

# The Augustana Heritage Newsletter

Volume 7 Number 4 Spring 2012



## Welcome to Gathering VIII in St. Peter, Minnesota, June 21-24, 2012, as AHA holds its last four-day event with "A Living Legacy" as the theme

Welcome to Gathering VIII, the final biennial gathering of the Augustana Heritage Association, at Gustavus Adolphus College in St. Peter, Minnesota, from June 21-24, 2012. Sons, daughters and children of the former Augustana Lutheran Church, together with friends, will gather for worship, music, discussions inspired by outstanding guest speakers, tours, food, fellowship, and lots of coffee.

The 2012 Gathering will conclude a remarkable series of biennial events that began at Chautauqua, New York, in 1998. At its 2010 Rock Island Gathering, the AHA decided that this 2012 Gathering in St. Peter would be the final one in the present four-day form. The Future Committee, elected by members to explore options of the AHA in the years ahead, will give its report at Gathering VIII. Members will act on this report at the AHA business meeting on Saturday, June 23, at 4 pm.

Speakers from Lutheran, as well as

other Christian traditions, will help to focus on the theme, "A Living Legacy." Besides thanking God for their rich heritage, AHA members will continue to celebrate and support the continuing legacy of Augustana in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA), as well as throughout the world.

Speakers at the five plenary sessions will include Bishop Antje Jackelén,

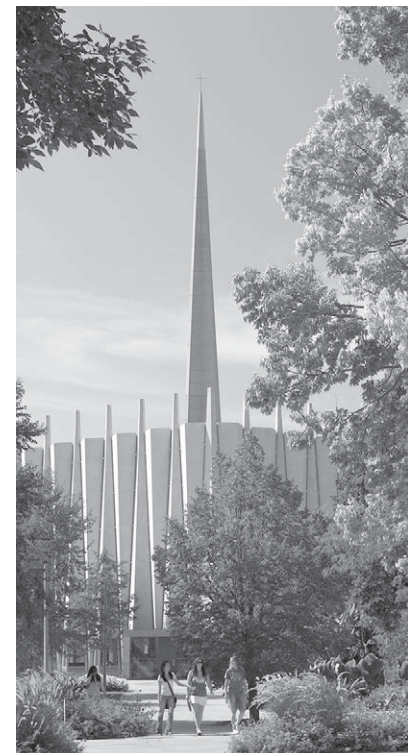
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**The Rev. Rafael  
Malpica Padila**



**David Swartling**



**Christ Chapel, Gustavus Adolphus  
College**

## Dreams and possibilities for the AHA

### The Future Committee reports

**by Hal Nilsson, Future Committee Chair**

Sometimes organizations exceed their founders' dreams. The 18th century forebears of the United States never could have imagined what this nation would become. Our Canadian readers would likely tell a similar story about the founders of their country. The young techies who dreamed up social media websites in their college dorm rooms have, to their amazement, watched those dreams rapidly become global phenomena. Perhaps it stretches the illustration, but something similar has happened to the Augustana Heritage Association. Those who began AHA in the 1990s imagined it would fulfill its purposes in ten years and then dissolve. However, the momentum generated,

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*The Augustana Heritage Association defines, promotes, and perpetuates the heritage and legacy of the Augustana Evangelical Lutheran Church.*

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# Welcome to Gathering VIII

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Diocese of Lund, Church of Sweden, on “The Church in Two Secular Cultures: Sweden and America”; Dr. James Bratt, Professor of Church History, Calvin College, Grand Rapids, Michigan, on “Augustana in American Church History”; The Rev. Rafael Malpica Padila, executive director of the Global Mission Unit, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, on “Global Missions Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow”, and David Swartling, ELCA Secretary, on “The Future of the ELCA.”

“Augustana: A Theological Tradition” will be the theme of a panel discussion led by the Rev. Dr. Harold Skillrud, the Rev. Dr. Dale Skogman and the Rev. Dr. Theodore N. Swanson. The Rev. Dr. Arland J. Hultgren will moderate.

Garrison Keillor, host of the popular weekly radio

show, “A Prairie Home Companion,” will speak and lead a hymn sing at the opening of the Gathering at 7:30 pm on Thursday, June 21. Mezzo-soprano Josefine Andersson of Sweden will give the annual Jenny Lind Singer concert at 7 pm on Saturday, June 23.

*David E. Baker, AHA Executive Director, previews Gathering VIII on Page 4. See other Gathering stories and registration fees on other pages.*



**James Bratt**

## Dreams and possibilities for AHA

*continued from Page 1*

especially by the biennial Gatherings but also by other projects, is carrying the organization beyond a decade.

To be clear, the membership of AHA decided in 2010 that the upcoming Gathering at Gustavus Adolphus College in June should be the last of the four-day Gatherings that have been held every two years since 1998. Members further instructed the AHA Board to explore ways to continue the mission of AHA. The Future Committee, appointed to work on this assignment, is recommending that at least two more events be carried out under AHA auspices before AHA concludes its work. (Keep in mind that a half century has passed since 1962, when the Augustana Lutheran Church merged to become part of the Lutheran Church in America. Those of us who have a living memory of Augustana are dwindling in number.)

The first of those events is an AHA-sponsored trip to Sweden in September 2013. A highlight of the proposed trip will be visits to places from which the 19th century founders of Augustana came. The trip will afford the opportunity to learn first-hand what motivated the early leaders of the Augustana Synod to leave Sweden, as well as to become better informed about the mission and ministry of the Church of Sweden today. David Baker, our executive director, already has a promise of assistance for the trip from the Office of the Archbishop of the Church of Sweden. (Those who attended the 2010 Gathering in Rock Island will recall that Archbishop Anders Wejryd was a preacher and presenter at that event.) A brochure outlining details of the trip should be

ready and available at the June 2012 Gathering.

A second event that the Future Committee is recommending is a shorter gathering in June 2014 at Midland University in Fremont, Nebraska. Luther Junior College, begun by Augustana in Wahoo, Nebraska, in 1883, merged with Midland in 1962. The event at Midland will be a chance to celebrate the legacy of Luther, as well as two other Augustana-founded institutions with deep roots in Nebraska, Bethphage Mission at Axtell and Immanuel Deaconess Institute in Omaha. And it will be one more opportunity to do what AHA members seem to like best—meet, greet, eat, sing—and go home inspired.

The challenge before the AHA Board and the focus of its discernment is how to faithfully wind down the current form of the organization while discovering ways to carry forward the strengths and contributions of the Augustana Lutheran Church. All suggestions are welcome. We especially invite ideas from those who may have experienced Augustana only in their youth. Please send your comments to [revhtn@gmail.com](mailto:revhtn@gmail.com).

Six positions on the Board will be filled by election at this summer's AHA Gathering. The Future Committee hopes that people interested in perpetuating the Augustana legacy are willing to step forward and be considered for Board membership. If you are interested, please drop a note to Augustana Heritage Association, 1100 East 55th Street, Chicago, IL 60615, or by email to [rdeppe@lstc.edu](mailto:rdeppe@lstc.edu). If you have questions about what's involved in Board membership, contact AHA's executive director, David Baker, at [dngbaker@comcast.net](mailto:dngbaker@comcast.net).

# Preview of AHA Gathering VIII

by David E. Baker, Executive Director

The curiosity is growing, the interest is increasing, the excitement is becoming more and more noticeable, and the days of our Augustana Heritage Association's final "traditional" Gathering are fast approaching.



Garrison Keillor

Beginning Thursday morning, June 21, 2012, the longest day of the year, members and friends of the Augustana Heritage Association will gather on the campus of Gustavus Adolphus College in St. Peter, Minnesota, for the first day of a four-day weekend to "celebrate the heritage" and to "promote the legacy" of what so many of us fondly remember as the Augustana Lutheran Church.

The first event of the day, for those who sign up in advance for it,

will be a chartered bus trip from St. Peter to Vasa, near Red Wing, the birthplace of Gustavus Adolphus College 150 years ago this year. Participants will visit the Vasa Lutheran Center and Museum, Vasa Lutheran Church, and the Vasa Children's Home, currently a Lutheran Social Services of Minnesota site.

Returning to St. Peter, Gathering attendees who have signed up to sing in the Gathering Choir will have their first rehearsal of the weekend, followed by dinner and the highlight of the opening day, an evening with Garrison Keillor, the well-known host of Minnesota Public Radio's *Prairie Home Companion*. Tickets for the evening are included in the registration fee for the

weekend. Single tickets at \$25, for those not attending the full weekend, may be purchased through the college. Proceeds from the evening will go to the Endowment Fund of the Jenny Lind Chapel in Andover, Illinois, the "cradle" of the Augustana Lutheran Church.

Other events for this final "traditional" Gathering are noted elsewhere in this newsletter. They include three worship services, five plenary sessions, over 20 interest groups, three hymn sings, more meals and coffee breaks than any of us really need, and one important business meeting.

A distinctive feature of this year's Gathering will be a "Commuter Day" on Saturday, June 23. All former Augustana congregations in Minnesota, eastern South Dakota and western Wisconsin (the territory of the former Minnesota Conference of the Augustana Lutheran Church) have received special invitations to attend the Gathering on Saturday and to participate in that day's events without needing to stay overnight. Of course, they all are welcome to stay overnight and attend the entire Gathering, but the Local Planning Committee felt that this would be a good way to increase our attendance by providing opportunity for those who, for whatever reason, were unable to attend the entire Gathering to attend at least one day of it.

At the AHA business meeting at 4 pm on Saturday, June 23, reports will be received from the president, the executive director, the treasurer and the Board of Directors. Included in the latter report will be recommendations in response to the charge given the Board by the 2010 AHA Business Meeting that, during the current biennium, ways be explored to "continue the mission of AHA." That report will be based on the work of the Future Committee, a summary of which appears elsewhere in this newsletter. Pending its acceptance, elections to the Board will be conducted.

June 21-24 will be, indeed, exciting days at Gustavus Adolphus. Plan now to attend. I hope to see you there.

## Remember to bring "Songs of Two Homelands" to St. Peter

All who are planning to attend Gathering VIII are urged to bring their copies of *Songs of Two Homelands* to St. Peter. We'll be using this "red book" at worship and in hymn sings to be led by Jack Swanson. If you don't have a copy or need more, you can buy them at the Gathering for \$10. This book also makes a fine gift for family and friends.

You may also order *Songs of Two Homelands* from

the AHA office for \$10, including postage and handling. See the back page for details. First published by the Augustana Heritage Association in 2000, this 146 page collection of hymns and liturgy from the tradition of the Augustana Lutheran Church is in its second edition. Ronald T. Englund, the late Glenn C. Stone and Jack O. Swanson edited the worship book.



# Welcome from Gustavus Adolphus College President Jack R. Ohle

Greetings Augustana Heritage Association Members,

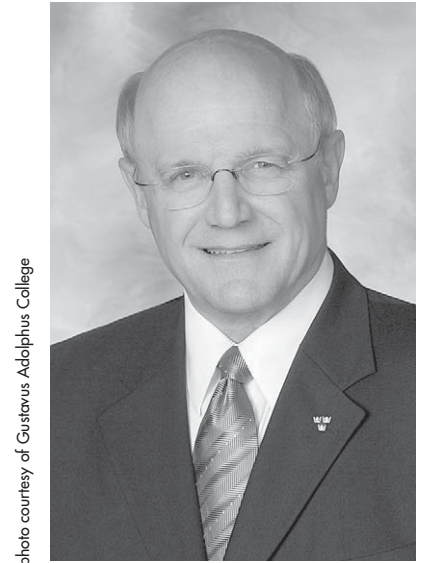
As Gustavus Adolphus College celebrate its 150th academic year, our Sesquicentennial, we believe it is an appropriate time to reflect on our past, celebrate this time in our institution's journey, and engage with others to evolve into a bright future.

