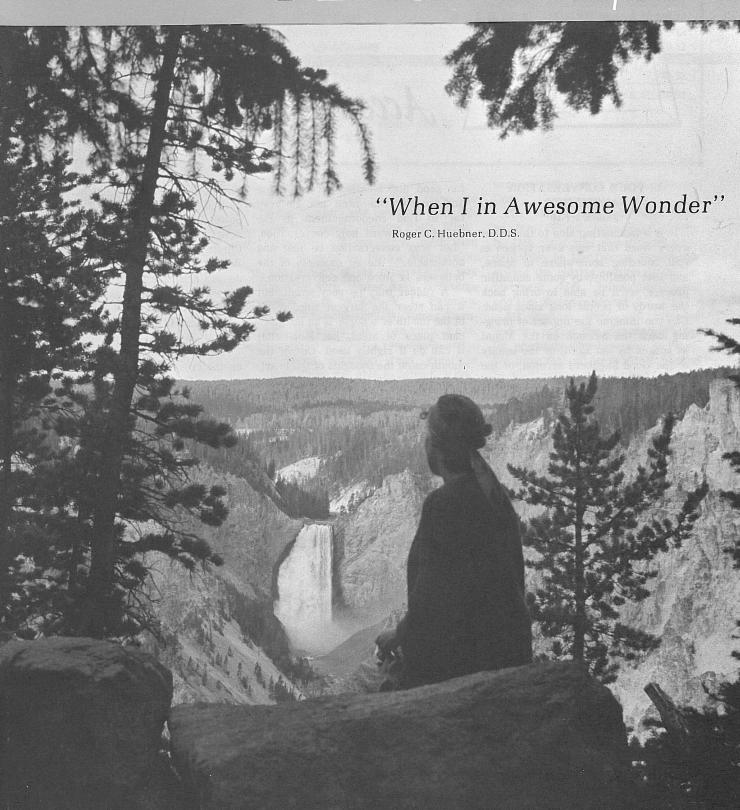
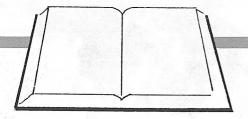
The Lutheran Ambassador





According to the Word

IS YOUR CONVERSATION SANCTIFIED?

James 3:1-10

It is a fascinating idea to think that every word that was ever spoken is still bounding somewhere in space, and that possibly, by some scientific process, we'll be able to bring back the words of people long since dead. Can you imagine the impact of bringing back the Sermon on the Mount as spoken by our Lord, or the beauty of the Good Shepherd sermon, or the sermon Christ spoke at the Sea of Galilee as He used the boat for His pulpit? Would you like to bring back all the words you have spoken, on a tape recorder? I doubt if any of us would. So many of our words have been so empty, vain, idle, angry, and selfish; so few have spoken of the life of God in us.

Right in this circumstance is a segment of life that we are prone to forget as part of the idea of stewardship. It is easy to forget that all we have said and say is a part of our life of discipleship. It is much easier to learn the stewardship of the checkbook than of the tongue. James tells us in these verses of the immense power that resides in words that are

for good and blessing, or for curse and sorrow. One need not go very far to find encouragement in the Scriptures toward holy conversation. "Let your conversation be just and acceptable." "Be an example of the believers in word and conversation."

A rudder may be very small, but it can steer the largest ship. A bit in the mouth of a horse is an insignificant piece of steel, but look what it can do if rightly used. Out of the mouth come the thoughts of the heart, and they reflect that inward life that one has experienced in this reconciliation with our heavenly Father. Words influence people, and our witness—to which each living, born-again Christian has an obligation—determines to what extent we have reflected the glory of our heavenly Father.

In times of crises, diplomats of governments are very careful to not talk too much. Each one of us, as a vessel of the body of Christ, should scrutinize the words as they come from our mouths. Good words spoken by God's people out of good hearts with something to say are a blessing. Many have fallen by the edge of a sword, but more have fallen by the tongue. James says the tongue is a fire and

that it is "set on fire by hell." He calls it "a restless evil, full of deadly poison." Because God has spoken and acted out His Word to us in Jesus Christ, we are gifted with the privilege and power of sanctified speech. Jesus Christ has come to redeem the person out of whose mouth come both cursing and blessing.

The Word of God, Jesus Christ, has first of all spoken for us redemptively in giving Himself for us. His words on the cross atoned for our cowardly silence. He is God's good Word, the Word who was made flesh and communicated Himself to us as He lived among us. Thus we who have experienced Christ's glorious salvation are able to communicate the news of His redemptive work. Out of the believing heart flows the new sense of our relationship with our heavenly Father and we consider it a privilege to speak to others of His saving will. They, with us, are objects of God's love, as seen in John 3:16. We owe it to them to tell of the wondrous saving works of God in Christ. We are sanctified communicators, God's living words. Let us speak up and show this.

-Reuben Wee

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A Song in the Night

by Mrs. I. M. Norum Clayton, Wisconsin

One night before even the first dim light of dawn, I heard the clear, musical notes of a little song sparrow. It made me smile in the darkness.

We read in Is. 30:29, "You shall have a song as in the night when a holy feast is kept; and gladness of heart." God does give songs in the night. Do not our hearts sometimes overflow with praise? Only God hears that song which may be ringing in the heart in the night hours. "Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of Creation." What a magnificent hymn of praise to our God" (Ps. 40:3).

David was able to write from his wilderness experiences, "My mouth praises Thee with joyful lips, when I think of Thee upon my bed, and meditate on Thee in the watches of the night; for Thou hast been my help, and in the shadow of Thy wings I sing for joy" (Ps. 63:5-7).

Sleepless hours may be times of blessing, when we reach out to the Lord in prayer and thanksgiving. Other things are not clamoring for our attention. Nothing is there to disturb. We are alone with God. And He knows and hears what is in our heart.

There may be burdens and trials, pain and sorrow in our life, or in the lives of loved ones. Even then it is possible by faith to lay hold of God's promises and to thank Him for what

He is able to do, and will do. "And at night His song is with me, a prayer to the God of my life" (Ps. 42:8).

When Paul and Silas were beaten, and put in prison, with their feet fastened in the stocks, what did they do? We read in Acts 16:25, 26: "But about midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them. And suddenly there was a great earthquake, so that the foundations of the prison were shaken; and immediately all the doors were opened and everyone's fetters were unfastened." A trust in God—and a mighty miracle!

Multitudes today are in bondage in the prison house of sin. How much sincere, believing prayer goes up for them from us to God? Prison doors can still be opened and souls set free.

