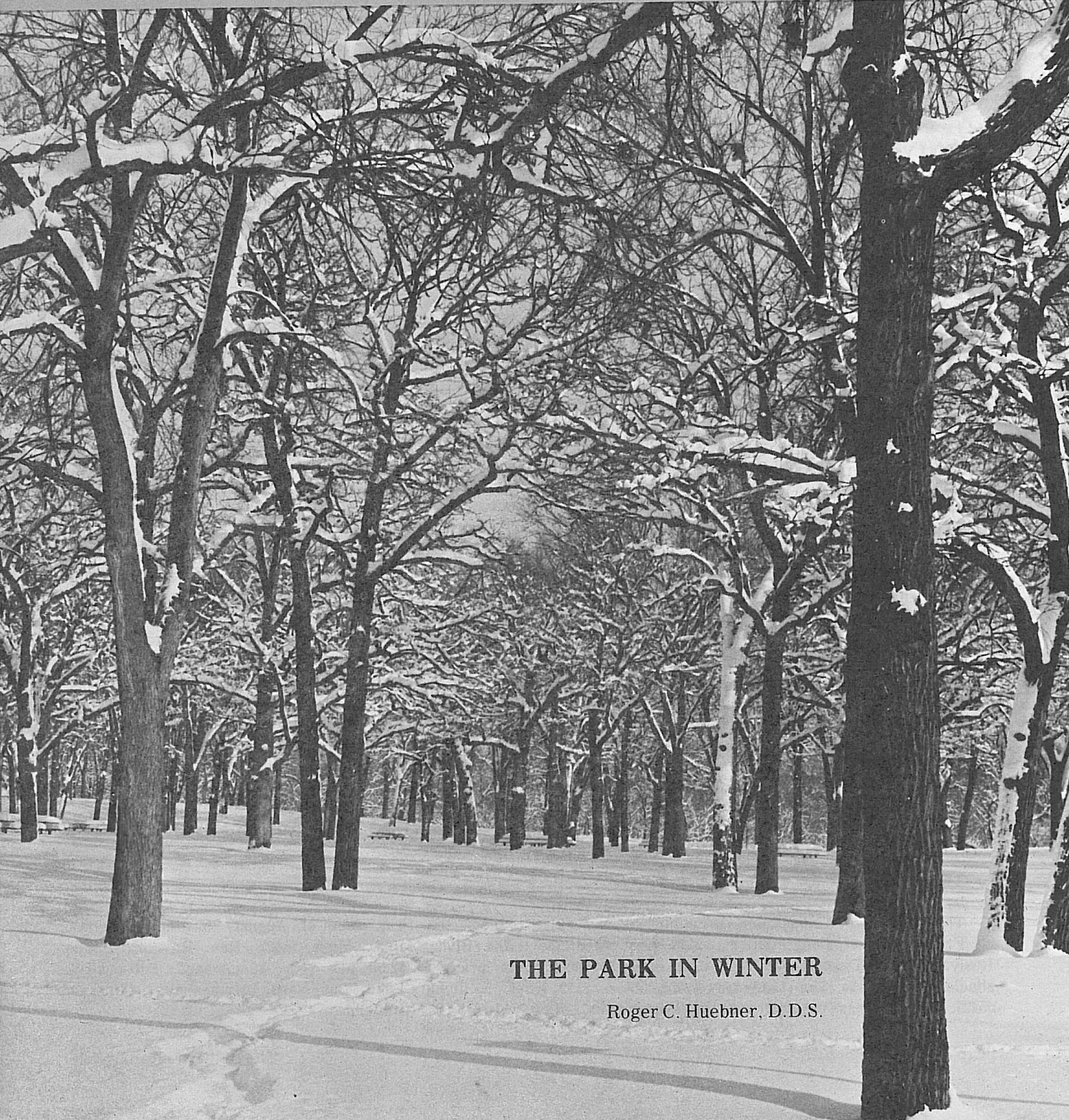


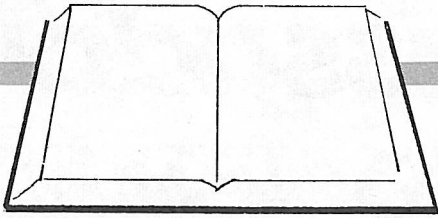
January 4, 1972

The Lutheran Ambassador



THE PARK IN WINTER

Roger C. Huebner, D.D.S.



According to the Word

TIMELY THOUGHTS FOR 1972

"See to it, therefore, that you conduct yourselves ever so carefully; not as foolish but as wise people who make the best possible use of their time, because these are evil days." (Ephesians 5:15-16, Berkeley)

A wise pastor once used the following illustration: "If you had a bank that credited your account each morning with \$86,400, that carried no balance from day to day, allowed you to keep no cash in your account, and finally every evening cancelled whatever part of the amount you had failed to use during the day, what would you do? Draw out every cent—of course!

"Well, you have such a bank and its name is 'Time'. Every morning it credits you with 86,400 seconds. Every night it rules off—as lost—whatever of this you have failed to invest to good purpose. It carries no balances. It allows no overdrafts. Each day the bank named 'Time' opens a new account with **you**. Each night it burns the records of the day. If you fail to use the day's deposits the loss is yours."

As we enter the new year, 1972, perhaps we should take some time to think about time.

In the verses above, St. Paul urges

the Ephesian Christians, and us, to make the best possible use of our time; the more familiar translation reads "redeeming" the time. It is clear that his message is to believers who were making some effort to live the Christian life, but he is saying that this is not enough.

Why? Because these are evil days.

All of our hopes for the new year must be tempered by this truth. The Evil One himself, through his allies in the world and within, seeks to undermine any truly spiritual effort, in the Church or in our lives. He especially seeks to keep a soul-hungry world from seeing that life in Christ is **real**.

How easy it is to become stale and self-satisfied... and fruitless, when it is God's will that others see Christ in us.

How necessary, then, it is to realize that mere **careful** conduct is not enough; rather, we must conduct ourselves "ever so carefully," as our text reminds us, quick to sense and respond to the Spirit's leading.

We should not think it strange that Paul's words about conduct are followed in the very next verse by words about time, for some have called it God's fundamental gift, upon which all His other gifts are conditioned.

"You cannot kill time without injuring eternity" (Thoreau).

The Scriptures generally use one of two words to express the thought of time. The first means time in general, moment upon moment. The second word, **kairos**, which is the one in our text, means a special time that is adapted for a certain thing, the season for something. This same word can also correctly be translated **opportunity**.

Now Paul is not content with merely reminding us to use the many opportunities that, multiplied, equal our days. Read the verse again: we are to "redeem" our opportunities, making the best possible use of them. One could also say "buy back," or "rescue."

Can you see the message of these words?

Prepare to wage warfare against the Evil One, God is saying, with Time as your first battlefield. In His perfect plan, the Lord has intended every moment as a special opportunity to be rescued from the Enemy, and to be filled and enjoyed.

Life at best is brief, and time is limited. If we do not rescue it, and use it, we shall surely lose it.

"Behold, now is the accepted time"

—Robert L. Lee

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Lay Aside Every Weight and Sin

by Rev. Fred Carlson, Sebeka, Minn.

"Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us" (Heb. 12:1).

Before all of us is a whole new year. This new year can be considered the race we must run. How shall we run this race? Shall we run in fear? No, let us run knowing we have "a great cloud of witnesses." May this "great cloud of witnesses" be those who have been the guiding influence of our Association? We must also include those prayer warriors of our group. We thank God that He raised them up for such a time as this. Some of these "witnesses" have gone on to be with the Lord. May these "witnesses" inspire us on to greater heights in our race.

