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No. 25

# *LUTHERAN*

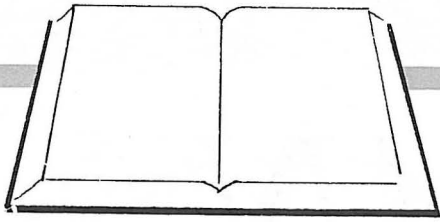
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Containing the 1970 Index

*Down a Winter Lane*

Roger C. Huebner, D.D.S.



## According to the Word

### LITTLE CHILDREN HAVE THE PRIORITY Matt. 18:1-11

The last part of our text deals with the great and vital concern of heaven for the little children. They are mentioned at least six times in this passage. Christ is concerned about them, the angels are concerned about them, and, Jesus says, My Father is concerned about them.

The disciples did not only misunderstand Christ when He spoke about the way to true greatness in His kingdom, but they misunderstood entirely His and heaven's appraisal of the little children.

In Mark 10:13-16, we read about some mothers who brought their little ones to Jesus, "and the disciples rebuked them. But when Jesus saw it, he was moved with indignation, and said unto them, Suffer the little children to come unto me; forbid them not: for unto such belongeth the kingdom of God. Verily I say unto you, Whosoever shall not receive the kingdom of God as a little child, he shall in no wise enter therein. And he took them in his arms, and blessed them, laying his hands upon them."

The disciples thought the adults should have the right-of-way, but Jesus said No. The children have the priority. That has not been changed. It is the same today.

Please note what Christ says in verse 10 of our text: For I say unto you, that in heaven their angels do always behold the face of my Father which is in heaven. The little children are so precious, so important, that each one has a guardian angel. Jesus says, My Father in heaven is keeping pretty close watch on what you parents are doing to the little children he has entrusted to you.

He is pronouncing the severest judgment upon the one who offends, leads astray, or causes them to stumble and fall. He says it would be better for him that a millstone were hanged about his neck and that he were drowned in the depth of the sea.

#### How do a father and mother become an offence to their little ones?

1. **By depriving them of being reared in a Christian home.** By Christian home, I mean where there are daily devotions, with the reading of God's word, prayer, and a godly life.

2. **By neglecting to bring them to church for religious instruction.** J. Edgar Hoover says: "America used to be a Christian nation. But now it is fast becoming a pagan nation. Seventy-six per cent (76%) of the children of our nation are without any religious instruction. And we are now reaping the awful consequences of this neglect."

Our church is located in a commu-

nity where there are lots of unchurched people. I go from house to house, read and pray. After I have called on some 10 times, maybe they start to rub their sleepy eyes and ask, "What is this all about?" If I can't get through to the parents, I generally get through to the children, and they start to work on the parents.

3. **By your example.** Social drinking is America's greatest curse. Some even professing Christians serve alcoholic beverages at their parties in the home, and many teenagers get their first glass there, and later become drunken drivers and murderers on the highways. Alcoholic drinks should never be found in a Christian home. Then some father, yes, even mothers pollute the air in the home with nicotine smoke. What an example for the children!

Lastly, Christ mentions the awfulness of sin, and the terrible, eternal consequences of sin. He speaks about your hand (sinful deeds), your foot (sinful walk), your eye (the lust of the eye). If you are tempted to yield to any sin, **cut it off, pluck it out**, even if it hurt as much as if you cut your hand and foot off, or plucked your eye out. Separate yourself from it, before it separates you and your children from God's everlasting salvation.

Lars Stalsbrotten

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# YESTERDAY, TODAY, TOMORROW

Lay Pastor Rodney Stueland  
Newfolden, Minnesota

(Please read first Philippians 3:12-21)

These are the three divisions of time: the past, the present and the future. Everyone has a past and without doubt there are many things you remember, both good and bad. But in Paul's testimony here he reminds us that we are not to, nor can we, live in the past but must face the present and the future.