There is darkness today in our dear country and in the world. But we thank God that there are also signs of awakening and revival in various places. This is like the faint streaks of a new dawn. There is a glorious morning coming for all of God's people. "Weeping may tarry for the night, but joy comes in the morning" (Ps. 30:5).

There is no singing quite as sweet as a song in the night, even though there may be tears in the eyes. "The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases, His mercies never come to an end; great is Thy faithfulness" (Lam. 3:22, 23).

MRS. ELLING OHNSTAD

Mrs. Elling Ohnstad, 88, of Fairdale, N. Dak., passed away at a Grand Forks, N. Dak., hospital May 11, after several years of failing health. She had been hospitalized five days.

Born in Underdal, Sogn, Norway, she came to North Dakota in 1909 and was married July 1 of that year to Elling Ohnstad. The couple resided on a farm in the Fairdale area, which was their home until their death. Mr. Ohnstad passed away in 1958

Surviving are five daughters: Inger Ohnstad of Grand Forks, Mrs. Arnold Erickson (Lisa) of Seattle, Wash., Mrs. George Knudsvig (Gerd) of Grand Forks, and Helny and Edna Ohnstad, at home. Also surviving is a sister, Mrs. Ragna Hedlund, of Adams, N. Dak. Two sisters and two brothers survive in Norway. Mrs. Ohnstad had three grandchildren—Karen, Gordon and Gail Knudsvig of Grand Forks.

Funeral services were conducted in Trinity Lutheran Church, Grand Forks, on the forenoon of May 11. with Rev. Roy Bredholt and Rev. David C. Molstre officiating. A second service was held in the afternoon at Aadalen Lutheran Church at Fairdale, with Rev. Bredholt and Mr. Roy Mohagen officiating. Burial was in the Ohnstad Family Cemetery.

Mrs. Ohnstad was a member of Aadalen Church, Aadalen Ladies Aid and the Women's Missionary Federation.

—Corr.

LAWRENCE K. PRESCOTT

Lawrence K. Prescott, age 73, passed away suddenly at Methodist Hospital at Rochester, January 13. Mr. Prescott was a long time resident of Clearwater county in the Itasca township community.

Mr. Prescott was born in Adrian, Minnesota, on February 9, 1897, to parents Louis and Anna Prescott. Lawrence moved to Luverne, Minnesota, at an early age and then to Alsen, North Dakota. Later, they moved to Willmar, Minnesota, and in 1911 to Vang, North Dakota. He was married to Mabel J. Bode in Langdon, North Dakota, on December 28, 1927. After their marriage they lived for six years in Green Lake, Minnesota, coming to Itasca township, Clearwater county in 1936 where they have since made their home.

Mr. Prescott was township assessor for many years, a member of Sell Lake Lutheran Church and its vice chairman. He worked in Alaska for some years during WW II doing defense work. He had been in ill health since 1953. He was a kind, helpful husband with a host friends.

Lawrence Prescott is survived by his wife Mabel and one daughter, (Daunn) Mrs. Glen Schroeder of Red Wing; two granddaughters, Carolyn and Jean; one brother, Nels of Nisswa, Minnesota, and a sister, (Geneva) Mrs. Olaf Rude of Langdon, North Dakota. He was preceded in death by his parents, one sister and three brothers.

Funeral services were held on Monday, January 18, at 1 p.m., in the Sell Lake Lutheran Church, south of Shevlin. The Rev. I. M. Norum and the Rev. Marvin S. Undseth officiated. Burial was made in the Sell Lake Cemetery.



THE HELPING HAND PROJECT

Earlier this year information was sent out by Faith Lutheran Church, Kalispell, Mont., concerning a program the congregation was initiating with the blessing of the Board of Home Missions. It has since received the endorsement of the Annual Conference of 1971. The plan, explained by the congregation's pastor, Rev. Gary M. Skramstad, in the letter below, asks individuals and congregations to assist young and struggling churches with gifts of money so that facilities can be built. But let Pastor Skramstad explain the program:

The purpose of the project is to involve our congregations and individuals in the Home Mission needs of the AFLC. We believe that the idea of Home Missions is of utmost importance to the AFLC at this time. The "Helping Hand Project" is a trial experience with Faith Lutheran being the congregation to test its feasibility. The aim is to involve some of our congregations and individuals to give over and above their regular amounts to Home Missions that a specific congregation may receive the help it needs. For example: If 20 friends would give a helping hand by pledging \$10 a month for 24 months our congregation would be able to make a building payment and thus build an edifice in which to worship. Some congregations may like to give more, others less. It is our feeling that within two years we would be able to assume much of the payment ourselves.

If this project will work for Kalispell by utilizing about 20 of the churches on the congregational roster then help could be seen for possible 2 or 3 other new areas over and above the already existing Home Mission program. This assistance should be sent to Minneapolis so the local congregation would receive the proper credit.

The Faith congregation has approved building plans for \$20,000 which would give us a fellowship hall to be temporarily used as our sanctuary and Sunday School room in the basement. The building will be 36 x 72 feet. A parcel of land 260' x 166' has been donated to our church. This land is on the last block of the now existing city limits and across the street from a new 56 family unit apartment building. Plans are that a new ten million dollar shopping center will start construction this summer just a few blocks from our site. We would be able to build for ourselves since most of our members are either in construction or have experience in building.

Our congregation has grown from five families to twelve on the membership list. We also have another five families that we are regularly ministering to. We believe that there is much hope for a strong free and living congregation in Kalispell. But at present we need your help. With a small rural church, Stillwater Lutheran, we comprise our Free Lutheran Parish. We each pay half of the general expenses. Stillwater is

now engaged in a much needed remodeling project.

We would be most happy to answer any questions that you might have concerning our congregation or the helping hand project. A monthly newsletter will be sent to all who are interested in our work. We thank you for your concern and prayers.

Sincerely, Rev. Gary M. Skramstad

A Final Note

We must emphasize that any person or congregation participating in the Helping Hand Project must make their gifts something over and above what they ordinarily would be giving to Home Missions and other areas of Association work. If this is not done, the regularly budgeted programs will only suffer. The Helping Hand Project is looking for those who are willing to take on an extra challenge for Christ.

May we emphasize once again the crucial need for building up the home base of the Association. The Association must enter promising areas, first of all, in order to bring an evangelical Christian witness, and second, to build the fellowship numerically in order that our Schools and mission outreach at home and abroad can be maintained. You are invited to join this great adventure with your interest and with your prayers and gifts.

Contact Pastor Skramstad or the Board of Home Missions for more information about the Helping Hand Project. The address of the former is Rev. Gary M. Skramstad, Three Mile Road, Kalispell, Mont. 59901.



