

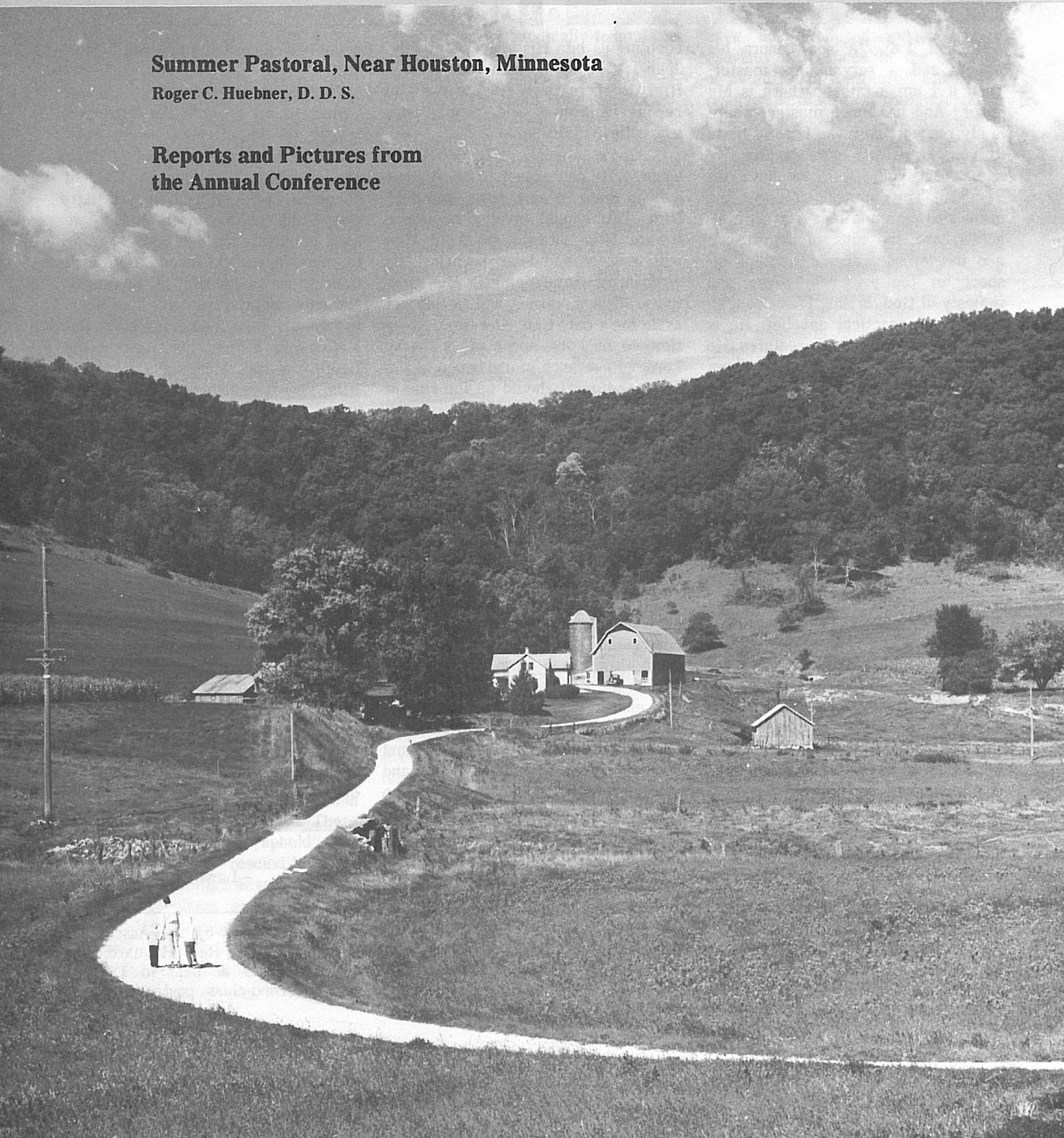
July 1, 1975

The Lutheran Ambassador

Summer Pastoral, Near Houston, Minnesota

Roger C. Huebner, D. D. S.

**Reports and Pictures from
the Annual Conference**



MEDITATION MOMENTS

WHERE IS MY HONOR?

Malachi 1:6: "A son honors his father, and a servant his master. Then if I am a father, where is My honor? And if I am a master, where is My respect? says the Lord of hosts to you, O priests who despise My name. But you say, How have we despised Thy name?" Among the great sins common today, as in Malachi's, are the sins of ingratitude and irreverence, also a want of respect for the presence, power and majesty of God, arising from thoughtlessness or practical unbelief. He is the Creator; we are the creatures. He is the Redeemer; we are they whom He has purchased unto Himself. He is the Sanctifier; we are they who need sanctification. He is eternal, Almighty, Infinite; we are mortal, weak, finite. As His mercy claims our love, so do His power and goodness claim our reverence.

I. Fatherhood Generally Assumed. This should surely be recognized in His bringing us into being. Consider our bodies, fearfully and wonderfully made, with our reason and all our senses. He stamped upon us His own image, and though we lost it, yet there is a point of return. He provides our needs in the bounties of nature which were created to serve man's needs, such as food and clothing. How much we have to do with, develop, have dominion over, and yet we forget to honor Him. Shall we forget our heavenly Father redeeming from sin? He has redeemed us, lost and condemned creatures, purchased and won us,

adopting us into His heavenly family. John 1:12: "But as many as received Him, to them gave He the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in His name."

II. God's Appeal. "Where is my honor?" He can expect it and it's our duty to thank, praise, serve and obey Him. This should involve reverence toward Him. Always speak of Him with respect and love, revering His ordinances, worshipping in His sanctuary. Things, places and people set aside for a holy God. And time, "take time to be holy, speak oft with thy Lord." Reverence in obedience to His commandments should be the rule of our lives. "I delight to do thy will—and Thy commandments are not grievous." Let us honor Him by trusting in His goodness, believing He always arranges providence for good in behalf of His people. "All things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose" (Romans 8:28).

Then there is submission; I stand corrected. Lord, show me Thy ways. Bear affliction as from His hand, being in the hollow of His hand. This will also lead to revealing His image more and more, showing we are indeed His dear children, redeemed and born anew into His blessed family and receiving fully into our hearts the Sun of Righteousness. "But for you who fear My name the sun of righteousness will rise with healing in its wings; and you will go forth and skip

about like calves from the stall" (Mal. 4:2).

III. Response to the Appeal. "Where is my honor?" We should seriously reflect on God's love toward us. Hitherto He has helped us. Have our offerings been like in Malachi chapter 1, of the sorriest kind, the leftovers, the unfit-to-market? Oh, we have nothing, even our best, whereby to merit anything, much less salvation. So we might first of all repent. Not only my offerings have been poor, but myself, blind, lame and poor. But I offer you, Father, in my place, the Lamb You provided. Accept me in Him. Then You gave me life, a highest prize, a good gift from You, but often sadly misused. I now present my body a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God which is my spiritual service of worship (Rom. 12:1).

How can man present an offering that shall be pure in God's sight? It must come from a purified heart. Man's heart may be purified and yearn after God. Holy love may prompt the gift. Cleansing fountains abound on this polluted earth. Angelic ministries, the sanctifying Spirit, the purging flame of God's truth, the fountain of forgiving love opened at the cross, are ours to take away our guilt as we seek to present our offering to God. We present it in a penitent and obedient spirit.