A Christian is one who has gone through the narrow door spoken of in Matt. 7:13-14, and yet he realizes that as essential as it is to have a right beginning, this is not the end in itself. In the spiritual life there are many seducing spirits, alluring attractions and seemingly legitimate causes and reasons which might cause a born-again believer to go astray from the Lord. Thus, at the close of one year and on the threshold of another, it is a good time, and should behoove each of us, to stop and take close inventory of where we are spiritually. When the Psalmist asks the Lord to try and search him, he meant for the Lord to take more than a quick shallow look; but to search deeply into his life. This inventory, of course, must be done much more often than on a yearly basis.

Earlier in this same chapter Paul shares his personal testimony and reminds us that a person does not become a Christian by a certain amount of do's and don't's, for life only comes by birth. Make no mistake, you will not become a child of God nor ever earn Heaven in just following in the footsteps of Jesus! Life comes by birth and this is the only way into God's family, being born again. It is they "which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of men, but of God" (John 1:13). Man can reach the moon but not the Throne of Grace, outside the calling of God. Salvation is in the Lord Jesus Christ only. Trusting in anyone or anything else, regardless of how good

it may seem to be, but not in the blood-atonement of Jesus as your own personal refuge, you will go eternally lost. God has no grandchildren!

But you cannot live on the experience of your personal meeting at the time of your conversion as a basis of salvation today, but it must be, "how is my relationship with Him today, just now?" Herein is where we need to take close inventory as individuals and congregations. We can have the form, words and mechanics and yet lack the indwelling presence of the Holy Spirit. Such was the case of the Laodicean Church. There is in this letter to Laodicea no reprimanding that they have taken in heresy, liberalism or neo-orthodoxy, but that in their activities and business the Savior was pushed aside and the members never even noticed it and so Jesus is seeking for readmittance. Friend, how about in your life and congregation, what position does Jesus occupy? If a Christian looks like the world and lives like the world, he will be judged with the world! The Cross of Christ divides and thus it makes a difference on which side you are! With the Cross of Christ there is a distinct identity and in following Him the world will hate you. Christian, in these perilous times, are you following closely or with Peter of old, afar off, and compromising with the world? Beware, for compromise always precedes losing out with God!

Yes, as we take close inventory in the light of the Word, we will find that there is often much excess baggage which must be cut asunder in order to run the race properly. We may expect great advances in the "form of godliness" in these last days and, if possible, deceiving the very elect. These evil spirits will do their utmost to injure, mislead, confuse and depress the children of the Lord. That is, those having a "form of godliness," but denying the power thereof will seduce others. We are experiencing a surprising lack of desire and energy

Godward, a spiritual deadness, a mental heaviness, lethargy of soul, an alarming desire for forbidden things, along with wanting to be entertained into heaven! Satan will no doubt bring a mysterious power to bear on our minds and wills which will make it exceedingly difficult to walk closely with God and make it very easy to live in the flesh; but let us be strong in the Lord. Preach the Word in season and out of season. Preach the law so that it will slay and not enslave, for where the law is not preached, sin will move in!

Whatever are the privileges and obligations resting upon the church in general, they are also true of the individual members. Every Christian congregation has been appointed to be a light in the world to reflect the holiness and love of God and in this manner to guide sinners to the Savior!

If such does not reflect the light and has not set itself apart from the sin-darkened world round about, it does not merit bearing the name of a Christian congregation. Those who are members of Christ's true congregation are to bring warmth and light to a cold and darkened world. But if there be anyone who confesses to be a true disciple of Christ and does not endeavor to live with Christ and walk in the light of God's Word, he will be like a stone in the fire. He will give no light and his example obstructs and darkens the light which normally should be reflected by him on others. Every Christian is commissioned to be a light in the world? Are you a live coal or a rock? Can others see Christ in you? Is your life filled with leaves, but not the fruit which the Master is looking for?

