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April 19, 1966

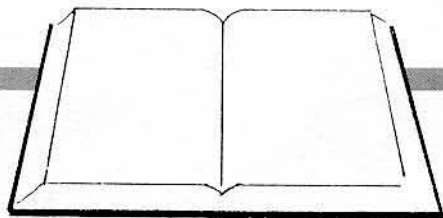
No. 8

LUTHERAN

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Lucy Photos



According to the Word

THE SIN OF PRIDE

"The pride of thine heart hath deceived thee" (Obadiah 3a).

Oswald Chambers states that "the greatest curse in spiritual life is conceit." It is surely a fact that pride is one of the deadliest of sins. It is a sin that is little feared in our day and often condoned among professing Christians.

Pride is the opposite of humility. The Bible always describes pride as sin. Pride manifests itself in two ways. Pride manifests itself with respect to God as spiritual arrogance and self-righteousness. There are many accounts in the Bible that reveal that God resists the proud and gives grace only to the humble. We think of men like Pharaoh of Egypt who refused to acknowledge God's command to let Israel go. There was proud Nebuchadnezzar who, when glorying in his accomplishments, was brought low. A drunken Belshazzar, lifting himself up against the God of heaven, was brought to naught. These are but a few of the examples of the fact that "a man's pride shall bring him low."

Pride also manifests itself with respect to our fellow men. The Bible declares that haughtiness, the feeling of superiority, boasting and vainglorying, God "will not suffer." When a man is wrapped up in himself, he makes a pretty small parcel.

But perhaps the most serious thing about pride is that it deceives an individual. It is pride that keeps many sinners from experiencing the

redeeming grace of God. Pride holds many back from repentance and humbling themselves to confess that they are helpless and guilty sinners. The Gospel awakens in many an intense longing, but in others it gives rise to resentment, because it brings a revelation to the individual that is not a pleasant one. There is a certain pride in the old sinful nature that will cause a man to give and give, but it does not want to come and accept something. There are those who would give themselves to martyrdom, to consecration, or to almost anything else, but they do not want to be humiliated to the level of the most hell-deserving sinner, to be told that all that they need to do is to accept the gift of salvation through Christ.

The child of God must be reminded over and over again that we cannot earn anything from God. All that He has for us we receive as a gift or we do without it. The greatest blessing spiritually is the knowledge that we are destitute. Until we arrive at this point, and remain there, our Lord is powerless to do anything for us. If we want to be rich, self-sufficient, and possessed of anything in the way of pride or independence, God cannot do anything for us. This is how pride can deceive us, and cheat us out of the riches of the blessings God has for us.

How soon the temptation comes to the child of God to look away from the righteousness of Christ to some rags of self-righteousness. How often we read the parable of the publican praying in the temple,

and we find ourselves thinking that we are just like the humble publican. We can think of many others who fit into the class of the proud Pharisee. This is just what our Lord does not want us to do. As soon as we think of the weakness of others, we become self-righteous. We are not humble. The sin of pride which we point out in the Pharisee did not vanish with the Pharisee. It is with us to rear its ugly head in many and unsuspecting ways. How we need to take heed that our hearts be not deceived by pride.

Two statements were made concerning individual church members. (1) "He's a good man, but he's proud." (2) "He's a good man, but he's a thief." The first might pass unchallenged in almost any Christian group; the second immediately stands out as a glaring inconsistency. Yet it is a grave question whether in God's sight the proud man is not worse than the thief. What is the matter? Simply this. Our poor, sin-blinded minds have set up un-scriptural distinctions between sins. Pride is so prevalent among the religious that we accept it. We need the rude shock of awakening to the fact that the self-righteous proud are guilty of just as damning a sin as theft, murder, or adultery. This is why Christ had to die.

A nobleman in China carried a chest wherever he went. No one knew what was in the chest. People wondered what was in it. Finally someone asked his highness what was in the chest. The chest was opened. Inside were found the

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Hope Maketh Not Ashamed

by Rev. John H. Abel
missionary in Brazil

Romans 5

A FEW months ago now I was on one of those every-so-often trips into new frontier areas. It is literally impossible to take up all the opportunities, invitations and open doors that appear for the Gospel on this far-flung frontier, yet one cannot help but feel that he must leave all the work at hand and go out to unreached areas in the neighborhood every-so-often. What strikes me about this trip was not the usual bad roads that wind up and down the hilly jungle country, nor the bleak faces of the men, women and children of the frontier. We have gotten used to these things, but rather an unusual experience that happened as the sun was setting late one afternoon.

Yes, it was late in the day. Soon it would be time to take a shower under a bucket pulled up over one's head, and get dressed before it got so dark that candle or lamplight was necessary. But I was taking advantage of the last part of the afternoon when the men and women were returning home from their patches of land scattered around the jungle. You see, you often can't catch anyone at home during the day as even mothers and the babies have gone off to the fields to hoe or work. Often the little children watch the baby who is set in a box under a tree and the older children all pitch in with Mom and Dad to clear jungle, plant, cultivate or harvest.

The shadows were growing long-

er, and with my loudspeaker on top of the jeep I was broadcasting down through the valleys announcing our meeting in the schoolhouse that night. I had stopped for a bit at the home of a family recently converted in our meetings, who lived near the road. We had a cup of coffee together as we sat on wooden benches, discussing the meetings, the things of the Lord, and watching the chickens run in and out over the mud floor.

Again I was traveling along toward town. Just as I entered a spot where the jungle closes over the road, I noticed that my loudspeaker was coming off the top of the jeep. I stopped, got up on top and started to tighten it up. Hardly had I finished and come down when I saw a horseman riding toward me at a slow gallop. He wore the typical rider's garb here, big western-style hat; long, dark, wool cape (which is excellent as protection against the cold or rain); boots and spurs. He pulled up in front of the jeep. I made a few steps toward him, holding out my hand, and introducing myself, as the custom is. He gave his name and then very frankly in frontier style said, "You're the man I'm looking for."

Now with darkness almost on us, in a dark spot on the road, to have a stranger ride up and say, just out of the blue, "You're the man I'm looking for," can raise some strange thoughts in one's mind. Could this be one of those desperados that are common around here? Is this fellow looking for friendship or trouble? What about those two men that were shot on the road last

week? Well, all in all I didn't have a very comfortable feeling at that moment. But there being nothing else to do, I asked him what I could do for him.

