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Vol. 8

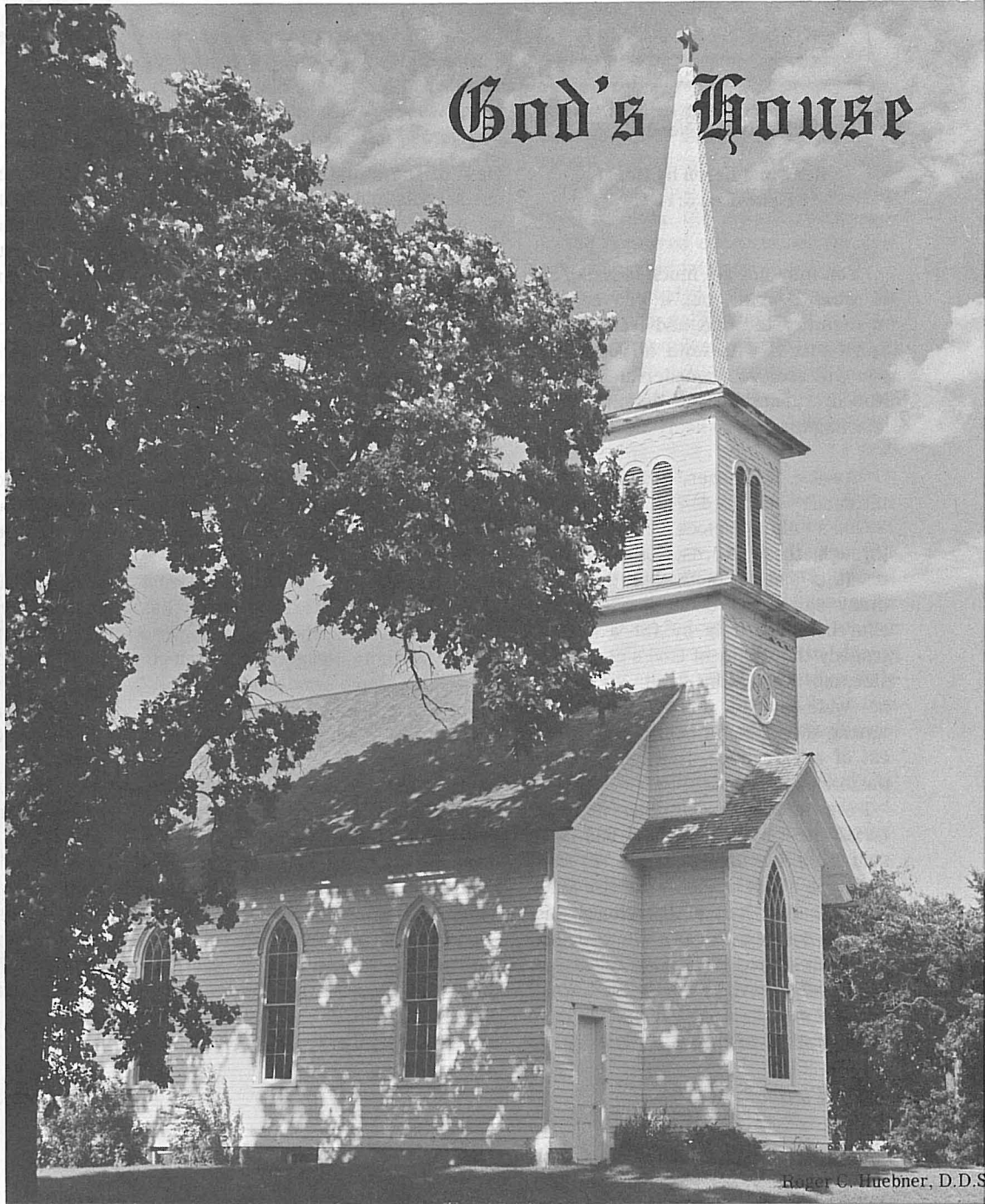
July 21, 1970

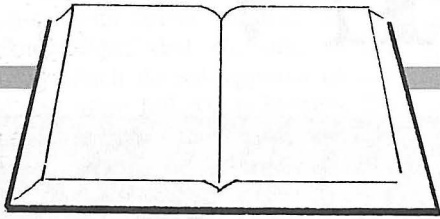
No. 15

LUTHERAN

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God's House





According to the Word

Revival Is Needed

Read and Learn by Heart Ephesians 5:14-21

(You may not get much blessing out of what I write, but if you commit to memory the text and let the Holy Spirit mix it with faith in your heart you will receive a wonderful blessing. Nobody under 83 is exempt from learning the text by heart.)

“Awake, O sleeper, and arise from the dead!” (Revised)

God’s alarm clock is ringing through these words. Do you hear it? It is sad to know that there are many spiritually dead people in our churches, but it is by far a greater tragedy that many of God’s people are sleeping among the dead. We should be wide awake and shining lights among the dead. Of course, the greatest of all tragedies is when even the pastors go to sleep.

I was invited to a Lutheran ministerial meeting. Invitations had been sent to 20, but only 13 came. We were sitting in a half circle by the fire place in the parish hall of the church discussing various things. When all had had their turns, the leader asked me, “Well, what have you to say, Lars?”

I answered that I came with a need, a need of prayer fellowship. In

view of the situation in our country, our schools and our churches, I think we need to come together to pray. I have occasion sometimes to talk to some of the students from our university campus. One of them said to me the other day, “Society has failed, the school has failed, the church has failed. I come from a home where dad and mother attend church regularly and offer their lip service to the Lord while their heart is far away from Him, and during the week they live where their heart is, in and for the world. I don’t believe in that kind of Christianity. If that’s all there is to Christianity, then I don’t want anything to do with it. The church has failed to give us the real thing, so many in their desperation turn to drugs, the hippie way and what not.”

Are these young people telling us the truth? I believe they are and what are we doing about it? I think we pastors need a real awakening, especially in our prayer life. The promise that God gave to king Solomon and his people is just as relevant today as it was then.

Listen to this: “If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will

heal their land” (II Chron. 7:14).

Are we willing to meet these conditions, admit the truth, pay the price? Humble ourselves—pray—seek His face—turn away from everything that is displeasing to Him? Then God will answer—forgive—and heal.

This must have sounded like a strange note in the ears of these pastors, a note they were not used to hearing, and did not particularly care to hear, for the meeting was dismissed at once and the pastors resorted to a restaurant for lunch. I had other commitments, so I couldn’t go.

There is no question in my mind but what our greatest need is a **genuine, old-fashioned, God-sent revival**. And it must start with us pastors. Martin Luther says, “He who is most awake is only half-awake.” I don’t think I am even half-awake.

How easy it is for us to fall asleep. Jesus was pleading with His disciples to watch and pray there in the garden. Tears come to my eyes when I read, “And he cometh and findeth them sleeping, for their eyes were heavy.” He is coming to us through the **Ambassador** today. Is he finding us sleeping?

We continue with the same text next time.

Lars Stalsbroten

Who is a missionary?

"God had one son. He was a missionary." The statement is self-explanatory. The question we should ask ourselves as disciples of Christ is, "Are we following His example?" Every disciple of Christ is sent to be His witness, whether it be near or far. People have the wrong concept of a missionary. They think all missionaries have to be foreign. And need the exact same calling Moses received as he gazed upon the burning bush, or one such as Samuel who was called by the voice of God during the night. Or also like Paul's "Damascus Road experience." But God guides and leads in many different ways and I dare say that there are no two people who have received the exact same type of calling. Just as each individual was called and led differently in the Bible, so it is today!

