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Vol. 7

July 22, 1969

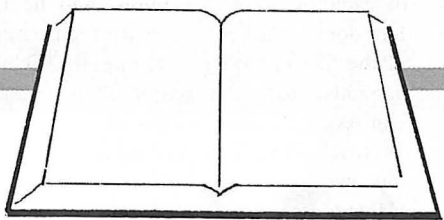
No. 15

LUTHERAN

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Credit: Roger C. Huebner, D.D.S.





According to the Word

THE FIRST LOVE

A missionary traveling recently in Asia Minor found his visits exceedingly interesting. Especially were Smyrna and Ephesus high points, both of which had received letters through the Apostle John (Rev. 2) during the first century A.D.

Ephesus, of course, has long been in ruins. Here the Apostle of Love had lived during old age as he supervised the congregations he had written to from Patmos.

At the time John wrote the Seven Letters the western part of Asia Minor flourished economically within the larger frame of the Roman Empire. The extensive trade routes helped bring good times to the average citizen. People enjoyed prosperity.

But in the midst of these good times the Ephesus congregation went down. The reasons for this were probably many. But hard times was not one of them. Also, the congregation was an active group. The Lord even commends them for their "labor," their "patience" and their concern for having honest workers and true doctrines in their midst. Yet the Lord calls them to repentance, or else the congregation would cease to be.

What was their trouble?

Karl Uhl, director for the Austrian Bible Society, has said that his country has never experienced a spiritual revival. This may seem strange to us Association people who pray for, work

for, and do witness the workings of the Lord among us. In fact, we assume that Bible camps and conventions will be the scenes of revival. And testimony meetings are evidence that the Lord has indeed been enthroned in human hearts. Yet Austria has never had revival, according to Mr. Uhl.

But Ephesus had had revival! In all likelihood their religious concern for the congregation had developed during revival among them. And certainly a spiritual congregation wants to be an "active" church. Yet the Savior and Lord of the Church now calls the Ephesians to **repentance**, for, He said, they had **fallen** by **leaving their first love**.

What had been their "first love?"

Every saved person will remember a time when he struggled, sought, fought, prayed, and rationalized in order to resolve an inner conviction that his life was, after all, not right with God. If he was a Lutheran, he would take the usual defense positions, namely, that he had been baptized, confirmed, was active in his church, partook of Holy Communion, contributed to the budget, and on the whole was accepted by the religious communion as a partner. Then he began hearing heaven's alarm clock in the middle of his night! How disturbing! How irritating! But how persistent! God's holy truth stripped him of everything he tried to cover himself with until he said with Paul the Pharisee, "Lord, what wilt thou have me to do?"

And the answer came, "If any man be in Christ, he is a new creature."

Then came a personal meeting with Jesus. Then a soul yielded a stubborn will. Rebellion ceased. Self righteousness gave way to HIS righteousness. Sin was overcome by the Savior. "Old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new."

Have you heard heaven's alarm clock? Have you had a meeting with Jesus, through which you have experienced salvation? Or do you still sleep in your sin?

One thing especially marks the attitude of a newly-born soul, and John speaks of this to the Ephesian church:

He has a warm, childlike love of Jesus.

There is an intimate feeling grounded on faith: "I am His, and He is mine." No wonder the Bible describes this relationship in terms of bridegroom and bride. The Savior seems so near. And talking with Him is simply "out of this world." Does this describe you? This is our **first love**.

The Ephesians had left their first love.

The reason for it, we are not told. Perhaps they had not expected the Lord to hand them such a rough-hewn cross to carry. It was heavy, knotty and sharp-cornered. With this cross on their shoulders they were so different from the run-of-the-mill.

So they left their first love.

But His love kept following.