THE HELPING HAND HOME MISSION PROJECT FOR THE FAITH FREE LUTHERAN CHURCH OF KALISPELL, MONTANA

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BUILDING FUND TREASURER	PASTOR

THE PINK COPY IS FOR YOUR RECORDS.

THE VELLOW COPY IS TO BE SENT TO THE AFLC TREASURER.

THE BLUE COPY IS TO BE SENT TO: FAITH FREE LUTHERAN CHURCH
98 Northern Lights Boulevard
KALISPELL, MONTANA 59901



CONFIRMATION SERVICE AT SPENCER CREEK LUTHERAN CHURCH Eugene, Oregon

May 23 was our confirmation Sunday. It was a perfect day, with beautiful sunshine. The church was filled to capacity. When the confirmands marched into the sanctuary from the annex the audience arose and sang:

"God's word is our great heritage,
And shall be ours forever;
To spread its light from age to age
Shall be our chief endeavor;
Through life it guides our way,
In death it is our stay;
Lord, grant while world endure,
We keep its teaching pure,
Throughout all generations."

One of the confirmands was baptized on her own confession of faith. The catechizing which began with prayer by one of the confirmands lasted for about twenty minutes. Another confirmand closed with prayer. Each boy and girl was given a New Testament, and Daily Light on the Daily Path for private devotions, morning and evening.

Reception followed.

In many churches today confirmation has become just a form, a ceremony, a rite. Not so in our church. Our pastor visited every home and talked privately with each confirmand about their personal relationship to the Lord Jesus Christ. The most important part of the confirmation is the instruction. For the main object of the instruction is to lead each child to a real, living, saving faith in Jesus Christ. Faith came to

them as they were hearing the Word, and when they answered the questions at the altar that was their public confession of faith in Him who died for them and rose again.

One girl said, "I have made my decision, the confirmation instruction has changed my life completely." She had told her parents that, too. She comes from a very wealthy family. Nobody can figure out what that may mean for that home.

At the reception the father to this girl said jokingly to the pastor, "Did they all pass?" This question gave the pastor the inspiration to tell a true story about Bishop Hoeg in Norway.

He was catechizing with a confirmation class. In this class there was a boy who could not learn anything by heart. His mother worked hard with him clear till the last night before confirmation, but it did not help. This boy was the last one in the row, and when the Bishop came to him he asked him to recite the Third Article. He started off pretty well until he got to "I believe in the forgiveness of sins." Then he got stuck. He could not get any further. The Bishop asked, "Is this as far as you can get?" With a voice choked with tears, he answered, "Yes, Bishop, that is as far as I have come." Then Bishop Hoeg put his arm around the boy and said, "You have passed. You are going to be confirmed. The Bishop hasn't got any further either." The boy looked up into the face of that great, big man and smiled through tears.

Well, we finally got a Free Lutheran Church in Eugene and if any of you young people in the Association are planning to attend some of our higher institutions of learning, we invite you to come to our church. We need your help.

-Corr.

GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH Bagley, Minn.

Mr. and Mrs. Francis Drown celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary, Sunday, May 16, with an open house at Grace Lutheran Church in Bagley. Mr. and Mrs. Drown were married at Roseau, Minnesota, May 6, 1921, and lived there most of their lives until two years ago when they moved to Bagley and joined the Grace Church.



The congregation on Confirmation Sunday.



Many relatives and friends were present to extend their well wishes. During a brief program Mrs. Clifford Elgin sang two songs by request. The event was hosted by the Drown's three children, Mrs. Clifford Elgin, Roseau; Mrs. James Dahlen, Shakopee and Mrs. Gordon Drown of Bagley.

The Drown family summed up their feelings with the words "The memory of this joyous time will ever be with us to stay."

MRS. BILDEN HONORED FOR WORK IN MUSIC

Mrs. Alta Bilden, pianist for Rice Lutheran Church for the past 22 years, was honored Sunday evening, May 9, at a special Mother's Day service. Ed Mathison, neighbor and member of the congregation, presented Mrs. Bilden with a plaque expressing the gratitude of the congregation.



The plaque reads:

For Alta E. Bilden

In appreciation for 54 years of dedicated Christian Service in Sacred Song

"Take my hands, and let them move with the impulse of Thy love" Concordia Hymnal

In the year of our Lord May 9, 1971 Rice Free Lutheran Congregation Mrs. Bilden has been playing for churches for 54 years, starting at the age of 12. She recalls that the first song she played was "Where He leads Me, I Will Follow."

While pianist at Rice Lutheran, Mrs. Bilden has served under 11 pastors and says she will continue as long as she is needed. According to her pastor, the Rev. Dale Battleson, "Mrs. Alta Bilden is a very fine and faithful pianist. She is using the talent God gave her to glorify His name. I don't know what we would do without her."

Mrs. Bilden has lived in the Bagley area since 1928, coming here with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. William Wallingford, from Deer Creek in Ottertail County. Her hobby of raising flowers and other plants has made her almost as well known as her music.

The special Mother's Day service was a blessing to all who were there and Mrs. Bilden expressed her appreciation and joy in serving her Lord these many years.

-Cor

NEWS FROM BINFORD, N. DAK.

We at Bethany Lutheran Church, Binford, are thankful to God for the many blessings we have received as a congregation. First of all, for spiritual blessings through our former pastor, Rev. Ernest Langness, who was with us for seven and one-half years, but has now moved to Ishpeming, Mich.

We are thankful to God for the improvements we have been led to make in our church building this past year. We built a new addition to our church which allows more room $(16^{\circ} \times 28^{\circ})$ and an inside stairway. The basement was also enlarged. We just recently finished carpeting the floor of the church.

Sunday, June 6, was a big day for us. At our regular services we had six young people who made their confirmation vows and this was followed by holy communion.

That evening we met again for Luther League Family Night and were blessed through the message of word and song. At this service the new addition to our church, together with a new electric organ recently received as a gift, were dedicated for

use in God's work and to His glory.

During the social hour which followed Pastor and Mrs. Langness and family were honored for their services and friendship while serving here. He had his last service for the Binford-McVille parish at a joint service on Sunday, June 27, at the Sheyenne Valley Bible Camp near Cooperstown, A picnic dinner followed the service. Registration for the district's Bible Camp there began that same afternoon.

To God be the glory.

Mrs. Frank Oien, Secretary

ABERCROMBIE CONGREGATION OBSERVES ANNIVERSARY

Bethany Lutheran Church of Abercrombie, N. Dak., one of the "Friends of Augsburg" in 1893, observed its ninetieth anniversary June 5-6. Pastor Larry V. Severson is presently serving the congregation.

