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No. 1

# *LUTHERAN*

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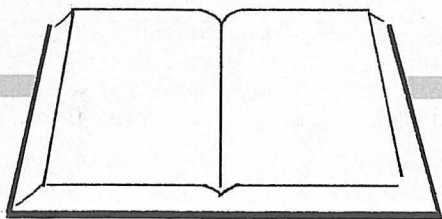


—RNS Photo

**LINCOLN AT PRAYER**

This bronze figure of Abraham Lincoln at prayer is at the National Episcopal Cathedral of St. Peter and St. Paul in Washington, D.C.

© HERBERT S. HOUCK



## According to the Word

### Let Christ Increase

"He must increase, but I must decrease" (John 3:30).

Strange man, that John the Baptist. He lived a lonely, spartan life except when the crowds came out to Jordan's banks to hear him preach his simple message on repentance. And he baptized many who confessed their sins. He was a fearless sort, too, for he dared to publicly denounce the adultery of the king even though such boldness was sure to bring royal wrath upon his head. Actually, it took his head off completely later.

John is an intriguing person also for the reason that he stands between the testaments or covenants. He was of the Old one, but he introduced the New when he sighted the approaching Christ and said, "Behold the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world." John's announcement is all the more remarkable when we realize that he knew that his own star would begin to fade now in the presence of the One who was the Messiah of God.

Yes, we may speak of the Baptist's ascetic life, his preaching and his courage, but chiefly we remember him for his humble spirit, for his willingness to step into the wings so that the spotlight might fall on Jesus alone. Like his more famous kinsman after the

flesh, he did not permit his lofty position to blind him, but gave himself completely to his service. In the words of our text he lays down in just a few words the motto of Christian living, "He must increase, but I must decrease."

In the flush of religious experience—the awakening of youth to a more conscious commitment to Jesus or the homecoming of the prodigal to the warmth of the Father's house—the Saviour is "all the world" to the believer. And in reality I am sure that He is given such a place. There is great joy in resting in the abundant mercy of the Lord and knowing that all is well.

But the fact of the matter, as one of my teachers used to say, is that there will be the need of and opportunity for Christ increasing in the days and years which follow that first glorious experience. Just as knowledge of Bible truth can become greater and love may develop, so also there is always the possibility of one's testimony for Christ becoming more honoring. No one should be like the man who boasted that he had taken a stand for the Lord twenty years ago, but of whom, unfortunately, it was said that he was still standing. He had not moved forward. God alone knows whether he still had a spark of faith left which might yet be

ignited into flame.

Let Christ increase! If you are Christ's, your life should point to Christ and not to self. Dwight L. Moody said, "The beginning of greatness is to be little; the increase of greatness is to be less; the perfection of greatness is to be nothing." Paul dropped down from calling himself the "least of the apostles" to the "chief of sinners." The last distinguishable words I heard an elderly man say on his deathbed were "saved by grace." The glory belongs to Christ and His cross.

Odd as it may seem, the road of the increasing Christ and the decreasing self is fraught with many dangers. The dangers may all be lumped together in the term "spiritual pride." This is a hideous creature and must be resisted at all costs. Pride is evident when we count our gains and keep track of them.

The answer is found in self-forgetful service, in increased devotional life, in a willingness to share the drudgery, and the rewards, if they should come. And one more thing, every night before we go to sleep, let us thank the Lord Jesus Christ for having had mercy even on such as we are.

—Raynard Huglen

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**THE LUTHERAN AMBASSADOR** is published bi-weekly (except the first issue of August) by an association of Lutheran congregations and interested friends. Rev. Raynard Huglen, New Effington, South Dakota, is the editor. Subscription price is \$2.50 per year in advance. Subscriptions should be sent to **THE LUTHERAN AMBASSADOR**, Box 546, Tioga, North Dakota. Third-class postage paid at Minneapolis, Minnesota. Publication office: 6820 Auto Club Road, Minneapolis 31, Minn.



