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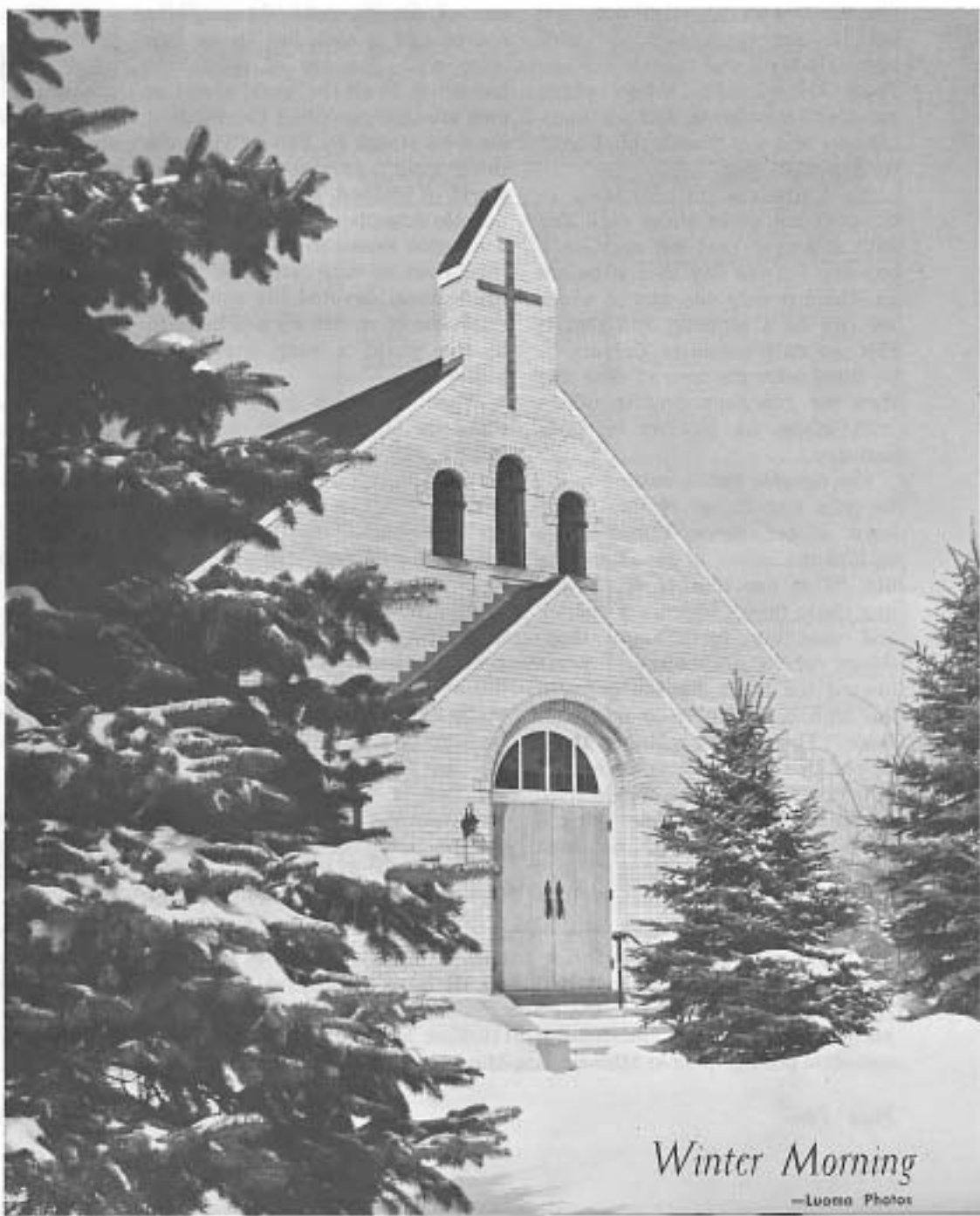
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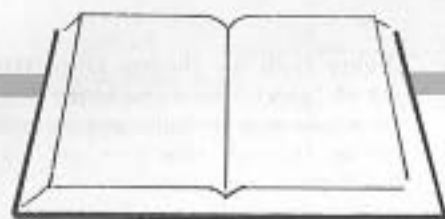
LUTHERAN

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Winter Morning

—LUCAS PHOTOS



According to the Word

PRESSING TOWARD THE GOAL

Philippians 3:13-16

As another year has come to its close, we look back and try to evaluate the past, and it is with mixed feelings. There have been times of trials, sickness and sorrow, as well as the mountaintop experiences. We thank God for the past year for "He hath done all things well." We thank Him that He has not dealt with us after our sins but He has dealt with us with lovingkindness and tender mercies. There are so many things which we could enumerate, but we humbly bow and say "thank you, Lord," for the past year.

