

**T
H
E**

Vol. 6

August 20, 1968

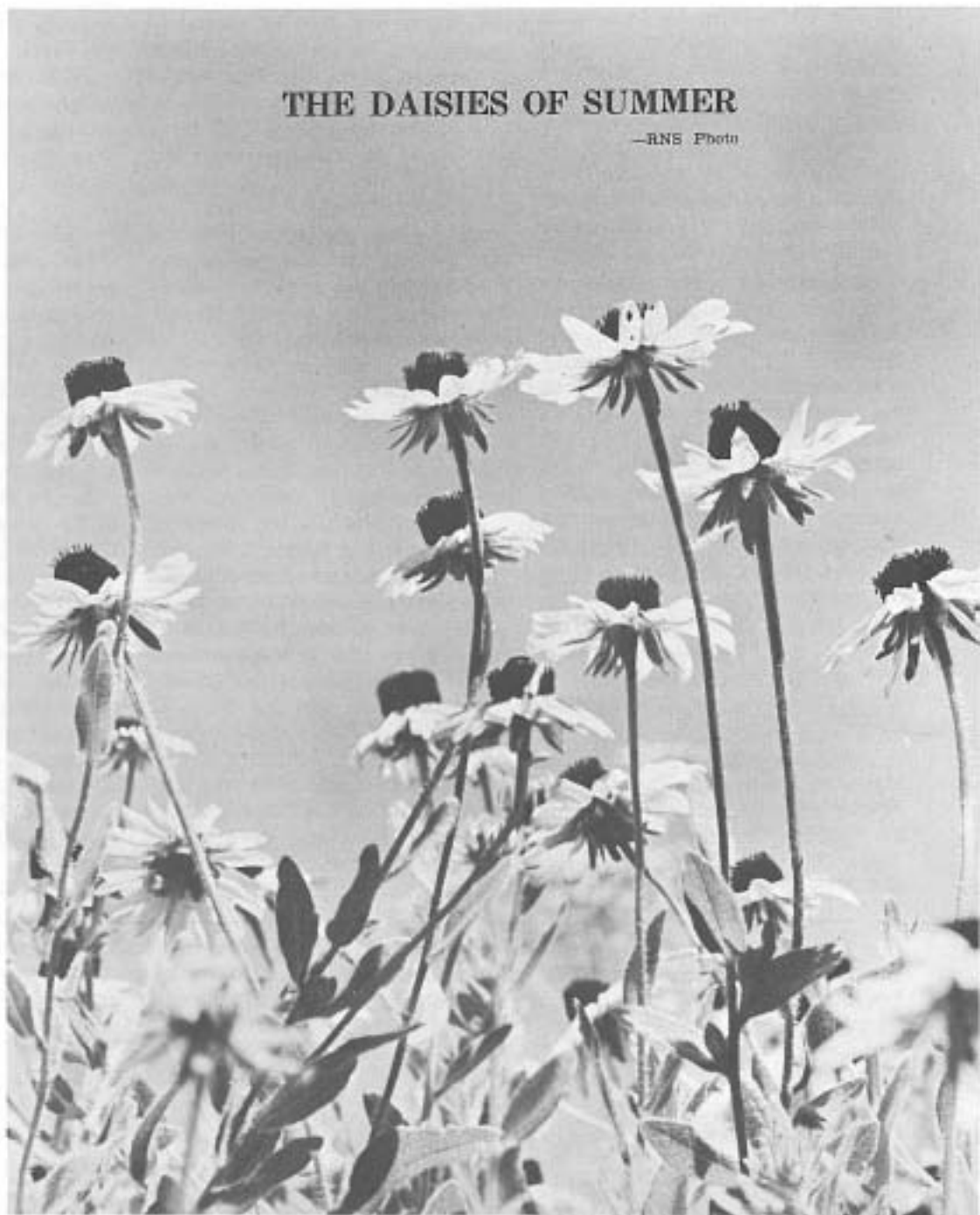
No. 16

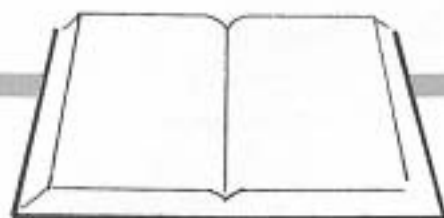
LUTHERAN

**A
M
B
A
S
S
A
D
O
R**

THE DAISIES OF SUMMER

—RNS Photo





THE DEVIL'S DETOURS

"And do not give the devil an opportunity" (Eph. 4:27, New Am. St. Version).

There are many Christians who live defeated lives, lack the joy of salvation and also lack a testimony for Jesus Christ. One of the reasons is that they are afraid of what people might think. They would rather want to be accepted by the crowd than to be singled out for Christian convictions. This is especially true for young people today. They are faced with many more temptations than we older folk faced in our youth. The manner of dress is an example: if a Christian girl dresses as becoming a Christian she is very apt to be made fun of or ridiculed.

We learned in our Catechism that there are three enemies of our soul: the world, the flesh and the devil. The devil is working overtime today because he knows his time is running out and that Jesus will come again and he will be defeated. The Scripture portrays the activities of the devil in two opposite forms; a roaring lion and then as an angel of light. His activity as a roaring lion is seen when he masters leadership and government and forces people to bow in submission. Christians whose convictions have been strong have laid down their lives for the cause of Christ.

Today we acknowledge that his activities are more in the disguise of the angel of light. We read of his boldness in the temptation of Jesus, the very Son of God—yes, he is then referred to as prince

of the power of the air.

The conflict with Satan is over the ownership of our souls. In the temptation in the wilderness Satan sought to strike Jesus down. By the power of Scripture Jesus was able to keep His perfect purity and obedience. As we think of the temptation of Jesus we note the three areas of the order of temptation with which he tempted Jesus are basically the same as he uses today. There was first an appeal to the physical nature, bread; second, an appeal to the spiritual, trust; and third, an appeal to the vocational purpose, life.

The devil seeks to have us detour from the narrow way. He first appeals to our physical nature, our flesh. He invites us to join the gang. When we stop and consider his ways we are so apt to do as the Scripture speaks—"There is a way that seemeth right unto man." Instead, we need to realize that this is a trick of the devil. Joseph, while in Egypt, was tempted but he was in tune with God and said, "How can I do this great wickedness and sin against God?"