—Lawrence C. Dynneson

The Lutheran Ambassador is published biweekly (except the second issue in August) by the Association of Free Lutheran Congregations, 3110 East Medicine Lake Blvd., Minneapolis, Minn. 55441. Rev. Raynard Huglen is the editor. Subscription price is \$3.50 per year in advance. Subscriptions should be sent to The Lutheran Ambassador, 3110 East Medicine Lake Blvd., Minneapolis, Minn. 55441. Second-class postage paid at Minneapolis, Minn. Volume 13, Number 12

CHURCH RE-ELECTS REV. JOHN P. STRAND PRESIDENT AT 13th ANNUAL CONFERENCE LAST MONTH

Church Officers

Rev. John P. Strand, Minneapolis, Minn., was re-elected president of the Association of Free Lutheran Congregations in the church's 13th annual conference held at the Association schools in Minneapolis, June 11-15. He received 253 votes to 67 for Rev. Robert L. Lee, Valley City, N. Dak., the only other candidate nominated.



Rev. John P. Strand

The majority was 79 per cent and he needed 75 per cent under the Rules for Work by which the AFLC is governed. After three full terms (of three years each), a president must attain a three-fourths majority to continue in office. This will be Mr. Strand's fifth term.

He is a native of Carpio, N. Dak., and a graduate of both Augsburg College and Augsburg Theological Seminary, Minneapolis. He served parishes at Grafton, N. Dak., and Tioga, N. Dak., before becoming president of the AFLC in 1962. He is married to the former Millie Thorsgaard of Northwood, N. Dak. The couple has three sons, Steve, Mike and Jon. They live at 3641 Flag Avenue North, Minneapolis.

Both the vice-president and the secretary were re-elected to one-year terms. They are Rev. Richard Snipstead, Minneapolis, and Rev. Dennis Gray, Grafton, N. Dak., respectively.

Mr. Clarence Quanbeck, McVille, N. Dak., businessman, was re-elected to the Co-ordinating Committee, for five years. That is, he was nominated by the conference but that nomination is tantamount to election by the Committee corporation.



Mr. Clarence Quanbeck

Budget

The AFLC conference adopted a budget for 1976-77 of \$395,649, an increase of \$91,559 over the current budget. The Analysis Committee had suggested an increase of \$52,259 but the conference delegates swept by it as they voted larger amounts to Foreign Missions, Schools and the Praise Program. Should a Home Mission Director be secured by the beginning of the next fiscal year (February 1, 1976), the budget for next year would be increased by yet another \$15,000, making the total budget, \$410,649, or an increase of \$106,559 over the current one.

Home Missions

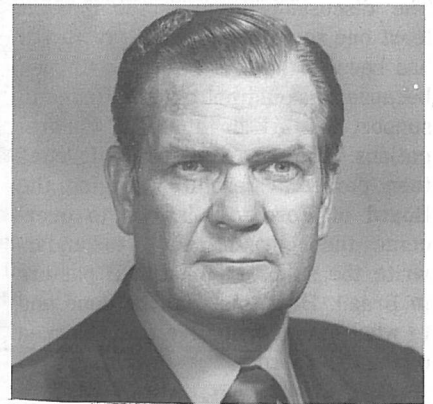
The decision to call a Home Mission Director came on a voice vote after considerable discussion. The argument was made by proponents of the measure that home mission work will not prosper as it should until there is someone who can spend time in new areas and build a foundation for a full-time pastor to work on. The motion which the conference passed calls for a salary of \$15,000 for such a director, but it may be open to interpretation whether that amount would include some fringe benefits and expenses or be exclusive of them. No one in administration in the Association today receives such a salary outright.

Rev. Herbert L. Franz, Cloquet, Minn., was re-elected to a five-year term on the Board of Home Missions over his expressed wish to be relieved of that duty. In his report to the conference he told of new work being started in Minot, N. Dak., with Student Rodger Olson in charge this summer. Thirty-some people attended the first

worship service conducted. He also stated that the Board has called Seminary graduate Ragene Hodnefield to work in Our Savior's Lutheran Church, Vancouver, Wash. He will be ordained in August, but has taken up residence in Vancouver already.

Administration

In his report for the Co-ordinating Committee, the chairman, Rev. Kenneth L. Anderson, McVille, N. Dak., advised the conference that three congregations had joined the AFLC in the past year: Word of Life Lutheran, Cleveland, O., Our Savior's Lutheran, Vancouver, Wash., and Bethel Lutheran, Culbertson, Mont. He also an-



Mr. Clifford Johnson

nounced that Mr. Clifford Johnson, Esko, Minn., had resigned as a member of the Co-ordinating Committee and his replacement is Mr. Eugene Nesland, Thief River Falls, Minn. He will serve to 1977. Mr. Johnson gave personal reasons for being unable to serve on the committee, Mr. Anderson said.

Two sizable legacies to the Association were received by the AFLC during the year. One was in the amount of \$71,934 from the Lillian Sando estate, Grafton, and the other, \$11,337.10 from the Arthur B. Johnson estate, Aitkin, Minn.

Pastor Robert Lee announced the gift of approximately 160 acres of land, bordering on two lakes, near Lake Park, Minn., by Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence Dahlgren of Lake Park. It is viewed as a possible site for an AFLC Bible camp.

World Missions

Mr. Eldor Sorkness, Sand Creek, Wis., was elected to a five-year term on the Board of Foreign Missions. The conference had sent the names of two women to the corporation to fill the term occupied by the late Chester Dyrud. But the Corporation chose instead a man who has served on the Board of Home Missions and the Board of Pensions previously.

Some discussion was provoked in the resolutions on world missions over the financial support from the U.S. of native Brazilian pastors. World Missions chairman Robert Knutson had stated in his report to the church that the Board has been "very reluctant" to subsidize the native pastors, but admitted that the church in Brazil is not growing as it should to become self-sustaining in the local work. The discussion brought out that at least one seminary graduate in Brazil has been lost to the Lutheran Church because he could not get the financial support to work in the AFLC congregations. The 1975 Annual Conference then passed a resolution urging the Board of Foreign Missions to overcome their "reluctancy" to underwrite the support of national pastors in Brazil. How this shall be done and to what extent will have to be worked out by the Board.

Schools

There were no special developments in the Schools reports or resolutions. The delegates were not told and did not ask what arrangements the Board of Trustees are making for the operation of the Bible School during the coming year when there will be no full-time dean due to the resignation of Pastor Richard Snipstead. It was announced that Rev. Kenneth Moland, Kenyon, Minn., will become a teacher at the school this fall. And in response to a question, the procedures for the calling of a new dean were outlined.

The new dormitory for boys was dedicated on Sunday morning. There had been rain during the previous night and the sky was heavily overcast when the audience moved from the church to the dormitory, but no rain fell during the impressive ceremony.

Mr. H. Donald Hansen, Minneapolis, and Mr. John Presteng, Grafton, set the cornerstone in place and Pastor Strand struck it three times in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. The audience sang the hymn "Thee God, We Praise" earlier, as Steve Snipstead played the trumpet. Mr. Steve Lee, Minneapolis, alumni president, had Scripture and prayer. Pastor Snipstead pronounced the benediction. In the worship service beforehand he had preached the dedication sermon on the text Revelation 21:1-7.

The new trustees for the Bible School and Seminary were named by the corporation. Rev. J. G. Erickson, Minneapolis, was elected to the five-year term vacated by Rev. Leslie Galland, Spicer, Minn., who is moving to Everett, Wash., this summer and declined re-nomination because there is already one board member from the West Coast, Rev. Robert Rieth, Kirkland, Wash. The other new trustee is Dr. Wayne Sletten, Faith, S. Dak., veterinarian. He replaces Mr. Howard Lieder, Minneapolis, who had filled the vacancy caused by the death of Mr. Amos Hinderaker during the year. The term is for three years.

As to the Seminary, the continuing concern is for more men to attend it. The Women's Missionary Federation will sponsor a 24-hour prayer vigil on August 1 for the purpose of praying out more men for the ministry of the AFLC. More will be heard of this later.

