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Vol. 5

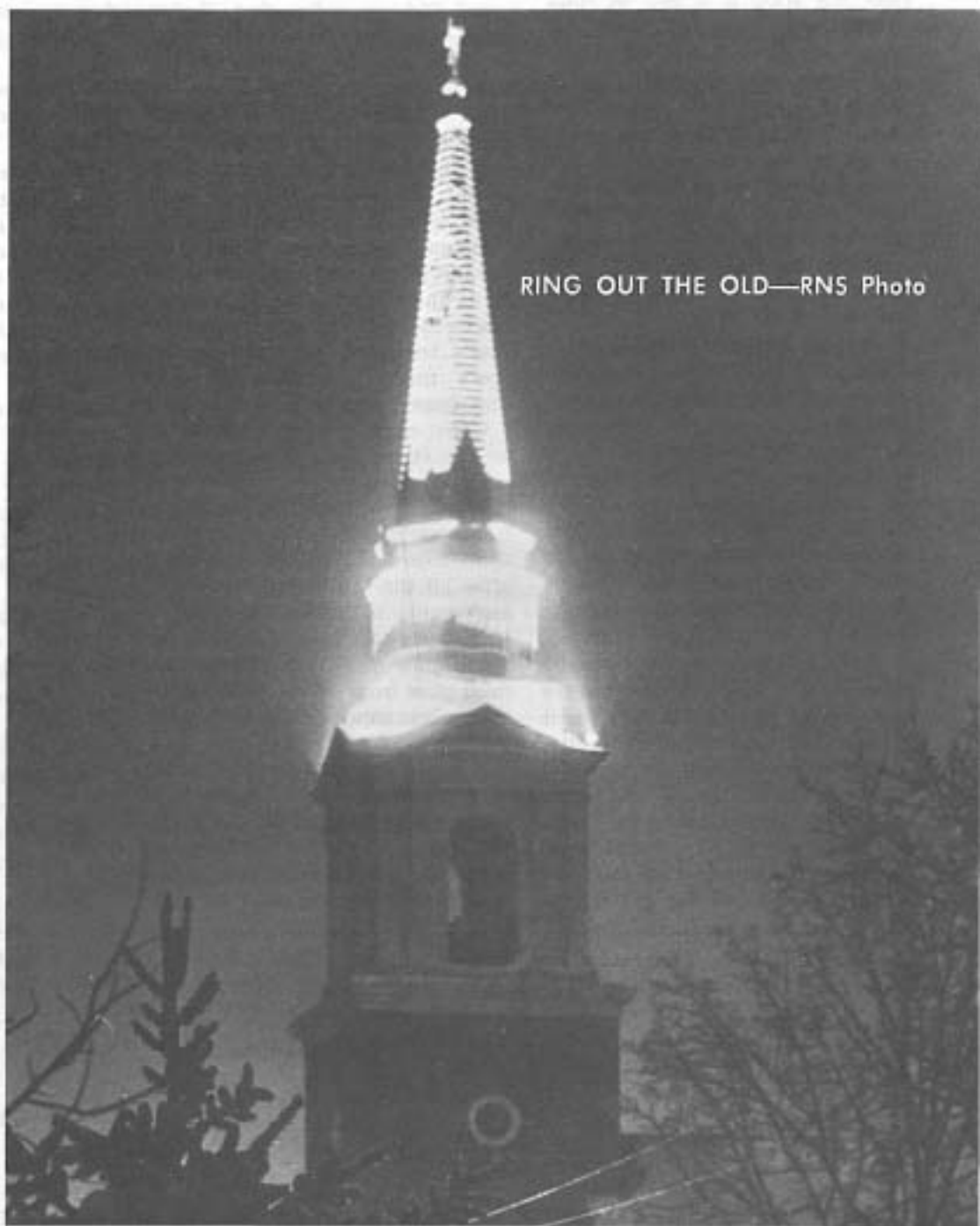
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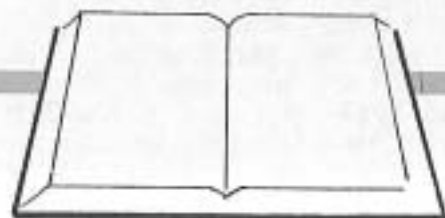
No. 25

# ***LUTHERAN***

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RING OUT THE OLD—RNS Photo





## According to the Word

### HAS CHRISTMAS FADED FROM US?

As we read these devotions the day of Christmas will again be history. But since it is still so close to Christmas, let us stay with that season a little longer. In the Christmas season as at no other time of the year, we feel that "there is no place like home." Christmas reaches out to the wayward heart just as a lovingly remembered hometown beckons across the broad span of years or miles, and at the yuletide we turn homeward in spirit and memory, if not in physical act.