We must stop and ask ourselves, "where will this detour take me?" The devil's detours lead into the prison house of sin and bondage.

Zacchaeus allowed himself to be deceived into the prison of covetousness, the woman of Sychar into unchastity, and the sad truth of Samson when he took the detour. He started as a dedicated Christian and was a separated man taking the vow of the Nazarites. He chose the detour and gave opportunity to the devil, Judges 14:1-3. He was tampering with evil asso-

According to the Word

ciations, i.e., Delilah, a wicked woman and friend of the Philistines. We read these sad words about Samson in Judges 16:20b, "And he did not know that the Lord had left him."

A second detour the devil uses is an appeal to the spiritual nature. With this there is always a counterfeit, Saul, later called Paul, was deceived in self-righteousness; Onesimus, the slave, in false liberty. In the temptation of Jesus, the devil quoted Scripture. He wanted Jesus to do something spectacular to prove His trust in God. Oh how subtle is the devil to try to have Christians prove their trust in God and show the world that one can participate in sin and still be a Christian. This cannot be.

He would have us minimize prayer and the importance of united prayer, for he knows that this is the secret of the Christian's power. We see how effective he has been here as there are not very many prayer meetings today in the churches and what there are are very poorly attended.

In the third area, in the realm of the vocation, he seeks to keep Christians from going into full-time service for God. He would rather have us think selfishly as was true of Jonah when God called him to go to Nineveh. He chose to go to Tarshish. He disobeyed the Word of God. Disobedience is the devil's short cut from God.

I would appeal to you to study and meditate upon the Word, "And do not give the devil an opportunity." May we meet the temptations with the power of the Word of God.

The *Lutheran Ambassador* is published biweekly (except the first issue of August) by the Association of Free Lutheran Congregations, 3110 East Medicine Lake Blvd., Mpls., Minn. 55427. Rev. Raynard Huglen, Roslyn, South Dakota 57261, is the editor. Subscription price is \$2.50 per year in advance. Subscriptions should be sent to *The Lutheran Ambassador*, 3110 East Medicine Lake Boulevard, Minneapolis, Minnesota 55427. Second-class postage paid at Minneapolis, Minn.

To Hear God's Word and Do It

Luke 6:47

Pastor O. J. Haukeness,
Everett, Washington

JESUS was just finishing the Sermon on the Mount. Many times when Jesus spoke people in large numbers came to hear Him. And Jesus always had something to say to every one that came to Him.

It is important for all to hear God's Word. Those who came to Christ may not all have come because they wanted to seek salvation. Some might have been curious, some might have come for they saw the signs He did on them that were sick. Others, even though they were enemies, might have come and watched for an opportunity so they could bring some accusations against Him.

But regardless of what the reasons might have been, Christ was freely sowing the Good Seed.

Christ was faithful in doing the work of the heavenly Father. He was giving a warning that it is not enough to be a hearer only, but one must also be a doer. Some people may think that while they regularly hear God's Word or can

be in a religious assembly that is all that is needed. It surely is necessary to hear God's Word. Faith comes by hearing. But just to hear and to have a head knowledge only does not bring salvation or life.

We must be willing to listen to the message the Holy Spirit gives to us personally. He will convict us of sin. One may believe that we all are sinners, that we belong to a sinful race, but we must be willing to listen and to acknowledge our particular sin and our transgression. If we put our own measure on our lives everything may look bright and good, just as the Angel of the Church in Laodicea did. For when he spoke about himself, he said, "I am rich, and have gotten riches, and have need of nothing." When one gets the idea that he has no need and is rich spiritually he is in a most deplorable condition, far from where Christ says that those who are poor in spirit are blessed, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

If we compare ourselves with other people, like the Pharisee in the temple did, it may also seem

to be in our favor. But we must remember that we are dealing with God and that the Scriptures say that we shall one day appear at the judgment seat of Christ.

When Jesus was dealing with the people then, and the way that He wants to deal with us today, the reason why He speaks, is as He said, "Howbeit, I say these things that ye may be saved" (John 5:34). To be saved one must know that he is dying and in danger. When one permits the Holy Spirit to come into the heart, the Spirit shows the true condition, He will bring light into the soul and then one may see things that he has never dreamed of before, and he will cry with the prophet, "Woe is me! for I am undone; because I am a man of unclean lips" (Isa. 6:5). And when Jesus spoke of and promised the Holy Spirit, He said that the Spirit would convict in respect of sin and God's wrath on sin. That is God's grace and it shows God's love when He tells us about our true condition. He can make us poor in spirit, for not until then will one seek help, help from above.

When Jesus can deal with us in the same way as He dealt with Peter, then we can say with Peter and acknowledge with him, "I am a sinful man, O Lord" (Luke 5:8). He can also say then, "Fear not." When we as poor sinners can come to Christ He will also tell us that "Jehovah hath laid on him [Christ] the iniquity of us all." When we open our hearts to God and His light and permit Him to deal with us, we can sing,

"When Jesus comes, O blessed story!
He works a change in heart and life;
God's kingdom comes with pow'r and glory,
To young and old, to man and wife;
Through sacrament and living word,
Faith, love, and hope are now conferred."

From elementary school days, here's an item that made a tremendous impression:

When General Robert E. Lee surrendered to General U. S. Grant at Appomattox, Virginia, in 1865, it was said to be "unconditional surrender," by which was meant that Grant accepted the surrender of an honorable opponent and also allowed Lee's soldiers to keep their horses and their supplies in order that they might return to their southern farms for their necessary spring work.

From this comes the idea—always do the generous thing.

Does this apply in life now?

Here are two experiences that Mr. Adams had in the matter of small bills:

bills were audited. Thank you very much!"

On the other hand, Mr. Adams also recalls that on one occasion, he paid for a 50¢ bill for an envelope moistener with a five-dollar bill. The clerk gave him change for one dollar, and was quite reluctant to make good for the mistake. This incident comes to mind frequently because the moistener is still in use on his desk!