Having a gathering of the Augustana Heritage Association on the Gustavus campus this June is an important link to our roots. Our Swedish Lutheran heritage provides a strong foundation for Gustavus. In fact, many institutions and congregations are still beneficiaries of the hard work and visioning of so many people involved in the Augustana Synod.

The local planning committee and the AHA Board have been busy planning a full and enriching schedule of learning sessions and worship. In addition, there is ample time for you to explore the Gustavus campus and to renew or deepen relationships with others gathered.

We look forward to seeing you in June at Gustavus.

Sincerely,  
Jack R. Ohle  
President



Jack R. Ohle

## Gustavus Adolphus, founded 150 years ago, continues to stress leadership and service

In 1862, Eric Norelius and other Swedish immigrant leaders in Minnesota identified a need in their communities: to live out the Swedish ideals of educating the general populace and teaching Christian principles. These leaders from the Augustana Synod knew they needed a school in Minnesota to train others to be leaders and to serve their communities.

At the dedication of the new "Main" building in St. Peter in 1876, Norelius, who had founded the school in Red Wing, imagined the future for Gustavus Adolphus College: "I know the spirit of the people that [are] interested in it, and I cannot doubt that they will stick to it, love and encourage it, and make it a power of good."

In 150 years, Gustavus has evolved into a highly selective, private, coeducational, residential liberal arts college now affiliated with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA). The college strives to prepare students for fulfilling lives of leadership and service and is guided by five core values: community, excellence, faith, justice, and service.

Since its beginnings, it has been important to build and maintain a strong academic program. Students enjoy small class sizes and close collaborations with faculty, which help to ensure that over 80 percent of students graduate in four years. The showcase of



GA students and staff in front of Old Main in 1886.

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# Thriving Scandinavian Studies program at Gustavus evolves from college's history

In the Gustavus Adolphus College catalogue from 1877, the Conditions of Admission state that the applicant “must be able to read with tolerable facility in both languages (English and Swedish) to enter either of regular courses. Those who do not understand Swedish may be received as special students, selecting any studies they are qualified to pursue profitably under the direction and advice of faculty.”

Gustavus, of course, evolved from these early days and eventually Swedish was no longer a required course nor the dominate language spoken and written on campus. That evolution eventually led to the creation of the Scandinavian studies program at Gustavus in 1971. The program was firmly rooted in the Swedish heritage of the college, yet intentionally inclusive of the other Nordic countries. The Scandinavian Studies Department since its inception has included advanced language studies, literature, history, and culture.

Roland Thorstensson, faculty emeritus and founding member of the Scandinavian studies program, says the mission of the Scandinavian Studies Department is to “present a modern approach to the academic field of Scandinavian studies, to explain what is happening in the Nordic countries today, and to show perspectives from the rest of the world.”

Gustavus offers a major and minor in Scandinavian studies. Although it is not required, the department encourages students to study abroad in one of the Nordic countries to deepen their understanding of the language and culture. Nearly all Scandinavian studies majors and many other students simply interested in a Nordic country will spend at least a semester studying abroad.

Gustavus currently has exchange programs in Sweden with the University of Uppsala, the Mora Folk High School, and the Linnaeus University in Växjö. Close connections exist with the folk high school in Jönköping. In addition, a Gustavus faculty member leads a semester in Sweden, a course that takes students from northern to southern Sweden over the course of the semester. Study opportunities can be arranged in Denmark, Finland, Iceland, or Norway for students interested in those countries, with courses taught in English and a Nordic language. For students not able to study away for a semester, a course is frequently offered for the January Interim period.

Many students, including senior Steve Olson, are drawn to the Scandinavian Studies Department for the opportunity to learn about their own heritage. He explains, “I have Swedish heritage, so any time I am given the opportunity to discover where I am from, or

about my origins and ancestors, I am always interested in that...It's kind of cool to speak the language of my ancestors...[The department] has provided me a way to look back into the past and discover not just that I'm from Minnesota, but also that my ancestors are from a whole other part of the world. That's also why I'm a history major. I always want to know what happened before, why are we here now, what makes us who we are now.”

The department is closely linked to the Barbro Osher Swedish House, an intentional campus living community focused on Scandinavia. This campus house is the hub of social activities for those interested in Scandinavian culture and language.

The Scandinavian Studies Department has several programs designed to reach the campus community. The *Out of Scandinavia* program brings well-known Nordic artists to campus to spend several days in residence, teaching in classes and speaking on campus. In May, the college is pleased to welcome award-winning Swedish novelist and playwright Jonas Hassen Khemiri as our artist in residence.

Khemiri's visit coincides with the college's 2012 MAYDAY! Peace Conference on “Multicultural Sweden.” The Conference is free and open to the public. It will be held on Wednesday, May 2, and will feature a full day's worth of speakers and activities.

At Gustavus, the Scandinavia Studies Department is one way the college keeps ties with its Swedish heritage and provides a link to these vibrant and evolving countries and cultures.

photo courtesy of Gustavus Adolphus College



Gustavus library with Swedish flag on wall.



# Linnaeus Arboretum, a source of pride for Gustavus

Gustavus Adolphus College is proud to be home of the Linnaeus Arboretum. The arboretum is designed to provide an environment to educate the mind, revive the spirit, exercise the heart, and delight in Minnesota's natural history. The 125-acre arboretum comprises formal gardens and restored natural areas including tall-grass prairie, two restored wetland ponds, coniferous forests, deciduous woods, and a new 70-acre coneflower prairie. The arboretum is named for Carl Linnaeus (1707–1778), a Swedish botanist who devised the binomial nomenclature system (Latin genus and species) we use today. The Linnaeus Arboretum was established in 1973 with the planting of tree seedlings on what had previously been agricultural land. The three major natural ecosystems found in Minnesota are represented in the arboretum, including the northern conifer forests, prairies of the south and west, and deciduous forests from central Minnesota.

The idea for an arboretum was initiated in 1972 when President Barth asked Charles Mason, professor of biology and future arboretum director, for trees to plant around the president's house. The first trees of the arboretum were planted by volunteers in 1973.

In 1986 a cabin was moved to the arboretum from the nearby town of Norseland. This Borgeson Cabin was home to a Swedish immigrant family and is a wonderful example of traditional construction with dove-tailed joints typical of buildings constructed over 130 years ago. The following year, in 1987, the Melva Lind Interpretive Center was completed to house the arboretum staff, interpretive educational exhibits, and a meeting and event space.

There are over one hundred different species of trees and shrubs represented throughout the arboretum and over 150 species of birds have been sighted. Many local school groups visit each year. Gustavus students, as well as St. Peter residents, use the arboretum as a place to go for a walk or to cross country ski on more than two miles of marked trails.

During the AHA Gathering VIII, at Gustavus, take time to explore the Linnaeus Arboretum.

photo courtesy of Gustavus Adolphus College



**David and Delores Johnson Waterfall Garden at the Arboretum.**

photo courtesy of Gustavus Adolphus College



**Borgeson family cabin, built in 1866 by Swedish pioneers in nearby Norseland, moved to Arboretum and restored.**

photo courtesy of Gustavus Adolphus College



**A quiet place at the Arboretum to sit on glacial boulders and observe the prairie. Named in honor of the founder of GA's geology department, Chester Johnson, and his wife, Marian.**

# Mezzo-soprano Josefine Andersson to give Jenny Lind concert at Gathering VIII

Mezzo-soprano Josefine Andersson will give a Swedish Jenny Lind Scholarship concert at 7 pm on Saturday, June 23, at Christ Chapel, Gustavus Adolphus College, during the AHA Gathering VIII in St. Peter.

Josefine is completing her final year at the Opera Academy in Copenhagen. She received her bachelor's degree at the Royal Danish Academy of Music in 2009. Earlier she had studied at various music schools in her homeland, Sweden.

Her accompanist will be Nigar Dadascheva, a piano student from the Royal College of Music in Stockholm. Born in Baku, Azerbaijan, she has lived in Sweden for the past ten years.

Since 1965, *Folkets Hus och Parker* (People's Park and Community Center) and the Swedish Royal Academy of Music and in Stockholm have awarded an annual Swedish Jenny Lind Scholarship to a young female singer. The winner receives a cash award plus a concert tour of Sweden and North America. Inspired by the annual Barnum Festival in Bridgeport, Connecticut, where a Jenny Lind scholarship is awarded, the winner of the Swedish scholarship makes a tour in North America that ends at the Barnum Festival.



Nigar Dadascheva

Swedish opera singer Jenny Lind (1820-1887), known as the "Swedish Nightingale," toured the United States in 1850-51 by invitation from the impresario and circus manager, P.T. Barnum. She gave generously to churches and charities, including a gift to Lars Paul Esbjörn for the Jenny Lind Chapel in Andover, Illinois, the "mother church" of the Augustana Synod.

Admission to the concert is free, but an offering will be received to support the historic Jenny Lind Chapel in Andover, Illinois. Your generous gifts are welcome.



Josefine Andersson

## New devotional book by Herb and Corrine Chilstrom will be a gift to all registered at Gathering VIII

All who attend AHA Gathering VIII in St. Peter will receive a wonderful special gift, a copy of *Every Morning New*, the new devotional book by Herbert W. Chilstrom and E. Corrine Chilstrom. This book, which makes its debut at the Gathering, includes an entry for each day, with a suggested daily Bible reading. The Augustana Heritage Association is joining with Huff Publishing to produce this daily devotional guide based on experiences from the lives of the Chilstroms. Both Herb and Corrine are ELCA pastors.

While all registered in the St. Peter Gathering will

receive a free copy, additional copies will be available for \$12 each. Here is an opportunity to share this book with family and friends. After the Gathering, *Every Morning New* will be available by mail order from the AHA Office in Chicago for \$12, which includes postage and handling.

Herb Chilstrom, who was the first presiding bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, explains about this devotional guide in the Foreword:

"More than 30 years ago I started rising early for a morning walk. At first I did it to maintain good health. I soon discovered, however, that those early dawn treks



were also good for my soul. Among other things, I memorized several morning hymns that became my dawn-light liturgy. Among them was *Again Thy Glorious Sun Doth Rise* from the pen of the prolific nineteenth century Swedish hymn writer Johan Olaf Wallin.

"After I retired, my wife Corinne and my dog 'Jonah' joined me on these daily excursions. When Corinne agreed to co-author this volume, we pondered over an appropriate title. It came to us on one of those morning walks that the last phrase of Wallin's hymn had the right words: *...thy bounteous grace is every morning new.*

One of the blessings we reaped from our efforts has been to bring to memory many who have touched our lives, both directly and indirectly. What they have in common, whether they are well-known or ordinary, is that each fulfilled in a very natural way the calling God gave them. We hope that as you read you will call to memory many who have been a blessing in your life as well.

"While there are a few instances where the writing for a particular day relates to those that precede and follow, in most every case each day stands by itself. Because some seasons of the year – Lent, Easter and Pentecost, for example – are 'moveable' on the calendar, we refer to those times only in general. When the date is 'fixed' – New Year, Epiphany and Christmas, for example – we write for that day.

"We have also included reflections for 'Commemoration Days.' These are the dates when the church remembers outstanding believers who have influenced the world by their unusual lives. We are indebted to our long-time acquaintance, Dr. Philip H. Pfatteicher, for his book, *Festivals and Commemorations* which has aided us for these particular days.

"We have included no prayers with these writings. There are several options: Given its completeness, simply using the Lord's Prayer is appropriate.

"Others may want to use 'Conversational Prayer,' speaking informally to God and employing the suggested pattern of Praise, Confession, Thanksgiving and Intercession. Keeping a prayer list is helpful.