As we go ahead in the new year we must cast off the "weights" and "sins" that will hinder our service to the Lord. What are some of these "weights"? There once was a very beautiful custom in Norway, which it would be well to imitate in every congregation of the Association. On the first day of the New Year, whatever might have been the quarrels or estrangement between church members and relatives, mutual visits were exchanged, kindly greetings given and received—all was forgotten and forgiven. Let this custom begin with reconciliation to God, then

friendship and fellowship may be found that shall be blessed and lasting. If we throw off this "weight or sin" of estrangement between one another we can then pray the fifth petition of the Lord's Prayer—"And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us." How can we expect God to bless us as individuals when there is misunderstanding between Christians.

When we pray the fifth petition of the Lord's Prayer we are saying, "Forgive my sins, God, as I forgive those who have sinned against me." If we are not willing to forgive others God does not have to forgive us. How long can you remain a Christian and still have an unforgiving spirit? An unforgiving spirit poisons the physical body. Many are physically sick because they carry resentment or are unforgiving. This any doctor will tell you. But an unforgiving spirit is also poison to the spiritual life of a Christian. It will make him spiritually sick. Also it will make the Christian ineffective in the service of the Lord. Your testimony will have no influence for good. I talked with a young man not long ago about joining the church and he gave me this answer, "I see and hear so much quarreling among church people I don't see what good it is to belong to a church." Christian, have you been a stumbling block to someone this past year? May the "weight or sin" of an unforgiving spirit be cast off and let us start the New Year with a spirit of love. These "weights and sins" of estrangement

cling to us and hold us back in our race.

The reason why we permit an unforgiving spirit to dwell within us is because self is ruling and not Christ. If we are in Christ whatever anybody says about us has to come to Christ first. He takes the force of the attack. The unkind words or deeds are really directed at Him. If we understand this we will be less apt to answer back or be bitter.

But in overcoming these "weights and sins" in order to run the race, we need guidance. The Word of God says a great deal about guidance. We need guidance because the path before us is unknown. Every new year is foreign to us. When we are a visitor to a foreign city, we need a guide to show us around. "Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path" (Psalm 119:105). The Word of God is our guide. The Word is a light to reveal the path ahead. Before us is darkness and we cannot penetrate the future, therefore we need someone to guide us. We are not going the broad way but the narrow way. The way may be perilous and difficult. Because the way is narrow and difficult we may slip unless we keep close to our guide. When travelers go away to Switzerland, and want to ascend the Alps, they tie themselves to their guide. Even that is not sometimes a perfect protection, because the guide may slip. But if we are tied to our Guide we need not fear. To be tied to our Guide is to be saturated in the Word of God. "Thy word have I laid up

in my heart that I might not sin against thee" (Psalm 119:11). In our Ladies Aid meetings we memorize one Bible verse every month. Thus by the time the year is over we have memorized twelve Bible verses. Now for the January meeting we will be reviewing the twelve Bible verses of the past year. As we review these precious promises of God we will have the Word of God to resist sin. In ten years we will have one hundred and twenty Bible verses stored up in our hearts. The whole Ladies Aid meeting will be reviewing the Word of God. Can there be any more blessed way to have a Ladies Aid meeting?

Though we may have noticed in the past that we have stumbled, yet God sees us past many a peril that we do not see. God is the one who is guiding us. "His eyes are upon the righteous" (Psalm 34:15). What does this mean? It makes me think of a mother who is baking bread and her child is playing about the house. The mother, out of the corner of her eye, is watching the little one all the time. She will with her feet push something out of the way to clear the child's path. And unconsciously to us God thus guides us with His eye, taking many a perilous thing out of our path. He is controlling us often, when we do not know it, by His Providence, so that we are guided aright.

But as we journey on the race into the new year we must be concerned about those not running the narrow race. There are many on the broad path with no hope. Look and see how unhappy they are. We must go out of our way to help them. Our chief concern should be to take others with us. We are running well when we are concerned about the fallen.

As we journey on our race and our end comes we need not fear. "Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I fear no evil; for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff, they comfort me" (Psalm 23:4). Thus we can look ahead to the new year in confidence. He will guide us in the race that is before us whether the race be in this world or the next. In life or death we can sing, "Thanks be unto God who always leads us in triumph."

Paris Subways Halt

by Roger Ose

PARIS: We set out for language school on Tuesday morning, October 5, and hoped to take the subway to school as usual. But when we came to the terminal entrance, it was dark and locked.

Along with four million other people who ride the subways to work every day, we had to find another way. We went to the nearest bus stop, but more than 200 people were waiting for a ride. We waited for an hour and then got on, but we had to stand the entire trip.

The subway ride from La Defense terminal to our school is usually not more than 20 minutes, but that day it took an hour by bus. Traffic on the main boulevard into Paris crawled along very slowly. Many people who normally ride the subways took their cars or motorcycles, or their children's bicycles to work.

The strike had a darker side. The French government anticipated trouble and National Guard troops with sub-machine guns lined the main boulevard into Paris that first day. All during the strike there were additional policemen at the main intersections not only to direct traffic but also to put an immediate end to riots (which fortunately didn't occur).

Many students at our language school missed classes during the strike. When they took their October exams, quite a few failed because they had not been able to get to school. Our school allowed no exceptions, and those who didn't get the material failed the exams.

The link between the striking motor-men and the strong Communist-backed unions in Paris was not exactly subtle. The strike demonstrated that one strong union of only 2,000 subway motormen could effectively tie up

traffic for a city of seven million people.

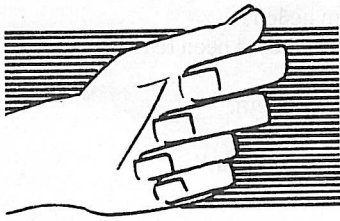
But the strike had a brighter side. Frenchmen, who normally don't talk to strangers, spoke with us on the bus. As we waited in line for buses, people around us would tell a funny story from work, or talk about the huge crowds. People in Paris were exceptionally well-mannered about the whole thing. And when their bus waited 15 minutes in a traffic jam, many didn't seem to mind.

One evening it took me three hours to get home and it took my wife four hours, whereas it normally takes just a little over one hour. We decided there had to be a better way, so we took to hitch-hiking the next few days.

I got a ride with a driver from Sweden and we talked together a bit (I speak some Norwegian). Another time I rode with a man from near Crailsheim, Germany, the town where I lived while in the Army. I got a ride with a man from America and we conversed in English. French drivers often gave us a lift and one man took me right to our door.

We appreciated how the French took the ten-day subway strike in stride. We may well look back on it as one of the highlights of our year in Paris. One thing we realized was that only 2,000 workers could make a strong impact on a city of seven million residents because they agreed on a course of action and stuck together to achieve their goal. Think what might happen if members of a church agree on a course of action and stick together to get the job done.

Note: Roger Ose is a missionary living in Paris for a year learning French. Next year he and his family will go to Madagascar, the field where Rev. and Mrs. Amos Dyrud served for many years.



STEWARDSHIP

ALL THAT I HAVE
IS THINE ALONE

NO MAN LIVETH TO HIMSELF

by Lay Pastor Gene Sundby
Culbertson, Mont.

“For no man liveth to himself, and no man dieth to himself” (Rom. 14:7).

