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Vol. 7

January 7, 1969

No. 1

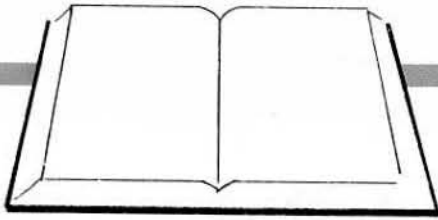
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Thin Ice

-Luoma Photos



According to the Word

A NEW YEAR'S INVENTORY

The question "What will the new year bring for us?" naturally turns over in our minds as January 1969 has come. Where will we be at this time next year? Will we still be here? Thirty million people in the world will die this year. Will any of us be among them? No one knows except God. What changes and events will occur and take place this coming year? Again we answer, no one knows except God.

How much progress will you make spiritually this coming year? Do you intend to grow spiritually, or are you satisfied to stand still, spiritually speaking? You alone hold the answer to that question. The new year with 365 days lies before us. Where you will be one year from now or even one day from now should death come, will depend on what you do with the Savior. Are you living for Him today? Does He receive first place in your life? There is either a heaven or a hell awaiting each one of you depending on what you do with Jesus Christ, God's gift to you. Have you received this gift? Have you received Him as your personal Savior?

This year once again we will be writing a record, a chapter each day. The pages before us are blank.

Every thought, word and deed will be recorded upon these pages. By the grace and mercy of God the past can be forgotten. We do not have to carry into today and this new year the cares and worries and mistakes that have burdened us in the past.

Perhaps it would profit us to take a "new year's inventory" as to where we stand, and how we rate, spiritually speaking. Business firms take inventories to determine whether they have prospered during the past year, or if, instead, they have gone behind. Such inventories may not always be complimentary, but they are useful. They help to evaluate the worth of past business procedures and to estimate the possibilities of continuing successfully in the future.

With the following list, check yourselves to see how you rate in the sight of God, and before your own conscience.

(1) Has there been a growth in the grace and knowledge of Christ? Is such growth reflected in my use of the Word and prayer? (2) Has there been regular attendance at Sunday worship, in spite of hindrances? (3) What about my stewardship of money? What percentage was used for the extension of the Kingdom of God during 1968? (4) What about my stewardship of

time? How much have I used to run the errands of Christ and of His Church? (5) Faithfulness in my prayer life. Have I been truly concerned about doing God's will and praying for His will to be done in my life? Have I prayed for my fellowmen? (6) Christianity in my home life. Is the Spirit of Christ allowed to rule in my home and determine what each day's program shall be? (7) Have I accepted Christ's victory over my hidden and besetting sins, or have I clung to them in defeat? (8) Have I confessed the sins of my personality such as indifference, bad temper, envy, jealousy, and pride; or have I excused them? (9) What has been the testimony of my life? If I claim to be a Christian, has it shown others that I am one? (10) Has anyone taken my hand and said, "You were such a blessing to me during 1968"?

How did you rate? Perhaps you said to yourself that this inventory seemed a little too searching and too stern. If we have examined ourselves honestly, we no doubt will feel constrained to pray with the Psalmist, "Have mercy upon me, O God... wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin."

—Marvin S. Undseth

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God's Plan For Your Life In 1969

**Rev. Leslie Galland
Stacy, Minnesota**

I Peter 5:6-11

When you look ahead at the New Year that we have just entered and upon your own life as of today, how do things look to you? Does it seem to you as though there is meaning, purpose, and pattern in your life for 1969?

The Christians to whom the words of the Epistle text were addressed tried to be loyal to God. They were God's children. Persecution came upon them. Their properties were taken away. Their families were separated. Their lives were in peril.

As you look back on 1968 you feel much the same as the Christians to whom this text was addressed. There is the population explosion, there is the racial explosion in practically every part of the world. You hear and see the explosion of new theologies attacking the moral authority of the Bible, reducing it to the status of legend and folklore. Statistics reveal astounding increase of juvenile crime, illegitimate births, divorce, dope addiction, and alcoholism—all the harvest of a morality that omits God.

No matter what the momentary appearances might be in the world or in your life at the beginning of another year, never forget, God has a plan for your life. As you look to the Word, you can see much strength for the year that is ahead of you. Even though afflictions come, He is ready to embrace and to use even these in order to work out His purposes in your life and for your good.

God has an interest in each one of you. He wants you to realize that He sent Jesus, your Redeemer, to be your Savior. "The God of all grace . . . hath called us unto his

eternal glory by Christ Jesus." Jesus in infinite love gathered up all of your sins. Not only the little ones, but the black, shameful, humiliating and disgraceful ones as well. He walked the way of sorrows and suffered innocently for you, that you might be able to look forward to eternal life even in 1969.

This plan of God calls for your trust in this New Year. You don't have the promise that you will always be accompanied by beauty and the sweet-scented fragrance of roses as you go down life's highway. He makes it very plain in His Holy Word that you may be called upon to carry some very heavy crosses. They will not be greater than His grace. But through it all, it is the plan and the purpose of God that you humble yourself under His omnipotent hand, that you do not question His justice, His love, His goodness, but always trust, going on with perfect confidence.

God wants you to take all the burdens of the New Year to Him. Medical men of today seem to be persuaded that many of humanity's physical difficulties come out of worry and fear. "Cast all your cares upon Him, for He careth for you." He doesn't want you to be helpless in all the cares of life, but to be firm, strong, and to go on in the pathways of godliness, doing the things that reflect glory upon your Maker and that bring blessing into the lives of your fellowmen.

God's plan is not limited to only a brief period of time or just to 1969. The purposes of God extend for you into eternity. We are so often like little children. Little children have an idea that life would be spent more profitably if they could always play. Why should they be bothered with books? Why should they be made to submit

themselves to the guidance and direction of teachers? Why should they study their spelling words and do their arithmetic? They have such a short view of life. It is difficult for them to understand that one day they are going to be grown up and that then they will need all these things. Many times we see life in terms of a child's thinking. We so often behave ourselves as though this little period which we are going to spend on this earth constituted our whole existence. God doesn't look through the eyes of an infant. He looks at life through the eyes of divine maturity, infinite wisdom, having the eternal view. "He has called you to eternal glory." You may be sick, poor, socially unrecognized, crippled, or have some other difficulty, as you read this message in this new year, but remember, they can only last for a little while.

Unfortunately, God is not the only spirit in this universe. There is also an evil spirit. God has a beautiful plan for you but the evil spirit has quite another plan. Peter says, "Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary, the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour."

