The Lutheran Ambassador



Joseph King, left, Boscobel, Wis., chats with Pastor John Strand during a conference intermission. More news from the Annual Conference, and pictures, in this issue.

Meditation Moments

VICTORIOUS LIVING

To be able to claim forgiveness of sin, to be assured of salvation—that is indeed a glorious possibility! Wonderful as that is, it is only a part of a Christian's joy. God wants us also to rejoice in the possession of **power over sin**, the possibility of living a victorious life through Christ.

But here many have their misgivings. They see so many defeats and failures in their own lives. They struggle against sinful habits, evil thoughts, bad tempers, lustful desires, an impatient spirit-and are easily discouraged. As their memory reminds them of repeated defeats. their recollections of past experiences are often far from pleasant. Can there be victory over such spiritual failures? And yet-as they look at other seemingly happy lives—it appears that victory must be attainable. So here is a subject that deserves prayerful study.

WHAT VICTORY IS NOT

- 1. It is not sinless perfection. Even though you are a child of God, you still have sin. "If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves" (I Jn. 1:8). You still commit sin. "If we say we have not sinned, we make him a liar" (I John 1:10). However, it is not necessary to keep on living in sin, for as John says, "I am writing this to you so that you may not sin" (I Jn. 2:1).
- 2. It is not an improvement of the old nature. By strenuous will power certain habits and sins can be kept under control. But the tendency to continue in them is still there. There has to be rigid self-discipline if the flaring tempers, the evil tongue, and the lustful desires are to be controlled. We do not belittle discipline—it does have a place in the life of a Christian. Paul said, "I pommel my body and subdue it, lest after speaking to others I myself should be disqualified" (I Cor. 9:27).
- 3. Victory is not arrived at by struggling. And that is the most dis-

couraging of all—for that is what we have been doing. Perhaps we have struggled against our flesh until with Paul we complain, "Wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from the body of this death?" (Rom 7:24).

VICTORY IS POSSIBLE

- 1. The Word of God clearly says so. And what God has said He can and will do. "Has he said and will he not do it? Or has he spoken, and will he not fulfill it?" (Num. 23:19). The proof and blessing of His promise will be experienced when we believe it in such a way that we act on it.
- 2. Fellow-Christians prove it. Just because you may not now have victory is no reason for denying its possibility. There are Christians about you who demonstrate in their lives that, whereas once they were slaves to sin and sinful habits, the Lord has set them free. Humbly yet confidently they can say, "In all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us" (Rom. 8:37).
- 3. Because Christ's victory is ours! Christ was victorious every time He was tempted. This victory won by Christ was not for His own benefit but for ours. "Because he himself has suffered and been tempted, he is able to help those who are tempted" (Heb. 2:19). Do we permit Him to help us every time we are tempted? It is clear that
- 4. Victory is only for believers, for those who are truly saved. "Who is it that overcomes the world but he that believes that Jesus is the Son of God?" (I Jn. 5:5). So many are seeking to arrive at victory by "being good" and "doing good"—but lack God's power. Christ within is the only guarantee of victory. With Paul believers can say, "I can do all things in him who strengthens me" (Phil. 4:13).

HOW TO HAVE VICTORY

1. By daily dying to sin. Are we really willing to die to our sins? Fool-

ish question, is it? But do we truly want to get rid of our sins? Are we ready to forgive others? Do we want victory over our tempers? Are we willing to be rid of our fleshly desires? Or do we defend and excuse these sins? We may even have to ask the Lord to make us hate our sins. Surely we need to pray for a desire to be "dead to sin and alive to God" (Rom. 6:11).

2. By appropriating Christ's victory. When you accepted Christ as Savior from the guilt of sin, did you also accept Him as Savior from the power of your sin? Jesus, said, "If the Son makes you free, you will be free indeed" (John 8:36). For this reason Paul could say, "Sin will have no dominion over you" (Rom. 6:14).

THANKFULLY WE REJOICE IN VICTORY

- 1. As we daily present ourselves to Him. As those who are saved we are to "yield ourselves to God as men who have been brought from death to life" (Rom. 6:13). That must be a daily experience, for a day-by-day victory over sin. Joyfully we can appropriate the words of Paul, "Thanks be to God, who in Christ always leads us in triumph" (II Cor. 2:14).
- 2. As we feed the new life, in Christ. To maintain physical strength we must feed our bodies daily. To "be strong in the Lord" we must daily nourish our souls through the use of the Word and prayer. Only then can we "be strong in the strength of his might."
- 3. As we go forth to walk in newness of life. "If we live by the Spirit, let us also walk by the Spirit" (Gal. 5:25). With Christ in the heart old desires and habits fall off, and new attitudes and pleasures take over, so that we, too, can say, "Thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ" (I Cor. 15:57).

—A. W. Knock —Courtesy, Tract Mission

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SCENES FROM THE ANNUAL CONFERENCE



Delegates take a break during a conference session.



Otto Kaschube, left, Brokton, Mont. converses with Mrs. Lee Haag, center, and Mr. and Mrs. Leonard Swanson of Nogales Ariz.



Mrs. Ray Jacobson, Minneapolis, Minn., speaks during a business section.



Some of the Schools Corporation members at their annual meeting.



Rev. Robert Lee, who declined re-nomination as secretary of the AFLC.



Dinner time at the conference.



The Nominating Committee at work on their choices for candidates.



Rev. Larry Severson, Wallace, S. Dak., talks with Pastor Ray Persson, Astoria, Ore., right.



Linda Haabak, McVille, N. Dak., who will work with the Wycliffe Translators, greeted the conference.



Student Pastor Dale Mellgren, Abercrombie, N. Dak., read a report.



The coffee breaks were popular with conference delegates.



A banquet for young people was held at Our Savior's Church on Saturday evening.

REV. REUBEN WEE

Funeral services for Rev. Reuben L. Wee were conducted at two locations on Thursday, June 27. Both were conducted by Rev. John P. Strand, Minneapolis, Minn., president of the Association of Free Lutheran Congregations, and he gave meditations at each. The first service was at Faith Lutheran Church in Granite Falls, Minn., at 10 o'clock. It was this church which Pastor Wee was serving at the time of his passing and where he was stricken on Sunday, June 23, after having led the altar service.



