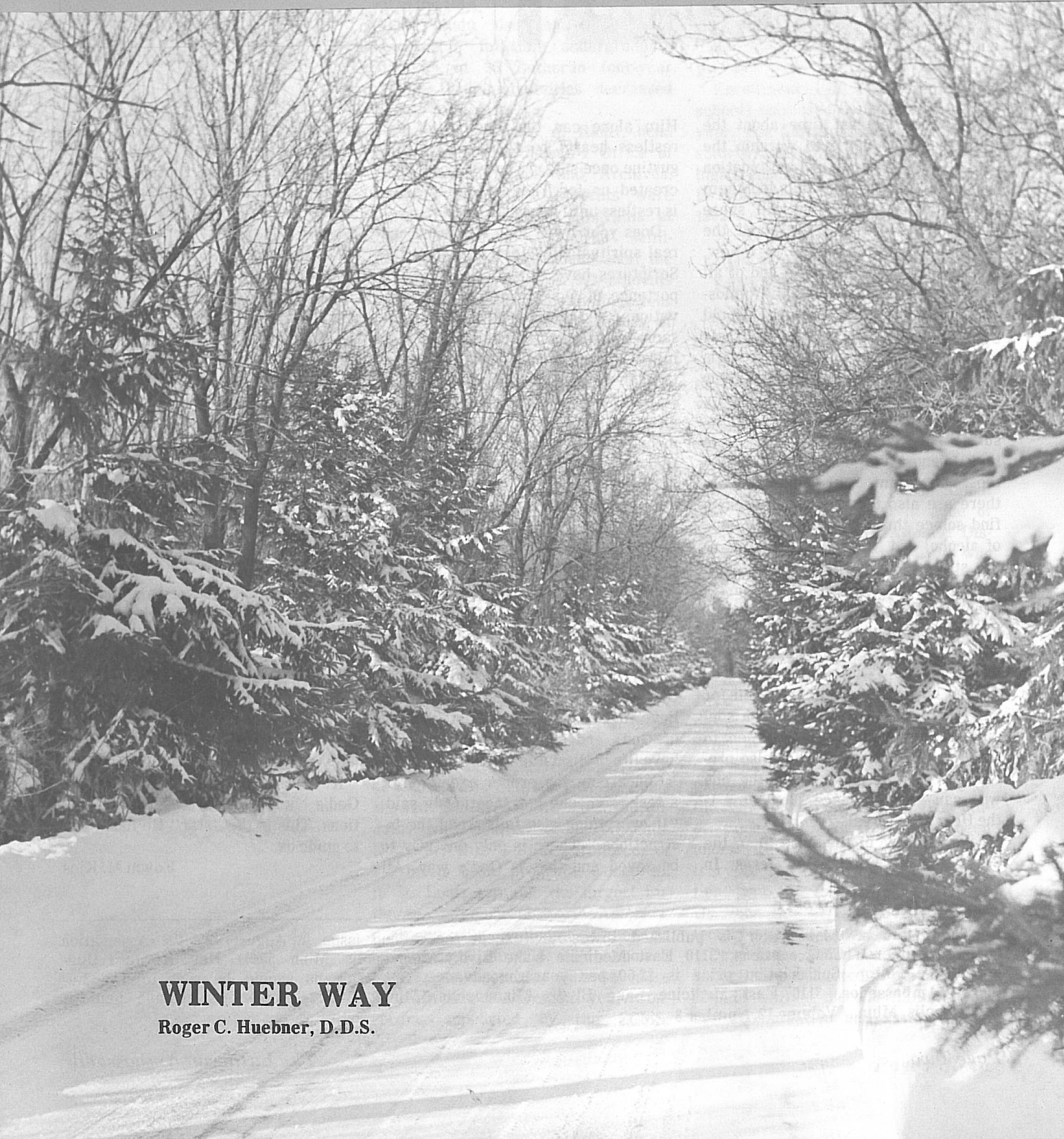


January 29, 1974

# The Lutheran Ambassador



## WINTER WAY

Roger C. Huebner, D.D.S.

# MEDITATION MOMENTS

## READ THE INSTRUCTIONS

We wrote the last time about the Wise men who came to worship the Christ Child. With joy and anticipation they followed the star that led them to the Savior. Today we will share just a few more thoughts about the "star" God has given us to follow.

People all over the world and of all ages have searched for some philosophy or element in life that would give meaning and purpose to their existence. For some this element is wealth. Others will almost break their necks pursuing every form of activity that brings them some sort of pleasure. Then there are those who feel that friends and popularity are the most important goal. Unfortunately there are also those who will seek to find solace through the escape routes of alcohol and drugs. But their hearts are still empty. Even those who seek to appease the longings of a hungry heart by living a good life and participating in humanistic endeavors will find that these longings remain unsatisfied.

This, however, is not God's will for our lives. Just as He provided a special star to guide the Wise men to the Prince of Peace, He has also provided a star to guide us to the one who can give us peace. That star is the Holy Scriptures.

Like the star of the Wise men, the Scriptures will lead us to Jesus. In

Him alone can the longings of our restless hearts be satisfied. St. Augustine once said, "Thou, O Lord, hast created us for Thee; and our heart is restless until it rests in Thee."

Does your heart long for peace and real spiritual life? Listen to what the Scriptures have to say about the importance of God's Word for our salvation. "...thou hast known the sacred writings which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus" (II Tim. 3:15). "Having been begotten again, not of corruptible seed but of incorruptible, through the Word of God, which liveth and abideth" (I Pet. 1:23). "Wherewith shall a young man cleanse his way? By taking heed thereto according to Thy Word... Thy Word have I laid up in my heart, that I might not sin against Thee... Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path" (Ps. 119:9, 11, 105). Jesus Himself said that the Scriptures bore witness of Him (John 5:39). The Apostle John said that the Gospel was written "that ye may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing ye may have life in His name" (Jn. 20:31).

Concerning the proper execution of a task, someone has facetiously said, "If everything else fails, read the instructions." There is only one way to be saved and that is God's way. All

other so-called ways of salvation are failures. If we honestly want to know the way let us read the instructions. Read the Bible. The Holy Scriptures are the only source and norm of spiritual life and faith.

Do we honestly want to know the truth and grow spiritually? Then how about reading the Bible through this year? Perhaps many who read these words have never read the Bible in its entirety. Yet all of us who are teen-agers or older have read many times as much material which is of lesser importance. The Bible can be read through in a year by reading three or four chapters a day. The average person can do this in twenty minutes. Is your spiritual life worth that much time daily? Isn't it tragic that that which is the most important is so often neglected?

I believe that if every member of our AFLC were to read the Bible through prayerfully this year we would see some remarkable advances in our Association. "The Word of God is living, and active, and sharper than any two-edged sword..." (Heb. 4:12). God says, "It shall not return unto me void" (Is. 55:11).

If we are sincere as members of God's church let us read His instructions. This is the "star" He has given to guide us.

Edwin M. Kjos

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# Pastoral Visitation

by Rev. Howard A. Kuhnle  
Associate Pastor  
Grace Lutheran Church (LCA)  
Buffalo, N. Y.

Dear Mother,

Thank you for your last letter. It's always good to hear from you... I noted especially that you wrote in an incidental way that Pastor McGuire does not do enough visiting in our old home parish. While you make this only as a side remark, I am going to take the opportunity to write about this matter. Calling by pastors is the most misunderstood and most criticized part of the work of the minister simply because he does not and cannot do enough.

## Likes Calling

Now as associate pastor of Grace Church, my chief work is visitation, but I have always liked to call upon the people of the parishes that I have served. The main reason is that this lets me get personally acquainted and thus learn the people's individual problems, situations and needs from a Christian standpoint. As you know, I have made many thousands of visits since I was ordained—in homes, hospitals, institutions, jails, factories, stores and what have you. This gives a warmer love, understanding, sympathy and compassion for people. Indeed, the pastor who does much calling no longer considers the people as statistics but as souls needing reconciliation with Christ and with their fellowmen for the sake of Christ.