"One might also use the prayers from Evangelical Lutheran Worship (ELW) on a daily basis:

Morning:

*Almighty and merciful God, you have brought us in safety to this new day. Preserve us with your mighty power, that we may not fall into sin nor be overcome by adversity. In all we do, direct us to the fulfillment of your purpose; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

Evening:

*We give thanks to you, heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ your dear Son, that you have graciously protected us today. We ask you to forgive us all our sins, where we have done wrong, and graciously to protect us tonight. For into your hands we commend ourselves: our bodies, our souls and all that is ours. Let your holy angels be with us, so that the wicked foe may have no power over us. Amen.*

"Readers will note that we have attached our initials at the top of each day's writing – 'ecc' for Corinne and 'hwc' for Herbert.

"We are grateful to the Augustana Heritage Association (AHA) for sponsoring this book, to Dr. Arland Hultgren for editing the text and to William Huff, publisher, for his assistance in bringing our efforts to completion.

"Finally, we offer these writings in the hope that every reader will be drawn into the stories we have shared, seeing yourself in the lives of others. Above all, we pray that the words of Scripture will be a daily source for insight, inspiration and encouragement."

## AHA business meeting set for June 23, during St. Peter Gathering

All members of the Augustana Heritage Association are invited to the business meeting at Christ Chapel, Gustavus Adolphus College, at 4 pm on Saturday, June 23, 2012, during Gathering VIII. The highlight of the meeting will be receiving the official report of the Future Committee and acting on its recommendations.

If the board of directors and the AHA approve the

Future Committee's recommendations, six people will be elected to the board. The meeting will receive reports from the president, executive director and treasurer.

Don Sjoborg, AHA president, will chair the meeting. See Pages 1 and 3 for information about the Future Committee's report.

# More on the Swede-Finns of Augustana

## Readers respond to report on an Augustana minority

by Dale R. Skogman

My article on Augustana congregations with Swede-Finn roots published in the Spring 2011 issue of the *Augustana Heritage Newsletter* elicited a surprising number of responses. Many readers were grateful to be enlightened as to the origin of the designation “Swede-Finn” while others were eager to suggest additional Augustana congregations that were established by Swede-Finns, or had significant numbers of them in their membership. Acknowledging that these additions will be neither all-inclusive nor accurate, here are some additional congregations with concentrations of Swede-Finns:

Bethel, Cedarville, Michigan  
Sharon, Bessemer, Michigan  
Sion (then Grace), Ironwood, Michigan  
Bethel, Jersey City, New Jersey  
Pilgrim, Bronx, New York  
Swedish, Harlem (later Trinity, Bronx), New York  
Swedish-Finnish, Olympia, Washington  
Swedish-Finnish, Rochester, Washington  
Emmaus, Seattle, Washington  
Ebenezer, Lake Stevens, Washington  
Bethesda, Cedardale, Washington (now Salem, Mt. Vernon, Washington)  
Bethlehem, Merrill, Wisconsin  
Trinity, Unity, Wisconsin  
Bethania (now First), Ogema, Wisconsin  
Bethlehem (now First), Prentice, Wisconsin  
Bethesda, Ashland, Wisconsin

Readers of the newsletter were also eager to identify some of the Augustana pastors who were of Swede-Finn background, and the following list is not all-inclusive and may not be totally accurate: Frans E.W. Kastman, ordained 1910; Carl J. Silfversten, 1909 (editor of *Sändebudet*, a Swede-Finn Lutheran monthly); J. A. Warmanen, 1908; John Gullans, 1902; Gustaf Oberg, 1908; Johannes Nystrom, 1913.

Special commendation is offered to the following for their assistance in identifying Swede-Finn congregations and clergy: Pastor Bob Sutherland, retired, of Negaunee, Michigan; The Swedish-Finn Historical Society, Seattle, Washington; and The Swenson Center for Immigration Research, Rock Island, Illinois.

*The Rev. Dr. Dale R. Skogman of Gladstone, Michigan, is Bishop Emeritus of the Northern Great Lakes Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. He is a member of the Board of Directors of the Augustana Heritage Association.*

### Editor's comments on the Swede-Finns

by Ronald T. Englund

In my comments following Dale Skogman's article on Swede-Finns in the Spring 2011 issue of the newsletter, I told of my experiences as a newly-ordained pastor at Bethany, Jersey City, New Jersey, an Augustana congregation that had recently been formed by the merger of Swedish and Swedish-Finnish congregations. I'm grateful to Dale Skogman for this second article, and I want to add further thoughts about this minority group in Augustana that was Swedish-speaking but Finnish in nationality.

There are variations to the English translation of *finlandssvensk*, the name that the Swedish-speaking minority in Finland call themselves. We're using “Swede-Finns” in this article, but some speak of “Finn-Swedes” or “Swedish Finns” or “Finland-Swedes” or simply “Swedish-speaking Finns.” The earlier article on Swede-Finns, from the Spring 2011 issue of the AHA newsletter,

is now in the archives of The Swedish Finn Historical Society, based in Seattle, Washington. Some suggest that speaking of “Swedish-speaking Finns” suggests language only, and not a special cultural identity.

Several readers shared additional information about the Swede-Finns in Augustana. Don and Syrene Forsman of Seattle, Washington, pointed out



photo courtesy of ELCA Archives

**Carl J. Silfversten, born in Närpe, Vasa, Finland, and ordained by Augustana in 1909. He was editor of *Sändebudet*, a Swede-Finn Lutheran monthly.**

that Emmaus Lutheran of Seattle should be included in our list of congregations. They also noted that “most of the Swedish Finns emigrated from the Vasa Province on mainland Finland. The number of emigrants from that province is greater than the next two provinces com-

photo courtesy of ELCA Archives



**Bethany Lutheran Church and parsonage, Ogema, Wisconsin, in 1907.**

bined. Åland islanders tended to return, since they had been migratory for at least 300 years.” This was my experience at Bethany Lutheran, Jersey City, New Jersey, with members from Åland returning to these islands every few years. Many returned from Jersey City when they retired.

Louise Eklund Anderson of Lakeville, Minnesota, who was a teenager at Bethany when I served there, reminisced about how she, from a Swede-Finn family, was told not to sit on the “Swedish side” of the church during Sunday services. She also recalls that her father, Erik Alfred Eklund, used to say he was born in Russia. She thought he was making a sort of joke, until she read in the *Augustana Heritage Newsletter* that when her father was born, Finland was part of Russia.

The Rev. John E. Halborg, who was ordained by the Augustana Lutheran Church in 1954 but became a Roman Catholic priest in the Archdiocese of New York in 1978, once served a Swede-Finn congregation, Pilgrim Lutheran Church in the Bronx, New York. He responded to our story on Augustana’s Swede-Finns by pointing out that a group of Swede-Finns had settled in Harlem but their pastor, John Gullans, serving there in the 1920s, thought that the ideal location for a Swede-Finn church was in the South Bronx. Clair Johnson, ordained 1956 with a call to Pilgrim, served there until 1958, when he joined the faculty at Gustavus Adolphus College. During his ministry with the Swede-Finns in the South Bronx, John Halborg recalls that Clair was an unofficial “chaplain to the New York Yankees.” (Editor’s

note: Maybe that’s why Clair said to me with a twinkle in his eye, “Ronald, rooting for the Yankees is like rooting for God. Ultimately you can’t lose.”)

John Halborg claims that John Gullans was “one of the most interesting pastors in the Augustana Synod.” He was once fired for including an ad for a liquor store in an historical brochure of Pilgrim Church. Born in Övermark, Finland, in 1870, he served Swede-Finn congregations in Seattle and Everett, Washington; Worcester, Massachusetts; Brooklyn, New York, as well as the Bronx. He had attended both Upsala College and Augustana College before entering Augustana Seminary.

## **Crazy Swedes & Other Wonderful Loons**

Finally, I share with you part of a chapter on Swede-Finns from *Crazy Swedes & Other Wonderful Loons* by the late Bertil E. Anderson, published in 1990 by Fairway Press, Lima, Ohio. A long-time friend, Bertil followed me as pastor of Bethany Lutheran in Jersey City. In the 47 delightful short stories in this 117-page book, he tells about the congregation, which included a number of African-Americans when he became pastor. Here is part of Chapter 36, “A merger not made in heaven”:

“Merging two congregations is never an easy accomplishment. This is particularly true when it involves economic necessity. After all, who wants to admit that he can’t make it on his own? Individuals don’t want to admit it and neither do congregations.

“By the time I arrived in Jersey City, the merger which had eventuated in the formation of Bethany Lutheran Church was already history. By now both

photo courtesy of ELCA Archives



**Chancel, Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Merrill, Wisconsin, in the 1940s.**

groups had melded into a singularity of solid friendship. The prospects for the future were reasonably bright. But that was not how things were when the shotgun merger was first proposed by the hierarchy of the Augustana Lutheran Church.

“The members of Ebenezer Lutheran Church were the Swedes. They were the real stuff, Swedes who had



come from Sweden. In contrast there were the members of Bethel Lutheran Church. They were the Swede-Finns. They had come from Finland but their families had

originated in Sweden and therefore they spoke Swedish rather than Finnish.

"Now to a non-Scandinavian none of this means anything of importance. Here are two groups which both speak the same language in Europe and now in the United States. They are both learning to speak English. Merging two congregations of such similar backgrounds ought to be a simple matter. Wrong! To the

most stubborn on each side, a merger with a Chinese congregation might have been easier. After all, neither Sweden nor Finland had ever been at war with China, but they had been at war with each other.

(Some paragraphs of the history of Sweden and Finland are omitted here as they were covered in the first article by Dale Skogman.)

"What has all this to do with merging Ebenezer and Bethel congregations to form Bethany Lutheran Church? It has a lot to do with the trepidation with which the two groups approached each other.

"The Swedes who came to this country at the turn of the century were, for the most part, dirt poor. But they always had the Finns to look down on as being even poorer. In this country they were all going to become fabulously rich. The Finns, including the Swede-Finns, who came to this country were also going to become fabulously rich. And the Swede-Finns would show the Swedes that the king of Sweden had in fact abandoned the cream of Swedish citizenry when he left Finland to the Russians.

"But here were two congregations and neither of them was fabulously rich. The name Ebenezer refers to a stone erected to commemorate a fabulous victory.

But Ebenezer's stones were about to crumble before the progress of a housing development that had laid claim to their land. The name Bethel means 'house of God.' But the Swede-Finns had never had a house of God of their own. They had shared a church building with a congregation of Finn-Finns. Neither Ebenezer nor Bethel had its pride intact as they entered into negotiations with each other. A neutral neighboring congregation was picked as the site where the two bands of poor but pious Lutherans would meet to consider the possibility of becoming a single parish. Each group came with serious misgivings about the other. At one point one of the Swedes got up and accused, 'I understand that some of the Swede-Finns don't believe in God!' Immediately, one of the Swede-Finns jumped up and shouted, "Like hell we don't!" With that he hit the Swede and promptly received a return bop on the snoot. Out of this exchange of mutual disrespect was born the congregation which was to be my first charge.

"Well, that's the story I had heard as a seminarian. Frankly, I didn't believe it. Karl Mattson had told me the

story. He knew more crazy Swede stories than I did. After I had been there as pastor for quite a few years, I was bringing Holy Communion to one of the elderly Swede-Finn members of my congregation. I told her the story merely to amuse her. She was not amused! 'That was my husband who hit the Swede!' she solemnly informed me.

"How strange that the story should prove to be true. For I do not know of any congregation that can match Bethany Lutheran

Church of Jersey City as a place where people of all kinds of backgrounds meet in greater harmony, love and mutual respect. Apparently, this was one shotgun wedding where the offspring proved the wisdom of the marriage."

Bethany Lutheran in Jersey City was a wonderful congregation to serve. Both Bertil Anderson and I were ordained on calls to Bethany. Through the years Ruth and I spent many happy hours with Bertil and his wife, Helen, reminiscing about Bethany, a merger of Swedes and Swede-Finns that reached out in wonderful and creative ways to welcome and serve its community.