Ordination

Six men were ordained into the Christian ministry on Sunday afternoon, at the closing conference session. Their names and the parishes to which they are called are: Donald Greven, Sedan, Minn.; Ronald Hoehne, Fergus Falls, Minn.; George Knapp, Brazil mission; Wesley Langgaas, Hampden, N. Dak., Dale Mellgren, Abercrombie, N. Dak., and Norman Tenneboe, Cumberland, Wis.

Pastor Strand officiated at the service and preached the sermon on II Corinthians 4. Pastor Anderson was liturgist and Pastor Robert Rieth read the vitae. Reading the traditional Scripture selections were Pastors Julius Hermunslie, Fergus Falls;

Henry Johansen, Virginia, Minn.; Albert Hautamaki, Minneapolis; and Fred Carlson, Sebeka, Minn. Other pastors assisting were Maynard Force, Minneapolis; Erwin Brandt, Minneapolis; Dennis Gray, Grafton; Amos O. Dyrud, Minneapolis; Iver Olson, Minneapolis; Alvin Grothe, Stacy, Minn.; and Herbert Franz. Mr. Donald Rodvold of the schools faculty sang the solo "Be Thou Faithful," something which has become a tradition at Association ordination services.

Parish Education

Provoking as much discussion as anything in the conference resolutions was one concerning very young children and it came up in connection with parish education. The resolution passed urged that children be brought to church from infancy on and be integrated into Sunday School classes as soon as possible. An amendment called for the use of Lutheran teaching materials, too, which appreciate and accept the child's relationship to Christ in baptism. A second amendment to the same resolution called for a special emphasis on memorization of Scripture in the home. Both amendments passed.



Rev. Harold Hosch

Rev. Harold Hosch, Minneapolis, was elected to the Board of Publications and Parish Education, replacing Rev. Raynard Huglen, Minneapolis, who had served on it since the fall of 1962.

Named to the Youth Board was Rev. Francis Monseth, Minneapolis, for five years.

Stewardship

During the debate on Stewardship resolutions, the matter of a stewardship counselor came up. While a 1975 resolution to reaffirm the 1974 resolution to hire a full-time stewardship worker was tabled, it was ruled that the previous resolution is in effect. That resolution (page 79, 1974 Annual

Report) reads: "Whereas the Association is enjoying a steady growth which ultimately requires a larger staff, and the administrative staff has been increased only slightly in ten years, the conference resolves that a qualified lay person be sought out by the Co-ordinating Committee as a full-time worker in the area of stewardship." Said resolution was approved by a vote of 100 to 54. No action to secure such a worker has been taken during the year, it was reported.



Rev. Edwin Kjos

Rev. Edwin Kjos, Faith, S. Dak., was elected to a five-year term on the Stewardship Board.



Rev. Orville T. Olson

Rev. Orville T. Olson, McIntosh, Minn., was named to the Board of Pensions for five years and Mr. Walter Lien, Minnewaukan, N. Dak., was elected to a four-year term succeeding Mr. Oscar Christopherson, Phoenix, Ariz., who resigned.

The Budget Analysis Committee for 1976 will consist of Mr. Elmer Gravaard, Spicer; Mr. Howard Lieder, Minneapolis; Mr. Victor Ness, Fertile, Minn.; Mr. Charles Robinson, Eugene, Ore.; and Mr. Kenneth Rolf, McIntosh.

Rev. Trygve F. Dahle, Spicer, who at age 83 maintains an active role in the church, was named to the Commission on Evangelism for five years.

The Colloquy Committee for 1976 will be Rev. Julius Hermunslie, Rev. Herbert Franz, Rev. Leslie Galland, Rev. Karl Stendal, Greenbush, Minn., and Rev. Robert Lee.

The Services

The opening sermon of the conference was preached by Rev. Wendell Johnson, Dalton, Minn., on the conference theme "For the Life of the World" (John 6:41-51). Rev. J. G. Erickson, pastor of Medicine Lake Lutheran Church, co-host to the conference, was the liturgist.

Other evening speakers were Pastor Strand at the Thursday night mission festival service sponsored by the Women's Missionary Federation; Mr. LaVern Thompson, Fergus Falls, at the laymen's service on Friday night; and Rev. Bruce Dalager, Bagley, Minn., at the youth service on Saturday.

Speaker at the holy communion service on Sunday morning was Rev. Elden Nelson, Eugene, Ore.

Pastor Alvin Grothe was the leader of the morning prayer hours on Thursday, Friday and Saturday mornings.

The annual pastors and wives banquet was held at the Jolly Troll Cafeteria on Friday evening. Speaker for the occasion was Rev. Julius Hermunslie. He reflected on a lifetime in the ministry, the humorous as well as the serious happenings in it. Dr. Iver Olson told of plans for the observance of the sesquicentennial of Norwegian immigration to America.

The WMF held its annual convention on Wed., June 11, in morning and afternoon sessions. A report of that meeting will be given in a later issue of the *Ambassador*.

A total of 380 delegates were registered for the Annual Conference. Lay delegates made up 310 of the total. No tally of the states represented was announced, but the unofficial *Ambassador* count lists 12 of them, namely, Washington, Oregon, Arizona, Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, Minnesota, Iowa, Wisconsin, Michigan, Illinois and Ohio. In ad-

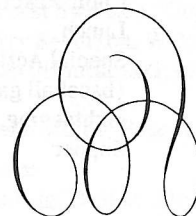
dition, visitors were present from Nebraska.

No invitation was given or accepted as to the location of next year's conference which will be held on June 9-13. Last year the annual conference was held in Thief River Falls, Minn.

CHOICE

Choice,
a thing so simple,
yet it can change the course of our
world.
Why did You give it, Lord?
We use it so often to hurt You,
to rebel,
to go our way
instead of Yours.
Why,
when You have all the power in the
universe,
did You give us the switch
that can close it off?
We don't think,
we don't listen to You,
we don't mean to make the wrong
choices,
yet we do.
Accidentally
or purposely
we step off the path You've given us.
Yet,
would You be so precious to me now
if I didn't know how empty my life
was without You?
Would I have chosen Your path
if I had not so often
failed on my own?
Thank You, Lord, that You loved us
enough
to give us a choice.
Not that the world
had much to offer,
but You want us to love You,
not because there is no other way,
but because You have loved us
so much.

Dorothy Seaman
Kirkland, Wash.



LUTHER LEAGUE FEDERATION CONVENTION

Association Free Lutheran Bible School

Minneapolis, Minnesota

July 23-27

“GOD HAS A PLACE FOR ME”

THEME VERSE

JEREMIAH 29:11

“For I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope.” (RSV)

* * * * *

Pastor Michael Brandt

Evening Speaker

Pastor Richard Snipstead

Morning Bible Study Leader

* * * * *

AGE LIMIT: 9th grade and over (those entering 9th grade in the fall).

All Conventioneers will be housed on campus.

Bring your own bedding and towels, as well as Bible, personal articles, etc.

TOTAL COST: \$20.00 (this includes registration) or \$5.00 per day plus \$1.00 registration

YOU WILL ENJOY—Christian fellowship, good speakers, challenging Bible study, power in prayer, new spiritual discoveries, as well as meeting new friends, recreation, lots of music, and opportunities for sharing!

