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**“Every ELCA pastor
 should know the extent
 and nature of the global
 mission involvement of
 the ELCA and its
 predecessor bodies from
 the colonial American
 days to the present.”**


**David L. Vikner
 (See Story Inside)**

**Remembering and
 honoring the heritage
 of the Augustana
 Lutheran Church and
 Augustana Seminary**

Augustana Heritage NEWSLETTER

Introducingthe Augustana Heritage Newsletter

This is the first issue of the **Augustana Heritage Newsletter**. The response to the Augustana Heritage Endowment has indicated that there are many of the Augustana tradition who would appreciate a publication that would reflect on and remember the life and mission of the Augustana Lutheran Church and Augustana Seminary. Stimulated by the fact that there are nearly 950 living alumni of Augustana Seminary in addition to many lay persons and congregations who are interested in this heritage, we hope that this publication will be a way of connecting them to one another. Now is the time to invite those who knew the Augustana Lutheran Church to share their remembrances, recollections, and insights about the gifts of Augustana. We will announce alumni reunions, Augustana Heritage gatherings, and other events that bring people of Augustana together. We plan to publish three or four issues a year for as long as it seems useful. The Augustana Lutheran Church and Augustana Seminary gave us deep roots of faith that continue to bear the fruit of the Good News in our lives and in the church. It is in gratitude for this gift of faith that we dedicate the Augustana Heritage Newsletter.


 Reuben Swanson '51 and Donovan Palmquist '54
 co - chairpersons - Augustana Heritage Endowment

Honorary Committee

Conrad J. Bergendoff '21

Herbert W. Chilstrom '58

Carl W. Segerhammar '32

Reuben T. Swanson '51

Augustana Heritage Planning Committee

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Newsletter


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The Augustana Heritage Endowment: An Update


The Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago counts among its many legacies the heritage of six theological seminaries of the Lutheran tradition in North America. One of these traditions is that of Augustana Seminary. When the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America was formed in 1987, many people asked, "Isn't there a way to remember and honor the tradition of Augustana that has shaped our lives?"

Among the people with whom we discussed the idea of an Augustana Heritage Endowment was Dr. Conrad Bergendoff. He suggested that it was an appropriate way to honor the past, celebrate the present, and help the future generations to remember the heritage of Augustana. He added one word of caution, "Don't be too nostalgic." His counsel has proved to be wise and helpful. In 1990 the Augustana Heritage Endowment was established at the Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago. The purposes of the endowment are: to provide an Augustana Heritage Professorship at LSTC, to hold Augustana Heritage Festivals and other gatherings of people of the Augustana Synod, to reflect on the gifts of Augustana, and to encourage named endowed funds at LSTC. In summary, the following has happened:

1. As of January 1, 1996, over \$625,000 has been committed for the Augustana Heritage Professorship in Global Mission toward the goal of \$1,500,000. We are grateful to the many people who have contributed.
2. Including the named funds that were given before the Augustana Heritage Endowment was established, there are 116 named funds at LSTC that have been given by people of Augustana background.
3. Augustana festivals and gatherings have been held throughout the church with more than 1500 people in attendance.
4. Publication of an **Augustana Heritage Newsletter** for the purposes of reporting on the Augustana Heritage Endowment and of providing an opportunity to share news and publish articles about the heritage of Augustana has begun with this issue. 


An Invitation

We want to make the **Augustana Heritage Newsletter** an occasion to remember "Augustana." We invite you to send an article of 300 - 400 words of your reflections about the gifts of Augustana for consideration in future issues of this newsletter. Also, please send information about publications - books, articles, translations, edited books or journals, etc. written by alumni of Augustana Seminary since 1962. Several alumni and other friends have suggested that this information would be of interest. We also will be appointing an Advisory Committee to assist in making this **Newsletter** a record of eyewitness accounts and memories of the life of the Augustana Lutheran Church and Augustana Seminary.

Send information and articles to Donovan J. Palmquist, 10940 57th Ave. N., Plymouth, MN 55442 phone 612 559 5944; fax 612 559 4526. 