**Postcard of Grace (Sion) Lutheran Church, Ironwood, Michigan, in the 1920s.**



**Frans E.W. Kastman, born in Övermark, Finland, and ordained by Augustana in 1910.**

# Mosaic seeks stories of Bethphage Mission for centennial celebration history book

Many with roots in the Augustana Lutheran Church have fond memories of Bethphage Mission, founded on February 19, 1913, in Axtell, Nebraska, by the Rev. Kjäll Gustaf William Dahl (1883-1917). Mosaic, formed in 2003 when Bethphage and Martin Luther Homes joined together, is preparing a commemorative history book for next year's 100th anniversary celebration.

Through the years, thousands of people have visited, worked or volunteered at Bethphage. Many more have supported this ministry to people with intellectual and developmental disabilities with their gifts. Some of us fondly remember our years as Sunday School children annually collecting funds for Bethphage through dime books and coin banks.

From its humble beginnings in Axtell, led by Pastor K. G. William Dahl, Bethphage grew, moving its headquarters to Omaha and developing programs throughout the United States and in other countries.

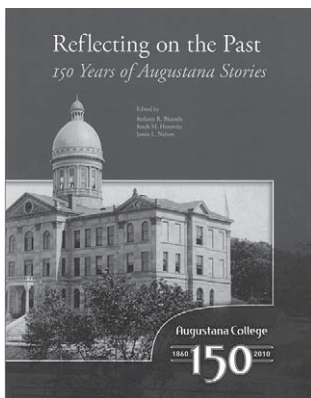
AHA members and friends are invited to share with Mosaic photos, stories and memorabilia about

Bethphage. If you have a story or memory you'd like to share, please contact Brenda Solomon at Mosaic via e-mail at [Brenda.Solomon@mosaicinfo.org](mailto:Brenda.Solomon@mosaicinfo.org) or by phoning 877-366-7242. Photos and other memorabilia may be sent to: Brenda Solomon, Mosaic, 4980 S. 118th St., Omaha, NE 68137. Photos can be scanned and returned to you, at your request. The deadline for sending items is June 2, 2012. Stories, photos and memorabilia from the Martin Luther Homes are also welcome.

Mosaic now comprises 35 agencies in ten states, serving more than 3,600 people. Internationally, Mosaic works with partners to create local programs to serve people with disabilities. The most recent project, with the Northern Diocese of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania, serves children with disabilities while also creating job opportunities for women.

Mosaic, founded by the Augustana Lutheran Church, is now a Lutheran social ministry organization affiliated with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

# Unusual history of Augustana College features stories of faculty members and events



*Reflecting on the Past – 150 Years of Augustana Stories* is a nontraditional view of Augustana College published by the college in celebration of its sesquicentennial in 2010. Three Augustana librarians compiled this attractive collection of anecdotes and pictures that remember key moments and people in the college's history. The editors are Stefanie R. Bluemle, Sarah M. Horowitz

and Jamie L. Nelson.

Included are 60 noteworthy stories, including biographies of faculty members, retellings of memorable events and snapshots of campus life through the years. The stories range from "Swedish Royal Visits to Augustana College and Western Illinois" to "Help! Police! Isn't this Wonderful? The Augustana Panty Raid."

Jamie Nelson, one of the editors, believes that the

most difficult part of doing research for the book was to choose the stories to include. "We wanted to find stories that were unique to Augustana, but also illustrated Augustana's involvement in national and global events," she said. Sarah Horowitz, another editor, felt that working on the project broadened her understanding of the college and its connection with the Quad Cities. She noted that "The past always shapes the present. Local and community history bind people together, keep traditions alive and build bridges across generations."

In thanking the editors and all who worked on this unusual history, Steven C. Bahls, Augustana's president, called the book a "vast mosaic depicting an institution that has successfully and effectively maintained its vibrancy and vitality for 150 years," adding that "I am very grateful for this book, which deserves to be reckoned as an unparalleled resource in understanding the history of this exceptional college."

Copies of *Reflecting on the Past – 150 Years of Augustana Stories* are available at the Augustana Bookstore for \$17.50 plus \$8.00 if they are shipped. Phone 309-794-7541 to order or for more information.



# "A Living Legacy"

**Gathering VIII—Gustavus Adolphus College  
Saint Peter, Minnesota  
Thursday, June 21 – Sunday, June 24, 2012**

## Tentative Schedule

### Thursday, June 21

- 8:00 – 3:00 Pre-Gathering Bus Tour to Vasa, MN
- 1:00 – 8:00 Registration – C. Jackson Campus Center, lower level
- 4:00 Choir rehearsal – Christ Chapel
- 5:30 Dinner – Evelyn Young Dining Room
- 7:30 "Life Among the Lutherans"  
led by Garrison Keillor – Christ Chapel
- 9:00 Reception – Beck Academic Hall

### Friday, June 22

- 7:30 – 8:30 Breakfast - Evelyn Young Dining Room
- 8:30 Opening Hymn Service – Christ Chapel
- 9:30 Plenary Session I – "The Church in Two Secular Cultures: Sweden and America"  
led by Bishop Antje Jackelen – Christ Chapel
- 10:30 Coffee break – Beck Academic Hall
- 11:00 Interest Groups I – Beck Academic Hall
- 12:15 Lunch (reunions at designated tables in Dining Room)
- 1:45 Plenary Session II – "Augustana: A Theological Tradition"  
led by Arland Hultgren, Harold Skillrud, Dale Skogman and Ted Swanson – Christ Chapel
- 2:45 Coffee break – Beck Academic Hall
- 3:15 Interest Groups II – Beck Academic Hall
- 4:30 Choir rehearsal – Christ Chapel
- 5:30 Swedish Smorgasbord - Evelyn Young Dining Room
- 7:00 Hymn Sing and Plenary III – "Global Missions Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow"  
led by Rafael Malpica Padilla – Christ Chapel
- 8:30 Reception – Beck Academic Hall

### Saturday, June 23

- 7:30–8:30 Breakfast- Evelyn Young Dining Room
- 8:45 Hymn Sing – Christ Chapel
- 9:30 Interest Group Sessions III – Beck Academic Hall
- 10:30 Coffee break – Beck Academic Hall
- 10:00–11:00 Commuters arrive and register – Jackson Campus Center
- 11:00 Festival Communion Worship,  
with Bishop Antje Jackelen presiding– Christ Chapel
- 12:30 Buffet lunch – Evelyn Young Dining Room (reunions at designated tables)
- 2:00 Plenary IV– "Augustana in American Church History"  
led by Professor James Bratt – Christ Chapel
- 3:00 Coffee break –Beck Academic Hall
- 3:00 Commuter participants optional tours (campus, Granlund)
- 3:15 Choir rehearsal – Christ Chapel
- 4:00 AHA official meeting – Christ Chapel
- 5:30 Dinner – Evelyn Young Dining Room
- 7:00 Jenny Lind Concert – Christ Chapel  
Josefine Andersson, mezzo-soprano;  
Nigar Dadascheva, piano
- 8:30 Reception – Beck Academic Hall

### Sunday, June 24

- 7:30 – 8:30 Breakfast - Evelyn Young Dining Room
- 8:45 Hymn Sing – Christ Chapel
- 9:00 Plenary Session V – "The Future of the ELCA",  
an open forum with David Swartling, Secretary of the ELCA and others – Christ Chapel
- 10:00 Coffee break (back of Chapel)
- 10:30 Closing Communion Worship – Christ Chapel
- 12:00 Lunch – Evelyn Young Dining Room

### Points of Interest Along the Way

As you travel to and from the Augustana Heritage Association Gathering, there are a number of interesting historical sites along the way to St. Peter. We invite you to build some time into your schedule to include these stops. More information about these stops can be found on our website and in the confirmation packet you will receive after you register.

The Local Planning Committee has planned a pre-Gathering bus tour to Vasa, Minnesota (near Red Wing) on Thursday, June 21, from 7:45 am to 3 pm. Cost of tour, which includes lunch, is \$40 per person. Vasa was the birthplace of Gustavus Adolphus College in 1862 founded by Rev. Eric Norelius. We will tour the Vasa Children's Home (now a Lutheran Social

Service site), and Vasa Lutheran Center and Museum, and the Vasa Lutheran Church. This tour price includes the bus, a to-go breakfast on the bus, and lunch at Vasa. Please check the "Yes, I am interested" box on the registration form if you would like more information. You may also contact Amy Pehrson by e-mail or phone (see below) for reservations.

### Suggested Off-Campus Housing Accommodations

AmericInn Hotel and Suite St. Peter - 507-931-6554  
Best Western, Mankato - 507-625-9333  
Country Inn and Suites, Mankato - 507-388-8555  
Microtel Inn and Suites, Mankato - 507-388-2818  
(Mankato is 10 miles south of St. Peter)

When making reservations, please mention that you are with the Augustana Heritage Association gathering at Gustavus. The AHA blocks of rooms will be held until May 15, 2012. After that date, availability cannot be guaranteed. Please reserve soon.

### Questions, comments or concerns

If you have questions regarding Gathering 2012, please contact one of the Gathering Coordinators, Marie Benson (507-931-2584 or stanb@hickorytech.net), or Terry Denley (507-934-4841 or denleys2@hotmail.com), or Amy Pehrson at Gustavus Adolphus College (507-933-7169 or apearson@gustavus.edu). The AHA website has full information about Gathering VII: [www.augustanaheritage.org](http://www.augustanaheritage.org)





Augustana  
Heritage  
Association

***"A Living Legacy"***  
**Gathering VIII – Gustavus Adolphus College**  
**Saint Peter, Minnesota**  
**Thursday, June 21 – Sunday, June 24, 2012**

**Registration for the Gathering**

The registration fee of \$205 includes all plenary and small group sessions, campus meals, coffee breaks and Gathering program costs Thursday evening through Sunday lunch. **This price will be honored for registrations postmarked or submitted by May 5, 2012, after this date registration cost will be \$220.** The registration fee does not include lodging. If you wish to stay in a college residence hall, please complete the shaded on-campus housing box on the back of this sheet. If you choose to stay off campus, you must make your own arrangements. A listing of area motels is included with this packet. Payment for registration (and housing if desired) must accompany this registration if mailed to us, otherwise please register online at [www.gustavus.edu/aha](http://www.gustavus.edu/aha) (an additional charge will apply).

***Please be sure to bring your copy of "Songs of Two Homelands"***

**Registrant #1:**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: (     ) \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail address: \_\_\_\_\_

**Registrant #2: (Roommate)**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: (     ) \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail address: \_\_\_\_\_

**☐ Gathering Choir:**

Yes, I (we) shall sing in the Gathering Choir. Music will be sent in advance. Indicate the number of persons for each voice sections which apply:

\_\_\_\_\_ Soprano

\_\_\_\_\_ Alto

\_\_\_\_\_ Tenor

\_\_\_\_\_ Bass

**☐ Friday & Saturday Reunion Box Luncheons (please check appropriate box(es)):**

*(Note: Deadline for reunion requests is May 1)*

- ☐ Gustavus Adolphus College, St. Peter, class of \_\_\_\_\_ number attending: \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ Augustana College, Rock Island, class of \_\_\_\_\_ number attending: \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ Bethany College, Lindsborg, class of \_\_\_\_\_ number attending: \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ Luther Junior College, Wahoo, class of \_\_\_\_\_ number attending: \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ Upsala College, East Orange, class of \_\_\_\_\_ number attending: \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ Augustana Seminary, Rock Island, class of \_\_\_\_\_ number attending: \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ Missionary group, location(s) \_\_\_\_\_ number attending: \_\_\_\_\_

**☐ Gathering registration payment:**

*If postmarked by May 5, 2012 - \$205 per person*      Number of registrants \_\_\_\_\_ Total paid: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

*If postmarked after May 5, 2012 - \$220 per person*      Number of registrants \_\_\_\_\_ Total paid: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**☐ On-Campus housing: \$90 per person for the Gathering (Thursday – Saturday night)**

*The available halls are air-conditioned with most having suites with two single beds per room with a bath. There is one fee, \$90 per person, for the three nights (Thursday, Friday, and Saturday). Should a “single” room be desired, the fee will be \$180 per person for the three nights.*

Please select desired on-campus housing option:

\_\_\_\_\_ Double room, \$90 per person x 2 people = \$180

\_\_\_\_\_ Single room, \$180 per person x 1 person = \$180

**Please note: If you choose not to stay on campus, you must make your own hotel arrangements.**

**☐ Total enclosed: Payment enclosed by check or money order    Total enclosed: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ payable to Gustavus Adolphus College**

Refund policy:      Prior to May 1, 100% refund  
                         May 1 – May 31, 75% refund  
                         June 1 and after, no refund (except for medical circumstances  
                         which will be determined on a case-by-case basis)

If completing this form online and paying via credit card, please go to [www.gustavus.edu/servantleadership/aha](http://www.gustavus.edu/servantleadership/aha) and click on the Register button. Please be aware that an additional service charge of up to 3% will apply for paying with a credit card.