We Christians do not dwell in the past but move along each day with a prayer that we may be a blessing for the day that is before us. There is only one way in which we can be a blessing and that is that we daily come to Calvary to be filled with the love of God and then our cup runs over to others with whom we journey on life's pathway.

The Apostle Paul's writing to his favorite church, at Philippi, in a burst of confidence, seems to let us into the secret of his victorious life. "This one thing I do, 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." There is something in those verses that catches our attention. It is the element of whole-hearted concentration. "This one thing I do"—not a dozen things, not even two—but "this one thing I do." No life can be very great or hap-

py or very useful without the element of concentration. Everyone should have a work to do and know what it is and do it with all his power. Decision is energy and energy is power and power is confidence and confidence to a remarkable degree contributes to success. Many a man has failed in life, not from the lack of ability, but for the lack of concentration. The whole world is a witness to its power. The day of the "jack-of-all-trades" is passed and a man has to do one thing well. The day of specialists has come. In all the world about us men are understanding the winning element stated by Paul: "This one thing I do," as they turn to the world of science. As we look upon notable scientists the truth of concentration seems to be written into their lives as with letters of living fire. Edison devoted his energy in the realm of electricity and brought to the world a very worthwhile power.

When we come to the highest realm of all, the realm of Christianity, the element of concentration is a must, for no man can serve two masters. One must be our master and Christ stands above all mankind and says, "If you would be my disciple, then I must come first. I must come before father, mother, or dearest loved one of your life. I must come before your business or your property. I must come before your own life. I must be Lord of all or I will not be Lord at all." One of the dangers that we face is to follow Christ half-heartedly. So many give God second place in their lives, and Christ will not stand for that. Concentration is a prime requisite in a

victorious life.

Paul reminds us to forget the things that are behind. We ought to learn to forget our blunders or we will go hobbling along through life. Ebenezer was a field of defeat before it rang with the songs of victory. Then we must forget our losses, our injuries. Many times these injuries are unintentional but we have taken them as if they were meant to hurt us, so we carry a grudge. Pray that God will give grace to forget and show an attitude of Christian love and concern. Then we must forget our success. More men have been spoiled by success than we can begin to measure. There is a danger in success. When Uzziah of old came to his day of remarkable prosperity, then it was that the Bible tells us his heart was lifted up to destruction.

We must forget our sins which we have honestly and with sorrow confessed. The enemy would try to get us under bondage again. If Paul had not learned to forget his sins he would have been crippled until death as he referred to himself as the "chief of sinners."

Think of Paul's anticipation. "I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus." Paul had a forward look. May we have the same aim and purpose in our lives. The past we leave behind—forward we press, toward the goal—to be with Christ. We press forward with confidence in Christ. We do not know the future but Christ holds the future. We say with Paul, Press on, forget the past; explore new dimensions, fix your eyes upon the goal.

—Ernest Langness

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CHRISTMAS GREETINGS FROM BRAZIL

Dear Friends,

"For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The Mighty God, The Everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace" (Isa. 9:6).

Have you ever thought how this world would be if that Child had not been born? Every institution that has arisen for the help and service of the individual has come from the enlightenment of His person through His book, the Bible: democracy, hospitals, the public school, social services, a host of other benefits, but most of all the Christian Church and her great program, *world missions*. How thankful you and I should be this Christmas that unto us a Son is given, and all government ultimately rests on His shoulders. Truly He is to us, who have placed our hand in His by faith, a personal and wonderful friend, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father and the Prince of our Peace.

Perhaps this greeting through the pages of the *Ambassador* will reach you in the after-Christmas issue since we are sending it on the 4th of December and it may not make the publication deadline; however, please accept a big Brazilian "Abraso" (greeting with a pat on the back) with our sincere "Merry and blessed Christmas" to each of you.

We rejoice this Christmas for a past year full of your prayers and His faithfulness, full of your fellowship and His presence. Just a couple of Sundays ago we received 18 adults and several children through baptism into our Central Lutheran Church in Campo Mourao. What a thrill this was, and what a marvelous answer to prayer. We believe the Holy Spirit will now be working in and through their lives to add yet more growth to His work here.

Bible School has just ended. Our students now scatter out among the five churches for the vacation

period. In each place they will be putting into practice their training of the past months. For the first time this year it will not be foreign missionaries conducting the Vacation Bible Schools but rather, national young people. I've said to Ruby that she's really getting off easy this year, but she reminded me that she still has a few things to do around here. Two of the older fellows will spend about two months with me travelling in the churches holding nightly evangelism meetings and I intend to share the preaching with them. Much to do, and seemingly so little time to get over the harvest field. Continue faithfully, then, to carry out His command to "pray to the Lord of the harvest."

