



The Georg Sverdrup Society

NEWSLETTER

Change of Venue for Annual Meeting: Dalton, MN



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Dr. Jerry Moan

The location for the GSS Annual Meeting to be held on October 8, 2022, has been changed.

The new location will be Zion-Sarpsborg Free Lutheran Church, 208 North Central, Dalton Minnesota.

Lunch will be at 12:00 noon, and the program will follow at 1:00 p.m.

Dr. Jerry Moan of the Free Lutheran Seminary

in Plymouth, Minnesota, will speak on the topic of "Erik Ludvigsen Pontoppidan, 'The Spener of Denmark': A Look at the Man and His Catechism."

At 2:00, the Society will hold its Annual Meeting and the Election of Officers.

Plan to join us and bring a friend!

—Brian Lunn

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.



Left: Pastor Brian Lunn presents a lecture on historical changes in the Lutheran liturgy at the GSS Summer Discussion Forum on July 9, 2022, in Valley City, North Dakota.

“Sverdrup and Ministries of Mercy”

The theme of the upcoming 2022 Journal is “Sverdrup and Ministries of Mercy.” In his report to the 1902 Annual Meeting of the Lutheran Free Church, Sverdrup wrote, “It is the will of the Lord that His congregation shall follow in the footsteps which He has left us, He who Himself went about doing good, He who relieved all distress, stilled hunger and healed sickness everywhere.”¹ Sverdrup was convinced that believers, both as individuals and as congregations, are not only called to proclaim the Gospel, but are also called to follow their Savior and seek to alleviate suffering and meet social needs.

The 2022 Journal will focus primarily on two “Ministries of Mercy” that Sverdrup promoted and that the Lutheran Free Church supported: The Deaconess Home and Hospital in Minneapolis and the medical mission work in Madagascar.

The Deaconess Home and Hospital provided medical care for the poor, as well as nursing

training for young women who were called to serve as deaconesses. Many of these young women served in the hospital, while others went out to serve in other ministries such as orphanages and “old folks” homes. Several of the deaconesses also went abroad to serve on the mission field.

Gracia Grindal, Professor Emerita at Luther Seminary in St. Paul, has been asked to contribute an article on the struggle to establish the Deaconess Home and Hospital. Her article will focus on the contributions of Sister Elisabeth Fedde, the founder of the Home, and Georg Sverdrup, who was deeply involved in promoting the ministry among the Norwegian Lutherans. Gracia Grindal is the author of several books, including *Sister Elisabeth Fedde: “To Do the Lord’s Will.”* The Journal will also include translations of articles and addresses by Sverdrup where he provides support for the Deaconess ministry.

Dr. Stanley Quanbeck will contribute an article on the history of Lutheran medical missions in Madagascar. His primary focus will be on Dr. John O. Dyrnes, who pioneered the medical mission work in Madagascar. Dr. Quanbeck grew up on the Madagascar mission field, and after obtaining his medical degree from the University of Minnesota, returned to Madagascar as a medical missionary, where he served for forty years. He is currently writing a history of medical missions in Madagascar titled *The Rest of the Story*.

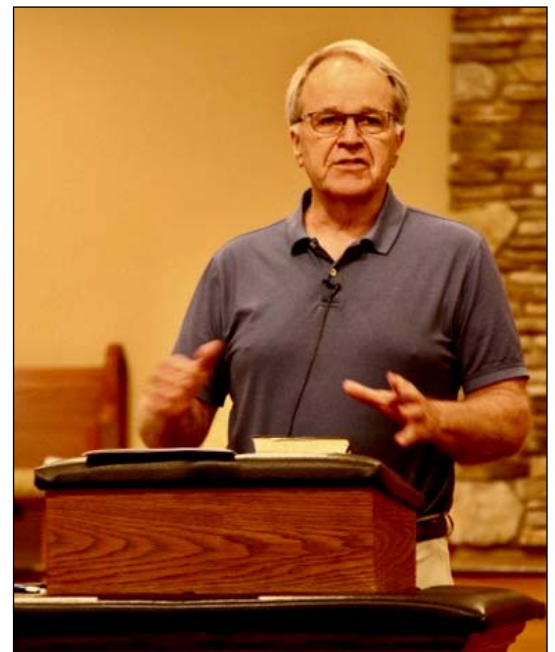
—Martin Horn

¹Georg Sverdrup (*Samlede Skrifter* 4:43-44) in Andreas Helland, *Georg Sverdrup: The Man and His Message* (Minneapolis: The Messenger Press, 1947), 228.