Yes, the road to Christmas is one of remembrance, but memories can play tricks that lead to disappointments, just as easily as they bring happiness. So, if we are not to be disappointed at Christmas, it is well for us to examine what the holiday has held for us which we treasure so highly, no matter where we are found, be it in our personal home, congregations, hospitals or nursing homes.

What did Christmas Day actually mean to us? Was it a day that we didn't have to go to work? Was it a day that we enjoyed the gaiety, the Christmas music, the beautiful colored lights and all the other colorful decorations? Or was Christmas Day the relaxed comradeship of friends and families? Or was it that one day in the year

that we looked for those earthly gifts and the giving of these gifts? Was this Christmas for us and nothing else? Or did we realize that Christmas is much, much more? Did we realize that Christmas is the observance of the birth of Christ our King, and did we ask why He came to earth?

All things change and pass away. The feast is quickly devoured. The lights burn out and are taken down again. The tinsel becomes tarnished, torn, and trampled to pieces. Christmas carols seem to cease all too abruptly. Loved ones that called on us and visited with us are again scattered and disappear. Yesterday's treasured gifts are tomorrow's trash. Was that all that Christmas meant to us? I hope not.

Christ came to earth in the flesh on Christmas and He came for a purpose. And the best part of it is that He remains with us. He alone, from everlasting to everlasting, is Christmas. For Him alone we must offer all the brightness, the songs and words of praise. Because of Him, and Him alone, the gifts, the warm glow of love and friendship, must glow from within us and show themselves as we herald the Mighty King.

It is my hope and prayer that we have all observed Christmas as a true child of God and that we know the reason why. That we have enjoyed the merriment of this happy season and that we may all con-

tinue to let our Christmas lights shine brightly during the coming year. Let us remember that through it all, that the first burst of gladness with which the angels broke the expectant hush of the first Christmas Eve was of "Glory to God in the highest." Anything else than this is nothing but a hollow joy, doomed to ultimate disappointment.

Christmas is the birthday of Jesus Christ our Redeemer and Friend; "O come, let us adore Him!" Every child of God should have celebrated and observed Christmas in the true spirit—by attending their church services, by rededicating themselves to the service of their Lord and King. This blessed season is a time of the year set apart from all others and a special effort was made to insure every soul in our circles, in our congregations, in our nursing homes and hospitals, that extra consideration to make this a special occasion and to create an atmosphere which would renew the spiritual significance of Christmas, that Christ came to earth in a form of a small child to save us from our sin. And this faith in Him will continue with us all the days of our life.

For only in this way does this special time of the year which we call Christmas have a true and lasting meaning for every one of us.

G. H. Spletstoesser

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## NEWS FROM NOGALES

by Rev. L. C. Dynneson

Nogales, Arizona

It has been some time since anyone from Nogales has chatted with friends by way of *The Lutheran Ambassador*.

At this wonderful season of the year, may the same Spirit rest upon you that was promised and did rest upon Jesus when He came. We read in Isaiah 11:2, "And the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the Lord."

We here at Nogales have now enjoyed our new church building for over a year, though it still is not fully completed.

The past year has brought some evidence of stability and growth. Thanks be to God, yesterday (a certain Sunday) we were 58 for worship in the morning service, 27 took communion and there were 34 for the evening service. At each service there is a choir or special number in song. At the evening services our people readily take part in sharing God's Word in testimony or prayer.

At this time we are thankful to have with us the Lee Haags from Somers, Mont., and the Charles Carlsons from McVille, N. Dak. They are helping to get a hundred and one jobs done around the mission compound and the church. Much has been improved already, thanks to the Lord.

The choir and Sunday school will no doubt present a very inspirational program again this year, judging from last year's Christmas program, "Love Transcending." About 90 folks were present last year. The choir is directed by Mrs. Leonard Swanson and the Sunday school by Mrs. Dynneson.

In Old Mexico, under the crudest circumstances, Mrs. Swanson and helpers will no doubt have a great time with about 50 children and a few adults, with program and gifts and distribution of clothing.

People of various cultures or backgrounds are here at the border. There will be no certain way of celebrating Christmas. Some of us may be very Scandinavian in our preparations. Some may open their gifts on Christmas Eve after a home family program. Others, of Mexican descent, may have a grand midnight meal of hot tamales and then open their gifts Christmas morning—very early (if they are awake) or early when awakened on Christmas morning. The leftover tamales are warmed and eaten through the day as the appetite demands.

One year the Dynnesons ate Christmas dinner outdoors at a picnic table. The sun was a little too hot. This cannot be done every year, of course; but as one dear old Christian lady said, "We have all kinds of good weather here." Thankful to God, of course, for whatever He sends as the best and good.

Winter time is especially a busy season at Nogales. Dozens of produce warehouses are busy packing or repacking Mexican-grown tomatoes and other vegetables and quickly pushing them on to northern markets. Huge trucks move about all over the main streets. These plus hundreds of tourists with cars, campers and trailer houses move back and forth. Curio shops in Old Mexico do a land-office business.