The stranger continued, "I came into this valley five years ago. I felt God wanted me to move out here and cut my farm out of the jungle. Two years ago I began to definitely pray that God would send a preacher of the Gospel into this valley. You are the first one to come. Now I'm building a house right near the settlement where you're preaching, and I just wanted to say that when I get it finished, you are sure welcome to come and preach the Gospel in my house. I'll invite all the neighbors and do what I can for you."

That night my strange friend was in church. I haven't been back to that settlement to take him up on his offer to preach the Gospel in his house, but by God's grace we intend to get there yet. Think of it, dear friends, praying definitely for two years for a preacher of the Gospel. Doesn't it remind you of the man Paul saw over in Macedonia in his vision, saying, "come over and help us"?

This man was no vision, rather, a real live, flesh-and-blood individual upon whom the Spirit of God had been working. This man's heart's desire could be multiplied over and over again here. This new, needful community exists in dozens and dozens of places in Brazil. Will his prayer be answered? Will the Gospel come to him and hun-

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Jungle scene in Brazil

SOME OBSERVATIONS OUT OF AN ILLNESS EXPERIENCE

(A few years ago I suffered an "indisposition" which resulted in surgery, three weeks of hospitalization and several weeks of further recuperation away from my parish. Following that experience I wrote down some thoughts for our parish paper. In the hope that they may find a responsive chord in the heart of someone else, and be of some encouragement, they are reprinted here.)

God sometimes calls us aside and when that happens we always wonder why. He has purposes though, and we ought to desire to gain what we can also through the unpleasant situations of life. This has been my desire. I am aware of many good things that have come into my life through my two stays in hospitals. I believe that the Lord may make me yet aware of more.

Here are some thoughts and impressions which have come to mind from my recent experience.

—Having been a hospital patient himself, a pastor is better able to understand the feelings of the patients he visits.

—Having seen a hospital from the "inside," I have a greater appreciation of the healing ministry of the medical profession (doctors and nurses). Certainly God still performs great miracles through them.

—My enforced illness has shown me that I am not indispensable. The work can be carried on also by others and yet I know that like everyone else I have a unique place to fill.

—It seems to me that there is a cleansing quality about pain. It makes one more aware of human frailty and draws him out of his own self-sufficiency. Happy is the one who at such a time draws near

to the God who is already near.

—In a time of illness it is heartwarming indeed to be remembered by friends through visits, cards, flowers, prayers. Prayer especially sustains. These things cannot be emphasized too much.

—And the greatest friend of all is Jesus. I was always conscious of His presence. He strengthened and He healed.

—I discovered for myself that when the body is under the influence of some drugs it is very difficult to pray. The mind cannot concentrate. This reminds us that we ought to seek the Lord while our minds are clear and not wait until our senses may be so clouded that we cannot.

—After being unable to attend the Lord's house for many Sundays, I am greatly aware what a priceless privilege it is to go to church on Sunday. And if one cannot attend church, the radio is a great blessing. For three Sundays I didn't even have the opportunity to hear a radio service.

—Raynard Huglen

According to the Word

[Continued from page 2]

common clothes of a working man. The nobleman said, "I was just a common working man. Our great sovereign stooped and lifted me from the dust. If ever my heart is tempted with pride, I open this chest. I look at these working clothes, and I say to myself, 'Remember what thou wast!'"

Let us, too, be constantly reminded of what we were, and are, apart from the grace of God, that we might walk humbly with Him and our fellow men.

—R. Snipstead

Rev. Marius Haakenstad has resigned as pastor of Our Savior's, Bethlehem, Rindal and Reiner Lutheran Churches. Date of termination is not known. Pastor and Mrs. Haakenstad will continue to make their home in Thief River Falls, Minn., where they have served for several years.

Mr. Paul Dahlen, 21, student at Augsburg College in Minneapolis, Minn., died in an airplane crash near Rockford, Minn., on Feb. 27. Paul was the son of Rev. and Mrs. Lester Dahlen, Minneapolis. Pastor Dahlen, in addition to serving Lutheran Free Church pastorates, was a missionary to Hong Kong and the last Executive Director of the Lutheran Board of Missions. Currently he is serving as an assistant to the Executive Director of World Missions of the American Lutheran Church.

World Missions

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dreds like him? Much depends on you Free Lutherans who have taken upon yourselves the mission to the frontiers.

How about you young college and Bible school students? Will you help us answer this man's prayer? Will you bring him the Gospel? How about you possessors of this world's goods? Will you share, will you send your representatives, will you enable someone to go and bring the saving message to this man? May the Lord of the harvest help us as an Association of Free Lutherans to get the vision of lost and needy men, and now even at the coming conference to send out more laborers to His frontier fields. Jesus has commanded us to go and He says, "Ye are my friends, if ye do whatsoever I command you" (John 15:14).

"Because if you confess with your lips that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved" (Rom. 10:9).

God Is Silent

Pastor Lars Stalsbroten

We read in popular magazines and hear it proclaimed over the radio and TV that God is dead now. He does not speak or act and therefore He must be dead. We are free from responsibility now. We do not need to give an account for our deeds done in the body, for there is none to give account to. God is dead. Now we can live as we please.

It is so easy for us to put all the blame for this blindness on the world that is going nuts. I wonder if the historic Church, which is supposed to represent God, is so dead that it has given the world the impression that God is dead.

God has said and done everything through His Son that is necessary for our salvation in this dispensation of grace. Not even the Holy Spirit came with anything new. He came to remind us of what God already had said and done through His Son.

When the Nazis during World War II brutally murdered millions of His own chosen people He did not act or sound out any thundering protest from heaven. He kept silent. When the Russian and Chinese Communists later tortured and killed millions and millions of those who were not willing to conform, God did not say anything, nor did He immediately execute His judgment upon them. He kept silent. But His silence is only the stillness before the storm. There comes a day when He will speak and the whole world will tremble. That day may come sooner than we think—the day of reckoning, the day of wrath, the day of judgment. Then the world will find out

that God is very much alive, and it will be a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God (Heb. 10:31).

“For we know that if the earthly tent we live in is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens” (II Cor. 5:1).

REJOICE—CHRIST LIVES

Is your soul full of sorrow
Because Christ suffered and died
Upon the cross of Calvary
Where precious blood was shed?

Don't be sad, for Christ's love was
shown
By dying upon the tree.
He paid the penalty for sin
To bring salvation to you and me.

Christ died and was laid in a tomb;
He did not stay, but He arose,
And is alive today
To lighten your many woes.

Christ is alive in the hearts of men.
We thank Him for redeeming love,
And rejoice because Christ lives
And has a home for us above.

Doris L. Johnson
Carlos, Minn.

Annual Conference Lodging

June 8-12, Thief River Falls, Minn.

