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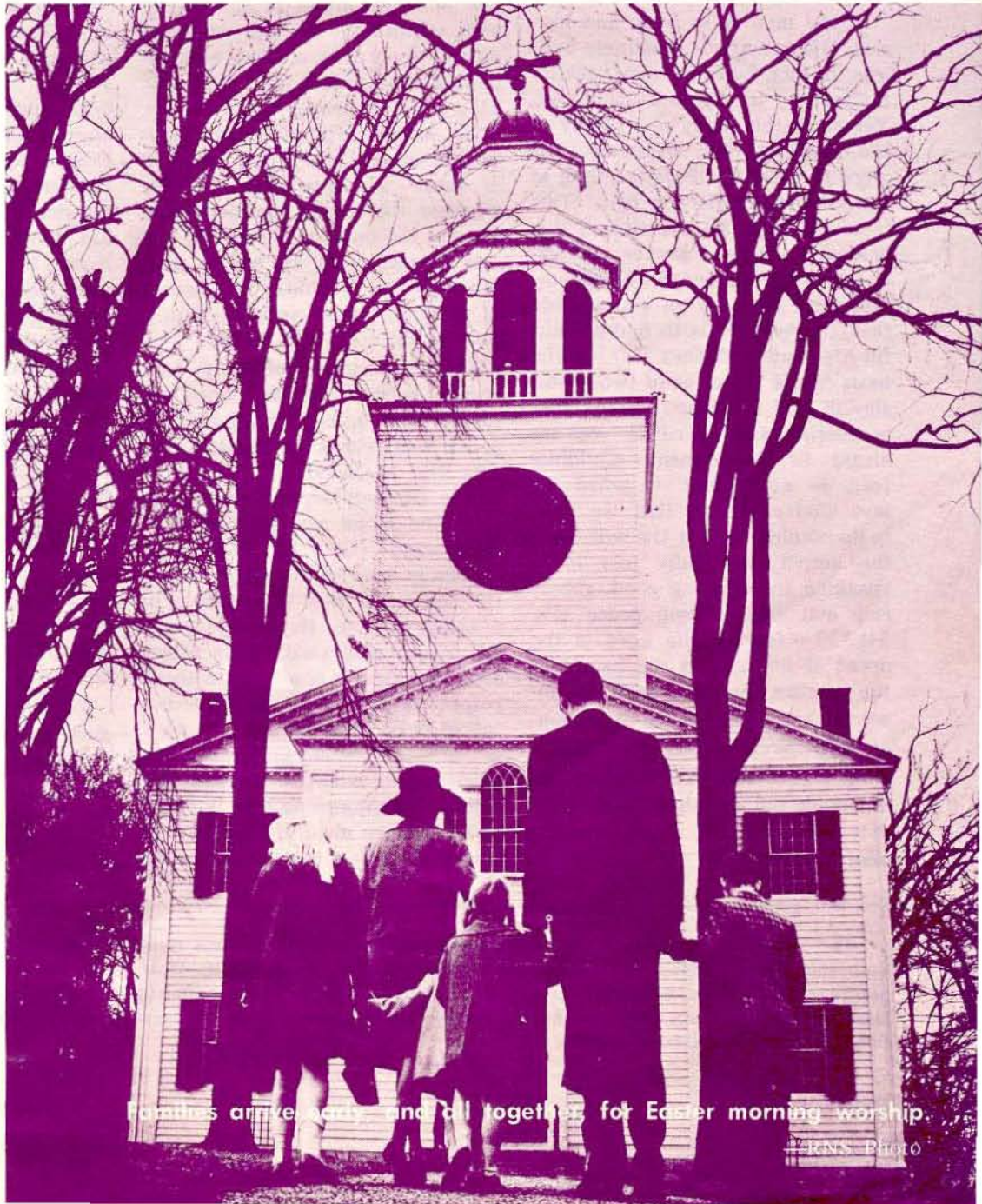
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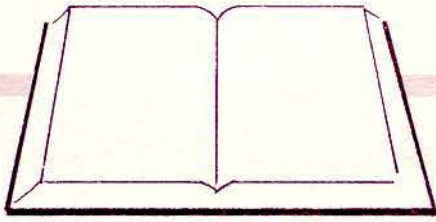
LUTHERAN

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Families arrive early, and all together for Easter morning worship.

—RNS Photo



According to the Word

The Activity of Holy Fear

Read I Peter 1:17-21

Today man is so busy and hurried. His activity is seemingly endless. In fact, he is so busy because his activity is wrapped up in self. Yet in all this hurry and scurry of life, God has His witnesses. His word to them is, "Pass the time of your sojourning here in fear." This is to be done, He explains in this passage, through prayer, in redemption's knowledge, obedience, faith and hope. In an active, holy fear, the believer is to find a fruitful life. Luther defines fear, on the basis of the Word, as of two kinds, slavish and childlike. Slavish fear is fearing God because we are afraid of punishment. Childlike fear, or godly fear, is when we love God so dearly that we wish to do nothing against His will. Thus the activity of godly fear is in speaking truth, doing good, abhorring evil, and seeking peace (Ps. 34). The fear of the Lord is the dread of holiness in the hearts of the impure, or the sense of unworthiness which makes the prophet cry, "Woe is me, for I am a man of unclean lips" (Isa. 6:5), and made the apostle exclaim, "Depart from me, for I am a sinful man" (Luke 5:8).

God desires this fear that endures; not panic, but awe; not the terror that stands afar off, but the reverence which dares not transgress. When Moses received the law amid the noise of thundering and lightnings on the smoking mountain, it was a sight and experience to produce fear (Heb. 12:21), and the people feared death. Then Moses uttered those memorable words, "Fear not, for God is come to prove you [to see whether the nobler emotion, holy fear, or the baser will survive] and that his fear may be before your faces [so as to guide you instead of pressing upon you to crush], that ye sin not" (Ex. 20:20).

This experience of holy fear comes to the Christian when sin tempts and seems so alluring. It is mingled with such thanksgiving that the heart, silent in lack of words, can only express an attitude that God alone can see and does understand (Gen. 39:9-12). Our Father in heaven always looks on the heart and sees the believer in a spirit of love. He always gives an honest appraisal. Thus Peter says that God is one "who without respect of persons, judgeth according to every man's work." In view of this impartial judgment, the Christian is exhorted "to pass the time of his sojourning here in fear." The Christian must always be conscious of the fact that he is watched

by the unsaved, and so bear a clear, ringing testimony of his faith by the life he lives. This is to be done in holy fear.