—Karl Stendal

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**THE FORMER SUOMI SYNOD OR
FINNISH EVANGELICAL
LUTHERAN CHURCH IN
AMERICA**

by William J. Kangas, Minneapolis,
Minnesota

I wish to preface this condensed history of the Suomi Synod with a few pertinent facts relating to the earliest immigration of Finns to America and their church life, as research into this area and historic records indicate. As the Suomi Synod was the mother church of Morgan Avenue Lutheran of Minneapolis, it is only right and proper to distinguish it from the other Finnish church bodies, "The Finnish National Church," and the "Finnish Apostolic Lutheran Church, or the Laestadian church.

In 1627, a shiplot of immigrants, Swedes, Finns and Estonians, arrived on the shores of America. Ten years later a larger group under the leadership of Peter Minuit, a Dutchman, arrived at the mouth of the Delaware River. A clergyman, Pastor Torkillis, was the spiritual leader of this group of fifty families of which an unknown number were Finnish, who left their homeland because of persecution. The Finnish settlement was located on the western shore of the Delaware River, a short distance west of Philadelphia, and it was named "Suomi," which means Finland. In the year 1643, the settlement had a population of 183 persons. In 1667 services were held in a church in the Swedish, Norwegian and Finnish languages by Pastor Erik Bjork. At their church dedication services, 500 persons were present. These facts clearly indicate that even in those rough and rugged pioneer days, there was a deep spiritual hunger in the hearts of those courageous pioneer folk.

In the year 1876, in Calumet, Mich., the Swedes, Norwegians and Finns banded together and erected a church structure. They named it Trinity Church, partly because each group had one third ownership in it. It is interesting to note that this church affiliated with the Norwegian Hauge's Synod, in which the Finns remained until 1890, a period of 14 years.

On Sept. 10, 1876, Pastor A. E. Backman, of the church of Finland arrived in Calumet, Mich., and was shortly

thereafter installed by a Norwegian pastor, Rev. Ostedahl, to serve the congregation. Pastor Backman was a man of vision and missionary zeal. He founded new congregations and travelled extensively on preaching missions in several states. After serving seven years, Pastor Backman returned to Finland because of weakening health. Upon his departure, a former Swedish missionary, Pastor A. Malmstrom, was installed to minister to the congregation.

The Suomi Synod was founded on March 25, 1890, by a convention held in Calumet, Mich., at which time the Rev. J. K. Nikander, (later Doctor) was elected the first president of the newly formed church body. The convention was opened by a worship service. Pastor Nikander delivering the sermon, the text being Gal. 5:13-16. There were 16 delegates from 9 congregations present. (My source of information does not give the number of clergymen present.) Doctrinally, the church was to follow the practices of the Lutheran state church of Finland. The first years of the church were stormy and schismatic, eventually causing the formation of the Finnish National Church, many members of which have today affiliated with the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. Partly because of the schisms the influence of the church at its beginning was weak and spiritually unproductive. But there was a faithful and dedicated nucleus which looked to the Lord for strength and guidance, resulting in years of steady growth in membership and physical church structures and properties. As to the true spiritual evaluation, the Lord of the Harvest only knows!

The Suomi College was founded in the fall of 1896, occupying a rented two-story stone building in West Hancock, Mich., until 1899, when the college building, the "Old Main," was erected. Dr. J. K. Nikander held the opening service on Sept. 8, 1896, for the first student enrollment of eleven persons, which at the end of the year had increased to 22.

The theological seminary was opened in 1904. The college became the lifeline for the synod, training clergymen for its congregations. In addition, 28 subjects in secular education were taught at its founding, the college having the


accreditation of a junior college. To my knowledge, there is only one man left of those pioneers of both Suomi Synod and "Suomi College," who has served as both president and vice president in each of these institutions and he is Dr. John Wargelin, president emeritus of the Suomi College, residing in Michigan, also a former pastor of our Morgan Avenue Lutheran Church.

Now to leap over half a century from the events stated. The 1961 Church Calendar of the Suomi Synod, indicates the following statistics: Pastors, 103; Congregations, 155; Meeting halls, 9; Members, 36,264; Non-members served by Synod, 8,346; Total served, 44,619.

