

LUTHERAN HISTORICAL CONFERENCE

NEWSLETTER

CHI MUSEUM OPENS

The Concordia Historical Institute Museum at the International Center of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod was dedicated with a special service and open house on Sunday, July 26. Located at 1333 S. Kirkwood Rd., Kirkwood, Mo., the museum is open week-



days, except holidays, from 8:15 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Admission is free, and the museum is fully accessible.

The museum's exhibits showcase five major periods of Lutheran church history:

- ◇ **Luther and the Reformation** – describing the origins of the Lutheran church in mid-16th-century Europe and providing insight into the life of Martin Luther.
- ◇ **Colonists and Missionaries to America** – tracing the travels of the Saxon and other immigrants to the United States and of missionaries who helped form the LCMS in 1847.
- ◇ **Growth of a Synod** – illustrating the growth of the LCMS in the 19th century as the young church organized under the leadership of its first president, Dr. C. F. W. Walther, to reach the people of America with the Gospel of Jesus Christ.
- ◇ **From Saint Louis to the World** – demonstrating how from its founding the mission work of the LCMS has expanded domestically and internationally.
- ◇ **An Unchanging Message for a Changing World** – indicating how the LCMS has worked to meet the challenges of proclaiming the Gospel in the 20th century and into the future through the use of new media, an expanding system of higher education and outreach to all parts of society.

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BOOK REVIEW: THE AUGUSTANA STORY: SHAPING LUTHERAN IDENTITY IN NORTH AMERICA

By Julieanna Frost, Siena Heights University, Adrian, Mich.

The Augustana Story: Shaping Lutheran Identity in North America. Maria Erling and Mark Granquist. Minneapolis: Augsburg Fortress, 2008.

The Augustana Story by Maria Erling and Mark Granquist recounts the history of the Augustana synod from its Swedish immigrant origins in the United States to the mergers in 1962 to form the Lutheran Church in America (LCA), which in turn would lay some of the groundwork for the creation of the ELCA in 1988. This account is a welcome addition to the historiography of religion in America, especially in regards to this Lutheran synod, since many of the fundamental works are quite dated. This study also expands the fields of immigrant history and social history.

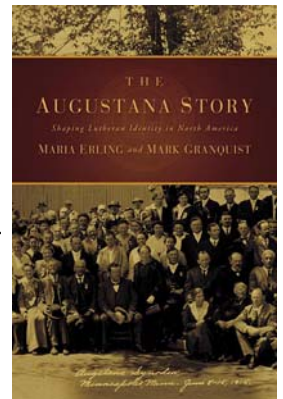
The book, organized chronologically, relates some of the major events and personalities of the synod. Erling and Granquist accomplish this without falling into hagiography, and give an evenhanded account of Augustana. Extensive research in various archives (Luther College, ELCA, Augustana

College, etc.) was utilized to create a fuller picture of the synod. One of the greatest strengths of this work is the consideration of the impact of various identities upon the ongoing formation of the synod, such as ethnicity, class, gender, and race. This achievement is wide-ranging in its scope in looking at the history of the synod; not only focusing on original congregations, but also educational institutions, foreign and inner missions, social groups, and ecumenical operations. Contemporary historical methods have been utilized in the crafting of this scholarship which breathes new life into the Augustana story. I also found the conversational style of the writing to be refreshing with its often entertaining observations and asides. I became engrossed by the narratives in this book, not something that I perhaps would have necessarily expected in a church synod history.

The weaknesses of this work are relatively minor. In a few instances, an intriguing person or event is mentioned in passing but not elaborated upon until a later chapter. For example, in chapter ten, the visit of controversial Swedish archbishop Nathan Soderblom is referred to (p. 170) but not expanded upon until chapter twelve (p. 213). It would have been helpful to note that

the case would be returned to in order to avoid frustrating the reader. Also, when discussing the synod's interactions with the African-American community and Augustana's anti-lynching stance, a mention is made of the murder of Leo Frank (p. 139). Delving into this event a bit more, which resulted in the lynching of Frank, a Jewish man in Atlanta, would be helpful to the general reader, who may lack familiarity with this case.

These critiques aside, I highly recommend *The Augustana Story*. I found this work extremely useful in increasing my understanding of another facet of the Lutheran tradition. Possible audiences for this book include those with an interest in the histories of U.S. immigration, social institutions, and religious organizations. Erling and Granquist have created a very compelling chronicle that was the most enjoyable of my summer reading.



MEMBER NEWS

Marvin Huggins and the Concordia Historical Institute have added a blog to their online offerings. The blog can be found at <http://concordiahistorical.blogspot.com/>.

Julieanna Frost is currently doing a research project on Lutheran Zenana Missions, including work at the ELCA Archives with the papers of Dr. Anna S. Kugler.

Maria Erling is putting together a sabbatical proposal for the spring term of 2010 to focus on research and writing in two primary areas, both related to Lutheran and American religious history. The first major area of investigation and

writing will be to continue work to uncover and interpret the history of the work of the several Lutheran churches with youth and young adults during the 20th century, primarily in the decades surrounding the Second World War up to about 1970. The second area of research is at a more preliminary conceptual stage but more ambitious in historical scope. This would involve Lutheran and especially immigrant settler encounters with Native American groups, and the role of this encounter with the 'other' in the fashioning of Lutheran identity in North America. This project would cover a longer time period, extending from the earliest settlement along the Atlantic coast to late 20th century.