Some of you may be somewhat confused as to our address or that of the Knapps when they leave for Brazil. There was a time when our always-slow 'post office' quit functioning altogether, but now they have reorganized, put on more workers, and mail is seemingly coming through, slow but sure; so continue to use the same old address: Caixa Postal 44, Campo Mourao, Parana, Brazil, and always airmail, please.

Much to do this coming year? Yes, more than human effort can resolve, but "His grace is sufficient." Continue your good support to our Association foreign mission effort. We've immediate needs: a home for the new missionaries, a cottage dorm for the girls at Bible School, more classroom space, equipment, student help, etc. But this Christmas our hearts swell with joy and thankfulness to our great Counselor and

Mighty God, for He has given His gift of "grace" each and every day, the whole year through, and He will see us through this new year in His same marvelous way.

From your missionaries in Brazil, desiring a blessed new year to each of you.

Sincerely,
Pastor John Abel,
Ruby and children

REV. HAROLD SCHAFFER RELINQUISHES MISSION POST



Rev. Harold R. Schaffer, mission director of the Association of Free Lutheran Congregations for the past several years, has relinquished that position and has become a pastor in the Christian and Missionary Alliance Church.

He had previously been serving an unaffiliated congregation in DeKalb, Ill., Grace Lutheran. He had also given assistance to the formation of the AFLC congregation in Beloit, Wis., the Lutheran Mission Church.

In his mission post, Mr. Schaffer had played a strategic role in the early mission program of the Association both at home and on



the Brazilian field. In the latter mission he was hampered by a lack of American workers, but at the time of his leaving two new couples were making plans to go to Brazil and a student from that country was studying at the church's seminary in Minneapolis, Minn.

When the Annual Conference of 1968 divided home and world missions work and placed them under separate boards, Mr. Schafer continued as director of the world outreach.

Pastor Schafer gave doctrinal incompatibility as his reason for leaving the clergy roster of the Association.

He is a graduate of Augsburg College and Theological Seminary, Minneapolis, and was ordained into the ministry of the Lutheran Free Church at the Annual Conference of 1953. Other men ordained in that same service in old Trinity Lutheran Church, Minneapolis, were Pastors Richard Snipstead and Raymond Huglen.

Mr. Schafer, a native of Wessington Springs, S. Dak., served LFC parishes at LaMoure, N. Dak., and Hendricks, Minn., before going to DeKalb.



THE GEORGE KNAPP FAMILY. In the front row, left to right, are: Mr. George Knapp, Cida, 11; Carlos, 7; Carol, 9; and Mrs. Knapp. Back Row, Halvor, 14; Karen, 18; Charles, 16; and Calvin, 13.

NEW MISSIONARY FAMILY TO LEAVE FOR BRAZIL IN FEBRUARY

The World Mission Board of the Association of Free Lutheran Congregations announces that Mr. and Mrs. George Knapp, with their family, will leave for the field in Parana, Brazil, in early February. The Knapps are from North Dakota and have had previous mission experi-

ence in Brazil. Mr. Knapp has been studying at Free Lutheran Theological Seminary during the first semester of this school year.

Mr. Knapp is available on a limited basis for deputation work in the next month, preferably on weekends. He may be contacted directly about invitations. Write to him at 3110 E. Medicine Lake Blvd., Minneapolis, Minn. 55427.

QUIET TALKS

III.

Micah 2:13

Pastor Lars Stalsbrotten

I shall never forget the time the Holy Spirit revealed Christ as the waybreaker to me, as the one who would go before me, meet and master all the difficulties. This new revelation revolutionized my whole Christian life and ministry. Before I used to wear myself out in worrying about how I should overcome this difficulty and that difficulty connected with the work of the Lord, I used to stare at these seemingly insurmountable difficulties, like Peter when he looked at the waves, and I sank and sank into the sea of despair. The difficulties became so great, and my Savior

became so small. But that new vision of Christ changed everything. He said to me, "Lars, why are you fretting and worrying about these things? Haven't I called you into my fellowship and into my service? These difficulties you are worrying about are not yours but mine. I am facing them for you. I have all power in heaven and on earth: 'and lo, I am with you always' and all the way, 'even to the end' (Matt. 28:20). All you need to do is to trust me and follow me."

I said, "Thank you, Lord."

My heart was filled to overflowing with "joy unspeakable and full of glory" (1 Pet. 1:8). Such experiences can never be described with words. They have to be experienced.