# OUR PRESIDENT WRITES

by PASTOR JOHN STRAND

## Fear

**F**EAR is a powerful motive. It causes the destruction of health and robs people of the will to do. Fear is often incited to keep people cowed and immobile. Fear keeps many from heaven and imprisons them in a pit of uselessness.

Yet fear can be good. "The fear of God is the beginning of wisdom." When people have a child-like fear of God, a fear that impels obedience, God can use them for mighty works far beyond human attainments.

This is the first issue of *The Lutheran Ambassador*. It is the voice of a group of individuals and congregations who, for often-stated reasons, find it impossible to become a part of the American Lutheran Church. We aren't too good for the American Lutheran Church. We have been called to a task that demands that we stay out of the American Lutheran Church. Being convinced of that call, and fearing God, we cannot do otherwise. So help us, God!

Do we have other fears than a fear of God? Yes, I am afraid we have. Therefore we must remember our Lord's admonition "Fear not" as we enter upon the task set before us—a task we did not choose, we did not seek, that some have prayed to be spared from. We must fear no one, nothing but God, and

God has manifested that He is with us in countless ways. There is no other explanation for so many things that have occurred and are occurring daily than that He is with us. And we believe that He will continue to be with us. And "if God is for us, who can be against us"? He who equips the Church by His Spirit so she is equipped for every good work, will equip us as we wait on Him. While at times we may lack various physical equipment, we know God gives His Spirit, the only really necessary equipment, to those who ask Him. And if He has called us, won't He equip us if we are obedient? This above all else is a spiritual movement.

We fear not because we have each other. We have been so impressed by the men, women, and congregations which make up our fellowship that we will never cease thanking God for the privilege of working with such people. We are sinners in need of daily grace. Sometimes individuals have done things that have been unwise. But as a group, the integrity has been kept. We renounce deceitful and underhanded ways and commend ourselves to God. Being bound together by the bonds of our common faith and common concerns, we move forward.

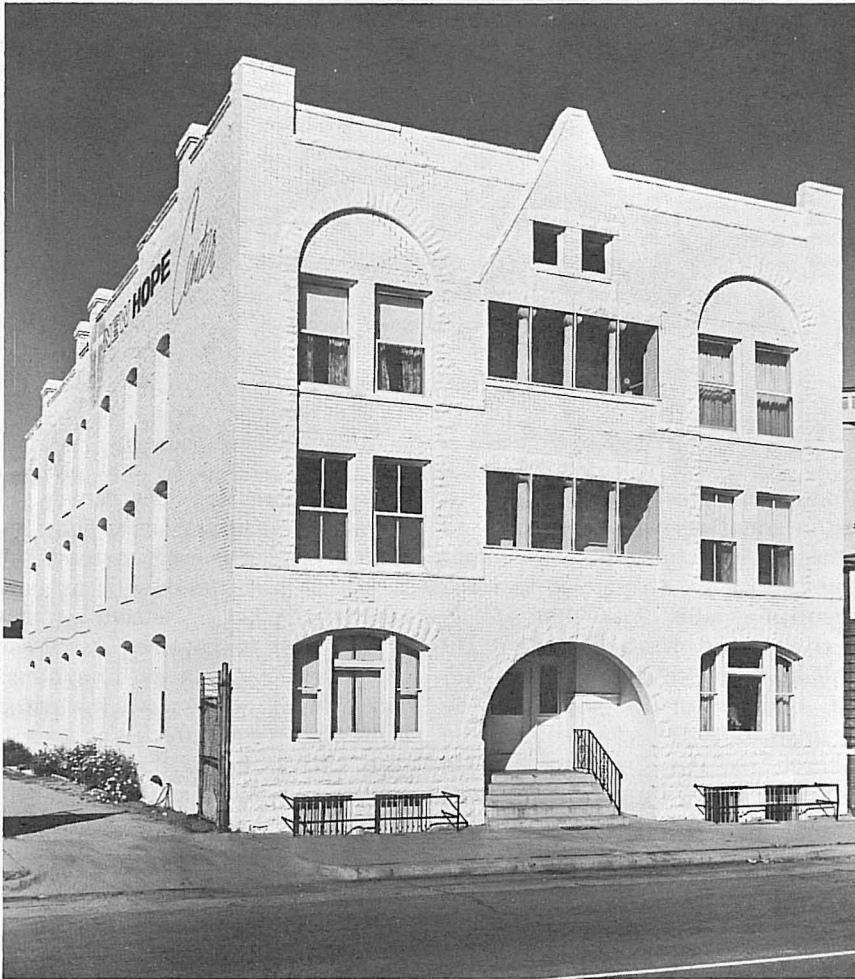
We fear not because of the good will towards us by thousands of our brethren who for different reasons find themselves in other church