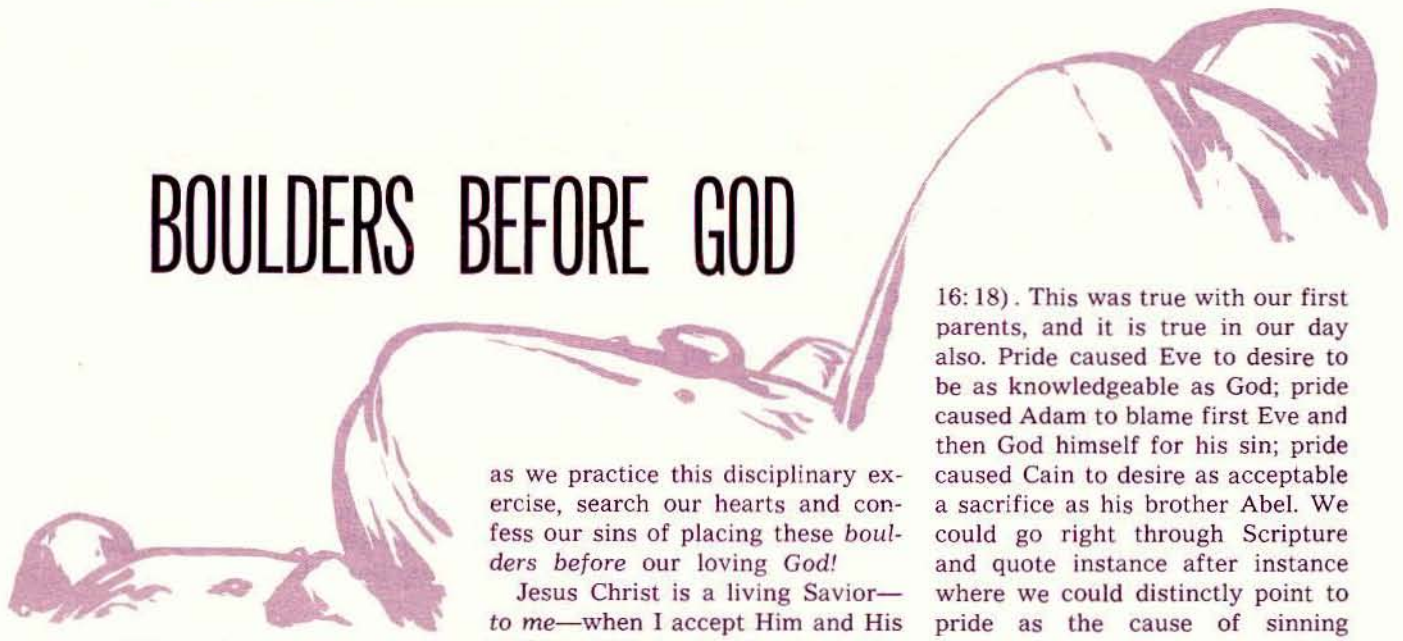
Hebrews 11:7 tells us that Noah "moved with fear." Noah walked with God. And who can keep step with the Eternal without growing strong? No man can walk with God without being made wise to understand the signs of the times. Noah's fear made him obedient. "According to *all* that God commanded him, so he did" (Gen. 6:22). Every detail was important to Noah. It was this "allness" that made the ark possible. We are so ready to adopt parts of God's plan and fit them with parts of our own, and so we forfeit everything. Noah took God's specifications as they were and built the ark. The times were growing darker with the increasing corruption of men's hearts. To Noah there was good reason for working carefully. "According to all that God commanded." He "moved with fear." The silver thread of prayer moved through his life. And so Noah received rank with Job and Daniel (Ezek. 14:14, 20).

So also the activity of holy fear must encompass and permeate the Christian's life. "Work out your own salvation with fear and trembling" (Phil. 2:12).

—A. L. Hokonson

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BOULDERS BEFORE GOD



I Corinthians 5:7, 8

by Pastor H. F. DeBoer
Austin, Minnesota

THE U. S. has launched another successful rocket to the moon! Some 7000 pictures were taken at close range of the moon's surface. The shot was very accurate, the rocket crashing on the moon within a few miles of the exact spot aimed at!

Is it any wonder that modern man is seeking to root God out of his conscious mind? And at the same time, these very scientific "discoveries" are causing other "egg-heads" to believe there *must* be a God.

Knowledge, along with every other earthly thing, can become a stumbling block before God. Man, in his finite mind, imagining himself to be equal to God's infinite mind "creates" many *boulders before God!*

We look at the rock which was rolled before the tomb of Jesus Christ as symbolic of the efforts of mere mortals to contain the Christ of God with *any* boulder!

Today, let's look at some of the boulders we put before God. This is by no means meant to be an exhaustive list. I'm sure that each of us, as we look into our hearts and lives, can add to this list. May we,

as we practice this disciplinary exercise, search our hearts and confess our sins of placing these *boulders before* our loving God!

Jesus Christ is a living Savior—to *me*—when I accept Him and His saving work in my life *today*, and the many *today*s of my life. So we need to consider this "boulder business" from the standpoint, "What can keep Christ in the grave as far as we are concerned?"

1. The greatest boulder that can be rolled before God is *unbelief*. God's Word says: "But without faith it is impossible to please *him*: for he that cometh to God must believe that *he* is, and that *he* is a rewarder of them that diligently seek *him*" (Heb. 11:6).

It is with sly cunning that Satan seeks to wean people away from God's Book as being God's Book! If doubt can be sown in the hearts and minds of people as to the truth of God's Word, it is a short step to denying the very existence of God himself!

Unbelief is the unforgivable sin! God will forgive *any* and *every* sin you can commit, but to deny God's existence will never lead a sin-burdened soul to confess to a "Person that doesn't exist." Yes, the worst boulder we can roll before a loving God is the *boulder of unbelief*.

2. Another boulder which we roll before our loving God is the *boulder of pride!* This sin is the basic sin for most of the sins ever committed or imagined.

God's Word verifies: "Pride goeth before the fall. . ." (Prov.

16:18). This was true with our first parents, and it is true in our day also. Pride caused Eve to desire to be as knowledgeable as God; pride caused Adam to blame first Eve and then God himself for his sin; pride caused Cain to desire as acceptable a sacrifice as his brother Abel. We could go right through Scripture and quote instance after instance where we could distinctly point to pride as the cause of sinning against God. And we wouldn't have to stop there—in fact, we *must not* stop there; we must look at our own lives and examine, search, acknowledge, confess, receive forgiveness.

3. A boulder which afflicts Christian and non-Christian alike is the *boulder of envy and jealousy*. And do you lay folks know that this sin afflicts the clergy too? In fact, I believe it is just as large a boulder in the ministry as it is *any* other place. Where a weakness exists, there we can be assured that Satan will use the opportunity to disrupt and bring "hurt feelings," especially in the fellowship of the saints.

4. A boulder which wreaks all kinds of havoc in the fellowship of the saints is the *boulder of unwillingness*.

We can find this boulder in many areas of our lives—in our relationship to our fellow man as well as our relationship to our God: unwilling to hear the Gospel; unwilling to deal with sin; unwilling to share responsibility in giving; unwilling to uphold the saints in prayer; unwilling to cooperate; etc. This list could go on almost unendingly—because it is a negative idea (contrived by Satan) against our positive God!

5. The twin boulders of *greed and selfishness* in our land of lux-

ury and leisure are having their effect on the outreach of the Gospel in our day. These boulders must be seriously considered by every true Christian today. The time is short for the proclaiming of the Good News of salvation! Yet, with sports, recreation, autoing, TV, relaxing, gardening, etc., it is often very difficult to get confessing Christians to help in any Christian program.

6. The *boulder of worldliness* has entered the church by the front door! How long it will take Satan to scatter the true believers with this boulder only eternity will reveal. The records likely will be written in martyr-blood before this boulder has been eradicated from the church on earth.

7. Many folks glibly "say" the Lord's prayer while rolling the *boulder of unforgiving hearts* before God. The Lord not only gave the Lord's Prayer to His disciples, but He went on to say, "For if ye forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you; but if ye forgive not men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses" (Matt. 6: 14, 15).

If we could only get a glimpse of what God forgives US, I believe we couldn't be so *selfish* as to withhold forgiveness from those who sin against us—*no matter what they've done*. In dealing with these questions, it's well to ask ourselves, "Will this question be important to me 100 years from now?" "Is this question important enough for me to exchange my eternal standing before God, in order to demand satisfaction for now?" This often puts life into its proper perspective!

8. The last boulder I'd like to comment on is the *boulder of neglect*—neglecting *God's Word and prayer!* Wherever a person goes these days, when the saints gather, it isn't long till we are sharing this fact: we are in the last days—Jesus is coming *soon*—the signs point to the *world church* forming, etc.

This fact causes us to rejoice, but it also seems to whisper in our spiritual ears: "The goal is at hand—slack off your speed!" Never

realizing that it is Satan whispering this in our ears! We need to be all the more diligent to be in the Word and in prayer. God is fighting a pitched battle through His saints, but Satan hasn't given up the fight. Victory can yet be lost even in the home stretch unless we stay close to our champion and resurrected Savior.