The pastorate is a seeking ministry. There is no substitute for visiting. The minister who makes a great many calls is not interested merely in numbers or breaking records. He is interested in people, especially those who have not yet become ac-

quainted with the Savior. He is anxious to make the introduction. After all, that's all that any of us is expected to do. I have said many times that I consider it my duty to give the invitation! The pastor is making that introduction in the best way when he visits people.

One way to show an understanding of the importance of visiting is to cite a story from a long-time friend. He said that there were various times toward the end of the afternoon or evening when he decided to make one more call even though he might have returned home. In many instances, he found that these very calls were the ones where he could make a good Christian witness, or could help in solving some church, family or personal problem.

## Time and Priorities

The real problem is time because there are so many items that require the attention of the present-day minister. Let me list some of them.

Everybody would certainly acknowledge that the first priority of a minister is to give appropriate, first-class, thoughtful and thought-provoking sermons. To do this, it is necessary to study—study things that may be of interest to the minister and, in the second place, study for each sermon for the coming Lord's Day. Regular time must be given to devotional reading. Every minister would admit that it is only too easy to neglect this part of the ministry. Personally, I find that the best time that I can set aside for this is early in the day. If not done then, it's only too easy to put it off until it's time to go to bed, when I'm too tired.

The next priority is funerals and the calls that are required in connection with them—calls upon the des-

perately sick in hospitals, nursing homes, institutions, etc.; calls to the families as soon as one learns of death, visits to the funeral parlors, usually the day when the body is laid out, the calls to the family shortly after the funeral has been held, often continuing over a period of time, depending upon the circumstances.

Then the next priority is visits to hospitals to see the sick. I have always planned to visit the people on the same day that I hear of their being in the hospital. I have heard of some ministers who have a "hospital day" each week, but I do not believe in this. By the time the day comes around, the sick person may be out of the hospital. Indeed, new mothers usually stay in the hospital only three to five days, instead of the 12 or 14 days which was the custom a generation ago. Surgical patients are also out in a hurry compared to the past.

I believe that people of the parish will understand if I do not make as many calls in homes as some think I might when they realize that I am covering needs in the hospitals. One way to keep people informed of the hospital visits is to list the names in the Sunday and monthly bulletins. Indeed, there have been a few days when I have been in every hospital in Binghamton and vicinity, the place where I had my longest pastorate.

Various meetings in the congregation demand considerable time—church board, young people's groups, men's, women's and couple's circles, etc. Moreover, many of these require more or less preparation—business meeting, talk or address, as the case may be. Some of these meetings last unduly long and late, and it is my inclination not to hurry away from them because of the worth-while contacts to be made with the officers

and individuals before or after the meeting.

There are also activities outside of the congregation, such as conventions of the church, meetings of the local council of churches, meetings of boards of which I am a member, including community organizations. People expect a minister to devote some of his time to this type of activity, but they should also remember that to do this, the time may be taken away from some other important activity that may be of equal importance from the standpoint of somebody else.

A minister is certainly entitled to spend an appropriate amount of time with his family. The complaint of many a minister and his wife is that he does not have nearly the time for

his family that all of them would like to have together.

Every minister ought to have at least one hobby—some have several. Mine is writing. To be sure, it takes time. Moreover, it is a hobby that can be done in the time that happens to be at my disposal, especially the revision of stories can be done even when there is not much consecutive time available. Maybe I got this hobby from your own inclination to write many newsy letters!

There have been times when I might have gone out to see the people of the parish, especially in the few evenings when there were no church appointments, but I was too tired to do this, and as a result did something else—did paper work for the church,

watched TV, read a magazine or book, took a walk, etc.

While I have gone into more detail than I expected when I started this "brief" letter, this will enable you to see how the minister in your own family feels about visiting.

Write again soon,

Love to all the family from all of us,

HOWARD

(Ed. Note: Pastor Kuhnle has contributed articles to the *Ambassador* before. A free lance writer, he has had 630 manuscripts published in 108 publications prior to this. I met Mr. Kuhnle while in Cleveland, O., for the Lutheran Communications Congress in 1966, and we have kept in touch.)



1974 SENIOR CLASS AT ASSOCIATION FREE LUTHERAN BIBLE SCHOOL

Bottom row, left to right: Elaine Willand, Diane Moland, Margie Sorteberg, Darlene Stulen, Marie Breden and Debbie Rudebusch; second row, Linda Erickson, Cris Carlson, Kathryn Hodnefield, Wanita Nash, Gail Ness, Norma Myhre and Eleanor Christianson; third row, Priscilla Wold, Lila Hegseth, Kathy Engevik, Kathi Jones, Sharon McCarlson, Vangie Stenberg and Debbie Bjorgaard; fourth row, Karen Snipstead, Debbie Flach, Elaine Strand, Annette Hudson, Mary Ellen Flaten, Jeanne Whitaker and Mark Antal; and, top row, Dale Finstrom, Gene Finstrom, Jeff Kamphaugh, Joel Erickson, Don Nash, James Lindgren and Kermit Berge. Not pictured: Judy Leining and Naomi Rolf.



# LUTHER LEAGUE ACTIVITIES

## QUIET TIME

Probably the most necessary thing for maintaining a close walk with the Lord is that we have a time every day that we spend alone with God. Jesus told Martha that to spend time in His presence was the "one thing needful" (Luke 10:41, 42). In the garden of Gethsemane He exhorted His slumbering disciples to watch and pray lest they enter into temptation (Matt. 26:41). In Psalm 1 we read that a righteous man delights in the law of the Lord, and meditates upon it day and night. We see how important Jesus considered living by the Word of God to be in the account of the temptation in the wilderness. After He had fasted for forty days and forty nights, He would still not give in to Satan's temptation to turn the stones to bread. "Man shall not live by bread alone but by every word that proceeds out of the mouth of God" (Matt. 4:4). The Word is the Christian's spiritual nourishment.

In connection with this, I would like to point out some things from the Word that I think are instructional to us. They help to answer the question, "When and how often should I have a quiet time with God?" Perhaps

another way to put it would be, How often does God want to meet with me?

We could look at verses like "Lo, I am with you always" (Matt. 28:20); "Abide in Me" (Jn. 15:4); "Pray without ceasing" (I Thess. 5:17), and see that God desires our continued, unbroken fellowship. All through the Scriptures we can see that He loves us and wants us to depend completely upon Him. He wants us to begin our day with Him and include Him in all of our plans and aspirations. He wants to go with us through the day to give us peace, joy, hope, courage and strength to meet the disappointments, troubles, sorrows and difficulties of the day. As we retire from the day, He wants to be with us to speak words of forgiveness for our sins, to comfort us about our human failures and to make us rejoice over victories.

It is true that we should be in continual communion with God throughout the day, but God also wants us to set aside time each day to spend alone in quietness before Him. Matthew 6:6 says, "But you, when you pray, go into your inner room, and when you have shut your door, pray to your Father who is in secret, and your Father who sees in secret will repay you!" Secret prayer is not for God's benefit, but for ours. When we are in secret, we do not have the activities of others around to distract us. Also we are not tempted to just make up some kind of a prayer that will sound good to others who may be listening. In secret we can be ourselves before God. We can be honest and not have to worry that what we say will go into the grapevine. We can also just sit quietly and allow God to speak to our hearts by His Holy Spirit.

It is probably already clear that we should meet with God every day. In Luke 9:23, we read about taking up our cross daily. In his **Small Catechism**, Martin Luther talks about **daily** sorrow over sin, repentance and renewal. But nowhere do we find that we should meet with God once and only once a day.