Please reserve the following at a downtown hotel
(6 blocks from church)

Single—\$3.00 per night
Double—\$5.00 per night
2 double beds—\$7.00 per night
Room with bath or shower—\$2.00 extra

Please reserve the following at a motel
(6 to 12 blocks from church)

Single—\$5.50 per night
Double—\$8.00 per night
2 double beds—\$12.00 per night
Twin beds—\$12.00 per night

Summer-vacated 'student' housing as well as rooms in private homes will be available.

Camping and trailer accommodations will be available.

The above reservations are to be sent to:

Mrs. Norman A. Peterson
Convention Housing
Route 5
Thief River Falls, Minn. 56701



Edited by Mrs. David C. Hanson

JUNIOR MISSION BANDS

(In the midst of a rather dull search for information about Junior Mission Bands, we remembered that Trinity Lutheran Church of Minnehaha Falls has had an active group for over twenty five years. Now why, when Mission bands seem to be decreasing in number, has Trinity been able to continue? Part of the answer may be found in the enthusiasm of the adults who are leading the program; and we're thankful to Mrs. Seburg and Mrs. Dvorak for all of the information they shared. The questions that were asked and a summary of their responses should help us to profit by their years of experience.)

What Is the Goal for Your Work with the Junior Mission Band?

As far as we know, no written goal has ever been established. We would say that we have a dual purpose: to give the children information about missions so they will be challenged to Christian service, and to provide them with an opportunity for service.

How Do You Approach This Purpose?

We meet on the first Saturday of every month from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. The first hour is an assembly that features a missionary speaker, a mission story, or a film. The classes take turns to provide music, devotions, and ushers to take the offering.

During the second hour the young people are divided into groups according to their ages, and the boys have separate groups from the girls as they work on a variety of projects. Refreshments are served at the close of the afternoon.

What Kind of Projects Have Been Successful?

It depends on the age of the group. Young children make bookmarks from wide ribbon and gummed

seals, tray favors, and scrapbooks. Wooden jigsaw puzzles and simple mottoes in foreign languages are appealing to older boys. Sixth grade girls can assemble sewing cards that contain needles and thread, common pins, and a few buttons. We have rolled bandages, and made oilcloth toys that were stuffed with shredded nylon hose. "Klean up" kits made from freshly painted cigar boxes and packed with soap, washcloths, toothbrushes, toothpaste, tablets, pencils, etc., were a favorite project. Recently we used plastic clothesline and painted spools to fashion jumping ropes that were sent to South America.

Are All of the Projects Sent to the Mission Field?

No...scrapbooks have been made for nursing homes and institutions in our own city and state. Tray favors are used in homes for senior citizens. Not all projects are suitable for all mission fields.

How Is the Program Financed?

Most of the materials used in the projects are donated. An offering is taken each meeting, but it is given to a different mission each month. The adult Bible classes help to finance our parties. It is not an expensive program.

You Mentioned Parties...Are These Additional Meetings?

No...our schedule begins in October and ends in June. For our December meeting we have a special Christmas worship service as well as a party with ice cream and cookies. At Easter time we join in a Good Friday Children's Service rather than our usual program; and at our last meeting in June we have a "Pete the Pig Party" when we bring a special offering for the work among the lepers. (This is a holdover from the old Augustana Lutheran Church.)

Any Other Special Features?

Once a year we present a Sunday evening program for the congregation when we display samples of our projects and give parents and friends a picture of our Junior Mission Band.

How Many Children Participate and What Are Their Ages?

At present there are approximately 80 children who attend. We have had as few as 60 and as many as 150. Junior high students were included at one time, but we now serve kindergarten children through those who are in sixth grade. Attendance is best in the kindergarten and first grade age groups.

Have You Seen Fruit in Your Work with the Junior Mission Band?

Yes, but it's difficult to measure the value of such a program. Some of our young people have tes-

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WOMEN for Christ

1965 REPORT

It is with thankfulness to God and to the women of our Women's Missionary Federation that I make the following report for the fiscal year ending January 31, 1966:

Total receipts for the year	\$11,653.11
Convention offering to Nogalas Chapel Fund	1,946.07
Total receipts on WMF projects	\$ 9,707.04

We were, therefore, only \$229.96 short on our \$10,000 budget to the various WMF projects.

The following is the approved budget for the year February 1, 1966-January 31, 1967:

Cradle Roll	\$ 100
Junior Missions	1,400
Church Extension	3,000
Honorary Membership and in Memoriam ..	500
My Missionary for a Day	3,000
Mission Scholarship ...	1,000
General Fund	3,000
Total	\$12,000

It is to be noted that the allocations to Junior Missions and to Church Extension have each been increased by \$1,000.

The Convention offering this year is designated for Home Missions (Church Extension) of the

Association of Free Lutheran Congregations.

There is an urgent need for gifts to the Junior Mission Fund to enable us to meet our monthly obligation of \$100 to the Parish Education Department. As this department will be preparing mission material for Sunday schools, it has been suggested that Sunday schools be encouraged to support the Junior Mission fund as a good mission project. Remittances to this fund should be sent to:

Mrs. R. M. Konsterlie
WMF Treasurer
Route 1
Willmar, Minnesota

THANK YOU FOR YOUR THOUGHTFULNESS

Sao Paulo, Brasil
April, 1966

Dear Friends in the WMF:

"But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear" (I Pet. 3:15).

Once more it is time for a visit with dear friends of the WMF, so may I come in for a while, and maybe have a cup of good American coffee while we chat? I'm sorry to be so late with my visit, but time has passed a little faster than seems possible.

Two weeks ago last Sunday the rain started here and before long many inches had come down, resulting in a flood of Sao Paulo. It is quite different here when it rains heavily. It isn't flat, as the land is in Northern Minnesota, but it is more or less hilly, and without knowing it a river of water is around you. Just after a few hours of rain we heard of three people from one family drowning, as the water had come up so fast. They had crawled up on the roof of their little house, but before help could come they were washed down river. This was only about six blocks from us. Here at 2292 Rodrigues Alves, we were all fine and the water didn't bother us at all, as we are up on a hill. The street car tracks were washed out so Alvin has been having to take two different buses to get to school and to return home again.

It has been so nice to have the Abels with us as time permits them. Alvin and James also made a trip out to Compo Maurao, to the "Mission," to get a glimpse of the future work. He was very inspired and we are now eager to be on our last lap of the journey, although we have some months to spend here in Sao Paulo yet.