bodies. These have the same concerns and faith we have. They believe our cause and method are just and they stand with us in a real way. What an encouragement it has been to get their hundreds of letters, to speak with countless folk who inform us we are doing right, that we are needed as a separate church body, that they will pray for us and that they will support us with their means. Not a few have suggested they may be completely with us soon. There is such a deep concern over some of the trends in our beloved Lutheran church today amongst thousands of our people. It is humbling to know that they see in us a ray of hope. For this cause, too, we fear not.

We fear not because we have a job to do. If there was nothing to do, we would have reason to fear. It is truly a stupendous task. Some people are frightened by tasks, others are challenged by them. We have a task to do in foreign missions. Already several calls have come to us, several doors have opened. We have a task in home missions to help congregations in need, to reorganize parishes, to establish new congregations. We have a task in establishing a seminary. There is a desperate need today for a Lutheran seminary that will give young men a firm ground in the Scriptures and prepare them for a congregation-centered minis-

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# NEW HOPE FOR OLD PROBLEMS



New Hope Center is the former Gateway Gospel Mission which carried on a wonderful ministry in the lower loop of Minneapolis, commonly referred to as "Skid Row." It is an independent Lutheran institution supported by interested friends contacted through the medium of a monthly paper called the *Beacon*.

Mr. Ole Olson founded the mission in 1926 and was the first superintendent. He passed away in 1939, and Mr. Magnus Hansen, a convert of the mission, then became superintendent. In 1954 he graciously stepped down to allow a younger man, Thor Haugen, to take his place. Mr. Haugen has since been the superintendent. There will be many in glory because of the ministry of the Gateway Mission.

In 1960 the redevelopment of the lower loop forced the mission to move. For some time prior thereto there had been a desire to have more of a "follow-through" program in our mission work. The appropriate time to begin such a program now seemed at hand.

Various changes ensued, such as: A change in location led to a rise in standards to more effectively carry on our program, which, in turn, enlarged the field of service, affording help to many who could not be served under the previous setup. A new location necessitated a change of name, for we were no longer in the so-called "Gateway" area of the city. The choice of "New Hope Center" was made because our ministry is definitely based on II Corinthians 5:17. Any man who accepts Christ becomes

a new creature and has "new hope." New Hope Center, therefore, became a name with a real meaning.

New Hope Center, as the name indicates, has one main purpose; namely, to bring "new hope" to men with extreme problems—problems which have made them unable to have a constructive place in society. Possibly the most common of these is alcoholism, which is fast becoming our nation's number one internal enemy. Many good, respectable citizens have become enslaved to this power.

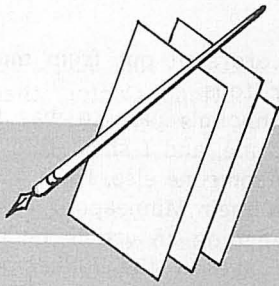
New Hope Center is carrying on where the Gateway Mission left off—presenting the same gospel in the same dedicated way but in a different manner, reaching the fallen church member as well as the outcast of society. At the Gateway Mission there was a preaching service, but a man possibly heard it only once. At New Hope Center there is a teaching ministry—a daily study of the Word. Each man has his own Bible.