The grave could not hold the Christ of God. Neither can these *boulders of sin* supplant God's power—unless we fail to reach out to our Champion.

Jesus has made all the power and strength and grace of heaven available to His true Church. Won't you roll your *boulders of sin* to His cross and leave them there?

Jesus said, "I am the way, the truth, and the life." Jesus has taken care of these boulders already—trust Him—He has redeemed you and prepared an eternal abode for you. May the song of your heart and lips be that of this stanza of the hymnist:

"Nothing between my soul and my Savior,
So that His blessed face may be seen;
Nothing preventing the least of His favor,
Keep the way clear! Let nothing between." Amen

BIBLE CAMP INFORMATION REQUESTED

AFLC congregations participate in a number of summer Bible camps. Some of the camps may be Association-owned, but most are owned jointly with other Lutherans. Some weeks of camp are conducted jointly, others are run only for Association youth.

The Lutheran Ambassador requests that information be sent in as soon as possible concerning these camps so that the same may be published in advance of the camping season.

Information desired would include the name of the camp, its ownership, location, dates of camp weeks, dean of the camp, faculty, age requirements, cost, etc.

Thank you.

PLAN NOW FOR ASSOCIATION FAMILY CAMP

The Association of Free Lutheran Congregations will sponsor a Family Bible Camp again this summer at the Assembly Bible Camp, Lake Geneva, near Alexandria, Minnesota. The dates for this year are August 9-15.

As the name implies, the camp is open to people of all ages. Last year over 200 teenagers and about 200 children were included in the total registration of almost 650 persons. They came from eleven states.

The committee in charge of making all arrangements for the week of camp consists of Rev. F. B. Monseth, Chm., Rev. K. Stendal, Rev. H. Molstre, Mr. Albin Haugen and Mrs. David C. Hanson.

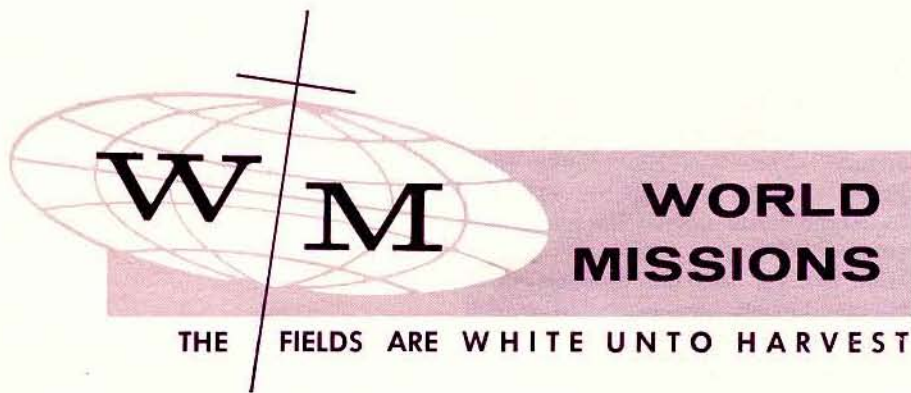
WIFE OF GRAND FORKS PASTOR PASSED AWAY

Mrs. George Schuster, wife of the Association pastor in Grand Forks and Grafton, N. Dak., passed away the week of March 7 and was laid to rest in Florida the following week. An obituary will be published when available.

Pastor and Mrs. Schuster had arrived in Grand Forks in mid-January and were eagerly getting into a busy parish work when illness came to Mrs. Schuster. *The Lutheran Ambassador* expresses sincere sympathy to Pastor Schuster in his great loss. May the comfort of the Lord sustain him.

"This Jesus, delivered up according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, you crucified and killed by the hands of lawless men. But God raised him up, having loosed the pangs of death, because it was not possible for him to be held by it" (Acts 2:23, 24).

"If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God" (Col. 3:1).



CAMPO MOURAO

Dear Friends,

"Go ye therefore and teach [disciple] all nations. . ." (Matt. 28: 19).

Thank you for your prayers and gifts to our Association Mission program. We are now here in the interior of Brazil, your representatives to build free and living Lutheran congregations. It has been some time since we wrote but there seems to be too few hours in the day to get our daily tasks done. Ruby and I have found that it is no small undertaking to move our family of 7 children across this big country and then to enter a new house, not quite finished and on the small order. We are pretty well settled now but found it necessary to add on and fix up a little wooden shack in the back of our lot so we would have a place for an extra bedroom and for storage space. Here in Brazil they don't build basements under their houses so storage space is at a premium. Now after painting and planting grass our house has become home and we are ready to tackle the job of beginning our evangelism outreach in this community and surrounding area of Parana.

This city of "Campo Mourao" is a vital road center for the entire state. By going through this city you can reach any other part of the state. It just recently became such a road center when the government opened up several new

highways that make connections at this city. The apostle Paul sought out key centers as he carried the Gospel in his day and this is still a good rule for missions. There are no other missionaries in this city and even the national pastors are few and far between in this part of the country. Most people have just lost contact with church, many preferring to be nothing rather than attend a formalistic, discredited Catholic church where they understand nothing. One of our first efforts will be to interest young people in studying the Bible and consecrating their lives to serve Christ. It is only as we develop a group of national evangelists and pastors that the church will truly grow and be Brazilian. Already we have two such young men studying privately with us. They are also very useful in visitation work, youth work and evangelism. Pray for their spiritual development. Pray also for our first efforts to develop a congregation here in this city that will be a good example of a Free Lutheran church where Bible students can preach and teach, gaining experience to go out and reach others in many different towns here on the frontier. It is also our prayer that we may soon have a permanent Bible school here with adequate grounds to carry on a good ministry.

Our children now are in the local Brazilian grade school, with David in his first year of Brazilian high

school. Little Lydia is our first grader and she has to admit that she still doesn't understand much of what the Brazilian teacher is saying, but we know from our experience with the others that this will soon change. Children pick up the language of their playmates quickly. If you were to follow the children through town on their way to school you would well imagine that you were in one of our U. S. far west cities of a few years ago. The streets are wide and dusty here and hardly a sidewalk to be seen anywhere. Many wagons and carts are to be seen being pulled through town or tied up in front of a store while its owner buys provisions inside. Though there are jeeps and trucks on the streets there are also riders trotting through town with their big hats shading them and at times a pack horse trailing them. This city has had a pretty rough past history but has been calmed down and cleaned up pretty well. We did have a gun fight two weeks ago in town, however, that killed a man. Yes, our heart goes out to these hard-working frontier people who know little of true joy in life. We desire to bring them Jesus who not only will brighten up this life, but will give them the immense joy that comes when one possesses eternal life.

We ask that you pray always for the work here. It seems that many have faithfully prayed, for we seem to have many open doors and open hearts to the Gospel in this place. Next week we will begin our preaching program. Pray for the success of the Gospel. We have been rejoicing to see how the needs of our Association have been met month by month. So shall it be as God's people are faithful. Should we not be faithful and walk by faith? We need not fear the day's demands nor the problems it brings. Let us rest in Him who promises: "I am with thee to deliver thee" (Jer. 1: 8). For now, then, we shall close, thanking our God for every remembrance of you.

Sincerely,

Pastor and Mrs. John Abel and family

Was it because He was defenseless or friendless? No. "Thinkest thou that I cannot now pray to my Father and he shall presently give me more than twelve legions of angels?" That was His rebuke to Peter when he took up the sword to defend Jesus against the band of soldiers that had come to take Him. No, He was not defenseless. He could easily have prevailed over them if He would.