The theme of the anniversary was "To God Be the Glory" and the corresponding theme verse was "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ" (Eph. 1:3).

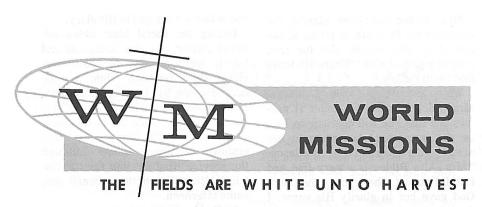
The Saturday evening youth service, presided over by Paul Nash, president of the Luther League, featured Rev. Francis Monseth of Everett, Wash., as guest speaker. Music was provided by the Junior Choir, the Band and Elaine Hermunslie and Gary Myhre. The League served refreshments following the meeting.

Pastor John Strand of Minneapolis, Minn., president of the Association of Free Lutheran Congregations, delivered a challenging message based on John 3:1-13 at the Sunday morning session. The Ladies' Double Duet, the Youth Choir and Pastor Monseth contributed to the musical part of the program.

Following the morning worship service a delicious dinner was served by the ladies of the congregation.

Mrs. Oscar Christopherson of Bloomington, Minn., a former member of the congregation, acted as mistress of ceremonies at the afternoon session. Mrs. Daniel Faust of Hastings, N. Dak., led in Scripture reading and prayer. Mrs. Elroy

(Continued on page 15)



DIARY OF A JOURNEY

Thursday, July 29, 1971

Pastor Huglen and Ambassador Friends:

Greetings from Cuernavaca, Mexico. This beautiful city is just over a mountain range from Mexico City, about 80 miles away. This is our first letter to you friends after leaving the U.S.A. We have already traveled over 2,000 miles, but it seems we are just now getting beyond tourist territory and into the real Mexico and Central America atmosphere. On our way down we had stops in Sycamore, Ill., Kansas City, Mo., San Antonio and Laredo, Tex. On Tuesday morning, July 20, we finally got over the border into Mexico and our first experience in Mexico was to attend a picnic for the blind at a beautiful park. This was put on by the Clair Hobarts and Latin American Mission. Our family sang for the blind youth here, and we were much blessed with this experience. That evening we drove into a nice camper park area in Monterray. Now we had left the intense heat of the plains of Texas and Mexico behind us and we were in a beautiful city about five thousand feet high. The mountains rose up all around us. We



The Abel family singing at Clair Hobart's picnic for the blind in Mexico.

are informed that from now on, through Guatemala, our journey will be mainly in the high valleys, so our days will be warm and nights cool. Our Ford is running cooler now, although it has functioned perfectly so far, even on the Second grade Mexican gasoline. Of course, we have additives, etc., that we pour in at every fill.

Thursday, we arrived in Mexico City, after having spent the previous night at a motel-trailer court in a city called San Luis de Potosi. We are following the Sandborn road guide,



Camping outside Mexico City, July 23.

which was given to us when we purchased our car insurance for Mexico. We find it very thorough and informative. Mexico City is listed as 7,349 ft. elevation, so we are experiencing cool days here. We set up our whole outfit for the first time here in a nice little trailer camp outside the city. The cost, \$4.50 per day, includes everything. With the tent up and the camper up we had lots of room to get organized and rested up a little. Also, it was good to use the washer and dryer facilities and get caught up on the laundry while the chilren kept busy swimming in the small pool. We made one trip into the center of Mexico City. The traffic is really some-

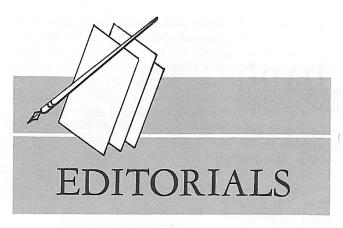
thing else. Four lanes both directions and everyone charging in and out of lanes with no signalling, etc. In the city we went to the Guatemala Embassy and received our visas to enter Guatemala. Mexico City has a beautiful central area with many parks spacious avenues scattered among the skyscrapers. On our way out of the city we visited the Teotihuacan Pyramids or the old Aztec Indian Pyramids and ruins. The children climbed way to the top of the largest, the Sun Pyramid. Here, in ages past, human sacrifices were made to the sun god. Mother and Dad were content to go up a couple levels and look over the vast valley that was the home of one of the earliest civilizations in the western hemisphere.

Leaving the Capitol, we climbed on a beautiful four-lane highway for 50 miles and then dropped down into another lovely valley where the city of Cuernavaca is located. We had been given the address of the headquarters of Campus Crusade for Christ in this city. They have purchased a large old-style Mexican Motel as a training and retreat center. We found this city to be off the tourist path and yet a quaint city of about 100,000 people. Just as we came into town we smelled hot oil and as we checked out our wheels it seems we have a leaky grease seal in one wheel, so we stayed over a day here to get that fixed at the local Ford agency. We had one blowout on our little trailer, which is pretty heavily loaded with baggage, but having two spares we are still sailing along and hope to get a new tire in this large city (which at this writing has been done).

Sunday, we enjoyed worshiping to-(Continued on page 10)



The Abel family by their car and trailer in Mexico.



THE CONGREGATION IS SOVEREIGN

"We believe that final human authority in the churches is vested in the local congregations, subject to the Word of God and the Holy Spirit."

Declaration of Faith, III:1

Association people speak often of the freedom of the local congregation. The very name of the church fellowship emphasizes the point, "Association of Free Lutheran Congregations."

The **Fundamental Principles** of the church give the reason for the belief in this freedom in the following two paragraphs:

"According to the Word of God, the congregation is the right form of the Kingdom of God on earth" (No. 1).

"The congregation directs its own affairs, subject to the authority of the Word of God and the Spirit of God, and acknowledges no other ecclesiastical authority or government above itself" (No. 5).

A congregation exists where believing people have banded together for the purpose of Christian fellowship, worship and service. Where there is that desire and the Word of God is present and the Sacraments rightly administered, there the Christian congregation is.

The congregation exists even though there be no church building or pastor, although in the natural course of events, both will be sought.

The congregation recognizes no ecclesiastical authority above itself. No denominational official or conference of congregations can force its will upon the local church. Nevertheless, the congregation has authoritative masters, the Word and Spirit of God. It must constantly test its program

by these to see that nothing contrary to them is being practiced. If it can be proved that anything opposed to the Word of God has been done by the congregation, correction from without should be willingly accepted.