New Hope Center is located at 212 - 11th Ave. S., just off Washington Avenue near Seven Corners in Minneapolis. It is a home and a rehabilitation center. It seeks to be an arm of the church and, as such, presents Christ as the answer to man's problems. This is done in a Christian, homelike atmosphere where the needs of the whole man are dealt with, resulting in his possible return to society, his home, and the church. The men live here for a minimum of two months but, if necessary, can stay longer. When it is felt that men are ready, jobs are found for them. They can continue to live at the Center until they feel established in their job and faith.

Men have come from city and rural areas alike, and from all vocations, races and creeds. They must come voluntarily, but oftentimes they are referred to the Center by pastors, court chaplains, or by relatives and friends. They must see their need of God's help and accept the Bible as God's Word. They are asked to be honest with them-

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# EDITORIALS

## MEET MR. "WE"

Whenever we begin a new job, everything is so strange and difficult. Each move must be thought out, and when it is executed it has a mechanical stiffness about it.

I remember one summer thirteen years ago a friend and I took a farm job near Stephen, Minnesota. We arrived on the place at about 3 o'clock in the afternoon and were soon put to work loading alfalfa bales on a trailer being pulled behind the baler. At first it took both of us to catch a bale as it was shunted up to the platform. Together we dragged it back and piled it, hoping to finish in time to get the next one. How tired we were at the end of that day! How sore our hands were even with gloves on!

But as we continued, we found that we could take turns in handling the bales, and at last only one of us rode the trailer at a time and the other could work at some other job. The moral is that when a task becomes more familiar, it becomes easier from the physical point of view, and the movements less mechanical.

The work of editing a church paper should never become an easy thing to do; just as preaching ought never be. I am only hoping that with the passage of time, I shall be so well acquainted with the physical aspects of the task that more time can be devoted to the spirit of this ministry, and I consider this also to be a ministry in Christ's kingdom.

It is with fear and trembling that I assume the editorship of this church paper. As I have indicated above, this is a new venture for me. Sometimes one wonders what right he has to accept a position for which he has no real formal training. Yet when co-workers say, "We want you to do this for us," it seems like a call to service by them and the Lord. It is in the belief that He will supply the needed strength and wisdom that I accept the editorship of *The Lutheran Ambassador*, which, like myself, is a new face on the large sea of church publications.

Therefore, from this time forward, except when I must be very personal such as in writing about my pastor, G. P. Ronholm, I shall be standing behind the editorial "we." The use of the "we" is justified, I think, when we remember that this is our paper, not mine, and I shall hope to be speaking for all of you

some of the time and some of you some of the time. And if I don't speak for you, let me know—in a brotherly way, of course.

And now we proceed to the task in the Lord's name.

## THE LUTHERAN AMBASSADOR

"We recommend that the \_\_\_\_\_ publish a bi-weekly paper. (a) The paper shall have as its aim the building up of Christian personal and congregational life within the church, the promotion of Christian work within and without our fellowship, and the dissemination of current news which affects the religious community. (b) The paper shall be subsidized if necessary by the Board of Administration or by such means as it shall be able to arrange."

This is the resolution adopted by the convention of non-merging congregations of the Lutheran Free Church held at Thief River Falls, Minnesota, last October, which has brought this paper to life. The Board, Executive Committee, and Committee on Publications and Parish Education have subsequently made the necessary decisions so that we at this time begin publication.

It was realized from the beginning that our association must have a regular paper if it is to survive. The Board of Administration has indicated its willingness to stand behind this venture completely. In other words, the association itself is guaranteeing our continuance.

The name chosen for our paper is *The Lutheran Ambassador*. To our knowledge no publication in America of general circulation uses exactly this name. Our motto is II Corinthians 5:20, "So we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We beseech you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God." An ambassador is the representative of a sovereign or state. We represent the Lord of lords and King of kings. There is no higher mission than that of bearing the good news of reconciliation to men. May our work as an association and in this paper be dominated by that goal.