Somehow it is extremely difficult for man to comprehend the meaning of stewardship. WHAT DOES IT INVOLVE? You know, it is so easy for us to put life into convenient compartments. We may even be proper enough to put God first, at least in our warped thinking. So, consciously or unconsciously, we say, “This is for God, this is for me, this is for the world, and this is for others.” While we may entertain these thoughts, God would make indelibly clear that He intends that we should be His stewards 24 hours a day, seven days a week, 365 days a year. This stewardship is to include time, talents, money, thoughts, words and deeds. It means the involvement of the total person, body, soul, and mind, in loving service of and for his Maker and Redeemer. Naturally, this means service to our fellow creatures, as Jesus said of Himself, “For even the Son of Man came not to be ministered unto but to minister, and to give His life a ransom for many.” And again, “He that will be greatest among you, let him serve all.” We must not forget, as God will not, the cup of cold water or the helping hand stretched out to the least of mankind in Jesus’ name.

What does stewardship involve? Yes, EVERYTHING! Therefore, in God’s sight, there is no such thing as an insignificant event, or unimportant moment, or wasted day. They must all count for something, somewhere, sometime. Remember, there are only two masters, and our stewardship quotient will be the total of how we have divided between the two. In God’s reckoning, many will have totals far in the minus because in life they have been completely indifferent to Him and to man. Others, who have lived disciplined and moral lives, including much service to their fellow man, but without Christ, may come very close to zero. Then there are those who may come out about even, that is, they have experienced the grace of God in Christ, but are very cool and distant in their daily walk. Shall they be saved by the skin of their teeth? (II Cor. 5:10; I Cor. 3:12-15.) Fortunately, there will also be those who will be welcomed with, “Well done, thou good and faithful servant, enter thou into the joy of the Lord,” having produced some thirty-, some sixty-, and some one hundred-fold. This is the earmark of true Christian stewardship. “And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved” (Acts 2:47b).

The progress of the Christian church today would indicate that most of God’s people are trying to live just within the acceptance limit. That

is, acceptable to God because of their relationship to Christ. But, let us remember, Jesus told the parables of those weighed in the balance regarding their stewardship. It is possible to be found unprofitable and be cast out as a wicked servant. Many surprises may be in store for the Christian family because of unworthy stewardship. Let us not take anything for granted.

What does Jesus expect? Surely this is indicated by Christ’s comment on the widow who threw into the treasury two mites. She had given more than all the rest because she had given all she had, even her living. If this is true with money it can also be safely applied to every area of our life. Thus, we are not only accountable for the eight hours on the job but the 16 off as well. We are not only responsible for the ten percent or more that we give to the Lord but also for the remainder that we spend on our own needs or otherwise. (When we give to the Lord what is rightfully His, hopefully we are indicating wise investment of the remainder as well.) Our talents and gifts must also be used consistently, not just on special occasions, as the Sunday silverware.

Joy in the individual life and general spiritual progress would be abundant if all God gives and wants to give was used faithfully to His glory. When God is glorified there is proper balance in the household of faith and this is what God earnestly seeks. If man had been the steward God intended from the beginning this balance would never have been lost. How sad it is, when we see those with time, but no money or developed talent. Other times we may have money, but no one to go. Then again, we may have an abundance of talent available, only to see it abused, causing a waste of money, time and talent. But, if God’s people were 100% committed to total stewardship, the Lord of the Church would be able to effect and maintain an effective balance for the upbuilding of His people and for the certain extension of His Kingdom. How blessed it would be if the AFLC could step into all the open doors God has put before us. We could, you know, with 100% commitment, as God never opens doors without knowing where the essentials are to

fill them. In other words, every unused open door only serves to remind us of disobedience in God's family. We need to be reminded that all our needs are supplied in Christ Jesus through stewardship, because stewardship is the key to the riches of glory in Christ Jesus, for ourselves, for our congregations, and for the lost world (Mal. 3:8-12).

Surely, we do not live unto ourselves and we do not die unto ourselves, but most often we don't realize that our works do follow us (Rev. 15:13). This again, of course, is largely the sum total of our daily commitment to the Lord. Our daily living certainly determines whether what follows our life will be godly fruit or otherwise. However, there is one area where we still have vital control even after our death, and that is our estate. Much of the time we are satisfied to follow the pattern of the world in this regard, too. We must realize that we have to give account for that portion of our earthly possessions unused during our lifetime. They also are God's gifts and we must dispose of them as such. Just to leave it to our family may be very unworthy stewardship. Those with dependents are, of course, admonished by Scripture to provide for them as best they can, but once they are grown our responsibilities may well lie elsewhere. Particularly is this true if our children are not God-fearing. Remember, what do we want our money or possessions to do? Perpetuate sin or share the Savior? Should the desire we now have be changed after we leave this life? What a mockery, and what a sad commentary on our stewardship that would be. Yes, it is true, we do not die unto ourselves and therefore we must seriously consider where and how we leave our earthly riches. Let us not forget, earthly stewardship brings heavenly treasure.

May each one of us earnestly consider our relationship to God via our stewardship. That is an accurate spiritual thermometer. Let us pray God for obedient hearts in life or in death as stewardship is the only God-pleasing preparation for life or for death, as Paul declared, "whether I live or whether I die, I belong to the Lord."

A THOUGHT FOR THE NEW YEAR

"Whom will ye serve in seventy-two?"
This question should come to everyone,
As we close the books of the year that's gone,
And we enter the new, that has now just dawned.

This question, asked in the days of old
Was by Joshua, in the Bible, we're told.
He asked the people, whom he led,
To follow Jehovah, by whom they'd been fed.

Thru' the wilderness He'd led them,
And He fed them, day by day.
They had heard, "Lo! I'll go with you,"
And He true was to His word.

But the people, then, as today—
Had wandered on in their own ways;
Many gods were in their homes,
That were made of wood and stones.

Thus—came the question, now as then:
"Will you follow God, or follow them?
Those idols that were made by men?"
But they said, "We'll follow Him
Who can pardon all our sins,
He who graciously did lead
And to us, did manna feed."

But Joshua said, "If this shall be—
Out your foreign gods must flee.
You must worship Him alone,
And humbly bow before His throne."

Again they answered, "He's our choice!"
With one accord, in heart and voice.
A covenant was made that day,
And Joshua sent the crowd away.


And now, my friend, will you choose Him?
Will you open your heart, and let Him in?
Will you lay all on the altar for Him?
And accept His great atonement for sin?

Make haste today, make no delay,
Cast all your idols out, and say:
"Come in, Lord Jesus, come into my heart—
I want Thee to reign, and never depart."

"I want Thee to lead, and guide every day,
May I follow Thy leading along life's way,
Until, at last, Thou dost usher me in
To the heavenly mansions, free from all sin."

—Oscar A. Olson
Hanley, Sask.

(Ed. Note: The above poem was inspired by a sermon the writer heard in Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Hawarden, Sask., on the text, Joshua 24:14-25.)



NEWS

of the Churches

ACCOMMODATIONS FOR THE WINTER BIBLE CONFERENCE IN GRAFTON, N. DAK., FEB. 3-6

Leonard Motel	Single	\$ 7.00	bath
Highway 17	Double	12.00	bath
701-352-1730	Two Double (Three or four people)	14.00	bath
	More than 5 people, \$4.00 per person	14.00	
Mid-Towne Motel	Single	\$ 7.50	bath
728 Manvel	Double	13.00	bath
701-352-0231	Annex	5.00 per person over six people	
Bil-Vi-Dor	Single	\$ 8.00	bath
1323 Highway No. 81 S.	Double	12.00	bath
701-352-0420	Two Double (Three to four people)	16.00	bath
	Larger units available.		
Motel 17	Single	\$ 6.00	Shower
Highway 17, Park River	Double	8.00	Shower
701-284-7214	Two Double (Three to four people)	12.00	Shower

Early hotel reservations are urged since other conferences may be held in Grafton during this week-end.