I find the best answer to this question in Luke 1:10, in the context of the Levitical law of the Old Testament. The verse says, "And the whole multitude of the people were in prayer

outside at the hour of the incense offering." In Revelation 5:8, we see that incense typifies prayer. In Malachi 1:11, it typifies praise. The law concerning the burning of incense is found in Exodus 30. In verses 7 and 8 of that chapter we read that God commanded the burning of incense every morning and every evening. By this we can see that God wants us to meet with him in prayer and praise twice a day.

Of course, we are not under the old covenant but under the new. We must not let ourselves become tied to legalism. God isn't here saying, "You come before me twice a day, or else!" We are not to take it in this way.

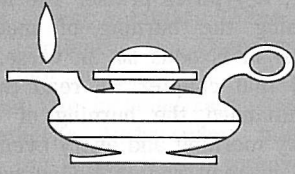
What we should see in this is the thing that our all-knowing heavenly Father knows is best for us. "For He knoweth our frame; He remembereth that we are dust" (Ps. 103:14). He knows how often we need guidance, how often we fail, how often we need forgiveness and comfort. He knows better than we what things we need for the strength and growth of our faith. He knows that for our own good we need regular and frequent meetings with Him.

If we have not yet, let us begin to meet regularly with our heavenly Father. Let us come boldly before the throne of grace, "that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need" (Heb. 4:16). Let us begin to lay hold of the rich resources that we have in Christ. The offer in Matthew 7:7-8 still stands: "Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you: for every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened."

Jim Fugleberg  
Devotional Life Secretary  
Luther League Federation

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"Let there be no filthiness, nor silly talk, nor levity, which are not fitting; but instead let there be thanksgiving."  
Ephesians 5:4



## SCHOOL NEWS

### INTEREST IN REVELATION BRINGS OLDEST STUDENT TO AFLBS

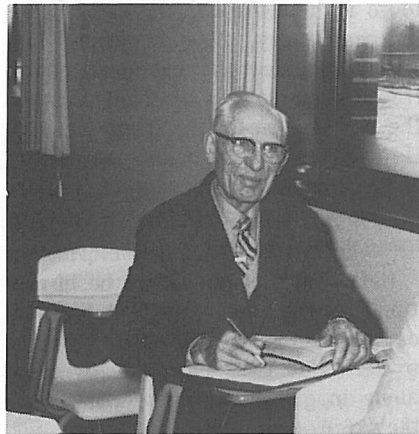
Interest in the Book of Revelation, which he first studied under Dr. Samuel Miller at the Lutheran Bible Institute, then in St. Paul, Minn., over 50 years ago, has led Rev. Herbert S. Larson to Association Free Lutheran Bible School where he is studying the same book under Rev. Arnold Stone during the second quarter of the school year.

At age 76, he is easily the oldest student at AFLBS this year, perhaps of any year. But he is young in spirit and gets along well with his classmates and the other students at school. Pastor Snipstead, dean of the school, did advise him not to live in the dormitory, however, and Pastor Larson was able to secure an apartment adjoining the campus, an easy walk from the dining hall where he eats some of his meals.

Ever since that class at LBI and in his 44 years of ministry in the American Lutheran Church, Mr. Larson has paid special attention to Revelation. Five years ago he took a course at Golden Valley Lutheran College, Minneapolis, on the same subject. His teacher was Rev. Wilson Fagerberg. He has conducted a good many weeks of meetings in churches discussing the Book. He has two such series planned so far for later this year.

Pastor Larson takes his classwork seriously. He has tapes on the Book of Revelation and listens to the whole book once each day. In all he spends about eight hours a day on the Book. But he admits that memorizing is more difficult for him now than it used to be.

After ordination at his home church in Osseo, Wis., in 1929, Herbert Larson



Rev. Herbert S. Larson

served parishes at Lisbon and Fairdale, N. Dak., and Mentor, Rothsay and Gary, Minn. Since his retirement in 1962 he has done interim work at Perley, Minn., and McLeod, N. Dak., been visitation pastor at Dilworth, Minn., and substituted for various pastors in the area, all the while living in his own home in Moorhead, Minn.

Pastor Larson had an unusual experience in 1965 when he spent ten months in Norway as a pastor in a three-point parish at Aust Torpa, which is located between Lillehammer and Valdres. The three churches had a combined membership of almost 3,000 souls. During his stay he confirmed 50 young people, baptized 70 children, had 21 funerals and 20 weddings. He made 500 pastoral calls and spoke from one to seven times a week. The Norwegian language was used exclusively.

Pastoral work in Norway, he said, is burdened down with clerical work. In an interview with a Norwegian newspaper in 1965, Mr. Larson was quoted as saying that a pastor in Norway runs a certificate factory (*attest fabrikk*). Because the Lutheran

Church in Norway is a State Church, the pastor's records of births, etc., become official records of the country. A man buying an automobile has to get a record from the church. Marriage licenses also require the pastor's assistance.

He found funerals quite different in the land of the Midnight Sun. Usually burials do not take place as quickly after death as they do here. Following the funeral service a large dinner, perhaps of seven courses, was served at a home or a moderate hotel (*pensjonat*). A devotional program would take place there, too, and all in all, one could plan on spending a number of hours at that social gathering. At least this was the custom at funerals at Torpa.

Pastor Larson was accorded high respect as the pastor. When he entered the room to begin his confirmation classes, the girls made a curtsy before him and the boys bowed a very low bow. He even had the experience of having girls make a curtsy to him on their bicycles as they met him on the road. He came into the homes of the people more than they were accustomed to having a pastor call on them, but they appreciated this. Pastor Larson gained added standing, too, when it was learned that he could make *rommegrøt*, a Norwegian delicacy made of cream, even to the point of having butterfat come to the top.

Rev. Herbert Larson's roots in American church life go back into the Hauge Synod. He took his college work at St. Olaf in Northfield, Minn., and his seminary training at Luther in St. Paul.

His first wife passed away in 1958 after the couple had made a trip to Norway. They had three daughters. He re-married in 1960 and Mrs. Larson is presently staying at a daughter's home in New Brighton, Minn., helping care for the children while her daughter teaches retarded children part-time.

Pastor Larson, attending school at an age when many people wouldn't think of it, gives this advice. Study the Bible at home, whatever your age. And if you feel up to it, attend a Bible school in person, whatever your age.

One of his favorite Bible verses is

*[Continued on page 10]*



# A FIRM FOOTING

## "I READ IT OVER AGAIN"

Your soul was sick and you were inwardly unhappy.

But then you heard and read the testimony concerning God's own Son. The great priest who went into the holy of holies with His own blood and won us an eternal redemption. It was God's message to you, and you received it as such, and found peace for your restless heart.

Then a wonderful thing happened in your life. The old passed away, everything became new.

Justified by faith you had peace with God, your sins were atoned for, your guilt was wiped out. By grace alone you received righteousness and holiness pleasing unto God. Peace of soul and new hope came into your life as a glorious light from above.

A new song was placed in your mouth, a song of praise unto God.

Da Jesus satte sjaelen fri  
brøt lyset frem paa livets sti,  
og da jeg fik ham selv at se,  
jeg glemte jordens sorg og ve.

Halleluja, min sjael er fri,  
Min traellestand er nu forbi.  
Paa land og hav min sak er klar,  
hvor Jesus er, jeg himlen har.

Oh, 'tis wonderful to be a Christian  
—and you had not seen it before,

But from now on you are going to  
give yourself wholly to Him, to the  
Lord. You would be through with all  
kinds of worldliness.