EXCHANGE PROGRAMS AT LSTC WITH UPPSALA AND LUND UNIVERSITIES

A renewed interest in the Swedish and Augustana heritage has resulted in agreements for exchange programs between LSTC and Uppsala and Lund Universities in Sweden for students and faculty. The programs have also encouraged pastors of the Church of Sweden, tourist groups, and several choirs including LSTC in their schedules.

Uppsala and Lund Universities hosted the LSTC Heritage Tour in 1993. Information about the exchange programs is available from the Office of the Dean at LSTC. 

YOUR GIFT TO THE AUGUSTANA HERITAGE ENDOWMENT AND LEADERSHIP 21 AT LSTC

The Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago is currently involved in Leadership 21 which is a five year major gift program of planning and providing for the preparation of pastors and leaders for the church for the twenty-first century. Gifts by alumni of Augustana Seminary and others who are a part of the Augustana tradition can honor the rich heritage of Augustana and undergird the future support of theological education through sponsorship of the Augustana Heritage Endowment or Leadership 21 in the following ways:

1. If you are not already a sponsor, then become a sponsor of the Augustana Heritage Endowment with a gift of \$500. Your gift will go toward endowing the Augustana Heritage Professorship in Global Mission.
2. If you are already a sponsor of the Augustana Heritage Endowment, consider a major gift to the Augustana Heritage Professorship in Global Mission to be paid in installments over as many as five years.
3. Invest in a life income plan in which the Augustana Heritage Endowment has remainder interest.
4. Include the Augustana Heritage Endowment in your estate plans. All undesignated gifts will go toward the endowment of the professorship.

**“Heritage
recognized is
task defined”**

Reuben T. Swanson, co-chair of the Augustana Heritage Endowment, in commenting on the legacy of Augustana stated, “We acknowledge a debt; may we never forget that it is a debt that can only be repaid by contributions we make to our posterity. Heritage recognized is task defined.”

Please use the enclosed card to indicate your participation in making the Augustana Heritage Professorship in Global Mission and named endowed funds statements. These will honor the past and undergird the future support in preparing leadership who will proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

THE IMPORTANCE OF THE AUGUSTANA HERITAGE PROFESSORSHIP FOR GLOBAL MISSION AT LSTC

BY DAVID VIKNER '44

Those of us of the Augustana tradition, and

others with similar concerns, are being given the opportunity to participate in the establishment of an endowed Augustana Heritage Professorship for Global Mission at LSTC. This project comes at an auspicious time in the life of the ELCA, the LSTC, and the waning veterans of Augustana. After all, it's been 33 years since the last Augustana pastor signed the 102 year old roster of the Augustana ministerium. I remember signing the book on June 11, 1944, after the names of Esbjorn, Hasselquist, Edwins, Bersell, Bergendoff, Wahlstrom, Lund-Quist, and my father, who blessed me on that day. I gladly support the Augustana Heritage project and urge colleagues and friends to do likewise for the following reasons.

1. To memorialize at LSTC forever, in a significant chair, the outstanding contribution of Augustana to the universal mission of our Lord.

In 1861, one year after its founding, Augustana voted in convention to establish a committee for foreign missions. 49 frontier congregations with a total membership of 4,967 recently arrived immigrants not only took care of their local needs but also committed themselves to participation in the worldwide mission of the church. Initially Augustana supported mission agencies based in Sweden and Germany, but over the years began its own work in India, Puerto Rico, Persia, China, Tanzania, Japan, and Latin America. Wherever possible it cooperated ecumenically. It participated in the formation of the Lutheran World Federation in 1947 and the World Council of Churches in 1948, served on their various committees, and when requested provided *staff personnel and financial support*. Twice, with the substantial support of both people and funds, Augustana came to the aid of orphaned European missions in East Africa during both world wars. From its beginning Augustana always reached beyond its own borders to a needy world. It was never a provincial church. It is truly fitting that the name of Augustana be linked with the endowed chair of global mission at LSTC.

2. To indelibly remind the seminary students, and, through them, the congregations they will serve, that the church is a worldwide community.