Rev. Reuben L. Wee

The second service was held at Ellsborough Lutheran Church, rural Balaton, Minn., at 2:30 p.m., and burial was in the church cemetery there. Rev. Robert L. Lee, Tioga, N. Dak., and Rev. John DeBoer, Zumbrota, Minn., spoke at the first service and Dr. Iver Olson, Minneapolis, and a Rev. Norheim, a former pastor at Ellsborough Lutheran, spoke at the second service.

Miss Kathy Johnson was organist at Faith Lutheran. Mrs. John Arlen Johnson, Kathy and Pamela sang "My Jesus, I Love Thee." Marianne Barnaal sang "Under His Wings." At Ellsborough, Mrs. Carrol Erickson was the organist. Raymond Nelson sang "I Love to Tell the Story" and Duane Stratton sang "O What a Day!"

Active pallbearers for Pastor Wee were Ruben Erickson, John Arlen Johnson, Gerhart Ness, Thomas Kidman, Einar Mattson and Russell Qualey.

Reuben Leonard Wee was born on Nov. 20, 1908, in Lakefield, Minn., to Rev. O. Martin O. Wee and Martha Erickson Wee. He graduated from Clarkfield (Minn.) High School in 1926 and completed Normal Teachers' Training in Montevideo, Minn., in 1927, teaching four years in rural schools. He then continued his education at Augsburg College, Minneapolis, graduating in 1935.

He was united in marriage to Inez Sether of Jackson, Minn., on Oct. 23, 1938. They owned and operated the Current Lake Store of rural Balaton from 1939 to 1967. He served in the Minnesota House of Representatives from 1955 to 1965. Mr. Wee then attended Free Lutheran Seminary in Minneapolis from 1967 to 1968 and was ordained into the ministry of the AFLC at Cloquet, Minn., in June 1968. He served as assistant pastor in the Tioga parish from 1968 to 1970, and served Faith Lutheran in Granite Falls from 1970 and on.

At the time of his passing, Pastor Wee was 65 years, seven months and three days old. He was preceded in death by his parents; a sister, Hulda; his brother, Joseph; and an infant grandson.

Surviving him are his wife Inez; seven sons, Wayne, Reuben, Jr., Mark and Bruce, all of Balaton; Dale Bradenton, Fla.; and Myron and Grant of Redwood Falls, Minn.; one daughter, Sharon, Mrs. Roy Carlson, Pine City, Minn.; 12 grandchildren; and three sisters, Esther, Mrs. LeRoy Arvidson; Mrs. Ruth Ubel, and Miriam, Mrs. M. Lutfi, all of Minneapolis.

Blessed be his memory.

OPENING NIGHT SERMON

God give us a vision of what is available in the secret place and as we really see that, He will bless. So stated Rev. Robert L. Lee, Valley City, N. Dak., in his message on the opening night of the annual conference in Thief River Falls, Minn., last month.

He further stated that there are no outward awards given for being in the secret place (Psalm 91), but our AFLC will be no stronger than our individual willingness to be in the shadow of the Almighty. Does our disobedience stand in the way of real blessing? he asked. We must get back to God, we must cultivate this nearness, the Valley City pastor declared.

Pastor Lee also talked about the AFLC as being a vision of congregational life that is needful in our day. He said that the Association is not a claim of perfection, but if the Word is rightly divided it will do the cleansing that is needed.

There are faults in the church, Mr. Lee averred, and the witness of the church to the world is not always good. This is why there must be an examination to see whether we are dwelling in the secret place of the Most High as individuals.

ORDINATION SERMON

Taking I Cor. 3:1-15 as his text, Rev. John P. Strand, president of the Association of Free Lutheran Congregations, spoke on the subject "God's Fellow-Workers" at the ordination service on Sunday afternoon at the annual conference. Two young men, Richard Anderson and Dennis O'Neil, were ordained into the church's ministry at the service.

Pastor Strand made three main points in his sermon. 1) Laborers are not to be idolized. The pastor is not to be self-serving or self-selling, but is to have the attitude of a servant, as Jesus did. The pastor is to be a "water boy" and a "gardener," for it is God who gives the increase. Pastor Strand said that he rejoices when people speak well of their pastor, but fears if they give any man the credit which rightly belongs to God.

- 2) The laborers are one. God gives the reward, Mr. Strand asserted. Thus there is no room for jealousy or hurt pride in the ministry. There is a place assigned each worker and it is what he does there that will count. Some people are experts in another man's work but failures in their own, the church president declared.
- 3) The laborer must have the right attitude toward the foundation which has been laid, Pastor Strand told the audience. The foundation was laid long ago. We are to build a Christhonoring work upon it. Pastors are to be builders of congregations. This was the vision of our forefathers. If a pastor builds in such a way that it only holds up while he is there, then he has built poorly and falsely, Pastor Strand warned.

Conquering Love

Sharon Jones

Gary Preston was not the first foster child that my husband and I had ever taken into our home. Since we have no children of our own, a great void in our lives has been filled by helping to raise several such youngsters

At first, they were nearly always all alike: bitter, rebellious, and testing our discipline. But with persistent love and prayer, we have seen most of them develop into normal, happy boys and girls.

However, the trials and emotional involvements with such young ones, although rewarding, are quite a strain. Because of this, coupled with the fact that my husband and I were reaching the age of grandparents, we decided to retire from child-rearing. We wanted to just enjoy the fruits of our labor.

Only a few days after this decision, I received a phone call from the judge of juvenile court. He got right to the point.

"We have a thirteen-year-old boy down here, Mrs. Jansen, that I wish you would consider keeping for a while. To be perfectly frank, he is one of the biggest headaches we have had in quite some time. He hasn't stayed in one home for more than a few days or weeks at a time. You've been—"

"I'm sorry," I interrupted him firmly, and then briefly informed him of our decision not to take any more children. "I'm sure you'll find someone else," I said confidently.

"No, we won't," he insisted. "Actually, you are a last resort. You've been so good with the other children that I thought maybe you would at least try with Gary. If you won't take him, I'll have to send him to the State School for Boys."

The reformatory! I knew that if I was this young man's last chance, then he must have it. I would give it to him.

That evening, before meeting Gary, a welfare worker gave us his back-

ground story. It was as sordid as any I had ever listened to.

Gary's mother had died when he was an infant. His father was an alcoholic who spent most of his time in saloons and gutters. For the first twelve years of his life, Gary had lived with a spinster aunt. She had beaten him severely for the slightest misdemeanor.

By the time the child had reached the age of nine or ten, he belonged to a street gang and was constantly in trouble.