The other night, our son James was hit by a car as he was crossing the street. His only injury was a fractured bone in his arm and a few bruises. He was quite upset for a while, but after getting a cast put on, he is doing fine. We were so thankful that it wasn't worse, as it easily could have been. He had been planning on spending the night with a friend, but now he will have to do so at a later date.

I want to thank all of you who have sent get-well cards, letters, tracts, special poems, and birthday cards for the children. Also to the Ladies Aids who send letters every month. It is so interesting and also inspiring to hear from all. It is just impossible to write to each and every one of you, but that is what I would like to do. A special great big "thank you" to the Winter Conference, for the prayers and the

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NEWS

of the Churches

PASTOR INSTALLED CHURCH DEDICATED

Pastor Hubert De Boer was officially installed in the Association Free Lutheran Parish of McIntosh, Bagley and Fosston, Minn., at the 10 o'clock service, March 20, 1966. The place chosen for this service was Mt. Carmel Free Lutheran Church of McIntosh.

Pastor John P. Strand, president of the Association of Free Lutheran Congregations, was on hand for the service as well as bringing a powerful message from God's Word on the meaning of the office of the pastor and of the congregation. Pastor Strand based his message on II Corinthians 5:20—truly we are ambassadors for the eternal King and Savior!

The choir of Mt. Carmel enhanced our service by their message through song, under the able direction of Mrs. Roholt. Mrs. De Boer and Annette sang the song "Each Step I Take" as the keynote for the installation.

The officers from each congregation of the parish were invited to be on hand to make the pledges and promises before God which compose the service of installation. The presidents of the congregations read portions of Scripture during this service.

The high point of the day was the dedication of the Mt. Carmel Free Lutheran Church at the 2:30 afternoon hour. The ladies of the parish had served about 200 people a sumptuous dinner in the church

parlors. Many thrills were experienced as things were used for the first time.

The president of the congregation, Mr. Joseph Thompson, extended a warm welcome to the assembled group from his mental storehouse of anecdotes, poems, and Scripture. Again the choir, under Mrs. Roholt's direction, sang songs of praise to our God. We thought it only fitting that the offering was designated for the missions of our AFLC. And the prayer went with the gifts that God would bless them for the extending of His kingdom.

Pastor Andrew Monson, pastor of Elim Lutheran of Clearbrook, brought us a message in song, accompanying himself on his auto harp.

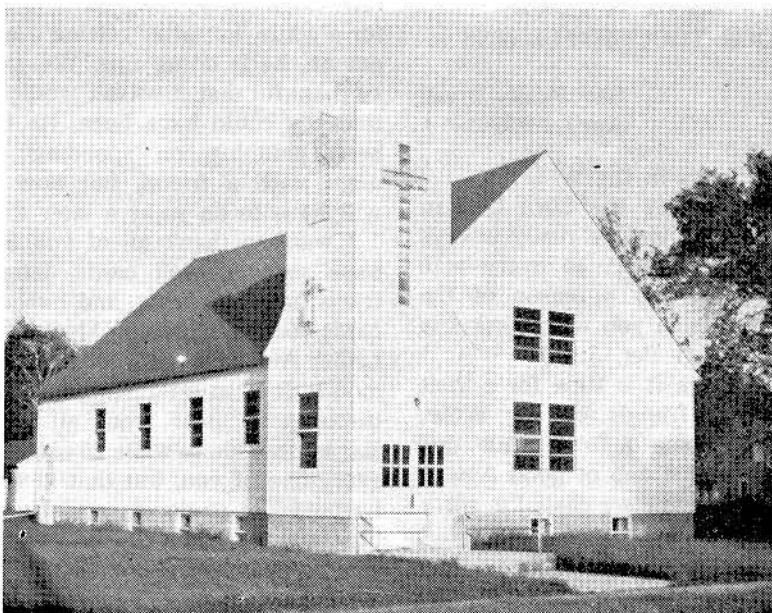
Pastor John Strand chose the Epistle lesson for the day for his dedication text, Psalm 84:1-4, which is truly a Psalm of praise and thanksgiving. Between the message and the dedication service, the Mt. Carmel Men's Quartet assured us by song "Jesus Is With Me."

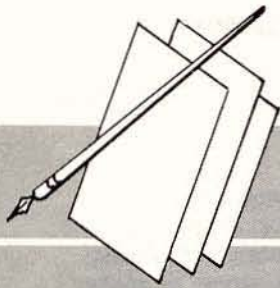
The vice president of the congregation, Mr. Alfred Johnson, made the acknowledgements to those who labored and donated to bring this sanctuary to this state of readiness for dedication. He mentioned many and worthy names to be praised in this regard, but we notice that he failed to emphasize a person who should surely be acknowledged: this person is Mr. Alfred Johnson!

Mrs. Milton Tollefson of Leonard, Minn., having a rare talent for "practical poetry," had written a very fitting poem for the occasion.

Many pastors brought greetings to the congregation: Pastor Julius Hermunslie and Pastor John De Boer (father of the local pastor), being unable to attend, sent their congratulations and wishes for God's blessings by letter and telephone. Pastor Harry Molstre of Dalton, Minn., Pastor Gene Sundby of Newfolden, Minn., Pastor Andrew Monson, Student Pastor Gary Skramstad of Winger, Minn., and

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EDITORIALS

Another in a Series on the Apostles' Creed

SUFFERED UNDER PONTIUS PILATE

Strange, isn't it, that the name of a Roman governor who officiated in a minor province centuries ago should still be on the lips of millions of people the world over, at least on Sundays? Strange, and yet not strange, when we consider that the trial for which he is remembered was not that of a mere mortal, but of the Son of God.

Judas betrayed Jesus, soldiers taunted Him, the crowd called for His blood, passers-by scoffed at Him—but Pilate pronounced the death sentence. There is always hope until that moment, after that there is no point of return.

Judas and Pilate are tragic and sorry figures. Tragic, because what they did would have been done by others if they had been men of strength. For instance, the incensed religious leaders would have found a way to dispose of Jesus even if Pilate had stood his ground. But love for position and honor crushed the justice Pilate recognized.

Jesus suffered physical anguish and humiliation at the hands of others than Pilate—Caiaphas, Annas and Herod. But Christians of old laid it all—the mockery, the scourging, the crown of thorns, the sceptre, the spitting, the whole miscarriage of justice—at Pilate's feet, and rightly so, for he represented temporal power.

Thus do we speak his name each Sunday in reminder to him, "No, Pilate, you have not washed your guilt away."

BIBLE SCHOOL

A dream which has existed in the Association from the very beginning is that of establishing a Bible school primarily for the youth of the church.