Paul, too, as he shares his testimony here, was faced with discouragements. Discouragement is one of the most clever tools of Satan that he uses on a Christian. And certainly, as we look into the future, in this world, it is anything but pleasant. Yet,

Paul reminds us not to rejoice in our circumstances, **but to rejoice in Christ!**

Basically our soul's enemy comes in three forms: as a roaring lion, as a wolf in sheep's clothing and as an angel of light. He is not hard to detect in such forms as godless communism, liberalism and modernism, but much more difficult and subtle when he comes close to the truth that sets the sinner free. For example, in a day when people should have burning hearts, they have itching ears and want a muffled sound instead of a clear sound of the trumpet. People want to be entertained into heaven instead of dying to themselves. People would rather turn over a new leaf than crucify the old adam. And how tragic it is to see even professing Christians falling for such. Such is definitely another spirit, another gospel and another Christ, who is not of God! But remember, back in the New Testament days when a cross was laid upon the shoulders of an individual it meant separation from the world and death to self. God's means and method are still the same for our day, which is recorded in the Bible. Souls will not be entertained into heaven, for Jesus did not come to help sinners but to save lost sinners. Yes, we must share the Living Word in love, but remember that love makes no parades, **nor is it mussy**, but is firm and definite. **CALVARY'S LOVE REJOICETH NOT IN INIQUITY, BUT REJOICETH IN THE TRUTH.** Such love moves into action.

A true watchman or prophet must warn the flock of the impending dangers and of the lurking wolves in sheepskins! **A PASTOR WHO DOES NOT WARN HIS FLOCK IS NOT WORTHY OF THE TITLE OR POSITION THAT HE CARRIES AND IS SLEEPING AT THE SWITCHBOARD!** Isaiah speaks of those who do not warn as dumb dogs that can't bark! Martin Luther says, "A teacher who is silent about errors and still wants to be a true teacher is worse than an obvious fanatic, and with his hypocrisy does greater damage than a heretic." He goes on to say such are not to be trusted.

Even as we see the handwriting on the wall that the Lord's coming is not far off, He yet, as our Command-

er-in-Chief, gives us the implicit orders to **watch and pray and OCCUPY TILL I COME!**

A Christian is to burn his bridges behind him and to press on as there is no covering in the armor the Lord provides, in Ephesians 6, for a place of retreat. But often Satan in his subtleness causes us to ponder on the **tomorrow** while **today** leaves her tracks! What you are doing and going to do for Jesus **today** is the most important!

Now as we stand at the threshold of a New Year, may we realize that the only way to wisely enter this year is by having Jesus as the Pilot of our lives. It could easily be that the Lord will return for His blood-bought own who know Him as their personal Savior this year. If so, provided we are walking in the Light, this blessed event will not take us by surprise. We must be looking for and rejoicing in this blessed truth or else we will be prone to become quitters instead of plodders.

Yes, the only way to be prepared for this New Year, and whenever the Lord's coming should be, is to be prepared every day! One of the most effective ways Satan has to quiet a person's conscience is to agree with the person that he needs a Savior someday, but not today! **REMEMBER, YOU MAY PASS AWAY FROM THIS PHYSICAL LIFE UNSAVED BUT NOT UNLOVED!** For God so loved YOU... Please reread Philip-  
pians 3:12-21.

**PRAISE**

Praise be to the Father  
Whose loving-kindness never  
Fails us nor leaves us;  
In Him we cannot falter.

Praise be to the Father  
Whose patience is unending.  
How greatly He rewards them  
Who meet Him at the altar.

Colleen Olson

(Colleen is a 1970 graduate of AFLBS. She is currently a student at Minot State College in North Dakota. This poem was written for a hymnology class.)

**REV. J. R. GRONSETH DIED  
IN JULY**

Rev. James R. Gronseth, 79, passed away on July 16 in Minneapolis, Minn. He was at one time the pastor of Calvary Lutheran Church, Everett, Wash. For the past 49 years he had served Rosedale Lutheran Church in south Minneapolis. His first pastorate was at Stephen, Minn. Mr. Gronseth was ordained in 1916 upon his graduation from the United Church Seminary. In 1918 he joined the ministerium of the Lutheran Free Church. He had a B.A. degree from Augsburg College in Minneapolis.

James Gronseth was united in marriage to Julia Maria Grandstrand of Stephen in 1918. She survives him as do the couples' children.