I'll have to admit that I had second thoughts about taking Gary into our home. But I felt I had to at least try to help him.

Mixed emotions surged through me when I met Gary. I had never seen a more handsome boy. He was tall for his age, and his head was crowned with a mass of black wavy hair. His dark eyes were almost black too—black and stormy. His attractiveness was spoiled by his surly attitude and sloppy appearance.

He hardly spoke when we were introduced. With an experienced air, he followed Bob and me to the car. He had been through all of this many times before.

A pleased expression flitted across Gary's face as we opened the door to what was to be his bedroom—an attractive, spacious room—but he hid his pleasure behind his former indifference.

"Just make yourself right at home," I said brightly, closing the drapes against the settling darkness.

His only response was a sullen grunt.

The next day Bob took Gary to enroll in our neighborhood junior high school. We were very apprehensive about it since he had never got along with others and our fears proved to be well-founded. That evening he came home with his face bruised and his clothes torn.

"What happened, Gary?" Bob asked as calmly as possible.

Squaring his shoulders defiantly,

Gary looked Bob straight in the face. "A guy called me a chicken, so I socked him. I beat 'im up, too."

Soberly, Bob informed the boy, "You know I'll have to punish you. You can't go around punching someone in the nose just because he says something you don't like."

"Go ahead and beat me," Gary said between clenched teeth. "I don't care."

I saw a look of pity come into Bob's clear blue eyes before he said evenly, "That's not exactly what I had in mind."

After a short, thoughtful silence, my husband continued, "Gary, this will be your penalty: You will forfeit all outside activity for the next two weeks. In other words, you are grounded. One of us will pick you up at school each day and bring you home. By the way, I expect your grades to be good, so you'll have homework to occupy your evenings, I'm sure."

Nothing drastic occurred during the next few days. Gary just remained distant and uncommunicative.

Then one day when I went after him, he was not at school. According to his teachers, he hadn't been there all day. Frantically, I phoned Bob and then the judge.

The judge said, "If you don't find him within the hour, I'll have to bring in the police."

Desperately we searched, but it was useless. Gary was picked up by the police late that night. He was with his old friends, who were engaged in a street fight with a rival gang.

"It's quite useless, Mrs. Jansen," the judge said. "We are wasting your time with this boy. I'd better go ahead and send him to the boys school."

"Oh, no," I pleaded. "Please give us just a little more time. I can't give up yet. Somehow, with God's help, I've got to see a change in Gary. Just give me a little more time."

Gary was more than a little surprised when we took him back home that night. I'm sure he had thought that would be the end of his stay with us.

On Sunday, as usual, we took Gary to church. Throughout the service, it seemed evident that he was enduring the whole thing. Or was he? Could his apparent indifference be an act? Prayerfully, I hoped that the message he was hearing would penetrate his youthful, stubborn heart.

Early the next week I went to the supermarket to buy groceries. At the cash register, I discovered I had no money—not one cent. My heart sank as I wrote a check to cover the bill. I felt that I knew where that thirty dollars had gone and, as I thought about it, I became angry. For a few moments, I lost hope, too.

"That little ingrate," I exploded inwardly. "I'm willing to clothe him, feed him, and give him a decent home, and this is the thanks I get!"

My anger was soon replaced, though, with a dogged determination. He was my responsibility. I could not fail with him. Driving home, I prayed, "Father, help me to lead Gary to you. Only your grace and power can straighten out his warped and twisted life."

As I passed the local bus station, I unexpectedly saw my problem in its human form standing outside the terminal. I went around the block and pulled up into the parking lot. I jumped from the car, but tried to appear casual as I approached Gary.

"Going somewhere?" I tried to joke.

"Naw, just hangin' around." He dug his hands into his pockets and averted his eyes.

I checked my watch. "Aren't you supposed to be in school right now?"

supposed to be in school right now?"

"They let us out early today," he

"Then I'm just in time to drive you home."

"I wanna walk," he said, turning away. "Why don't you just go on and leave me alone? And besides, there ain't no use in you tryin' to make a good person outta me. I don't even wanna be good. Not ever!"

His voice became bolder. "Maybe I was going away. I can take care of myself, anyway."

Tears sprang into my eyes, and I reached out an imploring hand to him. "I'm sorry you feel that way, Gary, but for the time being, I have to take you with me."

Reluctantly, he followed me to the car.

That evening Bob and I discussed the situation and decided not to accuse

Gary openly. We knew that he would deny everything and we actually couldn't prove our suspicions. We also hoped that Gary would, sooner or later, confess voluntarily.

Gary's smug attitude the next few days was hard to take. Clearly, he thought that he had really scored one on us. I prayed for strength and wisdom.

It was a week later that the real crisis came. I walked into my room and caught Gary taking money from my purse again.

He whirled to confront me like a cornered, frightened animal. Breathlessly, we faced each other for a moment. Then I said, with what I hoped sounded like calm authority, "Put it back, Gary."

His indecision was only momentary. "No!"

"No! No! No!" His voice rose shrilly. Then, in motions too quick for me to follow clearly, he produced a switchblade knife.

My mouth went dry with fear. I prayed that my panic would not show.

"I'm leavin' here," he said wildly. "That's why I took that money the other day—for a bus ticket. I'm going to another city and live by myself where no one can tell me what to do."

I tried to interrupt him, but he rushed on. "You and the old man are different from most of the others, all right, but you still want the same thing—a hundred dollars a month for taking care of me. And, oh, yeah, you'd really like to change me too. But I won't change, not ever. No one cares about me, so why should I try to be good for anybody?"

He came a step closer with the knife held unsteadily. "Now, get outta my way."

I stood firm, and a great wave of compassion engulfed my heart.

"Get out'a that door. Lemme go, do ya hear?" He advanced, waving the knife threateningly.

Tears were streaming down my face now, and I said softly, "I love you, Gary."

He froze in this tracks.

"I love you, Gary," I repeated, walking toward him, "and I can't let you go. Not even if you hurt me."

He stared at me incredulously. Obviously, he did not know how to deal

with this turn of events.

"Y—you really mean that, don't va?"

I could see on his face the struggle raging inside him. How he wanted to believe me!

"God loves you, too," I persisted, "and He wants to help you."

It seemed that eons passed, but it was really only seconds. Then, with great relief, I heard the knife clatter on the floor, and Gary's face contorted in an unsuccessful fight against tears.

"Nobody ever said that to me before," he sobbed.