We wish that we could tell you today that that Bible school will begin work for sure next September, but we are not quite able to do so. The hope is that classes can be started then, but some problems remain to be worked out.

Chief of the concerns is for faculty. We must be in earnest prayer, much more than we have been, for consecrated and able teachers.

Classes can be held at the headquarters building for the first few years. Space exists there which can be utilized for classrooms in addition to the requirements of an expanding seminary student body.

To begin with rooms for girl students must be found as near the school as possible. A dormitory for girls will likely be the first new building constructed on our 21-acre property. That construction ought not be delayed for long. Even now action has been taken to lay out a master plan for the grounds to anticipate long-range needs.

(Before any building is done, the Association ought to come to serious grips with the unfinished Praise Program which should be completed this fall. The Annual Conference should authorize an intensive program to finish that project.)

Arrangements for suburban bus service to and from Minneapolis can likely be made for students who wish to hold part-time jobs. Other part-time employment may be available in Plymouth, Golden Valley, New Hope, Crystal, etc.

Our young people should consider Bible school training whether or not they plan a college career. It is quite true that most people do not undertake a serious study of the Bible on their own initiative. Most of us need to be under some discipline to accomplish a systematic searching of the Scriptures. Attending a Bible school provides such a setting.

The Association Bible school will provide an honest inquiry into the Word of God. It will approach the Bible as being in all its parts the inspired Word from God.

The presence of a Bible school will do much for our fellowship. We are all, whatever our church background, accustomed to having schools for our young people. Colleges are out of the question for us, but a Bible school and a seminary (they will hold no joint classes) are not. Our people will take a great sense of pride in them, even as they do now in the seminary.

Let us pray that the Lord will open the doors we need opened in order to begin our Bible school work this fall.

BENNETT DEFENDS GOD

It was gratifying to see *Look* magazine publish a leading article in a recent issue (April 19, 1966) entitled "In Defense of God." The article was written by Dr. John C. Bennett, president of Union Theological Seminary.

It was gratifying, we say, not because we may agree with everything written, but because there is a certain satisfaction in finding defenders from whatever quarter they may come in this day when man "plays God" in a new and dangerous way.

At the same time, some of the defenders may propound doctrines of God which are completely inadequate or misleading to us.

Now to get back to Dr. Bennett, we can't help but wonder, from our own reading of the article,

what the average person got out of it. It is difficult going for those not trained in theology or in philosophical thought. About all that some people will conclude is, "He speaks so I can't understand him; therefore, it must be true."

Whatever one may think of Billy Graham, he speaks a language people understand. You cannot fill a Wembley, Harringay, Cow Palace or State Fair-ground grandstand with a Tillich or Bennett.

Some will say that it is theologians who speak so that few understand who have the inside track on what God is all about, rather than a Graham or an ordinary pastor who reads a text on Sunday and preaches as though the Bible is to be taken for what it sounds like.

In our own reading of the Bible we find that God is not hard to understand. We cannot demonstrate God or prove His existence in quite the way we do other things and yet His existence is as real to us as the paper and pen with which we write. God is love, justice, mercy. He is everywhere. His knowledge is complete; He has all power. We do not always understand His ways. Yet, in spite of this, God is someone we can accept.

The Bible portrays God as interested in people, as working *through* people. He is shown as being against evil and as giving laws for right conduct. God is set forth as intervening miraculously at times to guide events while on other occasions He permits events to take their natural course in the working out of His ends. The Bible tells us that God provided salvation for sinful mankind by giving His only Son as atonement and that He raised Him from the dead. God is God over the whole world and universe. He allows man a great deal of freedom, but He will judge all men. All of this we can accept and comprehend.

When we say that we understand or comprehend, please do not take that wrongly. We mean that accepting the fact of God, accepting these teachings of Scripture poses no problem.

Some people laugh when a person says, "God is not dead; I spoke to Him this morning." Those who laugh will have to do that. That is their privilege. God forces no one to believe. Faith is a very personal matter. The one who does believe in God (and in Jesus Christ, etc.) does not care what others think, although he earnestly wishes that they shared his faith, too.

Well, we were really interested in a plea for simplicity on the part of theologians. Many times we cannot tell what they believe even though they write books to inform us.

When life is reduced to its final issues and one is on the verge of departure, the only comfort that will matter is if one can say, "The Lord is my shepherd." A God who wants to be known like that, and can be known like that, that's the kind of God we believe in.

THIS WILL OF MINE

A prayer found on the flyleaf of the Bible of a missionary who died in Africa.

Laid on Thine altar, O my Lord divine,
Accept this gift today for Jesus' sake.
I have worn no jewels to adorn Thy shrine,
Nor any world-famed sacrifice to make;
But here I bring within my trembling hand
This will of mine that seemeth small,
And Thou alone, O Lord, canst understand
How when I yield Thee this I yield my all.

Hidden therein Thy searching gaze can see
Struggles of passion, visions of delight;
All that I have, or am, or fain would be;
Deep loves, fond hopes, and longings infinite.
It hath been wet with tears and dimmed with sighs,
Clenched in my grasp till beauty it hath none!
Now from Thy footstool, where it vanquished lies,
The prayer ascendeth—may Thy will be done.

Take it, O Father, ere my courage fail,
And merge it so in Thine own will that e'en,
If in some desperate hour my cries prevail
And Thou give back my gift, it may have been
So changed, so purified, so fair have grown,
So one with Thee, so filled with peace divine,
I may not know or feel it as my own;
But, gaining back my will, may find it Thine.

Author Unknown
(from *Quotes from the Quiet Hour*)

Parish Ed

[Continued from page 6]

tified that the Junior Mission Band has had an influence on their stewardship. One young couple, who are now waiting to go out on the field, has mentioned the value of their years in mission band. Our congregation has a continuing and growing interest in missions, and we like to think the work among the children plays a part in creating that interest. We pray that it will bear fruit for eternal life.

(We have recently written to the Abels, the Grothes, and the Dynnesons asking for stories and suggestions that would be helpful to those in the AFLC who are interested in Junior Mission Bands, mission emphasis in Sunday school and in Bible school. As soon as materials are available they will be mimeographed and illustrated for distribution to our churches. Suggestions for other helps in teaching missions were included in the January 14, 1964, issue of the *Ambassador*.)

Our hymn says that the Lord, as our children's Friend, guides and guards them with more than mother's love, and we know that this is true. Some examples of mother love, or lack of it, are found in I Kings 3:16-28 I Sam. 1:20-28
 How different from modern, hasty marriages is Gen. 29:20, 26-31 and I Tim. 5:3-11 teaches us what?

