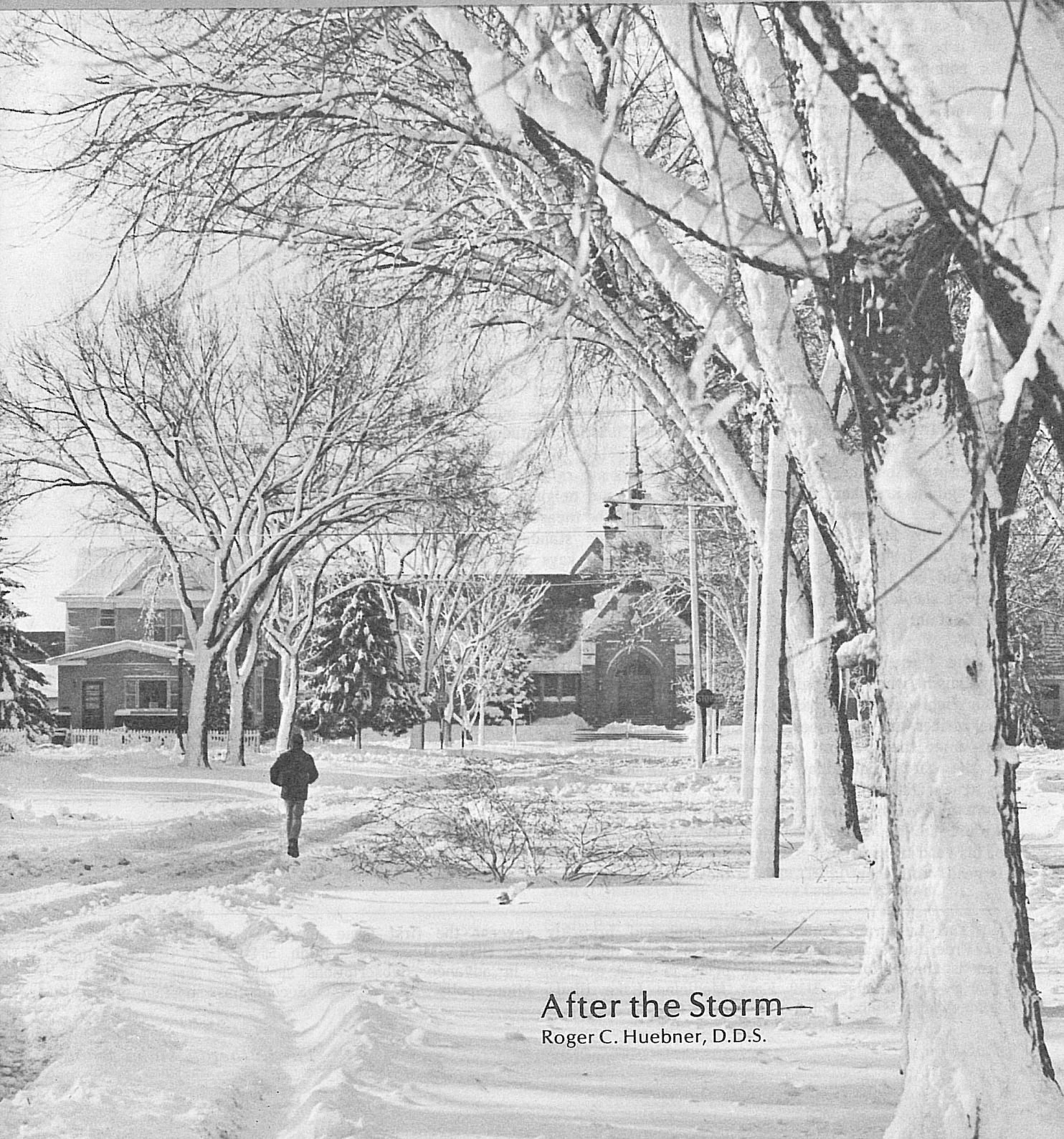
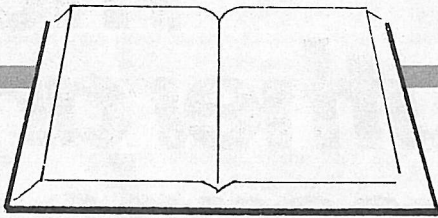


December 19, 1972

The Lutheran Ambassador



After the Storm—
Roger C. Huebner, D.D.S.



According to the Word

A NEW LIFE FOR THE NEW YEAR

"You are the salt of the earth; but if the salt has become tasteless, how will it be made salty again? It is good for nothing any more, except to be thrown out and trampled under foot by men. You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden" (Matthew 5:13, 14).

For people who think seriously about life, the Christmas and New Year season is a time to both scrutinize the past and contemplate the future. We want the new year to be more successful and satisfying than the year we are completing. This makes it necessary to examine our conduct of the old year to sift out our successes and failures. In doing so we always find departments that require change.