Shops on the Arizona side of Nogales are really jammed, too. This city of 8,000 does more business per capita than most cities in the USA, so they say. Many come

from Mexico for American goods.

Twelve or more motels, some of them quite large, are often filled to capacity. Some new folks move into the areas to stay, live and work. Some see the cross and church on the hill and come to worship. May a remnant truly be saved. Pray also that we may have a group trained and willing to contact people on the highways and byways for the Lord Jesus Christ. Some of our Spanish-speaking members are conducting an all-Spanish service now, each Friday evening. This may encourage some, especially those who speak no English at all. Many who understand English quite well still love God's Word best in their native tongue.

We were happy to have Pastor Harold Schafer with us on July 9 to help with the dedication service of Triumph Lutheran Church. He preached for us in the evening service and across the line in the afternoon. It would be wonderful if we could have more fellowship with our Association Lutheran brethren.

It has been a miracle of God that the monthly payments of our congregation have been met. Many of our friends, at a distance in miles, but close in the love of God, have responded in answer to prayer to help in His kingdom work here. Praise God, and thanks to all of you who have prayed and shared and given in general to Home and World Missions.

From this land of semi-desert, where nearly every native bush, tree and cactus has thorns, we would greet you at this Christmas



HOME  
MISSIONS

Season in the name of the fairest  
Lord Jesus.

From H. A. Brorson's pen:

Now found is the fairest of roses,  
'Mongst briars it sweetly reposes;  
My Jesus so precious and holy,  
Abode among sinners so lowly.

Since man his Creator deserted  
And wholly His image perverted,  
The world like a desert was lying  
And all in transgression were dying.

But God, as His promise has granted,  
A Rose in the desert has planted,  
Which now is with sweetness endowing  
The race that in evil was growing.

The world may of all things be-  
reave me,  
Its thorns may annoy and aggrieve  
me,  
The foe may afflictions engender;  
My Rose I will never surrender.

## IN MEMORIAM

### MINNESOTA

#### Greenbush

Fred Hagen, 79, October 15, Beth-  
lehem

Mrs. Albert Kjos, 67, November 28,  
Bethania

Syver Majer, 75, November 26, Pop-  
lar Grove

Mrs. Samuel Olson, 84, November  
21, Zion

Gust Waage, 82, November 11, Zion

### SOUTH DAKOTA

#### Pukwana

Miss Velora Ellen Lake, 56, July 29,  
Pukwana

Gerald R. Pearson, 63, October 17,  
St. Olaf

Edward A. Priebe, 82, November 9,  
St. Olaf

Anita Marie Swanson, 8, daughter  
of Mr. and Mrs. Edwin Swanson,  
October 18, Pukwana

## ASSOCIATION OF FREE LUTHERAN CONGREGATIONS

### Treasurer's Progress Report

February 1, 1967, to November 30, 1967

	Fiscal Year Budget	Current Budget	Total Received
General Fund	\$39,980.00	\$ 33,316.66	\$ 26,076.41
Missions	41,000.00	34,166.66	34,451.50
Seminary and Bible School	29,000.00	24,166.66	17,479.35
Praise Program	30,000.00	25,000.00	23,592.93
TOTALS	\$139,980.00	\$116,649.98	\$101,600.19

Total received for Seminary Library Fund — \$902.86

Funds received toward the "One Grand Fellowship" are not included in these figures.

We have 44 who have indicated by cash or pledge that they want to be included in this program.

### Sisseton

Magnus Iverson, 68, December 2,  
Hope

### Webster

Olaf Wik, 68, December 9, Tabor

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

## BOOK ON BAPTISM

Some years ago Dr. Iver Olson published a book on *Baptism and Spiritual Life*. It was well received and rather widely used. But for some time now it has been out of print. Recently he has arranged for a reprint, with some minor revi-

sions, and it is again available to the general public. It has been found useful for Bible classes—particularly post-confirmation classes—Bible camps, adult instruction classes and the like. It has also been found to be valuable for individuals who would like to know more about this subject in a day when differences of opinion in these matters so easily come to the fore.

The volume of 85 pages has a paperback cover, and retails for \$1.00, plus tax of 3¢, and postage. It may be obtained from the Seminary Book Nook, 3110 East Medicine Lake Blvd., Minneapolis, Minnesota 55427, and the Evangelism Book Store, 904 Hennepin Ave., Minneapolis, Minnesota 55403. For larger quantities to be resold, write to the author at the seminary address for discount prices.

# WOMEN for Christ

## WHAT MAKES A HOME?

by Mrs. Richard Snipstead  
Ferndale, Washington

As school begins after the Christmas recess and the family settles into a busy winter schedule, we mothers again become acutely aware of the importance of home training. We ask ourselves, "Have we been doing the job as we should?" Children are leaving home—for kindergarten, for junior high, or perhaps really leaving. But from that first day of kindergarten "home values" begin their testing against an unsympathetic world. The home is a little like a launching pad where the foundation must be firm and steady, and where the guidelines must be straight and true or the flight will be short-lived and a failure.