But a very important factor in being called into the Lord's full-time work is being found busy in the Lord's vineyard at home and in the community, such as giving a word of testimony to a friend or neighbor about what Jesus means to you, visiting the sick and praying with and for them, always pointing them to Christ. There are also many other avenues of work to be done. As Christ said in His Word, "...truly, I say to you, as you did it to the least of these my brethren, you did it to me" (Matt. 25:31-46).

Through His Word, God calls, guides, and leads the active worker to heed His command, "Go ye, therefore, and make disciples of all nations" (Matt. 28:19).

The gross error so many make is waiting for a call. This is what Satan wants every believer to do, wait and do nothing, because procrastination turns into inactivity and lukewarmness. Thus we become ineffective and finally may even backslide. Many believers have the concept that it takes many years of study in the Bible to become an effective witness for Christ. Therefore, all witnessing should be left to pastors and evangelists. But again, this is a Satan-inspired excuse.

The Samaritan woman is a good example of a novice witnessing. When she was told of the "Living Water,"

she went immediately to the people in her village and told them "to come and see a man who told me all that I ever did." It was because of this woman's testimony that many Samaritans believed on Jesus Christ (Jn. 4:39-42).

If we could experience hell but for one moment, we would be believers on fire for the Lord, burning with zeal and concern for friends, relatives and neighbors.

You all remember the gruesome incident of "the rich man and Lazarus," and how the "rich man" made two urgent requests: (1) "Send Lazarus to dip the end of his finger in water and cool my tongue." (2) "I have brothers, send Lazarus to warn them, lest they also come into this place of torment." The "rich man" wasn't too concerned about his own nor his brothers' spiritual well-being while on earth, but he had a real missionary-like zeal for them in hell; but then it was too late.

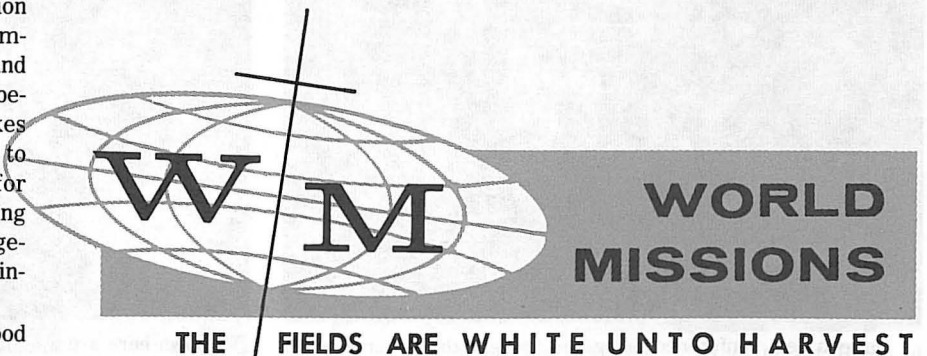
Either we don't believe the Bible or else we must think air conditioners have been installed in hell. But let's be honest with ourselves and God's Word. Hell is every bit as real and horrible as described so briefly in the Bible. Yet we are so afraid to be called "radical" or "fanatical." We don't want to "make waves." Isn't it funny that at basketball, football or baseball games we can shout our heads off and still not be considered "fanatical," but say one word for Christ and immediately we're considered "fanatical."

A friend told of a very typical experience that happened a few years ago. His town was playing a very good

football team for the regional championship. The visitors were leading 13 to 7 with but a few seconds to play. The home town quarterback faded back and winged the ball for a long pass. It was completed as the clock ran out. The stadium ripped loose with a roar as the teams were then tied 13 all. But the point after touchdown had to be attempted before the game was over. Silence fell over the crowd as the signals were called, then pandemonium broke out everywhere as the home town captured the cup with the extra point.

Afterward, many went to the nearby restaurant for refreshments. It wasn't long before a young chap jumped up and said, "Could I have your attention, please, 'Yea for the Tigers; we're the conquerors.'" Then he sat down. All the people smiled, cheered and whistled in agreement. But just think what would've happened if someone else had stood up and said, "Could I have your attention, please. Yea for Jesus Christ! We are conquerors through Him!" Immediately people would wonder what in the world is wrong with that guy. He must be "fanatical." And then in great fear they would get up and leave for fear the "fanatic" might attack them.

Isn't it a tragedy that we live in such a backward society? The most important part of our lives for all eternity seems to be the least important thing here. The all-important question, "What will you do with Christ?" is considered a "fanatical question," while all the passing fancies which are enjoyed but for a moment become the very thing we are



the most "fanatical" about.

More than ever before we should face the glaring reality that hell is grisly, and be moved in earnest to read God's Word and pray that our eyes may be opened to see the lost and hell-bound millions about us who are heading for the same eternity experienced by the "rich man" in Luke 16:19-31, because we didn't witness to them about Christ.

Who then is a missionary? Each believer is called to be a missionary in

his own sphere of contact. No matter if you were saved today or fifty years ago, waiting for more experience or a more convenient time to witness is fatal.

I'm reminded of a statement, "You can give without loving, but you can't love without giving." This not only goes for giving our means but our time and ourselves for His service.

It was because of God's love that He gave us His only Son to set us free from a hell-bound eternity. He

wants us to give our very best—ourselves, totally—to Him and then go in love to bear the message of Christ.

Joy in His Service,
The Dyruds in Brazil

Caixa Postal 6227
Sao Paulo, Brazil

Mission Notes: Mrs. Connelly Dyrud (Carolyn) suffered a miscarriage some weeks ago. Her mother, Mrs. Milton Hove of Minneapolis, Minn., is making a trip to Brazil to visit the family and the mission field.

A TRIBUTE TO PASTOR MORRIS EGGEN

The following poem, written by a sister of Pastor Eggen, was read by his son-in-law, Rev. Merle Erickson, at the funeral service last March.

There is rapturous joy in heaven,
A sinner saved by grace has come home;
He was ready and eagerly waiting
For the Lord to bid him come.

There is blessed joy in heaven
For one weary has gone to his rest;
And though we are left empty and lonely,
Our Heavenly Father knows best.

There is wondrous joy in heaven,
As he beholds his Savior's face;
He has attained the life more abundant
That shall flow into eternal days.

There is blissful joy in heaven
As he neared that crystal shore;

And there he received a welcome
By loved ones gone on before.

There is grateful joy in heaven
For souls that were brought to the Lord
By this humble and faithful servant
Who ministered God's holy Word.

There is infinite joy in heaven
As he sings the redemption song;
And methinks I hear his voice mingling
In praise with the heavenly throng.

There is immeasurable joy in heaven,
Then we cannot be sad here below;
For God accepts a repentant soul—
This wondrous hope we know.

Thank God, there is joy in heaven
And our loved one has entered there;
But to us he left an afterglow
In service, in love, and in prayer.

Mrs. Rudolph Eneboe
New Effington, S. Dak.

GANDDAL PIKEKOR ITINERARY IN CANADA

For the benefit of our readers in Canada, the schedule of the Ganddal Pikekor of Norway is printed below. The Girls' Choir is under the direction of Mr. Audun Vagle and consists of 26 young ladies. The choir toured in the United States midwest two years ago and was very well received. This year the choir is also making appearances in Canada and on the West Coast of both countries.