So what do we do? Make new year resolutions? Well, we have tried that prescription, but have found them to be fragile as *krumkake*. We know they are not the solution. "But," we say, "I have this deep-seated disorder that keeps me from being what I know I should be. I don't do the things I know I should. What can I do about it? Certainly, there must be a solution."

Jesus presented the cure for this invalidism when He said, "Unless your righteousness surpasses that of the scribes and Pharisees, you shall not enter the kingdom of heaven." In the words that follow He shows us true righteousness is not merely something external, but comes from within the life. "The good man out of his good treasure brings forth what is good" (Matthew 12:35). That's the

cure; a superior form of righteousness. That's why resolutions fail; they are external, the Christian's "good treasure" is internal.

Sometimes it seems that Christians think that to be clothed in Christ's righteousness means only having a right standing before God so that they can go to heaven when they die. Of course, that is essential, because the righteousness of Christ, credited to the believer's account is the only righteousness that meets God's demand. But Christ's righteousness affects a person's daily life as well as his standing before God in heaven. Righteousness makes a person righteous.

Jesus' conclusion, "You therefore must be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect" (Matthew 5:48, RSV), follows His outline of some basic Christian attitudes toward God and His law. He showed how these attitudes are reflected in our attitude toward our neighbor. Righteousness that is to be measured with God Himself as the standard must include love. Jesus says that the greatest commandment in the Law is, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind." This is the great and foremost commandment. And a second is like it, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself" (Matthew 22:37-39). Love is simply the believer's reaction to God's love: "We love because He first loved us." It is also an act of obedience to this the most basic of God's commandments.

Jesus says to every believer, "You are the salt of the earth...the light

of the world." He does not admonish us here by saying, "You should be," but "You are." Here professing Christians fall into three groups: some shine brightly and all see and recognize the light and the preserving benefits of saltiness; others have lost these qualities because they have lost out with God; still others may be manifesting these qualities even though many people will be looking for the wrong things and fail to see them. We have these qualities if we have Jesus. He has given us His life, which means we have His righteousness and His love. It is that life operating within us that will make life successful and satisfying. Then we will be salt and light in this rotting and dark world. That is why He has left us here on earth. He could have taken us to heaven the moment we were converted, but He didn't. He has left us as His body on earth, to bring His grace to mankind.

This is what is needed, then; not resolutions, but a revolution! A revolution in which your "old man" loses power and Jesus rules supreme, with His righteousness and love motivating and energizing your life. When this change occurs, resolutions become unnecessary because good thoughts and intentions will proceed out of the new heart. Then you will possess the characteristics we have discussed in the preceding meditations (Matthew 5:3-12). Then you will hear Jesus say, "Blessed are you..." And oh, what a Happy New Year you will have!

(Scripture quotations are from the NASB.)

Howard M. Kjos

The Lutheran Ambassador is published biweekly (except the first issue of August) by the Association of Free Lutheran Congregations, 3110 East Medicine Lake Blvd., Minneapolis, Minn. 55441. Rev. Raynard Huglen is the editor. Subscription price is \$3.50 per year in advance. Subscriptions should be sent to The Lutheran Ambassador, 3110 East Medicine Lake Blvd., Minneapolis, Minn. 55441. Second-class postage paid at Minneapolis, Minn. Volume 10, Number 25

We Are Builders

by Rev. Philip S. Featherstone
Minneapolis, Minn.

Carpentry is my work. I spent the past summer building a house for my brother. Building a house is very similar to building a life. Let us at year's end, step back and survey the work we have accomplished this past year.

The Foundation

First, we must check the footings of our house. Is the soil virgin, that is to say, undisturbed and solid? If the soil is not firm, the footings may sink or move, allowing the house to settle or shift, in time even to fall.

Luke 6:47-49 tells of two houses—one built on sand, the other built on rock. The house on the sand fell when time began to put on pressure, the one on the rock stood firm and straight. If we want our lives to stand firm and straight, they must be founded on "the Solid Rock, Jesus Christ." I remember some years back a church burned to the ground. It had stood erect for nearly a century. When the work of cleanup began it was found that that church had stood on only large flat rocks on top of the ground. Build your life on the Lord Jesus Christ. No other footing will last a lifetime and not change or give way, settle or slip. "On Christ, the Solid Rock I stand; all other ground is sinking sand."

After the footings are in we lay the foundation. The first block laid is the most important, and the determining factor in the level, plumb, and square of our house. This is called the "cornerstone."

Ephesians 2:20 says that Jesus Christ is the Chief Cornerstone in our lives. He is the Square, the Plumb, and the Level we use as the guide in building our foundations. Other than a perfect cornerstone will throw our house out of square and level. Without Christ as cornerstone of our faith and life, in what direction might we go?

