

# EDUARD L. ARNDT

## *Pioneer Missionary to China*

BORN: **DECEMBER 19, 1864** Pomerania, Germany

DIED: **APRIL 17, 1929** Hankow, China

**E**DUARD ARNDT CAME FROM A FAMILY WITH A LONG LUTHERAN HISTORY. Born in Germany, Eduard would continue that tradition in the United States and even farther afield, as a pioneering Lutheran missionary in China.

Eduard's family immigrated to America while he was a child. Growing up in Chicago, he attended Lutheran schools. He studied at Concordia College, Fort Wayne, and later at Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, graduating in 1885. He was founding pastor of Trinity Lutheran Church, Saginaw, Mich., serving for twelve years before being called as the first professor of science at Concordia College, St. Paul in 1897. While there he was also pastor at St. Stephanus Lutheran Church.

In 1912, Arndt undertook an endeavor that would change his life and have a significant impact on Lutheran missions. He organized the China Mission Society and made plans to head to the Far East with his wife and their four children. They arrived in January 1913 and started work. Immediately, Arndt dedicated himself to learning Mandarin, the Chinese language spoken in Hankow (the modern-day city of Wuhan) in east-central China. He learned quickly, and was reading the Bible and the catechism and writing letters in Chinese within two months. Three months later, Arndt was preaching in Chinese.

Back in the United States, the China Mission Society grew in numbers. Soon hundreds of Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod pastors, teachers and congregations were supporting the mission work in China. This support would be critical to the work of bringing the Gospel to the Chinese people

and to meet the financial needs of the work there for years to come.

Arndt established several mission stations and schools in Hankow. With the assistance of the Synod, this work expanded in 1917. Arndt preached and taught God's Word to the Chinese and translated sermons and hymns for services. He was a busy missionary, instructing in the basics of the Christian faith, baptizing children and adults — sometimes entire families — and producing Gospel tracts. Within a few years, additional missionaries and their families arrived in Hankow to assist Arndt with the work.

Arndt valued education, and schools became one of the most important means of bringing the Gospel message to the Chinese people. He operated five schools, teaching children Bible stories, the catechism and singing, as well as reading and writing.

Dedicated to the mission cause in China and its proclamation of the Gospel there, Eduard Arndt died in 1929. He served the Church with his last efforts, and he will be remembered as a mission preacher, teacher and pathfinder. He is buried in the international cemetery in Hankow.

**For more information about the 175th anniversary of the LCMS, visit [lcms.org/175](https://lcms.org/175).**



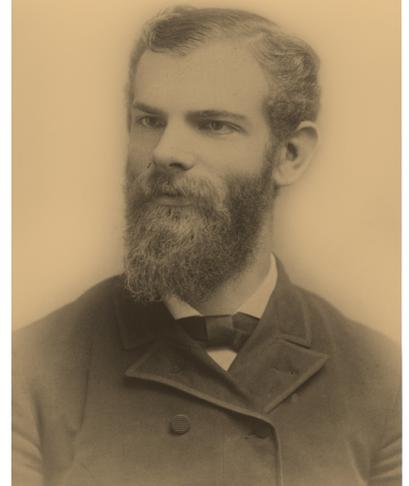
### DISCOVER MORE

E. H. A. Arndt, *"The Beginnings of Our Work in China,"* *Concordia Historical Institute Quarterly* 5, no. 3 (October 1932): 98–104; 5, no. 4 (January 1933): 137–144; 6, no. 1 (April 1933): 19–24; 6, no. 2 (July 1933): 52–60

Karl J. R. Arndt, *"The Birth of Our China Mission (1912–1962),"* *Concordia Historical Institute Quarterly* 35, no. 4 (January 1963): 113–127

Frieda Oelschlaeger Thode, *"The Rev. E. L. Arndt,"* *Concordia Historical Institute Quarterly* 47, no. 2 (Summer 1974): 90–95

David Kohl, *"The History of Early Lutheran Schools in China,"* *Concordia Historical Institute Quarterly* 87, no. 1 (Spring 2014): 6–22.



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– 175 YEARS –

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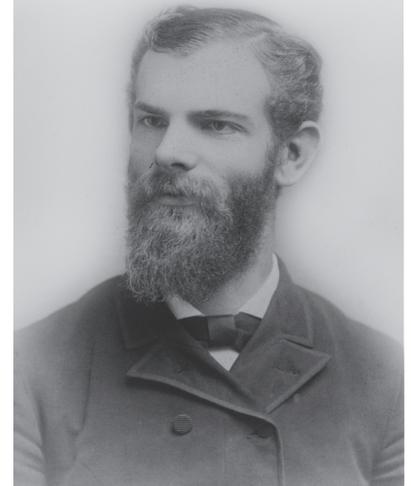
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