

# St Ansgar in the Prairies and the Frost



*Winter 1946* by Andrew Wyeth

by [Walt Garlington](#) (March 2022)

**Draw up** the dividing line,  
North to south in the middle  
Of the stormy sea, a mirror  
Image on each side: To the east  
Germany and Scandinavia;  
To the west, the Great Plains  
Of North America,

From Kansas to North Dakota,  
Over to Wisconsin,  
And later into Manitoba,  
Fanning out through Canada:  
Germans, Swedes, Danes, and Norse  
Living their ancient life  
On both sides of the Atlantic –  
'Ope' spoken by the tongue  
And lutefisk ready on the plate;  
Hamburgs, Bremens, and Malmos  
Spread across the Midwest,  
Home to Meyerses, Nelsons,  
Schmitzes, Schneiders –  
One body united across the ocean,  
Sharing a common father  
In the ever young and ancient  
Orthodox Church,  
Saint Ansgar the Enlightener,  
Apostle of the northern lands,  
Overthrower of idols,  
Powerful preacher,  
Worker of wonders.

Through baptism, he made you  
One in Christ, destroying  
The enmities of yore.  
Follow him still; do not run back  
To Loki, Odin,  
To the gods of elder days,  
But gather round mighty Ansgar,  
Standing in his sturdy ship,  
Wielding the weapon  
Of the Holy Cross of Christ,  
That you may reach  
The true Valhalla,  
Safe forever from the devouring jaws  
Of the Nidhogg snake.  
Then the stories that will be told  
Of all the glories of the Christians  
Of Europe's snowy marches  
And North America's prairie lands  
Will be greater than the heroes'  
Of the sagas you have heard!

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**Walt Garlington** was born and raised in that part of Dixieland called Louisiana. A chemical engineer by training, he has spent the last several years writing full-time. He has written essays and poems for *The Hayride*, *The Tenth Amendment Center*, *The Abbeville Institute*, *Reckonin'*, *Katehon*, *Geopolitica*, and *USA Really*. He writes regularly at his own web site, [Confiteri: A Southern Perspective](#).

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