

PRESENTATIONS

Children of the Heavenly Augustana Father

Charlotte J. Anderson

250 years ago no organs were in the Swedish churches and the hymnals had words but no music. Did this limit people, or did it give them freedom to express themselves while singing during worship services? If so, how? Is there any documentation of this diverse ethno musical history, what does it tell us about our sacred music heritage?

The Augustana Heritage at Augustana, Bethany, and Gustavus Adolphus Colleges

President Steven C. Bahls, President Edward Leonard, III, and a Representative from Gustavus “Children of Augustana” have helped shape these historical Augustana Synod colleges and continue to influence these institutions today. Each representative will share the past, present and future of their college’s connection to this heritage.

Three Early Augustana Synod and College Women and Their Intellectual and Spiritual Legacy

Ann Boaden

Three remarkable Augustana Synod women of the 1880’s and 90’s - Inez Rundstrom, Anna Olsson, and Emmy Carlsson Evald - will be brought to life. Rundstrom and Olsson were the first two women graduates of Augustana College; Evald founded the Woman’s Missionary Society (WMS). Intellectual and spiritual energy, and a passion for education, flame in the personal stories of these women. Rundstrom and Olsson were reared in Lindsborg and it was in Lindsborg that the Augustana Synod gave Evald the go-ahead to organize the WMS.

Time Present, Time Past and Time Future - Views on the Church of Sweden

Alf Brorson

A web of coincidences and relationships that exist between the former church of Sweden and the former Augustana Synod will be presented from historical, current, and future perspectives. The same challenges face both Lutheran Churches on either side of the Atlantic Ocean. Between 2000 and 2005, 328,153 people left the former Church of Sweden; this change means profound adjustments. The ELCA faces similar problems. The time may not be one of expansion and growth but one of holding fast to our common legacy.

Augustana and Central States Archives

Denise Carson

The Bethany College library has a new physical organization and location for the Augustana Synod and Central States Synod Archives. Contents have been inventoried and arranged on a database for easy accessibility to access requested information. Housing materials properly for longevity, a new fee structure, and means of funding and supporting these efforts will be presented.

Mission in Japan

Kenneth Dale

Many new parishes, under the direction of the Japan Evangelical Lutheran Church, were established in Japan shortly after 1945. After nearly a half century, Christian denominations have had slow growth. This presentation will examine the reasons for this and relate an avenue that proved effective.

The Atonement Controversy

Vance Eckstrom

“The atonement controversy” pitted traditionalist thinkers against nonconformists inspired by Swedish pietist pastor Paul Peter Waldenström. Also involved were social issues, as freedom-minded believers in Sweden and America resisted the authority of Lutheran clergy. From this controversy arose what is today the Evangelical Covenant Church.

Growing Up in the Revivalist Wing of Augustana

Daniel and Philip Erlander

The presentation will center on childhood experiences immersed in the Lutheran Evangelistic Movement, the Lutheran Bible Institute, and World Mission Prayer League. Personalities that they encountered, such as Evald J. Conrad, Maynard Force, Bill Berg, and their own father, Emory Erlander, will be highlighted. Finally, they will recount their transformation at Augustana Seminary.

Putting Youth on the Front Burner: The Role of Youth and Young Adult Ministry in the Augustana Lutheran Church

Maria E. Erling

The importance of youth and youth ministry in the Augustana Synod will be the focus of this address. One chapter in particular in the book *The Augustana Story: Shaping Lutheran Identity in North America*, co-authored with Mark Granquist, will be explored. This newly published book is available at the Gathering bookstore.

The Legacy of Augustana Missions in Tanzania

Don and Eunice Fultz

The companion synod relationship between the Iringa Diocese of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania and the St. Paul Synod of the ELCA began in 1987, under the theme “Bega Kwa Bega (Shoulder to Shoulder)”. Relationship building has been the primary objective but other foci include education, health, and congregational partnerships.

Swedish Christmas A-Z (Plus 3!)

Kathy Berstrom Lorfald

Explore Swedish Christmas traditions in this educational & fun, interactive workshop. Using the book, *Swedish Christmas A-Z (Plus 3!)*, authored by the workshop presenter, participants will learn about and share customs and traditions using the Swedish alphabet as their guide. Also, make and take a Swedish Christmas tree ornament. There will be a \$5 per person materials fee.

What we have learned about Augustana: notes from the writers of the new history of the Synod

Mark Granquist

The Augustana Story: Shaping Lutheran Identity in North America will be continued by the co-author. Four years of research and writing have gone into this history. Even though the Synod has been a part of one’s life, many new and surprising things have emerged. This presentation will discuss the writing of the new history, and some conclusions that have come along with this project.

The Augustana Roadshow

Carl Isaacson

Gathering VI attendees will have a wonderful opportunity to celebrate and commemorate their Augustana photos, memorabilia, and personal stories at the Augustana Roadshow through a video recording that will be made during registration on Thursday, June 19. A recording of these vignettes will be shown at three interest group sessions and also will be available for purchase at the Gathering bookstore.

Scandinavian Immigrants and Religion

Peter Kivisto

The focus of this presentation is on the transition within American Lutheranism from immigrant churches composed of distinct European-origin ethnic groups through the subsequent mergers and ultimately leading to today’s multicultural church.