While the local congregation is free and its constitution provides for the handling of all problems within it, situations may arise where, because of lack of love, some difficulty cannot be resolved without the intervention of a disinterested party. But ideally it should be possible to resolve all disputes within the sovereign congregation through prayer and the Word and Spirit of God.

BIBLE SCHOOL CHOIR IN NORWAY

This is being written on the day the choir from Association Free Lutheran Bible School arrived in Norway to begin its six-weeks' tour of that land. We are sorry that we did not editorially "send off" this excellent musical group, but want to acknowledge their journey at this time.

The tour of the choir has so much potential for good. Like it or not, the news which European countries get of America is often about the problems in our country—the debate over war, the riots, the strikes, the violence. Many times the people must ask themselves, "What sort of a country is America anyway?" Added to this is the portrayal of the United States that is made by Hollywood. Our choir will enable Norwegian people to see wholesome young Americans, probably all of them dedicated to Jesus Christ. The choir members won't be able to communicate very well with their hosts because of the language barrier, but the Norwegians will sense their friendliness and unity in the faith.

That brings us to this point, the choir members are going to meet some wonderful Christian people in the land of the Midnight Sun. As they go from place to place they are going to be thrilled as they recognize brothers and sisters in the Christian faith, young and old, and they will find a warmth of fellowship which they will never forget.

Yes, it's a two-way street. It always is where there is openness of spirit. We have received much from Norway. For many of us it is the land of our forefathers. If we, through the choir, can bring some blessing and encouragement to the brethren there, the trip will have been successful.

God bless the Bible School Choir, Mr. and Mrs. Rodvold and Dr. and Mrs. Olson as they are on their journey, and make them a blessing.

ARRANANANANANANA A In Memoriam A A A

Key: The name of the town is the address of the deceased. Following that is listed the name of the deceased, age, date of death and the church in which he or she held membership.

MINNESOTA Newfolden

Mrs. George O. Lee, 79, Westaker

SOUTH DAKOTA Roslyn

John Skundberg, 75, July 17, Saron Sisseton

Knut O. Tystad, 95, July 22, Hope

NEW ADDRESS

New address for Lay Pastor and Mrs. Melvin Walla is 110 Edgewood Court, Fargo, N. Dak. 58102. Pastor Walla has begun serving St. Paul's Lutheran Church of that city. Mrs. Walla is the president of the Women's Missionary Federation of the AFLC.

OUR YOUTH-OUR CHALLENGE

WHAT? Parish Education Workshop WHERE? Valley Lutheran Church, Portland, N. Dak.

Rev. Stephen Odegaard, pastor WHEN? Sunday, August 22, 2:00 p.m. Guest speaker—Miss Judith Wold, Executive Director of Parish Education

Come prepared to share ideas.

Mrs. Dale Quanbeck, Secretary Eastern North Dakota District



HIGH TIDE IN HIS SOUL

Today I received a telephone call.

"Hello! Do you know who I am? Yes, I am back in the hospital. This will no doubt be the last time. Could you come and see me soon?" Though this man is in his best years, the sickness from which he has suffered for a year is one that medical treatment cannot remedy. Six doctors have tried their skill on him in vain.

"The heart won't respond," said one doctor

"The kidneys are too sluggish," said another.

"There is not enough vitality," said a third.

He had had trouble with his breathing. In spite of it he tried to talk today, but his words often ended in an inaudible whisper.

"I think the Lord wants me now, and I am ready to go," he faltered.

A smile began to break around his mouth, but there did not seem to be strength enough to complete it. On the other hand, tears flowed freely.

"I cry easily," he apologized, "but I am not afraid—everybody might just as well know it—I believe God will receive me."

"May I ask," I ventured, "why you believe that?"

"Yes. I have seen Jesus. He has taken away my sins. God will have mercy on me for Jesus' sake—He died for me." He continued speaking with an unexpected burst of strength: "If God should deal with me according to my sins—the sins I have committed—the wrongs I have done—oh, no! Jesus! To think that I have treated him so!"

After seeing one's sins loom up like mountains, how wonderful it is to behold God's love like golden sunlight high above the mountains—or as he put it: "My life now is like a calm, sunlit sea. The cocks are covered. It is 'high tide', as we used to say at home."

It was indeed a high point in his spiritual experience. God's Word and

prayer echoed and reechoed in jubilant praise from his heart.

The story of how this man, formerly so reserved and stiff, became thus openly penitent and happy in the Lord, belongs to those cases of awakening and confession which are best kept secret. The changes he went through may be partially described with the familiar words of Psalm 68: 19: "If one oppresseth us, God is our salvation."

Wm. Hagen

(Continued from page 8)

gether with some Americans in this city and the Campus Crusade staff here. At times this hotel is really full. Last week they had 360 guests when the Salvation Army of Mexico was having a convention here. This week the place is almost empty and we are enjoying a couple days of rest, the first time our entire family has slept inside in over a week. Camping facilities have been excellent so far, the roads good and now this beautiful old mansion with its large grounds and swimming pool.

I will put a final paragraph on this from the border city of Tapachula. This morning we will be crossing into Guatemala. Tonight we should be in the capitol city of Guatemala, called Guatemala City. We will have to spend at least two days there getting our permits or visas to cross the borders into El Salvador, Honduras, Nicaragua, Costa Rica and Panama. After we leave Guatemala, we should be able to get through one country a day as they are only from 200 to 300 miles wide each. We have found. however, that driving in the Sierra Madre Mountains and coastal hills, 250 miles is a good daily driving distance.

I remember back to my college days 22 years ago and how three of us made this trip in a jeep. We spent three days getting through the sandy cattle roads here, drove through 12 rivers and finally had to ship on a railroad flatcar. Now, on a new tar road, we made the trip in one day. It's still Mexico, however, not very clean, hot, rainy weather in the low-lands, cool with hairpin roads in the uplands. We are all well and enjoying the scenery. We are throwing Gospel tracts to hundreds of people along the road, and they all run out to get them.

For now, keep praying.

The Ables

OH, WHERE ARE THE REAPERS?

Oh, where are the reapers that garner in

The sheaves of the good from the fields of sin?

With sickles of truth must the work be done.

And no one may rest till the harvest "home."

Chorus:

Where are the reapers! Oh, who will come

And share in the glory of the "harvest home"?

But reapers are few, and the work is great.

And much will be lost should the harvest wait.

So come with your sickles, ye sons of men,

And gather together the golden grain; Toil on till the Lord of the harvest

Then share ye His joy in the "harvest home."

Oh, who will help us to garner in The sheaves of good from the fields of sin?

Go out in the byways and search them all;

The wheat may be there, tho' the weeds are tall;

Then search in the highway, and none pass by,

But gather from all for the home on high.