This was true not only then. It is true today. People in Bible times found themselves in a pagan environment and even today there are so many temptations to cast Jesus aside. God knows that there is an enemy who would frustrate His purpose and destroy you. It doesn't make any difference who you are, whether a boy or a girl, a lady or a gentleman, or which place in life you occupy, the devil is just as much determined to destroy you as he is to destroy me or anyone else. He is very subtle and he is ready to employ you by every device, every weakness in

yourself, in order to effect your destruction. He doesn't want you to attain eternal happiness. He wants you to be finally shut out from God in this new year. If he can use your pride, your greed, your temper, your lustfulness, your self-righteousness, your hypocrisy, he will use it skillfully to bring about your destruction.

The longer I have the privilege of serving in the ministry, the more conscious I become of this terrible power of evil in the lives of human beings, in my own life and in the lives of those whom it is my privilege to serve. Many of you readers are thrown right into life's stream. Each day you have contact with the children of the world. These contacts are of such a nature that they can so easily take you away from God and from the pathways of faith and holiness. "Be sober, be vigilant." Be on your toes. Keep your eyes open, always be on the alert. The Lord tells you how to meet the situation. Resist evil by FAITH.

He says, "Whom resist steadfast in the faith." This is the sword. That is the shield. That is the helmet. Put on the armor of God and fight and be ready for the evil forces in this new year. Keep close to God. Keep yourselves under the Word of God. Don't get away from the Gospel. Let the Lord talk to your soul and to your conscience so that He keeps you awake by His Holy Spirit. Christ wants to strengthen you, to build you up so that in steadfast faith you can resist all the forces of evil, so that His purpose, His plan for you, will finally be completed and you will be with Him.

If you and I will take this lesson to heart and so live our lives in this new year, then there will be within us the Spirit which Peter expressed so briefly and so beautifully. Then there will come the day when we shall be a part of the great company that surrounds the throne and when we shall be able to sing with sweeter and finer voices the beautiful doxology "to Him be glory and dominion forever and ever."

Bible Study Helps

by Gerald F. Mundfrom

Bible History Questions (Old Testament) — A Bible History Survey Course from Adam to Nehemiah. There are assigned Bible portions to read and questions to answer. This course points out the conflicts between what the Bible teaches and evolution. There is also a time-line showing the age of this world according to the Bible. **\$1.25**

Answer Key and Commentary (Old Testament) — This key gives the answers to the questions asked in the Bible History Questions (Old Testament). There are some comments at the end of each portion studied. **\$1.25**

Bible History Questions (New Testament) — A Bible History Course on the life of Christ, His parables, miracles, death and resurrection—also the beginning of the Christian church and the life of Paul. There are assigned Bible portions and questions to answer. **\$1.10**

New Testament Answer Key with Comments — This key gives the answers to the questions asked in the Bible History Questions (New Testament). There are some comments at the end of each portion studied. **\$1.10**

Complete Set of Bible Studies — This includes the four above-mentioned booklets. **\$4.50**

Note: Answer Keys (without comments) are available (until present supply runs out) for 25¢, Old Testament, and 15¢, New Testament.

These courses are especially designed for the beginner student and the beginner teacher. They are suitable for individual Bible study, home Bible study groups, adult classes in church, junior and senior confirmation classes, high school and teenage groups.

These courses will give the student a vision of the Bible as a whole. "**Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth**" (II Tim. 2:15).

Orders can be sent to: Pastor Gerald F. Mundfrom, Pukwana, South Dakota 57370. If ordering by mail add 5% for postage—minimum charge, 12¢.

Christmas Among the Indians

by Mrs. Verle Dean
Redby, Minnesota

Greetings to you from Luke 2: 11, "For unto you is born this day in the city of David, a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord."

Christmas among the Indian people here at the Red Lake Indian Reservation is much like Christmas spent in many parts of the world.

Here at the Mission we have a Christmas program that is put on by our Indian children. This is a great blessing to us as missionaries, as well as to the mothers, dads and friends that fill our little chapel to hear these little ones put on a very spiritual program. They recite Bible verses and sing many Christmas carols that fill our hearts with joy and peace, the same joy and peace that come through our Savior who came into this world as a baby born in a manger at Bethlehem.

We are very thankful for the people that send gifts to the Mission so we can have some gifts around the tree at Christmas for the children. Then, if there are any gifts left over, we as a family go around on Christmas Day to the people who don't come to church and give them gifts for the little ones.

We find many homes that would not have had much of a Christmas if we would not have gone out, and in these homes there is a greater gift needed than just the twinkle of Christmas lights and a gift under a tree. There is a great need to take this Savior that was born unto us as personal Savior.

We are very thankful that there are those that have taken the Lord as Savior and we as missionaries are praying that as Christmas comes and goes, there will not be just glittering lights and pretty presents under the tree, but there

will be hungry hearts eager to receive that great gift that God gave to us.

We here at the Mission would ask you to remember us in your prayers, that the real gift of Christmas will continue all year long.

We are praying that you will also turn your hearts and lives more to the Savior and make Him your "all" in life.

A blessed Christmas and a Happy New Year.

OUT OF THIS LIFE

Out of this life I shall never take
Things of silver and gold I make.
All that I cherish and hoard away
After I leave, on this earth must stay.

Tho' I have toiled for a painting
rare

To hang on the wall, I must leave
it there

Tho' I call it mine, and boast its
worth

I must give it up when I leave
this earth.

All that I gather, and all that I
keep

I must leave behind when I fall
asleep.

And I often wonder what I shall
own

In that other life, when I pass
alone.

What shall they find, and what
Shall they see, in the soul that

Answers the call for me,
Shall the Great Judge learn

When my task is through,
That my spirit has gathered some

riches too,
Or shall at last it be mine to find

That all I'd worked for I'd left
behind?

Author Unknown
The Lutheran Colportage
Service, Inc.

I LOOK NOT BACK

I look not back; God knows the
fruitless efforts,
The wasted hours, the sinning,
the regrets.

I leave them all with Him who blots
the record,
And graciously forgives, and
then forgets.

I look not forward; God sees all
the future,

The road that, short or long, will
lead me home,
And He will face with me its every
trial,

And bear for me the burdens that
may come.

I look not round me; then would
fears assail me,

So wild the tumult of earth's
restless seas,
So dark the world, so filled with
woe and evil,

So vain the hope of comfort and
of ease.

I look not inward; that would make
me wretched;

For I have naught on which to
stay my trust,
Nothing I see save failures and
shortcomings,

And weak endeavors, crumbling
into dust.

But I look up—into the face of
Jesus,

For there my heart can rest, my
fears are stilled;
And there is joy, and love, and
light for darkness,

And perfect peace, and every
hope fulfilled.