I put my arms around him, and he melted completely. He buried his face on my shoulder, and his slender frame shook as he cried out all the hate and bitterness of his short life.

A short time later, Bob and I knelt with Gary as he gave his heart to God, and then we rejoiced when, two hears later, he received a call into the ministry.

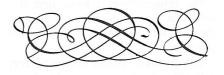
Not long afterward, we legally adopted him, and our son, Gary Jansen, continued to be the center and joy of our lives.

We saw him through four years of Bible college and a spiritual growth at which I have never ceased to wonder. During his senior year, he married a lovely, talented girl who shared the burden of his heart. After graduation, they left school for a two-year pastorate in a small Kentucky town.

Well, I guess there is a reason why all this is on my mind today. You see, just this morning I waved goodbye to Gary and his wife as they boarded a plane which would take them to New York. From there, another plane will carry them to Africa, Gary's first missionary post.

It's going to be lonesome without him, but I know Gary will make a wonderful missionary. His twisted, rebellious life was conquered by the love of God, and he will carry that same conquering love to others.

-Courtesy, LIVE.





LAKE SUPERIOR WMF CONVENTION HELD

The Women's Missionary Federation of the newly organized Lake Superior District was held at the Moland Church of Mason, Wisconsin, Saturday, April 27, 1974. There were 47 women registered for the morning session. The program was varied throughout the day. The theme of the program was "Prayer," based on the Bible verse II Chronicles 7:14. Prayer was the basis for the Bible study led by Mrs. Laura Hegge, Cloquet, Minnesota, and the afternoon message by Pastor Ronald Knudson, host pastor.



The projects of the WMF were presented to the group of women present by Mrs. Carol Dietsche and Mrs. Evelyn Emberson. Questions were answered following the presentation.

A short business meeting was held during the morning session. Election of officers was held after lunch. Mrs. Theo. Hanson was elected president of the new district.

Special musical numbers were presented for added enrichment of the day.

The women of Mason and Drummond helped the women of the Moland Church serve coffee and a very delicious lunch. An invitation for the fall rally was extended by the women of the Drummond Church, Mason, Wisconsin.

Shown here are the new officers chosen at the rally. They are, from left to right, Mrs. Theo. Hanson, president; Mrs. Evelyn Emberson, cradle roll secretary; Mrs. Rosmond Lee, vice-president; Mrs. Bonnie Roberts, treasurer; and Mrs. Clarence Tuura, secretary.

MRS. INGA SABO HONORED WITH WMF PIN

Mrs. Inga Sabo is shown being presented with an honorary membership pin in the Women's Missionary Federation for her many years as a faithful member in the Rindal Lutheran WMF, Thief River Falls, Minn., David Molstre, pastor. Mrs. Sabo, now 94 years, has been hospitalized in the Convalescent Nursing Care unit of Northwestern Hospital in Thief River Falls for several months with a broken hip. Shown above, in addition to Mrs. Sabo, are, standing, left to right, Mrs. Emil Hellquist, Mrs. Carl Aune and Mrs. Ruth Hagen. Seated is Mrs. Marie Anderson. All are WMF officers at Rindal.



WMF GIVES LARGE GIFT TO AFLBS FOR VAN



Rev. Richard Shipstead is shown accepting a gift of \$6,000 from Mrs. Robert Dietsche, president of the WMF, to be used to purchase a van which can be used to transport Gospel teams and other small groups. The presentation was made during the youth night service of the Annual Conference at which the Junior Gospel Team from the Bible School presented some songs and testimonies.



The WMF officers at the annual convention. Mrs. Kenneth Moland is at the lectern leading the singspiration.



Part of the audience at the WMF convention.



Waiting for the afternoon session to begin

THE MORNING PRAYER HOURS

Rev. Jay G. Erickson, Ferndale, Wash., was the speaker at the morning prayer hours at this year's conference

The first morning, Thursday, he read Romans 8:14-17 and 26-27. He pointed out three encouragements that are given there: 1) We are the sons (children) of God, if we have received Christ; 2) We are eligible for the Father's resources as heirs of God; and 3) We experience the Holy Spirit's prayer partnership.

On Friday Pastor Erickson's text was Galatians 6:1-2. We are to share each other's troubles and bear one another's burdens. But how can there be "bearing" if there is no "sharing," he asked. Sharing is opening up to someone else in honesty. Paul was willing to do this. Remember the pastors in prayer, he urged.

For the final prayer time, on Saturday, Mr. Erickson referred to II Thessalonians 3:1, which he called a final word from Paul. We can and do underestimate the power of the mystery of iniquity, he asserted. With Paul we must pray that the Word of God may have free course through us, that it may come through "loud and clear."

Those who provided special music in the prayer hours wer Mitchell Johnson and Mrs. John Schlenk, Thief River Falls; Pastor and Mrs. R. Snipstead, Minneapolis, Minn.; Miss Janell Ness, Thief River Falls; and Mrs. Hubert DeBoer and daughter Sandy, Thief River Falls.

DEVOTIONAL LEADERS AT THE CONFERENCE

The following persons led the devotional sessions at the recent annual conference:

Thursday a.m. — Rev. Trygve F. Dahle, Sr., Spicer, Minn.—Eph. 2:1-10

 $\begin{array}{ccc} Thursday & p.m. & - & Paul & Bjornstad, \\ Duluth, \, Minn., -Jn. \, 15:7ff \end{array}$

Friday a.m. — Rev. Marvin Haara, Brooten, Minn.—Col. 1:9-14

Friday p.m. — Ernest Miedema, Valley City, N. Dak.—Ps. 37:1-9

Wm. Kangas, Minneapolis, Minn.—Rom. 5:1-10

Bryan Nelson, Spicer, Minn.—Phil. 2:3,5

NORTH DAKOTA LEGISLATOR ADDRESSES PASTORS, WIVES

Mr. Oben Gunderson, McCanna, N. Dak., a member of the North Dakota legislature, spoke at the annual pastors' dinner during the annual conference at Thief River Falls, Minn., on June 14, at Lon's Cafe. An overflow crowd was present, doubtless the largest group yet assembled for this event.

Mr. Gunderson was introduced by his associate in the legislature, Mr. Ernest Miedema, a member of the AFLC's Co-ordinating Committee, and now also the mayor of Valley City, N. Dak. Mr. Miedema told the group that for a long time he had wanted to attend a pastor's dinner and was finally realizing that ambition

Three choices and decisions had faced him in recent years, Mr. Gunderson said, and each had had a profound effect upon his life. Each came to him through a different pastor. The first was the encouragement to go into politics something he had not counted on. He has found the political world exciting and is grateful for other Christian members of state government whom he had found.