The fields are all rip'ning, and far and wide

The world now is waiting the harvest-tide:

Eben E. Rexford (from **Hymns of Praise**, **II**)

- 12. What were the ten plagues God performed in Egypt to bring about the release of Israel from their Egyptian masters? (Ex. 7-12)
- 13. The Egyptian magicians were able to duplicate some of the plagues, but not all. What spiritual lesson may we derive from this? (Matt. 7:15-23 and Jn. 10:27)
- 14. Note verses 55 and 56. What may we learn from this reaction of Israel to the Lord's goodness? (Heb. 2:1-3)

It should be remembered that no matter how rich and lofty have been the experiences of past blessing, we cannot be immune from failures, unless we watch and pray and live in abiding fellowship with Jesus Christ. The nearer we are to the Captain, the more perilous the position. (F. B. Meyer)

- 15. What was the Biblical history behind verse 60, when God forsook the tabernacle of Shiloh? (I Sam. 4)
- 16. Why is it important to watch developments in Israel today? (Isa. 62:1-7 and Rev. 16:14-21)
- 17. In times of spiritual coldness and indifference in Biblical history, how has God intervened to preserve His kingdom? (verse 70; Dan. 2:16-23; Es. 4:13-16)

Our fathers, chained in prisons dark,

Were still in heart and conscience free:
How sweet would be their children's fate,
If they, like them, could die for Thee!
Faith of our fathers, holy faith,
We will be true to Thee till death! (F. W. Faber)

BIBLE STUDY

Psalm 78

September, 1971

LEARNING FROM OUR FATHERS

This Psalm of Asaph is said to have arisen from a strong controversy between the tribes of Judah and Ephraim as to the location of God's sanctuary. The end result was its location in Judah. During the time of Ephraim's leadership, that group failed at the gates of Canaan to go forward to possess the land. Thus the leadership was given to Judah.

This hymn was, no doubt, learned by the Hebrew children in order that they might set their hearts on God and not forget His works. It is good to store the fresh memories of children with Scripture verses, which will often come alive during hours of temptation and distress. Memorization of the Word of God is a most valuable habit. "The wheels of the mind and heart must grind—let them grind wheat!" (F. B. Meyer)

- 4. What were some of the miracles of God that Israel had seen before they came to the gates of Canaan? (verses 12-15, 24, and 27)
- 5. How do you account for Israel's unbelief and murmuring in the light of these many manifestations of God's love and power? (Mk. 7:21-23 and Rom. 3:10-18)
- 6. What treatment did God have to render in order to help them return to Him? (Num. 21:5-6 and Num. 16:1-35)

The fires of tribulation purge us by melting away the dross, all that is not genuine within us. And these fires are hot, though not dangerous. The more familiar I become with the Scriptures and with life, the clearer it becomes to me that tribulation is the silent dynamic of all Christian life. As the old wall clock stops when we remove its weights, so also would our life in God come to a stop if the weights of tribulation were removed. (Hallesby)

- 7. What sin grieves and angers God above all others? (Matt. 13:58 and Heb. 3:12,19)
- 8. How would you summarize in one sentence verses 32-42, concerning the forty years of wilderness wanderings? (verse 40; Num. 14:11; Deut. 32:16)
- 9. What prevented the Lord from destroying all the Israelites in the wilderness? (Num. 14:13-20; Ex. 32:31-32; Mic. 7:18-19)
- 10. How did Israel limit God at the gates of Canaan? (Num. 14:1-3 and 22-29)
- 11. When does a child of God limit the Lord in his daily life? (Jas. 4:2; Matt. 7:7-11; Jn. 14:12)

God waits to do marvelous things for us and by us. But how often we confine His power within the narrow channel of our own little faith. Let us rather "expect great things from God and attempt great things for God."

In the study of this Psalm, we find a perpetual contrast between God's constant faithfulness and the incessant backsliding of His people. We learn that sin is not only a violation of the divine law, but a cause of pain and sorrow to our Heavenly Father's heart.

Unbelief is so prevalent. When shall we dare to believe that "with God all things are possible"? One must be living in constant communion with God before he can exercise this faith.

God does so much for His children, but how easy for us to become engrossed with the gifts and forget the Giver. Our blessings are not to be used for personal enjoyment alone, but to enable us to do our work in the world for His kingdom. When His children stray, God often has to put them on "short rations" to bring them back to Himself.

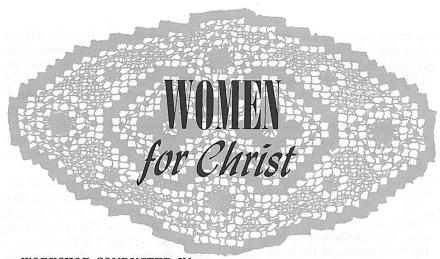
Let us not limit the Holy One. He cannot do mighty things for us because of our unbelief. In His strength may we attempt great things as we remember His mighty deeds of old. Israel, God's chosen people, might have enjoyed a more blessed life on earth, but they failed to believe God and His promises. It is difficult to estimate the extent of their failure toward other nations as their lamp of testimony was exceedingly dim.

On the other hand, it is inspiring to see that during the history of the church when the light of the Gospel was burning low, God has raised up torches like Luther and Hauge to lead the children of God in the right path. Perhaps even now the Lord is preparing some young people in our churches for spiritual leadership.

Let us begin by memorizing Psalm 78:6 and 7.

- 1. Why do you think the leadership of Israel was transferred from the tribe of Ephraim to that of Judah? (Num. 14:1-3 and II Chron. 13:16-18)
- 2. Of whom is Asaph a type, as he pleads in verse one of this Psalm? (Rev. $2:1,5\ \mathrm{and}\ \mathrm{Rev}.\ 3:1420)$
- 3. Why is it important to teach our children Scripture verses and Bible history at an early age? (verses 6 and 7; II Tim. 3:15; Prov. 22:6)

Today people in Communist countries are often without Bibles or any Scripture and must rely on memorized Scripture alone for spiritual nourishment. Perhaps we need to get serious about memorizing entire chapters of the Bible now in preparation for a future "famine of the Word." Read Amos 8:11-12.



WORKSHOP CONDUCTED IN TIOGA CHURCH IN APRIL

The Western North Dakota-Eastern Montana District WMF spring workshop was held at Zion Lutheran, Tioga, N. Dak., April 24, 1971, with St. Olaf Church as hostess. Registration began at 10:30 a.m. Our workshop hymn was "We've a Story To Tell To The Nations." We were welcomed by Mrs. John Sundhagen, president of the host Aid, and Mrs. Clifford Berglee, Brockton, Mont., followed by a response. Mrs. Ed Mathison, Tioga, gave devotions and prayer.