We all know the verse in Proverbs 22:6 that says, "Train up a child in the way he should go; and when he is old, he will not depart from it." Do we really believe that enough to heed it? I remember when someone asked me incredulously, "Do you really believe that the Bible has the answers—even for child psychology?" But where else can we find a guide with the love and wisdom of God Himself—a guide that doesn't change every few years! However, we need to remember that what we *are* will influence our children much more than anything we say. Would we dare to tell our children as Paul exhorts the Philippians in chapter 4:9, "Those things which you have

both learned, and received, and heard, *and seen in me, do*?"

So many "new" ideas challenge the faith of even our younger children today. They encounter the problems of evolution, of the age of the earth, of the origin of life at the early grade school level. And not much later come the problems of social behavior. They are a witness to their faith—or lack of it—by where they go or do not go, and also by how they refuse to go along.

As we catch a glimpse of the moral patterns among many of the dating youth of today, we wonder if our foundation can possibly be built strongly enough. We have the promise in I Corinthians 10:13, "There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man; but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it." Let us pray much for our youth.

Home should also be a haven; a place to rest from the buffetings, a place to receive comfort when battles are lost, and a place to receive the encouragement and courage to meet the warfare of a new day. The responsibility of filling this role falls largely to the wife and mother, but each member of the family needs to encourage, strengthen, and pray for one another. Let's make our home a place where the members are "each for the other and all for God."

## Home

"What makes a home?"  
I asked my little boy,  
And this is what he said,  
"You, Mother,  
And when Father comes,  
Our table set all shiny,  
And my bed,  
And, Mother, I think it's home,  
Because we love each other."

You who are old and wise,  
What would you say  
If you were asked the question?  
Tell me, pray,  
Thus simply as a little child we  
learn  
A home is made from love,  
Warm as the golden hearthfire on  
the floor,  
A table and a lamp for light,  
And smooth white beds at night—  
Only the old sweet fundamental  
things.  
And long ago I learned—  
Home may be near, home may be  
far,  
But it is anywhere that love  
And a few plain household treas-  
ures are.

—Author unknown

## SOUTH DAKOTA WMF CONVENTION HELD IN PUKWANA

"Pray Ye Therefore" was the theme of the annual meeting of the South Dakota District Women's Missionary Federation held in Pukwana Lutheran Church, Pukwana, S. Dak., the Rev. Gerald Mundfrom, pastor, on Thursday, September 28.

Registration began at 11 o'clock. Mrs. Reuben Tvinnereim, Webster, district president, opened the morning session. The audience sang "I Love Thy Kingdom, Lord." Devotions were given by Mrs. Charles Almos, Eden, using Matthew 9:35-38 and 28:19, 20 as her Scripture. A word of welcome was given by a representative of the St. Olaf Ladies Aid, host aid to the meeting.

Pastor Kenneth L. Anderson, Ashby, Minn., favored the assembly with a solo, accompanied by Mrs. A. L. Hokonson, Faith, at the piano.

[Continued on page 10]



# SCHOOL NEWS

## ASSOCIATION LUTHERAN BIBLE SCHOOL NEWS

We students here at Bible school have experienced many blessings and answers to prayer in our first quarter of study in God's Word. We have just completed the Fall

Quarter, winding it up with final exams before the four-day Thanksgiving quarter break.

On the 19th of November, the Bible school choir, under the direction of Mr. Don Rodvold, made its first appearance at Trinity Lutheran in Minneapolis for the commis-

sioning service of Pastor and Mrs. Richard Gunderson.

The faculty staff is now complete, and we are praying for the realization of the new dorm now in planning for next fall. Winter quarter began November 27 and continues through February 26 with a Christmas break December 16—January 2.

—Diane K. Rassmussen, Reporter

### WINTER QUARTER SCHEDULE

ASSOCIATION BIBLE SCHOOL  
3110 East Medicine Lake Blvd.  
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55427

WINTER QUARTER SCHEDULE — November 28—February 23, 1968

	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
7:45- 8:00		Devotions	Devotions	Devotions	Devotions
8:00- 8:50	Typing	Old Testament	Mission Survey	Old Testament	Christian Doctrine
9:00- 9:50	The Family	Acts	General Epistles OR Parish Work	Old Testament	Growth in Christ
9:50-10:10	R E C E S S				
10:10-11:00	Public Speaking	Acts	Christian Doctrine	Practice Teaching	Chapel and Student Body Meeting
11:10-12:00	Choir	Acts	Joint Chapel Services with the Seminary	Choir	Typing