WEDNESDAY—

4:00 p.m. Registration
7:30 p.m. Evening Service

THURSDAY—My Place in Becoming God’s Child

8:00 a.m. Breakfast
9:00 a.m. Bible Study Hour
10:00 a.m. Small Group Discussion
10:30 a.m. Break
10:45 a.m. Film
11:30 a.m. Choir Practice
noon Lunch
afternoon Special Activities
(baseball game, shopping, sightseeing, etc.)
5:30 p.m. Supper

7:00 p.m. Small Prayer Cells
7:30 p.m. Evening Service
9:30 p.m. Afterglow
10:45 p.m. Personal Quiet Time
11:00 p.m. Lights Out

FRIDAY—My Place in Fellowship with God

8:00 a.m. Breakfast
8:00 a.m. Leadership Workshop on “Program Ideas” by Linda Moan.
9:00 a.m. Bible Study Hour
10:00 a.m. Small Group Discussion
10:30 a.m. Break
10:45 a.m. “How to Study the Bible” by Pastor Richard Anderson
11:30 a.m. Choir Practice
noon Lunch
1:00 p.m. Business Meeting
5:30 p.m. Supper
5:30 p.m. Leadership Workshop on “Leaders’ Responsibilities to LIFE in your Youth Group” by Pastor Michael Brandt
7:00 p.m. Small Prayer Cells
7:30 p.m. Evening Service
9:30 p.m. Pocket Testament League Rally
10:45 p.m. Personal Quiet Time
11:00 p.m. Lights Out

SATURDAY—My Place in Service

7:30 a.m. Leadership Workshop on “What’s Working!” with Pastor Richard Anderson
8:00 a.m. Breakfast
9:00 a.m. Bible Study Hour
10:00 a.m. Small Group Discussion
10:30 a.m. Break
10:45 a.m. “Personal Evangelism” by Pastor Jay Ericks
11:30 a.m. Choir Practice
noon Lunch
afternoon Witness Opportunities!
5:30 p.m. Supper
7:00 p.m. Small Prayer Cells
7:30 p.m. Evening Service
9:30 p.m. Afterglow
10:45 p.m. Personal Quiet Time
11:00 p.m. Lights Out

SUNDAY—

8:00 a.m. Breakfast
9:00 a.m. Bible Study Hour
10:30 a.m. Morning Worship Service
noon Lunch

Excerpts from Conference Reports

We want to express our appreciation to Pastor John P. Strand for the leadership he has provided our Association. He has ably led us and given us valuable counsel in times when the ways were uncertain. May God bless him with strength and grace for every need.

We wish to express our appreciation to the many loyal friends who have supported the work of our AFLC with their generous gifts and faithful prayers. Our fellowship is enriched by the love shown by each of you in working together in serving our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

—Report of the Co-ordinating Committee

The Association Free Lutheran Theological Seminary, in fellowship with the Association of Free Lutheran Congregations, desires to lift up the standard of God's unfailing and inerrant Word, the Scriptures, and of Biblical evangelistic Christianity in opposition to all modern apostasy. Its aim is to give Christian teaching and training in uncompromising loyalty to the divine Word in order to prepare witnesses and workers for the various phases of the Christian ministry.

Having now been challenged anew with the purpose, responsibility and assigned work of our Seminary, we may well ask ourselves this question, "Who is equal or qualified for this task, for this responsibility?" And we answer confidently, by grace, claiming God's own Word in I Corinthians 15:57-58, "But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your toil is not in vain in the Lord."

—Report of the Dean of the Seminary

The question was asked at our last annual conference, "Where are all these Bible School students?" We would like to answer that question in this way. They can now be found in foreign missions on three continents. A number of the pastors serving in our congregations have been students at AFLBS. More of them have become community leaders as they have

gone into teaching, nursing and numerous other vocations or professions. But the most significant role being filled by our students is in the local congregations where they are living a more vibrant Christian life and are therefore making a more vital contribution to the spiritual life of those congregations. AFLBS has a vital opportunity to help prepare young people to be tomorrow's leaders.

Report of the Dean
of the Bible School

The boys' dorm has become a reality and a blessing, even though it was not completed at the beginning of the school year. In October the doors were opened. Truly God has been good to us. As a board we are thankful for the dedicated support of our people to the work of our Schools. First of all, we want to thank you for your prayers and in encouraging your youth to attend Bible School. Our young people need to be grounded in the Word of God that they may be witnesses of our Lord and Savior in our day of moral decay and lawlessness.

—Report of the Board of Trustees

We are often asked, "What kind of training or education are you mainly looking for in a potential candidate?" Certainly if God calls a person to serve, there are many different possibilities, but perhaps it can best be answered this way. We have two families in the prime of their maturity, judgment, and strength serving on the field. Yet time marches on and we will, before long, need replacements. Therefore, our prayers ought to be centered on the calling of a young couple, who not only love the Lord and His work, but who also are both trained in the Word and who have the God-given talent and ability to transmit and teach these truths and insights to others. It would be wonderful if such a person or persons were already in Bible School or Seminary. May God lead and guide in this matter. We are sometimes asked if we are considering additional fields or even new countries. We need to be constantly seeking God's will in this

area, but obviously until we have the needed personnel and an adequate program in our present field, we can't give much consideration to another area of work.

—Report of the
Board of World Missions

Then fourthly, I think of the brevity of our own season of labor. We don't know how long we will be on the scene. We all must die if the Lord tarries, but then also, the longer we wait for someone else to do our work, the less sensitive we become to the needs of people. Then fifthly, I cannot help but think of the return of Jesus Christ which could happen even today. The church has a deadline. Jesus is coming back. He says: "Occupy until I come" (Luke 19:13). We have no time to lose. We are supposed to be "free and living congregations." A free and living congregation is a church that is concerned for the souls of men. Our love for Christ is being challenged every day by the Macedonian call, "Come over and help us." Do we really love people? Are we really concerned?

—Report of the Board of
Home Missions

Ominous developments in political, social, and economic areas of life today drive men to a frantic search for answers. Human philosophies and ideologies have failed. That which once provided stability and security in men's lives is rapidly fading. While world problems are mounting, there is a growing cynicism toward the very existence of a Divine Being to Whom a troubled people can turn for comfort, guidance and help. Yet within this changing scene are people who are crying out for a word of hope. Brethren, we have that word of hope in the Gospel of Jesus Christ, the Christ of the Cross! Evangelism in the Apostolic era centered in the preaching of the Cross! Men and women, confronted with their sins inquired, "What must I do to be saved?" The Lord's servants responded, "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ!" The need of contemporary man still finds its answer in the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

—Report of the Commission
on Evangelism

(Continued on page 8)

Wonderful Experiences in the Work of God's Kingdom

(Continued from page 7)

TWO FLIES IN A WATER PITCHER

Mr. Anfin M. and his wife were spiritually awakened and seriously concerned about their souls but could find no assurance of salvation.

On a warm summer day in the month of July, my way lay by the home of Mr. and Mrs. M. I tied my horse to a tree and entered the home and said, "I am thirsty and would like a drink of water."

"Don't you want a glass of milk?" asked Mrs. M.

"No, thank you; give me rather a glass of cold water."

Mrs. M. went out to the well and returned with a large pitcher half filled with water and placed a glass by the side of it on the table.

"Well, how are you getting on?" I inquired.

"Oh, we are both of us in the same condition. We are not getting anywhere," they replied.

I reminded them of the great perfect sacrifice that Christ had made for sinners. To this Mrs. M. answered: "Yes, Pastor, I know that Jesus has done His share; if only I could do my part."

I said that she and her husband were struggling to do that which Christ had already performed.

During the conversation the room was full of buzzing flies, and as I walked over to the table to get a drink of water, I discovered that two flies had gotten into the pitcher. A thought struck me as I watched the two flies. Mrs. M. noticed that I stood and looked into the pitcher without drinking. When she saw the flies, she exclaimed: "Oh, these nasty flies! They are everywhere." So saying, she went for a spoon to fish them out.

"No, no," I said, "I don't want you to do that. Come here, both of you; these two little flies will teach you how to be saved."

The flies worked themselves around in the water. Then I asked the two: "Why are these two little things working themselves around in a circle down there in the water?"

"Oh they are trying to get out," they answered.

"True enough, and that is the way you are trying in your own strength to get out of sin."