We were favored with special music, a duet, by Mrs. Lester Mickelson and Mrs. LeVern Jorgenson, Tioga, "I'll Go Where You Want Me To Go," and a duet by Mrs. Ted Thompson, Froid, Mont. and Mrs. Gene Sundby, Culbertson, Mont., "Lord, Lay Some Soul Upon My Heart."

Mrs. Leif Sunwall gave a report on the Annual WMF Workshop held at Spicer, Minn., in February. Also, reports were given by each Aid represented on what they have done for Foreign and Home Missions. Many good ideas were passed on to one another.

Mrs. Berglee, district president, presided at the business meeting. Mrs. LeVern Jorgenson led in a hymn sing before going to the dinner which was served by the St. Olaf Aid. A suggestion box was placed in the dining room. The lunch offering went to General Fund and the workshop offering to Church Extension. There were 66 ladies and pastors present.

The afternoon session began with singing the workshop hymn, followed with each project of the WMF being

explained very thoroughly by the Aids attending. The audience sang "O, Zion, Haste" followed by a duet by Mrs. Donald Anderson and Mrs. Wayne Vance, Beaver Creek Church.

The message was brought by Mrs. Phillip Sunwall, Froid, Mont. She has served in the mission fields in Africa with the Lutheran Brethren Mission for many years, going there in 1938. Her thoughts were centered around the theme "Go Quickly and Tell." She said, "The message we bring as missionaries is unique; it is real, for we have the one and only living Savior, despite how many fakes come upon us. In Luke 10:42, Christ says that one thing is needful. We are to serve and please our Lord and have a quiet and open acceptance of what He can tell us. Mary chose the good part. It cannot be taken away from her."

She noted that many changes have been made in the world, among youth and also in missions since she first went to Africa, but the "one thing needful" is still the same. It was very hard to make contact with the natives so we are to remember our missionaries in our prayers and it is especially hard for the single girls who go out. At the close of her message we sang one verse of "Lord, Lay Some Soul Upon My Heart."

We were happy to have the fellowship of Rev. and Mrs. Larry Severson, Abercrombie, N. Dak., and family for the day.

Mrs. Wayne Vance extended an invitation for Beaver Creek to host the fall rally. The audience sang "Where He Leads Me" and Pastor Ed Mathison closed with the benediction.

Mrs. Vernal Arnstad, Secretary

TWO WOMEN HONORED WITH WMF PINS AT HENNING

A special program was given at the Clarence Johnson home, Henning, Minn., on Dec. 7, 1970, to honor two of our members with pins and honorary memberships in the Women's Missionary Federation.

Nettie Johnson gave the introduction and the devotions were by Olga Olson, who read II Cor. 8:1-15 and offered prayer.

After the hymn, "He Leadeth Me," Alicia Thomas gave the meditation. Thelma Trana read the poem "Just An Ordinary Member."

Corsages were presented to the honored women, Mrs. Selmer Sorkness and Mrs. Oliver Bogen, as gifts of Nettie Johnson. Thelma Trana and Alicia Thomas placed the pins and Olga Olson handed the certificates to the ladies. Thelma Trana offered words of thanks on behalf of the honored women.

The poem "Counting the Cost" was read by Olga Olson and the hymn "Work for the Night is Coming" closed the program.

-Corr.



Mrs. Selmer Sorkness, left, and Mrs. Oliver Bogen

MINNEAPOLIS DISTRICT WMF MET AT COLFAX

The Minneapolis District Women's Missionary Federation met on April 17 at Faith Lutheran Church of Running Valley, Colfax, Wis. Kenneth Sortedahl is the student pastor.

The theme of this rally was from Isaiah 55:3 "Hear, And Thy Soul Shall Live." Mrs. James greeted us with Isaiah 55 and Acts 13:32-39, after which Mrs. Arvid Hokonson had devotions, using the 96th Psalm. Mrs. Sortedahl extended a welcome greeting. Our speaker, Miss Minnie Tack, former missionary to China was the guest speaker. She said we have

nothing to boast but the Grace of God. What Jesus said in the Bible should be our joy. She told of some of her experiences in the hands of the Communists and said we can take God's Word literally—there is no mistake in the Word-no inconsistancies. Rejoice that your names are written in Heaven. Is your name written there? Are you sure? Salvation is accepting the Lord personally, then making Him Lord and Master of our lives. Jesus wants us to be sacrificial Christians. give up things we need. Let's have love for lost souls. Let the Holy Spirit fill you.

Mrs. Carol James, president, was in charge of the business meeting. Mrs. Strand gave a report on Our Missionary for a Day project and reminded us that prayer support was necessary, too. The date of the fall rally will be October 16. It was voted to give the morning and afternoon offerings to Junior Missions. The following were elected to office: Mrs. Earl Jones, Willmar, Minn., Vice president: Mrs. Irvin Hodnefield, Radcliffe, Ia., secretary; Mrs. 'R. M. Konsterlie, Willmar, Minn., cradle roll secretary; Mrs. John Strand, Minneapolis, My Missionary for a Day Secretary. The nominating committee is: Mrs. Wm. Kangas, Mrs. Eldor Sorkness and Mrs. Alvin Grothe.

After a delicious dinner Mrs. Robert Dietsche led in devotions. A hymn sing was in charge of Mrs. Flickinger. Miss Tack then gave the Bible Study. She said we as Christians will always have two natures and have to continually make choices in our lives. We have already died to worldly things and have no more to do with them. We must be dead to sin and alive to God. Even though doors are closed to China, the Gospel is coming in by radio 17 hours a day and in five dialects. Letters come from people who are hearing the broadcasts. Missionaires can't get into these countries-BUT GOD CAN! People are perishing without Jesus. We should really let the Holy Spirit fill us and use us. Are we dying daily? Are we willing to give? JESUS IS COMING SOON! Do what He tells us to do. Whom are you living for? Is everything you have living for Him? she asked.

We had special music, offering and special prayer for all the missionaries

the world over and the work of the radio ministry. The attendance was 134. Student pastor Sortedahl closed with prayer and benediction.

Mrs. Irvin Hodnefield, Secretary

DRUMMOND SCENE OF WMF RALLY

The Drummond-Mason, Wisconsin, Parish hosted a Women's Missionary Federation District spring rally on May 8, 1971 which was held in the Drummond Town Hall. Represented were the Northeastern Minn. and Wisconsin section of the newly organized, yet unnamed, district which also includes Upper Michigan.