#### ADMINISTRATION

Chairman of the Board ..... Pastor George Soberg  
Acting Dean ..... Pastor John Strand  
Dean of Girls ..... Miss Ramona Vaxvick  
Counsellor ..... Miss Marion Hellekson

#### FACULTY

Pastor John Strand ..... General Epistles  
Growth in Christ  
Mr. Don Rodvold ..... Choir Director

#### FACULTY

Pastor Arnold Stone ..... Acts  
Miss Ramona Vaxvick ..... Typing, Parish Work  
Practice Teaching  
Pastor Chester Heikkinen ..... The Family  
Public Speaking  
To be filled ..... Old Testament  
Dr. Iver Olson ..... Mission Survey  
Christian Doctrine

# MY TRIP TO NORWAY AND OTHER EUROPEAN COUNTRIES

by Raynard Huglen

## Part VII

### Back to France

This travel account was to be concluded in just three issues, but now we are far past that. Begging your indulgence, I shall now promise to be through in several more numbers of *The Lutheran Ambassador*.

Switzerland is a beautiful country. It looked like a pleasant place in which to live. Last time I expressed my regret in not getting into the Alps even though being in Zurich, and four other major Swiss cities besides. So I cannot say anything about the real mountain country of Switzerland.

France is also an attractive country. The trip from Paris to Geneva by way of Dijon was very nice. The closer one got to Switzerland the more sweeping, wooded hills were to be seen.

From Zurich I next travelled back into France by way of Basel, Strasbourg and Metz, the latter two cities being in France. At Metz I changed to a smaller train which would take me to Conflans-Jarny near the city of Verdun.

### Shell Holes and Monuments

For a number of years, and as expressed editorially here, I had had the desire to visit an American war cemetery in Europe. Now being in Europe the desire could be fulfilled. Which one would it be? The largest one in Europe, the Meuse-Argonne, near the village of Cunel.

No one spoke English at the station in Conflans-Jarny. The train for Verdun, about 25 miles away, would not leave for about 7 hours.

Fortunately, the depot agent understood my need and motioned to me that a bus would depart for Verdun from near the station in an hour or so.

The bus rolled through one town after another as the land became progressively hillier, towns with names like St. Jean les Buzy, Olley, Etain and Eix Abancourt. Here was the country where the battles of World War I were waged. I saw depressions in the earth that could have been shell holes. There were one or two concrete pill boxes. We passed two roofless houses.

Arriving in Verdun, a city of about 25,000 people, fortunately for me, there was a girl at the bus depot who could speak English. She made arrangements for me to secure a taxi to take me out to the cemetery, some miles away. The girl could speak English but my cabbie, who was appropriately named Pierre, could not. He had a handful of English words and I had a smaller handful of French ones. We managed a communication of sorts but you can imagine my frustration in understanding so poorly as he shared bits of information about that history-steeped area.

Genial Pierre, a man of about 60, took me first to a rural area where the roadway on the right was flanked by shell pockmarks. Then, on a hill called Mort-Homme (the death of man) we found two monuments. One contained the words "Ils Nont Pas Passe" (They shall not pass). Those words have been variously attributed to General Niville and to General Pétain. The forces of Kaiser Wilhelm were pressing toward Paris. The

words were spoken in this vicinity and the Allied soldiers turned the Kaiser's army back in the Verdun area, this country of the Meuse River and the Argonne Forest.

We stopped at the high American monument at Montfaucon. Very impressive, it stands atop the hill where the old village of Montfaucon stood before being wiped out in the fighting.

### The Meuse-Argonne Cemetery

We travelled through those small French farming villages, Barn and house are attached. They did not look very attractive, made of a brownish stucco, particularly on a gray, misty day. At last, next to an oat field standing in shocks we came to the Meuse-Argonne cemetery where over 14,000 American war dead lie.



The Meuse-Argonne Cemetery

The cemetery is very well kept and any American family which has a loved one there can be assured that everything possible is done to keep it a quiet, peaceful, beautiful spot.

Having a taxi waiting for you, does not lend itself to leisurely reverie, as you can imagine, but I did spend some minutes looking over the crosses and at individual crosses. On them and on the chapel arches I read names like these: Jens C. Petersen, Montana; Ole J. Larson, North Dakota; Eugene McGrath, South Dakota; James I. Poppe, Minnesota; Clarence Valtz, Iowa; and Frank Gilliland, Washington. Those names were all on the arches, I believe. Men from every state, men of every nationality, I bowed my head in thanksgiving to God for the noble sacrifice of these men and their

comrades. As I looked out over the sea of white crosses, it was very humbling to realize that my fellow Americans and I had been died for.

#### *More Cemeteries and Monuments*

We went on. Past a small French cemetery. Past a German cemetery with rugged stone Celtic crosses, and Pierre said that there are many German cemeteries on French soil. And one realizes that World War I was fought largely between neighbors, as was indeed much of World War II.