Is Jesus Christ your King and

Lord? The best way to get rid of your anxieties and worries is to deed everything over to Him. The lawyers advise joint ownership between husband and wife, but there is no such a thing as joint ownership in the kingdom of God. The ownership and lordship of your life must be deeded over to Jesus Christ. Then you will become independent in the true sense of the word. You will not be affected by the ever-changing world, but you will depend only on the never-changing Christ.

Pastor Lindeland in Norway came to visit one of his parishioners. She was an old, saintly lady. I can't recall her name. Anyhow, her son's name was Sven. The pastor said to her, "You must be worrying a lot about how it will go

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MEET the Churches OF OUR FELLOWSHIP



**TODAY: THE HAMPDEN (N. Dak.)
PARISH**

Zoar Lutheran Church

Situated right in Hampden, on the extreme northern edge of Ramsey County, Zoar is another of our churches in the great small grain country of eastern North Dakota. The congregation was organized in April, 1902, in the Lutheran Free Church.

J. O. Arevik was the first pastor, serving from the organization until 1905. Other pastors have been N. I. Harveland, 1904-08; L. C. C. (Ludvig) Pedersen, 1908-10; G. S. Nordberg, 1910-14; P. O. Laurhammer, 1915-25; George Larson, 1925-26; John Hjelmeland, 1927-29; Morris Eggen, 1930-37; Sigurd Berg, 1938-43; Lawrence Rasmussen, 1944-50; Hans Tollefson, 1950-57; George



Zoar Lutheran Church

Amundson, 1958-64; lay pastor Roy Quanrud, one year; student pastor Roger Strom, one year; and Rev. Howard Kjos, 1967—.

The present church was moved into town in 1941. This structure was remodeled in 1952 and again in 1964-65.

About a dozen families were lost to the congregation at the time of the merger of 1963. Those families have since built their own church (ALC) in Hampden.

Two sons of Zoar Lutheran Church are in the Christian ministry. Theodore Berkland is a pastor (ALC) in Baldwin, Wis., and Kenneth Logie is in the Assembly of God Church.

There have been no special times of revival in the history of Zoar Congregation but in every pastor's ministry there have been those who have come to peace with God. "One sows and another reaps."

Zion Lutheran Church

The first baby baptized in Zion Lutheran, Norton Skjerva, is still a member of the church and resides in the community. The baptism date was July 12, 1908. The congregation had been organized earlier that year.

The church building is in the town of Alsen and was built in 1913.

Zion has had the same pastors as Zoar in Hampden. The two congregations have always been in the same parish arrangement. Pastor Howard Kjos is the present pastor.

Two girls from the church went on to become pastors' wives. The



Zion Lutheran Church

former Ruth Apland is now Mrs. Harold Alberg, Galesburg, Ill. Mr. Alberg serves a Mission Covenant congregation. Wanda Severson became Mrs. Hamar Benson. They live in Steele, N. Dak. (ALC).



Pastor Howard Kjos serves the Hampden parish. This is his first parish, having been ordained in 1967 in Fargo, N. Dak. Mr. Kjos is married to the former Dolores Ann Erickson of Sioux City, Ia. The Kjoses have a son Daniel, 3, and a daughter Linnae, 2. Pastor Kjos was raised at Pelican Rapids, Minn., and is a graduate of Free Lutheran Theological Seminary.

Bethany Lutheran Church

Bethany Lutheran, Derrick, has outlived that small town and now gives her address as four and one-half miles west and five and one-half miles north of Edmore.

The Derrick schoolhouse was the first meeting place of the congregation when it was organized in the fall of 1926. The first confirma-

[Continued on page 8]



WOMEN for Christ

CHRISTIANS ARE HAPPY PEOPLE

Mrs. Nordahl Nelson
Bemidji, Minnesota

In I Peter 1:8, we read, "Whom having not seen, ye love; in whom, though now ye see him not, yet believing, ye rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory."

Christians are happy people—I should say, the happiest in all the world. Maybe someone will ask why are we happy and rejoicing? First, because all our sins are forgiven; we are saved and belong to Him, the King of kings. The Holy Spirit bears witness in our hearts that we belong to Him who loved us so much that He gave His only begotten Son to die in order that we might be saved. Praise and love God for that!

In Galatians 5:22, 23, we read, "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance: against such there is no law." Oh, that we could have more love for Thee, O God!

And we are also delivered from all fear, and we know all things work for good to them that love God. We have gone through fears, trials, temptations. It is all for the good when we trust in Him. "If God is for us, who can be against us?"