They admitted that and I continued:

"Do you think that these two flies are able in their own strength to get up and out of the water?" I asked.

Mr. M. thought that they might not work themselves up and out, but Mrs. M. was not so sure.

"Very well," I said, "then we shall let them lie there a while longer."

As the wings of the two flies became more and more wet and soggy, they became all the more tired. Then I asked, "What do you think will happen to these two flies if they continue lying there in the water?"

"They'll die," said Mr. M.

"That is correct; that is what will happen to you also; for it will be just as difficult for you in your strength to get out of the water; you will both die in the effort. But now I will show you how these little things can get out of the water and be saved." Thereupon I placed my finger under the two flies, lifted them up and laid them on the edge of the table.

Shortly afterward they flew away and were soon buzzing among the other flies in the room. "If these little flies could talk," I continued, "they would say: 'Thank you, Pastor Slettedahl, because you have saved us'; because that is what I should have done. Very well," I concluded. "The saving strong hand of Christ is under you. Place yourselves in child-like faith and confidence in His hand, who cried in His death on the cross, 'It is finished.' Then His mighty hand will lift you out of your sins and your unbelief. In complete surrender to Him and confidence in His redemption you are saved through faith in the blood of Christ."

From that day the saving grace of Christ began to shine in their hearts, and their labor took an entirely different direction. They no longer struggled under the Law to save themselves but from love to God they labored because they had been saved.

—Rev. E. B. Slettedahl

We mentioned reaping. Probably every one of us conjured up in our minds a conversion experience when that word was said. That's the way it is when we sing in the old song, "We shall come rejoicing, bringing in the sheaves." But in the Lutheran context, in which we operate and carry on our work, where we deal usually with children who have been stamped with God's grace in holy baptism, can we not also call it harvesting when one of these young ones blossoms out in a conscious, assured faith even though he has never been out in willful sin since his baptism? It is watering, it is cultivating, to be sure, but it is also reaping, just as much as aiding in a conversion experience is. The other possibility exists, too, that in our Sunday Schools and youth programs we are working with youth who have never been baptized or who, having been baptized, are presently out of fellowship with the Lord and need to be brought into a living relationship with the Savior.

—Report of the Board of Publications
and Parish Education

We are truly thankful to God for opening the door for this new outreach. We want to keep in mind however that youth work is much more than having a full-time worker. Each congregation must work all the more diligently to spiritually enrich their existing youth programs. The most effective youth program has its beginning in the home when a good, spiritual Christ-centered environment is provided by the parents. "Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it" (Proverbs 22:6). Let those of us who are parents and elders in the church not neglect our Christian responsibility to our youth. Everyone of us is a youth worker in some capacity because our lives have a direct or indirect influence upon our youth. Behavior patterns and attitudes are determined at a very young age, and children are often more perceptive than we sometimes give them credit for. We must let our lights so shine that they will see our good works and give glory to our Father in Heaven.

—Report of the Youth Board

editorials

THE DAY AFTER

This is being written the day after the Annual Conference of 1975 ended. It is very quiet here after the busyness of the conference days. The sun is about to dip below the horizon northwest of the church. Medicine Lake shimmers in a silver color beyond the Bible School dean's house.

But we have gone back to our regular duties today, this writer to the work of preparing this issue of the *Ambassador*, several students to the task of painting more dormitory rooms, the Gospel Team to rehearsals for the tour they're starting. And others of our Schools-Headquarters family to their particular tasks.

It is strange to have it so quiet after the rush of conference activities, but all of us who were here carry the memories and inspiration of those days with us, those of us who stay here and those of you who live in other places, scattered from Cleveland to Astoria, and from Nogales to Roseau.

The mention of Cleveland reminds us that the Association is expanding geographically. Cleveland is the "East" to those of us who live in Minnesota, although to those who live there it isn't. But the Association is expanding and is filling in the gaps here and there also, as in the case of the new work being started in Minot, North Dakota, this summer.

We have just had a very fine conference. A good spirit prevailed. Some of us recall the first conference that was held here. The air was filled with tension. None of that was evident this time. There was uncertainty, as there always is when the presidency is at stake. No one knows what will happen when 320 people are casting their votes. One may predict or assume, but no one can be certain of the outcome. But after that decision had been made the delegates went about their other conference responsibilities.

We believe Pastor John Strand when he said at the close of the business sessions on Saturday that he had struggled over the question of accepting the presidency again and that he was tired. He had told some of us that privately, too. How much easier to lay aside the burden and to let others carry it. Let us never forget that the office carries great sorrows, although there are the joys, too. It becomes a dumping ground for complaints. We remember, but shall not mention here, how one president of the Lutheran Free Church described himself or his office.

It behooves all of us, pastors, congregations, "headquarters," to make new resolve to deal with one another in love and mutual respect. Let there be graciousness.

Let charitable construction be placed on the actions of others. Let us be quick to commend and slow to find fault. Let us discuss ideas but not demean people. Let us forgive and forget.

The fellowship was good during conference days. There are real advantages to living right at the site of the conference as many of the delegates did this year and yet we would never favor holding the conference here every year. It is good to bring it to other areas of the church, to go sometimes to North Dakota, to other places in Minnesota, on occasion to the West Coast. And who knows in what other areas it may some day be held.

We missed something at this year's conference. There was no testimony meeting. Always there has been one at the laymen's service or youth service, perhaps at both. In all the conferences we attended in the Lutheran Free Church and now in the Association there were testimony meetings. It was something that set these churches apart from many others. This year there was none. We think it was an oversight, but let us not lose that important part of our heritage. Not everything in a sharing service may be genuine and sincere, but it can be a strengthening experience to those who speak and for those who listen.

Many thanks go to Medicine Lake Congregation, co-host to the conference, and to the pastor and his wife, Rev. and Mrs. J. G. Erickson, for their fine work in making the conference a pleasant experience for the delegates. The Ericksons were involved in the conference at Ferndale two years ago and put that experience to good use. Appreciation is expressed to the headquarters family for all their involvement and to the women of the area churches for assisting in the serving of dinners. A thank-you to Mrs. Alma Wold and her kitchen crew for all that they did.

In subsequent editorials we shall discuss or comment on some things brought up at the conference or in some way related to it. But for the moment, these general reflections on Annual Conference 1975 as the day after draws to a close. A star has appeared in the darkening sky, a light across the lake is reflected on the water. The church is dark. There are only the normal sounds to be heard. The bustle of the conference is over. We are back at our regular duties.

INTRODUCING OUR NEW WRITER

In this issue of the *Ambassador* you will read the first of a series of devotional articles by Pastor Lawrence Dynneson under the heading "Meditation Moments." He is our writer for the second half of 1975 and we are pleased to present him to you.

Pastor Dynneson is the pastor of Triumph Lutheran Church, Nogales, Arizona. From the "compound" on the outskirts of the American city, others, notably Mrs. Leonard Swanson, launch a mission effort into the Nogales in Old Mexico. The compound is also a stopping-off place and a resting place for various missionaries as they come from and go to their fields of labor.

Our new writer is not only a worker with the Word and with people, but he is not afraid to do the work of carpenter, mason and general laborer and so he does what-

ever work is at hand to improve, build up and repair the property at Nogales.

Not a few Association people have visited Nogales on trips South and seen the work being carried on there. They particularly, but all of us, too, will read Pastor Dynneson's meditations with interest. God bless these efforts to every heart. Thank you, Pastor Dynneson, for being willing to do this writing for us now.

THE FELLOWSHIP CORNER

Several resolutions at the Annual Conference encouraged greater input for **The Lutheran Ambassador** from pastors, laymen and World and Home Mission efforts. One resolution called for "solid Scriptural devotional and evangelistic" articles by pastors and laymen.

