



# The Georg Sverdrup Society

## NEWSLETTER

### GSS Summer Forum at Tabor Lutheran Church



#### In this Issue:

|   |          |
|---|----------|
| <b>GSS Summer Forum at Webster, SD</b>    | <b>1</b> |
| <b>2018 Annual Meeting Report</b>         | <b>1</b> |
| <b>Seminary Discussion Forum Held</b>     | <b>2</b> |
| <b>Aims and Activities of the Society</b> | <b>4</b> |

The Sverdrup Society will host a discussion forum at Tabor Lutheran Church in Webster, South Dakota, on Saturday, July 27. The theme of the forum is “Sverdrup’s Vision of Free and Living Congregations.”

The discussion forum will begin at 9:00 a.m. and continue to noon. Three papers will be presented. The first two papers are “Sverdrup’s Understanding of the Free and Living Congregation,” by Rev. Martin Horn, and “The Congregation as the Bride of Christ” by Rev. Alex



*Tabor Lutheran Church*

Amiot. Rev. Raynard Huglen, a former pastor of Tabor (1963-72) will present the third paper, “The Free Church Congregation in Practice.”

Rev. Huglen will focus on his experience of the “Free Congregation” in both the Lutheran Free Church and in the Association of Free

*(Continued on page 3)*

### 2018 Annual Meeting Held in Glyndon, MN

#### Georg Sverdrup

- Born to Pastor Harold Ulrich Sverdrup and his wife Caroline Metella, nee Suur, at Balestrand, Sogn, Norway, on December 16, 1848.
- Died on May 3, 1907, in Minneapolis, MN, and buried in the Lakewood Cemetery.

The fourteenth Annual Meeting of the Georg Sverdrup Society was held at Marantha Free Lutheran Church in Glyndon, Minnesota.

After the noon meal, Rev. Martin Horn, President of the GSS, welcomed members and friends and called on Kevin Borg for devotions. Borg read one of Georg Sverdrup’s favorite passages from Ephesians where Paul compares the congregation to the Bride of Christ.

Marian Christopherson, Director of AFLC Publications and Parish Education, led the “Sverdrup Songfest.” Because Augsburg College and Seminary (founded in 1869) is celebrating its 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary this coming year, Mrs. Christopherson opened the session by leading us in the song that was sung every morning for chapel at Augsburg College, “Create in Me a Clean Heart, O God.” Based on Psalm 51:10-12, its tune

was composed by J. A. Freylinghausen. This was followed by “Beautiful Savior,” also known as a “Crusader’s Hymn” adapted from a Silesian folk tune. Most everyone in the upper Midwest recognizes this as a signature anthem of both St. Olaf College and Concordia College. The final song was a Norwegian evening song, “The Sun Has Gone Down,” with text by

*(Continued on page 3)*

## GSS Seminary Discussion Forum Focuses on Augsburg Seminary



Georg Sverdrup Society members and friends gathered in the Hauge Chapel on the campus of AFLC Schools in Plymouth, Minnesota, on the morning of January 18 for the thirteenth annual discussion forum. A large number were present, and the event was also live-streamed. As we are approaching the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Augsburg College and Seminary, the discussion focused on Augsburg, and Sverdrup's views for training pastors for the congregation.

GSS President, Rev. Martin Horn, opened the meeting and called on Rev. Jerry Moan, instructor at AFLC Schools, for devotions. Pr. Moan read from 1 Timothy, pointing out how Lois and Eunice passed on God's truth to Timothy and by extension the importance of passing on Sverdrup's work to future generations of pastors.

Larry Walker, editor of *The Sverdrup Journal*, read from one of his recent translations: "The Old Church Order and Pastoral Education." It was obvious that Sverdrup not only believed in a highly educated clergy but also one that emphasized the importance of studying the Bible. "Besides the Word, which is Spirit and Life, all is dead talk and worthless pastoral education. Only when the study of dead languages serves the living God, does it have value in this context." A lively discussion followed Walker's reading of his translation.