—Annie Johnson Flint

PLEASE NOTE

The address of Pastor Harold P. Schafer, former Mission Director of the AFLC, was inadvertently left out of the article concerning him in the last issue of the *Ambassador*.

Pastor Schafer and his wife Vera and their children are now living in Amery, Wis.



PORTLAND CHURCH HOSTED NORTH DAKOTA YOUTH RALLY

The Eastern North Dakota District Fall Luther League Rally was held on Nov. 3, 1968, at Valley Lutheran Church, Portland, N. Dak., Rev. Hans J. Tollefson, pastor.

The rally began with a sing-
spiration led by Ken Moland of
St. Paul's Lutheran in Fargo. The
afternoon service was led by Roger
Strom, the district's president, who
also gave the message, based on
John 10:10: "I am come that they
might have life, and that they
might have it more abundantly."

Virgil Holland, a Christian foot-
ball player for Valley City State,
gave his testimony and John Rieth,
also of Valley City, closed with
prayer.

A delicious supper was served by
the women of the church, followed
by the evening service at 6:30. Tim
Skramstad, Valley City, led this
meeting and Dennis O'Niell from
Mavville led the devotions. The
evening speaker was Rev. Richard

Luther League Activities

Snipstead, dean of the Bible School
in Minneapolis, Minn. He spoke
on Titus 2:11-15.

The special musical numbers for
these services were provided by the
Leaguers from district churches.

The executive board, consisting
of the president, vice president
Vickie Peters from New Luther
Valley, McVile; secretary Corrine
Hermunslie, Bethany, Abercrombie;
and treasurer Randy Hall, New
Luther Valley, McVile, met be-
tween sessions. It was decided that
as a district we would start a
Bible School scholarship fund to
give assistance to students from
the district. Any interested Leagues
should write to the treasurer.

A very large crowd attended
both sessions which were very in-
spiring. I'm sure we all went home
with a challenge to be shining lights
in this dark world and to be in
prayer for ourselves and others
until we meet again.

Corrine Hermunslie
Secretary

ATTENTION, TREASURERS AND OTHER INTERESTED PERSONS

Less than one month remains of the current fiscal year in
the Association of Free Lutheran Congregations. The needs are
great. A real effort is needed to meet the goals set for this year.
Please send all funds earmarked for Association causes to the
Treasurer before this month ends. That is, funds intended for this
present fiscal year.

The address of the Treasurer is 3110 E. Medicine Lake Blvd.,
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55427.

Thank you.

QUIET TALKS IV

Pastor Lars Stalsbroten

"Who maketh his ministers a
flame of fire" (Heb. 1:7).

I intended to write a little medi-
tation, but as I read and pondered
the subject, it became so activated
in my own mind that I had to pray
instead.

Dear Lord, You have said in
Your Word, that in the last time,
because iniquity shall abound, the
love of many shall wax cold. That
must be right now. Iniquity is in-
deed abounding everywhere; and it
is getting so cold in the world, in
the Church, in the home, and in
my heart. Enlighten and anoint the
eyes of my understanding so I can
see in a new way that You, my
precious Savior, were wounded for
my transgression and bruised for
my iniquities. Let me behold Your
redeeming love, that You suffered,
bled and died for a sinner like me.
Holy Spirit, shed this love abroad
in my heart. Make me a flame of
fire in this cold, dark world.

All your servants should be on
fire, blazing with love and holy
concern for blood-redeemed souls.
But where are your servants with
burning hearts today?

You are able to make all your
witnesses a flame of fire, but many
of us are not willing to pay the
price. All the dross will have to go
up in smoke. Oh, my God, how
much dross and rubbish there is in
my life—my ambition, personal
gain, the praise of men, wounded
pride, bitterness, vanity, carnal
zeal, evil speaking, and what not.

Precious Lord, I give myself
anew to you, and all the dross,
burn it up. I want to be a burning
flame for you at any cost, the rest
of my life. AMEN.

Have your busy hands grown
weary?

Rest, and fold them.

Does their spent strength need
renewing?

Let God hold them.

—Author Unknown

The Lutheran Ambassador

MEET

the

Churches

OF OUR

FELLOWSHIP



Today: The Everett (Wash.) Parish Calvary Lutheran Church

A Lutheran Free Church congregation was begun in Everett in 1901. The first pastor was Rev. B. A. Sand. A church and parsonage were built at 26th and Rockefeller in 1902. Other pastors of Zion were P. O. Laurhammer, 1905 and 1913-14; Olaf Ellingsen, 1905-07; B. A. Borrevik, 1907-10; P. M. Fosse, 1911-13; O. E. Haaheim, 1914; and L. B. Sateren. The work did not prosper, however, after initial success and the congregation discontinued. Internal problems and a migration of some members to Alberta, Canada, led to the closing.

In November, 1918, under the leadership of Rev. James R. Gronseth, a new beginning among LFC-minded people was made, with ser-

vices conducted in an Adventist church. The building was later purchased. But in 1932 the congregation had the opportunity to buy the original property at 26th and Rockefeller and did so. A basement was placed under the church in 1936-37. New pews were purchased and the woodwork in the upper auditorium painted, thus making the church more inviting and cheerful.

The name of the church was changed to Calvary Lutheran in 1938. A new parsonage was built in 1939 next to the church. New Sunday School rooms were added in the parsonage in 1968. The church was redecorated in 1967.

Pastors who have served the congregation since reorganization, in addition to Rev. Gronseth (1918-21) are: O. Kolden, 1921-22; O. A. Opseth, 1923-27; O. C. Olson, 1927-36; Olaf C Helland, 1937-42; Forrest Monseon, 1942-45; Jonas Helland, 1945-50; Arthur Reesnes, 1950-55; A. L. Hokonson, 1956-64; Trygve F. Dahle, 1965; Albert Hautamaki, 1965-67; and Francis W. Monseth, 1967—.

During the ministry of Pastor Olaf Helland particularly, many made known their desire to walk with God.