It will be our purpose to live up to the aims given us by the convention resolution. We shall endeavor to set forth material which challenges Christians to deeper life with Christ and builds up the Christian congregation. Together with this will be the call to the unsaved to be reconciled to the waiting Lord. We are to promote both our own church work and other worthy Christian projects.

We also shall present religious news and some current news which may not seem on the surface to apply, but which actually has an effect on Christian life. And really, what is there that doesn't have some significance to that? We reserve the right to comment editorially on a variety of subjects.

We are beginning with only eight pages. That is, frankly, a concession to the editor who needs time to get adjusted to the new job. We are planning to increase to 16 pages by next fall at the latest and there will be no increase in cost to you when that is done. You won't be getting your money's worth now (we hope you will then), but trust that you will bear with us.

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### PASTOR G. P. RONHOLM

"This will be my last visit here. When you hear the news that Ronholm has gone, you will know that I have gone home to be with the Lord."

So spoke Pastor Ronholm on his last visit to Newfolden, Minnesota, last summer on the occasion of the dedication of the new Alma Lutheran Church near Argyle. He "went home" on Dec. 8, 1962. The funeral service was held at Nokomis Heights Lutheran Church, Minneapolis, on Dec. 11.

He was my pastor for about five years and the one who confirmed me in the Christian faith, using as his text, Psalm 119:9-15, 105. I recall him as a man who was interested in us young people. He desired the best for us.

He was not a polished speaker and yet I enjoyed hearing him preach. A warmth and earnestness came through his messages and that, after all, goes a long way. He was sound biblically and stood on the faith delivered to the saints.

Pastor Ronholm favored and promoted the evangelistic series of meetings. I recall many of the speakers who came to be with us those years. He continued the prayer meeting summer and winter. He believed in the public testimony for Christ. He drew me out in Christian expression by calling on me to lead in public prayer as a boy.

He ministered in the Newfolden parish for eighteen years. A pastor learns his community in an intimate way over that period of time. He is able to do some

things in that time which are shut out from many of us in our four- or five-year stops.

The news of Pastor Ronholm's passing was the cause of a special regret to me, and I share this for the reminder it may give to someone else. I last visited the Ronholms in July in their Minneapolis home. At that time I mentioned finding an article he had written about forty years ago in the *Folkebladet* telling of some time he had spent north of Westby, Montana, doing church work in Saskatchewan. He wanted to read it and I promised to send it to him. Many times I thought of it and many times delayed. Then at last it was too late. Let us do the good deed while we can.

Blessed be his memory to all who knew him.

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### OTHER BRETHERN DEPART

We are going to make a practice of mentioning the passing of pastors and pastors' wives of the old Lutheran Free Church as well as of our own association in these pages.

Pastor Trygve Dahle will write in our next issue about Pastor John T. Quanbeck, his friend, Augsburg schoolmate, and contemporary in the ministry. He was the builder of the modern home mission program of the Lutheran Free Church. He was a friend of the small congregation and a courageous preacher. None of us who heard him speak to a gathering of opponents of merger last January will ever forget how he spoke from his heart in telling us how he felt he must go along with the merger.

Rev. J. T. Quanbeck died January 11, 1963.

Pastor Eric Edwin Paulson, who passed away in late December, was not as well known by many of us, for he spent most of his ministry in the Presbyterian church. We shall remember him for the devotional messages he wrote in the *Lutheran Messenger* in 1959. They were evangelical and filled with a wholesome pietism.

Thank you, brethren, for doing us good.

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## Lutheran World Federation To Meet In Helsinki

Lutherans from sixty-three member churches throughout the world will convene for the Fourth Lutheran World Federation Assembly in Helsinki, Finland, July 30-August 11, 1963. The theme for the Assembly is "Christ Today."