July 23—Estevan, Sask.

July 24—Assiniboia, Sask.

July 25—Swift Current, Sask.

July 26—Moose Jaw, Sask., 9:30 a.m.

Elbow, Sask., 3:00 p.m.

Skudeness, Loreburn, Sask.,

8:00 p.m.

July 27—Hawarden, Sask.

July 28—Naicam, Sask.

July 29—Prince Albert, Sask.

July 30—Saskatoon, Sask.

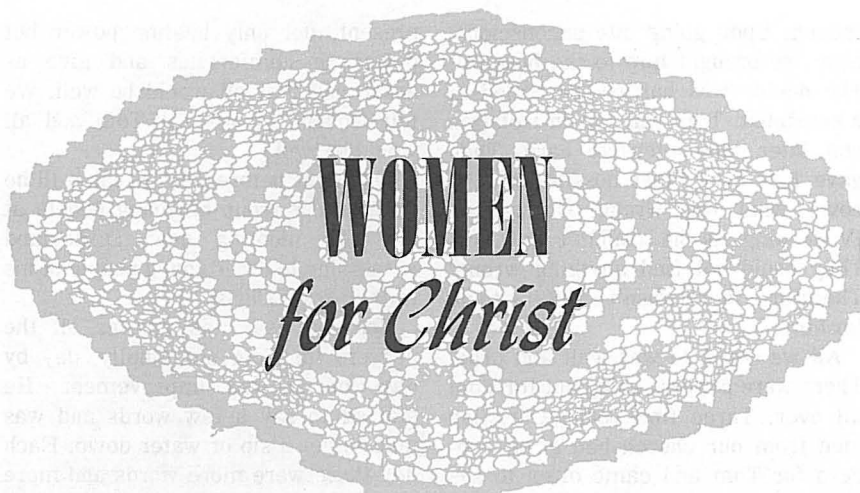
(Continued on page 14)



Quite a few conference delegates brought their campers for housing. The Battlesons of Bagley, Minn., and the Sundbys of Culbertson, Mont., are pictured here.



Shown here are a number of women registering for the annual convention of the Women's Missionary Federation, which was also held in Valley City.



WOMEN *for Christ*

JESUS IS COMING AGAIN

by Mrs. Lennie Bothun,
Dalton, Minn.

Before His death and resurrection, Jesus had comforted His disciples with the words found in John 14:3, "If I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also."

In Acts 1:9, we read of Jesus' ascension into heaven. "He was taken up; and a cloud received Him out of their sight." Jesus Christ was taken back to glory by His Father. No doubt His disciples were saddened. Their hopes were shattered once more as He suddenly disappeared from their sight. But as they were looking steadfastly into heaven, they were told that Jesus would return. He would come back in the same manner as they had seen Him go into heaven.

Jesus is coming again. This is the Christian's hope—a blessed and glorious hope for the child of God.

We do not know when Christ will return, but Scripture admonishes us to be ready, "for the Son of Man cometh when ye think not." Every morning when we arise we should say to ourselves, "Be ready for your Lord's return, for He may come today." Every night our closing question should be, "Would I be ready for my Lord if He should come before I wake?"

If we really believe that Christ may come back before another day passes, then we, who are His children, should make this last day really count for Him. Our lives should be an example

in word, in conversation, in charity, in spirit, in faith, in purity (I Tim. 4:12). Our walk, our conversation, our conduct should be in all holiness.

Oh, that the imminent and personal return of Christ might become so real in our own lives that we would seek Christ's cleansing from every known and doubtful sin and yield our lives fully and wholly to Him.

It is only as we are yielded to Him that we can be used by Him. When we are filled with His love, then we find there is much to do for Him. "The fields are white unto harvest. The laborers are few." This is no time for idleness.

Speak to me, Lord, until my heart is melted

To share in Thy compassion for the lost;

Til my soul throbs with burning intercession

That they shall know Thy name, whate'er the cost.

Speak to me, Lord, till shamed by

Thy great giving,

My hands unclasp to set my treasures free,

My will, my love, my dear ones, my possessions

All gladly yielded, gracious Lord, to Thee.

May each of us search our hearts to see if we are in right relationship to Christ—that of being His child through a living and personal faith in Him, so that we are prepared and ready for His coming again. What joy it will be to see Him face to face and to be in His presence for all eternity.

Jesus may come today.

Glad day, glad day.

And I would see my Friend;
Dangers and troubles would end
If Jesus should come today.

Glad day, glad day!

Is it the crowning day?

I'll live for today, nor anxious be,
Jesus, my Lord, I soon shall see.

Glad day, glad day

Is it the crowning day?

WEST COAST FAMILY BIBLE CAMP WILL BE AUGUST 24-29

Ambassador readers are reminded of the Family Bible Camp sponsored by the West Coast District of the AFLC. It will be held August 24-29 at Camp Gilead, Carnation, Wash.

Pastor Laurel Udden, teacher at the Association Schools in Minneapolis, Minn., will be one of the featured speakers, using the theme "The Christian Home and Family" for a series of messages. District pastors will participate in the camp program.

The cost of the week for adults is \$17.50, for ages 6-18, \$15.00, ages 3-5, \$7.00, and those below age three are not charged. Children 12 years and below **must** be accompanied by their parents. There is a maximum cost per family of \$75.00.

Advance publicity about the camp in the church paper of Our Redeemer Lutheran in Kirkland, Wash., states "Camp is more than a time of relaxation. It is a special time taken from our busy schedules in which we have time to read and study God's Word. We are taught God's will through daily classes."

RESULTS OF WMF ANNUAL CONVENTION OFFERINGS GIVEN

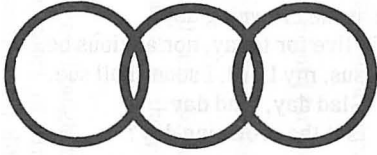
The treasurer of the Women's Missionary Federation announces the following totals for the Annual Convention offerings in Valley City, N. Dak., last month.

Home Missions — \$2,237.33

Foreign Missions — \$1,223.71

The totals are as of July 1.

Fellowship Corner



GOD ANSWERS PRAYER

Tom Rusdahl, son of Rev. and Mrs. Kenneth Rusdahl (ALC), Upland, Calif., and grandson of Mr. and Mrs. Henry E. Hanson of the Association congregation in Bagley, Minn., became ill with the flu the last part of April. He was very sick and in the days that followed, instead of improving, he gradually became worse—dehydration, stomach pain, weakness, blurred vision and paralysis of

speech. Upon going into unconsciousness, we brought him to the hospital. The doctor was baffled, so called in a specialist. Tom was put in isolation and later into intensive care. They gave him every test possible to discover what was wrong. He was on IV feeding as he couldn't swallow. They could not find anything wrong. Therefore, there wasn't anything to do for him.

All we could do was wait and pray. There were prayers going out for Tom all over. Three fine young Christian men from our church had great concern for Tom and came often to see him. All barriers were broken down. They were able to see Tom and pray with him, in isolation, in intensive care, where only mother and father are allowed. We could plainly see the hand of God at work because He was the only Physician who could do anything. You could just feel His power

present, not only healing power but power to comfort us and give us assurance that all would be well. We felt God had a use for Tom and all would be well.

The night before Tom became ill he was with a group of young people at a youth meeting near Disneyland witnessing to other young people of his faith in Jesus Christ.