This seems to be a good time to remind our readers of an **Ambassador** feature in which a good many can share if they feel so led. We are referring to the "Fellowship Corner." Some of you may not even remember it for it is seldom used.

But it is a page set aside for sharing testimonies, for telling of some way in which Jesus Christ has touched one's life, perhaps in a conversion experience, perhaps through some difficult situation in life by means of which the Lord's will was found. Some time ago a contributor to the Fellowship Corner suggested a testimony from someone who has remained, by God's grace, in the covenant of baptism. That's another idea someone may like to pick up.

Has the Lord made some truth very clear to you recently? If so, would you be willing to share that with others? We hope so.

Not everyone is able to write or gets around to writing. But even in a church our size, in a fellowship of our size, there must be many who can set something down for others to read. Would you consider doing so, sharing something that is upon your heart because it could be of encouragement, or admonition, or inspiration to someone else?

It would be good to hear from you in the Fellowship Corner.

REV. KENNETH MOLAND WILL TEACH AT AFLBS

Rev. Kenneth Moland, Kenyon, Minn., has accepted a call from the Board of Trustees to teach at Association Free Lutheran Bible School. He and his family will move to Minneapolis about Sept. 1. In addition to his teaching duties he will be in charge of student counselling and in-service training for the students in cooperation with the AFLC churches in the Twin Cities.

Pastor Moland, a graduate of Concordia College, Moorhead, Minn., and Free Lutheran Theological Seminary, has served at Kenyon (Hauge and Emmanuel) since 1970. He was ordained in 1972. He has done some part-time teaching at AFLBS on occasion.

He was born in Crookston, Minn., and raised at Fertile, Minn. Pastor Moland is married to the former Barbara Tarvestad of Ada, Minn., also a Concordia graduate, and the couple has two children, Lydia and Luke.



Rev. Kenneth Moland

NORLAND AND SPRUCE GET NEW MEMBERS

Norland and Spruce congregations welcomed new members into their fellowship during the confirmation services on Sunday, May 18.

Received at Norland were Mr. and Mrs. Harvey Johnson, Terry, Loren and John (Scott and Lyle joined earlier through the rite of confirmation), Mrs. Allen Ellenson, Brenda and Edward Pierson, Mrs. Gary Butler and Arthur Thiessen.

Transferring from within the parish to Spruce were Mr. and Mrs. Douglas Holland and Dana.

Rev. Jerome Nikunen, Roseau, Minn., is pastor of the parish which also includes Rose and Roseau Lutheran Churches.

Psalm 103:9—"He will not always chide: neither will He keep His anger forever."

Psalm 103:14—"For He knoweth our frame; He remembereth that we are dust."

You'll Not Forever Chide

Praise God, You'll not forever chide
Nor always keep Your anger;
You look upon my foolish pride,
Yet love, me, keep me from all danger.

You remember I am dust, O Lord,
A meager blade of grass,
Which is but here so short a while
And then my life will pass.

You love me, O, my Lord, You do!
How marvelous and great!

I love you, too, more than my life
—I'll give it back to you.

Mabel Quanbeck

SHEYENNE BIBLE CAMP TO BE HELD AT DEVILS LAKE

Pictured here is the dining hall at Lakewood Park Bible Camp near Devils Lake, N. Dak., where the Sheyenne Valley Lutheran Bible Camp will be in session July 7-13. The camp will be family-style. Rev. J. G. Erickson, Minneapolis, Minn., will be the evening speaker.



**ELECTIONS BY THE
ANNUAL CONFERENCE**

President of the AFLC
3-year term
Rev. John P. Strand
Minneapolis, Minn.

Vice-President of the AFLC
1-year term
Rev. R. Snipstead, Minneapolis, Minn.

Secretary of the AFLC
1-year term
Rev. Dennis Gray, Grafton, N. Dak.

**BOARD MEMBERS ELECTED
BY CORPORATIONS**

**To the Co-ordinating Committee
by the Corporation**
5-year term
Clarence Quanbeck, McVillage, N. Dak.
Other Committee members are:
Rev. Kenneth L. Anderson, McVillage,
N. Dak.
Rev. Robert L. Lee, Valley City,
N. Dak.
Sheldon Mortrud, Thief River Falls,
Minn.
Ernest Miedema, Valley City,
N. Dak.
Rev. Wendell Johnson, Dalton, Minn.
Eugene Nesland, Thief River Falls,
Minn.

**To the Board of Trustees (Schools)
by the Corporation**
5-year term
Rev. J. G. Erickson, Minneapolis,
Minn.
3-year term
Dr. Wayne Sletten, Faith, S. Dak.
Other Board members are:
Rev. Ernest J. Langness, Ishpeming,
Mich.
Raymond Jacobson, Minneapolis,
Minn.
Stanley Holmaas, Newfolden, Minn.
Rev. Robert Rieth, Kirkland, Wash.
Orville Qualley, Brockton, Mont.

**To the Board of World Missions
by the Corporation**
5-year term
Eldor Sorkness, Sand Creek, Wis.
Other Board members are:
Robert Knutson, McVillage, N. Dak.

Rev. Alvin Grothe, Stacy, Minn.
Vernon Russum, Grafton, N. Dak.
Rev. Eugene Enderlein,
Minnewaukan, N. Dak.

To the Board of Home Missions
5-year term
Rev. Herbert Franz, Cloquet, Minn.
Other Board members are:
Rev. Larry Severson, Wallace, S. Dak.
Rev. Julius Hermunslie, Fergus
Falls, Minn.
Joel Rogenes, Buxton, N. Dak.
Paul Flaten, Newfolden, Minn.

**BOARD MEMBERS ELECTED
BY THE CONFERENCE**

**Board of Publications and
Parish Education**
5-year term
Rev. Harold Hosch, Minneapolis,
Minn.

Other Board Members are:
Miss Eula Mae Swenson, Fargo,
N. Dak.
Kent Quanbeck, McVillage, N. Dak.
Palmer Haugen, Portland, N. Dak.
Mrs. Melvin Walla, Fergus Falls,
Minn.

Board of Pensions
5-year term
Rev. Orville T. Olson, McIntosh,
Minn.
4-year term
Walter Lien, Minnewaukan, N. Dak.

Other Board members are:
Clifford Holm, Minneapolis, Minn.
Lay Pastor Melvin Walla, Fergus
Falls, Minn.
Melvin Gravgaard, Tioga, N. Dak.

Stewardship Board
5-year term
Rev. Edwin Kjos, Faith, S. Dak.
Other Board members are:
Robert L. Dietsche, Sand Creek, Wis.
Erling A. Brekke, Antelope, Mont.
Arlo Kneeland, Summit, S. Dak.
Rev. Stephen Odegaard, Winger, Minn.

Youth Board
5-year term
Rev. Francis Monseth, Minneapolis,
Minn.

Other Board members are:
Rev. David Molstre, Thief River
Falls, Minn.
Robert Bilden, Bagley, Minn.
Roger Strom, Minneapolis, Minn.
Rodger Olson, Minneapolis, Minn.

Commission on Evangelism
5-year term
Rev. Trygve F. Dahle, Spicer, Minn.
Other Commission members are:
Lay Pastor Verle Dean, Culbertson,
Mont.
Ed Mathison, Bagley, Minn.
Rev. Kenneth Pentti, Bessemer, Mich.
Haldor Hegg, McIntosh, Minn.

BUDGET ANALYSIS COMMITTEE

Elmer Gravgaard, Tioga, N. Dak.
Howard Lieder, Minneapolis, Minn.
Victor Ness, Fertile, Minn.
Charles Robinson, Eugene, Ore.
Kenneth Rolf, McIntosh, Minn.