Pierre stopped his cab near a somber low concrete structure resting on short wide pillars. Looking between the pillars I saw bayonets protruding from the ground. I did not find out until later what this meant. The memorial was raised over men who were buried alive in the trenches by enemy shell-fire. Their bayoneted rifles were standing in the trenches when it happened and they still stand there. The memorial is called "The Trench of the Bayonets."

Nearby was Fort Douaumont. Time did not allow me to go in, but it is an old French fortress hollowed out of the hills. One can see the gun turrets in the hills. I looked into the guard house dug into the hillside. Not far away Pierre pointed out trenches among the brush which are still open after fifty years.

Our next to the last stop was at a long quonset-type structure with a high tower rising from its center. It is the "ossuary" or mortuary of Douaumont. Lying outside of it is a French cemetery with over 12,000 graves. (The French alone lost 400,000 men just in the area of Verdun and over 1,300,000 in the whole war.)

Pierre guided me to the rear of the ossuary where there were small windows two or three feet above the ground along the length of the long building. He motioned that I should look into them. Inside were huge piles of human bones, including skulls. He indicated that they were the skeletal remains of men from various countries. Apparently

these are the shattered bits of soldiers, unidentifiable, gathered up from the battlefields and buried in common graves. So there they are—German, French, American, English, whatever. Above these cellar tombs is a memorial to the war dead of France from every region of the nation. Also there is a Roman Catholic chapel.

The final stop was a new war museum situated where a French village stood before being obliterated in the war. Not quite completed then, it contained many giant photos of the war. Those trench warfare scenes, those desolated battlefields, you have all seen. And for all the refinements of war, including the use of atomic bombs, I still find the photos of World War I as pathetic and haunting as any others.

#### *Verdun*

But now I had had enough. Coming back to Verdun, however, did not take one from the reminders of war. Far from it. Memorials abound, from the impressive Victory Monument to the disturbing "Aux Enfants de Verdun" (The Children of Verdun) memorial.



The Children of Verdun

Verdun is actually a very old city. It is as old as the Roman empire and it was there that the three sons of Charlemagne divided his empire among them in 843. At least two ancient entrances (towers) to the city still stand and they must be many hundreds of years old. The Meuse River flows through the city.

That night I sat down to dinner in my hotel dining room. Most European hotels seemed to have their

own dining rooms. The French menu was just that to me. But I noticed that they were offering dinners for eight, twelve and sixteen francs. I indicated the twelve-franc dinner to my waiter, a efficient but distractingly quick young man. To my surprise he came back with the manager who did speak some English. The manager proceeded to ask me just what items I would like in the twelve-franc meal. Apparently I had ordered all the entries under that price meal, in my ignorance.

#### *The Benelux Countries*

Now the journey back to Scandinavia was to begin. The next morning I changed trains at Hagon-dange and boarded one headed for Amsterdam. We traveled through some extremely industrial country near the French border. My railroad car was filled, as were several others, with Italians who were going to Belgium and the Netherlands to work. It was not clear to me whether they were going there for the first time or were on their way back after a vacation. Possibly there were some of both. Since they do not handle baggage on the trains as we do, all the baggage had to be put in the coaches, for whole families. So it was a very crowded coach and difficult to move along the aisles.

My conversation with the four or five young men sharing my compartment was almost nil. But I did mention several Italian names, of men like Joe DiMaggio and Fiorello LaGuardia. Then one of them said "Al Capone" and we smiled.

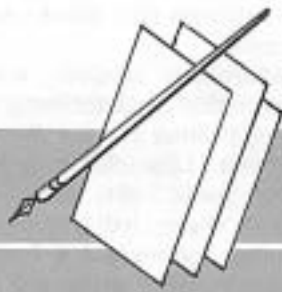
We passed through small but pleasant Luxembourg. I had always imagined Belgium to be a flat country but the part our train passed through was mostly beautiful wooded valleys. We came to Liege, Belgium, and we parted from our Italian friends.

In another coach now, I saw the Holland countryside pass by the window. There were half a dozen

[Continued on page 16]

*The Lutheran Ambassador*





## EDITORIALS

### THANK YOU, PASTOR SPLETSTOESER

The time has come again to express appreciation to a writer of the "According to the Word" feature of our paper. For the past half year our scribe has been Pastor G. H. Spletstoesser of Pine River, Minn. He is a rest home administrator and chaplain and for some time has divided his time between duties in the Pine River area and at Watertown in the same state.

Thank you, Pastor Spletstoesser, for your fine devotional writings in the pages of the *Ambassador*. They have breathed the struggle of man against sin and the flesh and the release and victory which there is in the Lord. May the Lord bless these articles upon the many hearts which have been reached by them. And we trust that you, Pastor Spletstoesser, may have a warm sense of accomplishment in having offered this service to the fellowship.

We hope to present some insights by Pastor Spletstoesser regarding his area of ministry in a future issue of the *Ambassador*.

