

Kristinn K. Olafsson

K. K. Olafsson was born at Gardar, North Dakota, in 1880. He was the first Icelandic child born in that community. He received his preparatory schooling at the hands of the noted pioneer pastor, Rev. Fridrik J. Bergmann and B. J. Brandson, who later achieved great eminence in the medical field.

After graduating from Luther College, Decorah, Iowa, in 1900, Olafson studied at the Lutheran Theological Seminary in Chicago, graduating with a Bachelor of Divinity degree in 1904. After his ordination in June of that year, he served various Icelandic congregations in Pembina County for over 20 years.

He later served Icelandic parishes in Argyle, Manitoba and Seattle, Washington. He soon rose to a position of leadership within his church, and for 20 years (1923 – 1943) was president of the Icelandic Lutheran Synod of America. He also was for two decades an editor of its official publication, and on its 50th anniversary published a clear and concise survey of its history in English, *The Icelandic Lutheran Synod 1885-1935*.

In later years, he served congregations of the United Lutheran Church in Illinois and Wisconsin, and held the presidency of one of the Illinois synods. He was decorated as Knight of the Icelandic Order of the Falcon in 1929 and Knight Commander in 1939.