What was it that caused Jesus to go to the Cross? There certainly was nothing inviting about the Cross that He should desire it, for He said, "I have a baptism to be baptized with; and how am I straightened till it be accomplished?" As He drew nearer and nearer we hear Him say, "Now is my soul troubled; and what shall I say? Father, save me from this hour." The cross itself did not hold anything pleasant or desirable for Him, but it was rather forced on Him.

Neither was it human weakness that caused Him to go to the Cross. It was a voluntary act on His part. He said, "I lay down my life that I might take it again. No man taketh it from me, but I lay it down of myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again." Did He not demonstrate this in the garden when He said, "I am he," and they all went backward and fell to the ground? Surely He is the "lion of the tribe of Judah," the victor over death and hell. It was not because of human weakness that He hung upon the Cross and cried, "My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?"

Since there was nothing seductive about the Cross to draw Him, nor was He defenseless or weak, we ask again, "What was it that caused Him to go to the Cross?"

The answer comes from John 13:1: "Having loved his own which were in the world, he loved them unto the end." "I lay down my life for the sheep."

It was love! Love for whom? For you and for me who were merged in sin and ripening for the unabated judgment of the "wrath of God which is poured out without mixture in the cup of His indignation." It was for us who were helpless and hopelessly drifting towards our eternal doom that He died. Because of His love for us He came to earth, "took upon himself the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men." He took our load of sin upon His own body, placing himself under the judgment and drank the wine of the wrath of God which was poured out without mixture in the cup of His in-

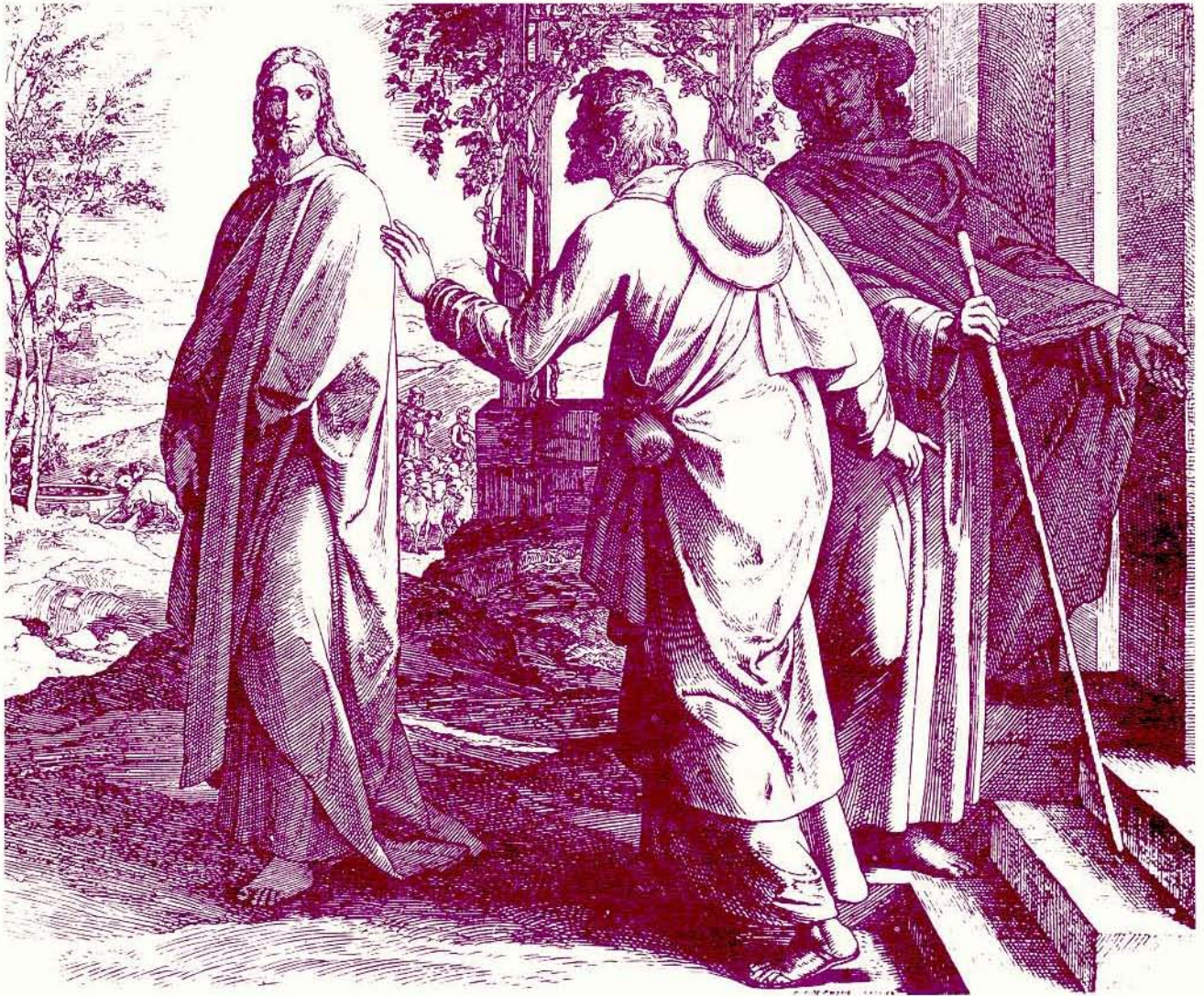
dignation. All this He did that you and I might be saved. "For the joy that was set before him, he endured the cross, despising the shame." What was His joy? That you and I might be saved. This is what compelled Him to go to the cross. His love took Him there. Our sins nailed Him there.

Has His love found response in your heart? Can Jesus rejoice over dying for you?

Jesus saves. Are you saved?

Pastor Morris Eggen
Willmar, Minn.

JESUS and the CROSS



Jesus appears to Cleopas and another disciple on the road to Emmaus.—Luke 24:13

RELIGIOUS NEWS SERVICE PHOTO

NORTHERN MINNESOTA DISTRICT SETS LUTHER LEAGUE RALLY

The Luther League Federation of the Northern Minnesota District (Thief River Falls area) will hold its annual spring rally at Our Savior's Lutheran Church, Thief River Falls, Minn., on Sunday, May 2.

Program details are not final, but three sessions are planned. The service at 2:30, as well as the one at 7:00, will consist of a singspiration, special musical numbers, and an evangelistic message by a speak-

er yet to be named. The third session will be in the form of a Pocket Testament Movement banquet at 5:00.

The district will conduct its business following the afternoon session. Present officers are: president, Stanley Holmaas, Newfolden; vice president, Irvin Schmitke, Thief River Falls; secretary, Gracia Kjersten, Badger; treasurer, Bruce Dalager, Roseau; and devotional life secretary, Judith Wold, Thief River Falls.

NEWFOLDEN CHURCH TO OBSERVE DEDICATION AND ANNIVERSARY

Westaker Lutheran Church, Newfolden, Minn., will dedicate its remodeled church building in special services July 2-4. Meetings will be held Friday and Saturday evenings and all day Sunday. Rev. John Strand, president of the Association of Free Lutheran Congregations, will officiate at the dedication.

Formerly located southwest of Newfolden, Westaker is now situated in town and enjoys a growing ministry. Pastor Gene Sundby serves the congregation.

WOMEN for Christ

FIRST THINGS FIRST

"Fear not! He is not here; he is risen as he said," were the words spoken to the women who came to the tomb that first Easter morning. These same words are repeated from the church pulpits this Easter Sunday and they should be just as meaningful to us as they were to those women at the tomb. He lives! Isn't this an exciting and wonderful message—and He wants so much to be invited to live in the heart of each person on earth. What does this Easter message mean to you personally? What have you done with Jesus? Have you left Him on the cross or in the tomb? or have you accepted the victory He gained for you when He rose victoriously over sin and death? Remember, it was for you the Savior died! Such love we will never be able to repay, but all He asks of us is that we give Him our hearts and accept the finished work for ourselves.