The Rev. Charles David, minister of First Church, likes to recall that on a number of occasions he was undecided whether to return home toward the close of a busy afternoon of calling or whether to make one more visit. He relates that on various occasions he made one

However, in looking over the list of patients to which clergymen have access, he found that Mr. Frank was also a patient, having come in only a few hours before. His natural question was, "Mr. David, how did you learn that I am a patient here?"

While Jim is not in the habit of regularly doing the dishes and making beds, he does recall that on various occasions when he has done this because his wife June was especially tired, she has been grateful to him. There have also been other times when he might have done these favors for June, but did not. Then he has felt that he might have done the generous thing.

School teachers are usually pa-

THE GENEROUS THING

One time, in buying stamps at a post office, the clerk gave him change for a five-dollar bill instead of for a one-dollar bill. The clerk expressed high appreciation when Mr. Adams told him of the mistake.

Another time when he was paying the bill for a number of members in the family in a restaurant, Mr. Adams who was always in the habit of checking restaurant bills found that the waitress had charged him one dollar too little because of her faulty addition. One member in the party even said, "Why bother to tell her?" The waitress expressed her thanks by saying, "If you had not called that to my attention, I would have had to make up that dollar when the

more call and found that he happened to stop in at the right moment when he could be of help to the family. On other occasions, the question was whether to make a certain hospital call. On one occasion when he made such a call, he found that the person was in a critical condition, although he apparently was in fair condition the last time that he called. In another similar instance, death came within 15 minutes of the time that he called, the family being present.

In other instances, Mr. David called to see a person who was not especially in need of a call at that time, for the visit could easily have been delayed a day.

tient with their pupils, although sometimes it is hard to be understanding enough. Miss Manning states, emphatically, that it has nearly always turned out well when she has been generous toward some slow pupil. Perhaps there has not been appreciation on the part of the pupil or the parents, but at least she has the inner satisfaction of knowing that she has gone "the second mile" in her efforts to open the gates of knowledge for some slow pupil. On the other hand, helping some bright pupil to go even beyond his normal best is still another example of doing the generous thing.

—Rev. Howard A. Kuhnle
Richmondville, N.Y.

WOMEN for Christ

AS A MAN THINKETH

Mrs. David Molstre
Grand Forks, North Dakota

What a busy schedule a homemaker has! Cleaning, baking, sewing, mending, gardening, and many other tasks make her day a very busy one indeed! Her role demands that she keep up with her work or it will quickly become almost insurmountable.

Unlike the professional world, her mind can be used as she wishes and even though she will be busy with her hands, she will have time to think. She thinks on the run! What does she think about all day long?

Some women dream of a beautiful home or dress. Others think only of an anticipated pleasure. Still others wish for some other luxury that is beyond a husband's salary. These women live unhappy and discontented lives.

A Christian woman thinks of others. She thinks of ways she can be of most help to her husband. She thinks of ways she can best help develop her child's personality. She thinks of ways she can best explain her Savior's love for them. She prays for guidance and wisdom in child-training as she straightens up her home. "If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God who giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not" (James 1:5).

A woman's thoughts are very im-

portant. Happy thoughts make happy mothers and sorrowful thoughts make sad mothers. Paul says we should keep our minds dwelling on "Whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report," and "If there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things" (Phil. 4:8).

Some mothers are continually living in the past. They allow their minds to be engrossed with previous mistakes which time can never change. They regret what was said and what was done. They wish that they had made wiser decisions. Nothing will sap your mental energy more than regret and remorse. When Satan tempts you with such heartache, remember this comforting advice from our Lord: "Forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus" (Phil. 3:13, 14).

When Christ is our Savior we can ask Him to direct our thoughts. "Casting down imaginations, and every evil thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ" (II Cor. 10:5). When we open our heart to the Savior, He will come in and purify our works and our thoughts. "Commit thy works unto

the Lord and thy thoughts shall be established" (Prov. 16:3).

We can ask our Lord to examine our thoughts and purify them. May this be our prayer: "Search me, O God, and know my heart: try me, and know my thoughts: and see if there be any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting" (Ps. 139:23-24).

TWO WOMEN HONORED BY CHURCH IN FARGO



Mrs. Gus Arneson, left,
and Mrs. Maier Torgerson

"If one member is honored, all rejoice together" (I Cor. 12:26b).

St. Paul's Women's Missionary Society in Fargo was truly rejoicing with Mrs. Gus Arneson and Mrs. Maier Torgerson who were presented with Honorary Membership certificates and pins for their faithful service in the work of our Lord. The certificates were presented by Mrs. Russell Duncan, WMS president, at our Mother-Daughter Banquet held at St. Paul's on May 3, 1968. Mrs. Arneson was pinned by her granddaughter, Randi Hannestad, and Mrs. Torgerson by Mrs. Duncan.

"Commit thy works unto the Lord, and thy thoughts shall be established" (Prov. 16:3).

WMF WORKSHOP HELD AT SHEVLIN CHURCH

The North Central Minnesota District Women's Missionary Federation spring workshop was held at the Trinity Lutheran Church at Pony Lake near Shevlin on May 8. Registration began at

10:00 a.m.

The theme for the meeting was "Planting for the Increase." An organ prelude was played by Gladys Ness of Shevlin. We began the morning session with a hymn sing. Mrs. Birdeen Holt of Fosston then led us in devotions. A welcome was given by the Trinity Ladies Aid president. A response was then given by our district president, Mrs. Ed Mathison of Bagley.

After another hymn, Mr. Kenneth Rolf of McIntosh led us in the Bible study based on I Cor. 3:6-9 and II Cor. 9:10-15. We were then favored with a duet by Trinity Ladies Aid. Mrs. Rodger Lewis and Mrs. Lewis Bernard sang "Send the Light."

Ona Broden led us in our prayer session. A delicious dinner was served by the Trinity Aid.

Our afternoon meeting opened with hymn singing. Mrs. Frank Fletcher of Bagley led us in devotions. Mrs. Huber DeBoer, McIntosh, favored us with a solo, "Somewhere a Soul Is Lonely."