God did hear and answer all the prayers for Tom and finally, day by day, he showed improvement. He started to say a few words and was able to get a sip of water down. Each day there were more words and more water. After eight days he was sent home. Two days later he was back in school, good as new. God does answer prayer! We have living proof of it! Praise His Name!

Mr. and Mrs. Henry E. Hanson
Bagley, Minn.

BIBLE CAMP ANNIVERSARY OBSERVED AT PICKEREL LAKE

A large crowd attended the 30th anniversary of Pickerel Lake Lutheran Bible Camp observed in special services on Sunday, June 28. Pickerel Lake Camp is located near Grenville, S. Dak., in a range of hills the Frenchmen called Coteau des Prairies.

Rev. Laurel Udden, a teacher at the Association Schools, spoke at the morning worship service on the text for the day, Matt. 16:13-19. He had been the evening speaker during the week which had seen one of the better attendances in the camp's history as 75 young people attended.

At the anniversary service in the afternoon, Rev. Philip J. Halverson, Perley, Minn., Bible teacher for the week, delivered the message. Greetings were brought by Rev. Harold Bueide, Dawson, Minn., Rev. Jasper Swenson, Madison, S. Dak., and Mrs. Milton Erickson, Dalton, Minn. The latter is a daughter of the late Rev. and Mrs. Mons Gjerde, who once held congregational picnics at the approximate location of the present camp.

Rev. Raynard Huglen, dean of the camp week, read excerpts from some of the greetings sent to the camp from a former camper, former area pas-

tors and faculty members. Included among them was one from Rev. John P. Strand, AFLC president, who twice has been on the camp faculty.

Mr. Maurice Olson, Waubay, camp association president, presided at the afternoon service and presented a gift to Mrs. E. S. Vik for her 30 years of service to the camp. She responded with a brief greeting.

Rev. Gerald Mundfrom, Grafton, N. Dak., a former pastor in the district, led the service in devotions.

Pickerel Lake Camp is owned by congregations of both the AFLC and the American Lutheran Church. Over the years approximately 1000 young people have been faced with Christ's claims through the ministry of this youth outreach.

DR. OLSON TAUGHT AT SASKATCHEWAN CAMP

Dr. Iver Olson of the Association Schools taught at the Lutheran Bible Camp near Elbow, Sask., earlier this month. Another faculty member was Mr. Don Fladland of the Lutheran Bible Institute, Seattle, Wash.

The Elbow camp, relocated before the flooding of its original site by

Diefenbaker Lake, caused by the construction of the John G. Gardiner Dam on the South Saskatchewan River, is operated by a group of congregations most of which were affiliated with the Lutheran Free Church before the merger. The new camp site has many trees, a most favorable situation in open prairie country.

Mr. Gordon Joel, Elbow, is the president of the camp board. The camp is somewhat unique in this that the camp weeks operated by the ownership group are run on the free-will offering basis.

Dr. Olson, though not a native of Saskatchewan, was raised on a farm near Strongfield, not far from Elbow.

In Memoriam

Key: The name of the town is the address of the deceased. Following that is listed the name of the deceased, age, date of death and the church in which he or she held membership.

NORTH DAKOTA

Abercrombie
Selmer Myhre, 74, May 22, Bethany

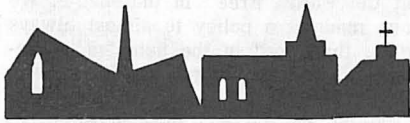
MEET

the

Churches

OF OUR

FELLOWSHIP



**TODAY: REDEEMER
LUTHERAN CHURCH,
ONTONAGON, MICH.**

Redeemer is one of the home mission congregations of the Association. The congregation was formed on August 25, 1967, out of people who had formerly belonged to an LCA congregation in Ontonagon. Theological trends in that church had caused this group of people to begin meeting in homes and using the name Christians Alert. Outside speakers would occasionally come and they also used tapes recorded by Rev. Herbert Franz of Cloquet, Minn.

After prayerful consideration they decided to sever their previous synodical connections and organize an independent congregation affiliated with the Association of Free Lutheran Congregations. The vice-pastor, Rev. Albert Hautamaki of Negaunee, Mich., assisted by laymen from his congregation, Hope Lutheran of Ishpeming, served until Rev. Jerome Nikunen, present pastor, arrived.

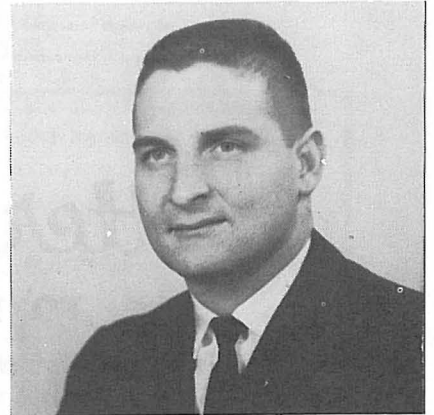
Redeemer Lutheran is located six miles west of Ontonagon in a community called Green. The building, erected in 1909 and dedicated four years later, formerly belonged to an independent Lutheran congregation served by pastors from the Finnish National Lutheran Church and the Suomi Synod. When the Green congregation dissolved in 1963 ownership of the church and the adjacent cemetery was transferred to a group called the Green Cemetery Association, made up of former members of the congre-



The Nikunens live in their own 1965 mobile home one-fifth of a mile west on Ontonagon on Lakeshore Road. During the summer of 1968 the men of the church assisted the pastor in building an addition which is used as a study and church office.

gation. In 1969 the Cemetery Association gave the fully furnished church building as a gift to Redeemer congregation. During the summer of 1969 the men installed a furnace, repaired the windows, relaid the foundation, repaired the roof on the fellowship hall, installed drain tile around the church and erected signs on the highway and in front of the church.

A recognition banquet and praise



Rev. Jerome Nikunen is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Neil Nikunen of Roseau, Minn. He is married to the former Phyllis Junttila, daughter of Rev. and Mrs. John Junttila, Chassell, Mich. They have one son, Jeffrey, 22 months old and expect their second child this month. Pastor Nikunen is a graduate of Free Lutheran Theological Seminary.

He has recently resigned as pastor of Redeemer Lutheran. Future plans have not been announced.

program in honor of the Green Cemetery Association was held in February, 1970, at which time a plaque was dedicated and hung in its honor. The congregation has doubled in size since its organization. It has a very active Sunday School, Luther League, WMF, and Bible study and prayer group. Daily vacation Bible school is held each summer and a special series of evangelistic services is held in the spring and fall of each year.



Redeemer Lutheran Church



Letters

TO THE EDITOR

IT PAYS TO PUBLICIZE!

A choir tour cannot be a success if there is very little advance publicity.

The Medicine Lake Concert Choir schedule placed in the February 17 **Lutheran Ambassador** was not enough to get the people out to hear the wonderful Bible School choir. The whole issue should have emphasized the tour with pictures or at least one picture of the choir perhaps on the cover of the **Ambassador** with an appropriate caption concerning the tour. Today we MUST have publicity or people just won't rout themselves out even to a special program such as the choir.

Having pastors in the various Association churches to announce its coming is not enough either. A concerted effort by someone or a special publicity committee should advertise the choir's coming to a town at least two weeks in advance, so people are not only aware of its coming but eagerly waiting for the event. The choir can do more for the Association than perhaps any other single factor, so a great deal of work should be done to publicize its very important tour.