The ELCA is correct in defining itself as a single entity with the threefold expressions of congregations, synods, and church-wide agencies. Through the church-wide agencies, primarily the Division for Global Mission, and a bevy of formal and informal relationships,

Dr. David Vikner was born in Linju, China, and spent his entire ministry serving the global mission of the church in China, Japan, and on the staff of the LCA Division of World Missions. A 1944 graduate of Augustana Seminary, he served as the executive director of the LCA Division of World Missions and Ecumenism from 1974 to 1982. He served as Adjunct Professor of World Missions at LSTC from 1983 to 1995. Vikner is currently writing a book of autobiographical reflections on nine world mission issues. We are grateful to him for the following article on the Augustana Heritage Professorship for Global Mission at LSTC.

the ELCA is an active member of the universal body of Christ, His Church. Good illustrations of this relationship are the LWF, the WCC, LWR, and the DGM Companion Synod Program. The ELCA cannot be a provincial church.

3. To describe the spread of Christianity from its Biblical origins to the present.

The Biblical and confessional bases of the universal mission of the church must be studied. The story of the spread of the Gospel witness from Jerusalem to Judea to Samaria to the Roman world to Europe to Africa to Asia to Oceania and to the Americas needs to be told. The impact of Christianity on cultures and cultures on Christianity should be examined carefully and objectively. Every ELCA pastor should know the extent and nature of the global mission involvement of the ELCA and its predecessor bodies from the colonial American days to the present.

4. To describe the present global mission role of the ELCA and the nature of its congregational participation.

Attention must be given to the changing religious, political, economic, and social situations in our world. The present status of the Christian communities everywhere should be noted and assessed. Numerically and influentially, Christianity is declining in Europe and North America and growing in Africa and Asia. The ELCA cannot work unilaterally today, but through a process of negotiations in a bevy of multilateral relationships with churches and agencies everywhere, it can accomplish well-defined and mutually agreed upon objectives. Four categories of mission activity have gained prominence in recent years. The first is evangelism: the proclamation of the Gospel to those who have never heard (Romans 10:14) and to those who have left the Christian community for a variety of reasons. The second is inter-faith dialog: the open and honest conversations between people of many religious communities to seek understanding, to reach agreements of faith and action, and to witness respectfully to one another. The third is service: the serving of human needs in health, education, employment, and major catastrophes brought on by nature or human sin and stupidity. The fourth is advocacy: the challenging and correcting of injustices wherever they occur be they racial, gender, social, economic, political, or religious.

“Attention must be given to the changing religious, political, economic, and social situations in our world.”

There it is. Now you know why the church needs the Augustana Heritage Professorship for Global Mission at LSTC.

TWO AUGUSTANA HERITAGE FESTIVALS TO BE HELD

AUGUSTANA HERITAGE FESTIVAL, A CELEBRATION OF FAITH APRIL 6, 1996 LINDSBORG, KANSAS

**Information on these
gatherings will be
mailed to alumni,
former Augustana
congregations, and
friends in each area.**

AUGUSTANA HERITAGE FESTIVAL, A CELEBRATION OF FAITH APRIL 27, 1996 ST PAUL, MINNESOTA

On Easter Saturday, April 6, 1996, an Augustana Heritage Festival, *A Celebration of Faith*, will be held in Lindsborg, KS, sponsored by LSTC, Bethany College, and the Planning Committee. This is the same week that Bach's "St. Matthew's Passion" and the "Messiah" are presented on the campus of Bethany College. Milton Olson '58 is chair of the Planning Committee. Other members of the committee are: Gene and Naomi Nelson, Burdick, KS; Herbert Johnson Jr. '63, Ruth Trued, Ruth Copley, A. John Pearson, Robert Segerhammar '47, Joel McKeon, all from Lindsborg, KS; A. Theodore Bjorkman '45, Salina, KS; J. Edward Nelson '45, Topeka, KS; Verlyn Olson and Verner Strand '54, Prairie Village, KS.; Mrs. June Anderson, McPherson, KS; Bishop Charles Maahs, Cheryl Hollich, Shawnee Mission, KS; William E. Leshner, Chicago, IL, and Donald Conrad '54, Lawrence, KS

For more information contact: Milton Olson, 8116 Anderson, Manhattan, KS, 66503 phone: 913-539-1679

The schedule of the festival will be:

10 a.m. - Coffee and time for reunion and visiting with friends
10:45 a.m. - Augustana Heritage Festival Service - The liturgy of the Augustana Lutheran Church - Loren Mai '78, liturgist, Dr. David Vikner '44, preacher
Director of Music - Rebecca Copley Anderson
12:30 p.m. - Festival Luncheon at Bethany College - recalling the heritage of Augustana
Registration and luncheon: \$8.00 per person Reservations: Augustana Heritage Festival of Faith, Planning Committee, Box 25, Lindsborg, KS 67456. Deadline: March 25.

