



The Georg Sverdrup Society

NEWSLETTER

2024 Annual Meeting to Be Held in Glyndon, MN



In this Issue:

2024 Annual Meeting in Glyndon, MN	1
2024 Summer Forum in Fosston, MN	1
2023 GSS Annual Meeting	2
Report on January, 2024 Seminary Forum	3
Aims and Activities of the Society	4
From "Report of the School Year 1901-1902"	4

The 2024 Annual Meeting of the Georg Sverdrup Society is scheduled for Saturday, October 12, at Maranatha Free Lutheran Church in Glyndon, Minnesota. The meeting will begin at 12:00 with lunch served by members of the church. Meal planning is underway, and the cost for the meal will be between \$12-\$15. Those interested may RSVP the church at pldq@maranathafreelutheran.com (Pastor Lloyd Quanbeck), so that they can plan for food. The pro-

gram begins at 1:00, and our speaker this year will be Gary Dahle: "The Legacy of Ole Dahle in the Lutheran Free Church." The

annual membership meeting will begin around 2:00 p.m.



2024 Summer Forum to Be Held in Fosston, 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

Calvary Free Lutheran Church in Fosston, Minnesota, will be the host of this year's GSS Summer Forum on Saturday, July 27, 2024. The doors will be open at 8:30 a.m. for coffee and fellowship, and the program will begin at 9:00. Our theme this year will be "Free and Living Congregations." Our presenters this year will be Dr. Martin Horn: "Free and Living Congregations: The Congregation as the Bride

and Body of Christ;" Rev. Karl Anderson, "Free Lutheranism in North Central Minnesota;" and one other.

Lunch will be served by the congregation after the presentations. Come join us!



2023 GSS Annual Meeting

The Georg Sverdrup Society convened its 2023 annual meeting in the music room at Heritage Hall on the campus of the Free Lutheran Schools. As is our tradition, Pastor Robert Lloyd Lee led us in a songfest featuring hymns typical of Sverdrup's day. The assembly was also treated to one of the seminarians, Alexander Grimes, singing the hymn, "Jesus, I Long for Thy Blessed Communion," which Hans Nielsen Hauge was singing on the day of his conversion. Mr. Larry Walker read from his recent translation from Georg Sverdrup, first published in *Folkebladet* (the original Norwegian-language periodical that reported on the ministry of the Lutheran Free Church).

We were pleased to have Dr. Stanley Quanbeck as our featured presenter for the event. Dr. Quanbeck had originally been scheduled to share at the January 2023 seminary forum. However, he was unable to be present on campus that day because of a temporary return to Madagascar for an event recognizing his mother, Connie, and his late wife, Katherine (Miller) Quanbeck for their work in the country.

Dr. Quanbeck began his presentation by describing his upbringing in the Lutheran Free Church, being the third generation of his family to serve as a missionary in Madagascar. Moving on from his childhood, he spoke about the challenge of gaining entrance into the University of Chicago medical school

following his graduation from Augsburg College. He further shared about meeting his wife Katherine, and the two of them answering the call to serve as medical missionaries in Madagascar. Dr. Quanbeck spoke about his administration of conventional medicine combined with his Christian faith in contrast to the witch doctors who practiced among the same general population.

Dr. Quanbeck and his wife practiced until the late 1970s, when a *coup d'etat* instituted a Marxist government, resulting in an environment in which medical supplies became difficult to procure and the school their children were attending had ceased operation.

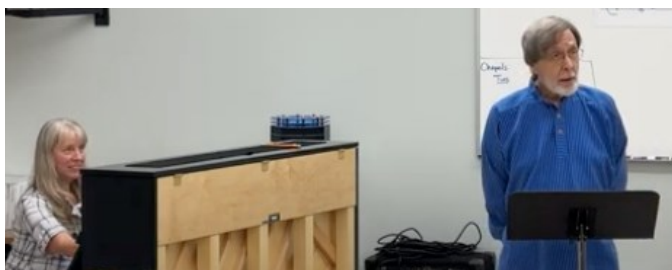
The family had determined to return to Minnesota and had resigned their position. Before their departure, however, the Malagasy Lutheran Church unexpectedly informed the

family that the synod had voted to form a Ministry of Health and had called them to spearhead the initiative. And so, after prayer and after locating another school for their children to attend, they took up the work, titled SALFA, together with a man named Andreas Richard. Dr. Quanbeck noted that his two decades of work with SALFA have been blessed, and that the endeavor has become the second largest health care provider in the country after the national health care organization.

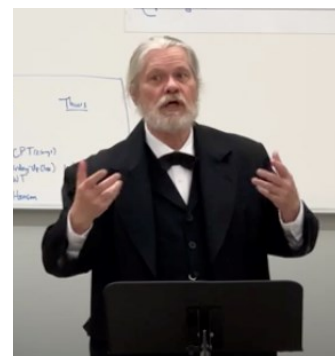
It was a noteworthy day for Dr. Quanbeck, as his daughter, other family members, and some folks directly connected with the work in Madagascar assembled to honor his years of service.

Following the end of his presentation, those gathered recessed, to reassemble later for the business meeting.

—Carl Fiskness.



Top left: Mrs. Marian Christopherson and Rev. Robert Lee lead the Sverdrup Songfest.



Bottom left: Mr. Larry Walker reads from his translation.



Bottom right: Dr. Stanley Quanbeck reminisces on his life and medical mission work.