The Lowell Lundstrom team had a one-night evangelistic service in Karlstad this spring and the school gymnasium was packed, mainly because of the publicity. People came from all the surrounding towns.

They sent a large picture of themselves with a write-up to the local paper two weeks in advance of their coming. Posters were sent at the same time to all the churches in the area. Those posters were placed in the churches as well as business places in town. Finally, cards were sent to key individuals in the area inviting

them personally to the meeting. Receiving such a card makes one not only want to attend the meeting but also spurs one into inviting others. Publicity such as this makes for success both spiritually and financially.

Incidentally, when Lowell Lundstrom made the appeal for money, he didn't ask for \$1.00 or \$2.00. He requested \$5.00 or \$10.00. He told of their work in such a way that he made us feel that by giving we would be helping in a real way to win the lost for Christ. My intention was not to give all the money I had along, but I ended up doing just that.

This is meant to be constructive criticism with a genuine desire to help.

Even Ose
Thief River Falls, Minn.

THE NAME IS OLIVET FREE LUTHERAN

As a son of Olivet Free Lutheran Church, Spokane, Washington, may I say a word of gratitude to you on behalf of our congregation for the article concerning our church which appeared in **The Lutheran Ambassador**, June 23, 1970, page 7.

However, I must point out that the official name of our congregation is **Olivet Free Lutheran Church**, not Olivet Lutheran Church, as it appeared in the article.

The word **Free** is precious to each member of our congregation. We, as a congregation, believe that the **visible Church of Jesus Christ** must consist of **free and living congregations**. This pattern of church life, government, and spiritual activity is a New Testament principle. And in

the Lutheran Church that principle has for some years found credence in the historic Lutheran Free movement.

Olivet Free Lutheran Church, Spokane, earnestly prays to be ever kept by God's grace as a free and living Lutheran congregation.

Albin Hilding Fogelquist, Jr.
Spokane, Wash.

Ed. Note: Reader Fogelquist, Jr., has raised a question others may have asked themselves when they have seen the name of their congregation appear in print without the word "Free" in that name. We have made it a policy to almost always delete that word in the name of a congregation and for this reason. **The Lutheran Ambassador** serves a church body made up of free and independent, and, we hope, living congregations. A congregation cannot affiliate with the Association unless it is a free congregation. Therefore, it seems unnecessary to use the word "free" when we are talking of our own churches primarily to our own people. Every congregation is free. Some use the word in their official title, others do not. For uniformity and or the reason cited above, the word is usually left out when an Association congregation is referred to in the **Ambassador**. No offense is intended.

NO AMBASSADOR FOR ONE MONTH

In accordance with the policy established from the first, there will be no edition of **The Lutheran Ambassador** at the beginning of August. The next issue will be August 18.

Copy for that number should be in the editor's hands by July 28. Please try to comply with that request.

There is still some confusion about where material for the **Ambassador** should be sent. The editor lives in Roslyn, S. Dak., and content for the paper should be sent directly there. Business matters should be sent to the office in Minneapolis, Minn. Please notice these addresses.

For matters pertaining to **content** of the **Ambassador** please write to Editor, The Lutheran Ambassador
Box 38

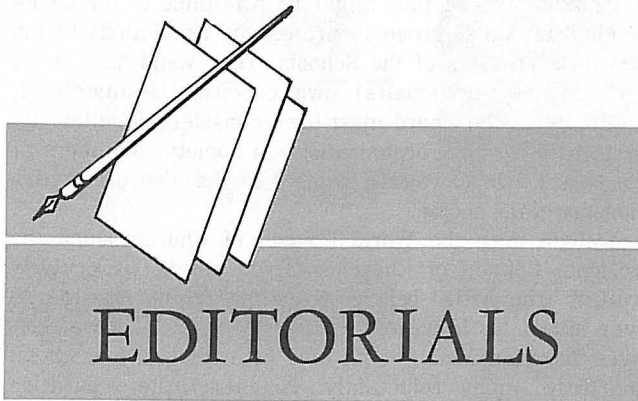
Roslyn, S. Dak. 57261

For questions concerning subscriptions, please write to

The Lutheran Ambassador
3110 Medicine Lake Blvd.
Minneapolis, Minn. 55427

Thank you.

Plentywood and Minneapolis and any American city have had. If those ancient cities perished through their unrighteousness, how much more will modern American cities and towns go to ruin. Only a rending of hearts before God will stave off a terrible and deserved judgment.



EDITORIALS

SODOM AND GOMORRAH

It wouldn't be difficult to fill the 16 pages of each issue of **The Lutheran Ambassador** with illustrations of what is wrong with the country and the world. But any of our readers who read other magazines and newspapers (and we hope that they do) and follow current events through radio and television and observe life about them must be aware that there is a great moral and spiritual laxity prevalent.

Sometimes someone will ask, "Is there any difference between our time and that of Sodom and Gomorrah?" It could well be that there have been times of greater perversion and immorality than there is today, but the gap is narrowing rapidly.

This was brought home recently through a comment, undoubtedly by the editor, in the **Plentywood (Mont.) Herald**. The writer decried a bestial and heathen exhibition which had taken place in a Plentywood bar between a local 17-year-old youth and a 32-year-old Canadian woman aptly designated as a "tramp." They had performed the sex act in the presence of depraved witnesses for an inflated admission fee.

Readers of the **Ambassador**, in all likelihood, have very little idea of what goes on in some of the clubs and dives of larger cities. It gets pretty rough, we are sure. But when something like the above happens in a small mid-western county seat, whose streets this writer has walked many times, it means a little more. Before long, the old adage of comfort, "it can't happen here," becomes the great self-delusion.

The woman in the Plentywood incident apparently got off with a minimum fine. If no one got tarred and feathered, literally or figuratively, because of this affair, it is a double shame on the community. We have in mind the bar owner and others involved in this devilish situation. If ever the conscience of a community and its churches should ever be aroused, this would be the time. We hope that some drastic actions were taken.

Sodom and Gomorrah never had the chance that

SIX MONTHS TO DECIDE

Any analysis of the Association of Free Lutheran Congregations in the aftermath of the eighth annual conference must include a discussion of the financial picture. If anyone has any doubt about the serious need for funds, let him look at the treasurer's report included in this issue (through June 30). That isn't a report of expenditures, but of income received against what has been budgeted.

The simple fact is that we are badly trailing last year's income at the same time, at a time when we just can't afford that. If this were a normal farm year in northern North Dakota and Minnesota, where many of our people live, the situation wouldn't be quite so bad. But when it is realized that many acres normally put to crops could not be seeded at all this year, others seeded were drowned out and many acres planted are a month or more behind the usual season, then it can be seen that farm income is going to be down this year in a significant segment of our rural church.

There is hope in the fact that people do not forget God's work in their own extremity or need. Indeed, greater chapters of devotion have been written in times of hardship for the people than in times of abundance. Association members in the affected areas this year must come through with some of that dedication.

Then, it stands to reason that everyone living in areas of normalcy in farming, and in the cities, will have to take up the slack left by these others this year. Only in this way can the work go on. There is inflation. We are not a wealthy church, but the means are there, and here, to maintain our program.

We must tighten our belts. Expansion must be kept at a minimum (with open doors of opportunity on every side). Our present structure must be protected. Much prayer must be offered. Revival must be sought. There must be a waiting upon the Lord, but there must also be action, as the Spirit prompts.