Building Materials

Even with Christ as the Cornerstone we need to select our building materials well. Some will crumble as the years go by; some will not stand the shaking of the earth. I Corinthians 3:9-16 tells of different materials that can be used in building. Yes, we can be builders on a solid footing, yet using destructible material. We have all seen where fire has destroyed a house. After the fire, my brother's house's foundation was crumbled and fallen. Paul speaks of hay, wood and stubble, all of which are readily flammable. Also mentioned are gold, silver and precious stones, materials resulting from great pressure and heat, the product of the refiner's fire. II Peter 3:10 says that the elements will melt with fervent heat. The works of the Christian, building on the footing "Christ," using the cornerstone "Christ," will be tested and tried by fire. "One life to live; will soon be past, only what is done for Christ will last."

After my brother's house burned, all earthly things considered dear

were gone, melted, warped beyond repair, burnt fragments as reminders of what once was and that is no more. This was the old family home which held memories, as well as family treasures, gone up in smoke. II Corinthians 5:17: "Old things are passed away, behold, all things are become new." Year's end is a good time to take stock of possessions held dear. What are we building our houses with: hay, wood, stubble, gold, silver, or precious stones?

We have completed the basement and are on the way up. This is growth. No one wants to live in the basement all his life, though many do, both physically and spiritually. We need a stairway to get out of the basement. Stairways are made of steps and involve a climbing process, a step at a time. Spiritually, it is growing in faith, trusting the Lord day by day. Matthew 21:21-22, "Ask in faith, believing, and you will receive." Many people are like the child who is afraid to climb the stairs, not willing to take the first step, always looking back, fearful, unbelieving. "Ye have not because ye ask not." Faith is taking God at His word, going forth to new heights. Where are you at year's end? Still on the same step as last year? Shame be upon you!

Doors and Windows

The walls are up and we are on our way, putting in the partitions. The house needs a door. Without a door we can't get out. We don't want to stay home all the time. James

2:14-20, what does it profit a man if he has faith, but not works? Spiritual doors are the outreach of our lives to others. Our motives are what count. "The gift without the giver is bare." "Faith without works is dead." Work without Christ is dead. We who name the name of Christ are dead if we sit back while the world meets the needs of our neighbors. Too often it is the most worldly who are the first to give a hand. The Good Samaritan of Luke 10:23-37 is an example of closed and open heart doors. The priest and the Levite stayed in their spiritual house, not wanting to get involved. The Samaritan reached out to the man, not only went out, but brought him in.

Doors work both ways. Revelation 3:20: "Behold, I stand at the door and knock." Hearts' doors: closed, locked, barred, forbidding entrance; hermits shut away, locked away to self.

"If any man hear my voice and open the door, I will come in and fellowship with him, and he with Me."

Are our homes closed to Christ's fellowship, and are our hearts locking Christ out of our lives?

"Shame, shame, to keep Him standing outside that fast closed door." The house we built is in the country and the large windows present a beautiful view. When we had cut the window openings, my brother and his wife feared they had made a mistake by putting in such large windows, but soon changed their minds when the windows began to do their work. Yes, windows have work, multiple work...to let in Light, to let out light, to see out, to see in. John 1:9: "That was the true Light, which lighteth every man that cometh into the world." Jesus is the Light of the world. He wants to shine full into our lives, illuminating us.

Often when the sunshine is full we pull down the shades. Sunshine has a damaging effect upon things we count dear. The "Son-shine" of God, Jesus Christ, also puts a revealing light in our lives showing sin and uncleanness which we would like to overlook. We grow plants in our homes. When the sunshine streams in the plants flourish and bloom beautifully. Without sunshine they don't do as well. Some plants like darkness

and so do some people. John 3-19, they love darkness because their deeds are evil. Let us at year's end check our hearts' windows. Are they clean and open that the Light of Christ might pour in? Open doors and windows wide—let the merry sunshine in. Not only in, but also out. It is a cheery sight to see a house all aglow, light streaming out into the darkness. What fun to drive through the countryside and see the house lights burning, to come to one's destination and see the welcome light pouring out, friendship from within turning the gloom of night to the brightness of "home and hearth."

Matthew 5:14-16, "Ye are the light of the world." We are Christ's windows to let Him shine out to others. "Let your light so shine before men." We need to check the condition of our windows. Can the light shine to its full brightness? Also, we need to check the light. Are we shining with full power, or is there "low house power"? "Like a little candle shining in the night, you in your small corner and I in mine."

Windows give a view out. We can see what is going on around us. What one sees out the window is governed by what one wants to see. Dark and dreary weather, gloom and despair, sunshine and beauty, they are all there. What we see depends on our outlook—one man's hopelessness is another's challenge. John 4:35, "The fields are white unto harvest." When you look around, do you see souls in need of a Savior? Windows of our hearts are the outlets of our lives to see the needs of others. When glass is covered on the back it becomes a mirror reflecting our own image. This is the problem with too many people, their windows reflect only themselves and their problems. They can't see beyond to the needs of others. "Open my eyes that I might see."