The new writer of "According to the Word" will be Pastor Albert Hautamaki of Ishpeming, Mich. He has now served on both the western and eastern edges of the Association and has made many new friends in the middle parts, too, through various conferences he has attended. We look forward to his devotional writings which will be found in each issue beginning next time.

Mention should be made here also of the Bible studies for the Women's Missionary Federation written by Pastor and Mrs. Lars Stalsbroten. They have been used by many of the local aids and have been highly regarded for their content of Christian instruction. The thanks of the whole church is due to them. The writer for 1968 is Pastor Gerald Mundfrom of Pukwana, S. Dak. His first study appeared in the Christmas issue.

Finally, and by no means least, the editor wishes to express his appreciation and that of the whole family of readers to all those who have edited the various departments of the *Ambassador* during the year. These people have performed a service to us all, more than they realize. And to all who have written or helped in some way or other, a sincere thank-you.

As this is being written only days remain of the year 1967. When some of you read this the year may actually be past. So quickly does time pass that the new year we so recently (so it seems) welcomed is already ended. Each year does indeed go more quickly than the previous one.

All of this should cause us to be very much aware of the importance of time. It is something to be used carefully. It cannot be hoarded, but neither should it be squandered or wasted.

Individually we shall all give an account of how we have approached the precious commodity of time and how we have handled it. Collectively, in the fellowship of God's work, we are accountable for the manner in which we have utilized this resource.

And just how have we made use of time in the task of evangelizing the world? Was the very presence of the Association an evidence to the world of concern for humanity, for the whole man? These questions are not easy to answer. The answers depend, in fact, on a person's viewpoint, on his outlook.

But in looking forward some things can be said with surety. All that will be said now is this: to be effective for Christ in 1968 and to rightly use the time that is ours together, we must be united in harmony and purpose. In the Book of Acts, it was when the Church was of one mind and purpose that great things happened. We should not expect it to be otherwise in our day.

Let us pray for a greater measure of love, trust and confidence in one another in the new year in order that we might redeem the time in an evil age.

### DR. OLSON'S BOOK

It is good news to hear that Dr. Iver Olson's book *Baptism and Spiritual Life* has been reprinted and is now available to the public once again. The book has been of great help to us on the subject of baptism and we think it will be for the many who come in contact with it through this paperback edition advertised elsewhere in this *Ambassador*.

The subject of baptism is one which never fails to arouse interest. Here is the Lutheran approach which we also believe to be the scriptural approach. Have you had problems in regard to baptism? You would do well to read this discussion of the issues.

Dr. Olson has the gift of lucidity or clearness in writing. Many theologians are gifted in making theological issues almost impossible for the average person to understand. The writer of *Baptism and Spiritual Life* is one of the relatively few who can write so that the common reader can comprehend what he reads. Therefore, this is a book for the people of our congregations and for the pastors alike.

We recommend *Baptism and Spiritual Life* to you.



## STEWARDSHIP

### STEWARDSHIP PROGRESS

At a meeting of the Stewardship Board some time ago it was decided to terminate the promotion of One Grand Fellowship on December 8, 1967. This does not mean that no one can make a pledge or gift of one thousand dollars after that date; every such gift will be gratefully received. It simply means that we shall not push that aspect of stewardship activity after that date. It is quite probable that we shall have a general drive some time during the next fiscal year. At that time we shall try to reach far more people who are not able to contribute large amounts each, but who would like to be along on this building project.

It may be in order to make a preliminary report on how this effort has been progressing. The latest reports we have on the One Grand Fellowship drive is that something over forty-three thousand dollars have been pledged by individuals, couples and groups. In addition there have been some pledges for smaller amounts, and outright contributions from individuals and groups; so the total as of the last of October was over fifty-four thousand dollars. It is undoubtedly considerably higher now. A more complete report will be given later.

But now it is time to lay our shoulders to the wheel of our regular program of giving to the work of the Association. The fiscal year will be over on January 31, 1968, and by that time we should have reached all of our goals. There is a considerable distance to go yet, and the time is growing short. It is nothing unusual to get to this point

in the fiscal year and have sizable amounts to raise in a short time. It has happened before, and we have made the goal by heroic efforts. However, let us not be complacent now in the confidence that the money will come in all right. It could just be that this year we could fall short. This is what could happen if we now lean on our oars instead of rowing. It is when we are coming in on the home stretch that we must put forth every ounce of energy to reach the goal. Will those individuals, groups and congregations which have done something so far this year, but not as much as they intended, now make special effort to get the job done? It may be that there are some who have left the task to these closing days; we urge you to do your very best in the weeks that remain. Perhaps we should also say that there may be those who already have given all they planned to for this year, but who now find that they would like to do just a little bit more; we welcome your gifts, too. Let us all be up and doing, and let us remember that the Lord loves a cheerful giver. Let His be the honor and ours the pleasure.