The first paper presented was by Mr. Gary Dahle: "Augsburg Seminary in

the Minnesota Supreme Court: 1898." Dahle, who is an Augsburg graduate as well as a Twin Cities lawyer, gave a well-received presentation on the early history of Augsburg Seminary and the struggle that developed over who owned the seminary—the 1869 original Augsburg Corporation or the United Lutheran Church which had been established in 1891 and claimed Augsburg as its seminary. The future of Sverdrup and Oftedal's vision for pastoral education was at the heart of the issue, since the United Church disagreed with Sverdrup and Oftedal's views on pastoral training. The battle over ownership wound its way through the court system all the way to the Minnesota Supreme Court. After discovering an obscure point in the 1857 Minnesota State Constitution, the Supreme Court decided in favor of the original Augsburg Corporation. The Supreme Court established that the original corporation owned Augsburg and had never officially given up their ownership. According to Dahle, "the Minnesota Supreme Court preserved Augsburg Seminary from those persons who would have changed the course of study at its divinity school from the program designed by Sven Oftedal and Georg Sverdrup."

Dr. James Molstre, current Dean of Association Free Lutheran Theological Seminary, gave the second paper, "From the Plow to the Classroom:

Georg Sverdrup's Vision for Instructing Pastors and Its Influence on 21<sup>st</sup> Century Seminary Training." As the title implies, Augsburg took men with little academic background from Midwestern farms, and through a rigorous academic program turned out effective pastors. By using several examples from Sverdrup's writings—including his "Program for Augsburg Seminary," written shortly after his arrival in America in 1874—as well as several other articles which highlighted his emphasis on a biblically based curriculum and graphic examples from seminary catalogs, Molstre pointed out the uniqueness of Sverdrup's plan. One point that stands out from the seminary catalog of the early 1890s was the emphasis on language studies. It was expected that seminarians have four years of Greek, English, German, Norwegian, and Latin. The outcome of Sverdrup's plan was to establish an academically rigorous seminary whose foundation was based on "true and living Christianity, Lutheran profession, and a close alliance with the congregations and the people."

The second part of Molstre's insightful paper dealt with comparing and contrasting the Augsburg Plan and the current Free Lutheran Seminary. Molstre pointed out how the current seminary follows many features of Sverdrup's plan, but one major difference is that the AFLC does not have its own college and must depend on seminarians to be trained elsewhere for their undergraduate degree.

The third session was a panel discussion entitled: "Sverdrup's Influence on Pastoral Education at Association Free Lutheran Theological Seminary." Panel members included Rev. Martin Horn, President of the Georg Sverdrup Society; Rev. Brandon Marschner, recent graduate of AFLTS; Rev. Wade Mobley,

*(Continued on page 4)*

## 2018 Annual Meeting (cont.)

*(Continued from page 1)*

Samuel O. Brunn, put to a Norwegian folk melody. The purpose of the Sverdrup Songfest each year is to introduce members to songs that would have been familiar to the people of Sverdrup's era. Whenever possible, at least one verse is sung in the original language.

Rev. Lloyd Quanbeck, pastor of Maranatha Free Lutheran congregation, was the featured speaker with a fascinating PowerPoint presentation titled "A Tale of Two Norwegian Brothers: Thor and Halvor Quanbeck." For many steeped in LFC/AFLC tradition, the Quanbeck name is a household name. From the early days of the Lutheran Free Church, members of this family have served as professors at Augsburg College, leadership at Oak Grove High School, Director of Home Missions, foreign missionar-

ies, and pastors in both the LFC and AFLC. In his account, Quanbeck related how the two brothers served Christ—Halvor as a pastor and Thor as a layman—both roles held in high esteem by Georg Sverdrup and the Lutheran Free Church from its founding years. For members who were unable to attend the annual meeting, this presentation will be included in the 2019 *Sverdrup Journal*.

Larry Walker entertained the audience with his reading of "On the State Church Foundation," which was taken from the larger work he is translating: "The Old Church Order." In this account, Sverdrup humorously writes about the elevated position pastors had as royal representatives of Norway's state church and how common people held them in such awe because of their intelligence, long years of study, and be-

cause they held the key to unlock the door to heaven.

Rev. Gary Jorgenson closed the program with prayer.