Windows also let others see into the house. I Samuel 16:7, "Man looketh on the outward appearance, but God looketh on the heart." We cannot look into the soul of man as God does. This is how we truly are judged, not by outward appearance, as the world judges, but by the inner soul. The true character of a man is not what he looks like, nor what he wears, nor where he lives, or works, or even

who he is, but rather whose he is. "Can others see Jesus in me?"

Well Tied Together

All buildings must be tied together or they will split apart and fall in ruin when the pressure of wind or weight of snow begin to mount up. I have straightened and repaired many buildings that weren't tied and braced properly. I John 1:3-7, "If we walk in the light, as He is in the light, we have fellowship one with another." The tie of the Christian's life binding it and making it strong is fellowship. Without fellowship, we are weak in faith and an easy mark for Satan's attacks. We need to brace each other up by fellowship, sharing each other's joys and sorrows, burdens and cares. True fellowship in Christ cleanses from all unrighteousness. "What a fellowship, what a joy divine, leaning on the everlasting arms."

The Roof

Last, but most important, is the roof of our house. Without a roof we would be open to all the elements of nature. A house without a roof is not a house at all. The roof of our spiritual house is found in many places: Psalms 17:8, 36:7, 57:1, 61:4, 9:1. All mention being under God's wing. Oh, how we need a safe, abiding place in our lives when the winds blow and the rains fall and the sun beats down. How good to have a shelter. How good also, when Satan begins to attack, and earthly things begin to fail, trials and testings come and burdens weigh us down. We have an abiding place to which to go...under the wing of God where none are allowed but the chosen of God, His own children who have been called by the Spirit, cleansed by the blood, sanctified and kept by the Spirit. "Under His wings I am safely abiding." Is this your habitat?

As we step back, with a critical eye, to look at the house we have built, let us all, as the old year ends, and the new begins, look in the light of the Master Builder, at the lives we are building. "I am satisfied with Jesus, but the thought that comes to me, as I look at Calvary, is my Master satisfied with me?"

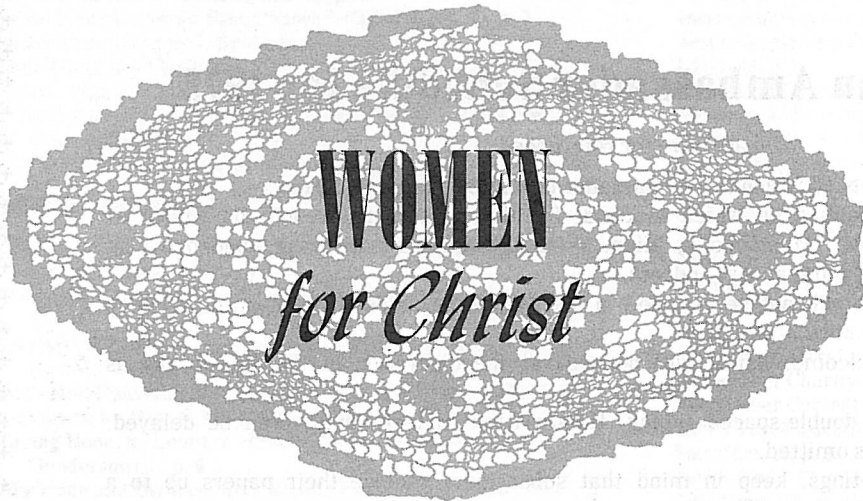
The Lutheran Ambassador Schedule for 1973

(Please save for reference)

1. The first date given is the date on which the **Ambassador** is printed every two weeks.
2. The second date is the deadline on which material for that issue must reach the **Editor** at 3110 E. Medicine Lake Blvd., Minneapolis, Minn. 55441. Please send all correspondence concerning content of the paper to him at that address.
3. Material which arrives late will not be included in the next issue unless it is of an emergency nature.
4. Unsolicited material is welcome, but it will be used at the discretion of the Editor and as space permits.
5. All material should be in double-spaced typing. Handwritten material will often be delayed.
6. The second issue in August is omitted.
7. In sending notices of meetings, keep in mind that subscribers receive their papers up to a week or more following the date of publication.
8. Regular writers for the **Ambassador**, as well as other possible contributors, are asked to note the special issues so that they may write concerning those topics if they desire.

Publication Date	Editor's Deadline	Special	WMF Bible Study
January 2	December 16	New Year	
January 16	December 30		Yes
January 30	January 13		
February 13	January 27	Anniversary Issue	Yes
February 27	February 10	Lent	
March 13	February 24	Lent	Yes
March 27	March 10	Lent	
April 10	March 24	Easter	Yes
April 24	April 7	Mother's Day	
May 8	April 21	Pre-Conference	
May 22	May 5	Memorial Day, Pre-Conference and Pentecost	Yes
June 5	May 19		
June 19	June 2		Yes
July 3	June 16	Conference Reports	
July 17	June 30	Conference Reports	Yes
July 31	July 14		
August 14	July 28	Family Bible Camp	Yes
September 11	August 25		Yes
September 25	September 8		
October 9	September 22		
October 23	October 6	Reformation	Yes
November 6	October 20	Thanksgiving	
November 20	November 3	Advent	Yes
December 4	November 17	Christmas	
December 18	December 1	Year's End	Yes
January 1, 1974	December 15	New Year	

PLEASE SAVE FOR REFERENCE!