GRAFTON CHURCH TO HOST BIBLE CONFERENCE

Bethel Lutheran Church, 1566 Hill Avenue South in Grafton, North Dakota, invites you to attend the Winter Bible Conference. The dates of the conference will be February 3-6, 1972. May our Lord bless you beyond measure as you make plans to come to Grafton and during your stay in our city.

Grafton has ample motel space for everyone. A list of available motels and their prices are included in this Ambassador. You are urged to make your motel reservations early by writing or calling the motels directly.

There will also be homes opened to you. You are welcome to stay with one of Bethel's families and can make arrangements by writing either Mr. and Mrs. Vernon Russum or Mr. and Mrs. Darrel Moe of Grafton.

Dinners will be served by the Bethel Ladies on Friday, Saturday and Sunday. A supper will be served on Saturday evening. A special dinner for the men will be at a local Grafton cafe on Friday—while the ladies gather at the Federated Church for their banquet meeting.

Let us be in prayer for this conference that all might be done to His glory and honor.

Dennis Gray
Host Pastor

VALLEY CITY COUPLE HONORED

Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Modahl of Zion Lutheran Church, rural Valley City, North Dakota, observed their

(Continued on page 8)



Bethel Lutheran Church, Grafton



The chancel and sanctuary of Bethel Church

I took his hand

YOUTH CHOIR USED NAUTICAL THEME

SIGNE, THE IMMIGRANT GIRL

Signe was a beautiful, cultured and somewhat self-reliant immigrant girl. With her, as with many others, ill health had started as "just an ordinary cold" which, in spite of medical and hospital treatment, developed into tuberculosis of the lungs. After five or six years of ups and downs, it had finally changed her youthful beauty into a mere memory.

In no one else have I observed such an obstinate faith in the possibility of recovery, even to the very last. On that account, as well as for other reasons, it was very difficult to get her to think seriously of her soul's salvation. Things continued this way year after year without any visible results of my visits. Her case lay especially heavily upon my heart because her brother had once also revealed to me a genuine spiritual interest in her.

It is written, "Preach the word; be urgent in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort, with all long-suffering and teaching" (II Tim. 4:2).

One day I was both harsh and impatient with her, even though death seemed near. I brought her first the most touching and comforting words that came to my tongue. Alas, they were just like so much air! Thinking

that this was perhaps the last time I should have a chance to talk to her, and burning within my heart, I said abruptly, "Don't you believe in Jesus at all?"

At once I began to fear that I should not have asked such a blunt question, but she looked at me sharply and said with a surprisingly strong voice: "Yes, indeed, I believe in Jesus."

"Well, then," I asked, "what good does your faith do you?" Just as the words came I began to regret them, because her only reply was silence. After I had commended her into God's loving care and said goodbye she asked me to come and see her again soon.

A few days later I stood there again—before the shadow of Signe. Words came to me as if directly from God; words that simply had to find entrance into her soul. Yes, she heard and heeded them. After several verses had been given her, I asked: "How is it with your soul today?"

"Thank you, everything is well." There was peace in her answer. "Thank you for the times you have talked to me about Jesus. Come again."

But when I came again she had gone.

—Wm. Hagen

The Youth Choir of the Grace Free Lutheran Church in Valley City rehearsed regularly to contribute their part in presenting a special musical program entitled "With Christ on the Sea of Life." The setting was sailors and sailing, telling stories in song and narration from members, groups and instrument trumpet trio. Mrs. John Simpson made a chalk drawing. The Senior Choir, Ladies Chorus, High School Girls Chorus and the Sunday School children all took part. The Faith Evening Circle sponsored the program.



SPIRITUAL AWAKENING AT FERNDALE

It was a lovely October evening in northwest Washington. The spacious sanctuary of Triumph Lutheran Church was filled to near capacity with an expectant audience. Pastor H. L. Franz of Cloquet, Minnesota, had come to be the evangelist, assisted by baritone vocalist Dave Goebel. Diligent preparation and fervent prayer had preceded this event for several months and now the anticipated moment had come. It was the first service of a two-week Evangelistic Crusade in Ferndale.

There was a unique sense of the presence of God in the service that evening. The speaker appeared to have great freedom in delivering the message. Each word seemed to fall from his lips with conviction and power. Indeed, it was reminiscent of the prophet's words in Isaiah 58:1: "Cry aloud, spare not, lift up thy voice like a trumpet, show my people their transgressions, and the house of Jacob their sins." Yes, sin became "exceedingly sinful" as the cutting edge of the Word was applied. A quiet holy hush was upon the assem-

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golden wedding this past summer. They were married September 29, 1921, but their celebration was held on July 4, 1971, in order to have their family at home. Evelyn (Mrs. Reuben Emberson), Esko, Minn.; Vernon, Bakersfield, Calif.; and Agnes (Mrs. Wm. Hass) of Valley City were all present, together with their twelve grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

Mr. and Mrs. Modahl were married in the Zion Lutheran Church and have been members of this same congregation throughout their married life.

May God's riches blessings be upon them.



Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Modahl

always the object of some controversy, brings in "big name" entertainers, some of whom profess no Christian testimony, to act as a "come on" for his TV specials. It is highly questionable that this is a valid means of attracting an audience for the Gospel of Jesus Christ. That Gospel stands on its own merits.

Pat Boone continues his life as a secular entertainer even though he claims the "baptism of the Holy Spirit." While he tries to maintain high standards he is forced into many awkward situations where a Christian has little chance of looking good. His four beautiful daughters have had at least a taste of singing and dancing on TV, with mother and father's blessing. All of this is strange for someone who claims to have been within the "holy of holies" in Christian experience, according to the Pentecostal view.

In some evangelical Christian music in the churches strange things are happening, too. Boys and girls move rhythmically to songs with a definite beat. Aspects of Christian life and experience that in life are as real a struggle as Jacob faced at Jabbok or Christ in Gethsemane are dealt with by music that is light and airy. In some situations a hearing for the Gospel is sought through music that borders on the sensuous.

The incidents cited above all bear testimony to the confusion of the age in which we are living. It is a time in which most anything goes, from man's viewpoint. But does it, in God's sight?

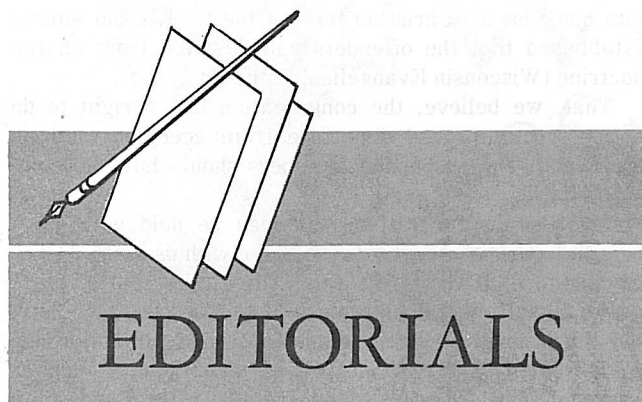
THE DAWNING OF A NEW YEAR

It is customary in facing a new year to consider the prospects before the Association of Free Lutheran Congregations. And immediately it can be seen that this is a special year for it is the tenth anniversary year (the organization took place in October, 1962). In that connection, thus far it has been decided to have two special emphases in the year. There will be an offering for debt retirement on or before Pentecost Sunday and the anniversary will be recognized in some definite way at the Annual Conference in June.