"When Pharaoh had let the people  
go, then God led them not by the way  
of the land of the Philistines, although  
that was near; for God said: Lest  
peradventure the people repent when  
they see war, and they return to Egypt,  
but God led the people about by the  
way of the wilderness by the Red Sea:  
and the children of Israel went up  
armed out of the land of Egypt."

Thus we read in Exodus 13:17-18.

The Israelites had been freed from  
the slavery under a mighty enemy.

If war had been the first thing they  
met, their newfound happiness would  
not have stood up against such a reali-  
zation. The memories of their own  
suffering and their weakness would  
have been too much for them. They  
would have lost courage.

God let them then take another  
route through the desert. He wanted  
to spare them, for He is faithful and  
will not suffer you to be tempted  
above that ye are able, but with the  
temptation He also makes a way to  
escape that ye may be able to bear  
it (I Cor. 10:13).

The Israelites were to meet war,  
but first they had to be trained  
through lesser trials in order to stand  
the greater. Therefore God let them  
take another route.

As a happy new convert you ex-  
perienced that the old had passed  
away and everything was new.

It was life from death.

As a poor lost sinner you came,  
and the eternal Father received you  
and translated you into His Son's king-  
dom. You received an inner richness  
and joy, which could not be expressed  
in words.

Yes, you felt that evil thoughts and  
desires now were dead and gone from  
your nature, you were not bothered  
by them and you believed that you  
were through with them forever. But  
in this you were mistaken.

It did not take a long time before  
you discovered that evil in your na-  
ture as before. It began to rage within  
you and to tempt and accuse you  
worse than when you were ungodly.

You began to doubt if you really  
were converted, as such a miserable  
creature could not possibly be a child  
of God. It must have been an illusion,  
both with conversion and faith. You  
had no way to turn.

No, it was not an illusion with your  
conversion.

Because at that time you were noth-  
ing and Christ was everything. You

acknowledged your sins, and Christ  
saved you by grace alone, without  
merit or worthiness on your side. That  
was not an illusion. But you are now  
in danger of deceiving yourself.

Because you do not like to stand  
in the presence of God as guilty as  
the first time. You do not like to live  
by faith and grace alone. Now you  
are trying to become something your-  
self, something which would give you  
comfort and encouragement, some-  
thing pleasing to God: a firmer faith,  
a greater progress in sanctification,  
and a more fervent prayer life.

But you do not see that right here  
the old Adam is making his appear-  
ance in a very subtle way to grapple  
with you and to choke the new spirit-  
ual life in your soul.

But it cannot be wrong to try to  
become better in one's Christian life?  
you ask. No, that is not wrong. Chris-  
tian life is always growing, but there  
is something in you which is turning  
you away from the grace in God and  
to seek comfort also in the fruits of  
grace in your heart. This is what is  
wrong.

The law of life in the Kingdom of  
God is such that he who grows the  
most is not conscious of his own growth.

So is the Kingdom of God, "as if  
a man should cast seed into the  
ground and he should sleep, and rise  
night and day, and the seed should  
spring and grow up, he knoweth not  
how" (Mark 4:26, 27).

He knoweth not how.

The Christian who has the most of  
this holy ignorance concerning him-  
self, he has most of the unction of  
the Holy Spirit and of grace in his  
heart.

An honest Christian has received  
a remarkable God-given suspicion  
concerning himself. He is afraid that  
he may find comfort and deceive him-  
self in a false hope and a dead faith.

The realization of his own unworthi-  
ness drives him to the cross in prayer  
and to trust in Jesus alone as the  
only ground for his salvation.

In such a broken and humble spirit,  
Christ can live His life. As the vine  
sends its sap and its strength out  
among the branches and makes them  
bud and blossom and bear fruit.

At the cross is found the most fertile

[Continued on page 13]



# NEWS

## of the Churches

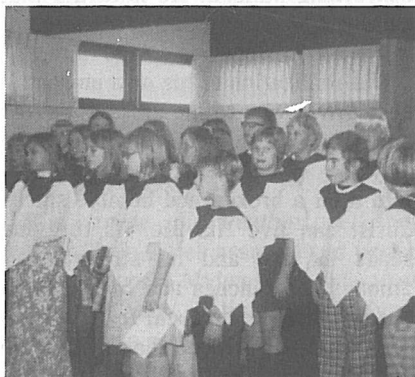
### CLOQUET CHURCH NOTES 75TH ANNIVERSARY

The weekend of October 26th through the 28th was a time of praise and celebration at St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Cloquet, Minn., for it was the 75th anniversary of St. Paul's Lutheran Church.

Rev. Henry Johansen of Virginia, Minn., brought the message at the Finnish Service on Friday evening. Music was provided by the Finnish Ladies choir. Lunch was served after the service by the Ladies Aid of the church.

A congregational dinner was enjoyed on Saturday evening by members and friends of the congregation. The speaker for the evening program was Rev. Francis Monseth, AFLC seminary teacher. Music was provided by the Children's and Teen Choirs.

On Sunday morning, Rev. Eugene Enderlein of Minnewaukan, N. Dak., brought the message. Special music was presented by the Senior and Chapel Choirs. An anniversary program was presented on Sunday eve-



The Children's Choir at St. Paul's

ning with Rev. Herbert Franz, of St. Paul's, as speaker. Music was provided by the Quartet, Senior Choir, and Finnish Ladies' Choir. The church history was read by Waino Filby, Board of Trustees chairman. A special feature of the evening program was the presentation of a WMF Honorary Membership to Mrs. Ed Granholm, the only living charter member of St. Paul's Lutheran. A fellowship hour followed the service. Refreshments were served by the Martha Guild.

It was an exciting weekend of praise and thanksgiving to the Lord for the great things He has done for us.

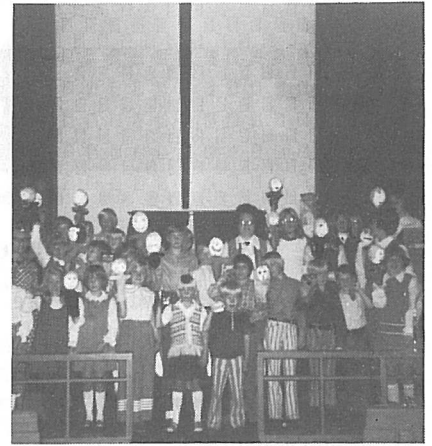
—Corr.

### MCVILLE MISSION GROUP PRESENTS PROGRAM WITH PUPPETS

The New Luther Valley Junior Mission Group of McVilleville, N. Dak., used puppets made from paper mache, paper bags and jello boxes in pre-



The Finnish Ladies' Choir at St. Paul's



senting programs for the Luther League Family Night and the nursing home in McVilleville. Members of the group are Lloyd Quanbeck, Dennis Haugen, Roxanne Haugen, Vernice Knudson, Debbie Quanbeck, Elizabeth Knutson, Ellen Quanbeck, David Lofthus, Dan Rorvig, Debbie Anderson, Karen Haugen, Sonia Anderson, Kathy Knutson, JoAnne Bye, Roger Quanbeck, Mark Quanbeck, Phillip Lofthus, David Haugen, Wayne Haugen, Rodney Quanbeck, Marlys Quanbeck, Marilyn Haabak, Marian Quanbeck, Ruth Quanbeck, Diane Quanbeck, Grace Haugen and Kenneth Quanbeck. Mrs. Robert Knutson, Mrs. Norman Johnson, and Mrs. Albin Haugen are the leaders.

### BIBLE CONFERENCE SLATED AT ST. PAUL CHURCH

A weekend Bible conference sponsored by Victory in Christ Lutheran Church in St. Paul, Minn., will be held February 15-17. All of the sessions will be held at the Sveden House Restaurant, 2109 Hudson Road, on the east side of St. Paul.