It has been suggested in the **Ambassador** before and we mention a practical step again now. If congregations could send something in to the Association treasury at **least quarterly**, it would help so much. The second quarter ends July 31. Can your congregation send some of its benevolence funds in at this time, designated as you wish?

THAT TENTH ANNIVERSARY

The annual conference in Valley City passed a resolution stating that it would "consider" the observance of the tenth anniversary of the AFLC and that the annual

conference that year would be held in Minneapolis, Minn.

The conference made no suggestion as to whether the anniversary should be observed beyond the five days of the annual conference in the anniversary year.

There was some discussion as to which year should be the anniversary year, 1972 or 1973. In an earlier editorial we spoke in terms of 1972, but now the later year seems preferable. It is the more logical time and would allow for more preparation.

As stated before, it would be good if the whole year could be made a year of jubilee with emphases upon the heritage of the past, evangelism, stewardship, and the principles upon which we are founded. Why not have the annual conference next year provide for a committee to bring a plan for the tenth anniversary observance to the conference of 1972 for approval? Then, as the anniversary year of 1973, if that is what it is to be, arrives the Association would be ready to enter into the year-long schedule of activities with the annual conference in Minneapolis as one of the focal points of interest. (Others could be the winter Bible conference and the summer Family Bible camp.)

The tenth anniversary could be a fitting Ebenezer in the life of our church fellowship.

WHAT TO DO?

As indicated last time, considerable discussion was generated at the annual conference in Valley City concerning who should or should not be hired to teach at the Association Schools. There is some doubt whether the motion finally tabled was tabled indefinitely or to the next conference.

Like many others, we aren't sure just where we as a church should go from here in the matter. Free discussion is always good, and the *Ambassador* has consistently

avored that. In the present case, it is difficult to divorce the issue from personalities (as we found out at the conference) and that doesn't make the situation any easier. We should all like to keep the matter from revolving around personalities. If anyone can manage that quite well, our pages are certainly open for discussion.

Another avenue that might be profitable is for an individual or small group to present its convictions to the Board of Trustees of the Schools. This would have to be done at the individual(s) own expense. Ultimately, it seems to us, the Board must have considerable authority, as is true in most organizations in society. Members of the Board are, of course, subject to the pleasure or displeasure of the people.

Debate over the World Council of Churches and the National Council of Churches would not be particularly fruitful. The AFLC belongs to neither group nor does it ever intend to. However, we live in a world where relatives, neighbors and friends may be affiliated, few wholeheartedly, many reluctantly. Extent of the separation from those who think differently than we do could be considered, but at times the one who is simon pure in one area may have embarrassing skeletons in his closet as regards other connections.

Whatever discussion is entered into, it must be our aim to work together, to solve our problems mutually. We need one another. God has given us a challenging work, one that is demanding our best at this very moment. Ours has been a stirring adventure, a heart-warming one. If it were to end tomorrow, God forbid, we would not exchange it for anything. But we must think of the future, too. The Lord may have much for us as a fellowship to do. We believe He has. Certainly the success of that future lies in working together, in mutual trust and confidence, in forgiving and accepting one another.

MISSION CORPORATION ANNOUNCES ELECTION RESULTS FOR EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The following officers for the Mission Corporation were chosen at the groups annual meeting in Valley City, N. Dak., last month.

President—Robert Knutson, McVelle, N. Dak.

Vice-President—Rev. Herbert Franz, Cloquet, Minn.

Secretary—Roy Mohagen, Grafton, N. Dak.

Treasurer—Rev. Harry C. Molstre, Valley City, N. Dak.

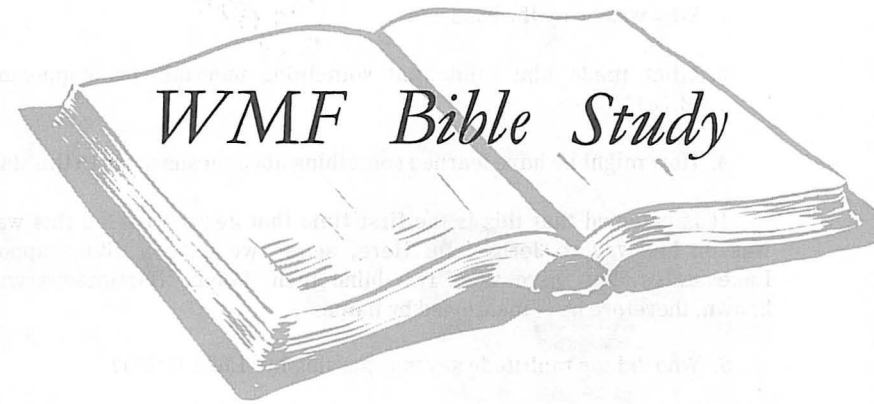
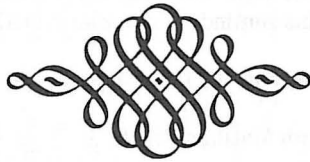
The Corporation also held a meeting at Alexandria, Minn., during Family Bible Camp in order to better acquaint the corporation members with the work that is being done through home and world missions in the Association.

TREASURER'S PROGRESS REPORT February 1 to May 31, 1970

	Proposed Yearly Budget	Current Budget	Total Received
General Fund	\$ 40,500.00	\$16,875.00	\$ 7,413.76
Schools	59,000.00	24,583.34	13,598.55
Foreign Missions	35,500.00	14,791.66	13,614.88
Home Missions	25,000.00	10,416.66	6,202.53
Praise Program	15,000.00	6,250.00	2,833.09
Totals	\$175,000.00	\$72,916.66	\$43,662.81
Receipts last year at same time			\$56,537.67
One Grand Fellowship Receipts			\$658.33
Special Pension Fund Receipts			\$210.50

Jesus' day wasn't ended. For Luke 19 goes on to say, "As Jesus passed through Jericho a man named Zacchaeus..." Yes, Jesus was never too tired, never too busy but that he had time for others. What a miracle! And, yet, what a greater miracle to have received spiritual sight.

When Jesus comes, the tempter's pow'r is broken;
When Jesus comes, the tears are wiped away.
He takes the gloom and fills the life with glory,
For all is changed when Jesus comes to stay.



Lesson Eight

August, 1970

A Divine Moment...

... With The Master

BARTIMAEUS

Have we thanked the Lord for the fact that we are fearfully and wonderfully made? How fortunate we are to be blessed with good vision, keen hearing, the ability to think and for a sound body. All of these are undeserved blessings from the hand of the almighty God. How do we use them? Have we dedicated our many faculties to His service? It is also marvelous how the Lord does give grace to an individual who maybe is lacking in some faculty. Some He even heals to His glory. In Mark 10: 46-52 we read of such a miracle.

1. Who was the person involved?
2. Why was he by the roadside?
3. What made him think that something unusual was happening (Luke 18:36)?
4. How might he have learned something about Jesus prior to this day?

It is believed that this is the first time that Jesus traveled this way. Jesus was on his way to Jerusalem. Here, again, we have a divine appointment. Luke states that there were two blind men. Maybe Bartimaeus was better known, therefore he is mentioned by name.

5. Who did the multitude say was passing by (Luke 18:37)?
6. But to whom did the blind man call?

Son of David appears to be synonymous with Messiah or Christ. The Jews recognized that the Messiah was to be a descendant of David, Matthew 22:41, 42.