Pastor Gronseth was born at Brandt, S. Dak.

**ASSOCIATION OF FREE LUTHERAN CONGREGATIONS**

**Budget Receipts**

**February 1, 1970 to November 30, 1970**

	<u>Proposed Yearly Budget</u>	<u>Current Budget</u>	<u>Total Received</u>
General Fund	\$40,500.00	\$33,750.00	\$23,121.21
Schools	59,000.00	49,166.67	34,666.45
Foreign Missions	35,500.00	29,583.33	42,002.92
Home Missions	25,000.00	20,833.33	19,501.69
Praise Program	<u>15,000.00</u>	<u>12,500.00</u>	<u>8,582.02</u>
Totals	\$175,000.00	\$145,833.33	127,874.29

Receipts last year at same time—\$110,122.93

One Grand Fellowship—\$1,208.33  
Special Pension Fund—\$272.50  
Library Fund—\$50.00

## THE LUTHERAN AMBASSADOR SCHEDULE FOR 1971

(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 Roslyn, S. Dak.**
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 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 first issue of August is omitted. Copy for the second issue of that month must be in the hands of the Editor two weeks earlier than usual.
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 5 January 19	December 19, 1970 January 2	New Year 200th <b>Ambassador</b>	Yes
February 2 February 16	January 16 January 30	Lent	Yes
March 2 March 16 March 30	February 13 February 27 March 13	Lent Lent Easter	Yes
April 13 April 27	March 27 April 10	Mother's Day	Yes
May 11	April 24	Pre-Conference, Pentecost and Memorial Day	Yes
May 25	May 8	Pre-Conference	
June 8	May 22	Women's Missionary Federation	Yes
June 22	June 5		
July 6 July 20	June 19 July 3	Conference Reports Conference Reports	Yes
August 17 August 31	July 17 August 14	Family Bible Camp Youth	Yes
September 14 September 28	August 28 September 11	Stewardship Pensions	Yes
October 12 October 26	September 25 October 9	Reformation Parish Education	Yes
November 9 November 23	October 23 November 6	Thanksgiving Advent	Yes
December 7 December 21	November 20 December 4	Christmas End of Year	Yes
January 4, 1972	December 18	New Year	

PLEASE SAVE FOR REFERENCE!

# WOMEN for Christ

## THE CALL TO NINEVEH (1970) by Mrs. James Knutson, Willmar, Minn.

It was as I listened to Student Pastor Alvin Grothe speak on this text, that I decided to use it as my topic for the *Ambassador*. He explained how Jonah was very human when he ran from God's call to preach to Nineveh.

How many times this is also true of us, we run from our call from God. What about when we have a perfect opportunity to witness about God's love? Aren't we afraid of losing face or popularity much of the time?

God needs you and me to carry out tasks in the church or outside, by showing His love in helping our fellowman. Many times we are so taken up with ourselves, our families, and our own interests that we do not even desire to fulfill our mission of teaching Sunday School, taking part in

Bible Study, or even praying for a lost soul. I John 3:16 states: "Hereby perceive we the love of God, because He laid down His life for us: and we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren."

God has given us all talents to use for His glory whether it is by singing, speaking, or creativity. Do we use them? I Corinthians 12 talks about spiritual gifts. May we be vessels through which God can work.

We are also called to pay particular attention to missions. Matthew 28:19 reads, "Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost." Dollar-support as well as prayer-support is a very important consideration for missions. Even cutting out used postage stamps which can be converted into cash and then into the printed word, is a humble way to do mission work. Where mis-

sions are concerned, nothing done for the Lord is too small or too insignificant to be acceptable to Him, and used by Him.

Yes, it is true, we may never have been called to preach to a great city like Nineveh; however, we may have been called to teach a young receptive child about Jesus, or to witness to the fellow next door who sees no hope for eternity!

As 1970 draws to a close, let's examine ourselves and resolve to answer "OUR CALL" by presenting our bodies as living sacrifices. "Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labor is not in vain in the Lord" (I Corinthians 15: 58).