The second choice and challenge was to participate in a disciplined Bible study program, in this case the Bethel Series. He testified to the enrichment of his own spiritual life which has come through this. The third momentous decision was the one to spend a number of months in mission service in Ethiopia under World Brotherhood Exchange. The opportunity looked impossible, but the Lord opened the doors needed in order to make the arrangements necessary in leaving home, work and children for that period of time. He was able to do what he knows best in Ethiopia, work as an agricultural consultant.

THE CLIFFORD HOLMS TO BE FETED

Mr. and Mrs. Clifford Holm, Minneapolis, Minn., will be honored on the occasion of their silver wedding on Sunday, August 11, by their children, at the home of Mr. and Mrs.

Martin Johnson, Badger, Minn. Everyone is welcome to attend.

Cliff Holm is maintenance engineer at the AFLC headquarters and schools in Plymouth, Minneapolis.

News of the Churches

HELP WANTED: FAITHFUL EMPLOYEE SOUGHT

If you found a "Help Wanted" ad for a qualified person to run a farm or business, these are some of the requirements it might list.

- 1. A man is needed with training and experience to handle the minute details of running this farming business. List the places and situations in which you were trained for this work. List the experience you have had.
- 2. You must have a personal concern for the work and be loyal to your employer. (I want a man who is not afraid to get involved. I need a man who cares.)
- 3. Send a list of references, who will vouch for you ethically and morally. (I need to depend on you in all areas.)
- 4. Are you well disciplined in your own work? Will you be diligent in your labor? Do you carry through your good intentions? (I need a man who will "roll up his sleeves" and get to work and stay with it until it is done.)

Aren't these the qualities that God wants to see in us? He wants us to come to Him, offer our lives to Him in devotion and service, make Him Lord (employer) of our lives. While we realize that we are saved by the atoning blood of Christ and not by any works that we may do, still we should consider what part of our lives we are offering Him.

It is strange that we accept a list of qualifications like this from an earthly employer and are willing to apply for such a job, yet we serve our Lord in such a haphazard way. I'm afraid an earthly employer would fire us.

May we examine our own qualifications, our commitment and our life of service. What kind of an "employee" am I?

Pastor Robert Rieth Kirkland, Wash.

editorials

THOSE TWO NEW JOBS

By this time the news has come out to all the church that two new members will be added to the Association staff as soon as the right people can be secured and all arrangements made. And by this time there has been opportunity to consider what it all means.

There was some feeling at the annual conference, where these decisions were made, that 1) we should have decided on the matter of an evangelist first, to show our priorities were straight, and 2) there is no need for a stewardship counsellor, the other position created, at all.

To take the second argument first, it seems to us that such a stewardship counsellor can do a lot of good. Certainly there can be no harm in a worker specializing in an area of Christian emphasis, even if that assignment is not mentioned by name in the Scriptures. (After all, editors are not mentioned either.) We have personally been blessed by messages brought by men who were devoting themselves to work in the stewardship area and who by that devotion of time had gained some insights to share with others.

A stewardship counsellor, like an evangelist, in a free Lutheran church cannot go any place where he is not wanted or do anything where he is not bidden. But there will be those congregations which will feel that they can benefit from what such a person can share in the way of helps as to what stewardship is, how to set up congregational budgets, etc. Individuals may request assistance in drawing up wills and be open to encouragement to leave something for God's work. The stewardship counsellor can be a real asset to our life together.

As to having an evangelist, no vice was raised in opposition to that, not unexpected in a church which prides herself in her interest in evangelism. There was some discussion as to whether the evangelist should also be the youth director or worker, a position which has been vacant since February 1. The final conference decision was to combine the two, a circumstance that was looked upon as an expedient for the near future.

The two problems that will be present are these, 1) to secure a man who has both the gift of an evangelist and of working with young people, and 2) keeping the man from being identified as the "youth evangelist" because he will have the title of evangelist-youth worker.

There will be the concern of dividing time rightly. Should the man use so many weeks a year for evangelism and so many for youth work or should every week in which he is on duty be a comvination of both? Is it enough that the evangelist-youth worker preach the Gospel to the young and be available for spiritual counselling or should he enter into the areas of program direction, officer resonsibilities, etc.? There are people in the church who favor each way. It is our feeling that he must be prepared to do both.

Certain it is that the filling of both these positions can mean great blessing to the church at large. Let us pray for all those boards and officers who now have the responsibility to seek out the men of God's choosing for these new tasks in the Association.

INTERESTING PERCENTAGES

Aside from the elections which took place at the annual conference in Thief River Falls last month, there was very little "hard" news that came forth from the assembly. In the parlance of newsmen this refers to real, factual news. The majority of the resolutions passed were expressions of thanks and expressions of encouragement. There were very few that created anything or decided anything. Most decisions in the church are made by the boards and committees in their work throughout the year.

Two of the real decisions made by the conference were the ones setting up the positions of stewardship counsellor and evangelist-youth worker. Those decisions occurred on Saturday morning, a day when delegate attendance is traditionally lower than the peak times of Thursday and Friday. This year attendance was likely better on Saturday than it has been at any previous conference, but still far below the other two days.

Or look at it this way. Total delegate registration by Saturday afternoon at 2 o'clock was 382. The vote on the stewardship counsellor issue in the morning was by secret ballot and found 154 votes cast. This means that 40 per cent of the delegates registered made the decision on the stewardship counsellor, and on the evangelist-youth worker, where a voice vote was taken.

It is interesting to speculate as to the make-up of the 40 per cent. How many of them had been present from the beginning of the conference, how many first took part on Friday and how many were voting for the first time on Saturday?

Over half of the conference delegates had come and gone before these two real decisions of the conference were made. Also, they were not on hand to hear the reports from the Board of Publications and Parish Education, the Youth Board, the Stewardship Board and the Board of Pensions. While no earth-shaking resolutions concerning these areas came out, we still like to think that they are matters deserving delegate attention, too.

Perhaps there is no other Lutheran church body which conducts its business in just the way we do, with a constant change in the size of the body of delegates over our three-day business session. The normal procedure is for delegates to come at the beginning and stay to the end.