How sad it is to think that so many women, when hearing the word "Easter" think only of two things—a new spring outfit and spring housecleaning. I want to explain that I have nothing against either nice clothes or a clean house, but I question the place of importance they are given.

Long before Easter we see and hear advertisements about the new spring fashions, telling that one *must* have a *complete* new outfit for the Easter parade. This all goes on the outside. What about the inside? We read Christ's admonition in Matthew 23:27 (and this

applies as well today), "Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye are like unto whited sepulchres, which indeed appear beautiful outwardly, but are within full of dead men's bones, and of all uncleanness." If people would be as concerned about their souls as they are about their "new spring outfits," they would want to be covered with Christ's robe of righteousness. Think of the price Jesus paid for that robe and He gives it freely to all who accept Him.

I suppose that by now many of you are through with your annual spring housecleaning. If we only were as zealous in our work for the Lord as we are in attacking the dirt and dust that has accumulated during the winter. While you were doing your housecleaning this spring, was there any time that you were asked to do something for the Lord and you said you were too busy cleaning? Maybe you were asked to witness to someone and you were "too busy." What if that person died before you found time to talk to him or her about their soul? "Now is the day of salvation"—tomorrow may be too late.

What is your answer when you are asked to teach Sunday school, be a WMF officer, act on a committee, be on a program or in any way help the work of the kingdom? I'm sure there isn't a person working in the church who feels qualified for the task but she depends on the Lord to help her. Everyone who accepts the challenge receives a blessing. Try it once and see!

When I think back to when our children were small, I am so thankful I took time to help with the Sunday school and our Children's Mission Group. I admit that there were times I would have liked to sleep a little later on Sunday mornings, especially the times I worked in a store on Saturday evenings until 10 o'clock, but I am thankful I didn't give in to that urge.

When Sunday mornings came there was never a question at our house of whether we should go to Sunday school or church; our children knew it was the thing to do, so we all got ready for 9:45 a.m. Sunday school and stayed through services. Sure, our oven dinner was often overdone and not as fancy as many think Sunday meals should be, but the blessings received by doing something for the Lord far overshadowed the inconveniences. And the memories of going to Sunday school and church as a family are something one will never forget!

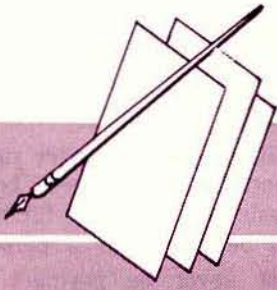
There have been many times through the years that I have had to leave floors undusted, beds unmade and dirty dishes in the sink because of some church work. Maybe I haven't had time to bake that cake or cookies I had planned, but, actually, no one in the family has suffered and the work left undone was still there when I came home.

"Only one life, 'twill soon be past,
Only what's done for Christ will last."

What have you done for Christ? Are you too busy, as the poem goes, getting your house ready for the "Master's" coming that you fail to recognize Him as coming in the form of one who needs comfort, one who needs a place to rest and one who needs care?

"Then the Master stood before me,
And His face was grave and fair;
'Three times today I came to your door,
And craved pity and care;
Three times you sent Me onward,
Unhelped and uncomforted,

[Continued on page 14]



EDITORIALS

EASTER SPEAKS OF THREE TRUTHS

The crucifixion and resurrection of Jesus have been favorite themes for many a painter. In our mind's eye we recall pictures we have seen.

As to the resurrection, there are scenes of the open tomb with an angel seated inside, of the women looking into the empty sepulchre, of Mary seated weeping and Jesus speaking her name, of Peter and John running to the grave, of the three men walking to Emmaus, of the meal at Emmaus where the unknown Guest revealed himself in the breaking of the bread. These paintings help us to picture the momentous events.

The resurrection of Jesus Christ speaks of three great truths: a great salvation, a great commission, and great expectations.

The *great salvation* has come about because of two actions of Jesus. In the first place, He died on the cross of Calvary. From childhood we learned that He gave His life as a ransom for all people of all times and places. Secondly, the crucifixion received real meaning through the resurrection of Jesus. "He was raised for our justification." This is the other side of the coin. Therefore, we preach a great salvation for all penitent souls.

In a certain home a beautiful vase had been handed down through several generations. One day while playing cowboy Tommy knocked it over and broke it. His mother was greatly disturbed and sent him to bed without supper. And she told him to ask God to forgive him for being so careless. He did so and fell asleep, assured of forgiveness. The next morning Tommy came down to breakfast in a cheerful mood. But his mother greeted him by saying, "O Tommy, why did you break Mother's vase yesterday?" Then Tommy began to cry and said, "Mother, God has forgotten; haven't you?"

Praise God, He not only forgives, but He forgets the sins of all who come to Him.

The resurrection speaks of a *great commission*. Jesus didn't give His life to make His disciples comfortable. To give peace of mind and soul, yes, but not a purposeless social security. He came to save people and to send those saved people out to reach others.

A great change took place in the disciples when they were assured that their Master was risen and after the Holy Spirit had bathed them with power. To the world they knew about, they proclaimed the crucifixion and resurrection of Jesus. Those two truths remain the core of Christian preaching to this very day.

The great commission is still in effect. The world for Christ is the Christian's motto. No one knows the power of the resurrection in his own life unless he is moved to share it with others.

Finally, the resurrection of Jesus from the dead tells of *great expectations*. The Catechism says that "the resurrection assures us that our bodies shall arise in glory on the last day."

The eminent scientist Dr. Wernher von Braun wrote a few years ago of his belief in the immortality of the soul. He pointed out that nothing disappears without a trace. Transformation takes place, but not extinction. The question therefore is this: If this is so, doesn't it make sense to assume that God applies it also to the masterpiece of His creation—the human soul? Our belief in immortality is not dependent upon the testimony of this great man of science, but we appreciate it nevertheless.

Peter writes, "By his great mercy we have been born anew to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and to an inheritance which is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, who by God's power are guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time" (I Pet. 1:3-5).

Now there is a resurrection to judgment as well as to life. The unbelieving dead shall be raised to hear the verdict "depart from Me." How much better it is to have in this life placed one's sins on the great s'n-bearer, Jesus.

May Easter, 1965, find us as people who are not lost in the niceties, the mere externals, of the day and season but rather as those who have experienced the great salvation, who are carrying out the great commission and who live in great expectations.

THE STRUGGLE FOR RIGHTS

We are certainly going through a difficult period in our nation's history. The struggle of brother against brother is never a pleasant spectacle, whatever its form may be. We need great love and patience in working out the problems of the race situation.

For the most part, we sit safely isolated from the scenes of racial tension. But we do, some of us, rub shoulders with the American Indian and the Negro and those of other minority races. And the death of the Rev. James Reeb in Alabama became a little more meaningful upon learning that we attended Lutheran colleges in Minnesota some forty miles apart during the same years, 1946-50.

Today let us make a few observations about the

current racial troubles. Our readers may not agree with them, but we ask your prayerful consideration.

Participation in demonstrations for racial equality does not thereby make one a Christian, just as dying in a war does not. Some demonstrators are likely moved by a real sense of humanitarianism without commitment to Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior.

Some Communists have likely infiltrated the civil rights movement and others move in to foment or perpetuate rioting. Such Communists, however, will not benefit from the obtaining of equality by the Negro people because Communism breeds only in discontent and deprivation.

The United States Constitution guarantees equal privilege, treatment and responsibility before the law for all American citizens. In practice this has not been the case. In regard to voting privileges, for instance, it is obvious that some states have laid roadblocks in the way of the Negro people.

The civil rights law of 1964 and the voting bill of 1965 should not have been (be) necessary, such protections already being assumed under existing national law. But for the "hardness of men's hearts," it is sometimes necessary to spell out laws. It should not be necessary for municipalities, for example, to enact ordinances against the making of excessive noise, and yet it is often needful to do so.