1972 also marks the 75th anniversary of the founding of the Lutheran Free Church. Perhaps that event can be given some attention also. Is there any book or document that could be prepared in commemoration of these events?

The Bible School and the Association must come to grips with the need for new facilities at the School while still holding a major debt on the building constructed several years ago. The Board of Trustees will be presenting its recommendation as to possible action some time in the spring. Approximately 116 students are studying at the Bible School now. Prospects for continued growth are excellent. More and more families, in and out of the Association, are looking to us for Bible School training for their children.

The Seminary, with a much smaller student body, can get along with much less in the way of facilities, but does need a greatly improved library. The Seminary stands to benefit from any building that is done for the Bible School. We must pray that each year a good group of men will enter the Seminary.



BILLY MAKES IT HARD

Followers of **The Lutheran Ambassador** over its soon nine-year history will recall that it has been a strong supporter of Evangelist Billy Graham. We have stated that without this voice of the Gospel our country would have been much poorer.

But over the past couple of years our enthusiasm for Billy has waned noticeably. And here is the reason. One of the reasons why the people who formed the Association of Free Lutheran Congregations objected to the merger of the Lutheran Free Church with the American Lutheran Church was the introduction of social dancing into some of the church colleges (a transition nearly complete now). This was seen as a compromising development and there was the feeling that it ought not be supported.

However, now we have the spectacle of the Gospel evangelist Billy Graham using a dance orchestra singer, namely Norma Zimmer, in his crusades. The fact that she represents a dance music which doesn't seem quite as threatening as some newer forms hardly alters the situation because it was more the Lawrence Welk-type of music that was in vogue at the time social dancing began entering the official programs of the Scandinavian Lutheran colleges.

Billy Graham makes those of us who took the stand mentioned above look bad when he makes use of a dance orchestra singer in evangelistic crusades. And he makes it hard for us to give whole-hearted support to his work. Yet we hold to our original position, but can't feel quite the same toward this man who held such a potential for good.

Other strange things happen today, too. Oral Roberts,

On the mission field in Brazil, 1972 should find three missionary couples in the work for the whole year for the first time in our history. Furthermore, Yeddo Gottel, trained in America, will be serving as a native pastor. With such a strong force, and aided by other native workers, it should be the best year ever in our Brazil work.

In Home Missions, there will no doubt be work organized in new places and a continued strengthening of existing work where Home Mission aid is being given. Perhaps one or two new openings could be made in new areas on this anniversary year. Special emphasis should be given to building up the Church Extension Fund.

New congregations join the AFLC from time to time. They know of our fellowship and want to be a part of it. This is gratifying. There are many church bodies in the U.S., but the AFLC is distinct, as are the others. In such a variety a person or congregation can choose what they want. And that is a worthy benefit of having a number of Lutheran groups in the country.

Revival, quickening and awakening remain needed experiences in the church. Through the preaching of the Word on Sundays and through evangelism missions, as well as the other activities of the congregations, may living congregations be built up. Let that be our chief goal in this anniversary year before us.

NO ONE ELSE DECIDES

“Ultimately every Christian makes his own decisions as to life and practice in the presence of his God. But he welcomes the sincere counsel of fellow believers.”

Declaration of Faith, IV:4

Every person is an individual, responsible for his life and actions. The same rule holds true for the Christian, with this added dimension, he is committed to following God's way and will.

In some areas the course is easily known. In other matters there must be a searching out for answers. It is in regard to this that we say that each Christian makes his own decisions. No one else can decide for him.

It is true that children and young people, while they are under the care of their parents or guardians, are subject to the choices and convictions of their superiors, but beyond that they must decide for themselves. And parents must use wisdom in the laying down of their restrictions and limitations for their children, as they place their wills on their children.

There can be an escape in hiding behind decisions that others have made for us. For instance, a young person may say, I don't do this or that because my parents won't let me or it is against my church. Such acceptance of authority may work for a while, but it is only as a person acts out of his own convictions that participation or non-participation is really meaningful or satisfying.

The Christian makes his choices with the Lord's help. Obviously this involves prayer and a study of the Bible. Conclusions must come out of a seeking of the mind of Christ. But he will also be open to, and indeed may seek out, the advice and counsel of trusted Christian friends. Still another avenue is through reading good Christian literature on the subjects in question. Where there is a

will to make Christ-honoring choices, there will be a way to find them.

WISE COURSE

That was a wise approach Pilgrim Lutheran Church, Minneapolis, Minn., took as it suspended (but did not finally excommunicate) 12 members recently for taking part in the charismatic movement. The action did not call into question the Christian faith of the twelve, but simply established that the offenders had deviated from church doctrine (Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod).

That, we believe, the congregation had a right to do and correctly proved departure from accepted truth in the Synod. The suspended members should have no complaint there.

And this is the attitude that can be held with great benefit toward those who do not agree with us in the AFLC, for instance. If they give Jesus Christ the central place as the all-sufficient Savior, we need not question their faith, but differences in other beliefs exist and full fellowship is prevented. There should be no quarrel with such an approach. We are not to judge another's faith and yet it shouldn't be so difficult to determine if a person truly accepts a body of doctrine such as any church body has.

Action such as that taken by Pilgrim Lutheran Church is always painful. But when it can be proved that the accepted beliefs of a church body have been violated, there should be no complaint by the disciplined persons. Their Christian faith, in this case, was not questioned, and rightly so, but they were called to account for practices not condoned by the church fellowship at large and should bear the penalty.

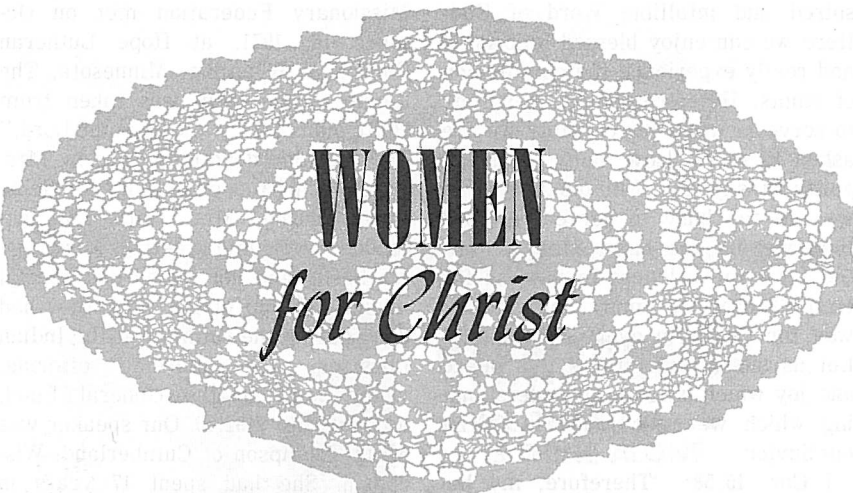
UNFINISHED WORK

The ending of a year brings to mind a project on which we have been delinquent. Earlier in the year we had called attention to 1971 as the 200th anniversary of the birth of Hans Nielsen Hauge, the "Apostle of Norway." We said that we would endeavor to have some special article about him in the Ambassador during the year. Somehow the way has not opened up for that and we are sorry and apologize.

There is this consolation, that the message of Hauge is timeless, for it is the very Law and Gospel of the Lord, and it is always appropriate to call attention to it. So even though there has been this failure, when the opportunity presents itself to bring some information and inspiration about the life and work of this great man to our readers we shall do so.