**☐ Pre-Gathering Bus Tour: Please check here if you are interested in receiving more information regarding a bus tour to Vasa on Thursday, June 21 (8:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.) There is also information and a registration form available on our website at [www.gustavus.edu/servantleadership/aha](http://www.gustavus.edu/servantleadership/aha).**

**Mail this registration form along with payment to:**

Augustana Heritage Association Gathering  
c/o Center for Servant Leadership  
Gustavus Adolphus College  
800 West College Avenue  
Saint Peter, MN 56082

*For questions regarding this registration, please contact Amy Pehrson  
at 507-933-7169 or via e-mail at [apehrson@gustavus.edu](mailto:apehrson@gustavus.edu)*

For office use only:	
Housing assignment _____	Date received _____
Housing payment received _____	Total amount received: _____
Choir _____	Check number: _____
Reunion lunch: _____	On-line number: _____

# Interest Groups at Gathering VIII in St. Peter

*These groups will meet during three interest group sessions planned during Gathering VIII at Gustavus Adolphus College. Full details on these groups will be available at registration on June 21.*

1. Eric Norelius – Pioneer pastor and founder of Gustavus Adolphus College  
*led by John Braun*
2. Vasa Children's home and Lutheran Social Services Background and tour of Vasa Childrens Home and the development of Lutheran Social Services.  
*led by Roy Harley*
3. History of Augustana Hymnody with singing, stories and discussion  
*led by Peter Lundholm and Ronald Englund, accompanied by Jack Swanson*
4. Contribution of Regina Holmen Fryxell and women of Augustana College.  
*led by Ann Boaden, using her book, Women of Augustana, assisted by Jack Swanson*
5. Edgar Carlson: pastor, teacher, theologian, college president, educator, father, grandfather, and friend. Reflections on his life and career.  
*led by his daughter, Joanna Carlson Swanson*
6. Richard Reusch: Volga German, Imperial Russian Cavalry Officer, Lutheran Pastor, Anti-Bolshevik, Leipzig and Augustana Missionary in East Africa, Mountaineer, Ethnographer, Builder, British Spy, Linguist, Historian, Honorary Maasai, Professor, Rural Minnesota Pastor  
*led by Dan Johnson, author of Loyalty, a biography of Reusch. The book will be available for purchase.*
7. George Hall and family: Professor, Missionary with a tragic family history.  
*led by his niece, Lolly Hall Kindschuh, and LeRoy Kindschuh*
8. Youngdahl Family: A governor of Minnesota, pastors, leaders in social justice.  
*led by Jim Anderson*
9. O. J. Johnson: President of Gustavus from 1913-1942.  
*led by grandson, Padre Johnson.of Cody, Wyoming*
10. Vikner-Gamelin Family: Professors and missionaries  
*led by David Vikner, Jr.*
11. Women of Augustana - Inez Rundstrom and her role with three Augustana-based colleges founded by the Augustana Church.  
*led by Elsa Cornell, based on research by Sharon Robinson (A continuation from Interest Group 4)*
12. I go to America: Swedish women and the life of Mina Anderson  
*led by Joy K. Lintelman, author of this book about Swedish immigrant women. She is a professor at Concordia College, Moorhead, Minnesota, and graduated from Gustavus Adolphus in 1980. Her book will be available for purchase.*
13. American Swedish Institute: At the End of a New Beginning. The American Swedish Institute opens a new cultural center in Minneapolis in June 2012, after 12 years of planning and 83 years after its founding.  
*led by Bruce Karstadt, CEO of the ASI*
14. Hillstrom Museum: An exhibit in honor of the Augustana Heritage Association will be on display during the Gathering in the Hillstrom Museum of Art on campus.  
*led by Donald Myers, director and senior curator, who will provide a gallery talk in the museum offering insights on this American and Swedish-American themed exhibition.*
15. Sculpture at Gustavus: from Gregory and Granlund to the Gustavus Adolphus Sesquicentennial  
*led by Ann Bruggemann, daughter of Don and Dolores Gregory; Greg Mueller, sculptor for the GA sesquicentennial. The presentation will include a "sculpture tour" of the campus.*
16. Resurrection Cemetery Historic cemetery used by settlers and by the former St. Peter State Hospital for their patients. Included will be a tour of the cemetery  
*led by Nita Aasen*
17. Augustana and Gustavus connections with present day Sweden including the Nobel Conference, Folke Bernadotte, Raoul Wallenberg, Linnaeus Arboretum.  
*led by Tom Young*
18. Travels with Linnaeus in Sami-land: a Power Point about a Semester in Sweden 2011.  
*led by Anders Bjorling, Roland Thorstensson, Eric Eliason*
19. More to the Story: the Legacy and Promise of Lutheran Pension and Benefit Plan  
*led by Lowell Almen*
20. Augustana's leadership in the LCA and ELCA Herbert Chilstrom, Reuben Swanson, David Vikner, George Lindbeck, Conrad Bergendorff, Wilton, Dolores and Lorraine Bergstrand, Carl Manfred  
*led by Craig Johnson*
21. Renewal Movements within the Augustana Church: The Lutheran Evangelistic Movement, the Lutheran Bible Institute, and the World Mission Prayer League.  
*led by Ray Kibler*
22. Augustana Synod and the Mission Covenant Church: Intersections and Interactions  
*led by Thomas Tredway, Dag Blanck and Philip J. Anderson*



# Points of Interest Along the Way

As you travel to and from the Augustana Heritage Association Gathering, there are a number of interesting historical sites along the way to St. Peter. The Gathering Planning Committee invites you to build some time into your schedule to include the Pre-Gathering Bus Tour and other stops.

## Pre-Gathering Bus Tour to Vasa on June 21

The Local Planning Committee is also offering a pre-Gathering bus tour to Vasa, Minnesota (near Red Wing). This was the birthplace of Gustavus Adolphus College in 1862 by Rev. Eric Norelius. We will tour the Vasa Children's Home (which is currently a Lutheran Social Service site), and Vasa Lutheran Center and Museum, and the Vasa Lutheran Church. This tour, which costs \$40 per person, includes the cost of the bus, a to-go breakfast on the bus, and lunch at Vasa. We will be loading the bus at 7:45 a.m. to leave at 8 a.m. on Thursday, June 21. Please check the "Yes, I am interested" box on the registration form if you would like more information. Note information at bottom of Page 14.

## St. Ansgar's Academy which was renamed Gustavus Adolphus College

In 1863, the school was relocated to Carver, Minnesota and named St. Ansgar's Academy where it remained until moving to the present location in 1876 and being renamed Gustavus Adolphus College. Two churches associated with the history at Carver are East Union Lutheran Church, found 3 ½ miles southwest of Carver

on County Road 40 and West Union Lutheran Church which is 5 miles west of the East Union church. The modified original building for St. Ansgar's Academy is across the road from East Union Lutheran Church. Carver is southwest of Minneapolis on Highway 212.

## Chisago County, an old Swedish community

*Unto a Good Land*, a title of one of the books by Vilhelm Moberg is based on research this Swedish author did in one of the oldest Swedish communities in Minnesota, Chisago County, located just north of the Twin Cities. In 1854 Erland Carlson founded the first Augustana churches at Scandia (Elim Lutheran Church) and Center City (Chisago Lakes Lutheran Church). They both will be celebrating 158 years since their founding with Midsommar Dag celebration at Scandia on June 23. Information about Scandia, the Gammelgarden Museum, and the Swedish heritage of this area can be found at [www.scandiamn.com](http://www.scandiamn.com).

## American Swedish Institute in Minneapolis

Another important stop would be the American Swedish Institute in Minneapolis. This is the largest and oldest museum of Swedish-American history and culture in the United States. The American Swedish Institute is located at 2600 Park Avenue, Minneapolis, Minnesota 55407. More information can be found at [www.americanswedishinst.org](http://www.americanswedishinst.org) or by calling 612-871-4907.

# Gathering Commuter Day set for Saturday, June 23

Saturday, June 23, will be a special Commuter Day when visitors may take part in Gathering VIII. The Commuter Day schedule begins with registration from 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. and ends at 3:30 p.m. The cost will be \$15 per person, which includes lunch. Day visitors will attend the 11 a.m. Festive Communion Worship, using the Augustana liturgy. Bishop Antje Jackelén of the Diocese of Lund, Church of Sweden, will preach. "Augustana

in American Church History" will be the theme of the Plenary Session at 2 p.m., led by Dr. James Bratt of Calvin College in Grand Rapids, Michigan.

You may register as individuals or as a group. For information, contact [apehrson@gustavus.edu](mailto:apehrson@gustavus.edu) or phone 507-933-7169. Deadline is June 15 to be included in lunch and coffee breaks.

# Gregory Aune to lead Gathering Choir

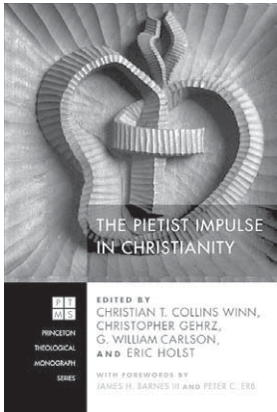
Singers of all levels of experience are invited to join the special Gathering VIII Choir which will rehearse at Christ Chapel at 4 p.m. on Thursday, June 21. The choir will sing at worship services during the Gathering. We are delighted that Gregory J. Aune, professor of music at Gustavus Adolphus and director of several choirs at the college, will be the Gathering's choir director. Professor

Aune has conducted the Gustavus Choir for 17 years. He also directs the college's Chamber Singers and St. Ansgar's Men's Chorus.

Please indicate on your registration form that you are interested in singing, as this will help in planning. Everyone is welcome.

## Book Review

# Pietism's strong influence in "old Augustana"



**The Pietist Impulse in Christianity**  
edited by  
**Christian T. Collins Winn**  
**Christopher Gehrz**  
**C. William Carlson**  
and **Eric Holst**

reviewed by **Vance L. Eckstrom**

Pietism had a very large influence in "old Augustana." Many

of the Swedish immigrants to America were pietists. The pioneer pastors, such as Lars Paul Esbjörn, T. N. Hasselquist, and Eric Norelius, were pietists. However, by the early 1930s things had changed. The Augustana Synod had shifted toward more confessional and traditional expressions of the faith. Today pietism may be best understood as an ethos or spirit widespread in American religious life, rather than as a specifically-named movement within the overall Christian church or various of its denominations. (However, see more about definition below.)

Despite its overall decline in influence, pietism has continued to be influential in some particular parts of the larger church. *The Pietist Impulse in Christianity* identifies such influence especially in the Evangelical Covenant Church, the Moravian Church, the various Brethren churches, and the Baptist General Conference. A particular locus for the pietism over the years has been Bethel College and Seminary in St. Paul, Minnesota (now Bethel University), an institution of the Baptist General Conference (that branch of the Baptist family denominated since 2008 as Converge Worldwide). In March 2009 Bethel University, with support from the Lilly Fellows Program, sponsored a conference on pietism. The present volume consists of twenty-nine presentations from that conference, essays collectively striving toward a more robust and more nuanced understanding of the pietist movement.