**NOMINATIONS BY THE
CONFERENCE, ELECTION BY
THE CO-ORDINATING
COMMITTEE**

Editor, **The Lutheran Ambassador**
3-year term
Rev. Raynard Huglen, Minneapolis,
Minn.
Rev. Robert L. Lee, Valley City, N.
Dak.
Rev. Gerald F. Mundfrom, Grafton,
N. Dak.
Rev. Harold Hosch, Minneapolis,
Minn.

**ELECTED TO THE
MISSIONS CORPORATION**

The following persons were nomi-
nated by the 1975 Annual Conference
to membership on the Missions Cor-
poration and were subsequently
elected by the Corporation to mem-
bership.

5-year terms
Rev. Trygve F. Dahle, Spicer, Minn.
Ronald Willand, Ferndale, Wash.
Kenneth Williams, Ishpeming, Mich.
Mrs. Amos Dyrud, Minneapolis, Minn.
Mrs. Herbert Presteng, Grafton, N.
Dak.
Mrs. Esther Farrier, Minneapolis,
Minn.
Rev. Forrest Swenson, Tioga, N. Dak.
Rev. Larry Severson, Wallace, S. Dak.
Rev. Albert Hautamaki, Minneapolis,
Minn.
Rev. Frank Miller, Boscobel, Wis.

4-year term
Harry Rorvig, Dalton, Minn.

(Continued on page 13)

SCENES FROM THE 1975 ANNUAL CONFERENCE



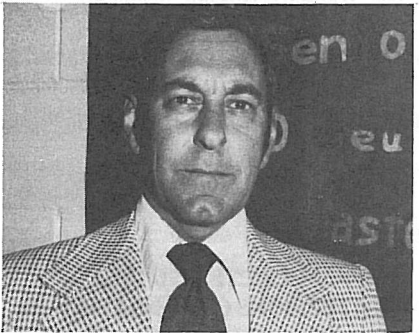
Rev. J. G. Erickson, host pastor to the conference.



Mrs. Adrian Hamann, Kalispell, Mont., and Mrs. Melvin Walla, Fergus Falls, Minn., at a coffee break.



Rev. and Mrs. R. Snipstead were honored by the Board of Trustees at the morning coffee break on Saturday.



Missionary George Knapp, ordained on conference Sunday.



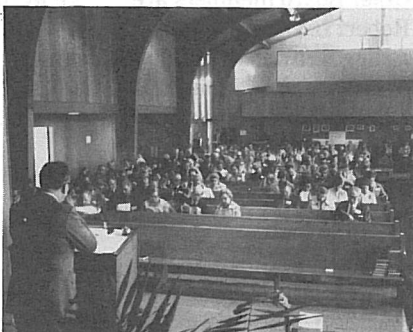
Rev. Dennis Gray, secretary of the AFLC.



Rev. Alvin Grothe, leader of the morning prayer hours.



Rev. and Mrs. Trygve F. Dahle, who were married in May and spent their honeymoon on a trip to Norway.



A business session of the conference; President Strand is at the left.



Rev. Gary Skramstad, DeKalb, Ill., left, and Mr. Hugh Sweeney, Kalispell, Mont., who donated three pianos to the Bible School.



Pastor and Mrs. Harvey Carlson, Grand Forks, N. Dak., in the dinner line.



Pastor Julius Hermunslie, Fergus Falls, Minn., visits with his wife, left, Miss Selma Tvinnereim, Webster, S. Dak., and Mrs. Inez Hempel, Minneapolis, Minn., at the dinner table.



Mr. Art Olson of Tioga, N. Dak., takes time to eat a meal at the conference.



Rev. Frank Miller, Boscobel, Wis., joins floor discussion at the conference.



Shown left to right at the table are Mr. and Mrs. Nels Jodock, Hatton, N. Dak., Mrs. Chester Halverson, White Earth, N. Dak., Mrs. Corliss Swenson, Grand Forks, N. Dak., and Mrs. Ernest Hegre, Northwood, N. Dak.

All photos by Don Rodvold

(Continued from page 6)

ELECTED TO THE SCHOOLS CORPORATION

The following persons were nominated by the 1975 Annual Conference to membership on the Schools Corporation and were subsequently elected by the Corporation to membership.

5-year terms

- Stanley Holmaas, Newfolden, Minn.
- Rev. Ernest J. Langness, Ishpeming, Mich.
- Rev. Robert Rieth, Kirkland, Wash.
- Dr. James Gerdeen, Chassell, Mich.
- Rev. Richard Anderson, Minneapolis, Minn.
- Rodger Olson, Minneapolis, Minn.
- Orville Qualley, Brockton, Mont.
- Rev. Leslie Galland, Spicer Minn.
- Rev. Raynard Huglen, Minneapolis, Minn.
- Rev. Laurel Udden, Minneapolis, Minn.

2-year term

Wayne Pederson, Minneapolis, Minn.

1976-77 BUDGET FOR THE AFLC AS ADOPTED BY THE ANNUAL CONFERENCE

General Fund	\$ 82,500
Home Missions	72,000*
World Missions	82,800
Schools	128,249
Praise Program	30,000
Total	\$395,649*

*In the event that a Home Mission Direction is hired by Feb. 1, 1976, these two amounts will be increased by \$15,000, bringing the overall total budget to \$410,649 for 1976-77.

(Continued from page 16)

gave that congregation top honors for prolificacy. Its pastor, the Rev. Tom Baker, is editor of the right-wing **Doctrinal Concerns Program Trumpet**.

Among many overtures from Trinity Lutheran church in New Haven, Mo., are several calling upon delegates to declare its pastor, the Rev. Herman Otten, eligible for the ministry in the LCMS. Editor of the controversial **Christian News**, Mr. Otten graduated from Concordia Seminary in 1957 but has not been certified for ordination.

Concordia Lutheran Church in San Antonio, Texas, dusted off its 1973 overture and is again urging a change in name to "The Lutheran Church" so that the synod's "vast work may be viewed by all in a perspective devoid of localized implications and more properly conveyed as, under God, limitless."

Women For Christ

I CORINTHIANS 13 Gloria's Expanded Translation for Husbands

Though I speak with all authority and with all wisdom, and have not love for my wife, I am become as a dictatorial bully or as a conceited windbag.

And though I have the gift of never forgetting a birthday, and understand all her moods, and have a string of Ph.D.'s behind my name; and though I make mountains of money, but have no love for my spouse, I am nothing.

And though I bestow all my efforts to please her, and though I work myself to death to provide her with all the latest appliances, but find no time to love her, it profiteth neither of us anything.

Love is patient and kind even when the house, wife and children look like a cyclone had struck and there's nothing but canned soup for supper. (P.S. And you're forced to bring a business associate home at the spur of the moment.)

Love is not jealous of her family, friends, knowledge or talents, but rather encourages and helps her to achieve satisfaction out of life.

Love does not brag about himself and let her know how "lucky" she was to get him, especially when all those other beautiful, talented gals were after him; but continues to "woo" her, making her feel that she always was, is and will be his **SPECIAL GIRL**.

Love is not egotistical, but prefers her comfort and well-being to his own—caring for her spiritually, mentally and physically as one taken from near his heart to be cared for and protected, not as one taken from his feet to be trampled on.

Love is not rude and offensive, preferring the TV or newspaper to conversing with her; making sure she knows who is boss, or that her bread or pie just isn't like Mother used to make it. Rather, he takes interest in her day and shares with her in prayer and God's Word, taking his rightful place as priest of his household.

Love is not lazy or indifferent, but takes care of home repairs and sits down and discusses with her their goals, problems and differences.

Love is not selfish by putting aside money for one's self, but instead spends time and money on her and their goals; keeping himself as well-groomed as when he first dated her.

Love does not blow up at that note of sarcasm in her voice, but remains amiable and good-natured.