The Sverdrup family coat-of-arms (above) was first used in Norway during the seventeenth century by Lauritz Pedersen Sverdrup.

Right: Dr. Martin Horn speaking on “The Congregation as the Bride of Christ” in Valley City.



Summer Discussion Forum Held in Valley City

The Georg Sverdrup Society held a summer discussion forum on July 9 at Grace Free Lutheran Church in Valley City, North Dakota. Members of the congregation welcomed a number of participants from the surrounding areas and from as far away as Minneapolis. A warm spirit of interest in the heritage of the Free Lutheran movement prevailed for the morning gathering.

Long-time leader of the Society, Loiell Dyrud, gave the first presentation: an historical review of the efforts to produce supportive, instructional material on the Fundamental Principles. He began by pointing out that an original responsibility of the Lutheran Free Church "Committee on Administration" (called the Coordinating Committee in the AFLC) was to advocate for those principles. He described how the

pressing tasks of organizing the common work have repeatedly overshadowed that responsibility until now, with the publication of *The Gospel in the Congregation: A Study of the AFLC Fundamental Principles*, by the AFLC Department of Parish Education.

The second presentation came from Rev. Brian Lunn (Upsala, MN) on the "Liturgy of the Lutheran Free Church." The most noticeable factors throughout many years of discussion and church action among Norwegian Lutherans are the freedom of the congregation to set its own worship practices and a general concern for simplicity in worship. He mentioned many interesting topics that have claimed the attention of the churches: vestments, absolution, liturgical complexity, confirmation practice, and other things.

The last presentation of the morning came from Dr. Martin Horn, who

shared insights from his recently completed dissertation on the Congregation as the Bride of Christ. Dr. Horn reviewed the way Scripture uses the bridal metaphor to speak of the relation of God to His people. This begins early in the Old Testament and continues all the way through to the Book of Revelation. Then he showed how this bridal metaphor has been applied not just to the universal church but also to the local congregation, as an expression of its freedom. The bridal imagery applied to the congregation is clearly an expression of the Gospel, freedom from sinful corruption through the grace of God in Christ.

—Steve Mundfrom



Left: Mr. Loiell Dyrud discusses the publication of the new book, *The Gospel in the Congregation*.



THE GEORG SVERDRUP SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

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Georgsverdrupsociety.org

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(The Word Became Flesh)

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

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**.

From “Be Merciful”

By Georg Sverdrup (coming in the 2022 *Sverdrup Journal*)

It is the sick among us who need doctor and nurse, hospital and care. The healthy do not need such.

There are indeed many who conclude about this, that the matter is quite clear: the sick have their lot, and the healthy have theirs, and the two classes have nothing to do with each other.

But the Christians, who are accustomed to deeper and more serious thinking, do not perceive the matter this way; they look a little further into things and into God's counsel for us men.

The sick and the healthy are not at all two classes of people which have nothing to do with one another. The sick can become well, and the well can become sick; it happens quickly, and it goes like the old saying: Me today, you tomorrow.

And besides, the sick are near kin to the healthy. It is our child or our parent or our brother or our sister who is sick, while we are well, and converted. And even if the relationship is not so close according to earthly reckoning, yet nevertheless, the Christians know of a brotherhood that extends somewhat beyond that of earthly kinship. Our neighbor is our brother and our sister, and we have been taught that we should love our neighbor as ourself.

Accordingly, the healthy and the sick stand quite near to one another in that they are brothers before God, and He expects brotherly love or neighborly love.

But think how much, much better the healthy have it than the sick! To be spared suffering is quite enough; to have their faculties undisturbed and the use of their limbs unimpaired, what is that not worth!

And that is not all. The sick use much and serve little. Expenses grow enormous

for the sick, and earnings cease. Then that which was earned, perhaps with much difficulty, goes quickly. The healthy has his earnings, and his expenses are much less than those of the sick.

Who has the lightest load in every respect? It is quite easy to see. And it follows certainly of itself that if there is brotherhood and neighborliness, it has a good opportunity to show itself here.

You who are well, help your sick neighbor in his day of need!

(Excerpt from Professor Georg Sverdrups Samlede Skrifter i Udvalg, 4:47-48. Translation by Brian Lunn.)