**LOOK AND SEE —
HEAR AND PERCEIVE —
TOUCH AND FEEL**

Our evangelist, in his opening sermon at our November meetings, said, "What our Association needs is revival." These words simply mean to see with His eyes—hear with His ears, which is only possible by touching Him and letting His feelings flow through us.

In II Kings 6:15-17, we find Elisha and his servant looking and seeing two different things. The servant looked and saw "an host compassed the city both with horses and chariots" and trembled. Elisha looked and saw the "mountain was full of horses and chariots of fire round about" him and had peace for he said, "Fear not: for they that be with us are more than they that be with them" (v. 16).

St. Augustine said, "God wants us to BELIEVE in order to SEE. Faith is to believe what we do not see, and the reward of that faith is to SEE what we believe."

God's loving arm deals blow after blow upon us to open our eyes and ears and to draw us to HIM. In a recent prayer encounter with God I really thought I had cornered God with His own promises and I knew He would never go back on His words. So I waited smugly for the answer according to me. One day I received two letters from the two I so des-

perately prayed for and on each one was stamped a definite "NO" from God. As I stood there stunned, I began to see that God was dealing with me and not I with Him, and through Isaiah's vision, in chapter 6, I saw "the Lord sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up, and his train filled the temple." Like Isaiah, I cried, "Woe is me!" and trembled until the Holy

Spirit quietly showed me I John 1:9 and I saw especially His forgiveness and His cleansing of my foolishness. He restored (revived) me to right standing in Christ Jesus and a peace came which I had never before known concerning my problem. Now between me and all my problems is this God who is all-sufficient and able to do above all that I would ever ask or think.

If we can close the door of 1972 with all its blessings, heartaches, successes, failures, prejudices, and everything else, and cry with Paul, in Philippians 3:10, "That I may know him, and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings, being made conformable unto his death," we can with faith open the door of 1973 and see a face so beautiful, compassionate, and "altogether lovely" and hear Him say with outstretched arms, "Come unto me." And as He draws us near to His heart we will feel the real meaning of revival and abiding in the fullest sense.

May these thoughts be made a reality to each of us.

—Author wishes to be Anonymous

THE ASSOCIATION OF FREE LUTHERAN CONGREGATIONS				
3110 East Medicine Lake Blvd. Minneapolis, Minnesota 55441				
BUDGET RECEIPTS				
February 1, 1972 to November 30, 1972				
	Proposed Yearly Budget	Current Budget	Received to Date	Percent Received
General Fund	\$41,590.00	\$ 34,657.30	\$21,889.82	52.6
Schools	72,073.00	60,060.90	33,738.20	46.8
Foreign Missions	38,000.00	31,666.60	28,672.42	75.5
Home Missions	42,000.00	35,000.00	25,388.89	60.4
TOTAL	\$193,663.00	\$161,384.80	\$109,689.33	56.6
Received to date last year		\$199,919.00	\$116,847.52	
Praise Program		\$ 57,900.00	\$ 52,210.55	58
Legacies — \$403.25				
Library — \$317.00				
New Dorm Fund				
Cash Received to date — \$34,100.29				
Unpaid Pledges — \$19,260.25				



EDITORIALS

THANK YOU, PASTOR KJOS

Not only has Rev. Howard Kjos written our devotional series, "According to the Word," during the past six months, but he has during that period of time taken over your editor's former pastorate at Roslyn, S. Dak., the Lake Region Parish. In moving from the Hampden, N. Dak., charge where there are three congregations, he has come to one where there are four. He is busily engaged in becoming acquainted with that work and we ask God's blessing upon him, his wife and their two children as they make their home, and work, in that place so familiar to this writer.

We shall all remember Pastor Kjos' stint as devotional writer particularly for his messages on the Beatitudes over the past four months. Always an interesting study, Rev. Kjos has taken those short sayings of Jesus and has made them come alive for us in a trenchant or clear-cut way. The whole gamut of Christian living is contained in the Beatitudes and he has shown what is expected of the follower of Jesus. How do we measure up?

Thank you, Pastor Kjos, for preparing the devotional articles in the last half of 1972. God bless them on every heart.

Then we are pleased to announce our new writer for the first six months of 1973. He is Rev. Richard W. Gunderson, Sedan, Minn. By calling he is a missionary to Bolivia, a mission of the World Mission Prayer League. He is one of our pastors, on loan to the WMPL. Currently on extended furlough, he is serving our congregation near Sedan, Scandia. He will also be attending school at the University of Minnesota in Morris. Therefore, he will be busy and this writing will be an added task, but he has consented to take the responsibility anyway.