It is likely that if, at the time of the Supreme Court decision regarding desegregation of public schools, the white leadership of all racially affected areas had agreed upon a 5-year plan to guarantee full rights to all Negroes, such a plan would have been acceptable to the injured party. In the absence of such assurances and with the white community and its churches largely hoping that lying dogs would still sleep, there was no choice left but to dramatize the plight by moving into the streets.

The struggle of the Negro people today gives evidence of a desire for equality *now*, not at some future date.

It is quite possible that if we, white and Protestant, had suffered the same indignities we would do much the same as they do.

No one can force one person to love another person. Yet, to withhold privileges and rights from a group of people who differ from us until we come to "like" them is not justified. Nor is it right to withhold such rights and privileges until so many people have been "converted" that they will sweep away all

unjust barriers. It is apparent that many "converted" people have not only tolerated the social systems which cry out for correction today, but have in some cases aided their preservation.

According to the Christian ethic it is never right to discriminate against a person who has been born into a group which it is physically impossible for him to leave. Each man should be judged as a person.

Christian churches must never be partners to sham integration, that is, integration for its own sake, but every Association church should be open to membership and attendance for any person of whatever race who comes to "find God" and to worship Him and, in the case of membership, can testify to agreement with the church's constitution. The normal outreach of a congregation must not halt at racial boundaries.

The primary task of every pastor is to preach the Gospel of salvation through Jesus Christ. The primary insistence of every Christian congregation is that the Gospel of Jesus Christ be preached faithfully. To become principally interested in "social gospel" is to prostitute the purpose for which pastor and congregation are called. On the other hand, to show a lack of concern for the social issues of the day is a denial of the truth that the Christian man cares for the whole man and that he not only desires that his neighbor spends eternity in heaven, but is also concerned about the physical surroundings of his life in the here and now.

There are and will be problems in making the readjustments the current events portend. To believe that the injustices of several centuries should produce no bitter fruit and can be rectified without having to face the consequences of the sins of generations is naive and repudiates the word of Scripture, "whatever a man sows, that he will also reap."

Our hope lies in the help of God and in being people of good will and giving aid to others of like mind. Our hope lies in the belief that enough people everywhere will see that a new day has to dawn, ought to dawn in insuring the dignity of every American no matter what his color or ancestry may be, and will work toward that reality.

Then we shall no longer have to be unwilling or unwitting partners to falsehood when we sing "sweet land of liberty" and "the land of the free" and when we say "with liberty and justice for all."

NOTICE

Because of inquiries concerning Pastor Joel Pederson, McIntosh, Minnesota, the Board of Administration of the Association of Free Lutheran Congregations finds it necessary to state that Pastor Pederson met with the Colloquy committee October 15, 1963, but was

not approved for the Clergy Roster of the Association of Free Lutheran Congregations and is not serving on a fellowship basis with the Association. Correspondence concerning Pastor Joel Pederson should be addressed to Pastor Julius Hermunslie, Spicer, Minnesota, Chairman of the Board of Administration.

EASTERN NORTH DAKOTA DISTRICT LUTHER LEAGUE WILL MEET AT VALLEY CITY

First Lutheran Church (ASC building), Valley City, N. Dak., will be host to the spring Luther League rally on Sunday, May 2. John C. Rieth, Valley City, is the organization's president.

In Memoriam

My beloved brother Anders Stalsbraaten died in Oslo, Norway, February 24, 1965.

The editor of the Christian daily newspaper *Vaart Land* in Oslo writes among other things: "All the offices of *Vaart Land* are today overcome by sorrow and sadness. We have lost one of our warmest and dearest friends, Mr. Anders Stalsbraaten. He was like a spiritual father to all of us, and if *Vaart Land* ever has had a true and faithful intercessor, it was Stalsbraaten.

"He was so cheerful and always had a word of encouragement for all of us, both in good and evil days. He was a living example of what a mighty Christian influence a man can exert who lives according to his faith. He walked among us until the very last weeks; but then his health began to fail and yesterday he suddenly and peacefully departed to be with his Lord. He was over 85 years old.

"Mr. Stalsbraaten was born in Eggedal, Norway. From 1912 he served as executive in the Revenue Department in Oslo and later he became the chief executive with 260 workers under him.

"After he retired he volunteered his services to *Vaart Land* for which he was deeply concerned. With his jovial and heartwarming personality he was an inspiration to all who knew him.

"Besides his work at *Vaart Land*, he was a very active member of (Vestre) Lutheran Free Church in Oslo.

"With his departure we feel a great loss and we ask ourselves, 'Who can fill his place?'

"Blessed be the memory of our unforgettable friend."

I will never forget when I made a trip to Norway in the year 1920. My brother was afraid of me because I had become a Christian and pastor since the last time we

were together. He even planned to get away completely for the short time I would be home. He was thinking of going to Denmark. But finally he changed his mind and decided to stay home. He met me at the dock when *Stavangerfjord* came in and took me to his home. The next day, which was Sunday, I was to preach at the morning service of the (Vestre) Lutheran Free Church. Their church building was not yet completed so the service was held in the auditorium of the Christian college (Oscars gt 3 b—I still remember the street number). The auditorium was filled and the Holy Spirit's convicting power was accompanying the word to the hearts. I was led to say that if there was one there who had received a definite call from God to seek Him, to please come forward after the benediction had been pronounced. I could hardly believe my own eyes when I saw my brother coming. He came right up on the platform, tears rolling down his cheeks. He grabbed my hand and said, "I am the greatest sinner in the whole world, Lars. Do you think there is any hope for me to get saved?" I was all choked up with tears, but I believe I said, "Oh, yes, when we see we are sinners there is hope—for Christ did not come to call the righteous but sinners to repentance." We knelt down and prayed, and when we arose from our knees he was gloriously saved. He lived a fruitful and blessed Christian life for over 44 years. A whole book could be written about the hundreds of souls that he won for Christ. Professional men like doctors, lawyers, judges and others came to his office to seek spiritual help, and he turned the key in his door and down on their knees they went. Before they left they had accepted Jesus Christ as their Savior.

He had a special gift of speaking to people privately about their soul's salvation—on the train, buses and boats and everywhere.

One evening he was forcibly reminded to rush to the home of his wife's father. He was an agnostic and dying from cancer. He prayed with him and he was saved. When Anders was ready to go he reached under his pillow and took out a revolver and said, "You can take this. Now I haven't any use for it."

Some of the readers of the *Lutheran Ambassador* who used to read *Indremissionsvennen*, I am sure can recall some of the articles my brother wrote there.

Anders prayed for me more than any other person on earth and I can never thank God enough for all the blessings that came my way because of his prayer. I miss him beyond any words, but I thank God that he is forever safe at home.

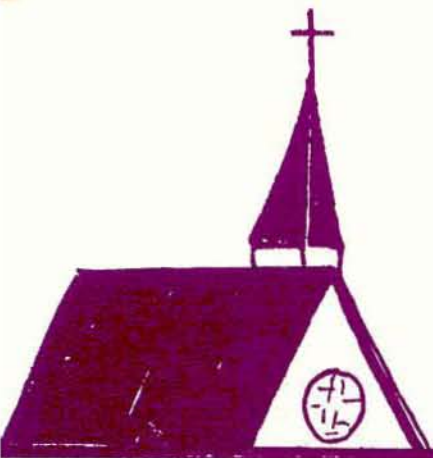
My sister Ragna, the only one who is left of our immediate family in Norway, writes, "Now Anders has gone home and I will soon see him, for I am at Aker's Hospital here in Oslo sick and dying. Now it is only you, Lars, left."