He was used of the Lord to awaken Norway from spiritual slumber. God used an unlikely man to perform a task in which the organized churches were failing. Our church is an heir to his work and influence. Wherever we work for "living" congregations we are in the spirit of Hans Nielsen Hauge.

And as another year has ended, we recognize again the Lord's faithfulness and we praise Him for His mercies abundantly showered upon us from day to day. With confidence in His unfailing presence and strength we can look forward to the new year as He grants that to us.



WOMEN *for Christ*

The following article was crowded out of the last issue of 1971 and is instead printed here.

LOOKING BACK

by Mrs. Hans J. Tollefson,
Eben Junction, Mich.

As we come to the end of the year of 1971 we as women of the church should look back and take an account of how we have lived. Has ours been a life in which the world could see Christ in us?

The song "Take My Life and Let It Be Consecrated, Lord, to Thee" comes to my mind. We sing these words "Consecrated, Lord, to Thee" all too often just with our lips and not with our hearts. If we were truly consecrated, how different our lives would be lived and there would be more fruit from our lives for the Lord. Mr. Webster gives us a good definition of consecrate. He says it means "to set apart as sacred."

When we have said, or sung, "Take my life" and really mean it, should we not then believe that He hears our prayers and that He will take our lives and He will help us to consecrate them wholly to the Lord. Those who give their hearts and lives to God will go on living victorious Christian lives, and this is as it should be, for conversion and consecration should take place simultaneously. If we are not living such consecrated lives we need to search our hearts and let God show us what is standing in the way of our living such victorious consecrated lives. As God search-

es our hearts, He will reveal to us hidden or pet sins which we must be willing to confess and forsake before Him. In order to live victorious Christian lives we must be willing to let Him take away anything that hinders our spiritual growth. The heart that is not entrusted to Him and His all-seeing eye will not know the joy of living the consecrated life. We need to pray with the Psalmist, in 139:23-24, "Search me, O God, and know my heart; try me, and know my thoughts; and see if there be any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting." "And this is the confidence we have in Him, that, if we ask anything according to His will, He heareth us" (1 John 5:14).

Consecration is closely connected to our next thought, that of being "kept for Jesus." I want to be kept wholly for Him, not for my glory or honor, not for my benefit, but for His use; kept to be His witness, that I might let His light shine through me; kept, even to partake of the fellowship of His suffering. And when I am kept by Jesus and for Jesus, then I know that no other power shall have dominion over me. How wonderful it would be if we as women of the Association could all be consecrated to our Lord and Master.

The next words of this song say, "Take my moments and my days." This means our time. At the beginning of a new year some make resolutions. A good resolution to make would be to give God more of our time and to live each day with more sincerity and meaning than in the past.

So often when He asks us to do something for Him we make the excuse that we are too busy. Are you guilty of this? Are you putting Christ first in your life? We are saved to serve, and God expects His children to serve Him. God can do His work without us but He has given us this blessed privilege of being His helpers. Do you live each day as though it were your last? Are you a tither? What percentage of your time do you give to God?

"Take my hands, and let them move, with the impulse of Thy love: Take my feet and let them be, swift and beautiful for Thee." Our hands and our feet are also to be used for the Lord. They represent kind and good deeds done in the name of Jesus. Have we dedicated our hands and our feet to Him, that they may be used to serve God?

Our whole life should be dedicated and consecrated to God. We owe Him our all, He who gave His all for us. As we examine our lives and look back on 1971, may we resolve to dedicate our lives anew to Christ so that in 1972 we may serve Him better in the little corner where He has placed us. May we say in all truth and sincerity, "Take myself and I will be, ever, only, all for Thee."

ANOTHER NEW YEAR BEGINS

by Mrs. Waino Kangas
Eben Jct., Mich.

By God's grace we are at the threshold of another new year. What will the new year hold for each one of us? Maybe this year the Lord Jesus will return for His own. Will you be ready and waiting for Him?

The Lord continues to pour showers of blessing upon each one of us in so many ways. We are thankful for our health and strength He gives us, for all our material needs which He supplies, for our freedoms we still enjoy in this great land of ours, and above all we thank the Lord that He fulfills the spiritual needs of all who will seek the Lord and trust in Him. How many of these blessings are just taken for granted and we forget that God is our great provider and that we should offer up thanks and praise.

Ps. 34:1: "I will bless the Lord

at all times: His praise shall continually be in my mouth." May this be our desire, too, as we begin the year 1972. As we begin each new year we think of what the future may have in store for us and we live in anticipation of our many plans being fulfilled. Throughout the new year we will experience both joys and sorrows. We may have concern of fears for the personal needs of ourselves and our loved ones. Have we learned to trust in the Lord to supply all our needs?

II Cor. 5:17: "Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature; old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new." When we are in Christ we begin a new life. So also as we begin the new year everything is new before us. We do not know what the future holds. As we begin the new year, do we have the assurance of salvation in our hearts? This comes only to those who will repent of their sins and accept Jesus Christ as their personal Savior. Have we yielded ourselves wholly to Him?

How fortunate those are who know the Lord and whose greatest desire is to have the Lord's will done in their lives. As we begin the new year we can have Jesus as our guide and pilot each step of the way. He will give us renewed strength for each day. He will give us victory over the trials and temptations that we will meet along life's way.

Ps. 27:1: "The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The Lord is the strength of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?" May we be able to say this along with the Psalmist. Let us redeem the time as it is swiftly passing by, that we may serve the Lord with gladness. Let us daily search the Scriptures and open our hearts and be receptive to His Word. The Holy Spirit will lead us in what He has for us to do.

"Pray without ceasing." We have our greatest source of strength and power through prayer to our Heavenly Father. Yes, "prayer changes things." "The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much" (James 5:16).

May we attend a church faithfully where the Word of God is preached in all its purity as the holy and in-

spired and infallible Word of God. Here we can enjoy blessed fellowship and really experience the communion of saints. Here we should be willing to serve in whatever capacity we are asked to serve. How many of us are guilty of saying, "I'm too busy!" If we are too busy to serve the Lord then we are too busy. May we ask the Lord for boldness to witness for Him. There are many souls to be won for Christ in every community. Let us share with others this peace and joy which passeth all understanding which we have found in Christ our Savior.

I Cor. 15:58: "Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord."

Mrs. Waino Kangas
Calvary Free Lutheran Church
Eben Junction, Michigan

NOTICE OF WMF WORKSHOP

A WMF Workshop is to be held in connection with the annual Bible Conference at Grafton, N. Dak., Feb. 3-6. The workshop for the ladies of the WMF will be held on Fri., Feb. 4, from 4:30 to 7:30. At 4:30 there will be a short devotional program followed by a supper meeting at 5:00. During this time new materials on our projects will be presented. This will include slides and reports, and time for questions. We hope all of our ladies will be able to attend and especially urge the presidents and those in charge of presenting project materials at their groups to come. Again we are asking for your registrations for the supper hour so that those preparing the meal may know how many are coming. Kindly send in the number coming from your group to your WMF president, Mrs. M. Walla, Box 6, May Lane, Edgewood Court, Fargo, N. Dak. 58102. Thank you and we'll see you in Grafton on Feb. 4 at 4:30 p.m.