Missionary Alvin Grothe brought us the afternoon message from the text John 4:27-42. He told us of the work in Brazil and thanked all for the help and support given them. In his message he brought out that we as individual Christians have a responsibility. Opportunities are before us. We are to look to Jesus as an example. He realized opportunities that were in front of Him. We need to begin at home, in our hearts. Are we willing to reach others? The devil is taking the opportunity to destroy souls of mankind and we don't go sowing as we should. The devil puts obstacles to destroy our life. We try to remove them instead of letting God help us. Have we sown good seed today? Yesterday? Will we tomorrow? Some sow, some reap, but we will rejoice together. We need to step out in faith and trust the Lord, Mr. Grothe said.

The Ladies Chorus sang two songs directed by Ona Broden. An offering was received. We sang "Come, Ye Thankful People, Come." Our president thanked all

who took part and all who came out, and the hostesses for the day. Pastor Marvin Undseth, host pastor, pronounced the benediction.

We all had a blessed day and we want to thank the Trinity Ladies Aid for the delicious meal served at noon. It is so good to get together in this way and fellowship with one another around the Word.

—Mrs. Salvhus, Secretary

SARPSBORG CHURCH HOSTED WMF RALLY LAST SPRING

The Women's Missionary Federation of the Central Minnesota District held its annual spring rally at Sarpsborg Lutheran Church of rural Dalton. The Rev. Harry C. Molstre is pastor.

The theme for the meeting was I Peter 1:25: "But the Word of the Lord endureth forever. And this is the Word which by the gospel is preached unto you." The theme hymn was "Redeemed, Redeemed."

Mrs. Kenneth Bratvold of Kvam Church read the devotions from Acts 1:7-11. We were made welcome by Mrs. John Olson and Marybeth Rorvig played an instrumental solo.

A letter from Mrs. L. C. Dynneson in Nogales, Ariz., was read.

Our speaker for the morning session was Missionary Alvin Grothe. He spoke on the work in Brazil. Many areas there still need evangelizing, he said. Our battle station is Minnesota. Our schools are training the soldiers, our sheep are going out among the wolves. Be much in prayer, Mr. Grothe admonished; come in humility, seeking God's strength and grace.

Missionary Grothe told how after speaking in Dalton one evening the school children were asked to write themes. Many wrote on Brazil and missionaries. These themes were sent on to him and many expressed thanks to God for parents and homes. One made this statement: "I think we should take a few days from school and go to Brazil." Pray for these children that some day they may be missionaries also.

The hymn "Lord of the Harvest, Hear" was sung, after which an offering for My Missionary for a Day was received.

Mrs. Lawrence Dahlgren of Lake Park and Mrs. Orrin Dahlager of Dalton were elected new officers.

A pot-luck dinner was served at noon.

As we opened our afternoon session we had a prayer fellowship led by Pastor Sidney Swenson of Fergus Falls, Minn. He reminded us of I Timothy 2:1-5. Bible students, he said, tell us that there are 42,000 prayer promises in the Word of God.

Mrs. A. J. Jernigan led in devotions, reading I Peter 1:24-25, and the theme song was sung.

Mrs. Wallace Young sang "Does It Pay?" Missionary Grothe then gave his afternoon message. He thanked the district for its support of the mission work. Mr. Grothe reminded the group that prayer is not as slow as mail which may take six to eight weeks to reach a far-off point. Prayer, on the other hand, is immediate.

He used John 4:27-42 for his Scripture text. From the story of Jesus and the Samaritan woman, he pointed out that as the Master found His meat in the will of God and doing His work, so must we. Fields are white unto harvest. The love of Christ constrains us to work in the task of missions.

Mrs. Young sang a solo. An offering to the General Fund was received. "Abide in Grace, Lord Jesus" was sung.

May the Lord bless the women as they continue in this mission work.

—Mrs. Ted Aasness, Secretary

PERSONALITIES

The home address of the new dean of Association Lutheran Bible School, the Rev. Richard Snipstead, is 3102 Medicine Lake Blvd., Minneapolis, Minn. 55427. His office address is 3110 E. Medicine Lake Blvd., Minneapolis, Minn. 55427.

NOT WHAT MY HANDS HAVE DONE

Not what my hands have done
Can save my guilty soul;
Not what my toiling flesh has borne
Can make my spirit whole.
Not what I feel or do
Can give me peace with God;
Not all my prayers, and sighs,
and tears
Can bear my awful load.

Thy grace alone, O God,
To me can pardon speak;
Thy power alone, O Son of God,
Can this sore bondage break.
No other work save Thine,
No other blood will do;

No strength save that which is
divine
Can bear me safely through.

I bless the Christ of God;
I rest on love divine;
And with unfaltering lip and heart
I call this Saviour mine.
'Tis He that saveth me,
And freely pardon gives;
I love, because He loveth me;
I live, because He lives.

—Horatius Bonar
(from *The Hymnal*)

(Editor's Note: This hymn was
sung several times at the recent
Annual Conference in Cloquet, Min-
nesota.)



EASTERN NORTH DAKOTA SUNDAY SCHOOL WORKSHOP HELD

A midsummer Sunday School workshop of the Eastern North Dakota District was held on July 13. Host congregation was Zoar Lutheran Church, Hatton. Rev. Hans Tollefson welcomed the group and led in devotions.

Pastor Howard Kjos, Hampden, challenged us to more effective communications in a short meditation.

During the business meeting that followed the following were elected to serve on the district parish education committee: President, Gordon Johnson, Grand Forks; secretary, Eula Mae Swenson, Fargo; and treasurer, Mrs. Donald Jacobson, Binford.

Eula Mae Swenson spoke to the group about the growing Sunday School. Sunday School materials were viewed and evaluated. Mrs. Vernon R. Nelson, Grand Forks, a member of the AFLC Board of Publications and Parish Education, spoke on Sunday School curriculum and teachers' training.

Lunch was served and a time of fellowship was enjoyed by all. The workshop proved to be informative and inspiring for all in attendance.

—Eula Mae Swenson, Secretary

"I am under obligation both to Greeks and to barbarians, both to the wise and to the foolish" (Rm. 1:14).



Pictured here, in the front row, are, left to right, Mrs. Dale Battleson, Pastor Battleson, and Pastor Trygve F. Dahle.