NEW RESOURCE

The Rising of Bread for the World: An Outcry of Citizens Against Hunger by Arthur Simon

Published by Paulist Press, this 168-page book tells the surprising story of how God uses ordinary people to make an extraordinary difference in the lives of hungry people. In the 1970s, Art served as a Lutheran pastor in New York's Lower East Side. He brought together Catholics and Protestants in an organized effort to urge Congress to address the root causes of hunger. Today, 35 years later, Bread for the World is the nation's foremost Christian voice against hunger. Copies of Art Simon's newest book are now available for \$16.95 at www.breadstore.org/artsimon.html.

WALTER A. JENSEN, 1917-2009

Dr. Walter Jensen, a faithful leader in the Metropolitan New York Synod and various pan-Lutheran agencies for over 50 years, entered the Church Triumphant on June 14, 2009.

Born March 30, 1917 in New York City, Walter studied at the American Institute of Banking and the National Institute of Credit before serving in the U.S. Navy during World War II. After secular work in the textile industry, Walter joined Lutheran Church Productions, forerunner of Lutheran Film Associates, as direc-

tor of 16mm distribution in 1956. In 1957 he began serving in stewardship functions with the United Lutheran Church in America, and in 1962 with the Lutheran Church in America. In 1967 he served similar functions with the National Council of Churches of Christ in the U.S.A., followed by a position as Director for Business and Finance with the Lutheran Council in the U.S.A. Retiring in 1988, Walter continued serving with the ELCA Metropolitan New York Synod.

Walter's wife, Gladys, died in De-

cember 2008. Condolences may be sent to their daughter and son-in-law, Geri & Robert DeMaio, 10 Timbercrest Drive, Sewell, NJ 08080-7863.

Memorial gifts may be sent to:

Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd, 7420 4th Ave., Brooklyn, NY 11209-2508; Lutheran Medical Center, 150 55th St., Brooklyn, NY 11220; Lutheran World Relief, 700 Light St., Baltimore, MD 21230; Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service, 700 Light St., Baltimore, MD 21230.

GLENN C. STONE, 1928-2009

The Reverend Dr. Glenn Stone entered the Church Triumphant on June 6, 2009. During his 44 years as a pastor, he served Christ, New Hyde Park, and Good Shepherd, Roosevelt, N.Y., and worked with many church groups and publications.

Born June 13, 1928 in Chicago to Rudolph and Julia Stone, Glenn studied at the University of Chicago, receiving his Bachelor of Philosophy in 1947. After one year of post-graduate work at the University of Chicago, he entered Augustana Seminary in Rock Island, Ill. After graduation and ordination in 1952, he was called to Christ Church, New Hyde Park, N.Y., where he served until 1958. From 1958 to 1960 he studied at Union Theological Seminary in New York City, receiving his Master of Sacred Theology degree in May 1960.

While serving as part-time assistant pastor to Rev. Charles D. Trexler, Jr., at the Church of the Good Shepherd in Roosevelt, N.Y., from 1959 to 1969, Glenn served in various editorial capacities with *Una Sancta*, a theological and liturgical quarterly,

from 1954 to 1969. He also was executive secretary of the Department of Publications, Division of Publication Relations of the National Lutheran Council from 1962 to 1966. In this capacity he served as editor of the *National Lutheran*, *A Mighty Fortress*, and the *Lutheran World Action Bulletin*.

In 1967 he became editor of the *Lutheran Forum* magazine, published by the American Lutheran Publicity Bureau. He also served on a number of other boards and committees.

In 1987 Glenn began serving as pastor of Salem Danish Lutheran Church, Brooklyn, N.Y., as well as Director of Communications and Church Relations at the Wartburg Home, Mount Vernon, N.Y. Eventually he devoted his ministry full-time to the Wartburg Foundation, where he wore many hats in addition to his official job, including curator of the Wartburg Museum and assistant chaplain. He retired in 1996.

Glenn married the former Meredith Ann Nordos on April 4, 1970, who

survives. He is also survived by sons, the Rev. Karl-John and his wife the Rev. Beth Ann of Mifflinburg, Pa., and Rolf of Jackson Heights, N.Y.; a brother, the Rev. Paul and wife Carol, of Seattle, Wash.; sisters-in-law Dorothy Scott, and Thelma Fricke with her husband Kenneth, of Minneapolis, Minn.; many nieces, nephews, and cousins.



Condolences may be sent to Mrs. Meredith Stone at 34-20 85th Street, Jackson Heights, NY 11372. In lieu of flowers, gifts in memory of Glenn may be made to Atonement Lutheran Church (30-61 87th St., Jackson Heights, NY 11372), The Wartburg Foundation (Wartburg Place, Mount Vernon, NY 10552), or the American Lutheran Publicity Bureau (P.O. Box 327, Delhi, NY 13753-0327).

Joel Thoreson, Editor
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BOOK REVIEWS

Those interested in contributing book reviews or wishing to suggest a book, please contact David Settje at David.Settje@CUChicago.edu.

Each review should be between 500 and 750 words long, be sent as a MS Word document or in a compatible format, and specifically evaluate the book and its Lutheran content/context.

NEEDED: YOUR NEWS!

This newsletter is intended as a clearing-house of information for archivists, historians and librarians. It needs **you** to provide material for it.

Please send material for publication to the editor. Items of interest include notice of research in progress, new appointments, publications, meetings and celebrations planned or held, bibliographical materials, and anything of general interest to LHC members.

The LHC Newsletter is issued four times a year: February, May, August and November.

Please send items to
Joel.Thoreson@elca.org.

Have You Renewed Your Membership?

If the mailing label on your newsletter shows an expiration date (Exp:) of "08" or less, please renew now for 2009. Send a check for \$35.00, payable to the "Lutheran Historical Conference" to

Marvin A. Huggins
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