Then came the time of the mergers. The United Lutheran Church invited a group of smaller synods into union with itself, the Suomi Synod being one of this group also, all together then forming the present Lutheran Church in America. Needless to say, to one who was nurtured and confirmed in the Suomi Synod, I shall always hold a warm spot of affection to those kind hearted pastors of the past era who were concerned for the salvation of souls in their parishes. Desperately underpaid, often in frayed and threadbare clothing, they withstood the vicissitudes of primitive living conditions in frontier areas, minus passable roads, yea verily, MINUS everything that in this soft generation is taken for granted, in a spirit of self righteous arrogance, in some cases. And may the Lord be with you all!

(See the editorial "God Brought Us Together" on page 10—Ed.)

**2ND BIENNIAL
CONVENTION OF THE
LUTHER LEAGUE
FEDERATION
MOORHEAD, MINNESOTA
AUGUST 20-24
TOTAL COST \$22.00
SEND THE \$2.00
REGISTRATION FEE NOW TO
LUTHER LEAGUE
FEDERATION
1603 NORTH FIFTH STREET
FARGO, NORTH DAKOTA
58102**



WOMEN *for Christ*

HALF AND HALF

by Mrs. Jerome C. Nikunen
Ontonagon, Michigan

"I would thou wert cold or hot."
Revelation 3:15.

In the 119th Psalm there is a sentence that perhaps might escape our attention at first glance. In the KJV it reads: "I hate vain thoughts." The RSV puts it this way: "I hate double-minded men." Perhaps the best way to put it would be: "I hate men who are half and half."

What do we mean by "half and half men" and "double-minded men"? We mean exactly what our verse from the book of Revelation means when it says: "I would thou wert cold or hot." It means a listless, noncommittal, half-hearted person.

This verse is from the letter to the church in Laodicea. The Christian church there, it would seem, conformed its life to the city. This church was rich, self-sufficient and complacent. Its members felt they didn't need a thing. Spiritual pride and a soul-destroying apathy had come over them. They had lost their holy zeal. No longer were they enthusiastic about advancing Christ's Kingdom. They had cooled off. They were lukewarm. They had become half and half.

Christ's judgment upon this proud and self-complacent congregation was devastating. He said: "Because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spew thee out of my mouth." In every portion of the Bible lukewarm-

ness is condemned. The half and half man or woman is treated with contempt.

What type of person in modern times would represent these lukewarm Laodiceans? It would be the kind of person who sits back and says nothing when the opportunity presents itself to witness for Christ to the neighbor women while they gather for a cup of coffee. They are the "don't quote me" people. When some great cause for Christ and His Church is presented they shrug their shoulders and say, "So what?" They are always neutral. They are neither hot nor cold.

The thing that is wrong with the lukewarm is that they refuse to take sides. They can never be counted on. They have chosen permanent neutrality. Jesus said that such a position is spiritually impossible. "No man can serve two masters."

We are reminded of the searching challenge of Elijah to King Ahab and his idolatrous people: "How long halt ye between two opinions? If the Lord be God, follow Him; but if Baal, then follow him."

"Take one side or the other," says Christ. "Be all the way for me or all the way against me. Raise your banner for me or join the ranks of my enemies. Stop this foolish attempt to play neutral. I wish that you were either hot or cold."

Have you taken sides? Is your life counting for Christ? For His Church and His Kingdom? Or are you desperately and foolishly trying to evade the

issue and the responsibility of making a choice?

We are not to assume that Christ had closed the door in the face of the Laodiceans. When He speaks to men, His last word is always HOPE. One of the most beautiful and precious promises ever given by our Lord was made to these conceited, deluded, lukewarm Laodiceans. "Behold, I stand at the door and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me."

It reminds me of the painting that hangs above the altar in our church depicting Christ as the Savior of men standing knocking at the long-closed door. The entrance is grown over with weeds and ivy, flowers are wasting in the garden, and the fruit lies unharvested on the ground. He stands patiently knocking. There is no latch on the outside. The door must be opened from within. He is saying: "Behold, I stand at the door and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me."