Sharing time: From Gen. 24:34-62, what do we learn about the concern parents should have regarding a Christian mate for their children? In verses 55 to 62, what gracious, unselfish attitudes do Rebekah's mother and brother manifest? Would you call this a Christian solution for them all? Why? Do you think that God's will was more important than their own wishes?
 Are modern family relationships as harmonious and God-directed as this? What would we do to make them so? Romans 13:14
 In verse 67, what picture of love and yieldedness do we see?
 Love and respect for our mothers, or their memories, is not limited to childhood and youth, is it?
 See John 19:25, 26.

The mother of Ziegenbalg, the mighty missionary to India, left, as her legacy to her children, a worn copy of the Bible. "Take it," she told them on her deathbed. "Read it, follow it! Every page is stained with my tears." Mothers, are you reading the Word with such devotion? Are you helping to bring up your children "in the nurture and admonition of the Lord"?

WMF Bible Study

MAY



REGARDING MOTHERS

The message of God's love and salvation through Jesus Christ, and His Spirit, in Word and hymns and human lives continues in our day. Praise His name! The song "To My Mother" (words and music) was written by Evangelist Claire Hobart, who has been blind since three months of age. With his wife Norma he labors at Laredo, Texas, on the Mexican border as well as traveling through the U.S. giving concerts, and presenting Christ and the cause of missions in churches and conferences. Mr. Hobart, in his first booklet of hymns, pays tribute to his mother, father and sister for help and assistance in publishing "Follow the Master." He graduated from college in 1935 "with the eyes of my mother," as he says, for she read the textbooks to him.

"To My Mother"

- 1. When I with joy recall the days of childhood,
 There comes to mind a mother's love so dear;
 We walked among the flowers in the wildwood,
 And listened to the birds with songs of cheer.

Chorus She taught me how to pray, to walk the narrow way,
 She fostered me with love and tender care.
 In heaven we shall stand, together at God's hand,
 To be among the blessed gathered there.

- 2. Oh Mother dear, so often I have wandered
 In paths that were not pleasing to your will;
 And then when care or trouble would beset me,
 Your loving smile was waiting for me still.
- 3. Let ev'ry day for you be filled with sunshine.
 God bless the fruit your labors thus have borne.
 God bless the rev'rent holy name of Mother,
 As beautiful as sunrise in the morn.

How *precious* are the memories most of us have of childhood nurture and Christian love and influences from godly parents, relatives, neighbors, and friends (Ps. 145:4).

As mothers, and women in His Church, do we "buy up the opportunities" to teach children and youth to see and know God and His wise design in His great out-of-doors, as well as in His Word and hymns? Our Master did (Luke 12:27-31; Mark 10:13-16; also Pss. 121 and 19).

How it would gladden the heart of our Lord and Savior if the words of the chorus of this song were true of us and our homes (Heb. 2:9-14)!

Moses told God's people a similar truth as they faced a future of war and tribulation (Deut. 29:9-12).

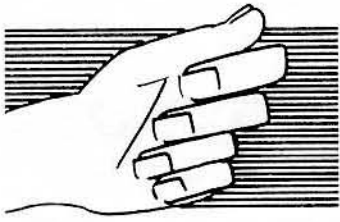
Stanza 2 of our song is a picture of Christ's forgiving love, too, isn't it? (Luke 23:33, 34; John 8:10, 11; I John 1:9).

Discussion period: Are we sharing this message faithfully with our children, families, friends, and an unbelieving world? What use do we make of the Bible, tracts, Christian books, hymnals, personal testimony, and prayer, as tools in teaching and sharing Him and His truth? How could this situation be improved, or our presentation be made more effective? Psalm 126:5, 6 remain true in every generation, don't they?

This time we wish to refer to two hymns for our Bible study. "O Happy Home Where Thou Art Loved the Dearest" was written by Carl J. P. Spitta, a Lutheran pastor in Germany in 1883. His father died when he was four years of age. His mother was a Christian Jewess, and the hymn, "O Happy Home" is a beautiful tribute to her fostering care. By 1889, 55 editions of his hymnals had been published to the glory of God. Writing to a friend in 1826, he says, "In the manner in which I sang formerly, I sing no more. To the Lord I dedicate my life, my love, and likewise my song. He gave me song and melody, I give it back to Him." These verses challenge us, don't they? Psalm 66:1, 2 Psalm 30:4 Psalm 95:1, 2 Psalm 98:1 Col. 3:16, 17 And *how* we sing, and *what* we sing is of concern to God according to I Cor. 14:15, isn't it?

"O happy home, where Thou art loved the dearest,
 Thou loving Friend and Savior of our race,
 And where among the guests there never cometh
 One who can hold such high and honored place!

"O happy home, whose little ones are given
 To Thee, O Lord, in humble faith and prayer,
 To Thee, their Friend, who from the heights of heaven
 Guides them, and guards with more than mother's care!"



STEWARDSHIP

ALL THAT I HAVE
IS THINE ALONE

THE PROOF WAS THERE!

II Cor. 8:24

Words are cheap. Words are not enough. There must be something besides words. There must also be proof. II Corinthians 8:24: "Wherefore shew ye to them, and before the churches, the proof of your love, and of our boasting on your behalf."

It is easy to say that we love our Association. We love her for the opportunities she gives us to have free and living Lutheran congregations. We love her because through her we can have a mission program at home and abroad. We love her because through her we can have a seminary where men are trained to serve and build congregations. We love her because she has taken a stand firmly on the Word of God, over against the liberal confusion of our day. We love her for her stress on personal piety in a day when sin is no longer considered sinful. We love her for her stress on the unity in and through Christ instead of the man-made unity so prominent today. We love her for her stress on evangelism, reclaiming men for Christ and His Kingdom. But, we must prove our love.

Many proved their love of the Association by their giving this past year. Their love was more than words. The Association was operating on a budget of \$87,093.62. The receipts from all sources towards this budget amounted to \$94,045.86. The receipts from our congregations and individuals were \$86,709.14. Thus the giving from our congregations was within \$300 of our total budget. Besides this, \$13,296.44 was given to the Praise Program.

I am sure this report puts joy in your heart. It tells us that many

believe deeply enough in the Association to really sacrifice for her. It speaks of a fellowship and basic unity so necessary in our day. Most of all, it assures us of God's grace and help toward us in our need.

But now we have begun another year. We dare not rejoice too long on God's grace towards us in the past and our efforts in obedience to Him.