A living faith in Jesus Christ takes away all fear of death. Also, it gives the knowledge that He has prepared a place for us where He

is and we are going to live with Him forever where there is no sin, sickness nor sorrow—forever in all eternity. "He that believeth not on the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God abideth on him." Oh, that many would come to Christ and experience the joy of being a child of God. No one can be saved if he will not give up his sins, forsake his ways and turn to God. He will forgive; He will save His people from their sins, not in them.

WEST COAST WOMEN MEET AT EVERETT

The West Coast District Women's Missionary Federation met at Calvary Lutheran Church in Everett, Wash., on Oct. 8, 1968. Mrs. Robert Rieth, president, opened the meeting and asked the audience to join in singing the rally theme, "Living For Jesus." The welcome was given by Mrs. Solveig Hays, Everett.

For devotions, Mrs. Harold Ostlund, Kirkland, Wash., read from Ephesians 6:10-18 and led in prayer.

Mrs. Rieth played "He Washed My Eyes With Tears" on the marimba. Mrs. Jay Erickson, Ferndale, Wash., was in charge of the Bible study which was based on II Corinthians 5:20, 21. Mrs. Otto Forde, Everett, sang "My God, Is Any Hour So Sweet?"

After a coffee break, the president opened the business meeting. The nominating committee for the

spring rally is Mrs. Henry Ringman, Mrs. Hilmar Melseth and Mrs. Howard Johnson. The offering for the day, which amounted to \$142.00, is to be divided equally between Church Extension and dormitory furnishings. Roll call numbered 66 persons.

A delicious lunch was served by the Everett ladies.

The afternoon session opened with the audience singing "I Have Decided to Follow Jesus." Mrs. Ray Persson, Astoria, Ore., gave a short talk on the WMF project, Church Extension. Mrs. Solveig Hays, Everett, spoke on "My Missionary for a Day." "Beautiful Savior" was sung by a Ladies Chorus from Everett.

The speaker for the afternoon was Pastor Kenneth Stenberg of Lake Stevens. Mrs. Henry Ringman, Everett, led the prayer session.

The audience sang "He Leadeth Me" and prayed the Lord's Prayer in closing.

Mrs. Donald V. Nelson,
Secretary

NORTH CENTRAL WMF RALLY HELD AT MENTOR

The fall rally of the North Central District Women's Missionary Federation was held on October 9, 1968, at the Maple Bay Lutheran Church, Mentor, Minn. Registration began at 10:00 o'clock.

Our meeting was opened by our president, Mrs. Mathison of Bagley. The theme for the day was "Walking With Jesus" and our theme song was "O Master, Let Me Walk with Thee."

Mrs. Ness, president of Maple Bay Ladies Aid, gave a welcome. We were then led in devotions by Mrs. Roy Quam of McIntosh. She read from I John 4. Music was furnished by the Maple Bay Ladies' Chorus in the forenoon.

Mrs. Kenneth Dahl of Bagley led us in Bible study. It was based on Ephesians 5.

Mrs. Birdeen Holt of Fosston, our national vice president, gave a report on the national WMF. We then had our business meeting and the election of two officers. Mrs.

Kenneth Rolf of McIntosh was elected as vice president and Mrs. Reuben Moland of Fertile was elected as treasurer.

An invitation from the Sell Lake congregation at Shevlin was extended for the spring rally.

Mrs. Marvin Undseth, Shevlin, led us in our prayer session. We were then served dinner by the Maple Bay Ladies Aid. Our afternoon meeting opened with hymn singing. Mrs. H. Strandlien of Shevlin led us in devotions. She read I John 2:4-6.

Pastor John DeBoer, Villard, Minn., then gave a talk based on John 10:9.

He brought out that there must be a purpose in walking with Jesus. We must not go our own way and not pay attention to Jesus. We must walk with Him in the way He wants us to, He must be our companion and guide. Start the day right with Him. If we are to walk with Him, we need to know Him. Do you know Him? Outside of Him is darkness.

Mrs. Clarice Austenson of Ada favored us with two solos for the afternoon.

Pastor Undseth of Shevlin pronounced the benediction. There were 79 present.

Student Pastor Forrest Swenson was the host pastor. We had a good day with the Lord, and we thank the Maple Bay Ladies Aid for the good food and fellowship we had with them. It was a blessed day.

Mrs. Andrew Salvhus,
Secretary

CULBERTSON CHURCH SITE OF DISTRICT RALLY

The Western North Dakota-Eastern Montana District Women's Missionary Federation Rally was held at Bethel Lutheran Church, Culbertson, Mont., Rev. Knute Jore, pastor, on October 20, 1968.