If there was hope for the Laodiceans, there is hope for you and me. Why not throw open the door of your heart and let Christ in?

OLD COPIES OF THE LUTHERAN AMBASSADOR AVAILABLE

Copies of most of the issues of *The Lutheran Ambassador* which have been printed in nearly six and one-half years still are available at our office in Minneapolis, Minn. Before long we shall be destroying these copies except for any we wish to keep in our permanent files. Anyone wishing any of these back copies (a few issues are no longer available) is welcome to write and ask for them, free of charge. Please state what specific numbers you want and they will be supplied if at all possible. There is no charge but a small amount to cover postage would be welcome. Write to The Lutheran Ambassador, 3110 E. Medicine Lake Blvd., Minneapolis, Minnesota 55427.

This offer may be withdrawn at any time.

SOME OF THE DECISIONS OF THE 1969 ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Here is a list of some of the decisions made by the Annual Conference in June. Some of them were mentioned in the news story about the conference in the July 8 issue of the *Ambassador*.

President's Report and Administration

The Conference:

—Recommended the support of the U.S. Congress on Evangelism in Minneapolis, Minn., in September by the congregations.

—Established a permanent Budget Analysis Committee of five members, elected annually at the conference, to analyze budget requests from the various agencies of the church and present its findings and recommendations to the next conference.

—Encouraged young men who feel called into the ministry to prepare adequately educationally and at the same time expressed gratitude to God for laymen who serve where they are needed as pastors.

—Tabled a resolution which recommended that the Association pay voluntary taxes on any profit making endeavor in which it is engaged now or may be in the future; and also tabled a substitute motion which recommended some donation for services which the church receives now or may in the future from the municipality. These actions followed a resolution expressing thanks to Plymouth Village for its cooperation, police and fire protection. (Ed. note—The Association is not presently, nor has it, engaged in any profit making venture.)

—Called upon members of the congregations to participate actively in school, local, state and national affairs.

Schools

The Conference:

—Asked the Board of Trustees of the Schools to raise the tuition for Bible School students to \$100 per quarter for the next school year (1969) and to \$150 per quarter in September, 1970, and that at the latter time some discount be made in the tuition charge to AFLC students.

—Requested that a low interest loan fund be established by the Board for Seminary and Bible School students

with legitimate financial needs, to be administered by a faculty committee.

—Urged the congregations to invite the faculty and students of the Bible School to hold week-end Bible conferences, and that all invitations be cleared through the dean's office.

Missions

The Conference:

—Urged the congregations and members of the church to undergird the home mission program of the church by sacrificial giving and sacrificial prayer.

Evangelism

The Conference:

—Recommended that each congregation invite in an evangelist for at least one week each year and asked prayer that God will raise up a full-time evangelist in the Association. (When the following statement in the report was voted on, there was one dissenting vote: "It is quite evident that the spiritual life and the zeal of our members is ebbing!")

Publications, Parish Education and Youth Work

The Conference:

—Recommended that certain issues of *The Lutheran Ambassador* be devoted to special emphases, such as Missions, Evangelism, Schools, etc., from time to time.

—Requested continuing effort in the project of publishing a devotional book by conference-time, 1970.

—Increased the size of the Board of Publications and Parish Education from four to five members.

—Encouraged the congregations to acquaint themselves with and make use of all aids and helps in educational work available through the Parish Education office.

—Urged the youth of the church to attend the Luther League Federation convention in Moorhead, Minn., in August.

Stewardship and Pensions

The Conference:

—Recommended that the AFLC make a determined effort to reduce the present obligations and evaluate priori-

ties, with special attention to the Praise Program and General Fund.

—Urged sincere effort to call a stewardship director for the church, an increasingly evident need.

—Advocated renewed dedication of time and talents to God and issued a call to prayer for every aspect of the Lord's work which is ours.

—Urged the Board of Pensions to carry out as soon as possible the mandate of several conferences that each congregation be encouraged to take an annual offering to assist retired pastors, pastors' widows, or pastors with special needs.