New developments in Calvary Lutheran are the beginning of a radio broadcast called The Bible Lutheran Hour at 9:30 Sunday mornings (KWYZ) and the inauguration of services at Lake Stevens, 12 miles east of Everett. In addition to the morning worship, Sun-



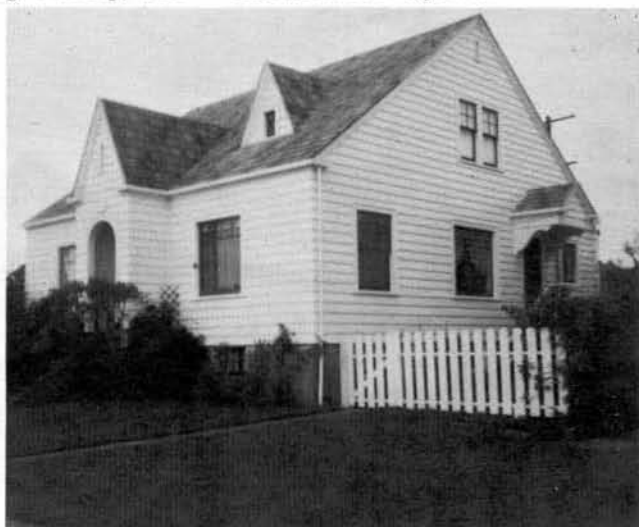
Rev. Francis W. Monseth is the pastor of Calvary. A graduate of Valley City State College (N. Dak) and Free Lutheran Theological Seminary, he was born in Williston, N. Dak. Pastor Monseth is serving his first parish and is married to the former Ellen Hove. They have one daughter, Naomi Joy, one and one-half years old.

day School and a midweek service are conducted. A new Boeing aircraft plant in Everett has made work for thousands and has caused tremendous population growth. This means new opportunities for Calvary and the congregation is seeking to be a beacon light in the community, pointing to Jesus Christ as the answer to every need.

Two young people from Calvary are currently attending the Association Bible School in Minneapolis, Minn. A daughter of the congregation, Vivian Forsberg, is serving under Wycliffe Bible Translators in the Philippine Islands and has been engaged in that work for 15 years.



Calvary Lutheran Church



The parsonage in Everett

**EASTERN NORTH DAKOTA
DISTRICT BIBLE CONFERENCE
HELD**



NEWS of the Churches

ISHPEMING CHURCH DEDICATED IN NOVEMBER

Hope Lutheran Church, Ishpeming, Mich., was dedicated on Sunday, October 6, by Pastor John P. Strand, Minneapolis, Minn., president of the Association of Free Lutheran Congregations.

The dedication service was the climax of special festivities which had begun the preceding Wednesday evening with a Finnish service at which the local pastor, Albert Hautamaki, had preached. Rev. Herbert L. Franz, Cloquet, Minn., spoke at services on Thursday and Friday nights. The choir from St. Paul's Lutheran in Cloquet, Mrs. William Smerdon, director, sang a concert on Saturday evening. Finnish and English worship services were conducted on Sunday morning by Pastor Hautamaki.

Hope Lutheran Church was organized on a fellowship basis on February 9, 1967. The first worship service was conducted on the following Sunday with Rev. Hautamaki, Everett, Wash., speaking. He was later called to become the first pastor of the congregation. He had previously served another Lutheran congregation in Ishpeming to which some of Hope's members had belonged.

Hope Church affiliated with the AFLC in February, 1967.

Construction of the church building in west Ishpeming began in September, 1967, with Mr. Sulo Wepsala in charge. The first service in the church, still under construction, was held in the balcony on January 29, 1968.

Kenneth Williams is chairman of the congregation.

The Eastern North Dakota District Bible Conference was held October 24 and 25 in the New Luther Valley Lutheran Church, McVile, N. Dak. Missionary Alvin Grothe was present and spoke twice on Thursday. Others taking part were the area pastors: David Molstre, Howard Kjos, and the host pastor, Hans Tollefson. Pastor John Strand stopped in Thursday afternoon and brought a greeting.

Though no theme had been chosen, all speakers spoke along the same theme, walking in the light, walking in obedience, walking in the fellowship of our Lord Jesus Christ. Mr. Verle Dean of the Redby Indian Mission was a guest and spoke Thursday evening to a near-capacity crowd. He stressed that in order to walk close to God we must pray much. We need definite prayer petitions raised humbly to God. We need to be ever mindful that we are living in the closing times of the days of grace. What if He should come today? What will His coming mean to us? Though we are waiting for this coming we should be happy for each day given us to win souls for Him. Let us be constant in prayer!

A duet was sung by Carol Quanbeck and Eileen Langness. Mrs. Don Schroder brought God's Word in two solos.

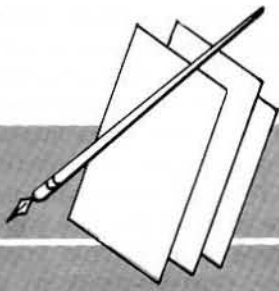
At the business meeting Pastor Tollefson was re-elected president, Pastor Molstre vice president and Pastor Howard Kjos secretary-treasurer. A fine set of resolutions were considered and adopted. Several recommendations were accepted and we would like to share them with our other districts.

1. That the district continue to have a Fall Conference beginning on a Thursday forenoon and closing with the Friday afternoon session.

2. That our district give priority to our own Sheyenne Valley Bible Camp at Cooperstown but also support our Association Fam-

[Continued on page 11]





EDITORIALS

PROF. GEORGE SOBERG

Looking back, now that he is gone, we can partly realize what a great contribution George Soberg made to the Association of Free Lutheran Congregations. He is one of the men of whom it can be said that it is difficult to imagine what we would have done if he had not been on the scene doing his share, giving his counsel and, all in all, being a person you could count on.

He had not been really physically strong for some time and the last year especially had been an effort for him. Two of his last public appearances were the graduation exercises for the Seminary and Bible School last spring when he literally left his bed in order to deliver the commencement sermon, and the ground-breaking ceremony for the new dormitory building.

The Schools were dear to his heart. That was natural, too, for he had been an educator most of his life, teaching mathematics at Augsburg College for many years. Prof. Soberg served for several years as chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Association Schools. Those were critical years and crises had to be weathered. His was a steady hand in those troubled times.

Prof. Soberg was a man of many interests. We have already referred to his work in mathematics. At Augsburg he also served as faculty representative in the Minnesota Intercollegiate Athletic Conference and its predecessor(s) for some years. He was on the Board of Publications of the Lutheran Free Church. At Augsburg, in addition to his teaching load, he attended Augsburg Seminary and graduated from that school. He was never ordained but did the work of a pastor and was pastor of Medicine Lake Lutheran Church at the time of his passing, although he had not been able to be active for some months.

His preaching was simple and Biblical. It was simple in that he didn't try to be fancy at all. It was Biblical because he held himself to exposition of the Scriptures. And his preaching was seasoned with that humor for which George Soberg was famous. His almost gruff-looking appearance belied a ready wit not far from the surface.

Who will ever forget the announcements he made concerning the One Grand Fellowship at the Annual Conference in Fargo in 1967? Those periodic reports of the progress of that fund were enlivened by his somber but lively approach. To the end George Soberg maintained his keen interest in that last love of his, the Association.