Love does not harbor ill-will even if she's a habitual nagger; neither does it dwell on her faults and failures, wishing he'd married that other girl. Instead, he meditates on her fine points, knowing that he that hath found a wife hath found a good thing, and commends her on a job well done.

Love does not rejoice in her weaknesses, letting everyone (including his mother) know that he is plumb out of clean socks and that she burned the steak he worked so hard for, but delights in knowing that her worth is far above rubies.

Love is sustaining and does not collapse under the strain of an ailing wife, sick children or poverty.

Love anticipates the best, though she is a spend-thrift, poor housekeeper or busybody, knowing that he is exhorted to rejoice evermore and in everything give thanks.

Love stands every test imaginable and does not turn to hate; even if she is unbelieving and unfaithful, topped with meddling in-laws.

Love will never fail, but will always come out **VICTORIOUS!**

Whether there be roses for her daily, they shall fade and wither away; whether there be open communication, it shall cease; whether there be doctorates, they shall vanish away.

For now I know her only in part, and can only guess how it will be for us in the future.

But with Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior we shall come to love each other more fully.

When I was a little boy, I played cowboys and Indians, and dreamed of the day I would be a self-sufficient Lone Ranger. But when she captivated my heart, I put away my boyhood fantasies for the woman with whom I wanted to share my very innermost life and aspirations, protecting and cherishing her as my own body, willing even to die for her.

Now we can see only dimly of what He has in store for us, but later when we see Him we'll realize and know the reason that the sorrows, testings, trials and joys in this union were but to **PERFECT US IN HIS PERFECT PLAN**.

Now abideth my allegiance of fidelity to her, hope that maketh not ashamed, love as Christ loved the Church and gave Himself for it, but the greatest of these is **LOVE!**

—Gloria Peronto

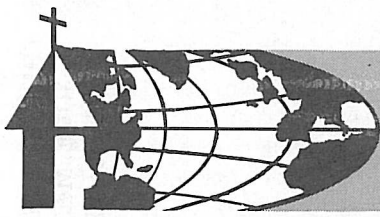
(Ed. Note—A translation for wives will appear later.)

NORTHERN LUTHERAN LAYMEN SET MINNEAPOLIS MEETING

The Northern Minnesota Lutheran Laymen will hold a fellowship meeting at Golden Valley Lutheran Church, Turners Crossroad and Glenwood Avenue, Minneapolis, Minn., on Sunday, July 20, at 2:30 p.m.

The theme will be James 2. All are welcome.

Art Joppru
Joe Jacobson



MO. SYNOD TO DEAL WITH 1,400 OVERTURES, MOST ON SPLIT OVER DOCTRINAL STANCE

New York—(LC)—Of more than 1,400 overtures being submitted to the 51st general convention of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, the most deal with the ongoing theological controversy that threatens to sunder the 2.8 million-member denomination.

A 500-page Convention Workbook will comprise the agenda for the 1,620 official participants in the eight-day meeting at Anaheim, Calif., July 4-11. In attendance will be 560 pastoral and 560 lay delegates elected by circuits of LCMS congregations, plus 500 advisory delegates.

In addition to the required reports of all boards and commissions of the LCMS, the Workbook contains 723 printed overtures, with identical or similar resolutions being listed by number.

Calls for an inflexible stance by the synod's conservative majority over against the moderate minority in the doctrinal struggle far outweigh the appeals for peace and reconciliation in the strife-torn 128-year-old church body.

Such words as "censure," "discipline," "control," "remove," and "repudiate" far outnumber "prayer," "unity," "penitence," "forgiveness" and "love."

A total of 547 resolutions are devoted to the Commission on Theology and Church Relations, but its internal and external concerns spill over into the 313 overtures on constitutional matters, the 258 on higher education and the 140 on administration. There are far more pleas to "uphold" and "reaffirm" than to "rescind" or "repeal" previous actions now in dispute.

Of the overtures directed to the theology commission, 190 refer to doctrinal resolutions adopted by the synod's last convention at New Orleans in 1973. Related are 89 overtures on internal unity.

Most of these proposals reflect the conflicting viewpoints of church members on "A Statement of Scriptural and Confessional Principles," drawn up by the synod's conservative president, Dr. J. A. O. Preus. It was approved as a synodically formulated doctrinal statement and as such is binding on all members of the synod. It is the axis about which the LCMS controversy revolves.

Evangelical Lutherans in Mission (ELIM), formed by moderates as a confessing movement within the synod, drew 86 overtures, nearly all demanding that it close Concordia Seminary in Exile (Seminex), cease operating its opposition missions program and dissolve itself. Suggested as an alternative is withdrawal from the Missouri Synod.

Theological concerns are covered in 63 overtures that include the issue of ordination of women, the charismatic movement, the debated Mission Affirmations, opposition to woman suffrage, abortion, ecumenism and the perennial call "to reaffirm our belief that the Bible is the inspired and historically and factually inerrant Word of God in all its parts."

The latter statement lies at the heart of the conflict over use of the historical critical method of Bible study and teaching, which led to the dismissal of Dr. John H. Tietjen as president of Concordia Seminary and of most of its faculty and resulted in the formation of Seminex.

In the area of Lutheran unity, 36 overtures center on pulpit and altar fellowship with the American Lutheran Church, most of them urging termination, withdrawal or suspension of the relationship established in 1971.

The CTCR itself, in its formal report, asks delegates to consider the recommendation made in 1973 that the synod "declare the denominational fellowship to be in a state of suspension." By this latter term, the commission said, it "did not mean the

termination of fellowship as though the bonds between us are herewith immediately broken."

It added, however, that six years of discussion in the Commission on Fellowship of the LCMS and the ALC have not produced evidence that "serious differences in the doctrine of authority of Scripture" have been resolved or that the two church bodies have achieved common understanding "on what fellowship involves." Among the obstacles cited were the ordination of women, membership in ecumenical organizations and the lodge question.

Of 14 overtures on fellowship with the Lutheran Church in America, a majority, surprisingly, favor such a relationship with the largest—3.1 million members—and most liberal Lutheran body.

Of 34 overtures on participation in the Lutheran Council in the USA, most call for withdrawal from the agency in which since 1967 LCMS has cooperated with the ALC and LCA. In 21 other overtures, continued opposition is expressed, with a few exceptions, to membership in the Lutheran World Federation, the World Council of Churches and the National Council of Churches.

Efforts are urged to resume fellowship with the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod and the Evangelical Lutheran Synod, which early in the 60's severed relations with Missouri, on charges of unionism, and dissolved the partnership of the three bodies in the Lutheran Synodical Conference in 1967.

One of three resolutions proposing that the LCMS be divided into two synods is submitted by the Atlantic District, whose president, the Rev. Rudolph Ressmeyer, has asserted that the district will not leave the synod as he is "willing to live and work together with all the members" of the church body.

Captioned "To Provide for Amicable Division of Synod," the district's

overture calls for the synod, "if it fails to withdraw A Statement of Scriptural and Confessional Principles," to "provide a process for the amicable division of the synod by which the synod's assets, properties and all such temporalities may be equitably distributed between those members of the synod who subscribe only to the synod's confessional standard and those who subscribe as well to A Statement of Scriptural and Confessional Principles."

President Ressmeyer told LC News that the Atlantic District's board of directors had submitted the overture several weeks prior to his statement that the district would not leave the LCMS. While his name was not as-

sociated with the overture, he said that "it highlights a basic problem that the synod must confront."

Overtures listed under administration, constitutional matters and higher education deal with such knotty problems as the future of Seminex, its president, professors, vicars and graduates; the status of the English District as a non-geographic district; the discipline, censure or removal of district presidents who have sided with the moderates, and application of similar measures to congregations that support the activities of ELIM.

By unofficial count, the 36 resolutions submitted by St. James Lutheran church of University City, Mo.,

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