We will look forward to Pastor Gunderson's messages which you will find on the inside cover of your **Am-bassador** beginning next time. May the Lord add His blessing.

CHURCH LIBRARIES

Not long ago we received a communication from an individual in one of our congregations in which she told about the church library they maintain. The church is located in a small town in Minnesota but it has more than 350 books in it. We think this is tremendous and wonder if this isn't the largest library in an Association church.

If any church library is to be successful there must be interested people in charge, people who are willing to work and promote. Our correspondent says that five women are responsible for this particular church library and they are dedicated to the work. They try to read every new book that is entered into the lists to insure that nothing offensive comes in.

We want to encourage the development of church libraries. There seems to be a renaissance of interest in them. Many of our congregations are situated in open country and small towns. Often these small towns have no public library. An active church library can serve a wonderful purpose, meeting a real need in the community. The congregation we are mentioning here (Zion, Dalton), calls its library work the Library Mission. It is open for everyone. How good it would be if a church in a town could keep regular hours, even if only for an hour or two, two or three times a week.

Perhaps there would be interest in forming an informal association among those congregations that are really doing something about having active church libraries.

As a boy we lived several years in a small Montana town. One of the fruits of the Great Depression was that an NYA library was established in the south end of the showroom of the Ford Garage in our town. Never will we forget the joy and the hours of pleasure that that little library brought to a boy who loved to read books.

It could be that our churches can help to fill a need in their communities, and by providing a type of literature that is oriented always toward the better things of life.

FAREWELL TO A YEAR

1972—in some ways a good year, in some ways a bad year. Over all, the year saw a lessening of tensions in the world. When you read this, a cease-fire may have been arranged in troubled Viet Nam. Such a cease-fire will not end the problems there, by any means, but we trust it will be a step toward an ultimate successful answer to the difficulties of that area.

In other parts of the world conditions seem to be less threatening than they were twelve months ago. This is encouraging, although it is interesting to note that President Nixon doesn't seem to ask for more than "a generation" of peace. History tells us that the world will be fortunate to get even that much.

1972 has been a bad year in the sense that there is still a lot of crime, violence, poverty, prejudice, drug and alcohol problems, etc. Our cities have decayed a little more. Educators seem less certain how to educate and what to teach.

Of this we can be sure, America stands in greater need of spiritual revival today than ever before. Perhaps the nation-wide effort for evangelism called Key '73 can be the spark to ignite such a turning unto God. We pray it will be. And together with the need for revival there is the need for Christian influence to be exerted in every way to help attack and solve all those social ills which beset our nation.

In the Association of Free Lutheran Congregations, the year 1972 has been one of experiencing the rich mercies of God. The failures, the shortcomings have been ours. The year ends with a great financial challenge before the church to gather in the funds needed for current operating expense for the various agencies. It is one that must be heavily upon our hearts in the midst of our thanksgiving to God for His help and His benefits.

Forgive us, O Lord, for our sins. Sustain us and lead us on in all the way which lies before us.

ADDITIONAL COOK HIRED BY BIBLE SCHOOL

Mrs. Mildred Qualley of Warren, Minn., began work at the Bible School on October 30 as a member of the cooking staff. She joins Mrs. Alma Wold, Badger, Minn., and Miss Marge Benson, Sand Creek, Wis.

Mrs. Qualley's husband passed away over two and one-half years ago. They had farmed east of Argyle, Minn. For some time since she was a cook in a Warren cafe.

She has four sons: Bob, St. Paul, Minn.; Lyle, Bloomington, Minn.; Darrel, Grand Forks, N. Dak.; and Ron, an American Lutheran Church pastor in Miami Springs, Fla.

We welcome Mrs. Qualley to AFLBS. She is living in the apartment formerly occupied by Marion Hellekson.

1972 ANNUAL REPORTS NOW ON SALE

The Annual Report of the Association of Free Lutheran Congregations is now on sale. This book, filled with information about the work of the congregations together, is available at \$2.00 per copy. Please order yours at once from

Annual Report

3110 E. Medicine Lake Blvd.

Minneapolis, Minn. 55441

Please make your check payable to Association of Free Lutheran Congregations.

SOME COPY CROWDED OUT

We regret that some of the copy which ordinarily would have been included in this issue of **The Lutheran Ambassador** has been crowded out. We will use it as soon as we can in subsequent issues.

Thank you for your patience.

THE CONNELLY DYRUDS RETURN

Missionary and Mrs. Connelly J. Dyrud and daughters Shannon and Christina have returned from Brazil on furlough. They will be making their home for the time being on the parental Dyrud farm near Thief River Falls, Minn. The AFLC welcomes them back to the U.S., rejoicing that they could come in time to celebrate Christmas with their families.