There has been in the last 60 years a striking upsurge of scholarship relating to the history and the ongoing influence of the pietism. That recent scholarship is vigorously represented in the heavily-footnoted pages of this book. It would be easy for readers of *The Augustana Heritage Newsletter* not to be much aware of this recent scholarship, since much of it has appeared in non-Lutheran journals, or in German-language publications. Among the numerous examples of such publishing would be the small, twice-a-year *Baptist Pietist Clarion*, or, on a much larger scale, the *Arbeiten zur Geschichte des Pietismus*, a monograph series

begun in 1967 and now up to more than 50 volumes.

Within the book here under review, of special interest to many Augustana-background readers would be the four-chapter section titled "Nineteenth- and Twentieth-Century Trans-Atlantic Scandinavian Pietism." Within that section, the chapter titled "Swedish Pietism and American Revivalism: Kindred Spirits in the Evangelical Free Tradition," by David M. Gustafson, explores the relationship between American pietism and Moody-type revivalism. Another chapter, "Faith Forms the Intellectual Task: The Pietist Option in Christian Higher Education," by Kurt W. Peterson and R.J. Snell, counters the widespread impression that pietism has had overall an inherent anti-intellectual bent, by describing the numerous institutions of higher education which have come out of that movement. (Veterans of old Augustana will know their favorite examples.) Many pietist-founded schools have long since moved away from their pietist origins. But some schools still think of themselves as embodying this tradition. In addition to the above-mentioned Bethel University, this book especially cites North Park University in Chicago.

Other chapters in this Scandinavian-American section include information not much known, even to those who have come out of the Swedish tradition. Some examples: Firstly, Paul Peter Waldenström, whose work led to the Mission Covenant movement in Sweden and America, was a politician as well as a churchman, and served for twenty years in the Swedish Riksdag, from 1885 to 1905, promoting many "liberal" causes. Secondly, female Swedish hymn writers, including the revered Lina Sandell, composed many hymns (seldom translated into English) which were heavy with "bride mysticism," drawing clearly on erotic overtones from the Old Testament book, Song of Solomon. And thirdly, many of the early pietists, especially in Germany, joined their non-pietist contemporaries in drawing inspiration from such mysticism-oriented movements as Rosicrucianism, hermeticism, and alchemy, movements of course all anathema to later pietists.

Returning now to the issue of how *pietism* should be defined: *The Pietist Impulse in Christianity* acknowledges that over the centuries pietists have regularly debated intensely among themselves over the proper definition of the term. The movement has frequently been honored as a second Reformation, correcting for the original Reformation's too-soon lapse into a sterile orthodoxy. But some scholars have defined pietism only in a narrower sense, limiting it to certain leaders and certain events in specific time periods. While others have utilized a broader definition, in which pietism is interpreted as including Puritanism, Wesleyanism,

revivalism, and evangelicalism.

So how then does this book define pietism? It describes three characteristics as lying at the heart of the pietist movement. These are a conversion-based close relationship with God as known through Jesus Christ, an ever-growing personal morality and holiness, and a love for the Bible and acceptance of its authority. On the other hand, six criticisms have been often leveled against pietism by its critics, namely, that: it is excessively other-worldly and quietist; it fosters emotional subjectivism and anti-intellectualism; it slights doctrine and thus, however unintentionally, ultimately fosters theological looseness; it is individualistic and thus slights the Christian community; it is legalistic and effectively denies justification by grace through faith alone; and it is perfectionistic, thus encouraging self-righteousness (or, alternatively, despair). However, defenders of pietism argue that these are all gross corruptions of authentic pietism, and that pietism at its truest has always offered important constructive opposites to each of these errors. As one author summarizes the issue, pietism at its best “results in epistemic humility, in which we recognize the limits of our human knowledge, an irenic spirit, in which we seek to live at peace with others, and a commitment to social justice, in which we commit to right the wrongs brought by sin.”

It is a provocative major theme of this book that even respected historians and theologians, commentators who could and should have known better, have often seriously misunderstood and misrepresented the pietist movement. Such authors have all too often wrongly reported extreme or distorted versions of pietism as if they were the norm, the standard practice among pietists. In turn, then, other putatively knowledgeable authors have gone on to uncritically accept and repeat these mistaken judgments, on their way to dismissing the value of “the pietist impulse.” Thus the importance of this collection of essays, as an attempt to present a more accurate picture of pietism in the past and in the present. So the reader of this book can well wonder, will historians find this book persuasive? Will pietism be

differently described in the writings of future scholars?

The book concludes with its only contribution by a Roman Catholic author, in what the editors call a “self-consciously ecumenical ‘benediction’ to the book.” Emilie Griffin, a student of Christian spirituality, sees pietism today as a “movement of grace” within the churches, influential even where it is not named. Ecumenism at the official, structural level is making little progress these days. But there are more and more spiritual friendships across denominational lines, both among Christian leaders and also at the lay level. Such friendships are among the main expressions of pietism in today’s world. And such friendships help to “mend the broken body” of the contemporary church.

*The Pietist Impulse in Christianity*, edited by Christian T. Collins Winn, Christopher Gehrz, G. William Carlson, and Eric Holst (Eugene, Oregon. Pickwick Publications, an imprint of Wipf and Stock; Princeton Theological Monograph Series 155; 2011. 340 pp, \$40.

*Vance L. Eckstrom is Professor Emeritus of Religion at Bethany College in Lindsborg, Kansas.*

#### **Editor’s Comment:**

As Vance Eckstrom writes in this book review, pietism had a strong influence on the early leaders of the Augustana Lutheran Church. This pietistic emphasis continued, and many of us remember how pietism influenced our lives as Augustana Lutherans. The Lutheran Bible Institute, World Mission Prayer League, and Lutheran Evangelistic Movement had Augustana origins and leadership. Augustana pastors such as Samuel M. Miller, Maynard A. Force, Evald J. Conrad, Carl J. Johansson and others, were leaders in these organizations. There were also congregations, such as Calvary and Trinity Minnehaha Falls, both in Minneapolis, who were strongly identified with pietism. In the next issue of the newsletter, we hope to include an article about how Augustana pietism shaped the lives of many of us.

## **Readers respond about Jamestown pastors’ wives, and more**

We are grateful to receive responses from readers of the Augustana Heritage Newsletter. Some sing our praises. Others point out an omission, or ask a question. All responses are helpful and welcome. We asked for more names of pastors and wives from Jamestown, New York, and environs, following Daniel Carlson’s article on pastors in the Spring 2011 issue, and Donna Swanson’s article on wives of pastors in the Fall 2011 issue.

We are pleased to add two more names to the list of 32 wives of pastors. Mary Johnson Savely tells us that her mother, Elvie Anderson, who came from Jamestown, married her father, Clarence A. Johnson,

ordained in 1931. Lucia Doyle tells us that her great-grandmother, Betsy Matilda Lawson (Larsson), came from nearby Brocton, New York. She met her husband, Göran Emanuel Forsberg, ordained in 1889, during his intern year in Brocton.

Karl Blomgren wrote for more information about his great-grandfather, Carl August Blomgren, ordained in 1889, and his grandfather Sigfrid L. Blomgren, ordained in 1915. We were able to help, largely through Conrad Bergendoff’s book on the Augustana Ministerium.

Your e-mails, letters and phone calls are always welcome.

—Ronald T. Englund



## Great-granddaughter of Bethpage's founder, K. G. William Dahl, named to chair Mosaic Board of Directors



Susan Flack

When Mosaic, founded as Bethphage Mission in Axtell, Nebraska, celebrates its 100th anniversary in 2013, the celebrations will be headed by Susan Flack, new chairperson of the Mosaic Board of Directors. She is a great-granddaughter of the Rev. K. G. William Dahl, a pastor of the Augustana Synod, who founded Bethphage Mission in 1913.

(Bethphage and Martin Luther Homes joined in 2003 to form Mosaic). "I grew up with Mosaic," Flack said, fondly recalling many visits to Bethphage in Axtell during family trips from her home in Colorado to visit grandparents in Nebraska.

Susan Flack explains her family lineage: "K. G. William Dahl and Lillian Dahl, my great-grandparents, had two children: Samuel and Miriam. Samuel and Ione (Freeland) Dahl, my grandparents, had four children: Virginia, Nancy, Susie and David. Gary and Virginia (Dahl) Flack, my parents, had four children: Steven, Susan, Rebecca and Carolyn. I'm the second of their children."

In February 2012, *Augustana Heritage Newsletter* editor, Ronald Englund, received a wonderful two-page letter from 97-year-old Miriam Dahl Lindgren of Holdredge, Nebraska. She is the daughter of Pastor K. G. William Dahl and Lillian Dahl. In clear hand-writing, she said

in part: "I was born in Axtell in 1915. My father passed away in 1917. I never really got to know him since I was only two years old when he passed away.... Living in Axtell, I had close contact with Bethphage. Now it is Mosaic and I still keep close contact. To me it is always Bethphage, and I still cannot get used to Mosaic after all the years it was Bethphage. But the most important thing is that the institution is still very much alive with thousands of supporters and givers. Praise the Lord."

Miriam Dahl Lindgren also wrote about how happy she is that Susan is now chairing the Mosaic Board of Directors, adding "I'm sure she will do a good job, and I am pleased for this continuing link with my father, the founder."

Susan Flack, a National Account Manager for Hewlett Packard, has been on the Mosaic Board for five years. She served for a year on the Mosaic Foundation Board before moving to the Mosaic Board in 2007.

In response to a question about what she hopes to accomplish as Chairperson of the Mosaic Board of Directors, Susan Flack said, "My goal is to make a difference in the lives of people with intellectual disabilities. The best means of doing this is to ensure that Mosaic enters its second century of service stronger than ever." She also said that she has "utmost confidence" in Mosaic's leadership team and staff in delivering on the promise of a "life of possibilities" for people with intellectual disabilities.

"The chance for me to honor the legacy of my great-grandfather is extremely powerful," she said. "Although I never met him, I like to think that he is proud."

## A pioneer Augustana pastor, ordained in 1861, named after President Andrew Jackson?

by Ronald T. Englund

Among the very Swedish names of the earliest pastors ordained by the Augustana Synod in the early 1860s, one name stands out as very familiar and very American—Andrew Jackson. How did someone without a classic Swedish name become linked with the beginning of Gustavus Adolphus College? John E. Norton, a member of the Augustana Heritage Association Board, explains this in the newsletter of the Augustana Historical Society. John, who was named "Swede of the Year" in 2010, has unearthed and translated many important documents about the history of the Augustana Church.

In a preface to his translation of a biographical obituary of Andrew Jackson (1828-1902) by Anders Schön in

a 1902 issue of the Augustana Synod's *Prärieblomman*, John Norton writes:

The presence of a student named 'Andrew Jackson' in the first class of the Augustana Seminary in Chicago seems puzzling, until one realizes that many young immigrants changed names, whether for practical reasons, or with the simple goal of 'Americanization.' Young Anders Jacobsson was one such. He actually went through two name changes, first in Sweden, from Jacobsson to Dahlin, when he left home to begin studies in Göteborg, then to the very American "Andrew Jackson," to help him escape debt in New York City after jumping ship in

1852. After five years of poverty in the east, he finally headed west in 1857, as an interpreter accompanying a group of immigrants from Hälsingland, bound for Waupaca, Wisconsin.

