

JENNY LIND CHAPEL

2022 NIS ASSEMBLY REPORT

The Jenny Lind Chapel (JLC) in Andover is a ministry of the Northern Illinois Synod (NIS), a landmark of pioneer faith, and listed on the National Register of Historic Places. It is the first church of the Evangelical Lutheran Augustana Synod of North America, & the founding site of the Norwegian-Danish Augustana Synod. It is named after the “Swedish Nightingale,” Jenny Lind, who gave a sizeable contribution toward the cost of construction of the Chapel. It also houses the Swedish Immigrant Museum,

Several NIS members serve on the JLC Operating and Endowment Committees. These members are responsible for the maintenance of the building & adjoining cemetery, arranging worship services, and the management of funds. Last September, Gordon Rehn was elected Dean and Ron Peterson Assistant Dean of the JLC.



This photo was taken on the front porch of the JLC in March, 2022, when 15 students from Jönköping, Sweden and 20 students from Augustana College visited the JLC and Augustana Church. Mark Safstrom, Associate Professor of Scandinavian Studies, was the leader of the group.

The JLC is open every day 9 am–5 pm from April 1–October 31. Several services and events are held throughout the year. A Founders Day Service is held the last Sunday of April. Last year, Steven E Bahls, the eighth president of Augustana College, was the speaker. The college and the Augustana Lutheran congregation in Andover have had close ties since the college was founded in 1860 by the Rev. Lars Paul Esbjorn, the same person who started the Andover church in 1850. During the summer months, Sunday vesper services are held by area congregations. On the last Sunday of September, a Swedish service is held; and in December, “The Joy of Christmas Past & Present” is held with Augustana College students and faculty. Visit jennylindchapel.org for details about the ministry of the JLC & listing of coming services & events.