On Saturday, April 27, 1996 an Augustana Heritage Festival, *A Celebration of Faith*, will be held at Gustavus Adolphus Lutheran Church, 1669 N. Arcade St., St. Paul, MN 55106 - The Rev. Ronald C. Peterson '63, pastor. Members of the Planning Committee are: Stanley '59 and Marie Benson, St. Peter, MN; Jerome Brakke, St. Paul, MN.; Earl '45 and Gladys Carlson, Brainard, MN.; Joseph '45 and Janice Dahlquist, Duluth, MN; Peter '53 and Enid Erickson, Webster, WI; William E. Leshner, Chicago, IL; Donovan '54 and Dorothy Palmquist, Plymouth, MN; Ronald '63 and Delores Peterson, St. Paul, MN; and Harry '40 and Marion Victorson, Edina, MN.

The schedule of the festival will be:

9:30 a.m. - Coffee and time for reunion, visiting with friends and viewing historical material
10:30 a.m. Hymn sing
11 a.m. - Augustana Heritage Festival Service - The liturgy of the Augustana Lutheran Church - Rev. Joseph Dahlquist '45, liturgist, Bishop Herbert W. Chilstrom '58, preacher, Director of Music - Jerry

Brakke

12:30 p.m. - Festival Luncheon - "Remembering the Gifts of Augustana" reflections by pastors and laity. Luncheon: Reservations \$8.00 per person may be made at Gustavus Adolphus Lutheran Church, 1669 N. Arcade St., St. Paul, MN 55106.
phone - 612 774 5954. Deadline for luncheon reservations: April 22.

For more information, contact: Donovan Palmquist, 10940 57th Ave. N., Plymouth, MN 55442 phone 612-559-5944

PLANS FOR REUNIONS OF AUGUSTANA SEMINARY CLASSES

'46

The **Class of 1946** - a reunion Chicago during the LSTC commencement June 1 and 2, 1996. More information will be sent from the Office of the President of LSTC.

'51

The **Class of 1951** - a reunion at the Mt. Olivet Retreat Center, Lakeville, MN. September 6 - 8, 1996. Contact person is Charles Bomgren '51, 3663 224th Pl SE, Issaquah, WA 98027 phone 206-557-0480


'52

The **Class of 1952** - a trip to Tanzania, East Africa planned for January, 1997, in celebration of their 45th anniversary of ordination. Coordinator is Ralph Carlson '52, 4007 Griswold Road, Phoenix, AZ 85051 phone 602-931-3591. He reports that 19 people have indicated they will attend with another six hoping to attend. The trip will include a safari and an opportunity to become acquainted with the Lutheran Church in Tanzania and its Augustana heritage roots.

'54

The **Class of 1954** - a reunion in London, England, Scotland, and Wales September 12 -28, 1996. Ronald and Ruth Englund will host the group. For information, call Jade Tree Travel, Bloomington, MN 1-800-653-8733; ask for Katherine.

'56

The **Class of 1956** - a reunion at Mt. Olivet Retreat Center, Lakeville, MN, June 14 - 16, 1996. Contact persons are: Ralph Belin '51, 395 Highwood Dr. Cir., Chaska, MN 55318 phone 612-448-4545; Luther Olson '51, 149 Northbreeze Dr., Appleton, WI 54911 phone 414-731-6458; Ken Swanberg '51, 3527 39th St., Moline, IL 61265 phone 309-762-5143. 

Please call 1-800-635-1116 if you are planning a reunion for your class. LSTC can provide mailing lists and assist with the reunion plans. Ask for Ruth Ann.