Mrs. Melvin Walla
President, WMF

MILLA THOMPSON ADDRESSED MINNEAPOLIS DISTRICT WMF

The Minneapolis District Women's

Missionary Federation met on October 16, 1971, at Hope Lutheran Church of Wyoming, Minnesota. The theme of the rally was taken from Philippians 4:4: "Rejoice in the Lord." The morning devotions were by Mrs. Oscar Christopherson of Medicine Lake Church. Mrs. Gary Lott extended a welcome greeting. Miss Bonnie Skoog and her friend had special music and told of the work they had done during the summer at the Indian missions. The morning offering, which went to the General Fund, amounted to \$192.00. Our speaker was Milla Thompson of Cumberland, Wisconsin. She had spent 17 years in Madagascar teaching missionary children.

Her talk was based on Mark 6 and 7. Jesus needed to communicate with His Father. The people were jealous of Jesus and His popularity. In this crowd of people each had a different need. The deaf mute had a problem. Jesus called him aside from the crowd and dealt privately with him. Jesus wanted his undivided attention. When He put his finger in the man's ear he went right to the root of the trouble. His healing was an evidence of the power of God. When God touches a life, nothing is the same. We, too, need to get away from the crowd, to rest and to pray. Many times God sees that we need rest or drawing aside, but should we be driven to prayer? God not only touched the hearing, but also the tongue. After we have been touched, how can we be silent? John 4:35 tells us to lift up our eyes for the fields are white unto harvest. Why should we lift up our eyes? As we lower our eyes we look only at self, so we should look up! We need to be conscious of getting the Gospel out.

Mrs. James led the business meeting. There was some discussion on the balance in the Treasury and a motion was made to give \$100.00 to Church Extension. This is in addition to the afternoon offering which amounted to \$118.00 and also went to Church Extension.

An invitation was extended from Morgan Avenue Church in Minneapolis to host the spring rally next April and Faith Church of Granite Falls invited the WMF in October, 1972.

(Continued on page 14)



Luther League Activities

Edited by Wayne Pederson

EXHALE, INHALE

One day at Sem we were discussing how we could motivate people in the church to get into the Word of God.

One fellow mentioned how when he realized his responsibility to teach his own children, he began studying the Bible so he could be equipped to teach them.

Another mentioned that people who teach Sunday School are apt to spend time in the Word, in order to have something to give.

Laymen who have been asked to preach find they must spend a lot of time in the Word.

Pastors who continually prepare sermons must constantly be in the Word in order to have something to give their people.

The answer seems to be: in order for people to desire the Word, there has to be a reason for it.

A person needs a spiritual outlet before he needs a spiritual input.

This is an exciting idea. Often, we in the church are spoon-fed everything we get, spiritually speaking. We do very little searching in the Word ourselves. Maybe the reason is that we don't know what to do with it after we've heard it.

You've probably heard the illustration of the Dead Sea and the Sea of Galilee. The Dead Sea is stagnant because water flows into it, but the Dead Sea has no outlet. The Sea of Galilee, on the other hand, is fresh and living. Water flows out of it continually.

You've also probably heard that a cup of water must be emptied before it can be filled some more.

I'm saying all of this to make this point: We should not be lazy, "dead sea" Christians. In order for God to fill us we need an outlet. We need to share with others what God has given to us.

This means service. It means telling others what Christ has done for you. It means visiting the lonely, the shut-in, the unchurched. It means sharing the life-changing message of Christ as revealed in the Bible.

Why am I writing this in a youth page?

Well, I've seen this principle work in youth groups. I heard one pastor say recently, "A year ago I wouldn't have given you a nickle for the lot of them. Now, since they've started their outreach team, they're different kids. They're always in the Word, always praying, always sharing their faith with others. Now they have a reason for their spiritual exercise."

There are quite a number of churches in the Association who have teams of youth. They are being used in their communities to share with churches around them the Good News they have found in Christ.

Now, I'm not just talking about putting on programs. There are many outlets around us if we look for them. Your pastor can help you. Next time, I'll share some ideas for reaching outside of your youth groups to others who don't know Christ.

As you reach out, you will not only be opening the way for greater personal blessings, you will be sharing Christ, and you will be helping your pastor with his work.

One girl recently shared with me how when her pastor asked her to visit some people in the rest home, she recoiled. But in actually visiting, she discovered great joy in reading the Bible and praying with these appreciative old people.

There are hundreds of lonely people in homes like this who would love to have young people talk with them about the Lord.

There are hundreds of young people around who need to hear the Good News you have discovered in Christ. You can tell them.

And as you give, as you find a spiritual outlet, you will find the Lord will fill your spiritual life to overflowing.

Next time, I'll give you some specific ways in which you can find a spiritual outlet.

—Wayne Pederson

EASTERN NORTH DAKOTA YOUTH HAD RETREAT

A group of 25 youth from the Eastern North Dakota District met during the Thanksgiving weekend for a special Thanks Retreat. The main topic was the Second Coming of Jesus Christ.

Rev. Eugene Enderlein of Minnegan opened the retreat with a presentation of the movie "And the Stones Did Cry Out." The movie concerns itself with Biblical prophecy which God has carried out to the minutest detail. Pastor Enderlein also spoke briefly on Saturday morning.

Our AFLC youth director, Student Pastor Wayne Pederson, presented three sessions on prophecy. The sessions were based on Hal Lindsey's book, **The Late Great Planet Earth**. He also brought a challenging message on Sunday morning.

Rev. Dennis Gray presented a study on "The Attitude of the Christian" in view of Biblical prophecy.

Tim Skramstad and Darlene Voiss were counsellors.

There were very few disappointments on the weekend. The food for both body and soul was tremendous.

—Corr.

(Continued from page 12)

Pastor Grothe had announcements and prayer. Then we recessed for the noon meal. About 160 registered and 22 churches answered roll call, eight or nine of these being new congregations added to our fellowship.

Mrs. Leonard Geisler had afternoon devotions, taken from Philippians 4: 4-8. We had special music by the youth group of Hope Lutheran.

Miss Milla Thompson also had the afternoon message. It was taken from Luke 15. Have you ever lost anything? If so, it did not know it was lost, it did nothing to get lost and could do nothing to be found. How did the sheep get lost? Little by little!! The one was more precious than ninety nine. There is joy when one comes back to the fold. It is easy to get lost in the daytime, but much worse in darkness. The heathen have nowhere to go for counsel and help. We are compelled to go to the heathen. Christ died for them, too. There is only one way to bring light to a dark world. One soul goes into eternity every tick of the clock. The heathen are born, live and die in heathendom. They are really not free. Faithful workers are carrying on the work. We cannot all go to the mission field, but if God calls someone into His service there will not be happiness until that person obeys the call. God doesn't go with one to the field—He has already gone ahead and is already there.

Student Pastor Grothe dismissed us with prayer after which a coffee time was enjoyed before we went our homeward ways praising the Lord for another time of fellowship as a WMF group.

Mrs. Irvin Hodnefield, Secretary

WESTAKER LUTHERAN, NEWFOLDEN, SCENE OF WMF RALLY

The fall rally of the Northern Minnesota Women's Missionary Federation was held on October 12, 1971, at Westaker Lutheran Church, Newfolden, Minn., Rodney Stueland, lay pastor. The theme was "Ye Shall Receive Power," taken from Acts 1:8,

the theme verse. The theme song was "With Thy Spirit Fill Me."

The opening session began at 10 o'clock with Mrs. Sheldon Mortrud, vice-president, presiding throughout the day. Mrs. Mortrud is presently filling the office of president in the absence of Mrs. Holger Nilson who recently moved to Arizona with her family. Pianist was Mrs. David Mollstre of Thief River Falls. Mrs. Martin Johnson of Badger led the song service. Devotions were given by Mrs. Emanuel Seidel of Badger. A welcome was given by the host ladies aid president, Irene Julin. Special music was provided by Mrs. Irvin Schmitke and Mrs. Reuben Wold of Thief River Falls. They sang "Jesus Will Walk With Me." Mrs. Norval Svode rendered a solo entitled "Up the Calvary Way."