Mrs. Erling Brekke, Antelope, Mont., welcomed the group, followed with devotions and prayer by Mrs. Reuben Wee, Tioga, N. Dak., reading Psalm 126:5, 6.

The program was centered around the theme, "We Plant—God

Gives the Increase" (I Cor. 3:6-9). Rev. Robert Lee, Tioga, brought the message. He said we are to be agents and let God work through us. He likened us unto vessels which are nothing in themselves; it's what comes from them that counts. A child can be nurtured through the Word of God by the Sunday School, family devotions and in every way possible, but it is God who will give the increase. Let God use you as He wishes; just present yourself to him, he declared.

Mrs. Clare Munch, Culbertson, gave a very interesting chalk talk where she likened men unto ships—they are seen for a time but soon disappear into the watery darkness. If they are to be rescued, they must seize their passing opportunity, for God will rescue today, maybe not tomorrow.

We were favored with two musical numbers, a trio from Culbertson and a duet from Norman Lutheran Church, Tioga.

The District WMF president, Mrs. Roy Syverson, Tioga, presided at the business meeting. Rev. Rueben Wee installed Mrs. Roy Syverson, Tioga, who was re-elected president, and Mrs. Donald Sundhagen, Tioga, as treasurer. A gift of appreciation was presented to Mrs. Alfred Sundhagen, Tioga, outgoing treasurer.

The traveling trophy was presented to Mrs. Erling Brekke, president of the Culbertson WMF, by Mrs. Knute Jore for having the largest percentage of members present.

An invitation was extended by Mrs. Earl Hartsoch of Beaver Creek Lutheran Church, Ray, to host the spring workshop.

The session offering went to Foreign missions while the proceeds from the lunch will help furnish a room at the AFLC Bible School dormitory.

Mrs. Vernal Arnstad,
Secretary



At the August meeting of the Zion Ladies Aid, Mrs. Evelyn Hoeseth and Mrs. Myrtle Theodorsen, both of Tioga, received Honorary Membership Certificates and pins for their faithful service in the work of our Lord.

Mrs. Vernal Arnstad, vice president, is shown lighting the candles of the two honored guests, Mrs. Theodorsen, center, and Mrs. Hoeseth, left.

The certificates were presented by Mrs. Arnstad. The pins were pinned on Mrs. Hoeseth by her daughter, Linda, and on Mrs. Theodorsen by Mrs. Gerald Stenback.

A table was set for the honored guests at coffee time. Seated with them was Mrs. Hoeseth's mother, Mrs. Selmer Jorgerson, Linda Hoeseth, Mrs. Gerald Stenback, Pastor and Mrs. Robert Lee, Pastor and Mrs. Rueben Wee and the officers of the Aid.

"Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven" (Matt. 5:16).
—Corr.

[Continued from page 5]

tion service was also held at that location. In 1930 a property was bought in town and remodeled. A basement was made. In the fall of 1935 and through the winter more work was done on the basement and an altar ring and altar table were completed, the latter projects being the work of the pastor, Mor-

ris Eggen, and Nels Overbo. Cornerstone-laying and dedication were held in July, 1936.

A member of the LFC before becoming a part of the AFLC, Bethany has been served by the same pastors as Zoar and Zion. Rev. E. M. Hanson gave interim service following Pastor Hjelmeland's resignation. Rev. Howard Kjos is the present pastor.

The Parish

Zoar, Hampden, and Zion, Alsen, were members of a four-point parish originally. The other congregations were Aadalen and Hitterdal of Fairdale. With the organization of Bethany, Derrick (now Edmore), Zoar and Zion joined with her to form the present alignment.



Bethany Lutheran Church



Located in Hampden, this is the pastor's home. The house was purchased in 1921 and has undergone remodeling projects. The attached garage is a recent addition.

[Continued from page 4]

with you now when you are getting so old and feeble?"

She answered, "I have no worries at all now."

The pastor asked with surprise, "How come?"

She said, "You see, I have deeded everything over to Sven, both my property and my worries. He has promised to take care of me."

"Oh, I see," said the pastor, "but if per chance your son would become so taken up with his own family that he would forget and neglect his own mother, what then?"

Now the old lady became real excited. She arose from her chair and walked right over to the pastor and said, "Oh no, you don't know Sven. He would never do anything like that, and furthermore I have it in writing. It says right in the deed that he will take care of all my needs, so why should I worry?"

Have you made that kind of transaction with the Lord?

Have you given up completely the ownership and the lordship of your life? Then you are not your own, but His own with everything that you are and have. Then you

have exchanged your worries for His peace that passeth all understanding.

Read your deed. You have it in writing. Philippians 4:6-7, 19.