Report on the January 2024 Seminary Forum

The winter 2024 Georg Sverdrup Society Seminary Forum was held Saturday, January 20, in the Student Life Center at the Association Free Lutheran Bible College, Plymouth, Minnesota. The meeting was opened at 9:00 a.m. by Society president Pastor Brian Lunn, followed by devotions led by Pastor Timothy Skramstad.

A special presentation of books was made to Mr. Nigel Dolby, in appreciation of his generous work in adapting our journals for the Logos software system.

For the first session we heard from Pastor Terry Olson, whose topic was “The Heart of the Servant Pastor.” He shared his own experiences in seminary and in the parish, encouraging seminarians to remain true to the Word of God.

After a short coffee break, Session II began. Mr. Loiell Dyrud made a presentation on “Pioneer Pastor Rev. Elias Aas: Bringing the Gospel to Norwegian Immigrants in the Red River Valley.” He shared from his reading of Pastor Aas’s autobiography. Pastor Aas was born in Norway and attended Augsburg Seminary, studying under Professor Georg Sverdrup. He began ministering in the Red River Valley when Thief River Falls was still a Native American encampment, traveling from one church to another on foot at first. After a long career in the parish, he helped to found Oak Grove Academy. Mr. Dyrud was clearly fascinated by the story and related a number of colorful anecdotes.

Session III was led by Rev. Stephen Mundfrom on the topic, “Sverdrup and Walther on the Office of the Ministry.” He compared and contrasted the similarities and differences between the views of Professor Georg Sverdrup and Dr. C. F. W. Walther of the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod on how the office of the pastor ought to be viewed by the congregation.

The meeting closed at around 12:30 p.m. and was followed by lunch in the campus cafeteria.

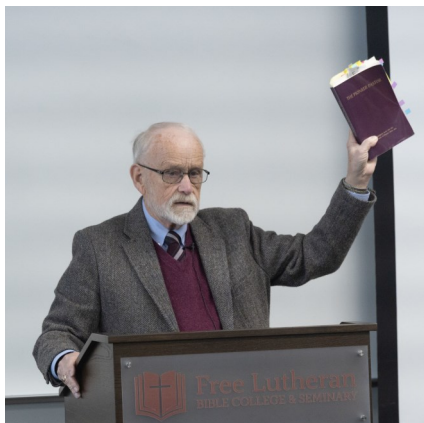
—Larry J. Walker



Top: President Brian Lunn makes a presentation of books to Mr. Nigel Dolby while GSS Board members look on.

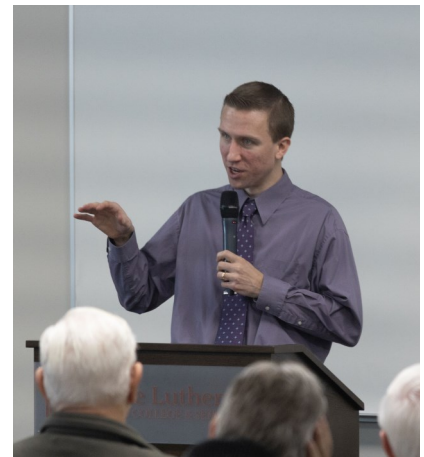


Left: Pastor Terry Olson speaks on “The Heart of the Servant Pastor.”



Bottom left: Mr. Loiell Dyrud speaks on Pastor Elias Aas.

Bottom right: Pastor Brian Lunn closes the meeting.





THE GEORG SVERDRUP SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

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(The Word Became Flesh)

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

Excerpt from “Report of the School Year 1901-1902”

Source: Report to The Lutheran Free Church’s 7th Annual Meeting, 1903, pp. 38 ff.; *Professor Georg Sverdrups Samlede Skrifter i Udvalg* 3:78-81.

And He gave some as apostles, and some as prophets, and some as evangelists, and some as pastors and teachers, for the equipping of the saints for the work of service, to the building up of the body of Christ. Ephesians 4:11-12

It is without a doubt well-understood by all those who participate in the work of Augsburg for a proper pastoral education, that this work can only be established and carried on properly when its goal is the building up of the congregation. When one works to get good pastors, it is not to build up a good clergy among us, but to build up the body of Christ, so that, accordingly, the final purpose of the pastoral school is God’s congregation. For no one is a good pastor who

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> 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**.

does not have the same mind that was in Christ Jesus, who came not to be served, but to serve, and to give His life as a ransom for many. Christ loved the congregation and gave Himself up for it; so must all true pastors do, and therefore the pastoral school has not attained its goal with those it seeks to educate as pastors, unless they go out to serve, not to rule.

But if this is the goal of the pastoral school, to prepare young men to be self-sacrificing followers of Christ and servants of His congregation, then it is quite obvious that the whole work of the pastoral school is marked and plagued by the tribulation which accompanies the followers of Christ: the journey in humility and the battle against the human heart’s natural pride and desire for vain honor.

It is this which is difficult to take to heart. We want to represent things as if there can be enough of battle and tribulation now and then, hard times and hours, but then bright days and peaceful years come in the midst of the hard times. But

that the way should be narrow and difficult the whole time, that there is an unceasing battle, that tribulations belong to every moment, that seems to us impossible and unreasonable. But, nevertheless, it is so. Jesus says so simply and straightforwardly: “in the world you have tribulation” [John 16:33].

He had it Himself. Not only from enemies, but perhaps even more inwardly painful to His heart, from His own friends and disciples, when He kept encountering a worldly mind, fleshly thoughts, desire for greatness, and vain honor in those whom He had chosen. We can therefore not expect anything else than that all of Christ’s work on earth will experience the same circumstances to this very day. Every really Christian and spiritual work must be in tribulation or else it is not genuine.

—Translation by Brian Lunn