The speaker for the evangelistic hours will be Pastor Laurel Udden of the Association Seminary and Bible School. He will speak Friday and Saturday evenings at 8 p.m. and Sunday evening at 7.

Taking part in practical hours during the conference will be Pastor Herbert Franz, Cloquet, Minn., who will speak Saturday evening at 7 p.m., and Rev. Fran Monseth, pastor of the church, who will speak at 6 p.m. on Sunday.

Victory in Christ congregation requests prayer for the conference and invites all who are able, to attend.



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# editorials

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## THE WINTER BIBLE CONFERENCE

One of the good things about the Winter Bible Conferences of the Association of Free Lutheran Congregations is the fact that they are held in a different place each year. The previous eleven conferences have all been conducted in different locations. The one this February will be in Valley City, N. Dak., for the first time.

The annual conferences are too large for most of our congregations to host. The Family Bible Camps are much too large for most camp facilities. But the winter conferences are of a manageable size and it is possible to move them from place to place. Then they become available particularly to the area hosting them. Many rural folk, and others, cannot be away overnight in the winter, but it is possible to drive over for a day's activity.

More than once we have lamented in this space that so few people attend a whole conference. Some attend the first part of the conference, others the latter part. No doubt there are sufficient reasons for this. The difficulty in Sunday driving this year will necessitate more Saturday departures than ever perhaps. It is better to come for part of the conference than not at all. But the best is if there can be continued attendance.

The winter Bible conference becomes a short course in Bible school work. The Bible studies are a focal point of the gatherings. A pastor, in this case Rev. Fred Carlson,

opens the Scriptures in a concentrated study of a portion of the Word. The evening services are another highlight. Often evangelistic in nature, they must not be missed as opportunities to challenge Christians, too, for the majority of the conference is made up of those who are committed to Jesus Christ, but need constantly to be confronted with the need for examination and renewal of that commitment. This year Rev. Forrest Swenson will be the evening speaker.

There are lectures or presentations on several subjects dealing with the individual, the congregation and the congregations working together. It is all stimulating, it is all useful.

The opportunity for prayer is there and for other fellowship with one another. Bible conferences can mean a lot for growth and maintenance in Christian living. It goes without saying that not very many people out of the whole church get to a winter Bible conference. Therefore, it behooves those who attend to bring back to others the blessings received. Let no one attend caring only that he himself is blessed. For then, in reality, there was no blessing after all. Share with others.

Valley City is no strange place to Association people. It was a name on everyone's lips in those early days of the church. Twice annual conferences have been held there. But this conference will be of special interest because it will be held right in Grace Church, recently remodeled. And there is a relatively new pastor there, Rev. Robert L. Lee.

We look for good days at Valley City with the people of Grace and Zion Churches, the pastor and the many friends who gather. Prepare in prayer for the conference. Whether you can attend or not, pray. God bless the days at Valley City, Feb. 21-24.

## PASTORAL VISITATION

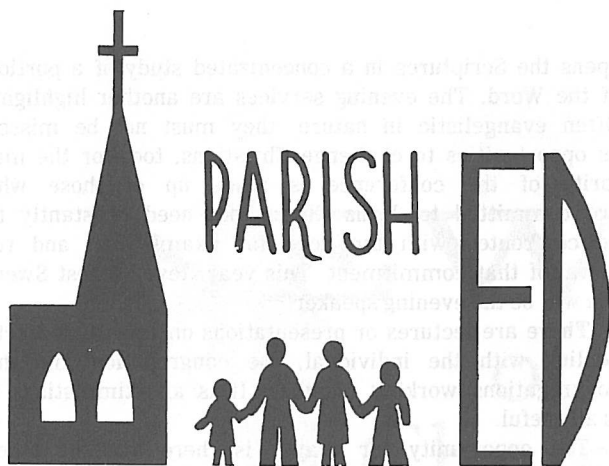
Pastors will find it easy to identify with the stimulating article "Pastoral Visitation" by Pastor Howard Kuhnle on page 3. It pretty well describes the pastor's life, his needs, the demands on his time.

People of the congregations will find it interesting to see the pastor's viewpoint and how he attempts to budget his time so that the tasks of ministry somehow get taken care of.

Certain it is that there isn't enough time in enough days to do the things that should be done if the parish served is of any size at all.

In reading Mr. Kuhnle's fine article, a statement we read by Dr. G. H. Gerberding over 20 years ago in his delightful book about his life, *Reminiscent Reflections*, came again to mind. It was this: "A home-going pastor makes a church-going people." And isn't it true that when people know the pastor cares about them enough to call on them when he can (and to come to see them when they are sick and in prison) they are more apt to be in church where the Word can minister to them again? Yes, that is generally true.

Amid the demands of parish ministry, neglect not visitation. And for the pastor it is among the most satisfying work that he does—and also for the people.



**“WHAT DO YOU SAY?”**

by Eula Mae Swenson, Fargo, N. Dak.

The classroom is humming with organized activities and business of the day. Suddenly the atmosphere changes. Two boys have conflicting opinions about what is right. Disruption grows into noisy chaos and Teacher must intervene. A few words of self-defense from both parties seems to make little impression on the mediator. Finally the boys get the message—be it verbal or non-verbal—“What do you say?” The response they make determines the course of action taken.

Let’s put the child in a home situation. A gift has been bestowed on him—it could be a cookie or an expensive item. A parent waits for the appropriate response. If it doesn’t come, the child is gently prodded with, “What do you say?”

Follow the child to Sunday School or Confirmation class. A good teacher will eventually bring his students to respond, mentally or verbally, to the question, “What do you say?”

It is easy for us adults to assume the role of tutor, and often it is our responsibility to do just that. To do so effectively, however, we also need to put ourselves in the position of the learner. How often has the Lord waited for some response from us—in vain? How frequently has the Holy Spirit had to nudge us with the question, “What do you say?” Again, our response de-

termines the direction and effectiveness of His work within us.

Like the two school boys we also find ourselves in social relationships where opinions differ. As Christians living in a world of permissiveness and spiritual indifference, this is likely to be a frequent experience. Like children we may vent our feelings with expressions of self-pity or self-defense. No enlightenment comes to either party when this occurs. But wait. The Tutor is asking, “What do you say?” God’s Word reminds us, “Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave it to the wrath of God...” (Rom. 12:19). Positive action, the Apostle Paul writes, will strengthen our Christian witness. “Do not be conformed to this world but be transformed by the renewal of your mind that you may prove what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect” (Rom. 12:2). Romans 12:9-21 provides valuable direction to one in, but not of, the world.

Even as a tutoring situation arises between parent and child, so also the Father bestows gifts upon His children. It’s not difficult to express gratitude to Him when it is a sought-after gift, or clearly a desirable one. But what if He sends a thorn to teach us patience, or financial stress to teach us dependence? We may become insolent toward our Father or even indignant until our Tutor nudges us with, “What do you say?” God’s Word reminds us to “give thanks in all circumstances, for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you” (I Thess. 5:8). With that response will come new-found joy in our relationship with the Father in the midst of trying circumstances.

The pupil inevitably is brought to the point where he must give his personal response in the light of information gleaned. We Christians also have decisions to make in the area of will, submission, obedience. We may know what the right response should be, to accept it is another thing. But as the Lord looks upon our heart and will, we hear Him gently ask, “What do you say?” Even Jesus encountered this struggle. With His response, “not My will, but Thine be done,” He received strength and courage to complete His mission. This can also be our experience as we yield ourselves to the Lord’s will.

Parent, teacher, friend, what do you say as the Lord speaks?

[Continued from page 6]

II Tim. 2:15: “Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.”

the men were back at work laying blocks. Mr. Dickey, the contractor, said that temperatures below ten degrees make work inadvisable.

All work, as this is being written, is still at ground level and below.

Minneapolis, Minn. 55441.