Mrs. Grace Christianson opened the rally with a welcome and Mrs. Nels Olson had the opening devotions. Mrs. Aini Myking, district vice-president, presided. Mrs. Eugene Enderlein conducted a very enlightening Bible study from the book of Ruth which was entitled "The Romance of Redemption." The various projects of the WMF were reviewed by Mrs. J. C. Eletson and a discussion on the projects followed. Seminarian Henry Johanson challenged us from John 17:1-3, centering his message on Christ's High Priestly prayer.

We were blessed with a variety of special numbers, which were as follows: violin selections by Mrs. Dorothy Kern, who plays with the Duluth Symphony and she was accompanied by her sister, Mrs. Novak; two vocal solos by Mrs. Henry Johanson; selections by a ladies' chorus from Cloquet; vocal selections by a girls' trio, which included Christine Hanson, Juanita & Melody Reiten of Faith Lutheran, Mason; and a piano solo by Mrs. Wm. Benson, Drummond, who also was our accompanist for the singspiration.

The offering was given to the Junior Missions Fund.

Approximately 60 attended the rally, which was a blessing and an inspiration to all.

-Corr.

"LIVE CHRIST" WAS THEME FOR CENTRAL MINNESOTA WMF GATHERING

"Live Christ" was the theme for the Women's Missionary Federation rally of the Central Minnesota District which met on May 12, 1971, at Kvam Lutheran Church, Dalton. Our theme verse was I John 3:18. We opened with a singspiration led by the host pastor, Wendell Johnson, which included our theme choruses, "Love the world through me, Lord," and "He wants me to pray, to give and to go." Julia Clausen was the organist.

Miss Lydia Christianson read Hebrews 13:12-16 for devotions and Mrs. Neuman Huse welcomed us, reminding us, "This is the day that the Lord has made" (Psalm 118:24). Mrs. Rod Stave, Wadena, favored us with a solo, "I Walked Today Where Jesus Walked."

Pastor Rod Bredholt of Grand Forks led us in our Bible study, using our theme verse. I John 3:18: "My little children, let us not love in word, neither in tongue; but in deed and truth." What is truth? Truth is consistency. The Bible identifies truth with Jesus Christ. John 14:6 "I am the Way, the Truth and the Life." In John 18:36. Jesus says, "I have come to bear witness to the truth." Jesus is the final standard on truth and the life He lived on earth is our example. Jesus was the type of man God originally intended us to be. He lived, behaved and spoke as God intended humans to. He was completely available to God. He came to do the Father's will and this was to win humanity back to God. We need to be available to God, and to be aware of the life God would have each of us to live. Martin Luther said that we are to be "little Christs." We are to be Jesus among people where we are.

Pastor Bredholt closed with a question and then a challenge to each of us. "Have you made yourself available to God? Have you said, 'Lord Jesus, live your life through me?' Begin each day with a prayer and start to live a life that is pleasing to God."

Mrs. Stave sang "O Take My Hand, Dear Father." An offering was taken for "My Missionary For a Day." Our president, Mrs. Harry Rorvig, presided at the business meeting. Mrs. Charles Rovang, Dalton, was elected president and Mrs. Herbert Jacobson, Sebeka, treasurer.

The afternoon session began with our theme songs. Pastor Larry Severson led us in prayer fellowship, sharing with us Philippians 4:4-7. Mrs. John Abel gave a greeting and also sang "Little is much if God is in it."

For the afternoon message, Pastor Bredholt spoke on love, based on I Corinthians 13. He explained the three types of love, 1. Eros—romantic love; 2. Phileo—simple caring or brotherly love; 3. Agape—the complete concern that one has for the other. We receive this love when we receive Christ. Agape love or the love of God will enable me to put the best construction on what someone else is doing. This love will never let us harbor resentment. The Calvary type of love will never end, never fail.

A group of ladies from Kvam church sang "I'll Live For Him." An offering was taken for the General Fund. Mrs. Abel sang "His Love Reached Out To Me." Pastor Johnson pronounced the benediction. There were 98 registered to share in the joys and blessings of the rally day.

Mrs. Harold Erickson Secretary

PASTOR DAHLE TO BE HONORED

Rev. Trygve F. Dahle, Sr., will be honored on the occasion of his 80th birthday and on his 48th year in the ministry at Green Lake Lutheran Church, Spicer, Minn., on Sunday, Sept. 5 from 2-5 p.m. There will be a program at 2 o'clock. Everyone is welcome to attend.

THE ASSOCIATION OF FREE LUTHERAN CONGREGATIONS 3110 East Medicine Lake Boulevard Minneapolis, Minnesota 55441

February 1, 1971-June 30, 1971

Budget Receipts

	Proposed Yearly Budget	Current Budget	Total Received
General Fund	\$ 38,250.00	\$ 15,937.50	\$ 10,106.10
Schools	61,424.00	25,593.32	17,904.12
Foreign Missions	36,000.00	15,000.00	16,870.52
Home Missions	34,245.00	14,268.75	8,289.24
Praise Program	30,000.00	12,500.00	7,988.25
	\$199,919.00	\$ 83,299.57	\$ 61,158.23

One Grand Fellowship—\$225.00 Legacies—\$821.20

(Continued from page 7)

Bakke of Fargo, N. Dak., Rev. and Mrs. Monseth and Rev. and Mrs. Julius Hermunslie, Fergus Falls, Minn., furnished the music. A meditation was brought by Pastor Hermunslie. The history of the congregation was read by Mrs. Ernest Nash. Greetings were given by Rev. V. L. Peterson of Minneapolis and Mr. Sidney Swenson of Fergus Falls, two visiting pastors.

Pastor Severson read greetings from those not able to attend. A portion of the program was devoted to the acknowledging of former confirmands. Pastor Severson closed the session with prayer and the benediction

The anniversary cake was baked by Mrs. Floyd Johnson of Colfax, N. Dak., and was served with other delicacies by the Dorcas Society following the closing session of the anniversary. Mrs. Julius Hermunslie and Mrs. Swenson poured.

All sessions were well attended and we praise our Heavenly Father for providing very favorable weather. We pray that all were richly blessed by their presence. May God continue to use Bethany Lutheran Church as a beacon light to His honor and glory.

-Corr.



Bethany Lutheran Church



 $Rev.\ L.\ V.\ Severson,\ left,\ and\ Rev.\ Francis\ Monseth\ visit\ over\ coffee at the anniversary.$



Spicer, Minnesota

Sept. 12-19

Green Lake Lutheran Church

Leslie Galland, pastor

Speaker: Rev. Gerald F. Mundfrom

Grafton, N. Dak.

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