7. How did the multitude react to this desperate call (Matthew 20:31)?

Good News for Modern Man says that the multitude scolded them and told them to be quiet. **Living Gospels** reports that they tried to hush them.

- a. Why was it that the multitude acted in this fashion?
- b. In what way might there be a similar response from the multitude today?
8. How did this affect the caller (Matthew 20:31)?
 - a. Praise the Lord for determination! So we claim Hebrews 13:6.
9. How did Jesus react (Matthew 22:32a)?

Human need and sorrow always command our Lord. He put himself at the disposal of those who needed help. Compare this with Jeremiah 33:3.

F. B. Meyer in **Through the Bible Day by Day** says that our greatest requests come far short of His generosity and resources. With us, as with Bartimaeus, obstacles and difficulties should not daunt us, but rather invite to more earnest prayer.

10. What question did Jesus ask? Why?
 - a. Maybe there were those in the multitude who were not aware that Bartimaeus was blind.
 - b. God wants us to voice our needs. Is our praying often too general? Doesn't our Father want us to be specific (Philippians 4:6)?
11. What strange act did the earnest man do (Mark 10:50)?

Living Gospels reports that Bartimaeus yanked off his coat. It is believed that frequently there was a loosely fitted outer garment. In this case it maybe was quite tattered and torn. This was thrown aside so that greater speed could be attained. Again, this reminds of one who is anxiously seeking spiritual help.

- a. What are we exhorted to do (Luke 13:24)?
- b. Compare with Matthew 7:7, 8.
12. What request did the blind man make?

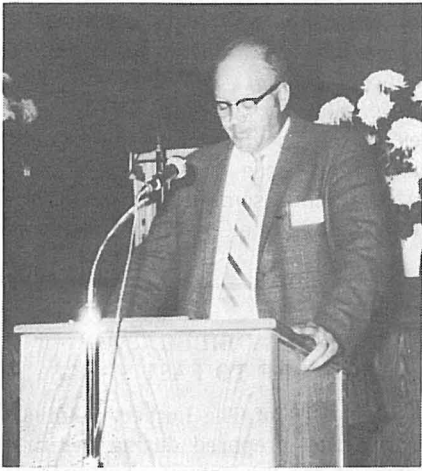
Living Gospels uses this expression, "O Teacher."

13. What did Jesus say to him?

His faith had brought him to the one who could give him sight. Faith has no power in itself; but faith, confidence in Jesus, leads us to the one who can help. Read Hebrews 11:6.

14. Instantaneously, what happened (Luke 18:43)?
15. How did the healed man react?
 - a. Is this an indication that those who are healed should follow him? Luke 5:11
Matthew 4:19
16. How did the multitude react (Luke 18:43)?
Compare this reaction with Luke 18:43.

SCENES FROM THE ANNUAL CONFERENCE.



Sheldon Mortrud, Thief River Falls, Minn., reads the report of the Youth Board.



Mrs. Arvey Hartsoch of Ray, N. Dak., read one of the committee reports.



Pastor and Mrs. John Strand were honored at a coffee break with a surprise wedding anniversary party.



Pastors Julius Hermunslie, Jay Erickson and Wendell Johnson, left to right, during a conference coffee break.



David Abel, right, points to a map of Brazil, as he tells two young people about the AFLC field there.



Rev. R. Snipstead, left, and Rev. G. H. Spletstoesser chat during a break in the business sessions.



Several conference delegates pose in front of the tablet of the Ten Commandments outside the Valley City city auditorium where all conference sessions were held.

(Continued from page 16)

The report describes confirmation as a ministry beginning with infant baptism and continuing until a level of maturity which, it suggests, may be at about age 16, compared with a present average age of 14.

The practice of requiring confirmation before the administration of Holy Communion, as Lutherans have widely practiced since the Protestant Reformation in the 16th century, is to be dropped under the report's recommendations.

The LCA became the first of the three major Lutheran bodies in the United States to act on the inter-Lutheran proposal. Action is expected by the American Lutheran Church in October and by the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod in July 1971.

DR. S. T. JACOBSON HEADS LUTHERAN CHURCH OF CANADA

Saskatoon (LC) — Dr. Sverre T. Jacobson of Saskatoon was elected president of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Canada at its second general convention here.

Dr. Jacobson, 47, has been assistant to the retiring president of the ELCC, Dr. Karl Holfeld, since 1963, and has also been vice president of the church body since 1968.

Dr. Holfeld headed the former Canada District of the American Lutheran Church from 1949 through 1966 and when the district became Canada's first autonomous Lutheran Church in 1967 he was elected as its first president. He was ineligible for re-election as the denomination's constitution bars candidacy for the office on reaching age 68.

Born September 20, 1922, at Loreburn, Saskatchewan, Dr. Jacobson is a graduate of the University of Saskatchewan and Lutheran Seminary at Saskatoon and obtained a Th.D. at Princeton (N.J.) Seminary. He was ordained in the former Evangelical Lutheran Church in 1947 and served pastorates in Canada before assuming his present post.

GOVERNOR, MAYOR NAMED BIBLE WEEK CHAIRMEN

New York — Gov. Robert W. Scott of North Carolina and Mayor James

H. J. Tate of Philadelphia have been named as chairmen of the Governors' and Mayors' committees, respectively, for the thirtieth annual observance of National Bible Week, November 22-29, 1970.

The appointments were announced by J. Peter Grace, National Chairman for Bible Week and president of W. R. Grace & Co., New York.

Bible Week is jointly sponsored by the Laymen's National Bible Committee, which originated the observance, the American Bible Society and the Catholic Biblical Association of America.

As Chairman of the Governors' Committee, Gov. Scott will undertake to enlist the active support of the governors of the other 40 states in promoting the National Bible Week program, which is designed to stimulate greater interest in Bible study.

Similarly, Mayor Tate of Philadelphia, as Chairman of the Mayors' Committee, will request other mayors throughout the country to issue proclamations designating November 22-29 as National Bible Week and urging participation in this inter-faith program.

SELL LAKE CHURCH CELEBRATED 70 YEARS LAST MONTH

Sell Lake Lutheran Church, south of Shevlin, Minn., celebrated her 70th year of existence on Sunday, June 21. Marvin Undseth is the present pastor, having served since 1965.

Words cannot describe the very wonderful day we enjoyed, with two very able former pastors, Rev. I. M. Norum (1960-65) and Rev. A. P. Anderson (1930-42), each giving a message. Many of the former members were present and the old choir got together and sang two numbers, as we used to years ago, Mrs. Anderson directing. It was a day we will never forget.

The Ladies Aid served dinner and lunch. The Luther League met in the evening, with Elmer Westweet showing pictures of the 50th anniversary in 1950.

Mrs. L. K. Prescott
Secretary

The Sell Lake Ladies Aid has com-

pleted a very beautiful cookbook which is for sale at \$2.50. You may get it by writing to Mrs. Prescott at Shevlin. A few cents for postage would be appreciated.

Ed. Note: A write-up on the churches of the Shevlin parish will appear in a later issue of the **Ambassador**. At that time, some details of the history of Sell Lake Church will be given.

FAMILY BIBLE CAMP GOT OFF TO FAST START

This issue of **The Lutheran Ambassador** was prepared during the first days of the 8th annual Family Bible Camp at Lake Geneva Bible Camp at Alexandria, Minn. Registration the first day totaled 404, one of the highest opening day totals. Midsummer weather was being enjoyed.