The third and final quarter of the year will come to a close on May 17 when graduation exercises will take place for a prospective class of 35 young people.

**COLD WEATHER DELAYS CONSTRUCTION WORK**

The severe cold weather spell that hit the Twin Cities area, indeed, much of the Upper Midwest, right after Christmas and continuing into January, held up construction work on the boys’ dormitory at AFLBS. But when temperatures moderated on the 14th,

**REGISTER NOW**

Anyone interested in attending AFLBS during the third quarter of the school year, which begins on February 25th, should apply now for admission.

If interested, please write to Dean, AFLBS, 3110 E. Medicine Lake Blvd.,

**BASKETBALL SCORES**

- AFLBS Conquerors 31
- Cross of Glory Lutheran 48
- AFLBS Conquerors 44
- Calvary No. 2 62
- AFLBS Conquerors 37
- Northwestern College B 42



## PERSONALITIES

Rev. Stephen Odegaard, who has been serving the home mission congregation at Gull Harbor, Wash., has accepted a call to serve the Winger, Minn., parish (Dovre, Union Lake and Maple Bay) and will begin work there now. Two seminary students, Ragene Hodnefield and Wesley Langas, have been taking care of the work during the vacancy.

Rev. Kenneth L. Anderson, McVille, N. Dak., suffered a heart attack in early January, but is recuperating well. It will be some time before he is back at full strength.

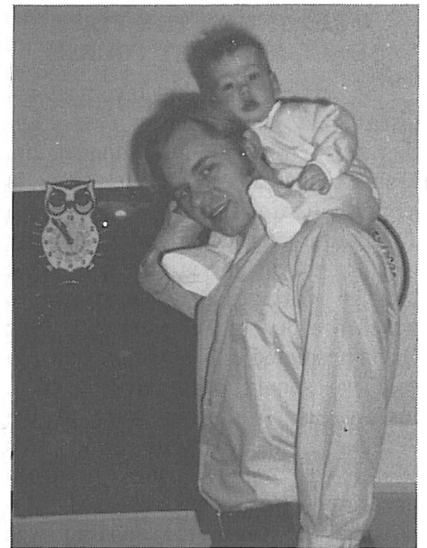


## A FATHER'S PRAYER

Now I lay my son to sleep;  
I pray Thee, Lord, his soul to keep.  
Accept our thanks for little joys  
this day has brought:  
for friends—for toys—  
for laughter—hugs—for shoulder  
rides—  
for having hearts where Christ  
resides—  
for bumps and scratches—fun  
and tears—  
for hopes that draw us through  
the years.  
Please give him pleasant dreams to-  
night  
And may tomorrow's sun shine  
bright upon our love.

Amen

by Dale M. Stone



Author Dale M. Stone with his son Matthew, then 10 months old.



JUNIOR CLASS AT ASSOCIATION FREE LUTHERAN BIBLE SCHOOL, 1973-74

Bottom row, left to right, Patti Erickson, Anne Snipstead, Donna Palmer, Elaine Hill, Ruth Solheim, Becky Haugen, Vickie Ingulsrud, Kaye Toivonen, Karin Anderson and Carrie Jackson; second row, Karen Quanbeck, Shelly Hillstead, Janet Wall, June Gjevre, Kaye Pederson, Marilyn Eversvik, Paula Benson, Vonnie Kylo, Rebecca Lee, Sonia Pollestad and Glenda Aasness; third row, Kurt Mortenson, Verna Whitaker, Kris Zurawski, July Salge, Wendy Wise, Roxanne Engebritson, Gloria Hinrichs, Kathie Fleischauer, Ruth Mundfrom and Kenneth Ronning; fourth row, Don Olson, Duane Haugen, Becky Stai, Diane Grothe, Liz Lee, Jennifer Broden, Janet Lohre, Wanda Milton, John Nelson and Tony Stockman; fifth row, John Spreiter, Kerry Anderson, Marty Horn, Mike Luggar, Gordon Engebritson, John Anderson, Steven Holland,\* Steve Johnson, Paul Jore, and Jerry Nelson; and, top row, Leland Melby, David Youngberg, Otto Rodne, Harold Nelson, Wesley Kvanvig, Dean Bernard, Harlan Larson, Art Johnson and Jeff Dahl. \* No longer in school.

## A REPORT ON THE FIRST SEMINARY SHORT COURSE

This article on the lay pastors' institute at our seminary (Free Lutheran Seminary in Minneapolis, Minn.) July 30-August 10, 1973, is somewhat late in being submitted to **The Lutheran Ambassador**, mainly because the writer is also somewhat late in writing his assigned papers which are due in February. Dr. Iver Olson predicted this would happen. He said we should begin writing then, last August, while we were at the Seminary. Well, guess what this writer was doing during Christmas vacation? Yes, you guessed it—writing! At least the reading was completed last fall.

The lay institute was certainly a highlight of the year spiritually for those attending. It was rewarding to hear from the great men of God we have at the seminary, and also to study the life and teachings of the founder of our church, Martin Luther, a theological genius whom God had given a simple faith. (Dr. Olson says that a computer analysis of his writings shows that he must have had an IQ of 170.) To we who have a simple faith, it is comforting to know that this faith has prevailed, withstood, and has been supported by the searchings of a great mind. Intellectual reader (and perhaps doubter), let it be known that Martin Luther was no dummy—you, too, can believe with the help of God. If you doubt his genius, just try reading his writings!

Dr. Olson taught us Reformation Church History for two hours a day for two weeks. Sounds like a long time in one class. On the contrary, we wonder where the time went. May God grant Dr. Olson many more years of service. This man is a walking history book on the Lutheran Church! Did you know that Luther's Small Catechism is the world's best seller second only to the Holy Bible itself? Did you know that Luther was the first to use pictures (visual aids) in a textbook, the Catechism? Are there other things you did not know? Come to Seminary next summer?

Pastor Laurel Udden taught us from Luther's Lectures on Romans. Did you ever have a teacher who smiled all the time? He says that he

is just lazy—takes fewer muscles to smile than to frown. "God is righteous, man is a sinner." "How can a man be right before God?" Job 9:12. "I need a man, a 'reconciler,' one who can reach down to man, yet reach up to God," Job 9:33. Jesus is the One. Praise the Lord! "The man who by faith (in Him) is righteous shall live," Romans 1:17.

We learned how we are supposed to prepare a sermon from Pastor Harold Hosch, the Hebrew scholar. Did you know that Hebrew is one language that has not changed, and that in Jesus' day the people spoke Aramaic but learned Hebrew in the synagogue? "Context is important. Background and history are important. Do not be guilty of 'eisegesis'—reading into Scripture texts your doctrine, but practise 'exegesis'—let Scripture and context present its own doctrine."

Pastor John Strand, president of the Association of Free Lutheran Congregations, spoke to us on the place of the congregation in the work of the church and the pastor's relation to the church. "The Church is the Body of Christ. Christ loved the Church, Eph. 5:25-27. Do we love the Church? Building up the Church is the goal. Saving souls is but one step toward that goal. One of the pastor's main responsibilities is to lead the congregation in worship." How we were humbled when we realized how true worship is lacking in our congregations. "Fellowship with God must be No. 1. Fellowship with people must take second place."

Pastor Amos Dyrud discussed the pastor's call. "We need men who are called of God. The certainty of a divine call makes for more diligence, faith and zeal and arouses respect in the hearers and obedience to the Word proclaimed. A pastor needs natural abilities, spiritual endowments, but most of all needs to be called of God."

On behalf of the laymen attending this institute, I want to express our thanks to the faculty for the profitable time they devoted to us. I for one recommend and hope that this seminary short course can continue every summer.