Mrs. James Knutson, Willmar, Minn.

## CORRECTION

In the printing process one of the paragraph's in the editorial "The ALC Convention Actions" (Nov. 24, 1970) became garbled. The correct paragraph is as follows:

**National Council of Churches.** Contrary to our prediction several years ago, the ALC did not vote membership in the NCC in 1970. It did not refrain, however, because of any upsurge of conservative spirit. The temper of the church seems to be that it will be along in the formation of a new council of churches in the next few years, one that in all probability will include the Roman Catholic Church.



Four women were honored recently for their faithful service in Ny Stavanger Lutheran Church of Buxton, N. Dak., and in the Ladies Aid, by being awarded Honorary Membership pins for the Women's Missionary Federation. The ladies are, left to right, Mrs. Mabel Finstrom, Mrs. Anton Rogenes, Mrs. Minnie Berkness and Mrs. Karina Olson. A special program was given in their honor and lunch and fellowship were enjoyed by all.



The August meeting of the homebuilders group of Green Lake Lutheran at Spicer, Minn., gathered at the parsonage home of Rev. and Mrs. Leslie Galland for a steak fry (left). Also pictured (right) is the group enjoying a nature hike near Swift Falls for their September meeting. Other outings for the year included snowmobiling, bowling, swimming and a progressive supper.



# MEET

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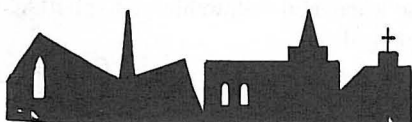
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# Churches

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# OF OUR

# FELLOWSHIP



## TODAY: BETHANY LUTHERAN CHURCH, SEBEKA, MINN.

Shortly after its arrival in this community, a small group of pioneer families banded together and organized a congregation, in the summer of 1895. The name given the congregation was the Hay Creek Lutheran Church and a constitution was adopted. Rev. Halvor Jensen came to the community from time to time, and Norwegian

language services were held in the homes of members.

Charter members were the following families: Jens Johnson, John Johnson, Ole Anderson, Lars Larson, John Wickstrom, Halvor Westby, John Olson and Peter Olson.

It was planned to have a place of worship built on the O. T. Lee farm. Logs were hauled there in preparation for the building, but it was then decided to change the location so as to be nearer the majority of the members. The acre of land where we are now situated was then donated by Halvor Westby, and the logs were moved. The main auditorium of the church, built in 1899, was dedicated the same year. Carl Amundson was pastor at the time of building and continued until 1912. Pastors who served until 1927 were Edmund Holland, John Paulson, Chr. Ytrehus, John Skonard, John Grindland, Olaf Braseth and H. M. Bueide.

In 1927 the constitution of the congregation was revised and translated into English. The name of the congregation was changed to Bethany Lutheran Free Church. In 1928 while Rev. Bueide was pastor the old church was torn down and a new structure was built. Dedication services were held in November, 1929. Pastor Bueide served the church until 1934. The following pastors have served since 1934: Edwin Peterson, 1934-38; Carl Berg, 1938-43; O. J. Haukeness,

1943-49; N. A. Nelson, 1949-53; A. Halvorson, 1958-63; Aage Carlson, 1963-66; Charles Eidum, 1966-69; Mr. Ralph Tjelta, 1969-70; and Mr. Fred Carlson, 1970-.

The church was completely redecorated in 1970 for the seventy-fifth anniversary. In August, 1970, Bethany Lutheran Free Church voted unanimously to join the Association of Free Lutheran Congregations.

Bethany Lutheran is located in the village of Blue Grass in the center of central Minnesota's Wadena county. Bethany serves a large area of people who make their living by farming. The largest town near Bethany is Wadena, fourteen miles away. Four families drive from Wadena to attend Sunday morning worship and Sunday school. Mid-week Bible study is attended by people from Sebeka as well as the members of Bethany.