After a brief coffee break, the annual meeting began. The membership report from Pr. Kris Nyman was read. We have 117 Active Members in 2018. The 2019 topic for study was turned over to the GSS Board to decide. Dues for 2019 will remain the same: Regular, \$30; Institutions, \$15; and Students, \$15.

Members elected to the board were Marian Christopherson, Rev. Martin Horn, Tim Larson, and Rev. Lloyd Quanbeck. Following the annual meeting, the board met to reorganize and chose Martin Horn, President; Kevin Borg, Vice President; Tim Larson, Secretary; Kris Nyman, Treasurer; and Alex Amiot, Membership Chairman.



*Mr. Gary Dahle describes the Augsburg legal case in 1898 at the Seminary Discussion Forum.*



*Mr. Larry Walker reads from "The Old Church Order and Pastoral Education."*

## Tabor Discussion Forum (cont.)

*(Continued from page 1)*

Lutheran Congregations. The forum schedule will allow for discussion after each presentation. A noon meal will be provided by the congregation following the Forum.

Tabor Lutheran Church was organized in 1902 as a congregation in the Lutheran Free Church. In response to the 1963 merger of the Lutheran Free Church with the American Lutheran Church, Tabor voted to affiliate with the Association of Free Lu-

theran Congregations. Tabor is currently served by Pastor Mike McCarlson. To get to Tabor Lutheran from Webster, take Hwy 25 north for six miles, then five miles west, one mile north, and one half mile east.



*Dr. James Molstre delivers his paper, "From the Plow to the Classroom," at the Seminary Discussion Forum.*



## THE GEORG SVERDRUP SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

1016 Spruce St.  
Hagerstown, MD 21740  
georgsverdrupsociety.org

---

### Ordet Bleo Rjød *(The Word Became Flesh)*

---

#### Directors

Martin Horn, President  
Kevin Borg, Vice President  
Tim Larson, Secretary  
Kris Nyman, Treasurer  
Marian Christopherson  
Gary Jorgenson  
Lloyd Quanbeck

Larry Walker, Editor  
Alex Amiot, Membership Chair

Prospective members are invited  
to contact the treasurer  
at the above address.

## Seminary Discussion Forum (cont.)

*(Continued from page 2)*

President of AFLC Schools; and Dr. James Molstre, Dean of AFLTS. Mr. Loiell Dyrud was the panel moderator, and audience members were given the opportunity to take part in the discussion. Lunch was served following the event.

The papers presented by Molstre and Dahle will be published in the upcoming 2018 *Sverdrup Journal* later this spring. Larry Walker's translation of Sverdrup's "The Old Church Order and Pastoral Education" and "Program for Augsburg Seminary" will also be included in this journal as well as other translations.

The Georg Sverdrup Society was organized in December 2003 and is open to anyone interested in the life and work of noted Norwegian-American theologian Georg Sverdrup (1848-1907). The society is registered in the State of Minnesota as a 501 (C)(3) nonprofit corporation. Its activities, which are guided by a seven-member board of directors, include:

- Promoting the study and understanding of the New Testament congregation as understood and explained by Georg Sverdrup;
- Endeavoring to advance the ideal of "free and living congregations" as envisioned by Sverdrup;
- Seeking to foster further translation of Sverdrup's writings into English;
- Encouraging the study and application of the "Fundamental Principles" and "Rules for Work" as used in the Lutheran Free Church and as continuing to be used in the Association of Free Lutheran Congregations;
- Enlarging the interest in Sverdrup's works by organizing discussion groups and providing speakers on request;
- Operating a **Sverdrup Society** website linked to <[www.aflc.org](http://www.aflc.org)> for members of the Society and others interested in the life and work of Georg Sverdrup;
- Maintaining a current bibliography of Sverdrup's translated work as well as a current bibliography of materials written about him;
- Publishing a newsletter for members that provides information on the Society's activities as well as general information about Georg Sverdrup;
- And encouraging research and study of Sverdrup's life and work by publishing an annual **Sverdrup Journal**.



*Panel Discussion at Seminary Forum (left to right): Loiell Dyrud, James Molstre, Wade Mobley, Brandon Marschner, and Martin Horn.*