I visited him two weeks before he passed on to the heavenly manions. I hadn't seen him for a long time and it was pitiful to see how his disease had wasted him. But in the shadow of the man, there still burned an interest in the work to which he had given himself and for which he yet yearned to do something. We talked of many things.

The Scripture portion which I shared with him that day was the 16th Psalm. That includes these words, "The lines have fallen for me in pleasant places; yea, I have a goodly heritage." I don't think that George Soberg had any exaggerated opinions about about his own life and service to Christ, but today I thank God for the part this man had in giving to me, to us, a goodly heritage. Now it is up to us, under God, to go forward with the work to which he gave himself.

Raynard Huglen

THE ASSOCIATION LOOKS FORWARD

It is customary to assess one's standing at the start of a new year. This we would like to do as far as the Association is concerned as 1969 begins.

From every indication the work is growing. Budgets do not tell everything, but they tell something. Each year our needed income rises and the amount gathered in increases. The fiscal year ending on Jan. 31 will surely show the largest income from the congregations and individuals ever. Whether that income will match the total goal for the year remains a question. But beyond doubt, a new record in giving will be set.

After over a year with only one American couple on the mission field in Brazil, 1969 will again see two families stationed there. The George Knapp family will arrive there next month. The John Abels will return on furlough in the spring, but the Connely Dyruds plan to leave for Brazil in the summer. The latter will have to spend a year in language study so will not begin active work until 1970. But we are moving in the direction of adequate staffing of the field and that is a good thing. In addition, and this is very important, the Bible School in Brazil is training native workers to assume a greater role in evangelization of the land. Then, too, a Brazilian young man is preparing for the ministry at Free Lutheran Seminary.

As to the Schools, they are enjoying the finest physical facilities they have had. They are better situated as to staff than they have ever been. Seminary enrollment is below the high point in its young history, but the Bible School is at its highest. Both schools

should grow in size, the Bible School by far the most. It would be good to see more young college-educated men applying for pastoral training. We believe that more such will be coming.

For long range planning, it will soon be necessary to begin preparing a few of our seminary graduates for future teaching in the Seminary.

In Parish Education, steps are being taken to produce our own course materials. There are some obstacles and the task will not be easy. But a beginning is being made.

The auxiliaries, the Women's Missionary Federation and the Luther League Federation, continue their work of aiding the total Association work. The WMF

is blessed with a great sense of cohesiveness and enjoys great cooperation from the local units. It renders an invaluable assistance to the whole mission program of the AFLC. The LLF is not nearly as well coordinated but there are prospects of a growing unity. District conventions and various retreats are increasing interest. The eventual updating of the constitution will help matters, too. The LLF deals with that strategically vital area of the church's life, the youth.

The year 1969 should prove to be another important one in our life together. Our obedience to the Lord will determine how much can be done. Doors are open and stand there for entry if there is a willingness to go forward. Are we ready for the challenge?



MINNEAPOLIS DISTRICT WORKSHOP HELD AT SPICER

The Minneapolis District Parish Education Workshop was held on Saturday, November 9, at the Green Lake Lutheran Church, Spicer, Minn.

Rev. Julius Hermunslie, then pastor of the church, welcomed us and opened the workshop with Scripture and prayer. He then introduced Mrs. Vernon Nelson, Grand Forks, N. Dak., member of the AFLC Board of Publications and Parish Education. She presented to us "Teachers in Training" and "The Mission Before Us."

A delicious noon luncheon was served by the Green Lake Lutheran church women.

The afternoon session began with a talk by Miss Eula Mae Swenson, Fargo, N. Dak., on the "Growth of a Sunday School." Mrs. Nelson then showed us some of the material

and teaching aids that could be used.

Mrs. Knapp, who with her family will be leaving for the Brazil mission field in February, brought us a greeting and answered questions on some of the missionary needs that the Sunday School might have for a project.

The Minneapolis District Parish Education Board was organized and officers were elected as follows:

- President—Mrs. Raymond Jacobson, Minneapolis
- Secretary—Mrs. John Arlen Johnson, Sacred Heart
- Treasurer—Mr. Leonard Stulen, Spicer

Other business was conducted after which Pastor Trygve Dahle closed with prayer and Pastor J. Hermunslie pronounced the benediction.

Coffee was served by the Green Lake women both preceding and following the workshop.

Minneapolis District Parish Education Board
Mrs. John Arlen Johnson,
Secretary



LEM ANNOUNCES 33rd MIDWINTER CONFERENCE

The Lutheran Evangelistic Movement will sponsor its 33rd annual Midwinter Conference, January 26-February 1, at Augustana Lutheran Church, Seventh Street and Eleventh Avenue South, Minneapolis, Minnesota. The conference will center on the theme THE FAITH COMMUNITY IN AN EXPLOSIVE WORLD.

Pastor Leonard Masted will present studies in Revelation each morning, Tuesday through Saturday. The evening speaker will be Pastor John Aamot, missionary in Brazil. Other speakers include Dr. Sherwood Wirt, Editor of *Decision* magazine; Paul Lindell, Director of World Mission Prayer League; Dr. William Berg, Augustana Church; Rev. I. Kronstad, Bethany Church; Rev. Carl Johansson, Trinity of Minnehaha; Rev. C. O. Satre, St. Paul's Church; Rev. Laural Udden, Augustana Church of Fergus Falls.

Over two thousand youth will participate in the nineteenth annual inter-Lutheran youth conference on January 31 and February 1, featuring Rev. Jon Braun, well-known and popular youth speaker.

The Midwinter Conference ends with the closing rally at First Baptist Church, Tenth and Harmon, February 1, 7:30 p.m.

All sessions are open to the public.

WHAT IS PRIMARY?

Rev. Howard A. Kuhnle
Richmondville, N.Y.

Ministers should always remember that their primary work is what is done in the local parish, day by day! For of course a pastor cannot accomplish everything that he would like to do.

How easy it is to forget this fundamental and important statement! Here are some examples:

Ministers sometimes become too much wrapped up in what goes on at conventions, conferences, synods, councils of churches, etc. There is a certain amount of prominence, glamour, and even bravado in making a strong address or in making a striking point in controversy at these meetings, but after the meeting is over, you might very well ask yourself if it was worth while. Sometimes the "victory" that you helped to push over is not too important, especially if, when you consider it later, you find that the division was, for example, 55 percent vs. 45 percent. Even if the vote had been the other way by the same percentage would the victors feel any better about the matter than you do?