Pastor Jackson, who had survived an attack during the American Sioux uprising in 1862, became a first leader and teacher of St. Ansgar's Academy in East Union, Minnesota, when it was established in 1862. He served there until 1876, when he became a parish pastor and devoted several years to raising funds for Gustavus Adolphus College. He also served as vice-chair of the Augustana Synod for some years. Augustana College awarded him a doctorate of theology in 1900, in recognition of his distinguished ministry as an educator and pastor.

Most of us Americans of Swedish background had seen changes in our family names through the years. My grandfather changed his name from Johansson to Englundh in Sweden, and the family dropped the final "h" when they emigrated to the USA. The father of my wife, Ruth, changed his name from Persson to Olin while

in Sweden. This is partly because of the patronymic system, taking the name of your father, such as Anders, Peter, Nels, Bengt, etc. In the early 19th century, many Swedes in the army changed their surnames, because of the confusing number of Andersons, Johnsons, Petersons, Nelsons (with variations of spelling such as Andersson, Jonsson, etc.) Conscripts were assigned names. In my very Swedish-American childhood, families with short names "Eck" or "Ek" or "Beck" were considered to have "army names." Because the Swedish army had at times occupied parts of what is now Germany, Poland and the Baltic countries, soldiers were sometimes given names from places, such as "Berlin."

I'm writing this, not in scholarly fashion, but from my memories and experience. I actually grew up thinking that names like "Levin(e)" and "Goldberg" and "Rosenberg" and "Jacobson" were Swedish, rather than Jewish, because these were the names of Augustana Lutherans of Swedish background whom I knew or had heard about. Perhaps there are readers who will shed more light on this.

## Help solve the mystery of a child's death certificate hidden for many years in a picture frame

Those of us who go to yard sales and thrift stores sometime buy old prints and paintings for little or nothing, not for the picture but for the frame. Viewers of the Antiques Road Show know that we occasionally make unusual discoveries when we open up the frame. A treasure may be lurking underneath the picture, out of sight for many years.

Early this year, Debbi Siebert of Caddo Mills, Texas, contacted Ronald Englund, *Augustana Heritage Newsletter* editor, about such a discovery. She wrote:

I am not sure who to go to, so I will start with you. Here is the story: My mother-in-law, in Wichita, Kansas, found a very pretty frame with a picture in it at a thrift store years ago and bought it to give to me. I opened up the frame and took out the picture, and behind it was a very pretty certificate in a foreign language. I have figured it out as Swedish. The bottom right of the certificate form says 'Lutheran Augustana Book Concern' and at the bottom left side it says, 'No. 76.' This is the death certificate for Bertha Louise Peterson, born February 1, 1905; died June 29, 1909; and buried July 2, 1909. There is nothing to state the place of birth or death. I would like to find the family to whom it belongs and give it to them. Our Swedish community in Kansas is in Lindsborg.

We're grateful that Debbi Siebert made the effort to track us down. Neither she nor her husband, Bill Siebert, have any links with Lutherans. She says that "I am from Wichita and my husband is from Salina. We lived in Manhattan and Wamego before moving south to Texas in 1982. We much miss Kansas, but not the winters."

Is there a newsletter reader who can help to solve this mystery? Who are the Peterson family, certainly Swedish and from the Augustana Synod, who sadly lost a four-year-old, Bertha Louise, in 1909? Please contact the editor (see page 2) if you have any clues.



Death certificate of Bertha Marie Peterson who died in 1909 at the age of four

# The Augustana Institute at LTSP receives chasuble given to Gustavus Adolphus Church in 1926 from King Gustav V of Sweden

by Ellen M. Anderson

What exactly is this Augustana Institute at the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia all about and why should I get involved in helping to support its mission? To better understand how to help carry the Augustana tradition forward into the future, follow me on a treasure hunt!

We are searching to find artifacts, papers, books, pictures, altars, robes, paraments, histories, and more from the northeastern former Augustana churches and Upsala College. During our treasure hunt, we find out that Gustavus Adolphus Lutheran Church on East 22nd Street, Manhattan, New York City, was founded in 1865 as a mission for Swedish immigrants, and has a treasure to share. In 1926, King Gustaf V from Sweden visited the congregation and gave to the congregation a Swedish chasuble made of silk and hand-embroidered with silver crosses in an Art Nouveau style. The chasuble, one of the oldest in continuous use in a Lutheran church in America, was given to the Augustana Institute on permanent loan to be part of the Institute's museum. Its fragile condition does not allow it to be used any longer without major restoration.

This chasuble helps us to remember the Augustana history of Gustavus Adolphus Lutheran Church as a Swedish mission but it also spurs us along to delve into the history of the congregation then and now.

In the ELCA's *Seeds of the Parish*, Winter 2012 Edition, a feature story about Gustavus Adolphus Lutheran Church, says: "There has been an amazing sense of renewal over the past couple years," remarks Pastor Christopher Mietlowski. "We're committed to growing stronger with Jesus as our center, to having worship that is relevant and dynamic, and to showing hospitality to the stranger in our midst."

Neil Harrison, who directs the ELCA congregational renewal program, agrees, saying, "Gustavus Adolphus is an ark of hope focusing on spiritual depth and lay lead-

ership development, re-rooting in its community as a center for evangelical mission in this church." You might even say that the desire to welcome newcomers is in this congregation's blood. Gustavus Adolphus has a rich history of reaching out to people looking for a community of faith. It seems very fitting that in this time of renewal, they are upholding this tradition." Throughout the week and at Sunday worship, you will find African Americans, Asians, Hispanics, multiethnic and Caucasian members united into one community.

Not only do we find physical treasures but also the Augustana treasures of mission, ecumenism and evangelical worship still alive. Gustavus Adolphus continues to show hospitality to the stranger, from Swedish immigrants during its early years to today's multicultural community in Manhattan. Why is it that many former Augustana congregations, especially in urban areas, have been able to show hospitality to the stranger and to grow multicultural communities of faith?

The Augustana Institute is preparing to delve into such a question as we plan for the first Augustana Institute Day in June 2013, in Philadelphia. Exploring the past, present and future of the Augustana tradition in areas of mission, ecumenism, and worship is our mission, so that the heritage and legacy of Augustana can bring vision and renewal to faith communities today.

Support our mission with your financial treasures so the Augustana legacy continues to enrich the church. For more information or to send donations, contact the Rev. Ellen M. Anderson, 7301 Germantown Ave, Philadelphia, PA 19119. Phone: 215-248-7301, or e-mail: eanderson@ltsp.edu



Chasuble from King Gustav V.

*The Rev. Ellen M. Anderson is Director of Alumni and Church Relations at the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia (LTSP). She is the daughter of the Rev. Arvid Anderson, former editor of the Augustana Heritage Association's newsletter.*



# Augustana Church, Minneapolis, to hold final service in its present church building, built in 1883

**William E. Berg, 101, Augustana's oldest living pastor, will preach**

Augustana Lutheran congregation in Minneapolis will hold its final service in the church building that has been its spiritual home for 129 years on Sunday, April 29, 2012, at 10:15 am. The Rev. William E. Berg, who is 101 years old and a former pastor of the congregation, will preach. Pastor Berg is the oldest living pastor from the Augustana Lutheran Church.

Augustana congregation was organized in 1866, and built the historic church building at the corner



photo by Amanda Solvig

**Augustana Church today on a snowy Sunday.**

of Seventh Avenue and Eleventh Street in downtown Minneapolis in 1883. The congregation, although small in number today, will continue its ministry by worshipping at Community Emergency Service, one of its community ministries, housed in a building it owns a few blocks away. This former Methodist Church building has a sanctuary that will suit the worshipping needs of the congregation at the present time.

The Augustana Church building will continue as a place of worship. Hope Community Church, has outgrown its church building next door, has purchased Augustana Church.

Anne Carlson, daughter of Pastor William Berg, tells the story of the congregation's decision. Her husband, Dr. J. Paul Carlson, chairs the Augustana Church Council. The Carlson family, together with Pastor Berg, are members of the congregation.

Anne Carlson writes: "The centennial book, published in 1966, describes the beginning of Augustana Lutheran Church: 'Twelve Swedes and Norwegians met on April

16, 1866, in Knickerbacker Church, Hennepin and Fourth Street South, and organized a congregation. The Evangelical Lutheran Augustana Church of Minneapolis, Minnesota was thus born.'

"From the beginning, Augustana was a servant church in the heart of the city, creating ministries such as an orphanage, a residence where young women who moved to the city could live safely and a nursing home. Later the nursing home became the Augustana Care Corporation, expanding to several campuses around the city and a four-building senior apartment complex. Other ministries of Augustana have included:

- Community Emergency Service which provides food and other resources to community residents while also spreading the good news of Jesus Christ to those in crisis.
- Crossroad Preschool which provides quality early childhood education for all, regardless of ability to pay.
- Crossroad Ministries which through the years provided programs for children and adults such as community dinners on the parking lot, a Film and Drama Center, and mentoring and tutoring for children.

"Augustana also 'birthed' seven daughter congregations. These congregations along with Community Emergency



photo courtesy of ELCA Archives

**Augustana Church in the 1950s before huge front steps were covered.**



**Pastor William Berg preaching at Augustana at his 100th birthday celebration, May 10, 2010**

Service, Crossroad Preschool and the Augustana Care Corporation are our living legacy and give us cause to celebrate!

"Our church building and sanctuary were built in 1883 on the corner of 7th Street and 11th Avenue, in downtown Minneapolis. For years the sanctuary was filled for worship, with services in both Swedish and English. Now, with declining membership numbers and with a large older building to maintain, the congregation has made the painful decision as 'good stewards of God's

varied grace' (I Peter 4:10) to sell our property and move our congregation to our Community Emergency Service building, a former Methodist church with a sanctuary.

"God has answered our prayers that our beloved church building might continue to be used for ministry and has provided a buyer - Hope Community Church, which worships next door to us but has rapidly outgrown its building. Dr. J. Paul Carlson, Augustana Council Chair, wrote in a letter to the congregation, 'We recently received \$200 from a young woman who had grown up at Augustana. In a note she said how deeply she appreciated the ministries of Augustana that welcomed her to church and brought the love of Christ to her. She said she couldn't give much but hoped her gift could help us continue this ministry. I cannot think of any better way to honor her gift and the gifts of the saints who have worshiped at Augustana since 1866 than to have a new congregation fill this sanctuary once again, praising our Lord and ministering to the community and for us to continue worshiping as a small but vital congregation at Community Emergency Service.'

Pastor William Berg, my father, who will preach at the final service in our present building, on April 29, has just completed his eighth book and continues in ministry and serving His Lord and Saviour. Of Augustana's future, Pastor Berg says, 'God's good plans are just ahead. Even as we keep praying for guidance let us thank and praise our Lord!'"

*Augustana Lutheran Church is located at 704 11th Avenue South, Minneapolis, MN 55415. Phone 612-332-8595*

## Gustavus Adolphus, founded 150 years ago

*continued from Page 5*

the academic quality is demonstrated each year at the Nobel Conference, which brings in the world's leading scientists and researchers for two days of exploration surrounding a contemporary science issue. Students are active in learning and being involved both in and outside the classroom. Students can engage in more than 100 student organizations; in addition, 55 percent of the students participate in a community service program, 27 percent are involved in one of the 25 intercollegiate athletic teams, 40 percent of the students participate in fine arts programs, and 51 percent study abroad.

The College has remained residential, with 85 percent of the students living on campus, and strives to remain

financially accessible, offering 70 percent need-based financial assistance. The College is fortunate to have the Linnaeus Arboretum and the Hillstrom Museum of Art, and holds daily chapel services in Christ Chapel.

In the fall of 2011, Gustavus kicked off the celebration of its 150th academic year, to conclude at Homecoming in the fall of 2012. The year is filled with reflections on the past, celebrations of the present, and opportunities for future engagement.

Over the last 150 years much has changed of course, yet in this time the College has been loved, encouraged, and become a power of good, as nearly 42,000 students have been educated to lead and serve their communities.