DALE BATTLESON INSTALLED AS BAGLEY PASTOR

A wonderful Sunday was spent at Grace Lutheran Church of Bagley, Minn., on July 14 when our new pastor, Dale Battleson, was installed at the morning service with Pastor Trygve Dahle preaching the sermon. At noon a dinner was served to the members and friends of Grace and Rice (the other church served by Pastor Battleson).

From 2 to 5 in the afternoon an open house and dedication service was held at the newly remodeled parsonage. Mrs. Orwald Peterson, Grace Lutheran Ladies Aid President, poured at the open house, and several ladies from Grace and Rice helped serve the

cookies and cake.

Many long and rewarding hours were put in by members of the two churches to get the parsonage ready for our new pastor. They had about two months to completely remodel and modernize the house, doing most of the work themselves in their spare time.

We have been richly blessed by many labors of love put in by these people in making such a very nice place for our new pastor, his lovely wife Kay and their little 8-month-old daughter Lisa. May God continue to bless our little church and parsonage on the hill in north Bagley.

—Mrs. Andrew Oien, Secretary
Grace Lutheran Church
Bagley, Minn.



SCHOOL NEWS



Taken over a month ago, this picture gives an idea of the size and location of the new dormitory-classroom structure for our Bible School in Minneapolis. Expected to be ready for the beginning of school in mid-September, the dormitory will eventually house over 100 students.



A close-up view of the Bible School building which will be dedicated at next year's annual conference. The ground floor will provide two classrooms for the present and house boys in the left wing. The building is being furnished by individuals and by Ladies Aid groups in the Association.



This is the new home for the new Bible School Dean, the Rev. Richard Snipstead. He and his family have moved into this attractive house now. Medicine Lake can be seen from the home and the headquarters building lies above it and to the left.

MISSOURI LUTHERANS TO 'MAKE THINGS HAPPEN'

St. Louis — September 8 has been designated "Make Things Happen" Sunday by The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. Members of its 6,000 congregations will be asked to help "Make Things Happen" by bringing an extra offering to church on the special date. The goal is to raise a differential of nearly \$1.5 million between the church's \$27,980,000 adopted budget and \$26,500,000 anticipated receipts for the year.

WCC CENTRAL COMMITTEE EMBRACES 17 LUTHERANS; LILJE NAMED PRESIDENT

Uppsala, Sweden (LC) — Seventeen Lutherans, including three from the United States, were elected to the policy-making Central Committee of the World Council of Churches at its Fourth Assembly here, July 4-19.

Another, Bishop Hanns Lilje of Hannover, Germany, was among the churchmen named to the six-man presidium of the international organization of Protestant, Anglican, Orthodox, and Old Catholic churches.

Elected to a second term on the Central Committee, increased at sessions here from 100 to 120 members, was Dr. Fredrik A. Schiøtz of Minneapolis, president of both the American Lutheran Church and the Lutheran World Federation.

The two other Americans, both named to first terms, were the new president of the Lutheran Church in America, Dr. Robert J. Marshall, and Dr. H. Ober Hess, an attorney from Philadelphia who serves as treasurer of the LCA.

"But he knows the way that I take;
when he has tried me, I shall come
forth as gold" (Job. 23:10).



EDITORIALS

UNDERSTANDING BAPTISM

It is interesting to see that the Sacrament of Baptism is being debated widely in our present day. In West Germany, in the Evangelical (Lutheran) Church and at the recent Assembly of the World Council of Churches it has been a subject for discussion.

Without doubt, part of the cause for the current discussions, as has been true throughout history, is the phenomenon of having baptized persons drift away from the church as they reach the age of adolescence. Some pastors and theologians, seeing this happen, fault the Sacrament itself or its application at a certain time in life.

Many of us have sensed the disappointment of realizing that certain parents apparently viewed the baptism of their children as little more than magic or social custom. Many of us have been sorry to see youth reach and go beyond the teen years with no recognizable interest in God's work or program, much less with the testimony of commitment to Him.

But it is not Baptism itself that has failed. It is not God who has been untrue. In the Sacrament He receives the child, He gives His blessing, He washes, He bestows sonship. The little child is safe in the arms of Jesus until he is led away from the loving Savior, if that should happen, and until he chooses Satan's ways instead of the Lord's, if he should so do.

It is Lutheran teaching that this can happen. Often it does happen and the covenant relationship with God is broken—on man's side. On the other hand, it is possible to remain in one's baptismal covenant. If the Lord is able to keep His own, and it is stated in Scripture that He is able (John 10:27-29; II Tim. 1:12, etc.), then the baptized child may grow up in the Christian fellowship never departing for the far country of alienation. Lutheran preaching and teaching should always bear this in mind and is in error when it fails to do so.

It is also in the failure to recognize the need for the awakening experience in the baptized kept, and in granting the possibility that the baptized may wander from the Lord's fold even though they remain active in the visible church, that the churches fall into wrong thinking.

When we speak of awakening, we mean not a

return from a life in sin but a new awareness of sin in one's life and a greater appreciation of Christ's atoning work for oneself. Such an experience must come in the teen years if it has not come before. It can happen in such a variety of ways that we shall not even endeavor to enumerate them. For many an awakening takes place at a Bible camp or Luther League convention. Ideally it is meant to come full bloom in confirmation and for some it is so. Awakening is conscious commitment to Jesus Christ, usually thought of as something which takes place beyond the small child's level of understanding (I Cor. 13:11).

The other failure, of not realistically facing the possibility that some depart from the covenant, is another real problem. A problem in the sense that baptized persons who participate in the church's activities (including the Lord's Supper) are sometimes given the impression that they are in fellowship with the Lord, when, in fact, their hearts may be far from Him in spite of outward activities. The Bible, after all, says "He who believes and is baptized shall be saved" (Mark 16:16).

It is to counteract the latter tendency that we are reminded in the *Guiding Principles* that there must be quickening preaching of the Word of God in our congregations at our Sunday services. "Quickening preaching" means also this, that the Gospel invitation to salvation is sounded in order that any who are living in spiritual death, including the baptized, may rise from that terrible slumber to newness of life (Rom. 6:4). And that those who are risen may seek the things which are above (Col. 3:1-3).