The message for the morning was given by Pastor Jerome Nikunen of Roseau. He spoke on the theme verse as well as I John and into the second chapter. He pointed out that John set forth the purpose of Christian life as being to have fellowship with Jesus Christ and one another. He spoke of Jesus as being the Light and the source of life. One must first possess the life in order to have power. Pastor Nikunen stated. So many good things were presented to us in the morning message.

The business meeting was held and a report given on the WMF convention in Cloquet, Minn., by Mrs. Mortrud. The offering for the day was given to the providing of homes for missionaries while home on furlough.

The noon meal was served by the Westaker Ladies Aid.

The afternoon session was begun with a singspiration led by Mrs. Johnson and devotions by Mrs. Norris Fugleberg of Roseau.

Ron Nelson, who is attending the Lutheran Brethren Seminary at Fergus Falls, Minn., and who was visiting in the Newfolden area, favored us with selections on the piano, which were excellently done and shared his testimony. Mrs. Nikunen sang for us also.

Mrs. Myrtle Hove showed her slides and talked to us about her visit in Brazil with her daughter and son-in-law, the Connely Dyruds. We were very happy that she could be with

us that day.

The rally was closed with the theme song and prayer. Everyone enjoyed great fellowship among God's people and in the Word. A record attendance of 100 ladies helped make the day a success.

Mrs. Stan Holmaas, Secretary

NORTHERN LUTHERAN MISSIONS SETS MEETING

The annual meeting of Northern Lutheran Missions will be held Sat., Jan. 22, 1972, at 1:00 p.m. at the Mt. Carmel Lutheran Church, McIntosh, Minn., Orville Olson, pastor.

Reports will be given by our Indian Missionaries: Alvin Larson, White Earth, and Verle Dean, Redby, Minn.

At the evening service at 7:00 p.m., Pastor Forrest Swenson, Winger, Minn., will be the guest speaker. There will be special singing by our Indian friends.

DeFloren Rude, Pres.
Harvey P. Dyrud, Sec'y

PERSONALITIES

Rev. Dale Battleson has accepted a call to serve the Pukwana, S. Dak., parish (Pukwana and St. Olaf) and will begin work there on March 31. He has been serving the Bagley, Minn., call (Grace and Rice) for the past few years.

Mrs. Albert Dahlman, who wrote the article "I Remember Christmas" which appeared in the Christmas issue of the *Ambassador*, had the misfortune to fall and break her hip in mid-November and still faces almost three months of confinement to bed, even though she has returned from the hospital. If you enjoyed her Christmas article, why not write and tell her so. It would be an added cheer to her during her convalescence. Her address is Alvarado, Minn. 56710.

Rev. A. L. Hokonson has resigned as pastor of Medicine Lake Lutheran Church, Minneapolis, Minn., where he has served for two years, effective March 26, and is available to assume a new pastorate after that date. Pastor and Mrs. Hokonson live at 9467 Pilgrim Lane, Osseo, Minn.

Letters

TO THE EDITOR

AUGSBURG PRESIDENT RESPONDS

My reaction to your editorial of November 23, 1971, "What's in a Name?" is a response, not a defense. I admit to being very unhappy about some of the antics of the group our students brought to the college on the occasion referred to, but even more chagrined at the "coverage" it received in the Minneapolis Tribune, which was solely initiated by the paper without our knowledge. Since the concert was open to the public, it is admittedly difficult to maintain the standards we have set for such events.

However, it is not my purpose to discuss the event, but rather the charge that Augsburg College has desecrated the name of Si Melby, for whom the gymnasium was named. The attached pamphlet* by President Emeritus Bernhard Christensen makes two points that have been underlined. First, the principle of dealing with students on the basis of freedom and responsibility is one Si Melby believed in and practiced (see page 10). We have believed at Augsburg College that the arrangements for entertainment is a student affair, and that through the exercise of freedom and responsibility they are learning

—in spite of their mistakes which may embarrass us, especially with those who believe we should treat students as children and decide for them what they should and should not have. I suggest that if you want to know how this important principle appears to a student at Augsburg College, you get in touch with the Student Society President, Saul Stensvaag.

Second, the point is made by Dr. Christensen, on page 20, that the hall named in Si Melby's honor was built to provide a facility for "student social activities of many kinds, old and new." That there is wide disagreement as to what the nature of such social activities ought to be is apparent, but I think Si Melby would have pointed out that Christians have more to fear from hypocrisy, pride and a judgmental attitude than from some forms of entertainment. Furthermore, nothing is more dangerous than for the present generation to assume it knows what the response of a man long gone would have been to today's situations. That is the height of presumption.

Oscar A. Anderson, President
Augsburg College
Minneapolis, Minn.

*Si Melby of Augsburg, Bernhard Christensen, 1969

JUST ENOUGH

The following was found in a church bulletin.

As you leave church, may God grant you:

Enough darkness — to see the light;
Enough trials — to evaluate rest;
Enough conviction — to seek redemption;

Enough tears — to understand love;
Enough kindness — to lift burdens;
Enough grace — to shield sinners;
Enough silence — to hear the Spirit;
Enough vision — to reflect Christ.

New Hope Center Beacon

(Continued from page 8)

bly as the service drew to a close. No one seemed in a hurry to go home. A few troubled souls came weeping to the altar for counselling and prayer. No pressure was necessary and no psychological "techniques" employed. A simple invitation was extended to troubled souls to remain after the service or come directly to the altar for prayer.

Each evening as the meetings progressed there was a quiet moving of the Holy Spirit. Some went home from church only to return later in the evening for spiritual help. Others were led to the Lord in their own homes during afternoon visitations. Confessing Christians were made aware of besetting sins and hindrances to blessing in their own lives. Some discovered they had lived their lives in religious delusion and now sought the Lord for salvation. The altar became indeed "hallowed ground" where hearts were made right with God. Tears of repentance evolved into tears of joy and gladness as the Holy Spirit brought assurance and peace. One young lady, who, together with her husband, had come to the altar the first evening, said to the writer a few nights later, "Pastor, I'm saved!" The Lord spoke words of assurance to her heart that very day through Romans 10:9-10. From night to night the Lord was moving in our midst and demonstrating anew, "His hand is not shortened, that it cannot save; nor His ear heavy, that it cannot hear."

The Evangelistic Crusade is now history. Nevertheless, evidences of a spiritual awakening continue. A marked increase in attendance at the mid-week prayer meeting. A Sunday evening Communion service turns into a great spontaneous "testimony meeting." A new freedom is found in witnessing to the unsaved of God's amazing grace. These are indications of an on-going awakening. Some have remarked since the meetings closed, "Triumph Lutheran Church will never be the same." Indeed, this is our prayer.

As we witness what God is doing, we are convinced the day of EVANGELISM is not past. The Gospel of Christ is still the power of God unto

salvation to as many as believe. It is our conviction that evangelistic meetings are needed in the church today more than ever before. Brethren, let our congregations know that EVANGELISM must have priority in our program. Let us pray and plan evangelistic services, expecting to see

results. A half-hearted approach will get us nowhere. It was D. L. Moody who said, "Attempt great things for God and expect great things from God!" To God be the glory, great things He hath done!

Pastor J. G. Erickson
Ferndale, Washington

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