Church Camp Sing: Remembering and Rekindling the Fires of Faith

Tim Leaf

Do you remember summer nights at church camp, sitting around a camp fire and singing those favorite songs? At Gathering VI, participants will be able to relive that special time at a Camp Sing-Along scheduled for Saturday evening. Main Street will be blocked off, the campfire will be glowing, and songs that nurtured us will be sung. If you have a guitar or harmonica, bring them to use, as the evening will be filled with song. This is a time to revel in memories of being “Children of Augustana” at church camp!

Beginning Genealogy: Searching and Surfing for Your Ancestors

Judy Lilly

Genealogy has become a new hobby since the internet made its debut. Old ways of searching are still relevant and, in fact, mandatory. Courthouses, cemeteries, and libraries are the genealogist's choice hangouts. To begin climbing a family tree, researchers need to use both technology and "old-fashioned" resources.

A Prophet in His Own Country: Oscar A. Benson

David Lindberg

In his lifetime, Rev. Oscar Benson (1891-1972) served nine Augustana congregations in addition to holding leadership positions in the New York and Illinois Conferences, the Augustana Lutheran Church, the American Lutheran Conference, the National Lutheran Conference, the Lutheran World Federation, and the National Council of Churches. With an unassuming modest manner, Dr. Benson was an outspoken champion of Lutheran unity, ecumenism, and social action.

Looking for John Johnson: How to Tap Into the Latest Swedish Genealogy Resources

Lenora Lynam

Information will be presented on how to start the search for your Swedish ancestors. Learn about the latest resources available for Swedish research including Genline, Emibas and DIS.

Celebrating Augustana's Contribution to Christian Youth

Carl L. Manfred, Birger Nelson, and David Nelson

As the youth of the Augustana Synod were provided with many opportunities for personal growth and inspiration, a number of unique components to Christian youth work developed, namely: biennial Lutheran Youth Conferences, Caravaning, and Leadership Schools. This forum will focus on these unique youth ventures of the Augustana Synod. Caravaners attending this interest group will be given opportunities to share their stories.

The Intertwining of Two Immigrant Families: The Swedish Web

Jo Ellen Maurus

Philip Thelander, the presenter's great grandfather, taught at Bethany College in the late 1800s and was ordained as an Augustana Synod pastor even though he did not attend seminary. Her grandfather, Ernest Erickson, was the administrator at Augustana Hospital in Chicago. His brother, Knut Erickson, was an ordained Augustana Synod pastor who later became comptroller of Augustana College. Their colorful stories tell of their life in the United States as Swedish immigrants and their connections to the Augustana Synod.

Using Genline to Trace Swedish Ancestors

Kathy Meade

Do you have Swedish ancestors? Learn how to use Swedish Church records to trace ancestry back in time by using *Genline* to discover one's roots. *Genline* is a digital image database of the Swedish Church records from the sixteenth to the twentieth century.

Building a Christian Community: A Personal Experience

Christine Minja-Trupin

Support from the Augustana Synod was critical to the survival of the infant Lutheran Church in Tanzania orphaned by the German defeat in WWI. In Kilimanjaro, the focus of mission work was on education and health care services leading to the establishment of Marangu (1907) and Machame (1893) Lutheran Hospitals, Marangu Teachers Training College, and several theological, primary, and secondary schools. The government policy of providing free health care and education to all Tanzanians may have weakened the Lutheran institutions. However, these institutions continue to provide a moral presence in the community.

The Life and Legacy of Lars Paul Esbjörn: Ecclesia Plantanda

John E. Norton

The life, work, and legacy of Augustana founder Lars Paul Esbjörn, the "prairie shepherd," will be presented. It will be based on Esbjörn's own writings, his report to the Church of Sweden, and the story about Esbjörn and Augustana by Anna Söderblom's, wife of Sweden's Archbishop Nathan Söderblom, written after her 1923 visit to Rock Island.

Emory Lindquist

James J. Rhatigan

Emory Lindquist, a former Bethany College president, made many unique contributions to church, education, and society. Rhatigan, at age 30, was hired by then Wichita State University president, Dr. Lindquist to be dean of students. He and Lindquist were long-time mutual admirers of each other and from this close relationship, Rhatigan will share how Lindquist impacted his life and that of others.

Birger Sandzén Memorial Gallery

Sandzén Docents

Works of the famous Swedish immigrant artist Birger Sandzén will be the main focus of the gallery tour. Sandzén lived three lives in one as a painter, Bethany College teacher, and crusader for art. Examples from the Sandzén family collection of folk art will also be on display. He was and continues to be an important figure in Lindsborg.

Conrad Bergendoff: A Leading Lutheran Ecumenist

Byron Swanson

Can Lutherans be faithful to their confessional heritage and also participate in ecumenical endeavors? Bergendoff wrestled with this question throughout his life, even though the Augustana Lutheran Church said “No” at first. Bergendoff said “Yes”, and went on to be a major advocate for ecumenical cooperation as both possible and essential for Lutherans.

Leadership and Legacy: Challenges for the ELCA in the 21st Century

David Swartling

David will describe his vocational odyssey and call to be the first layperson elected as secretary of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. Based on his experiences, he will discuss two essential ingredients for vitality of the ELCA as it looks forward to the challenges of proclaiming the gospel in the new millennium: development of synergistic leadership, and leaving legacies for ministry.

Christ Above All, 1949 Augustana Luther League Convention (film)

Joel Thoreson

Christ Above All documents the 13th International Youth Conference of the Augustana Evangelical Lutheran Church's Luther League, held in Duluth, MN, June 22-26, 1949. A recent National Film Preservation Foundation grant allowed a new print copy and digital transfer to be made from the ELCA Archives' badly deteriorating copy.