Viewed in this way, there is no problem connected with Baptism. It is a Sacrament, to be sure, but we must never make the mistake of believing that participation in a Sacrament once for all relieves one of the necessity of the response of faith. No, it is as faith persists, through the Holy Spirit, that the blessed life in Christ continues.

A TIME FOR PLANNING

Summer has brought somewhat of a lull to church work. Not always, but often, regular local activities lessen in favor of Bible camps, tent meetings and conventions.

On the other hand, from the pastor's point of view, he sometimes finds it possible to make certain calls more easily in the summertime than in other seasons of the year, and devotes himself to them.

And now we are at the threshold of a new school year and increased activities within our congregations. Confirmation and Sunday School classes will be enrolled. Luther League family nights and youth nights will embark on new courses. Ladies aids, men's fellowships and midweek services will pick up attendance as vacationers are all back home. Plans are perhaps underway for a week of autumn or early winter evangelistic meetings. The pastors look forward to regular service in their own pulpits after scattered absences

in the summer months.

Yes, this is a time for planning and expectancy. May the Lord give us a good new year, locally and as a fellowship. Local responsibilities come first but may congregational life be lived in the awareness of the other churches, too, who have covenanted to work together that God's kingdom may indeed come. In this way the greatest blessing can be obtained for all.

THEY DID US GOOD

Our church has been privileged to be visited by two fine musical groups this summer. Both have brought good-will, blessing and inspiration. We refer to our own Gospel-Aires and the Ganddal Pikekor (Girls' Choir) from Norway.

The Gospel-Aires, travelling on behalf of the Luther League Federation, have sung and spoken the Gospel in a winsome way. They are good representatives of the fine Christian young people in the Association.

The Girls' Choir, under the direction of Mr. Audun Vagle, has won friends wherever it has appeared and a good Christian message has been brought through excellent singing. Mr. Aage Nevland and Mr. Willy Gunderson have added the spoken challenge very fitly. How well we have been blessed by the coming of the Ganddal Pikekor.

Dr. Iver Olson deserves our sincere thanks for arranging the choir's itinerary and helping them while here. And perhaps, as he said one time, our own Bible School Choir may one day return the visit to Norway.

TEACH ME TO LIVE

Teach me to live! 'Tis easier far to die—
Gently and silently pass away—
On earth's long night to close the heavy eye,
And waken in the glorious realms of day.
Teach me that harder lesson—how to live;
To serve Thee in the darkest paths of life;
Arm me for conflict, now fresh vigor give,
And make me more than conqueror in the strife.
Teach me to live Thy purpose to fulfill;
Bright for Thy glory let my taper shine;
Each day renew, remold this stubborn will;
Closer round Thee my heart's affections twine.
Teach me to live for self and sin no more;
But use the time remaining to me yet;
Not mine own pleasure seeking as before,
Wasting no precious hours in vain regret.
Teach me to live; no idler let me be,
But in Thy service hand and heart employ.
Prepared to do Thy bidding cheerfully—
Be this my highest and my holiest joy.
Teach me to live—my daily cross to bear,
Nor murmur though I bend beneath its load.
Only be with me, let me feel Thee near,
Thy smile sheds gladness on the darkest road.
Teach me to live and find my life in Thee,
Looking from earth and earthly things away.
Let me not falter, but untiringly
Press on, and gain new strength and power each day.
Teach me to live with kindly words for all,
Wearing no cold repulsive brow of gloom,
Waiting with cheerful patience till Thy call
Summons my spirit to its heavenly home.

—Author unknown

ASSOCIATION FRIEND PASSES AWAY

John E. Ludviksen, 79, Portland Oregon, passed on to eternal rest in Christ on July 9, 1968.

Mr. Ludviksen was born in Stenvik, Norway. He came to Silverton, Ore., as a young man where he joined the Calvary Lutheran Congregation.

Mr. Ludviksen was a member of Bethel Lutheran Church, Rev. Carl Overvold, pastor, since his move to Portland in 1945. Rev. Overvold conducted the funeral service on July 12. Rev. L. Warren Hansen, former pastor, officiated at the graveside service.

He is survived by his wife Helen, four sons and three daughters.

Mr. Ludviksen followed with loving concern the work of the ALFC. He was a dedicated man of God. One of his favorite Bible selections was the Fourteenth Chapter of the Gospel of John, vv. 1-3.



Mr. John Wenzel, center, was the cook at the ALFC Annual Conference in June at Cloquet, Minn. Kathy Ross, left, and Alice Raina, right, were in charge of the dining hall. The young ladies are high school home economics teachers in Minnesota.

NEWS FROM REDBY LUTHERAN MISSION

We had a ladies' mission festival here at the mission and we were happy for all who turned out. This was the first time that such an occasion had been held here. Some of the Indian women were along and the program was very good.

Mrs. Verle Dean led the meeting and read Scripture and prayed. A group number in song from the people of the mission was given. Mrs. Gilmore Karevold and Mrs. Olai Westrum sang a duet. Mrs. DeFlorn Rude sang a solo. These are all wives of mission board members.

We were blessed by a heart-stirring message from Mrs. Melvin Walla of Thief River Falls, Minn. Her message was on love. When Moses was a baby his mother loved him very much, but in order to save him she had to put him in a basket and let him go down the river. Mrs. Walla was really a blessing to us.

The offering amounted to \$22.30 and half of that was sent to an Indian Bible School at Cass Lake, Minn., and the other half to an Indian missionary at Ft. Thompson, S. Dak., Mr. Bert McBride.

Then our meeting was closed with prayer by Mrs. Dean and fel-

lowship was had around a cup of coffee, both Indians and white people. It just blessed my soul as I saw them visit with one another and you could just feel the Spirit of our Lord was so near.

I am thankful to the many friends we have that are praying for us and that there will be souls won into the kingdom. We ask you to please continue to pray for us and the mission that God has set before us, because I believe that the day is coming when we will not be able to preach the truth. And I believe that we can see the darkness on the horizon already. So let us be found faithful when our dear Lord and Savior shall appear.

Thank you again for this opportunity to thank everyone and may the Lord bless each and everyone, and our Association as we try, as God has laid it on our hearts, to work together in this great work to win others for Christ.

