

**Augustana College
Chapel of Reconciliation**

Adam Norenberg

15 February 2008

I want to begin today with some numbers for you to think about:

2,103,795 minutes; 126,227,704 seconds

This is the amount of time that we put from when we cross the steps of Bergsaker and Solberg, until we walk across the stage as Graduates. 4 years. The work and sacrifice that each person puts in is unique to themselves, and yet there are constants that remain despite the differences. We will all be tempted, and we will all grow older. Temptation comes in many forms, temptation to drop that 8 am class, because it is just too early. Temptation not to read that last assignment because they really can not expect us to know all that information. Every time we go home, time passes. I see friends that have grown older, the town around me continues to change and grow before my eyes. But the temptation that I speak about is the temptation to lose who we once were now that we are on our own.

These things are real in everyone's life. No matter who you are or where you have come from, there are two constants in my mind: we will get older, and we will be tempted in our lives. Though many say that getting old is not always good, I have found that it is not all bad. Many of you here know me pretty well, and I will be the first to admit that I am not the most mature person, but I think that I still have time. And also through this time, I have learned that temptation is not necessarily a bad thing either. It can lead to new friendships, once in a lifetime opportunities, and even a chance to do something a little wild. Rather it is temptation that changes us, that our gospel discusses.

Genesis 3: 1-7

¹ The serpent was more clever than any of the wild animals the Lord God had made. The serpent said to the woman, "Did God really say, 'You must not eat the fruit of any tree that is in the garden'?"

² The woman said to the serpent, "We can eat the fruit of the trees that are in the garden. ³ But God did say, 'You must not eat the fruit of the tree that is in the middle of the garden. Do not even touch it. If you do, you will die.' "

⁴ "You can be sure that you won't die," the serpent said to the woman. ⁵ "God knows that when you eat the fruit of that tree, you will know things you have never known before. You will be able to tell the difference between good and evil. You will be like God."

⁶ The woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good to eat. It was also pleasing to look at. And it would make a person wise. So she took some of the fruit and ate it. She also gave some to her husband, who was with her. And he ate it.

We are tempted by the devil to go against what is inherently true to us. The devil tempts us to prove God's worth and power to ourselves and once again we fall short. We have a hard time being out of control. Please do not mistake control for calmness in one's life, for I think we can all agree that all our lives are not always calm. But rather, it is knowing that God is in our lives.

It is the knowledge that as we go through life, God is with us that truly makes us who we are. He is there on the mountain tops, and he is there in the valleys. When I came to visit Augustana, my mother asked me what I liked about it. I told her that I felt like I belonged, and that is what set it apart for me. There are times when I feel alone, when I feel the weight of temptation bearing down on my shoulders. We have all been there. But looking back, I think that I was lead here because not only was God here with me during these times, but the people that I would meet. You here people say when they are asked why they come here, that they came because it felt right. I was one of those people, and looking back at the experiences of the past 4 years, I can tell you now what it meant. I can see now that I never truly felt alone while being here. The friends that I have met and the experiences that we have shared have shown me these friends are always there for you, just as God is.

We may be taken places at times that will push us to the brink, but knowing that God is with there too makes it bearable. 4 years. 4 years is the time in which we believe that we leave the comfort of our homes and families and begin to create a new purpose and understanding for ourselves. Classes, lectures, jobs, friends, and countless other events and moments help mold the person that we are becoming, and yet not trying to lose that which we left behind. It is the temptation to try new things and to live life to the fullest that can lead us away from God, but knowing that God never leaves our side helps us return to where we want to be if we have lost our way. Just when we think God is not there, he does something that will completely change the scope to which we see the world. I know that as I go through life, I might not always know where I am going, but I know where I have been and I know where I want to go, and having the faith to trust in God is good enough for me.

MORNING WORSHIP
Friday, February 15, 2008

PRELUDE Nora Olson

WELCOME/ANNOUNCEMENTS

INVOCATION

SCRIPTURE Genesis 2:15-17, 3:1-7
Matthew 4:1-11

SERMON Adam Norenberg
Hometown: Fremont, NE
Major: Nursing

HYMN *“O Day Full of Grace”* ELW 627, vv. 1, 2, 5

PRAYER AND LORD’S PRAYER Beth Singleton

BENEDICTION

DISMISSAL

POSTLUDE Nora Olson

CAMPUS MINISTRY ANNOUNCEMENTS

SEMINARY REPRESENTATIVES - Tuesday, February 19th
representatives from all eight ELCA seminaries will be at Augustana.
At 10 AM you may hear the distinctive programs of study at each.
Individual appointments for exploration and discernment are
available throughout the day. **Contact Carol, x5403, to make
appointments, or sign up on the Narthex table.**

FAIR TRADE CHOCOLATE SALE - Tuesday through Friday
(12th - 15th) - Commons Concourse - 10:30 am - 1:00 pm

TRAVEL TO NORWAY OR ITALY WITH AUGUSTANA COLLEGE - Augustana College is offering two exciting travel opportunities this summer for alumni and friends. Join Dr. Gary and Rosaaen Olson, June 10 - 21, 2008 for a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to experience Norway in its fullest. The Olsons are veteran tour guides, having led four successful alumni tours to Norway for the College. You will experience the breath-taking natural beauty of this country and learn about the people and culture so central to the heritage of Augustana College. If you have never had the opportunity to visit Italy, you may wish to join veteran traveler and tour manager Brad Heegel and alumni director Mary Toso May 31 - June 11, 2008 as they introduce you to the magnificent cities of Venice, Florence, Tuscany, Sorrento and the Eternal City of Rome. To bring this tour to a most memorable conclusion, you will experience The Augustana Choirs final concert performance in St. Peters Basilica. For more information on either of these tours, please contact the Alumni Office at Augustana soon at alumni@augie.edu .

CHAPEL CALENDAR

Sun. (17 th)	Worship, 11 am - Pr. Paul
Mon. (18 th)	Worship, 10 am - Janet Blank-Libra, Engl./ Journ.
Tues. (19 th)	Seminary Reps., 10 am
Wed. (20 th)	Holy Communion - 10 am - Pr. Paul
Fri. (22 nd)	Worship, 10 am - Brandon Elsasser, Sr. Spkr.
Sun. (24 th)	Dist. Scholars Worship, 9 am Worship, 11 am - Kari and Pr. Roger Lenander