

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Preface 11

1. Background 17

Frankish mission and power struggle 17

The Ansgar mission 19

Early contacts with traditions in Christian culture 22

Swedes, Goths and Ostrogothia 23

Influences from the East 25

Influences from the West and the South 27

Official incorporation 30

Thurgot, Västergötland and Östergötland 31

Runestones 33

A shift of center 37

2. Establishment and Integration 39

The earliest churches 39

The early stone churches 41

The cathedral 45

Bishop and diocese 47

The list of bishops 48

Bishops of the Diocese of Linköping up to 1307 49

The diocesan geographic scope 49

Queen Ulfhild and King Sverker the Elder 51

Monks from Clairvaux 52

A monk from Alvastra becomes the first Archbishop of Sweden 55

The Church province 57

Parishes and deaneries 60

Expansion 62

A bishop becomes a martyr—Crusades 63

The Provincial Law of Östergötland 65

The provincial synod in Skänninge, 1248 69

Continued development 70

Cathedral chapter 72

The Church and the Kings 73

The mendicant orders 75

The care of the sick and poor 78

The Black Death in Östergötland 79

3. Time of Expansion and Flourishing—and the End of an Era 81

Cultural and economic centers 81

St. Birgitta 82

Master Mathias 84

Vadstena and its monastery 86
Some other centers 88
Nils Hermansson 91
The inner life of the Church 92
Art in the churches as transmitters of knowledge and meaning 98
Issues of heresy 101
Power struggle—new developments 102
The monasteries and convents in the last years of the medieval period 105
The last years 109
Bishops of the Diocese of Linköping from 1307 to 1527 111

4. Revolt and Reformation 113

New positions, old positions 113
The Reformation continues 117
Reactions 120
Three sons and the Diet of Uppsala 121
A Catholic king, but no Catholicism 125
Revolt and bloodbath 127
King Karl, an opponent, and a shrinking diocese 129

5. Orthodox Formation 131

Uniformity, expansion and patriotism 131
Educational developments 133
Life in the parishes 136
The vicarages 138
Times of change and immigration 141
Days of repentance and prayer 143
The Constitution of 1634 144
New Sweden 146
The Queen who converted 146
The bishops of Linköping 148
A “King of the Grace of God” and books in the unification process 150
Bishops of the Diocese of Linköping from 1529 to 1711 153

6. New Influences 155

Wars and hardships 155
The fall of absolutism but unity in the orthodox Lutheran faith remained 157
The influences of Pietism 158
Stricter rules but new problems 159
Influences from Herrnhut 162
Revival in Ödeshög 164
Regular parish life 164
Church organs 166
The catechism as “every man’s Bible” and “hymnbook piety” 167
Erik Benzelius the Younger and other bishops 169
New influences: Freedom of religion? 172

Fewer days of celebration and edicts of tolerance for non-Swedes 175
The final years of the eighteenth century 176
Bishops of the Diocese of Linköping from 1711 to 1805 178

7. Societal and Ecclesiastical Changes 179

The great loss 179
New ecclesiastical books 181
Education 182
The jubilee of 1817 183
The diocese in the year 1836 184
The vicarage as a cultural center 185
Taking care of the poor 186
Reforms split the villages and people moved 187
A changing landscape 188
A revival takes form 189
Preacher Lena 191
A growing interest in missionary work 193
Temperance and revival 194
The Revival spreads in the diocese 198
Holy Communion societies 200
New laws—dramatic changes 202
New churches and some other issues 205
Bishops of the Diocese of Linköping from 1805 to 1906 206

8. Secularization, Ecclesiastical Renewal and Responses 209

Vast changes 209
Developments on the parish level 211
Parish building and dynamic voluntarism 212
Sunday schools and other activities for the youth 213
The Church Brothers 216
A women's council and a women's federation 217
Church music and church choirs 218
Voluntarism and cooperation on the diocesan level 220
Religious studies education 222
International influences 223
Modern ecumenism 226
The return of the idea of pilgrimage 227
Celebrations of St. Birgitta 229
Some other large gatherings and new ways of reaching out 230
Three bishops 232
The Church Ordinance of 2000 233
Some trends of the 1900's 234
Challenges 239
Bishops of the Diocese of Linköping from 1907– 241

9. Some general reflections on the Lutheran heritage 243

Some suggestions for further reading 249

Index (selected) 251