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## NEWS AND EVENTS

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### **Betty Cornell dies at 81; wife of Paul Cornell**

Betty R. (Lance) Cornell of Worcester Township, Pennsylvania, wife of former AHA President Paul Cornell, died on February 25, at the age of 82, after a long illness. Born in Rock Island, Illinois, she graduated from Augustana College and earned a master's degree from Temple University. For nearly 30 years she was director of guidance and counseling for the Melacthon School District in Pennsylvania. Her funeral was held on March 3 at Jerusalem Evangelical Lutheran Church in Schwenksville, Pennsylvania.

The Rev. Paul M. Cornell was the second president of the Augustana Heritage Association, serving from 2002 to 2006. We mourn with Paul and his family on Betty's death.

### **Julotta at Augustana, Edmonton, with Donald Sjöberg presiding**

AHA President Donald J. Sjöberg presided at Julotta, a traditional early morning Swedish Christmas service, on December 25, 2011, at Augustana Lutheran Church in Edmonton, Alberta, Canada. The congregation has held a Julotta service every year since it was organized in 1929. With only about 45 confirmed members, Augustana supports a full-time pastor and contributes over \$24,000 each year towards synod and local ministries. Dr. Sjöberg served as Augustana's pastor from 1953-60, before he was elected National Bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada.

### **Library at Gloria Dei, St. Paul, celebrates 80 years**

The Gloria Dei Church Library at Gloria Dei Lutheran Church in St. Paul, Minnesota, is celebrating its 80th anniversary in 2012. Established in 1932 as a Sunday School Library with 150 donated books, the collection has expanded to include some

500 children's books, about 4,000 fiction and non-fiction books for adults, over 100 framed art works, magazines, music, CDs, books on tape and a large collection of videos. The library is staffed by volunteers who range in age from 16 to 92 years. The Rev. Dr. E. E. Ryden was pastor of this former Augustana congregation when the library began its long history. The art collection includes several paintings by the late Cecile Ryden Johnson, a daughter of Pastor E.E. Ryden.

### **New book on Lindsborg by Bill Carlson**

*Lindsborg Then (Late 1860s to Early 1900s) and Lindsborg Now (Year 2010)* is the title of a new book by Bill Carlson, a 1952 graduate of Bethany College, Lindsborg, Kansas. Lindsborg, founded by Swedish immigrants in 1869, is often called "Little Sweden U.S.A." The newsletter of the American-Scandinavian Association of the Great Plains says that, in this anecdotal history, "Carlson captures many glimpses of community history along with modern-day insights". Published by Smoky Valley Historical Publications, the book is available from Hemslöjd, PO Box 152, Lindsborg, KS 67456. For more information or to order, e-mail Swedes@hemslöjd.com or phone 800-779-3344. Price \$12.95.

### **Englund affirms Augustana roots at anniversary in Great Britain**

The Rev. Ronald T. Englund, editor of the AHA newsletter, affirmed the importance of the Augustana Lutheran Church in shaping his ministry at the 50th anniversary celebration of the Lutheran Church in Great Britain (LCiGB) on October 15, 2011. He was guest preacher at the anniversary Eucharist at the German Christ Church (Christuskirche) in London. Pastor Englund, who served as an LCiGB pastor for nearly 25 years, told how Augustana's living heritage

shaped his ministry. He cited a strong sense of liturgy; an emphasis on outreach based on the Biblical concept of "welcoming the stranger"; a strong commitment to world missions and social ministries; and a firm commitment to ecumenism." He called on the LCiGB to affirm these principles. Like Augustana in the United States, the LCiGB was founded by immigrants, and is still going through the process of becoming an English-speaking church. The LCiGB holds services in Amharic, Cantonese, Mandarin, Polish, Swahili, and Tigrinya, as well as in English.

Pastor Englund was a member of the board of directors of Bethphage Great Britain for its first ten years. Now part of Mosaic, this agency that serves people with learning disabilities keeps the name Bethphage, a social ministry founded by the Augustana Lutheran Church. Many members of St. Anne Lutheran's Swahili-speaking congregation of East Africans come from congregations in Tanzania that were formed by Augustana missionaries. Some grew up using the old Augustana liturgy, sung in Swahili.

### **Deere Foundation gives \$500,000 to Augustana in honor of CEO**

Early this year, the John Deere Foundation gave \$500,000 to Augustana College in honor of Robert A. Hanson, former Deere CEO and 1948 graduate of the college. The funds will support renovations to Old Main, where two classrooms will be named for Hanson. Last year Hanson and his wife, Patricia, gave \$8 million to the college for a new Science Building. This is the largest single donation in Augustana's history.

### **Bethany receives \$1.16 million from sale of Sandzén paintings**

Bethany College in Lindsborg, Kansas, received \$1.6 million for its general scholarship fund from the de-acces-



sion of eleven paintings by Birger Sandzén and a grouping of Native American pottery. The college awards more than \$6 million in scholarships every year. The auction was held August 13 and 14 at the Manitou Galleries in Santa Fe, New Mexico.

*Summer in the Mountains*, the largest painting in the group, sold for \$632,500, which broke a world record for the sale of a Sandzén painting at auction. Bethany had announced in June 2011 that it would sell the paintings, as well as selected pieces of Native American pottery. "We don't have the capacity to showcase and care for all the artwork. Some of them hadn't even been on display in years," said Bethany College President Edward F. Leonard III. "This was a good opportunity to support Bethany's educational mission and share some beautiful pieces." Sandzén (1871-1954), who

taught art at Bethany for 52 years, emigrated from Sweden to Lindsborg in 1871 to teach at Bethany. He was a member of Bethany Lutheran Church in Lindsborg, an Augustana congregation.

### **Death of Arnold Levin ends tradition at Augustana**

The death of the Rev. Dr. Arnold G. Levin on January 31, 2012, at the age of 79, marks the end of a tradition at Augustana College in Rock Island, Illinois. Dr. Levin, who taught religion at Augustana for 32 years, was the last member of the college's faculty to have been ordained into the ministry of the Augustana Lutheran Church. Born in St. Helene, Oregon, he was ordained in 1960, two years before Augustana joined with other Lutheran churches to form the Lutheran Church in America. He had degrees from the University of Oregon, Augustana

Theological Seminary and Harvard Divinity School.

### **Augustana Heritage Service at Normandale September 23**

The annual Augustana Heritage Service will be held Sunday, September 23, 2012, at 2:30 pm at Normandale Lutheran Church in Edina, Minnesota. The celebration of Holy Communion, using the Augustana liturgy, will mark the sesquicentennial of the founding of Gustavus Adolphus College. The preacher will be the Rev. Dennis L. Johnson, who served for more than 15 years as a vice-president of the college with responsibilities for church relations and college relations and advancement. Dr. Jack Swanson will be organist. A reception will follow. For more information, contact Jack Swanson at [joswan05@yahoo.com](mailto:joswan05@yahoo.com) or phone 952-941-1738.

## **Word from the Editor**

While preparing this Spring 2012 issue, I thought often about the last of our "traditional" AHA Gatherings, now only a couple months away. What wonderful memories we treasure from our seven previous gatherings, beginning with Chautauqua in 1998. Though our ranks are thinning rapidly, and many of us are now octogenarians, we will still look for opportunities to get together, but with events in a different format. Action on the report of the AHA Future Committee will help shape the future.

Decisions will also be made about the future of this newsletter. There are still many interesting stories to share. Some are already in hand, while others lie waiting to be discovered. Unexpected news always turns up as I edit and write. Readers' responses are always encouraging, and I'm grateful for comments and suggestions. Will we find out more about the child's death certificate unexpectedly found by Debbi Siebert in an old picture frame (Page 22)? How wonderful that I learned of the final service, on April 29, at Augustana Lutheran Church in Minneapolis. Because a long-time friend, Louise Eklund Anderson, shared with me news of the con-

gregation's plans to sell this historic building, I was able to develop this story (Page 24).

I apologize again for not yet being able to publish some fine articles sent by readers, as well as failing to follow up on many of your suggestions for articles. We quickly fill the 28 pages for each issue. We hear weekly, and sometimes daily, of the deaths of Augustana pastors and others from our tradition. I continue to struggle with the dilemma of whom to include in the newsletter.

This issue has been written and edited both in Falmouth, Cape Cod, USA, and in London, England. The wonders of electronic communication make this possible, and I again thank Ruth Ann Deppe, our proof reader, and Ann Rezny, our designer, for their marvelous help. Many others, like Joel Thoreson and staff at the ELCA Archives, also provide invaluable assistance and advice.

As Ruth and I often say as we rejoice in God's amazing grace in Christ Jesus, our Lord: "Every day is a gift and a blessing."

**—Ronald T. Englund**

# Augustana Heritage Association

Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago

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## Books, Journals, CDs and DVDs on sale

The books, CDs and DVDs listed below may be ordered from the Augustana Heritage Association. (See details below)

### Books

#### *Äkta Augustana: Heirloom Recipes*

Edited by Curtis and MariAn Olson and Luther and Adele Lindberg. A collection of recipes and Swedish traditions gathered by AHA members. \$20 including postage and handling.

#### *The Augustana Story: Shaping Lutheran Identity in North America*

By Maria Erling and Mark Granquist (Augsburg Fortress, 2008). \$20 including postage and handling.

#### *The Augustana Heritage: Recollections, Perspectives, and Prospects*

Edited by Arland J. Hultgren and Vance L. Eckstrom. Essays from presentations at the 1998 AHA Gathering at Chautauqua, NY. (Chicago: Augustana Heritage Association, 1998) \$10 including postage and handling.

#### *The Heritage of Augustana: Essays on the Life and Legacy of the Augustana Lutheran Church*

Edited by Hartland H. Gifford and Arland J. Hultgren. Essays from the 2000 AHA Gathering in Rock Island and the 2002 AHA Gathering in Lindsborg. (Kirk House Publishers, Minneapolis, 2004). \$10 including postage and handling.

#### *Songs of Two Homelands—Hymns and Liturgy of the Augustana Lutheran Tradition, 2nd edition*

Edited by Ronald T. Englund, Glenn C. Stone and John O. Swanson. (Chicago: Augustana Heritage Association, 2002). \$10 including postage and handling.

Available from the publisher, Scarecrow Press—

#### *The Augustana Evangelical Lutheran Church in Print*

By Virginia P. Follstad. An annotated list of serial publications issued by the Augustana Lutheran Church 1855-1962 with selected serial publications after 1962. (Scarecrow Press, Lanham, Maryland, 2007) \$45. [www.scarecrowpress.com](http://www.scarecrowpress.com)

### Journals

#### *Lutheran Quarterly*—Augustana issue - Spring 2010

Edited by Maria Erling and Mark Granquist. \$6 including postage and handling.

### CDs and DVDs

#### *Nearer, Still Nearer* (CD)

Hymns, Songs, and Liturgy from the 2004 AHA Gathering, St. Peter, Minnesota. (Chicago: Augustana Heritage Association, 2004) \$10 including postage and handling.

#### *Augustana: Five Pastors Share Their Memories* (DVD)

Recollections of Augustana by five pastors: Arvid E. Anderson, Herbert W. Chilstrom, Paul M. Cornell, Donald W. Sjoberg and Reuben T. Swanson. Recorded at an AHA board meeting in 2005. (Chicago: Augustana Heritage Association, 2007) \$5 including postage and handling.

#### *Join in the Dancing: Swedish Folk Dance Mass* (DVD)

Par Harling's Swedish Folk Dance Mass. Filmed at the 2006 AHA Gathering at Chautauqua, NY. (Chicago: Augustana Heritage Association, 2007) \$10 including postage and handling.

**Send orders to: Augustana Heritage Association, 1100 East 55th Street, Chicago, IL 60615-5299. Make checks payable to "Augustana Heritage Association." If you have questions, phone Ruth Ann Deppe at (800) 635-1116 ext. 757.**