Ours is a free conference with few delegates representing their congregations because it has been voted that they do so. Most come of their own volition, because of

Page Nine

their deep interest in Association work. That is good, but we do look toward the day when the majority of those who attend conference can arrange to stay through, from Wednesday night to Sunday. We think it would be a good thing for our life together as a church fellowship.

REV. REUBEN WEE

He was called Home suddenly on Sunday morning, June 23, while at the church service in Faith Lutheran Church, Granite Falls, Minn. He had conducted the liturgy and visiting pastor Richard Gunderson was about to begin to preach when he was fatally stricken.

They were to burn the mortgage for the church that day, and did carry through with plans after the congregation had reassembled and Pastors Gunderson and John DeBoer, who was also present, were given grace to speak to the people.

So Reuben Wee was active in the work until the very last and was the first pastor in the Association, still engaged in the parish ministry, to be called from this life.

What a word of testimony to his people his homegoing must have been! What a word of witness and warning to us all! How important to be ready, to be ready to move when God calls! How important to be right with God and to be at peace with one's fellowmen!

Reuben Wee did not have a long ministry, entering into that work only in recent years. But he had served the Lord for a long time in other work. His pastoral ministry was in the Tioga, N. Dak., parish and at Granite Falls. He was greatly appreciated by those whom he had served.

He was a dear brother in the Lord. He was a man of kindly and friendly disposition. At the annual conference in Thief River Falls he and his wife greeted their many friends. At the laymen's service on Friday night he had been one of those to give a testimony.

Reuben Wee has left us now, but his witness and ministry for Christ will live on. May we all, who name the name of Christ, devote ourselves more fully and wholly to the Gospel task before us while there is time.

Blessed be his memory.



CONGREGATION AT WALLACE HAD 60TH ANNIVERSARY



Members of the 1915 confirmation class who were present for the anniversary and who were honored in a special way.
World Missions

Members, former members and friends gathered at Calvary Lutheran Church in Wallace, S. Dak., on Sunday, June 9, to mark the congregation's 60th anniversary. Heavy rains that day failed to dampen the spirits of those who attended the festive occasion. Plans for the old-time picnic in the afternoon had to be changed but perhaps rain interfered with some picnics in the older days, too.

Rev. Larry Severson, pastor at Calvary, conducted the anniversary service with Mrs. Horace Kasin as organist. Mr. Terry Wasland led in Scripture reading and prayer. Special music was given by the Vacation Bible School which had been held prior to the anniversary and by Mr. Willard Armbruster, vocal solo. Mr. Robert Miller, Sr., chairman of the parish council, read a history of the congregation, paying tribute to those who founded the church.

Rev. Jasper Swenson, Madison, S.

Dak., a former pastor at Calvary, preached the sermon, using Lev. 23:23-25 as his text. He challenged those present to remember God's goodness and to respond in loving service. Oral greetings were brought by another former pastor, Rev. E. G. Kallevig, Minneapolis, Minn.; Rev. Raynard Huglen, Minneapolis, who did some preaching at Calvary while a seminary student; Mrs. M. A. Erickson, Hendricks, Minn., widow of a former pastor; and Mrs. E. S. Vik, Waubay, S. Dak.

Written greetings were read from pastor sons of the congregation, James Tofte, Ernest Kasin and LeRoy Anenson, and from Mrs. Harold Bueide and Mrs. E. A. Evenson, widows of former pastors.

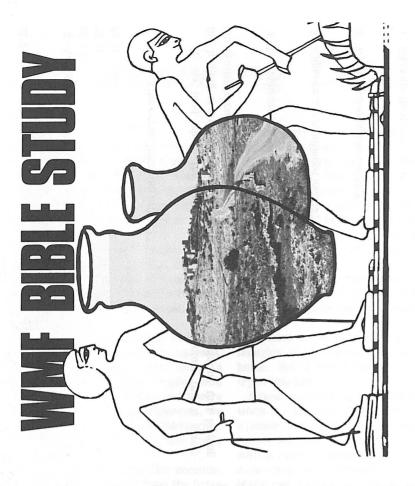
A bountiful dinner was served and the afternoon was spent in visiting, with games for the children in the city auditorium. A lunch was served before the afternoon was over.

Special guests of honor during the day were the members of the 1915 confirmation class. Six were able to be present. Also noted at the anniversary was the fact that it was 25 years since Telemarken Lutheran Church, located northwest of Wallace, had merged with the church in town to form Calvary.

In addition to those already mentioned, Calvary has been served by Pastors H. M. Hemmingsen, H. O.

[Continued on page 14]

We have a sure, prophetic word,
By inspiration of the Lord
And though assailed on ev'ry hand,
Jehovah's Word shall ever stand
By pow'rs of empire banned and burned,
By pagan pride rejected, spurned
The word still stands the Christian's trust,
While haughty empires lie in dust.



August, 1974

Jeremiah

Lesson VIII

PROPHETS, PRIESTS AND KINGS

The very ones who should have been leaders were scattering and destroying the flock!

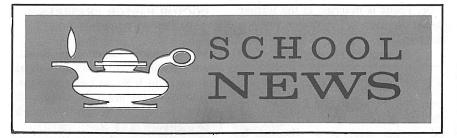
1. Against whom are the prophecies of chapter 22? 22:11 $^{99.18}$

JEREMIAH'S WRITINGS

2. Notice the list of sins: 22:3 22:17 29: 21	10. Chapter 29 is a letter written by Jeremiah to the exiles already in Babylon. Notice the main thoughts: 29:5, 6
	EC. EC
3. What is the cry of Jeremiah in 22:29?	11. What did the Lord tell Jeremiah to do in 36:2?
In our land where the Gospel is heard as never before this is surely the longing of every Christian citizen. But are we translating that longing into reality by consistent prayer?	12. Follow the action and see what happens to the scroll: 36:10
4. To whom are the words in chapter 23 addressed? 23:1	36:12 and 15
5. What sins are mentioned in 23:2?	36:21
6. Who is spoken against in 23:9?	What kind of reaction did the scroll get?
7. What are their sins? 23:14	36:16 from the princes—
8. What is the source of their words? 23:16	
23:26	36:23 from the king—
	$36\!:\!24\mathrm{from}$ the king and his servants—
Where should they have gotten their message? 23:18	

9. What is the test of a true prophet? 28:9

13. Was this the end of the Lord's words as given through Jeremiah? 36:32



JUNE ENDED WITH BUILDING PROJECT MARKING TIME

A strike by equipment operators at the Spancrete company which is supplying the dorm building project at Association Free Lutheran Bible School carried on at least to the end of June and meant further delay. A final layer of Spancrete was needed to cap the third and final floor of the building. Not much further interior work could be done until the roof is in place.