Your friends in Christ,

Missionary Verle Dean
and family



Luther League Activities

Edited by Jane Thompson

NEWS FROM BETHANY LEAGUE, ASTORIA, OREGON

Greetings from Bethany Luther League. A big sigh of relief was breathed with the completion of final exams to usher in the summer season.

Even though this is the time for vacations, we are not taking a vacation from our worship. Two members of our Luther League are doing full-time Christian work this summer. Susan Rockhold is working in the Christian supply store in Astoria and Paul Persson is doing canvass work in Kent, Lake Stevens and Vashon Island, Washington. He is working to find enough persons to start churches in these areas. Most of the rest of us are either working at other jobs or

enjoying a rest from school.

Recreation activities for our Luther League this summer will include a number of beach parties and parties at the homes of some of the leaguers who live in the country. Plans are also being made for attending our new family Bible camp in late August. This is the first year for this camp which will be held at Carnation, Washington. A large turnout is expected.

Pray for us as we continue to pray for you.

—Carol Johansen, Reporter

(Ed. Note: We regret that this report is late in coming to our readers, but it will still give an idea of activities for Bethany League this past summer.)

PERSONALITIES

Rev. Kenneth L. Anderson, formerly an American Lutheran Church pastor in Ashby, Minn., has accepted the call to serve Salem Lutheran Church, Radcliffe, Ia., and Stavanger Lutheran Church, Garden City, Ia. Pastor and Mrs. Anderson and their three children will live in Radcliffe.

Seminarian Larry Severson has accepted a call to serve Bethany Lutheran Church, Abercrombie, N. Dak., and Stiklestad Lutheran Church, Doran, Minn. Mr. Severson will finish his seminary work in January, 1969. Mr. and Mrs. Severson live in Abercrombie.

Seminarian Forrest Swenson has accepted a call to serve the Winger, Minn., parish consisting of Dovre, Union Lake and Maple Bay churches.



WORLD MISSIONS

THE FIELDS ARE WHITE UNTO HARVEST



Our Jeep pickup with our gang and a few friends arrive at the farm.



An outdoor Sunday School class.

Ruby (Mrs. Abel) with a healthy Sunday School boy of typical mixed blood in Brazil.



Dad (Rev. John Abel) and Nathanael have been horseback riding. But Nathanael can't keep his shirt on in the balmy Brazilian weather.



"Merrily they roll along" in the common vehicle of our frontier. The horse is decorated for the occasion.

Concerning Church Attendance

by Charles M. Guthrie

(The following discourse on Church Attendance appeared in a big city Sunday newspaper. It is reprinted here for our consideration and discussion.)

Church membership is at an all-time high but the gains haven't kept abreast of population growth. And church attendance is down. This is of great concern to the clergy, to boards of trustees and to those church members who go to church.

Blame our affluent society. Blame television and the movies. Blame golf and fishing and easy access to places that were too far

away when highways and cars were fewer.

It isn't that churches lack facilities. Many have physical plants that are lavishly appointed, adequately staffed and abundantly mortgaged. The choirs are good, the dinners are great, the fellowship rewarding and the grousing minimal.

So why don't more than 30 percent of the members go to church regularly? The membership commission of our church invited parishioners to discuss the matter the other evening and a spirited discussion it was. Reasons given included apathy, selfishness, lack of influences and the failure to attack

social and racial injustice.

Yet at the same time concern was expressed lest the church engage too vigorously in social action and by so doing alienate members. Did the church have a right to dictate policy for individuals who might want no part in protest demonstrations, parades and boycotts?

There was the inference, too, that attendance would perk up if more dynamism radiated from the pulpit. The preaching was too bland. Yet at times it was too controversial, and members didn't get much uplift by being reminded of their obligations as Christians.

[Continued on page 15]

LET US FINISH THE JOB

Four years have passed since the eleven-day test case hearing was held in Valley City, North Dakota.

The presiding judge, at the outset, repeatedly told us that he was certain the case would be appealed. But he did not give us his reason. At the trial it was established that there are vast differences between the Lutheran Free Church and the American Lutheran Church.

Also, the presiding judge held that the judgment handed down in International Falls controlled in the Valley City case, even though in Valley City there were different parties and different questions.

Obviously we felt then, and feel now, that the decision is unjust. It seems to us that the Guiding Principles, that are an integral part of constitutions in the Lutheran Free Church, were treated as worthless.

The Steering Committee for Legal Action met in Fargo, North Dakota, last October to discuss an appeal of the decision given in Valley City to the North Dakota State Supreme Court. Having given much consideration to the matter the committee recommends that the case be appealed as soon as possible.

When Roman Catholic and Lutheran theologians can conduct dialogues (formal conversations) on such

basically important doctrines as Baptism and the Lord's Supper and then announce that the results were "exceedingly fruitful"; that they are in "substantial agreement"; that there is "growing agreement"; and when the highest official in the ALC calls for a common Christian rite for the administration of baptism, we realize that the Lutheran landmarks are disappearing. For we know that Roman Catholic doctrines or dogmas will *remain the same*, hence Lutherans are being turned toward Rome.

The same trend is evident in that Lutheran Reformation services across our land are being replaced by joint services of Catholics and Lutherans.

Keeping in mind that Valley City was to a large extent a test case to determine property rights for those who refused to enter the merger, we now have notable cases decided by state supreme courts. "The Georgia Supreme Court ruled unanimously that two Presbyterian (U.S.) churches in Savannah have the right to *withdraw* from the denomination and *retain their property*. In giving the verdict the judge issuing the decision said it was found that the factions of the general Church (synod) did amount to a substantial *abandonment* of the original tenets of faith and practice.' "

The two churches withdrew from the Presbyterian Church, U.S., in 1966 because of what they called departures in fundamental beliefs on the part of the parent synod.

Another case has to do with the name. In North Carolina the State Supreme Court granted a splinter congregation the right to use the word "Moravian" in its official name. This congregation had split away from the Moravian Church and had then taken the name "Bible Moravian" Church.

These cases could give rise to many similar claims on properties and names by congregations and groups that do not wish to be swallowed up by parent church bodies that are no longer true to their confessions or the Word of God.

In our own situation several estates are tied up because constituents in the Association and the ALC are both contending for property rights. In other cases funds set aside in banks have been claimed by both sides. These situations, of course, will continue indefinitely if they are not cleared up. They also lead to endless frictions on the local level.