The Lutheran World Federation was begun in Lund, Sweden, in 1947. Hanover, Germany, was the

site of the second gathering in 1952. Five years later the Federation met in Minneapolis, Minnesota, and was highlighted by the presence of such European bishops as Otto Dibelius, Lajos Ordaas, and Hanns Lilje.

The theme of this fourth assembly will naturally lead to a discussion of justification by faith, and Lutheran pastors have now received a study document on this topic prepared by Dr. Warren Quanbeck, professor at Luther Theological Seminary, St. Paul, Minnesota.

Our fellowship is not a member of the Federation and thus will send no delegation. Should anyone from our congregations be planning to attend the assembly, would you make that known to either Rev. John Strand, Tioga, N. Dak., our president, or Rev. Julius Hermuns-lie, Spicer, Minn., our Board chairman? It would be fine if someone could represent us as an observer although the association will be unable to make any remuneration for expenses.



## NEW HOPE CENTER

[Continued from page 4]

selves, with God, and the staff, and to have an open mind to what they hear. They must attend classes each morning and Tuesday, Thursday and Friday evenings. These are teaching sessions examining self and man's problems in the light of the Scriptures and "looking unto Christ, the author and finisher of our faith." Some have responded to the call of Christ to follow Him and live a victorious life through Him; others have not and have left, but the Word has left its impact. One man came back under the influence of liquor and said, "I wish that I had never seen New Hope Center. I can't have fun drinking anymore." Others, too, have left but some have come back realizing that this is what they need and have then yielded to God's way of salvation through Christ.

God has blessed this ministry. Men have been set free from the bondage they were in.

An electrician came to the Center in March, 1962. Drink had almost ruined him financially and he was going down socially also. He had owned his own electrical business and had attended a Lutheran church. He saw his need of a new way of life and found it in the Word. Three months later he left the Center feeling better physically and a new creature spiritually. He returned to his beautiful home to be with his wife and grown daughter. He accepted a position as foreman with a large electrical firm in the cities. God led him to start an adult Bible class in his church on Sunday mornings, and daily he witnesses to his workmen by word and deed. They see a great change in his conduct.

Another young man is now attending the Lutheran Bible Institute because of New Hope Center. This man was raised in orphanages because at an early age the courts took the children from the drunk-en parents. The Word became not only a means of salvation but also gave an inner compassion to help others. He felt that he needed a

better knowledge of the Word and therefore enrolled at this school.

One individual, who used to come to the Gateway Mission and lived at the Center last summer, left because of his drinking and was later arrested and put in jail. While there, he states that the teachings came back to him and he accepted Christ. He has returned to the Center and is eagerly searching for more knowledge.

The men are encouraged by the staff to go to church on Sunday mornings. One man sings in a choir nearly every Sunday. Rehabilitation is not complete until they are back in the church.

Each man is counselled with as often as it is deemed necessary, or whenever he desires it. This is the rewarding part of the work. Therefore, it is better to work with fewer people and have a better program.

Because of limited funds and staff, the Center is not operating at full capacity. There are facilities to house thirty-two men, but there are only twenty at the Center at the present time. In days to come, with a few alterations and increased staff, there could be forty-eight men on a rehabilitation program at one time.

The board of trustees and the staff see a definite need for a home of this type for women too. There is no place in this area that a fallen woman can go to receive daily physical and spiritual help. They hope that some day this may become a reality. They are convinced that "all Scripture is inspired by God and is useful for teaching the faith and correcting error, for resetting the direction of a man's life and training him in good living" (II Tim. 3:16, Phillips).

*(In the above article by Mr. Thor Haugen, we present the first of a series of articles about inter-Lutheran work for which we encourage your financial and prayer support. Contributions and inquiries may be directed to New Hope Center, 212 - 11th Ave. S., Minneapolis 15, Minn.)*

## MRS. R. H. HOFSTAD

After an illness of thirteen months following a stroke, during which time she was confined to bed, Mrs. R. H. Hofstad, wife of the pastor, entered into the paradise of God. She passed away on January 5 at a rest home in Ortonville, Minn.