TREASURER'S PROGRESS REPORT February 1, 1968, to November 30, 1968

	Proposed Yearly Budget	Current Budget	Total Received
General Fund	\$ 35,650.00	\$ 29,708.34	\$ 19,299.96
Sem. and Bible School	36,200.00	30,166.66	15,251.52
Missions	49,000.00	40,833.33	32,833.00
Praise Program	40,000.00	33,333.33	33,618.03
	<u>\$160,850.00</u>	<u>\$134,041.66</u>	<u>\$101,272.51</u>
Total received for Library			\$ 244.00
One Grand Fellowship			12,813.33



EDITORIALS

One development in the world of religion has dominated all others during 1968. It is the upheaval taking place within the Roman Catholic Church. Pope Paul VI is finding it necessary to make frequent pleas to the clergy of his church for loyalty and obedience. Over two weeks ago, in a talk to student priests in Rome, he described the unrest which has occurred since the Second Vatican Council as "self-demolition." He called the situation something which no one could have expected at the close of the Council.

The present crisis, growing through the years, has been intensified by the Pope's recent declaration on birth control in the encyclical *Humanae Vitae*. In it, he reaffirmed the Church's stand against artificial means of contraception. That stand, the historical one, aroused a great storm of protest from the priests who must interpret the doctrine to the people and today the very foundations of the Church's teachings about papal authority and infallibility are being shaken. At the moment it does not seem possible that the Pope, any pope, can ever again command the allegiance the office once held.

Now that would be good news to Protestants who have never accepted the office of the papacy and the claim that he is the Vicar of Christ on earth. So if that concept could be destroyed, so much the better.

A conservative Protestant viewing the internal struggles of the Roman Catholic Church is torn between rooting for the conservative and liberal wings of that church. He can admire the conservative Catholic's tenacity in defending such doctrines as the Virgin Birth and the existence of heaven and hell, but is repelled because this persistence also clings to the doctrines he has never accepted, i.e., purgatory, the veneration of Mary, indulgences, etc.

Then, the conservative Protestant can also applaud some of the convictions of the liberal Catholic, such as the revolt against papal authority, the playing down of the adoration of Mary and the uprising against excessive ceremony and pomp in the church, while deploring the fact that some of these same liberals show a reprehensible lack of piety and evidence a disregard for some of the same fundamentals of the Christian faith which Protestant liberals do.

No doubt there are Roman Catholic scholars and leaders somewhere between these two groups and

it is with them that hope for true reform in that church lies if they can just become powerful and vocal enough.

The lamentable fact is that in this day of disturbance, both among Protestants and Roman Catholics, the great question with which Martin Luther wrestled is not being debated, "Wherein is a man justified before God?" It, together with the companion one of how may the Gospel be brought to others, is the chief question of the church. To discuss it today would not be unnecessary but essential, for there is misunderstanding, there is confusion, and not far behind that of Luther's day.

If the answer to this question is not known generally today, and we don't think it is, then nothing else that is done by the churches will amount to much. And if the answer becomes truly known, the churches will find that much present activity is not needed and will find a unity which is much deeper than the paper unities in force today.

The other significant event of the religious world in 1968 was the Fourth Assembly of the World Council of Churches held in Uppsala, Sweden, in July. Reports tell us that the old evangelical vs. liberal tension was clearly in evidence. Some churchmen saw the task of the churches as chiefly sociological and political, at least as far as the Council is concerned. The evangelical wing wanted to emphasize the preaching of the Gospel as the dominant theme.

The Christian Century commented on "the leanness of doctrinal discourse" at the Assembly and said that "the age of theological giants is over; almost nobody at Uppsala could inspire much awe." The *Century* also admitted that the WCC has "structuritis, acute anxiety over hardening of its arteries." But the liberal publication had to find hopeful things, too, as could be expected. It stated, "Incomparably rich in cross-confessional and cross-cultural treasures, it (the WCC) has the potential for re-creating an authentic Christian humanism with the fullest possible ecumenical dimensions." (All from Aug. 21, 1968.)

In an editorial in the conservative *Moody Monthly* (Sept., 1968), it is declared, "Meanwhile we are left to wonder whether in the Fourth Assembly at Uppsala we have not seen a somber preview of the spirit and aims, the limitations and frustrations of the global church to which the World Council hopes soon to give birth."

As you may know, the Roman Catholic Church is drawing closer to membership in the WCC. And that is entirely possible in a day when doctrinal convictions are up for grabs. Such a development would be significant, of course. It would create a tremendous power bloc in the world. But the current, almost unresolvable, conflicts within the Roman Catholic Church and the great diversity within the Council as presently constituted would lead one to believe that such a huge ecumenical craft would have rough sailing and probably not be able to dominate life as it might under other circumstances. At least that

must be our hope, those of us who are outside the WCC.