We must of course study in order to keep up with our church, our work, and our world. However, is that particular book that you are reading going to seem as important to you and your work a year from now as it does today? In a word, devote your study hours to that which is of permanent importance.

Some ministers become too much interested in writing articles, stories, editorials, reports for conventions, and even books, to the neglect of their daily work in the local congregation. When you consider how soon a magazine is discarded, with many items completely unread, or how many editions of books are "remaindered" in secondhand book stores or in mail order houses, you may well ask if the expenditure of time was worth while in writing such items.

So, what you do in your parish

day by day is what counts! The work in the congregation is the front line of the church's battle with the forces of sin, evil, and death. You know what this means:

The sermon that you preach this coming Sunday that helps people.

The classes that are held in your Sunday church school.

The prayer that you give for a sick child in the hospital.

The visit that you make to a couple in difficulties, whether or not it is possible to bring them to the point of understanding and reconciliation.

The confirmation class that you conduct for your young people.

The adult instruction class that you teach which includes that young couple who have never been baptized.

Indeed, your primary work is what is done in the local parish, day by day!

NEWS OF THE CHURCHES

[Continued from page 8]

ily Bible Camp and mid-winter Bible Conference.

3. That we do our best to see to it that all our members have our Church paper, the *Ambassador*.

4. That the district secretary be responsible for sending in reports or news items of conferences, Luther League rallies, Bible camps, etc., held within our district, to the *Ambassador*.

5. That each parish or church have someone responsible for sending in local news items to the *Ambassador*.

6. That we give our support to radio station KNFW (Fargo) and in particular the program of St. Paul's Church (Rev. Franz).

7. That we give full support to the benevolences and stewardship of the Association of Free Lutheran Congregations.

Miss Pearl Aanstad
Secretary Pro tem

THE SECRET

I met God in the morning
When my day was at its best,
And His presence came as the
sunrise
Like glory within my breast.

All day long the Presence lingered,
All day long He stayed with me
And we sailed in perfect calmness
O'er a very troubled sea.

Other ships were torn and battered,
Other ships were sore distressed,
But the winds that seemed to
drive them
Brought us only peace and rest.

Then I thought of other mornings
With a deep distress of mind,
When I, too, had loosed the moorings
With the Presence left behind.

And so I think I know the secret
Learned from many a troubled way,
You must seek God in the morning,
If you want Him through the day.

WINTER BIBLE CONFERENCE SLATED FOR GRAND FORKS

The 7th annual Winter Bible Conference will be held at Trinity Lutheran Church, Grand Forks, N. Dak., Rev. David Molstre, pastor, February 13-16.

Mr. Clifford Johnson, Esko, Minn., an active layman and lay preacher, will be the speaker at the three evening meetings of the conference.

Pastor Fritjof Monseth, an instructor at the Association Schools, will be the Bible teacher.

This conference will be the first one held in North Dakota since the first one held in 1963 at the old New Luther Valley Lutheran Church in McVille.

Program details and housing and registration information will be printed in a future edition of the *Ambassador*.

Make plans now to attend the 7th Winter Bible Conference. Pray much for this fellowship gathering.

DEATHS OF SEVERAL NOTABLE LUTHERANS LISTED

Rev. Oscar B. Endresen, director of the ALC Tract Mission, passed away while on vacation in Canada on August 9. He had served parishes at Fairmont and St. Paul, Minn. Several years ago Pastor Endresen spoke to the students of Free Lutheran Theological Seminary on the subject of the ministry of tracts, a work which he carried on for 14 years. He was 69.

Miss Alma O. Shirley, 75, passed away on October 30. She was a missionary nurse under the Lutheran Free Church in China from 1924-48. Since then she had resided in the Minneapolis, Minn., area. Among her six surviving sisters is Mrs. Arthur S. Olson, Minneapolis, herself a missionary in China for many years.

Rev. Herman E. Jorgensen, 82, departed this life in November. A native of Asker, Norway, he was editor of *Children's Friend* from 1918-23, and of *Lutheranen* and *Jul i Vesterheimen*, a Christmas magazine in Norwegian, from 1939-57. Mr. Jorgensen served parishes at Esdaile, Wis., and Gonvick and Benson, Minn., all ALC. For nine years he was president of Red Wing Seminary in Minnesota.

AFLC PASTORS' CONFERENCE TO BE HELD

Pastors and theological students of the Association of Free Lutheran Congregations will hold a conference at the Seminary in Minneapolis, Minnesota, January 14-16. The sessions will begin at 2 o'clock Tuesday afternoon and continue to Thursday noon.

Several pastors' conferences have been held in the past. The meetings give the ministers and the students an opportunity to discuss questions of theological and practical interest.

Dr. Iver Olson and Rev. Fritjof Monseth, faculty members at the Seminary, are in charge of arrangements. Housing will be available at the school.



FRUIT-BEARING

**Mrs. Beverly Enderlein
Cloquet, Minnesota**

"Ohhhh," sighed the weary housewife as she slumped into the easy chair at the end of the Christmas holidays, "I'm glad it's over, and I'm so glad that I have a whole year until I have to go through ANOTHER Christmas!" Sadly enough, that is the honest lament of many folk at the end of the Christmas season. It has been a tiring, busy time, and they are very glad that they can go through another year until they have to endure "Christmas" again.

It would be well to ask ourselves, "How have I used the Christmas season we have just experienced? Have I made it a time of blessing—a time of reaching out to others about Jesus—have I shared the King of Kings with someone who doesn't know and love Him? Let me share an experience of mine that had a real impact upon me regarding the way I should use this holiday season.

One year on the Saturday morning before Christmas my family and I planned a busy day of "Christmas preparations." The dough was all mixed for cookies, my little boys had cookie cutters and jars of candy glitters ready, and we were all set for the happy, messy task of baking Christmas cookies together. In my heart there was a deep concern as I recalled the conversation that a Christian friend and I had had just a couple of days before. We both were burdened for so many of our neighbors who did not know Jesus and whose Christmas celebrations would leave out the One who came to die for them. We had experienced the joy of handing out tracts to the salesgirls who helped us in the stores, and had written little notes in with Christmas cards saying what Jesus meant to us, etc., but we wished that we could actually go house to house and somehow point people to Christ. I excused myself from these piercing thoughts, however, as my little ones clamored for food coloring and dough, and we got on with our task.

