



ELCA REGIONAL ARCHIVES

Collecting records from synods and congregations

Regional and Synod Archives

The ELCA synod and regional archives collect records relating to synods and congregations, including records from dissolved congregations. Some may also have records from early ELCA predecessor church 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 records of Holden Village, Chelan, Washington. The Region 1 Archives is located at Pacific Lutheran University.

Alaska, Idaho, Montana, Oregon, Washington

Josh Smith
ELCA Region 1 Archives
Archives and Special Collections
Robert A.L. Mortvedt Library
12210 10th Ave. South
Tacoma WA 98447
(253) 535-7586
Email: archives@plu.edu
Web: <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.

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) 507-9591
Email: 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 (NLCA), 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 material from Lutheran global missions.

Minnesota, North Dakota, South Dakota

Caleb Rollins
ELCA Region 3 Archives
Luther Seminary
2481 Como Ave.
Saint Paul MN 55108
(651) 641-3205
Email: archives@luthersem.edu
Web: <https://www.luthersem.edu/archives>

Though not a current synod 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 Archives
800 West College Ave.
St. Peter MN 56082
(507) 933-7572
Email: archives@gustavus.edu
Web: <https://gustavus.edu/go/archives>

Region 4

Arkansas and Oklahoma:

Arkansas-Oklahoma Synod
Fellowship Lutheran Church
6727 S. Sheridan Rd.
Tulsa OK 74133
(918) 492-4288
Email: sara@aokelca.org

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

Kansas and Missouri:

Denise Carson
Bethany College Archives
Wallerstedt Library
335. E. Swensson St.
Lindsborg KS 67456
(785) 227-3380, ext. 8342
Email: carsond@bethanylb.edu
Web: <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.

Texas and Louisiana:

Johnana Clark
ELCA Region 4-South Archives
1090 Oestreich Dr.
Seguin TX 78155
(830) 379-9900 ext. 11
Email: archives@swtsynod.org
Web: <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. The collection has

both Augustana materials and records from the German Nebraska Synod, part of the former United Lutheran Church in America.

Nebraska:

Ian Hartfield
Nebraska Synod
6757 Newport Ave.
Suite 200
Omaha NE 68152
(402) 896-5311
Email: ianhartfield@yahoo.com
Web: <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 Pl.
Dubuque IA 52003
(563) 589-0320
Email: Region5archives@wartburgseminary.edu
Web: <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
Hamma Library

2199 East Main St.
Columbus OH 43205
(614) 236-6855

Email: reg6archives@capital.edu

Web: <https://www.trinity.capital.edu/alumni-friends/elca-region-6-archives/>

Region 7

Among the files of the Region 7 Archives at Lutheran Archives Center 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 Melchoir Muhlenberg, are among the oldest records on file for ELCA history.

All synods in Region 7 except the Slovak-Zion Synod:

Sheila Joy
Lutheran Archives Center at Philadelphia
7301 Germantown Ave.
Philadelphia PA 19919
(215) 248-6383
Email: archivist@lutheranarchives.org
Web: <https://www.lutheranarchives.org>

Slovak Zion Synod:

Bishop Wilma S. Kucharek
P.O. Box 1003
Torrington CT 0679
(860) 482-6100
Email: szsoffices@slovakzionsynod.org
Web: <https://slovakzionsynod.org>

Region 8

Older material in the Tri-Synod Archives collection relates to the former Pittsburgh Synod of the General Council. The Tri-Synod archives are housed on the campus of Thiel College, Greenville, Pennsylvania

Western Pennsylvania, West Virginia-Western Maryland:

Tri-Synod Archives**

**The Tri-Synod Archives are currently being organized and inventoried and are not available for use. Please contact the ELCA Archives at archives@elca.org for additional information.

Central Pennsylvania, Delaware-Maryland and Metropolitan Washington DC:

Victoria Jesswein
A.R. Wentz Library
United Lutheran Seminary
61 Seminary Ridge
Gettysburg PA 17325
(717) 339-1317
Email: vjesswein@uls.edu
Web: <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 synod, namely the General Synod. This archives also has significant personal papers collected by the Lutheran Historical Society.

Region 9

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

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

Shannon Smith
James R. Crumley Jr. Archives
PO Box 214
Columbia SC 29202
(803) 331-9985
Email: info@crumleyarchives.com
Web: <https://www.crumleyarchives.com>