J. C. Gerdeen, Lay Pastor  
Maranatha Lutheran Church

Chassell, Michigan  
(Ed. Note: A second Seminary Short Course is being planned for the summer of 1974. Tentative dates arranged are July 29 to August 9.)

### ONE DAY AT A TIME

One day at a time, with its failures and fears,  
With its hurts and mistakes, with its weakness and tears,  
With its portion of pain and its burden of care;  
One day at a time we must meet and must bear.

One day at a time to be patient and strong;  
To be calm under trial and sweet under wrong;  
Then its toiling shall pass and its sorrow shall cease;  
It shall darken and die, and the night shall bring peace.

One day at a time—but the day is so long,  
And the heart is not brave, and the soul is not strong,  
O Thou pitiful Christ, be Thou near all the way;  
Give courage and patience and strength for the day.

Swift cometh His answer, so clear and so sweet;  
"Yea, I will be with thee, thy troubles to meet;  
I will not forget thee, nor fail thee, nor grieve;  
I will not forsake thee; I never will leave."

Not yesterday's load we are called on to bear,  
Nor the morrow's uncertain and shadowy care;  
Why should we look forward or back with dismay?  
Our needs, as our mercies, are but for the day.

One day at a time, and the day is His day;  
He hath numbered its hours, though they haste or delay.  
His grace is sufficient; we walk not alone;  
As the day, so the strength that He giveth His own.

Annie Johnson Flint  
(Faith, Prayer and Tract League)

[Continued on page 7]

soil for the finest fruit of sanctification.

But our old nature does not like this soil. It is the last place where it cares to be. Therefore the old nature tries to draw the Christian away both from the holy ignorance and the God-given suspicion concerning himself.

The old nature seeks to persuade the honest soul to trust in his own conversion and spiritual progress. From that point there is but a short step to a secret joy and admiration over one's own sanctification. Thus a Christian may slip away from the blessed poverty which owns heaven, without knowing it. Then the old nature grows and flourishes. You thought that your spiritual experiences would mean the death of old Adam. It may be that he will thrive in these very experiences.

Bliver du fornøiet  
i dig selv, ei bøiet,  
du paa avvei er;  
kun de arme, svage  
naadens trøst mottage  
og den søker her.

"The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?" (Jer. 17:9).

It is only when God's grace can keep a Christian down in humility and self-examination, that he can be saved from the deceitfulness of the old Adam nature.

A young Christian entered into great darkness for the first time after her conversion. God did not lead her along an easy route. She met the enemy and had to fight. She was very much distressed at the discovery of the great corruption in her own breast, but then she went to God in confession and prayer, and victory was won and a sweet light flooded her soul. When asked how this happened, she answered: "I had to read it over again."

This is a lesson for you who are worried concerning yourself.

"I had to read it over again."

It was this which the man of God, Rev. T. J. Oppedahl, had been taught in the school of life. He died at Elliott, Illinois, September 11, 1931. He said to his wife before he died:

"Josephine, I cannot see God; I cannot feel God, but I have His prom-

ises, and that is enough."

He had learned to read it over again—clear to the end.

Løftene kan ikke svigte,  
mei de staar evig fast.

(The promises cannot fail;  
They stand eternally sure.)

When our restless heart is filled with doubt and fear, let us read over again God's promises and cling to them. Then will be renewed our joy and peace, because we realize that in the realm of grace nothing counts but the blood of Jesus, not only the first time, but the whole way home.

—Peder Fostervold

### THE HIGHER LEARNING

If I should seek for knowledge  
And wisdom try to find,  
Then must I not find limits  
In my little human mind;  
There is more to life than learning  
Though the mind must have its part,  
The deepest things are only known  
In the chambers of the heart.

Should I seek to know life's problems,  
Or try to understand  
The ways of life and living  
In this busy earthly land;  
Or should I help my fellowmen  
Through hardship and through strife,  
Then must I know the deeper things  
That go to make up life.

And so, if I should try to know  
What this life really is,  
Then must I learn to know my God  
And bend my will to His;  
Then must I seek His guidance  
And implore His tender care;  
Then must I learn to love Him  
And commune with Him in prayer.

Manley Gjerde  
1908-1973

### ANNUAL CONFERENCES DATES

For those who may have forgotten, the dates for the 1974 Annual Conference to be held in Thief River Falls, Minn., upon invitation of Our Savior's Lutheran Church, Rev. David Molstre, pastor, are June 12-16, Wednesday through Sunday. The Women's Missionary Federation an-

nual convention is held on that Wednesday morning and afternoon with the annual meeting of the Association of Free Lutheran Congregations commencing with an evening worship service.

### BOOK REPORTS FROM THE DALTON, MINN., PARISH LIBRARY

#### WHAT THE BIBLE IS ALL ABOUT By Henrietta C. Mears

An easy-to-understand survey of the Bible.

Dr. Mears first gained prominence as the teacher of a flourishing Bible class in Minneapolis. The demand for her Bible study material led to "Gospel Light Publications" which now has a world-wide outreach. This is a book for student and teacher alike.

One of the greatest needs today for Christians is to become acquainted with the Scriptures in daily study and meditation. Through dependence upon the Holy Spirit and the prayerful reading of God's Word, His eternal truth grips our hearts with a dynamic force. We need to understand the Word of God and the study of **What The Bible Is All About** will help bring this essential understanding of God's essential revelation of Himself.

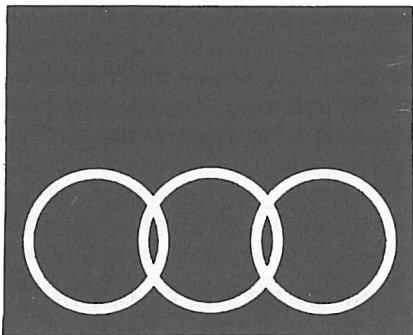
#### DARE TO DISCIPLINE By Dr. James Dobson

Dr. Dobson has had wide experience both as a teacher and as a psychologist. He makes technical procedures not merely understandable but interesting and often humorous. Best of all, readers who follow him find that they get the results they want.

One extremely valuable chapter tells how these principles can be applied effectively in the schools; another deals with creating effective moral behavior; still another is devoted entirely to the abuse of drugs.

Mother and father both get full attention and they are warned they must show respect for their children if they want their children to show respect in return.





## HOW GOD SOLVED MY SMOKING PROBLEM

How long is it since you first started smoking? Are you hooked on cigarettes, have they become as important an object in your pocket as the house or car key? Does being out of matches make you jittery? This is how it came to be for me. I made sure that I never went anywhere without a good supply of matches although the pains in my chest told me that I should quit my smoking or at least taper down. Just walking would start my heart pounding, but did I quit?

Perhaps I started to smoke more heavily as I worried about what smoking was doing to my lungs. I tried quitting a few times, the longest period lasting perhaps a day and a half. Then I would speed into town and buy more to keep from climbing the walls as I thought of never being able to smoke again.

Then one evening in the spring, there was a full moon out. I had just finished smoking and became disgusted from breathing so hard as I was walking, so I took my pipe and tobacco and threw everything out into the field, but this time I looked up into the heavens and said, "God, please help me, because you know how weak I am." A sensation went through me as I realized that I had asked God for help. The first and second day passed without any desire to smoke even though I had been smoking for about 20 years. I knew God had answered. I accepted Christ then as my Savior and He came into my heart and washed away all my sins in the blood He shed for all of us on the cross.

Not only has He taken away the desire to smoke, but He has changed my whole outlook on life and He is

waiting to do the same for you if you will confess your sins to Him and believe that He has forgiven you. And the life He gives will be eternal.

"Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me" (Rev. 3:20).

—Harold Nelson

(Ed. Note: Harold Nelson is a first-year student at Association Free Lutheran Bible School.)