Suddenly the doorbell rang, and wiping my hand on my apron, I went to the door. A lady stood there, bundled up in winter clothes, and said, "Hello. I'm a Christian witness, going house to house at this holiday time." Such a bold visitor had never come to my door before and I joyfully invited her into the warm kitchen, exclaiming, "I am a born-again Christian and I, too, love the Lord Jesus and want to witness for Him. I'm so glad you've come to my door!" Her face fell, and mine did, too, as I waited for the joyful words that one sister in Christ would use to greet another. They never came. As the conversation went on I discovered that she and many other of her Jehovah's Witness associates were combing my neighborhood on that snowy Saturday, going house to house to witness for their cult. Need I tell you that long after I bade her good-bye with the promise that I would pray for her true salvation, this experience has haunted me? There I was—at home, baking cookies, I, who had the real Truth, I who knew Jesus Christ as my own personal Lord—and others, who followed a way of error, were out sharing their beliefs from door to door.

Let us allow the Holy Spirit to speak to our hearts through this experience. It is true that we can do nothing about the Christmas season that has just passed, but we CAN look ahead to a fresh new year. What kind of a year shall it be? That is often determined by the kind of year WE make it. There will be cooking and cleaning and sewing and shopping and church services and meetings in our daily routines, but shall it end there? No, it must not. Each one of us knows someone without Christ, perhaps a neighbor who is watching our life, a friend who needs our loving interest and concern, or a relative in need of love and encouragement. These opportunities to show love can be stepping stones to winning them to Christ.

Our Lord Jesus gave an interesting warning in Matthew 13:22, and I would like us to consider this, "*He also that received seed among the thorns is he that heareth the word; and the cares of this world. . . choke the word and he becometh unfruitful.*" We all will readily admit that the evil cares of this world can choke out the Word, but let us go a step farther. Can it be possible that the legitimate cares of this world can choke the Word within us too and make us unfruitful for our Lord? Yes, even as Christians, we ladies find it very easy to become overinvolved in the cares of this world. After all, so much of our daily routine is taken up with the things concerning this life—we iron clothes and cook food and clean houses—BUT we dare not allow even these legitimate cares to occupy all our time and expend all our energies. Those of us who want to be fruitful for Jesus in this coming year will often have to lay aside these cares and go call a friend who needs us, or perhaps visit a neighbor and say a word about our joy in Jesus and what a strength He is to us. If we really want our Lord to bear fruit through us in the coming year, *He will.*

What can we do then? Let us pray earnestly to be fruit-bearers in the year ahead. First of all, let us ask our Father to draw us to His Word each day and teach us to listen for His clear direction about how to use our days. Then let us be careful to listen for His voice in our hearts. Let us be praying that He will even now start preparing the heart of someone and lead us to that person. Of course, we will trust Him that HE will speak through us in the very moment we need Him. If we are reading His Word and claiming His promises in our own daily lives, then we need not worry about what to say. We will have something wonderful to say, because He is

being so wonderful to us!

There are specific avenues of fruit-bearing that we could make a part of our lives in the coming year. Do you carry tracts in your purse? There are many public places where a tract can be left. How about handing one to a salesclerk with a friendly statement, such as, "Here is something that I read which meant so much to me. I'm sure you'd enjoy it, too." What about your neighborhood? Can you start a Bible Club? Children are eager to come in for a story one hour a week. You might be just the one to teach such a club, or perhaps you are the one who could open your home to another Christian who likes to teach children. Would the ladies on your street be willing to stop in for coffee and study the Bible? Do you have a Christian friend who will meet for prayer with you? Remember, the telephone makes as good an instrument for praying together as any. Do you like to write letters? Why not choose one missionary a month to send off a short letter? That would be such a blessing to both of you. How about your Christian reading? Reading the Word of God each day is a "basic requirement" for fruit-bearing, of course. But let's extend ourselves. Take on a Bible course, or add to your reading some Christian books that will deeply challenge your life. Of course, all these suggestions should be in addition to your faithful support of your church and its regular meetings.

"What a list!" we might exclaim. "Where will I ever find time?" Remember the choice we must make—to be overly occupied with the cares of this life, or to choose the wise balance: a life completely yielded to Jesus Christ, evidenced by a daily routine where the necessary work gets done, but where fruit-bearing plays the vital role!

I PRESS TOWARD THE MARK

Mrs. Reuben Tvinnereim
Webster, South Dakota

Having once again experienced the joys of Christmas, we are thankful to God for all the blessings of the past year, for family, friends and relatives, for the wonderful greetings we shared at this time of the year. However, there are some mixed feelings of guilt and regret that there may have been things left undone—such as the importance of emphasizing the true meaning of Christmas to our children. God's love gift to us all was His dear Son, Jesus, and He wants everyone to accept Jesus as his own Savior and Lord. This message of Salvation is for all people, but perhaps we forget this in the midst of our own selfish plans. It would be blessed to spend some time with the lonely or bed-ridden folk, or to give to those who have little of this world's goods. In order to do this we must have the overflowing Christmas love in our hearts all year long.

Another New Year is here again and may it challenge us to spend more time seeking God's will and then by His grace to do His will one day at a time.

I am the New Year.
I am unused, unspotted, without blemish.
I stretch before you three hundred
And sixty-six days long.
I will present each day
In its turn, a new leaf
In the Book of Life
For you to place upon
It your imprint.

I am the New Year.
Each hour of every day, I will
Give you sixty minutes that
Have never known the use of man.
White and pure, I present them
With sixty jeweled seconds of
Love, hope, endeavor, patience
AND TRUST IN GOD.

I am the New Year
I am coming—
But once past, I can
Never be recalled.
Make me your best.
—Author unknown

NORTHERN MINNESOTA DISTRICT WMF RALLY HELD NEAR ROSEAU

The Women's Missionary Federation of the Northern Minnesota District held its fall rally at the Spruce Lutheran Church, Roseau, Edwin Kjos, pastor, on October 30, 1968.

The theme for the rally was "Prayer changes things" and the theme verse was Phil. 4:6. The theme song was "Teach Me to Pray."

Mrs. Clifford Holm, Badger, led the singspiration which started the morning session and Mrs. Sheldon Mortrud, Thief River Falls, led in devotions. We were welcomed by Mrs. Clinton Dahl of Roseau. Special music was provided by the following: Mrs. Gene Sundby and Mrs. Stan Holmaas, Newfolden, sang "How Long Has it Been?" and Mrs. Anna Erickson, Greenbush, sang "Did You Think to Pray?"

The Bible study was led by Mrs. Bernard Engevik, Gatzke. She gave a very inspiring as well as challenging study from God's Word, using the theme of "Prayer." Referring to Matt. 6:33, she stated that God will give what we have need of. The first need is God's presence in our hearts. Then we can share everything with God because He knows all about us. We can find Him at any time. The lesson taught us self-examination and showed how we so often use this means of grace, prayer, wrongly.