THANK YOU, PASTOR LANGNESS

Pastor Ernest J. Langness of McVie, N. Dak., has been the writer of the "According to the Word" page of the *Ambassador* for the past six months. In this ministry he has shared insights into the Christian life, the Gospel and the ministry of the church, out of his background as a pastor both in the United States and Canada.

We thank him for his work in the writing witness

and know that the articles he has produced have been of help to many people. As we have said before, of other writers, we say in reference to Pastor Langness, if you have appreciated his meditations do not hesitate to let him know.

Our next writer, for the first half of the new year, will be Pastor Marvin Undseth of Shevlin, Minn. He has come to us from an American Lutheran Church background, having served parishes at Alamo and Sherwood, N. Dak., in that church body.

He, too, is a busy parish pastor, but we are glad that he has accepted the assignment of preparing a devotional message for each issue of *The Lutheran Ambassador* through June, 1969.

INVESTMENTS FOR THE FUTURE

We are living in a day when people are much concerned with investments for the future. Our dollar is a shrinking dollar, and there is much concern about its value in ten or fifteen years' time. It is possible that interest received on savings will be nullified through rising costs and inflation.

We would like to bring to your attention one way where you can be assured of receiving guaranteed returns for invested dollars. You can't improve on that, now can you? These returns will not be diminished by rising costs or inflation, but will multiply in a marvelous way as the years move on. We are thinking about investments in the lives of our youth. There is no better investment in the world today. Dollars invested in training and grounding our youth in the Word of God will bring rich returns for our church and the Kingdom of God for the future.

We have two institutions needing your investments, where young people are being instructed in the Word of God. We thank God for our Seminary and Bible School where the Word is taught in its truth. This is because we believe that this Word is "given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: that the man of God may be perfect, throughly furnished unto

all good works." Our Seminary is our training center for our future pastors, and without it, we would soon be without shepherds for our congregations. Our Bible School is going to prove to be a feeder for our Seminary, as young men sense "the call" to the ministry while they are there studying the Word of God. Other young people will go forth into mission fields, bringing the Gospel to those who have never heard. We believe that our congregations will be strengthened spiritually as these young people take their places as leaders and workers in their congregations, using the privilege of a Bible School training to serve others.

The investment in young lives cannot be matched anywhere in the world. We deal with the precious lives of our own youth. We are dealing with a potential outreach of which none of us knows the scope. Can we afford not to invest today?

At the present time our Bible School is operating on a two-year schedule of classes. Both first and second-year students attend the

same classes. We have a total of forty-five students registered at our school now. Our classes are about as large as we are able to have them. We anticipate an increase in our student enrollment for next year, which means that our classes will have to be divided. This will also mean additional faculty for our Bible School. As we grow our needs also increase.

We need your investment in the work of our schools today, as a vote of confidence for the future. A look at this year's budget shows that we are behind at the present time. Next year we have an increased budget. It is easy to vote for budgets at an annual conference, but resolutions at conferences do not operate our schools. Can we count on your investment for our schools, so that we can move ahead into a new year with confidence, knowing that our people want us to be able to provide all the teachers and facilities that are needed to give our students the best possible training?

Pastor R. Snipstead, Dean,
Association Lutheran Bible School



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THE LUTHERAN AMBASSADOR SCHEDULE FOR 1969

(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 at 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. Only one issue is published in August. Copy for that number must be in the editor's hands two weeks earlier than usual.
7. In sending notices of meetings, keep in mind that subscribers receive their papers up to a week following the publication date.
8. All material must be sent to the editor for his decision.
9. Regular writers for the AMBASSADOR 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 7 January 21	December 21, 1968 January 4	New Year	Yes
February 4 February 18	January 18 February 1	Lent	Yes
March 4 March 18	February 15 March 1	Lent Easter	Yes
April 1 April 15 April 29	March 15 March 29 April 12	Mother's Day	Yes
May 13 May 27	April 26 May 10	Pre-Convention, Memorial Day and Pentecost Pre-Convention	Yes
June 10 June 24	May 24 June 7	Convention Reports	Yes
July 8 July 22	June 21 July 5	Convention Reports Convention Reports	Yes
August 19	July 19		Yes
September 2 September 16 September 30	August 16 August 30 September 13		Yes
October 14 October 28	September 27 October 11	Reformation	Yes
November 11 November 25	October 25 November 8	Thanksgiving Advent and Universal Bible Study	
December 9 December 23	November 22 December 6	Christmas	Yes
January 6, 1970	December 20		Yes

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