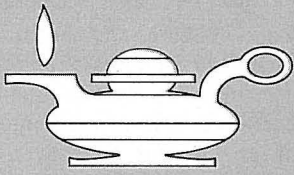
Though the church is located in the country, the people of Bethany feel that to drive from neighboring towns is not a burden in today's age of travel. Unfortunately, the Air Force base at Wadena has closed, and the congregation has lost members of the Air Force who attended services. Nonetheless, Bethany feels that where the Word of God is preached in its truth and purity, hungry souls will come to hear the Word. The congregation also believes that God is the author and sustainer of His work at Bethany.



Bethany Lutheran Church, Blue Grass



The interior of Bethany Lutheran



# SCHOOL NEWS

## AFLBS HOMECOMING 1970

As each person comes to deal honestly with the question "What will I do with Christ?", he is also faced with the fact that Christ wants all of him. This means a life totally yielded; a life of following "In His Steps."

This challenge was the central theme for the AFLBS 1970 Homecoming. The verse that was chosen for

the weekend was I Peter 2:21, which was also the basis for the film shown on Friday night, "In His Steps." Saturday morning, Pastor Laurel Udden led a Bible Study, in which he spoke about one of the most heart-warming homecomings—the return of the prodigal son. Andy Anderson conducted an informal time of singing and sharing. Many were able to tell how the Lord was using them and blessing them.

The alumni proved to be mightier than the present students by taking the afternoon football game, 14 to 6.

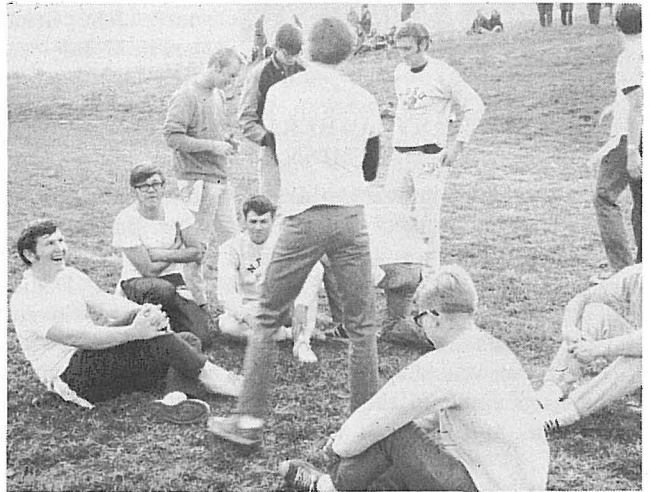
The Homecoming banquet was held at 6:00 that evening with Dr. Iver Olson as the speaker. An alumni trio and the male quartet provided the special music. A very delicious turkey dinner was served. Following the banquet, there was a song fest led by Mr. Don Rodvold. This included the Bible School choir, choral club, Gospel teams and special numbers by alumni. For the morning worship on Sunday, a large choir consisting of past and present students sang "The King Of Love My Shepherd Is," and Pastor R. Snipstead presented the message.

Homecoming weekend was a time for wonderful fellowship and spiritual renewal.

Joy Guldseth



Newly elected officers of the Alumni are: President, Richard Anderson; Vice President, Eldon Hermunslie; Treasurer, Louis Falk; Editor, Lynda Hendrickson; Secretary, Jean Presteng Olson.



Members of the alumni team rest during half-time for the victory push. The alumni won the game against the students, 14-6.

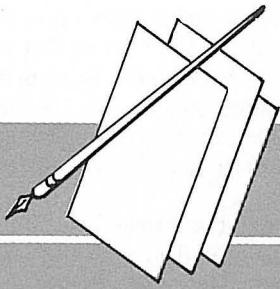


Richard Anderson led the singing during the fellowship hour.



Returning alumni register for homecoming.





## EDITORIALS

### THANK YOU, PASTOR STALSBROTEN

With this final issue of 1970, we conclude the series of devotional articles by Rev. Lars Stalsbrotten under the title "According to the Word." Known for his writings in the *Ambassador* previously, his many friends have appreciated his clear and warm-hearted messages in each paper. He has written about the Christian life in a practical way and has also sounded the call to come to Jesus for salvation and life which is life indeed.