In the front of the church, on a large sheet, were written the following words: "Prayer is a golden river by whose brink some die from thirst, while others kneel to drink."

The business meeting was held

after the Bible study. Mrs. Holger Nilson, Gatzke, district president, presided throughout the day. The offering was given to the general fund of our Bible school.

The afternoon session began with a singspiration again led by Mrs. Holm. Pianist for the day was Mrs. Sundby and she was assisted at the organ by Mrs. Philip Dyrud, Newfolden, with some of the music.

At the afternoon meeting a duet was sung by Mrs. Ingvald Rokke and Mrs. Daryl Haugen, Strandquist, "Pray Till the Light Breaks Through." Mrs. Philip Grothe and Mrs. Gordon Johnson, Thief River Falls, sang "Looking in the Face of Jesus." Mrs. Clifford Elgin, Roseau, sang "When I Kneel Down to Pray."

Scripture and prayer were given by Mrs. Emmanuel Seidel, Badger. A report on the WMF day at the convention in Cloquet, Minn., last June was given by Mrs. Torkel Ose, Thief River Falls.

The message for the afternoon was delivered by Pastor H. L. Franz of Cloquet. He said that prayer changes the attitudes of people about things. When we pray we master the problem because God's grace is sufficient for all our needs. God's Spirit comes only to those who ask and pray. As the prayer meeting goes, so goes the church. Prayer belongs to the Christian and God has promised to hear, Rev. Franz stated. He further urged us to prove and try Him. We must dare God that He will provide.

Total registration for the day was 69 persons. The weather was very favorable and it was truly uplifting to fellowship one with another again in the Word of God.

"Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need" (Heb. 4:16).

Mrs. Stan Holmaas
Secretary

CHURCH-WORLD NEWS

NORWAY BISHOPS URGE HUMAN RIGHTS EFFORT

Oslo (LWF)—Norway's nine Lutheran bishops have called church members and government to a new measure of involvement in the fight against violence, injustice, and need.

A statement issued by the annual bishops' conference cites the current Human Rights year and declares that churches and church members have a special responsibility to work for the elimination of "so many violations of these rights."

"The church cannot be neutral to violence, injustice, and need," the statement says. "It is the steward of a message about a Creator who gave us this earth to utilize its riches for all men, about a Lord who solidifies himself with the poor, suppressed and outcast, about a Savior who died that all men may be free from sin..."

Among its declarations, the statement calls for an end to armament and declares that "political and strategic considerations based on a position of power can never justify interference into the right of self-determination of other people."

Speaking to the Norwegian situation, the statement says, "We have given of our means to help others, but we have only given of our surplus."

"We call on politicians earnestly to consider a new priority for the resources of our society... (to determine) at what points national interests to a greater degree may recede out of regard for poorer nations..."

"We call on those with insights in economics, production and trade to work intensely on the question as to how the collective resources of the world can be better utilized and more justly distributed..."

The statement declares that "the church does not stand powerless in this struggle" and urges

a broad effort by pastors and members, in cooperation with other churches and organizations, to work for global justice.

"This effort must be strengthened in the days to come," it states. "The Gospel is still young and full of power."

LUNCH-HOUR COMMUNION IN UPPSALA CATHEDRAL

Uppsala, Sweden (LWF)—Liturgical experiments underway here now include "lunch-hour communion" services twice a week in Uppsala Cathedral.

Though simplicity is stressed, the 20 to 25 minute services include all the main elements. It has been suggested that pastors not wear clerical robes.

The altar consists of a table moved down into the main aisle. Bread and wine are passed from person to person. Participants normally stand but are free to kneel.

JAPANESE LUTHERANS ASKED TO EVALUATE MASS MEDIA

Toyko — (LWF) — All members of the more than 200 Lutheran congregations in Japan are being asked to report on their attitudes toward the mass media through a questionnaire being circulated by the Lutheran World Federation Boardcasting Service office here in cooperation with the Social Behavior Research Institute.

The survey follows a recent call by the Rev. George L. Olson, head of the LWF office, for other Christian communicators in Japan to join in an attempt to bridge the gap between the modern Japanese and the biblical view of man.

He suggested formulation of a "pre-catechism" or set of guidelines to direct efforts toward connecting Christianity to the indigenous culture of Japan.

GERMAN YOUTH RALLY HAS LIVELY MOMENTS

Neumunster, Germany — (LWF) — Almost 4,000 young people took part in a rally sponsored here by parishes of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Schleswig-Holstein in cooperation with the Protestant Alliance of the "No Other Gospel" conservative movement.

Heated discussions, particularly at an afternoon "preach-in," revealed a wide scope of interest—in not only questions of faith but also sex problems, youth unrest, hunger in the world, and war prevention.

Shouting at several points upset the scheduled program. An appeal to publicly accept Jesus—in the style of the Billy Graham evangelistic rallies—which was planned for the rally closing had to be cancelled because of the general disorder.

RELIGIOUS ASPECTS CITED ON PROBLEMS OF VIOLENCE

Washington, D.C. (LC)—"Your Commission dare not fail to speak to the religious dimensions of the problem of violence as did the report of the National Advisory Commission on Civil Disorders."

This was the warning issued by a Lutheran youth leader at a special White House conference of the National Commission on the Causes and Prevention of Violence held here during the second week in November.

"For however we may judge it," said Dr. Elmer N. Witt of Matteson, Ill., "the religious institutions tend to follow governmental leadership on social issues."

He urged the President's commission to call upon religious institutions to serve as "advocates" of disadvantaged youth in trouble, in efforts to help them find and make their own way in society.

He pointed out that religious institutions can serve specifically as

mediators between youth and local law enforcement agencies; and as "interpreters of youth to adults and of society to youth."

Dr. Witt, formerly head of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod's international young people's organization, the Walther League, is now the Youth Ministry Study Director of Church Youth Research, an interdenominational service agency.

BISHOP LILJE TREATED FOR LUNG TUBERCULOSIS

Hannover, Germany (LWF)—Lutheran Bishop Hanns Lilje, 69, is undergoing treatment for lung tuberculosis, according to an announcement issued in late Novem-

ber at headquarters of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Hannover.

The bishop's recovery and return to a full work schedule was expected after a period of convalescence. In the meantime, Superintendent Hans Hoyer of Stade has been named as a deputy to assist the bishop.

In addition to heading the 3.9 million-member Hannover church, the largest regional Lutheran body in Germany, Bishop Lilje presides over the United Evangelical Church of Germany. He is a president of the World Council of Churches and a past president of the Lutheran World Federation, which he continues to serve as an Executive Committee member.

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