The various departments of the Association requested \$111,130.10 to operate this year. Their requests were all legitimate, but an analysis committee felt they could be pared down somewhat. The total budget adopted by the Conference was \$98,700.00

The new budget is larger than last year's budget, but that does not frighten us. The cause we stand for is wonderful and needed more than ever before. God's grace is sufficient. Let us pray earnestly for each other. Let us encourage each other in our giving. Let us dare to sacrifice regularly that the work can go forward.

We have an added incentive this year. We plan on opening a needed Bible school. Many young people want to come. Let us give them their opportunity of Bible study by providing the necessary means.

I trust we will prove our love in 1966. An open door stands before us. The adversaries are many. Let us love in deed and truth!

Let us not wait until the last few weeks of the year before we show our love, however. Bills come due weekly and monthly. Churches often experience "dry" seasons when the income is small so they must borrow to keep going. We trust that will not happen in the Association. If we give regularly and systemati-

cally, it won't. Why not at this season give real proof of your love by giving a love gift to the Association? You may do it through your local treasurer, or send your gift directly to the Association.

May God richly bless you! And thank you for the proof!

John Strand

MR. BERNT OVERGAARD

Mr. Bernt Overgaard, pioneer member of Kvam Free Lutheran Congregation, Dalton, Minn., died February 20, 1966, at Lake Region Hospital, Fergus Falls, Minn. He was a most active member of Kvam Free Lutheran Church in capacities of trustee and treasurer for 48 years of faithful service to his Lord. Mr. Overgaard had served on the parsonage committee and call committee. He was 85 years old.

God had set Mr. Overgaard as a watchman in the Dalton parish to not keep silent when the pure doctrines of the old Lutheran Free Church were threatened.

He was born in Eagle Lake Township, November 21, 1880, a son of Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Overgaard. Except for a few years of farming near Radcliffe, Ia., he spent all his life in the Dalton area.

He was married to Maria Overgaard at Radcliffe, Ia., February 21, 1904.

His wife, two daughters and three sons survive. There are 20 grandchildren and 15 great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were held at the Kvam Lutheran Church, east of Dalton, Thursday, February 24, at 2:00 p.m., with the Rev. Harry C. Molstre officiating.

"If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth. For you have died and your life is hid with Christ in God" (Col. 3:1-3).

News of the Churches

[Continued from page 8]

Mr. Melvin Walla of Sidney, Mont., brought greetings from God's Word to the congregation.

The large day was concluded with a fellowship service with Pastor Harry Molstre speaking to us on the serious theological trends of today and how Mt. Carmel Church will have to stand as a light (Christ's light) in this world that seems to be setting aside the Christ and His way of salvation. Truly this is a good note to close any day of dedication: to remind ourselves that we are called to be "watchmen on the wall"—to sound clear notes of warning lest the enemy shall come and also find us napping—napping with eternal consequences. —Rev. H. F. De Boer

MORGAN AVENUE CHURCH HAS ANNUAL MISSION WEEK

A Mission Emphasis Week is sponsored each year by the Morgan Avenue Lutheran Church, Minneapolis, Minn., Chester Heikkinen, pastor. This year it was held March 20-27.

Speakers were Dean Fredrikson, missionary to Portugal; Paul Lindell of the World Mission Prayer League; Miss Ramona Lucht of the Wycliffe Bible translators; and Lloyd Sand, missionary to Africa.

The congregation publishes a prayer letter for the first Sunday of each month which is mission Sunday in the church. Offerings for mission support come on that day.

Pastor Heikkinen recently returned from a two weeks' visit to Mexico where he attended a conference in Mazatlan and visited a church which Morgan Avenue supports.

COON LAKE BEACH CHURCH ORGANIZED

A new congregation has been formed at Coon Lake Beach, north of Minneapolis. They have incorporated under the name of Hope Free Lutheran Church and have



SEMINARY ENROLLMENT

The Association is grateful to God for the seminary. Here thirteen young men in two classes are being trained by four teachers, one full time and three part time, to be Lutheran pastors. Not only is the goal that these men become Lutheran pastors, but that they become pastors who understand the Biblical concept of the congregation, and seek to serve the congregation. They are to be pastors who have the congregation in mind as they minister, not being as officials lording it over the flock.

Plans are being made looking forward to next year. Already some applications have arrived for the class to enroll next fall. We hope to have a large class. We would

remind our prospective students to contact the dean of the seminary as early as possible. The Association stands in need of several large classes in our seminary. There is a great need for conservative Lutheran pastors today.

We would remind you of some prayer requests. Pray that God would give us another full-time qualified teacher for the seminary. Pray that a large class will enroll next fall. Pray that our present seminarians will all find opportunities to serve in our congregations this summer and next winter. Pray that there be generous and regular financial support for all of the work of the Association, not least the work of our seminary. Pray that God would visit us with a Christ-honoring awakening.

voted to belong to the Association of Free Lutheran Congregations.

The group now meets in a home at 420 Cedar Road, Coon Lake Beach, with about 40 attending services regularly and 30 enrolled in the Sunday school. Plans include building a worship center this summer. They are being served by Robert E. Reith, a seminary student who is also serving the nearby Sunnyside Community Church at Martin Lake.

This area has experienced much growth in the last years and is expected to continue its growth as Minneapolis people seek areas away from the city.

The regular schedule includes a 9:00 a.m. worship, 10:15 Sunday School, Confirmation, Choir, and Bible Study and Prayer.

FAMILY BIBLE CAMP DATES SET

The fourth annual Family Bible Camp of the Association of Free Lutheran Congregations will be held at Lake Geneva Bible Camp, Alexandria, Minn., August 8-14, Monday through Sunday. Registration will take place Monday afternoon, the first public meal will be supper that day and the first service will be that night.

Watch for instructions concerning advance registration.

Dean of the camp will be the Rev. A. L. Hokanson, Faith, S. Dak.

CHURCH-WORLD NEWS

GLEANINGS FROM AN EDITOR'S READING

The trouble is that my seminary gave me very poor training in international diplomacy and also in military strategy. I just cannot tell the President how to run that peculiar war in Viet Nam.—Editor in *Lutheran Spokesman*, March 1966.

Recently Frances faced up to a major dilemma in a Christian way and still pays for it.

She won a spot in the Puppets, a girls' group that performs at half time during her high school's football and basketball games. But the catch for her was that she was unsure of her motivation.

"I felt that it wasn't a real Christian thing to do," she said. "Most girls go into it for the uniform and for the boys to see them and say, 'Mmm, some body!' I began to be afraid that I had gone into it for the wrong reasons.