Work was continuing with the laying of the exterior brick. The accompanying pictures show the approximate height of the dorm when completed.

It is hoped that the structure will be completed and in readiness for use when the new school term opens on September 8. The delays do not help any, but it is hoped that the work can be completed in ample time.

When completed, the dorm will provide rooms for about 60 boys, a music room, recreation area, two classrooms, faculty and student lounges and other facilities. The new dorm frees the third floor of the first dormitory for use by girl students, thus bringing the on-campus accommodations at AFLBS to about 150 students.



Exterior brick work being done.



Front view of the boy's dorm. Main entrance shown at right.

ARE YOU CONSIDERING A BIBLE SCHOOL CAREER?

Many young people now out of high school are committed to a course of action for the fall of this year. It may be to work at a job, to go to college or a trade school, to enter military service, to become a homemaker.

Still other young people are undecided or could yet change their plans. Why not attend Bible school? Most students who come to Bible school nowdays do so right after high school. That is a good time, for this training can be good preparation for future college work, for military service, for homemaking.

But students have come to AFLBS after a year or two of college or even with college degrees. They have come after military service, after service in various jobs, even as married persons. Age is no barrier, the oldest student thus far (he was part-time) was 76 years old.

It is always a good time to come aside for a study of God's Word. It is never too late or too early. If you feel that you could be helped, if you are willing to learn and to work, then you should consider going to Bible school, and why not do that this fall?

AFLBS is one of a very few Lutheran Bible schools in America today. It offers a two-year course in Bible study, church history, doctrine and a few other helpful subjects. The

school offers fine opportunities in music and will be able to offer more through the new facilities of the boys' dorm, now under construction. Excellent part-time jobs are available for all who wish to help defray the cost of their schooling in that way.

If you want to consider attending AFLBS this fall, or in the future (there are three quarters in a year), write **now** (especially if you're thinking about this fall) to Dean, AFLBS, 3110 E. Medicine Lake Blvd., Minneapolis, Minn. 55441.

You won't be sorry that you did.



Jeff Dahl, Bagley, Minn., auctions off a basket at the basket social held before the school year ended.



Kathy Hodnefield, Radcliffe, Ia., left, and Harlan Larson, Chester, Ia., eat their basket lunch together.

It may be true that you have given some thought to the kingdom of God, and that you recognize its claim on you. You may even have made sporadic attempts to seek it. But because your spiritual interest has not been aroused to the point where it holds sway over every other interest in life, you have not found God's kingdom.

F. Hammarsten (in **The Good Seed**)

[Continued from page 16] been elected president of Concordia Seminary in Springfield.

The 49-year-old theologian is currently vice-president for academic affairs at Concordia Seminary in St. Louis. He has been chief officer of the St. Louis Seminary since Dr. Martin Scharlemann resigned as acting president of the school because of "nervous exhaustion."

Dr. Preus succeeds Dr. Richard J. Schultz who left the Springfield post last October to become a mission developer in the New Jersey District of the LCMS.

In the theological dispute raging within the 2.8-million member denomination, Dr. Robert Preus has vocally sided with the "conservatives." He has one of the few faculty members of Concordia who did not go on strike last January when Dr. John H. Tietjen was suspended from the presidency of the school on charges of heresy and administrative malfeasance.

Striking faculty members were suspended from their positions one month later and began Concordia Seminary in Exile, popularly known as Seminex.

The new Springfield president is a 1947 graduate of Bethany Seminary in Mankato, Minn., a seminary of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod. He served parishes in Maryville, N. Dak., Cambridge, Mass., and in Minnesota before joining the St. Louis seminary faculty in 1957.

At that time he became a member of the LCMS.

Dr. Preus has taught systematic theology at Concordia and was named vice-president for academic affairs and chairman of the department of historical theology after the dismissal of the striking faculty members left those posts vacant.

He has been a member of the LCMS Commission on Theology and Church Relations and has served on a subcommittee of the Synod's Commission on Literature. He is the author of three books, The Inspiration of Scripture and a two-volume Theology of Post-Reformation Lutheranism.

The new seminary president is a member of the Society for Reformation Research, the Concordia Historical Institute, the Medieval Society of America and the Archaeological Society.

Dr. Preus is married to the former Donna Rockman. The couple has ten children.

[Continued from page 10]

Lee, C. A. Sorkness, and Lyle Nielsen. Pastors at Telemarken before the local merger were B. L. Hagboe, L. E. Kjelaas, J. U. Pederson, L. J. Odland, L. L. Nervig, and J. F. Melom.



Pastors at the Calvary anniversary were, left to right, Raynard Huglen, Minneapolis, Minn.; Larry V. Severson, Wallace, S. Dak.; Emil Kallevig, Minneapolis; and Jasper Swenson, Madison, S. Dak.

PERSONALITIES

Rev. Marvin Undseth resigned as pastor of Calvary Lutheran Church, Everett, Wash., effective in May. Future plans are indefinite.

Retiring from the active ministry in August is Rev. Hans J. Tollefson who has served at Eben Jct., Mich. the past few years. Pastor and Mrs. Tollefson and son Richard will make their home in Astoria, Ore., where they once lived and where another son lives.

NOTE!

We are deeply grateful for the many gifts and donations that come in to the various funds of the Association. In most cases, however, it is not indicated whether these gifts are to be credited to any particular congregation. If you desire this to be done, please indicate so on the check or on a slip of paper with your gift. Thank you!

Office of the Treasurer

DOCTOR-PASTOR "RETIRES," TAKES ETHIOPIAN POST

Dr. Kristofer Hagen, an Edina, Minn., physician who was a medical missionary to India on two occasions, retired from his practice on June 30 and will leave for Ethiopia this month to be a surgeon in a mission hospital.

The hospital, at Ras Wallie Bitul, is the only one for a million persons. It is on the edge of a famine area. The invitation to serve at the hospital for at least three years came from the Mekane Yesus Church of Ethiopia, which is affiliated with the American Lutheran Church's Division of World Missions. Dr. Hagen has been reinstated on the clergy roster of the ALC, but while living in the U.S. had been a member of a congregation of the Lutheran Church in America, Normandale Lutheran.