Let us finish the task by having our case heard by the North Dakota Supreme Court. This is the only way these differences of opinion can be settled legally.

Many former LFC people are waiting for the day they can be a part of our Association, but they want to take their church properties with them. They believe they are, in the sight of God, the rightful owners, for they have remained faithful to the Guiding Principles and Rules for Work for the LFC. We definitely believe that church property, religious principles and religious freedom are involved.

Also, the vast share of the cost in this matter has been paid. As one concerned person put it: "Cost-wise it is a downhill pull from here on."

The Lord has blessed us so greatly. As other brethren watch us grow, and prosper in the Lord, they wish they could join us—taking with them the properties they have worked so hard to secure. Letters of details are being sent to each congregation in the Association. A number of congregations and individuals have already sent funds to the treasurer, in anticipation of an appeal to the Supreme Court.

—Approved and acted upon at the Free Lutheran Laymen's Steering Committee meeting held April 21, 1968, at Fargo, North Dakota.

John Kleven, Secretary
Erling Brekke, Acting Secretary

CONCERNING CHURCH ATTENDANCE

[Continued from page 13]

My prized church reward is being with people. The social contact seems good for what ails me. But there are aspects of our worship I don't like. We do a great deal of praying and invariably confess "grievous" sins. Not being a stick-up artist or a killer, and not having made off with my neighbor's wife, I don't consider myself a grievous sinner and resent the exhortation to so confess.

Were I dictating the order of worship, I'd cut prayer time by two-thirds—leaving more time for sermon and song—and emphasize sin less. If I had my life to live

over, I'd live it differently. I regret many decisions made and actions taken, but a little repentance goes a long way. Rather than feeling cleansed by it, I feel demeaned and hypocritical.

We sing too many hymns that nobody but the choir members know. I'd like more often to get my lungs into "I've Found a Friend," "Throw Out the Lifeline," or "Toiling On."

But these are minor objections, not root causes of nonattendance. Many don't go to church because they aren't a part of it. They joined for business reasons or because "Sunday school is good for the children."

Others stay away because they don't think the church is abreast of this era of change and social upheaval. Here may be the heart of the matter. Dogma and doctrine seem somehow academic in the context of scientific, mathematical and industrial advances, and economic and social complexities.

Critics don't think the simple faith of a simpler time zeroes in sufficiently on the problems of war, bigotry, poverty and inequality. We haven't found anything that does, however, and the church may be our best hope. The challenge to it is sobering.

—The Minneapolis
Sunday Tribune

TREASURER'S PROGRESS REPORT

February 1, 1968, to August 1, 1968

	Proposed Budget Yearly	Current Budget	Total Received
General Fund	\$35,650.00	\$17,825.00	\$12,719.61
Seminary and Bible School	36,200.00	18,100.00	7,781.07
Missions	49,000.00	24,500.00	18,061.65
Praise Program	40,000.00	20,000.00	18,676.79
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	\$160,850.00	\$80,425.00	\$57,239.12
Total received for library			\$244.00
One Grand Fellowship			\$5,933.33

NOTICE

We regret that the series "Meet the Churches of Our Fellowship" is not found in this issue of the *Ambassador*. It will be resumed shortly.

Directory of the Association of Free Lutheran Congregations

OFFICERS

President

Rev. John P. Strand
3110 E. Medicine Lake Blvd.
Minneapolis, Minn.

Vice-President

Rev. B. Snipstead
3110 E. Medicine Lake Blvd.
Minneapolis, Minn.

Secretary-Treasurer

Rev. H. C. Molstre
Dalton, Minn.

Business Administrator

Mr. Donald Hansen
3110 E. Medicine Lake Blvd.
Minneapolis, Minn.

CO-ORDINATING COMMITTEE

Chairman

Rev. Julius Hermunsle
Spicer, Minn.

Secretary

Rev. Jay G. Erickson
Ferndale, Wash.

ASSOCIATION SCHOOLS

Board of Trustees

President

Prof. George Soberg
6616 Portland Ave. S.
Minneapolis, Minn.

Secretary

Rev. Raynard Huglen
Roslyn, S. Dak.

Acting Dean of Free Lutheran Seminary

Dr. Iver Olson
3110 E. Medicine Lake Blvd.
Minneapolis, Minn.

Dean of the Bible School

Rev. R. Snipstead
3110 E. Medicine Lake Blvd.
Minneapolis, Minn.

WORLD MISSIONS

Chairman

Mr. Robert Knutson
McVie, N. Dak.

Secretary

Mr. Roy Mohagen
Grafton, N. Dak.

Director

Rev. Harold R. Schafer
112 West Milner Ave.
DeKalb, Ill.

PUBLICATIONS AND PARISH

EDUCATION

Chairman

Rev. Raynard Huglen
Roslyn, S. Dak.

Secretary

Mrs. Vernon R. Nelson
1909 11th Ave. N.
Grand Forks, N. Dak.

STEWARDSHIP

Chairman

Dr. Iver Olson
3110 E. Medicine Lake Blvd.
Minneapolis, Minn.

Secretary

Rev. T. F. Dahle
Spicer, Minn.

YOUTH BOARD

Chairman

Rev. Jay G. Erickson
Ferndale, Wash.

Secretary

Mr. Robert Lee
3110 E. Medicine Lake Blvd.
Minneapolis, Minn.

BOARD OF PENSIONS

President

Mr. Eldor Sorkness
Sand Creek, Wis.

Secretary

Rev. G. H. Spletstoesser
Pine River, Minn.

WOMEN'S MISSIONARY FEDERATION

President

Mrs. Herbert W. Presteng
Grafton, N. Dak.

Secretary

Mrs. H. C. Molstre
Dalton, Minn.

Treasurer

Mrs. R. M. Konsterlie
Route 1
Willmar, Minn.

LUTHER LEAGUE FEDERATION

President

Mr. Robert Lee
3110 E. Medicine Lake Blvd.
Minneapolis, Minn.

Secretary

Miss Peggy Soyving
Cloquet, Minn.

Treasurer

Mr. Kenneth Moland
Fertile, Minn.