In the August 18 issue of the **Ambassador**, we hope to have a complete report, with pictures, of the Family Bible Camp.

WORLD MISSION BOARD REORGANIZES

At its first meeting following the annual meeting of the Corporation in Valley City, N. Dak., last month, the Board of Foreign Missions reorganized by selecting the following officers.

Chairman—Rev. A. L. Hokonson, Osseo, Minn.

Vice-Chairman—Robert Knutson, McVile, N. Dak.

Secretary—Roy Mohagen, Grafton, N. Dak.

(Continued from page 4)

July 31—Viking, Alta.

August 1—Edmonton, Alta.

August 2—Camrose, Alta., 11:00 a.m.

Wetaskiwin, Alta., 3:00 p.m.

Olds, Alta., 8:00 p.m.

August 3—Calgary, Alta.

August 4—Vernon, B.C.

August 5—Vancouver, B.C.

Local residents should watch for the starting time for concerts on week nights.

CHURCH-WORLD NEWS

TEN NOMINEES FOR ALC PRESIDENCY ANNOUNCED; ELECTION IN OCTOBER

Minneapolis (LC) — Names of the ten clergymen chosen as official nominees for the presidency of the American Lutheran Church were announced here on June 22.

The list of candidates was revealed at the opening session of the ALC Church Council's annual meeting in Central Lutheran church by Arnold Mickelson, secretary of the 2.6 million-member denomination, in whose hands the nomination ballots had been sequestered during the process of voting in the Church's 18 districts.

The nominees, listed alphabetically, are:

: Dr. J. Elmo Agrimson, 53, Bismarck, N.D., president of the ALC's Western North Dakota District.

: Dr. John W. Bachman, 54, Waverly, Iowa, president of Wartburg College.

: Dr. Gerhard L. Belgum, 54, pastor of St. Timothy Lutheran church, Lakewood, Calif.

: Dr. Keith Bridston, 46, theological professor, Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary, Berkeley, Calif.

: Dr. Gordon S. Huffman, 54, Washington, D.C., president of the ALC's Eastern District.

: Dr. Kent S. Knutson, 45, president of Wartburg Theological Seminary, Dubuque, Iowa.

: Dr. David W. Preus, 48, Minneapolis, vice president of the ALC and pastor of University Lutheran church of Hope.

: Dr. Sidney A. Rand, 54, Northfield, Minn., president of St. Olaf College.

: Dr. Alvin N. Rogness, 65, St. Paul, president of Luther Theological Seminary.

: Dr. George S. Schultz, 54, Minneapolis, executive secretary of the ALC's Board of Trustees.

Biographical information and photographs of the ten nominees will be circulated throughout the ALC's 4,848 congregations prior to the Church's biennial convention in San Antonio, Texas, October 21-27 when a new president will be elected.

Bylaws provide that there shall be no additional nominees.

The man selected by the Church's 1,000 delegates (half clergy and half laity) will succeed Dr. Fredrik A. Schiotz, on January 1, 1971, for a term of six years. Dr. Schiotz will reach the Church's compulsory retirement age of 70 next year after serving four years of his second six-year term.

The system of nominations by districts in advance of the election is being carried out for the first time. The plan was enacted by the ALC's 1968 convention in Omaha, Neb.

Under the system, now in force, each of the district conventions held beginning in April and continuing until mid-June, was privileged to enter ten nominations for the general presidency. From among the nominations voted by all of the 18 districts, the ten named most often are designated as the nominees.

Final tabulation was made a responsibility of the secretary's office.

The unsuccessful candidates for the presidency will become the nominees for the vice president.

LCA APPROVES ORDINATION OF WOMEN TO THE MINISTRY

Minneapolis (LC) — In a tradition-shattering action here, the Lutheran Church in America opened the way for women to be ordained to the church's ministry.

By an overwhelming voice vote, delegates to the LCA's fifth biennial convention adopted a recommendation to change the word "man" to "person" in bylaws on the ministry.

Section II, Item I of the LCA Bylaws was thus amended to read "A minister of this church shall be a person..."

Only a few scattered voices were raised in audible dissent as the precedent-setting decision was taken with dramatic and unexpected suddenness.

"The proof of the pudding will be in the eating," observed Dr. Robert J. Marshall, LCA president, after the measure was adopted at the convention's evening session on June 29.

The favorable vote came less than a half hour after the nearly 700 delegates began consideration of the report prepared by the Commission on the Comprehensive Study of the Doctrine of the Ministry.

In one of the 17 position statements in the report, the commission declared that "both men and women are eligible for call and ordination."

Although the proposal had been expected to provoke extended debate, the delegates voted after hearing only five speakers, one of whom moved to defer action until 1972 to permit further study of the issue.

The motion was rejected by an almost unanimous voice vote and similar majorities also prevailed as the convention approved a call for the previous question and then adopted the by-law amendment.

The Executive Council was empowered to make the necessary changes in the approved constitutions for synods and congregations.

Also adopted by the delegates was a resolution calling upon the LCA's members and leaders "to encourage qualified women to seek and to fulfill calls into the ordained ministry."

By its action, the LCA, the nation's largest Lutheran body with 3.2 million members, became the first branch of that communion in the United States to approve the ordination of women.

This year's biennial convention of the American Lutheran Church, to be held in San Antonio, Texas, October 21-27, will also be asked to decide whether that 2.6 million-member body will ordain women. The ALC's Church Council will recommend favorable action.

While the subject is under study by the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, it is not expected that it will be considered at next year's biennial convention in Milwaukee in July.

A year ago, the LCMS approved suffrage for women and their election to boards and commissions of the 2.8 million-member Church. The synod warned, however, that women must neither occupy the pastoral office nor

exercise authority over men.

At a press conference after he brought greetings to the convention, Dr. Jacob A. O. Preus, president of the LCMS, expressed regret that the LCA had approved the proposal to admit women to the ministry.

"I think it will be somewhat detrimental to our relations," he said. The churchman added that he was unaware of any strong movement in the LCMS to ordain women. He said he would not guess what might happen to relations between LCMS and ALC if the latter approves women's ordination at its convention next fall. He acknowledged that elements in the LCMS which do not approve of pulpit and altar fellowship between the two church bodies may use the ordination issue in an effort to rescind the fellowship agreement.

LCA APPROVES EARLY COMMUNION, LATER CONFIRMATION FOR YOUTH

Minneapolis (LC) — An inter-Lutheran report which proposes basic changes in 450-year-old practices of confirmation and first communion was adopted here by the Lutheran Church in America as "a guide for its confirmation ministry to children and youth."

Delegates to the LCA's fifth biennial convention rejected numerous attempts to amend the report, which is the result of a six-year study and grows out of research dating back at least 16 years.

The report authorizes the admission of children to Holy Communion at an earlier age than currently practiced—proposing the fifth grade, or ages 10 or 11, as appropriate.

(Continued on page 14)

Directory of the Association of Free Lutheran Congregations

OFFICERS

President

Rev. John P. Strand
3110 E. Medicine Lake Blvd.
Minneapolis, Minn.

Vice-President

Rev. R. Snipstead
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Secretary

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Kirkland, Wash.

Business Administrator

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CO-ORDINATING COMMITTEE

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Secretary

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Acting Dean of Free Lutheran Seminary

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Rev. R. Snipstead
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Secretary

Rev. Hubert F. DeBoer
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Sand Creek, Wis.

Secretary

Rev. G. H. Spletstoesser
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