Pastor Stalsbrotten is a man who hasn't found time to retire, though now in his 83rd year. At the present time he is organizing a congregation for the Association in the Eugene, Oregon, area, where he lives. In a communication in November he told of having 16 students in his confirmation class. A Hallowe'en youth party where 30 were expected brought out 70 young people. The devotional program which closed the evening ended in a prayer meeting with quite a few taking part. Pastor Stalsbrotten wrote: "This is unusual. I never had an experience like this in all my ministry. Think of it, a revival starting at a Hallowe'en party!"

Thank you, Pastor Stalsbrotten, for your writings over the past six months. God bless the messages and may He bless the work at Spencer Creek.

The writer for the "According to the Word" devotional series for the first half of 1971 will be Rev. John Abel, missionary to Brazil presently on furlough. Since he and his family hope to return to the field next summer, and the prospects for that look promising, this will be his last chance to do this writing for us for the next few years. We are glad that he consented to take on this added work in the midst of the press of many duties.

Pastor Abel is serving St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Fargo, N. Dak., commuting from Fergus Falls, Minn., where he is a teacher this year in Hillcrest Academy, a high school of the Church of the Lutheran Brethren.

His first article will appear in the next issue of the *Ambassador*. Our readers will look forward to that and subsequent messages from his pen and heart.

### THE GENERAL FUND

In recent issues of *The Lutheran Ambassador* some

special attention has been given to various areas of Association work—World Missions, Schools, Home Missions and the Praise Program. They are all worthy causes and deserving of every attention that can be given them.

Today we must turn our thoughts to still another segment of our work together, one which if it is not faithfully supported would mean the downfall of all the other programs. We refer to the General Fund.

The basic responsibility for co-ordinating the joint or common work of the congregations of the AFLC lies with the Co-ordinating Committee and the constitutional officers of the church, particularly the president. Other major agencies of the church share in the maintaining of the business office, but the greatest burden falls to the General Fund.

Some of our readers will remember the gradual transition which has taken place in the office set-up in Minneapolis until today the business office and president's office are located in what was formerly the caretaker's apartment of the main building. It is a very attractive and serviceable arrangement. The business office is in its third location and this should be permanent for the foreseeable future.

Several smaller areas of our joint work are operated out of monies from the General Fund. Largest of them is the Department of Parish Education with a budget of \$6700. The other Boards dependent upon the General Fund for their financial needs are the Stewardship Board, the Board of Pensions and the Youth Board. In contributing to the General Fund all of these endeavors are aided.

The Co-ordinating Committee and the president have already been mentioned. They have the special responsibility of guiding Association affairs between annual conferences. For that reason regular meetings are necessary, involving a certain amount of travel expense. The president is involved in considerable travelling to visit the churches, dictating other outlays for travel costs, in addition to his salary.

*The Lutheran Ambassador* receives a subsidy from the General Fund, just as it does from the other major agencies of the Association. In 1969-70 that amounted to \$3,000 from the General Fund. The church paper is on more solid footing now than in earlier years when the General Fund had the ultimate responsibility for the solvency of the *Ambassador*. It still does and would be called upon to guarantee the existence of this paper if the need arose.

Which brings us to this final point. The General Fund also acts as the real "Miscellaneous Fund" of the church. For instance, the Family Bible Camp, the Winter Bible Conference and the Annual Conference are all Association meetings. If they pay their own way, well and good. If they do not, the General Fund would assume responsibility, if at all possible. If any area of the common work suffers, the General Fund will help, if it can.

The causes of World and Home Missions and the Schools are appealing. It isn't so hard to create enthusiasm for them. But who wants to get dramatic about a General Fund? We close with this reminder, though, as we began. If the General Fund budget is not supported faithfully, that

is, adequately, the entire mission of the Association cannot thrive and might even fail.

Do not forget the General Fund when your congregation makes its contributions to Association work for 1970-71. A look at any monthly progress report from the treasurer's office will show the real need which exists.