—Iver Olson

### Women for Christ

[Continued from page 5]

A very interesting and inspiring Bible study was given by Mrs. Hokonson on Ezra 7:10 and Nehemiah 8:1-12. Pastor Mundfrom closed the morning session with prayer.

A very delicious ham dinner was served at noon.

The afternoon session was opened with the audience singing two hymns, "Christ for the World We Sing" and "Lord, Speak to Me that I May Speak." Mrs. Earl Davidson of Webster led the devotions, reading Ephesians 4:4-7. The WMF projects were presented by seven ladies from Saron and Tabor churches of the Lake Region parish. A special number was then sung by a group of ladies from St. Olaf Church, "Help Somebody Today."

The president presided at the business meeting. Mrs. Wayne Sletten read the new constitution and by-laws of the organization. After changes were made it was given first approval and will be voted on next year for final adoption.

New officers elected were Mrs. Ruth Hloucha, president; Mrs. Percy Gunderson, vice-president; and Mrs. Marjorie Swanson, secretary-treasurer, all of Pukwana and St. Olaf churches. Mrs. Sherman McCarlson, Webster, was re-elected cradle roll secretary.

An invitation for the 1968 district meeting was extended by the Aid of Immanuel, Eagle Butte, and was accepted by the group.

Following the business meeting, a group of ladies from Tabor church sang a song, accompanied by Mrs. Hokonson. The guest speaker for the afternoon was Pastor Anderson. He used Matthew 9:36 for his text.

The WMF resolutions (national) were then read by the outgoing president, after which an offering was taken. The session closed with the audience singing "Prayer Is the Soul's Sincere Desire" and praying the Lord's Prayer. Mrs. Tvinnereim gave closing expressions of thanks. Pastor R. Huglen, Roslyn, led in closing prayer.

—Mrs. Charles Almos,  
Secretary

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### LEM PLANS 32nd MIDWINTER CONFERENCE

The Lutheran Evangelistic Movement will sponsor their thirty-second annual Midwinter Conference, January 21-27, 1968, with conference headquarters at Augustana Lutheran Church in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

Main speakers will be Pastor Robert Rismiller of the Lutheran Bible Institute, Seattle, Washington; Pastor Omar Gjerness of the Lutheran Brethren Seminary, Fergus Falls, Minnesota; Dr. Robert Smith of Bethel College, St. Paul, Minnesota. Others will include Dr. Conrad Thompson, Evangelism Director of the American Lutheran

Church; and Paul Lindell, Director of the World Mission Prayer League, Minneapolis, Minnesota.

Over two thousand youth will participate in the eighteenth annual inter-Lutheran Youth Conference on January 26 and 27, featuring Pastor Bill McKee, Gary Alfson and others at First Baptist Church, Minneapolis.

# The Lutheran Ambassador Schedule for 1968

(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.
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. Observe that one deadline in the summer varies from the standard procedure.
6. The Christmas issue deadline is November 1.
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	EDITOR'S DEADLINE	SPECIAL	WMF BIBLE STUDY
January 9 January 23	December 23 January 6	New Year	Yes
February 6 February 20	January 20 February 3	Lent	Yes
March 5 March 19	February 17 March 2	Lent Lent	Yes
April 2 April 16 April 30	March 16 March 30 April 13	Easter  Mother's Day	Yes
May 14  May 28	April 27  May 11	Pre-Convention and Memorial Day Pre-Convention and Pentecost	Yes
June 11 June 25	May 25 June 8	Convention Reports	Yes
July 9 July 23	June 22 July 6	Convention Reports Convention Reports	Yes
August 6	July 20		Yes
September 3 September 17	August 17 August 31		Yes
October 1 October 15 October 29	September 14 September 28 October 12	Reformation	Yes
November 12 November 26	October 26 November 9	Thanksgiving Advent and Universal Bible Sunday	
December 10 December 24	November 1 December 7	Christmas	Yes
<b>PLEASE SAVE THIS SCHEDULE FOR FUTURE REFERENCE</b>			

## My Trip

[Continued from page 8]

windmills but it is hard to say whether any of them are used any more. Possibly I saw one dike. Here the country was level. In Holland as in many parts of Europe one could suppose himself to be in Minnesota or the Eastern Dakotas.

Amsterdam was extremely busy and crowded that evening. An American boy told me that there was no lodging to get nearby. After giving some minor assistance to a man taken ill near the depot and checking two or three hotels for lodging, I boarded a train and went on to Amersfoort, Holland, and was able to find a humble room for the night without trouble.

[To be continued]

## PREACHING MISSIONS

PUKWANA,  
SOUTH DAKOTA

Feb. 18-23, 1968, at

Pukwana Lutheran,  
Gerald F. Mundfrom,  
pastor

Speaker: Rev. John  
DeBoer,  
Villard, Minn.

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