
335 E. Swensson Street  
Lindsborg, Kansas 67456-1897  
(785) 227-3380, Ext. 8342  
E-mail: [carsond@bethanylb.edu](mailto:carsond@bethanylb.edu)  
<https://www.bethanylb.edu/wallerstedt-library>

The collection at Texas Lutheran University has materials relating to Texas and Louisiana, with the earliest items dating back to the Texas Synod, starting in the 1850s.

For Texas and Louisiana:

Johnana Clark  
ELCA Region 4-South Archives  
1090 Oestreich Dr.  
Seguin, TX 78155  
(830) 379-9900  
E-mail: [archives@swtsynod.org](mailto:archives@swtsynod.org)  
<https://www.swtsynod.org/archives>

Some materials related to the current Central States Synod territory of Kansas and Missouri may also be found in the archives of the Nebraska Synod, which are located at Midland Lutheran College, Fremont, Neb. That collection has both Augustana materials and records from the German Nebraska Synod, part of the former United Lutheran Church in America.

For Nebraska:

Ian Hartfield  
Nebraska Synod  
6757 Newport Ave., Ste 200  
Omaha, NE 68152-2191  
(402) 896-5311  
E-mail: [ianhartfield@yahoo.com](mailto:ianhartfield@yahoo.com)  
<https://nebraskasynod.org/archives/>

## **Region 5**

In addition to holding material from the districts and synods of The American Lutheran Church and the Lutheran Church in America, it is also the main repository for the former Iowa Synod, a church body that existed from 1854-1930.

Illinois, Iowa, Wisconsin, Upper Michigan

Sue Dodd

ELCA Region 5 Archives

Wartburg Theological Seminary

333 Wartburg Place

Dubuque, IA 52003-5004

(563) 589-0320

E-mail: [Region5archives@wartburgseminary.edu](mailto:Region5archives@wartburgseminary.edu)

<https://www.wartburgseminary.edu/archives/region5-archives/>

## **Region 6**

In Region 6, the collections are particularly rich for the former American Lutheran Church districts and the former Indiana-Kentucky Synod of the Lutheran Church in America and its predecessors.

Indiana, Kentucky, lower Michigan, Ohio

Joel Wildermuth

ELCA Region 6 Archives

Trinity Lutheran Seminary at Capital University

2199 East Main Street

Columbus, OH 43209-2334

(614) 236-6855

E-mail: [reg6archives@capital.edu](mailto:reg6archives@capital.edu)

<https://www.trinity.capital.edu/academics/elca-region-6-archives/>

## **Region 7**

Among the files of the Region 7 archives at Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia are those of the Ministerium of Pennsylvania, which was the first North American Lutheran church body, founded in 1748. The papers of the founder of that organization, Henry Melchior Muhlenberg, are among the oldest records on file for ELCA history.

For all synods except the Slovak-Zion Synod:

Sheila Joy  
Lutheran Archives Center at Philadelphia  
7301 Germantown Avenue  
Philadelphia, PA 19119-1794  
(215) 248-6383  
Fax: (215) 248-6327  
E-mail:  
[archivist@lutheranarchives.org](mailto:archivist@lutheranarchives.org)  
<https://www.lutheranarchives.org>

For Slovak Zion Synod:

Bishop Wilma S. Kucharek  
P.O. Box 1003  
Torrington, CT 06790-1003  
(860) 482-6100  
E-mail: [wilma.kucharek@ecunet.org](mailto:wilma.kucharek@ecunet.org)

## Region 8

Older material in the Tri-Synod Archives collection relates to the former Pittsburgh Synod of the General Council.

For Western Pennsylvania, West Virginia- Western Maryland:

Sarah (Sally) Roth  
Tri-Synod Archives Thiel College  
75 College Avenue  
Greenville, PA 16125  
(724) 589-2131  
<https://resources.thiel.edu/library/Archives1.htm>

For Central Pennsylvania, Delaware-Maryland & Metropolitan Washington, DC:

Victoria Jesswein  
A.R. Wentz Library  
United Lutheran Seminary  
61 Seminary Ridge  
Gettysburg, PA 17325-1795  
(717) 339-1313  
E-mail: [region8archives@uls.edu](mailto:region8archives@uls.edu)  
<https://library.uls.edu/Archives/region8>

Also housed in the Gettysburg Seminary's archives are the records of the first large confederation of American Lutheran synods, namely the General Synod. This archives also has significant personal papers collected by the Lutheran Historical Society.

## **Region 9**

The archives in Columbia, S.C., hold material relating to the United Synod of the South, a church body that originated in 1863.

For Alabama, Florida-Bahamas, Georgia, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia, and the Caribbean Synod:

Shannon Smith  
James R. Crumley Jr. Archives  
4201 Main St.  
Columbia, SC 29203  
803-461-3234  
E-mail: [crumleyarchivist@gmail.com](mailto:crumleyarchivist@gmail.com)  
<https://www.crumleyarchives.com>