### THE DESCENDING YEAR

"A year again is now descending into the bosom of the past." Thus wrote Johann J. Rambach and what he said long ago is true of 1970. We are now almost a full year into the Seventies.

1970 was neither the best nor the worst of years. It was a year filled with problems internationally and domestically, but that has come to be a way of life for us. In the midst of problems, some things didn't develop as badly as they might have. The summer wasn't as "long and hot" as some feared it might be. And in the fall the campuses were much more peaceful than could have been the case. The United States became more environment-conscious than it has ever been and a growing drug menace cast its shadow over the land, bringing chills of terror to many hearts.

In the Association of Free Lutheran Congregations, 1970 was a year of growth and consolidation. The Bible School and Seminary have good enrollments. The number of congregations in the fellowship grows steadily even if not spectacularly. A new missionary couple has begun actual service on the field in Brazil. Financial contributions grow from year to year and in 1970 a threatened financial crisis was greatly eased by an encouraging upswing in donations in the late summer and fall months. Much of the increase was to be found in the world missions area, however.

Our thanks and praise go first of all to the Lord God for His benefits and mercies during another year. Great is His faithfulness. Then appreciation is expressed to one another within the fellowship which is called the Association of Free Lutheran Congregations. Working together, dependent upon one another, Christ's kingdom has been and can continue to be extended even through us.

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### CONCORDIA PAPER SUSPENDED

Dr. Joseph Knutson, president of Concordia College in Moorhead, Minn., suspended publication of the college

newspaper, the **Concordian**, on Dec. 7, and dismissed the editor.

Dr. Knutson cited the printing of an abortion clinic ad from New York and an article on sex, which he felt no respectable newspaper anywhere would have printed on the front page, as did the offending **Concordian**. He also declared that, on the advice of an attorney, the abortion ad, which appeared on an interior page, was against Minnesota law.

These two items were the straws that broke the camel's back at Concordia College, a four-year liberal arts college of the American Lutheran Church. We have followed this particular college newspaper for a while and have sensed a strong disdain in the editorial policy for the heritage and tradition of the school. It then becomes a question of whether the college newspaper has the right to continue as an official voice for the school. At Concordia there will now be a series of discussions among student leaders, faculty, administration and perhaps others to study the role of the campus newspaper in the college's life. This is a very good idea.

In college after college, the newspapers have fallen into the hands of elements to the left of center. While such students must have equal right with others to reasonably present their views, they are poor spokesmen to represent the college community. We think that at Concordia, and at many other schools, the majority of students would be willing to go back to the day when the college newspapers didn't try to be sensational, were not so antagonistically anti-establishment and through which criticism was made and accepted as among friends and for the good of the community.

We can sympathize with the administration of Concordia on this score. Freedom of the press there must be, but any house organ must live within some bounds and Concordia, rightfully, is going to decide what they shall be and find an editor whose conscience will permit him to live within them.

**Note:** Since the above editorial was written, the **Concordian** at Concordia College has been discontinued. This does not rule out, however, an eventual resumption of the paper. Also, it is possible that one or more unofficial newspapers at the college may appear. The **Augsburg Echo** at Augsburg College in Minneapolis, Minn., also carried the abortion ad from New York and that issue of the **Echo** was held up from being mailed to outside subscribers.

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# Letters

## TO THE EDITOR

### AFLBS YEARBOOK NEEDS HELP

The Association Free Lutheran Bible School puts out a yearbook each year. This book contains pictures of students, faculty, and many of the

activities that have taken place during the course of the year. In order to put out such a book, it has become necessary to ask our churches to help in the financing. We would very much appreciate your willingness to contribute to our book, much or little.

Please join us in prayer that many will respond to this letter, because we know it will be a good yearbook with your help.

Thank you for helping us.

Yearbook Staff

P.S.

Send contributions to:

Yearbook

Association Free Lutheran Bible School

3110 East Medicine Lake Blvd.

Minneapolis, Minnesota 55427

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"For therein is revealed a righteousness of God from faith unto faith: as it is written, But the righteous shall live by faith." Rom. 1:17

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