The love and saving grace of this Shepherd has no limitation. He knows His own. Even as the Father knoweth Him, so He knoweth His sheep. His heart throbs for them in perfect love and solicitude. But His love does not stop with us, for He says, "Other sheep I have, which are not of this fold." His mission was to save Israel, it is true; yet it included the entire human race as well.

—C. G. Haas

If our Christian convictions mean anything to us, they must be founded upon, and grounded in our faith in the sinlessness of Christ. . . . We Christian people do not doubt the sinlessness of Christ, but do we really appreciate its bearing upon our redemption, and its significance for the hope of our salvation?

—Paul Press

It has been, however, my experience that the invisible things have far greater bearing upon the shaping of human life than the visible.

—Ernst G. Kuenzler

## INFORMATION CONCERNING HOUSING FOR THE WINTER BIBLE CONFERENCE AT VALLEY CITY, N. DAK., FEBRUARY 21-24

The following is a listing of the various accommodations which would be available to people attending the Bible conference:

The Char-Mac Motor Hotel,  
140 - 3rd Avenue SE

### Motel

Single—7.50  
Double—10-12  
2 Doubles—15.00

### Hotel

Single—6.00  
Double—10.00

(sleeping rooms and some with just a half-bath are available at lower rates.)

The Mid-Town Motel, 906 East Main  
Single—9.00

Double—10.00 (with twin beds—13.00)  
2 Doubles—14.00  
3 Doubles—20.00

Valley City Motel, 1139 West Main  
Single—7.00

Double—10.00 (twins—12.00)  
2 Doubles—14-16 (suite—18.00)  
2 Doubles plus a cot—18-20

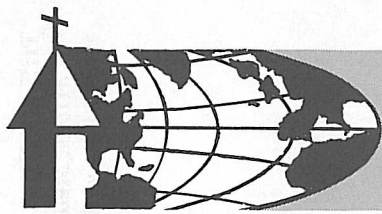
The Bel-Air Motel, Hwy. 10 West  
(Main Street)

Single—8.00  
Double—10.00 (twins—12.00)  
2 Doubles—14.00

Flickertail Inn Motor Lodge,  
W. Interchange I-94

Single—9.00  
Double—12.50 (twins—13.50, queen  
size bed—13.50)  
2 Doubles—16.50

There will also be some housing available in private homes. Any requests for such should be addressed to Hospitality Committee, Grace Lutheran Church, 202 NW 3rd Street, Valley City, N. Dak. 58072. As far as the motels are concerned, it would be best if people would write directly to them and make their own reservations.



# CHURCH-WORLD NEWS

## THE CHURCH AROUND THE WORLD

\*\*An average of only 1,000 copies of the Bible a year have been printed in Russia in the last 44 years in a vain effort to supply 1,000,000 Baptists and 5,000,000 Russian Orthodox believers. Some Russian believers last summer paid three months' salary for one copy. 15,000 copies cross the borders illegally each year, but most Russians have never seen one. Thank God for America's easy access to God's Word. Query: are you reading it?

\*\*Operation Mobilization is seizing the opportunity to witness to thousands of Turks, Greeks and Arabs living in and around London. Pray that many of these people will be won to Christ, and that London churches will be moved to minister to this mission field at their doorstep.

\*\*Two per cent of Asia is now Christian. 200 new Asian missionaries are scheduled to begin work this year in countries other than their own. There are now approximately 3,000 third-world missionaries. Meanwhile, North American, British and German agencies support approximately 41,900 foreign missionaries worldwide.

\*\*In 1972, Americans spent \$25 billion for alcohol, and \$10 billion for all religious and welfare activities—with most of this for welfare... Wine sales are zooming, with a 12% gain forecast for 1974.

—Tyndale House Publishers

## ENROLLMENTS AGAIN DECREASE IN LUTHERAN SEMS, COLLEGES

New York—(LC)—Enrollment in twenty Lutheran seminaries in the

U.S. and Canada declined three per cent in 1973, according to statistics gathered here by the Lutheran Council in the USA.

One study also showed that the number of full-time undergraduate students at 36 Lutheran four-year colleges and universities decreased by 2.19 per cent.

The Rev. Edward A. Rauff, head of the Lutheran Council's Office of Research, Statistics and Archives, reported that 3,095 students were enrolled in the basic programs at North American Lutheran seminaries, a loss of 96 students over the previous year, while 47,993 students were enrolled at Lutheran four-year colleges and universities, a loss of 1,074 students.

Lutheran junior colleges also showed a modest decline in enrollment, dropping from 5,304 to 5,240 or 1.18 per cent. That total includes figures from 19 Lutheran schools.

Two schools dropped their Lutheran affiliation in 1973. Waterloo Lutheran University in Waterloo, Ontario, disaffiliated with the church, and Luther College in Regina, Sask., also dropped church affiliation. California Concordia College in Oakland, a junior college, was closed in 1973.

The Lutheran seminary in Gettysburg, Pa., a school supported by the Lutheran Church in America, showed the largest increase in enrollment among the seminaries with 28 more students than in the previous year. The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod's Concordia Seminary in St. Louis showed the largest decline in enrollment with a drop of 45 students. However, with a total enrollment of 612 in its basic program, Concordia in St. Louis remains the largest Lutheran seminary in North America.

Among the colleges, Concordia College in Bronxville, N.Y., showed the largest increase with 84 more students than the previous year. Concordia, supported by the LCMS,

enrolls a total of 469 students.

Thiel College in Greenville, Pa., affiliated with the LCA, lost more students than any other Lutheran four-year college. Enrollment at Thiel was 1,048 down 281 from the previous year.

Enrollment in Lutheran high schools increased by 397 students last year. The Lutheran Council statistics show a total of 18,655 in 53 Lutheran high schools. Concordia high school in Milwaukee, Wis., was closed in 1973.

## LCMS SPRINGFIELD SEM HEAD TAKES POST IN NEW JERSEY

Springfield, Ill.—(LC)—Dr. Richard J. Schultz has resigned after four years as president of Concordia Seminary here to become a mission developer in the newly-created New Jersey District of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod.

Dr. Schultz, 53, will assume his new post on Jan. 15 in a jurisdictional unit that was organized in June of 1972 when the Synod's Atlantic District, based in New York City, was restructured in a three-way split that also established a New England District.

A member of the Concordia faculty for three years before he assumed the presidency, Dr. Schultz succeeded Dr. J.A.O. Preus when the latter was elected president of the Missouri Synod in 1969.

Concordia at Springfield is regarded as the more conservative of the Synod's two seminaries. The other, Concordia at St. Louis, has been under fire for alleged teachings contrary to the Synod's doctrinal position, and the fate of its president, Dr. John H. Tietjen, and most of the faculty is still to be determined.

Dr. Schultz denied to the press that his action was related to the doctrinal dispute within the 2.8-million-member denomination and asserted that

his decision was based on "a sincere conviction that my ministry for Jesus Christ can best be pursued in direct mission work."

His first assignment in New Jersey will be to organize a new parish in Forked River, a popular retirement area on the state's eastern shore off Barnegat Bay. "Ministry to a people is the primary and splendid goal of the clergy," Dr. Schultz said.

Dr. Schultz attended public schools in Buffalo, N.Y., and Concordia Junior College in Fort Wayne, Ind. He graduated from Concordia Seminary in St. Louis in 1945 and received a master's degree in education from the

University of Illinois in 1968.

Ordained at St. Paul Lutheran church in Buffalo in 1945, he served parishes in Pasadena and Rosemeade, Calif., Marysville, Mich., and Orchard Park, N.Y., for 17 years.

In 1962, he was appointed executive secretary of parish education for the Eastern District and served in that office until he became assistant professor of education at the seminary here early in 1966. He was named associate professor in 1968.

Dr. Schultz is married to the former Marion Deipser Boecher. They have four daughters.

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