Funeral services were conducted first at the Emanuel Funeral Home in Milbank, S. Dak., on January 9, by Rev. LeRoy Elster of the American Lutheran Church. In the afternoon a service was held at the Zoar Lutheran Church, northeast of Grenville, S. Dak., within sight of the country parsonage where she and her husband once lived for thirteen years. Burial was in the church cemetery.

Rev. Raynard Huglen, New Effington, S. Dak., president of the Waubay District, officiated at the service and at the committal of the earthly remains. The sermon was preached by Rev. E. S. Vik, Waubay, S. Dak., a long-time neighbor pastor of the Hofstads. He used the first verses of John 14 as his text and contrasted the glory of heaven with the troubles of this world. Mrs. Vik sang two solos, one of them in Norwegian. As a final song the audience sang "Friends of Jesus in their parting only part to meet again."

Leonora Jordbro was born March 21, 1881, at Valnesfjord, Norway. She came to Canada in 1912 and was united in marriage to Pastor R. H. Hofstad at Lawson, Sask., on Dec. 13, 1916. She was a help-mate to her husband in the Hawarden, Sask., parish until 1925; at Rugby, N. Dak., 1925-1939; Govan, Sask., 1939-1946; Grenville, S. Dak., 1946-1959; and St. John's Church, Milbank, S. Dak., 1959-1961.

Mrs. Hofstad is survived by her husband and one son, Herman, superintendent at Odessa, Minn.; three grandchildren, and two brothers in Saskatchewan, Otto and Alec Jordbro. Pastor Hofstad is staying with his son in Odessa.

Mrs. Hofstad served faithfully

with her husband in the Kingdom. She was well liked by the people and will be missed by all who knew her. In her later days of illness she had pointed upward a sign of the blessed hope which she had. Blessed be her memory.

## SUBSCRIPTION INFORMATION

Over 2,000 families will be receiving this first issue of *The Lutheran Ambassador*. Members of congregations affiliating with our association are asked to subscribe through their own church. Your pastor will be making announcements of subscription plans.

Others of you will be receiving several issues of the *Ambassador*. If you should desire to join our reading family, and we hope you will, you may use the enclosed envelope to send in your subscription. If you do not choose to do this, please be patient and we will discontinue sending the paper in a short time.

## OUR PRESIDENT SPEAKS

[Continued from page 3]

try. A seminary is needed that will inspire real faith in God's word as God's Word and open the eyes of the students to the lost souls about us who know not the Saviour. We have been much encouraged as we have begun moving into these fields. Because God has given them to us, we fear not.

To our brethren who will not be with us in our church, we wish you well as you go into the new church. We are still brothers in Christ. To say less would be to be tragically sectarian. God bless you in your chosen vineyard. We will pray for you and we can covet your prayers. Brethren, contend earnestly for the faith!

Let us fear not. Only believe!

"You are the salt of the earth; but if salt has lost its taste, how shall its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything except to be thrown out and trodden under foot by men. You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hid. Nor do men light a lamp and put it under a bushel, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven" (Matt. 5:13-16).

"For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven" (Matt. 5:20).

"You have heard that it was said, An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth. But I say to you, Do not resist one who is evil. But if any one strikes you on the right cheek, turn to him the other also" (Matt. 5:38, 39).

"And when you pray, you must not be like the hypocrites; for they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, that they may be seen by men. Truly, I say to you, they have their reward. But when you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you" (Matt. 6:5, 6).

"Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal, but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consume and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also" (Matt. 6:19-21).

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## FINANCIAL SUPPORT NEEDED

Members and friends of the association are reminded that a continuing and growing financial support is needed in order that the present program may be carried on and plans for growth and development executed later. Future plans will be revealed as they are agreed upon. Much will depend on the actions of the convention to be held June 12-16.

Gifts should be made out to:  
Treasurer, Lutheran Association  
7013 Lee Valley Circle  
Minneapolis 24, Minnesota