"It just wasn't the Christian thing to do, so I quit," she said. "But it still hurts when kids talk about it and ask me why I quit. It's awfully hard to explain."—Richard Sering in *Spirit*, March 1966.

Who shall roll away the stone? Why don't we just let God do it? He will have to do it anyway.—Kenneth L. Wilson in *Christian Herald*, April 1966.

Many of us are in a stew about the big questions of life in which we do not know the will of God, because we do not first go and clear up some other situation, where we know the will of God very well. We shall find that we can't seek the will of God in some areas, but only in all.—Samuel Shoemaker in *Extraordinary Living for Ordinary Men* (Zondervan Publishing House, 1965).

BERLIN-BRANDENBURG CHURCH NAMES DR. SCHARF TO SUCCEED DIBELIUS

Berlin—(LWF) Dr. Kurt Scharf, chairman of the Council of the Evangelical Church in Germany (EKD), is the new Bishop of the Evangelical Church of Berlin-Brandenburg, succeeding the widely known Bishop Otto Dibelius, who retired on March 31 at the age of 85.

Eastern and western synods of the Church, meeting separately because of the Berlin Wall, gave Dr. Scharf overwhelming majorities, even though the East German official press strongly opposed his candidacy.

The bishop-elect since September 1961 has resided in West Berlin and has not been allowed to enter East Berlin or East Germany in connection with his church duties. The ban was imposed while he was still an East Berlin resident and had made an eight-hour visit to the western sector of the city.

FINNS NOMINATE KANSANAHO TO SUCCEED BISHOP GULIN

Helsinki—(LWF) Dr. Erkki Kansanaho, professor of practical theology at the University of Helsinki, has received the most votes in an election to nominate a successor to Bishop Elis G. Gulin in the Diocese of Tampere.

It is expected that President Urho Kekkonen will consequently appoint him to become bishop when Dr. Gulin retires at the end of April at the age of 72. A list of the three top candidates will be submitted to the Finnish Chief of State.

LUTHERAN LEADER COMMENTS ON ROMAN CATHOLIC MARRIAGE MODIFICATIONS

St. Louis, March 22—Although the Roman Catholic Church has modified the restrictions it imposes

on interfaith marriages, the basic objections for Protestants still remain, a leading Lutheran churchman has stated.

The Rev. Dr. Oliver R. Harms, president of the 2.7 million-member Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, expressed his gratitude for the forward step which the Roman Catholic Church has taken in not requiring written consent from the Protestant party in a mixed marriage that the children be reared in the Roman Catholic faith.

"But," he added, "our Lutheran people take their oral promises seriously, so the verbal agreement, in our view, is just as binding as if it were written."

Asked whether Lutheran clergyman would now participate in wedding services between Lutherans and Roman Catholics in Roman Catholic Churches, the Missouri Synod President expressed doubt that they will "because such participation would be contrary to our church's position on joint worship."

Pope Paul issued the document modifying some of the Roman Catholic restrictions on interfaith marriages last week.

CORRECTION

In the March 22 issue of *The Lutheran Ambassador* there was a listing of birthdays of AFLC missionaries and their children on page 8.

We are sorry that one birthday was listed incorrectly. The birthday of Mr. Alvin Grothe should be July 14, not June 14. Kindly make that change in your copy and in the schedules passed out by the Women's Missionary Federation.

The correction was given to us by someone who should know, Alvin's mother. Thank you, Mrs. Grothe.

Women for Christ

[Continued from page 7]

heart warming and encouraging telegram sent by Pastor Schafer. A sincere "thank you" to all who have remembered us in prayer and especially now the last few months while I was ill. As someone said in a letter to us—referring to the Winter Conference—"A real refreshing, trust some of the overflow reached you folks out there, via His Holy Spirit and prayers." As we opened the telegram with some fear in our hearts, (as telegrams aren't always good news), I believe we received more than just the overflow. Yes, God has been very good to us, and we praise and thank Him for it!

The Lord has answered prayer and I am much better now, although I still haven't all my strength back. The Dr. hasn't permitted me to go back to school, but am up and helping here at home once again. How we praise and thank Him for this.

May our heavenly Father bless and keep you. Give unto the Lord the glory due unto His name (I Chron. 16:29).

Sincerely in Him,
Frances Grothe
Missionary to Brazil

'Twas on that dark, that doleful night

'Twas on that dark, that doleful night,

When powers of earth and hell arose

Against the Son of God's delight,
And friends betrayed Him to His foes.

Before the mournful scene began,
He took the bread, and blessed, and brake,

What love through all His actions ran!

What wondrous words of grace He spoke!

"This is my body, broke for sin;
Receive and eat the living food:"
Then took the cup and blessed the wine;

"'Tis the new covenant in my blood."

"Do this," He said, "till time shall end,

In memory of your dying Friend
Meet at My table and record
The love of your departed Lord."

Jesus, Thy feast we celebrate;
We show Thy death, we sing Thy name,

Till Thou return, and we shall eat
The marriage supper of the Lamb.

—Isaac Watts

(The Lutheran Hymnary)

CENTRAL MINNESOTA SPRING WMF RALLY SET

The Women's Missionary Federation of the Central Minnesota District will hold its spring rally in Henning, Minn., on May 11, with sessions at 10:00 a.m. and 1:30 p.m.

Guest speaker for the afternoon session will be David Rinden, a Bible student at the Lutheran Brethren Schools, Fergus Falls, Minn. Mrs. Herbert W. Presteng, Grafton, N. Dak., national president of the WMF, will lead the morning Bible study. A first-hand report on the Nogales mission will be given by Mrs. Raymond Jacobson, district president, who spent part of the winter months there. There will be special musical numbers throughout the day. A potluck dinner and afternoon coffee will be served.

Mrs. Ted Aasness, Sec'y

1966 ANNUAL CONFERENCE

The 1966 Annual Conference of the Association of Free Lutheran Congregations will be held in Thief River Falls, Minn., June 8-12, upon the invitation of Our Savior's Lutheran Church, the Rev. Marius Haakenstad, pastor.

"Who (Jesus) was put to death for our trespasses and raised for our justification" (Rom. 4:25).

5/66 W-1
STANLEY HOLMAAS
NEWFOLDEN MINN

BIBLE VERSES

"He is not here; for he has risen, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay" (Matt. 28:6).

"For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; the same Lord is Lord of all and bestows his riches upon all who call upon him" (Rom. 10:12).

"For the promise is to you and to your children and to all that are far off, every one whom the Lord our God calls to him" (Acts 2:39).