Presumably, I just wrote the last letter to my dear sister and I wept all the time I was writing for sheer joy. I was thinking of God's faithfulness who has given us the promises. We were nine in all—father, mother, and seven children. Sixty years ago we were all unsaved. I was the first one who got saved. Then He saved one by one in answer to prayer. My oldest brother, Ole, was the last one to be saved. We prayed for him for twenty years.

Continue to pray for your loved ones. The promise in Acts 16:30, 31 is still good. Sirs, what must I do to get saved? *Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house.*

I am sending a gift to the Association in memory of my dear brother.

Lars Stalsbrotten
Route 3, Box 466
Eugene, Oregon



Bible School Workshops



GRAND FORKS

Address?
Sunday, April 25
2:00–5:30 p.m.

Registration and Browsing

You may register for the first half hour. We are asking a fee of \$1.00 to cover the cost of materials.

Assembly 2:00–3:00 (Minneapolis)

Ideas for worship services. Suggestions that will be helpful for teachers of all age groups.

Coffeetime and Browsing 3:00–3:30

Bible school materials and handwork from Concordia, Augsburg, Standard, Scripture Press, and Gospel Light as well as suggested visual aids will be on display. Those who are familiar with the materials will be present to answer questions.

Group Sessions 3:30–5:00

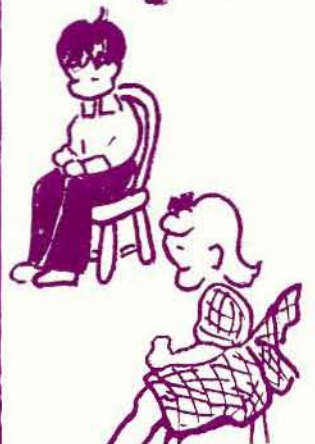
Teachers will be divided into two groups. (Those who teach pre-school through third grade; teachers who serve fourth grade and older.)

Suggestions will be offered for teaching specific lessons.

Please pray for the Bible school workshops.

MINNEAPOLIS

Seminary Building
Sunday, May 2
1:30–5:00 p.m.



Death Is but the Gateway

(The following letter is printed through the courtesy of Mr. Henry Jorgensen, Helena, Montana. Written in 1903 by his aunt, who was about twenty years of age, to her sister, his mother, in America, the letter beautifully speaks of the confidence of meeting God beyond death. The writer died soon after from tuberculosis.)

Dear Sister and Brother-in-law:

My heartiest thanks for sending little Karoline home to us. I never tire of lying here looking at her as sweet as she is. Yes, I have now lain here and seen how the autumn storms have withered and loosened leaf after leaf on the trees in the garden until there remains only the naked gray branches. Yes, it is with nature as with human life. Summer with its beauty and glory must wither and to all appearances die, but when winter is ended, when the sun returns with its light and its warmth, then plants begin to grow again. And so we too must yield to God's laws. We must die and our body be placed in the grave, and it may all seem so sad. But for all who in faith rest in God's mercy that was granted to us through Christ, yes, for us death has lost its sting and I long for the home in the house that has been prepared. I am very weak. Father and Mother must carry me now when I am to be moved and when my bed is to be made.

But how are you, dear sister? I hope you have successfully survived bringing a new little baby into the world. That will be a Christmas gift each year.

From our brother Henry you will receive a large picture, Jesus in Gethsemane (by Bloch—Ed). That, then, is my Christmas gift which I ask you to accept as a final greeting from your sister who soon expects to be taken home. And then I will stand on the heavenly shores and wait for you to come that we may all gather again, never more to be parted. Now I am much too tired to write any more.

With love and greetings for a Happy Christmas,

**Your sister,
Karoline**

Translated from the Danish by Mr. Jorgensen.

THE DAY OF RESURRECTION

The day of resurrection,
Earth, tell it out abroad,
The Passover of gladness,
The Passover of God.
From death to life eternal,
From earth unto the sky,
Our Christ hath brought us over,
With hymns of victory.

Our hearts be pure from evil
That we may see aright
The Lord in rays eternal
Of resurrection light;
And, listening to His accents,

May hear so calm and plain
His own "All hail!" and hearing,
May raise the victor strain.

Now let the heavens be joyful,
Let earth her song begin,
Let all the world keep triumph,
And all that is therein:
In grateful exultation,
Their notes let all things blend,
For Christ the Lord hath risen,
Our joy that hath no end.

—John of Damascus
(from *The Lutheran Hymnary*)

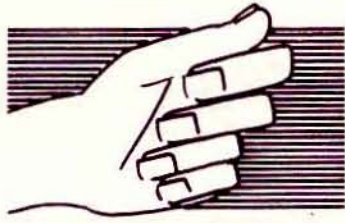
DATES FOR SECOND ANNUAL DISTRICT INSTRUCTORS' TRAINING SESSION SET

The 2nd Annual District Instructors' Training Session will be held at the Seminary Building, Minneapolis, July 28 and 29.

Attending the Session will be Sunday school leaders and pastors from the districts of the church. These in turn will conduct workshops for local Sunday school teachers in their own districts.

Last year's first endeavor brought many fine comments.

Mrs. David C. Hanson, Minneapolis, is in charge of the session.



STEWARDSHIP

ALL THAT I HAVE
IS THINE ALONE

DOLLARS AND SENSE

I am sure many are concerned as to how our Association is doing financially. This is our first opportunity to report briefly on our last year's financial picture.

In 1964-65 we were operating on a budget of \$53,700. When the year closed on January 31, 1965, we had received \$90,000 towards this budget. We are very grateful to God for making it possible and for moving our people to support the work in this manner.

Besides the items on our general budget, we made a beginning through the "Praise Program" to pay for the properties purchased. The Annual Conference decided to have a special drive among our congregations to raise \$130,000 to pay for the 21 acres of land, the building used for our offices and seminary, and for a president's residence. No time was set for this ingathering, so it is a continuing program until the funds are received. To date, less than half of our congregations have had a part in this program. Receipts have amounted to \$40,000. We hope that many more congregations will enter this program of kingdom support. The receipts to date will result in the saving of several thousand dollars in interest.

The Association has a \$28,000 equity in the property at 3110 East Medicine Lake Blvd., Minneapolis, Minnesota. We have an equity of \$8,000 in the president's residence. Besides this, equipment worth about \$3,000 has been purchased for our seminary and offices. All of this was done this past year. We marvel at the progress being made.

The Mission Fund closed the year with a balance of about \$9,000.

The Seminary Fund closed the year with a balance of about \$15,000. Our General Fund closed the year with a deficit of close to \$1,000. We go to the General Fund when needs arise not included in other budgets. Although the General Fund does not have the emotional appeal that missions and seminary do, without it the Association could not function. We hope our people will remember this as they send in their gifts.

Next month we will give some information concerning this year's budget. Let us pray for grace to do as well next year as this past year. The greater our faithfulness, the more the Lord will accomplish through us. Many are dreaming wonderful dreams concerning opportunities before us. We must use sanctified common sense and good Christian judgment lest we do anything without first counting the cost.

Truly our Association has unprecedented opportunities. Let us pray, work, and give that we might fill the important place God has seen fit to give us.

—Rev. John P. Strand

ASSOCIATION GROUP IN BAGLEY ORGANIZES

A group of people in Bagley, Minn., favorable to the Association of Free Lutheran Congregations, organized a church on March 10. Almost forty persons belong to this new congregation. They are being served at present by Pastor John DeBoer.

Elected as deacons were Ole Honstad, Oswald Peterson and Donald Braaten. Trustees are Lawrence

Wolhowe, Frank Fletcher and Henry Langseth. Mrs. Melvin Peterson is secretary and Mrs. Honstad treasurer. Mrs. Fletcher was elected superintendent of the Sunday school with Mrs. Allen Aamodt as her assistant.

Mr. DeBoer reports that the congregation has a forward-looking spirit and will build a church building as soon as possible. The congregation also solicits prayers of Association people that God's will might be done among them in their community.

