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History of Swedish immigrants and Augustana Lutheran Church explored

Explore the role of a local church in the assimilation of Swedish immigrants and their descendants at the upcoming Tuesday Twilight Talk, **From an Ethnic Church to the Mainstream: Augustana Lutheran Church and the Swedes of Sioux City** on Tuesday, January 19 at 6:30 p.m. at the Sioux City Public Museum.

Paul J. Olson, assistant professor of sociology at Briar Cliff University, will discuss the challenges the second, third, and subsequent generations of church members faced in an ethnically changing neighborhood. The switch from Swedish to English services, for example, in many ways mirrors the ethnic and religious assimilation of other immigrant groups. Olson will conclude by addressing how the Augustana experience provides an interesting starting point for discussion of contemporary immigration issues and life in a diverse society.

A native of Laurens, Iowa, Olson has taught courses on racial, ethnic, and gender inequality, the sociology of religion, and research methods at Briar Cliff University for the past 5 years. He has a Ph.D. in sociology from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, an M.A. in religion studies from the University of Kansas, and a B.A. in history from the University of Northern Iowa. Olson's previous research has been published in the *Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion*, *Innovative Higher Education*, and the *Journal of Popular Culture*.

Housed in the historic John Peirce Mansion at 2901 Jackson Street, the Sioux City Public Museum offers monthly Tuesday Twilight Talk programs featuring topics of regional historic interest. For more information, call the Sioux City Public Museum at 712-279-6174 or visit www.siouxcitymuseum.org. Admission is free.