FORMER FBI AGENT IS STUDENT AT FREE LUTHERAN SEMINARY

Anker Harbo, for nearly 28 years an agent in the Federal Bureau of Investigation, is a part-time student at Free Lutheran Seminary, pursuing a course which he hopes will eventually give him the opportunity to do full-time church work.

After ten years of high school teaching at Plaza and Rugby in North Dakota and Arco and Lindstrom-Center City in Minnesota, Anker Harbo yielded to the encouragement of his brother Rolf, already in the FBI, to apply for a place in the agency. He was appointed an agent in the spring of 1941. And as he did in those days, the Director, J. Edgar Hoover, spoke to the incoming class, challenging the new men about their opportunity to serve their country.

Mr. Harbo was engaged mostly in security work and was stationed in Cleveland, Washington, D.C., and Detroit, with 16 years being spent in the nation's capital. In Washington he worked out of the field office, not to be confused with the headquarters office, doing casework in that area.

A desire to get into church work full-time (he had been active as a layman wherever he had lived) led him to think of going to a seminary after retirement from the force. His first Association contact was made when he wrote a letter to his old friend and former mathematics teacher at Augsburg College, the late George Soberg, then pastor of Medicine Lake Lutheran Church. Mr. Harbo was attracted by the emphasis and tradition found in the AFLC.

The name Harbo is one to stir

the memories of those who are at all acquainted with the history of the former Augsburg Seminary in Minneapolis, Minn. Anker Harbo's father taught Dogmatics (church doctrine) at Augsburg from 1907-27 and the first two of those years continued as pastor of St. Olaf Lutheran Church on the north side.

There were nine children in the Harbo family: Mathilda, Helen, Harold, George, Leif, Alf, Rolf, Erling and Anker. The family lived in the north half of Morton Hall on the southeast corner of the Augsburg block most of those years. And for most of that time Dr. and Mrs. J. O. Evjen lived in the south half with their four sons and two daughters.

It could be mentioned, too, that Rev. E. P. Harbo, the father, was the first president of the Lutheran Free Church, serving from 1897-99. Later on he served in similar capacity from 1901-03 and 1907-09.

Anker Harbo graduated from Augsburg Academy (high school) in 1927 and from Augsburg College in 1931.

His brother Leif was interim president of Augsburg College, 1962-63, after a long career in public education.

Anker Harbo's wife is from Landa, N. Dak., and the couple has one son, a dentist in New York City, but living in New Jersey; and two daughters, one in New York and the other in Bay City, Mich.

His hobbies are upholstering furniture, auto tune-up and house painting.

But it was that desire to get involved in some phase of church work for Christ that led Anker Harbo to our seminary where he audits some classes and takes others for credit, while he awaits further leading of the Lord.

16. Peter replied, in verse 38, proclaiming the way of salvation in four steps.

(a) Name them:

(b) Is there a more modern or better way? 4:12; 16:30, 31

Repent ye! was the cry uttered by the prophets of old. John the Baptist and Jesus began their teaching with it, and Peter continued with the same message. The results were marvelous for three thousands souls were added to the church that day. "Souls are renewed only by the Spirit of the living God" (E. R. Erdman).

17. Luke records that the disciples continued steadfastly, v. 42. In what ways?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.

18. Why did the newly formed church grow?

19. There is a wonderful Gospel promise in this second chapter, recorded also in Joel 2. What is it?

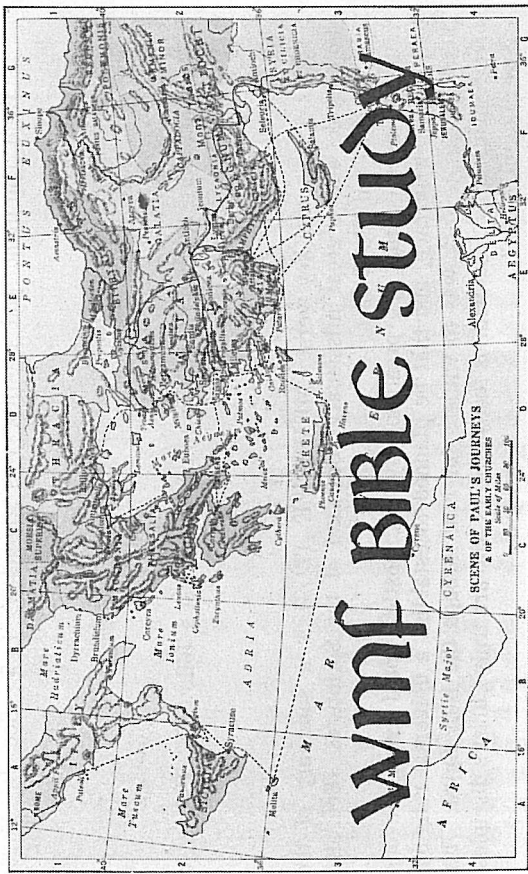
20. What was the Holy Spirit doing in these chapters? Has He spoken to you, as you studied in preparing this lesson? Have you been challenged, by the renewal of your heart and mind, to go forth into your congregation, determined to be "a vessel fit for the Master's use?"