I KNOW THAT MY REDEEMER LIVES

I know that my Redeemer lives!
What comfort this sweet sentence gives!
He lives, He lives, who once was dead,
He lives, my ever-living Head.

He lives to silence all my fears,
He lives to wipe away my tears,
He lives to calm my troubled heart,
He lives all blessings to impart.

He lives, all glory to His name!
He lives, my Jesus still the same;
Oh, the sweet joy this sentence gives:

I know that my Redeemer lives!
—Samuel Medley
(from the *Concordia Hymnal*)

[Continued from page 8]

And the blessing you might have had was lost
And your chance to serve has fled."

May God give us a vision beyond ourselves to the "fields white unto harvest."

Mrs. Roy Quanrud
Hampden, N. Dak.

"For Christ also died for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive in the spirit" (I Pet. 3: 18).

Quotations About the RESURRECTION

The resurrection crowned Him our divine Redeemer. The resurrection of Jesus is an attested historical fact. He was seen by reliable witnesses for a period of forty days, in many places and by different people. The timid disciples came to be bold believers. The resurrection is the center in all apostolic preaching. The Church of Jesus Christ has stood as a living testimony to the resurrection for nineteen hundred years.—Theodore Huggenvik in *Victory by the Cross* (Augsburg Publ. House, 1954)

French Renan "explained" everything from Bethlehem to Calvary in three hundred pages. Says Renan at the end of his honeyed words: "For the historian, the life of Jesus ends with his last sigh." God pity him, that's where the Life begins, and where history begins. History since Golgotha has been made by those who have kept their eyes upon His shining head. Take that one head, that one face away, and there is no explaining what we have become. Take the resurrection out of the record of Jesus, and all the rest is idle talk; take it out of Christianity and there would be no Christianity at all. And if no Christianity, no Church.—Frank S. Mead in *The Ten Decisive Battles of Christianity* (Grosset and Dunlap, 1936, 1937)

But the Easter Gospel has a still more glorious message to us who are not only marked by death but are also in ourselves death-sentenced criminals. It proclaims to us that the bodily resurrection of Christ is God's own signature affixed to the letter of pardon which

Jesus applied for on our behalf.—O. Hallesby in *God's Word for Today* (Augsburg Publ. House, 1937)

"Abide with us, for it is toward evening, and the day is far spent." Let this be our humble and heartfelt prayer as we again behold the glory of Easter and its meaning for us. Let it be for us the assurance that in the Word and sacraments our Savior is here with us and will never leave us nor forsake us. Let it be for us a challenge to work for Him and with Him while we wait for the day when He will come again to translate our faith in His abiding presence into the vision of His eternal victory.—O. P. Kretzmann in *The Sign of the Cross* (Concordia Publ. House, 1959)

Easter morning! Thou life-giving sun arising over an earth in the shadows of death! You gave us an escape from death, you gave us life. On Easter morning a Man steps out of His grave, never more to be laid in the grave again. On Easter morning death meets his Master. Through the open grave and the living Jesus, heaven shouts to us that the Son of God took sin away by His sacrifice.

Easter morning! Thou art life's eternal day over the children of death.—Ludvig Hope in *Thy Kingdom Come* (Augsburg Publ. House, 1939)

I know that Christ rose, because His life is in me. I am not admiring a dead thinker. I am living and walking and singing in comradeship with the living Christ.—G. Camp-

bell Morgan in *The Westminster Pulpit*, Vol. I (Fleming H. Revell Company, 1944)

"Life can never be the same again. It must be bigger and better, higher and holier."

This assertion is the lofty resolve of the man who has come into the presence of the living Lord. Faith has been revived. Sin has been forgiven. Life has been transformed. Horizons have been extended. Tasks have been enlarged. Victory over death has been gained.—Theodore E. Johnson in *God in the Hands of Man* (Augustana Press, 1962)

The God who raised Christ from the dead was the God who called forth every living thing. Easter dawn reflects a light that dawned first on Creation's morn.—Conrad Bergendoff in *Preaching the Resurrection* (Muhlenberg Press, 1959)

What a tragedy in view of the fact that can throb and thrill with joy every moment of your life, even in the darkest moments of your experience, if you will see the empty tomb, if you will rise to the new life, if you will be the free and happy servant of your God in Christ. The empty tomb and the living Jesus are a mighty inspiration to put away the works of darkness and to walk the way of God.—O. A. Geiseman in *The Concordia Pulpit*, 1937 (Concordia Publ. House, 1936)

"Jesus said to her, 'I am the resurrection and the life; he who believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, and whoever lives and believes in me shall never die. Do you believe this?'" (John 11:25, 26).

"If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through his Spirit which dwells in you" (Rom. 8:11).

The Heart of Easter

O. B. Endresen

Easter is from the heart of God to the heart of man! The heart of Easter is never found in externals.

We find it only in the depths of God's redeeming love, and in the heart experiences of all who by a living faith have life in the risen Christ. The sacred commemoration of His resurrection brings to a focus the threefold significance of Easter:

The Easter of Fact and History.
The angelic message at the empty tomb. "He is not

here; for he is risen, as he said," is one which is fully and historically established and which we may implicitly believe. On faith in this fact we build the hope of our salvation. Without such faith we are lost. "If Christ hath not been raised, your faith is vain; ye are yet in your sins." The fact that Christ did arise is a central truth in His saving gospel. In the great resurrection chapter (I Cor. 15), Paul says: "For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received, that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the scriptures, that he was buried, and that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the scriptures."

The Easter of a Triumphant Faith. When the fact of a risen and living Savior becomes the faith of a repentant and surrendered heart, a new life is born within. By the creative power of God's wondrous love and grace there is the emergence of a saved soul! Forgiveness, peace with God and "newness of life" in Christ all become triumphant realities. A triumphant life begins. A new song wells up from the heart: "I know that my Redeemer liveth!"

The Easter of a Glorious Eternity. Easter settles forever the perennial question about immortality, "If

a man die, shall he live again?" Every longing for eternal life can now find fulfillment in the resurrection promises: "The dead in Christ shall rise," and "because I live, ye shall live also."

Receiving Christ is finding the heart of Easter. Living Christ is possessing the heart of Easter! Witnessing to a loving and living Savior is pointing others to Him who is "the resurrection and the life!"

—Courtesy, Tract Mission

EASTER THOUGHT IN ACTION

Have you been in the garden with Jesus?

Have you shared in the anguish He bore?

Have you been to the hill of Golgotha,

And felt there the crown that He wore?

Have you prayed for the soul of a neighbor,

Or a loved one, sunk deep down in sin?

Perhaps a word spoken for Jesus, Would hasten the lost one to win.

How often we too have been silent, While Jesus has suffered alone.

He died on the cross to redeem us; Shed His blood, for our sins to atone.

But victory follows this sad note; For Jesus triumphantly arose.

Intercession is made for the sinner; He prays for His friends and His foes.

—Mrs. Milton Tollefson
Leonard, Minn.

"But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep. For as by a man came death, by a man has come also the resurrection of the dead" (I Cor. 15:20, 21).

"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).

W-1
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LIKE THE GOLDEN SUN ASCENDING

Like the golden sun ascending,
Breaking through the gloom of night,

On the earth his glory spending
So that darkness takes to flight;
Thus my Jesus from the grave
And death's dismal, dreadful cave,
Rose triumphant Easter morning,
At the early purple dawning.

Thanks to Thee, O Christ victorious!
Thanks to Thee, O Lord of life!
Death hath now no power o'er us,
Thou hast conquered in the strife;
Thanks because Thou didst arise,
And hast opened Paradise!
None can fully sing the glory
Of the resurrection story.

—T. Kingo

(from *The Lutheran Hymnary*)