Mr. Hagen, son of the late Rev. Wm. Hagen, whose booklet, "I Took His Hand," was printed in installments in **The Lutheran Ambassador** some time ago, was ordained a minister in the Lutheran Free Church. He served churches in Columbia Heights and Spring Lake Park, both Minneapolis suburbs, before going to the University of Minnesota Medical School.

He left his medical practice in 1946-52 and in 1960-62 to serve as a missionary in India. Both he and his wife Bertha, a former teacher, are 65.

ALL GLORY BE TO THEE

All glory be to Thee, O Lord, As to the Son of God, adored; Praise, glory, honor, evermore, To Thou who only art the Door.

Thanks be to Thee who art the Way, Guiding us ever day by day; Showing to us Thy mighty power With all the blessings Thou dost shower.

Thou our Rock, our strong Defender, Teach us while our hearts are tender, Ever to do Thy will alone, And share the love that Thou has shown.

Darlene Stulen, AFLBS Spicer, Minn.



CHURCH-WORLD NEWS

FIVE CANDIDATES NOMINATED FOR PRESIDENCY OF THE ALC

Minneapolis—(LC)—Five candidates have been nominated for the presidency of the American Lutheran Church, with election scheduled to take place at the ALC's seventh biennial convention in Detroit, October 9 to 15.

Dr. David W. Preus, who as vicepresident assumed the office at the death of Dr. Kent S. Knutson on March 12, 1973, will be seeking his first six-year term as head of the 2.5 million member denomination. Dr. Knutson had completed two years as president when he died of a rare disorder of the central nervous system.

The five nominees received the highest number of votes at the annual conventions of the ALC's 18 districts. In addition to Dr. Preus, the others are:

:Dr. J. Elmo Agrimson of St. Paul, president of the Southeast Minnesota District of the ALC.

:Dr. Gordon Huffman of Washington, D. C., acting vice president of the ALC, and president of the ALC's Eastern District.

:Dr. Frederick W. Meuser, president of the Evangelical Lutheran Theological Seminary at Columbus, Ohio.

:Dr. John W. Bachman of Minneapolis, director of the ALC's Office of Communication and Mission Support.

Both a president and a vice president will be elected at the Detroit convention for concurrent six-year terms. Under the ALC's constitution, the nominees for president who are not elected will become the nominees for vice president.

All the nominees, with the exception of Dr. Meuser, were candidates for the presidency of the ALC in 1970 when Dr. Knutson defeated nine rivals for the office.

NOTED LUTHERAN SCIENTIST WARNS OF WORLD FOOD CRISIS

Washington, D.C.—(LC)—The en-

vironmental issue has, in some cases, "gotten out of balance," a noted Lutheran scientist told a Senate committee here in mid-June.

Nobel Prize winner, Dr. Norman E. Borlaug, known as the father of the "Green Revolution," said that additional irrigation projects in western areas of the United States will eventually have to be started despite the objections of the environmentalists.

Dr. Borlaug, who was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1970 for developing "miracle" strains of wheat and rice, noted, tongue-in-cheek, that if the nation is to start down the road advocated by some of the environmentalists, "then why not go down the whole road."

Don't innoculate children because those parasites also have a right to live," he suggested sardonically.

"There has to be some common sense in these things," he told an emergency hearing of the Senate's Select Committee on Nutrition and Human Needs.

Dr. Borlaug, who is a member of the American Lutheran Church, made the comment in answer to a question by the committee chairman, Senator George McGovern (D-S.D.), who asked the agronomist's opinion regarding objections raised by environmentalists to reclamation projects in the state of South Dakota.

The distinguished Nobel Laureate, just back from a three month's field trip of famine and drought-stricken regions in Asia and Africa, testified at a special meeting of the U.S. Senate Committee called to hear his observations.

Dr. Borlaug appeared together with former Senator Joseph Tydings of Maryland, now co-chairman of the Population Crisis Committee and Special Consultant to the United Nations Fund for Population Activities.

"I hate to think what will happen if there is a drought of the kind Russia experienced in 1971," Dr. Borlaug observed. "The world's grain reserve, most of it in the U.S., is only enough for 27 days. We would have a disaster in which 50 million people, perhaps more, would die."

Dr. Borlaug, who is a member of the board of directors of the Population Crisis Committee, said that he has spent the last year-and-a-half trying to alert governments to the crisis proportions of the "populationfood crunch," but with little apparent success.

"I'm afraid it will take a disaster of ten or fifteen million people dying to shock the world's political leaders into a realization of the problem," he said.

Noting that the value of food is determined by how empty the stomach is, and that a person can live only about three weeks without food, he said that wherever one sees food lines, one realizes "that those governments are under pressure, and are soon apt to fall."

Both Dr. Borlaug and former Senator Tydings noted that governments presently threatened by lack of food for their people are, among others, those of India, Bangladesh, Ethiopia, Bolivia, Yemen and Ecuador.

Mr. Tydings further expressed the view that the vital security of the United Staes would be threatened far more by the fall of governments in India and other underdeveloped countries than by any considerations having to do with the respective strengths of the "weapons systems" of the world powers.

Dr. Borlaug called attention to the fact that each year 75 million people are added to the world's population. Just during the time it takes him to enunciate the phrase, "It's mon strous," he said, five more people are born than have died.

DR. JOHN DAMM ELECTED ACTING HEAD OF SEMINEX

St. Louis—(LC)—Dr. John S. Damm has been elected acting president of Concordia Seminary in Exile

(Seminex). The former dean of Concordia Seminary here will serve until the election of a permanent president takes place at the seminary's board of directors meeting next fall.

Seminex has been governed by a student and faculty advisory committee since it began last February when nearly 400 students and 50 faculty and staff members of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod left Concordia as a protest against synodical policies.

Dr. Damm is a 1951 graduate of Concordia Seminary and has earned a M.A. and Ed.D. at Columbia University in New York City. He also studied at Friedrich Alexander University in Erlangen, Germany, as a Fulbright Scholar.

The acting president was pastor and director of Christian education at Grace Lutheran church, Teaneck, N.J., from 1951 to 1966 when he joined the Concordia faculty. He was named academic dean in 1972.

Seminex supporters are now planning a summer session and are recruiting students for the coming academic year. The school shares the facilities of St. Louis University Divinity School and Eden Theological Seminary.

DR. ROBERT PREUS TO HEAD LCMS SPRINGFIELD SEMINARY

Springfield, Ill.—(LC)—Dr. Robert Preus, brother to the president of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, has [Continued on page 14]

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