Come, Holy Spirit, heavenly Dove,
With all Thy quick'ning power,
Kindle a flame of sacred love,
In these cold hearts of ours.

Come, Holy Spirit, heavenly Dove,
With all Thy quick'ning power,
Come, shed abroad a Savior's love,
And that shall kindle ours.

(Issac Watts)

Oh, how we need the Savior's love to kindle our hearts and set them aflame for service!



Lesson 1

January, 1973

STUDIES IN THE BOOK OF ACTS A CALL TO SERVICE

In this study of the Book of Acts we will learn how the work of carrying the Gospel to the whole world was begun. Acts tells how this Good News was brought from Jerusalem to Rome by the rapid growth of the Christian Church. The book was written by Luke, who, in his Gospel, related what Christ "began to do" on earth. In Acts he shows what Christ continued to do by the might of the Holy Spirit. It is a book of doctrine put into practice, portraying what man can do in the power and authority of the Spirit. His name is mentioned several times. Look for evidence of His work in every lesson. "Ye shall be my witnesses" is the theme of the book.

Why study Acts? Because it is a history of the founding and growth of the early Christian Church. So, as we read and study it, we will be better equipped to understand our own congregations, and our part and responsibility toward them in all phases of their endeavors. Let us face each lesson prayerfully, so that the Holy Spirit, Who has recorded the chapters, may make them clear to our minds and hearts.

Read Chapter 1 (at home)

1. In the opening scene Jesus was still here on earth. He remained here for forty days after His resurrection, and of what did he speak during those days?

2. What command and promise was given? v. 4, 5. (See Jn. 15:26)
3. For what purpose did John the Baptist baptize? (Matt. 3:11)

4. What was uppermost in the minds of Christ's followers? (See also verse 3)

Acts 1:8 is the key verse. MEMORIZE IT! It is a summary of the whole book, and a great missionary command of the Scriptures. (See also Matt. 28:19-20 and Mk. 16:15.)

Jesus stressed that the preaching by the apostles would extend beyond their own Jewish race, and that he planned to establish a universal religion. Their immediate task was to witness for him through the Holy Spirit. This same responsibility rests with us today; for all who are truly Christ's disciples. Are we mindful of this?

5. Note the manner of Christ's ascension. (For further reference, see Matt. 28:16-20 and Lk. 24:50-53)

- (a) What claim did Jesus make and what comforting promise was given?
- (b) What did the angels say?

6. Verses 12-14 tell of the expectant church. (See also Matt. 26:18 and Lk. 24:33) Where did the disciples meet and what did they do?

7. Note how tactful Peter, the spokesman, was in addressing the group. Re-read verses 16-20. Mention is made of Judas. A silence must have fallen over the group when his name was referred to.

- (a) What was the immediate issue? v. 22
- (b) What must his qualifications be?
- (c) How was the choice made? Who was chosen?

Read Chapter 2 (at home)

Pentecost was the most popular feast day of the Jewish year, and people from everywhere came to celebrate this "Day of First-Fruits" or "Harvest" festival. On this particular Pentecost Day the promise of the coming of the Holy Spirit was fulfilled. The disciples were prepared through prayer. People from every known country had gathered in Jerusalem. The stage was set and the time was ripe for the birth of the Christian Church.

8. (a) Another name is given the Holy Spirit; what is it? (Jn. 14:6 and 16:7)

- (b) What had Jesus promised concerning the Holy Spirit? (Jn. 14:17)
- (c) What three things would the Holy Spirit do? (Jn. 14:26 and 15:26)

9. What were the disciples to do? v. 8 (See Jn. 15:27) This was not the first appearance of the Holy Spirit. He was from the beginning with God and with the people of God. Henceforth he was to work with the truth about the crucified, risen and ascended Son of God, the Lord Jesus Christ. The Church was to become the vehicle for sounding forth this divine message as it would witness for the Christ, through the power of the Holy Spirit.

10. What did Jesus promise that the Comforter would do? (Jn. 16:8-10)
 - (a) Why?
 - (b) Why?
 - (c) Why?

11. What is the Holy Spirit called in Jn. 16:13-14 and what more can He do?

12. Describe the entrance of the Holy Spirit, as told in v. 2.

13. How did this experience affect the disciples (v. 4) and the multitudes (v. 6-8)?

The ability to speak in tongues was a talent given for this particular occasion. It was a means of witnessing to the multitudes of every tongue and nation in words that could be understood by all.

14. Verses 14-41 record Peter's first sermon. Again he is diplomatic and courteous. He refutes an accusation and quotes from the Prophet Joel, 2:28-29.

What is the accusation and of what did Joel speak?

15. Read Peter's sermon at home. What charge did Peter bring against his hearers, and what was their reaction to this? v. 26, 27

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