Property Ownership

The Conference:

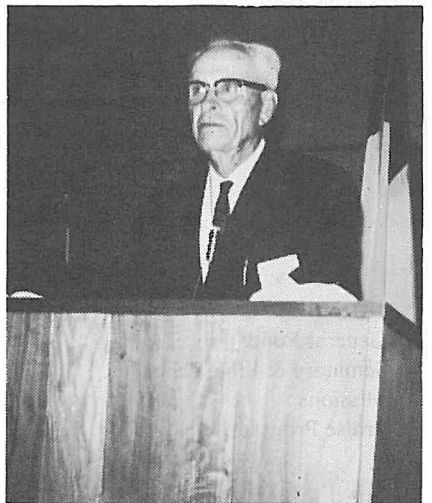
—Decided that the Co-ordinating Committee Corporation be retained at its present size (seven members).

—Ruled that the Co-ordinating Committee Corporation should transfer properties in Plymouth Village which are used strictly for the Schools to the Schools Corporation, with all the assets and liabilities thereof.

Retirement Home

The Conference:

—Asked that an enlarged study committee continue investigation into the possibility of a retirement home on the Minneapolis property and to begin reporting on its findings in *The Lutheran Ambassador* no less than three (3) months from that date.



Mr. Olaf Knutson, Sunburg, Minn., led the devotions at one of the conference business sessions.

COMMITTEES FOR THE 1970 ANNUAL CONFERENCE

COMMITTEE NO. ONE (President's Report, Administration)

Mr. John C. Rieth, Valley City, N. Dak.
 Mr. Albin Haugen, McVile, N. Dak.
 Rev. Reuben Wee, Tioga, N. Dak.
 Rev. E. J. Langness, McVile, N. Dak.
 Mr. Palmer Haugen, Portland, N. Dak.

COMMITTEE NO. TWO (Schools)

Pastor Gene Sundby, Culbertson, Mont.
 Mr. Chester Dyrud, Thief River Falls, Minn.
 Mrs. Arley Hartsoch, White Earth, N. Dak.
 Mr. Tonnes Pollestad, Alsen, N. Dak.
 Mr. Amos Hinderaker, Radcliffe, Ia.

COMMITTEE NO. THREE (Missions)

Rev. David Molstre, Grand Forks, N. Dak.
 Mr. Archie Hinderaker, Radcliffe, Ia.
 Mr. Nels Jodock, Northwood, N. Dak.
 Mr. Alvin Grothe, Stacy, Minn.

Mr. Jacob Ullestad, Story City, Ia.

COMMITTEE NO. FOUR (Parish Education, Publications, Youth Work)

Mr. Lee Quanbeck, McVile, N. Dak.
 Rev. Howard Kjos, Hampden, N. Dak.
 Mr. Robert Bilden, Bagley, Minn.
 Rev. Marvin Undseth, Shevlin, Minn.
 Mr. Reuben Wold, Thief River Falls, Minn.

COMMITTEE NO. FIVE (Stewardship and Pensions)

Rev. Robert Lee, Tioga, N. Dak.
 Mr. Kenneth Rolf, McIntosh, Minn.
 Pastor Melvin Walla, Thief River Falls, Minn.
 Mr. Kenneth Pentti, Ishpeming, Mich.
 Mr. Paul Bjornson, Valley City, N. Dak.

Committee No. 1 also serves as the general resolutions committee for the conference, largely for the purpose of bringing in resolutions of thanks at the conclusion of the business sessions.



Part of the group of 200 who were served dinner at the WMF convention.



Robert Dietsche and Eldor Sorkness, left, of Sand Creek, Wis., chat with Pastor Trygve Dahle, Spicer, Minn., during a coffee break.

LUTHER LEAGUE ORGANIZED IN BROOTEN PARISH

A parish Luther League was organized in the Our Savior's parish of Brooten, Belgrade and Sunburg, Minnesota, on Sunday, July 13, at an evening meeting at West Lake Lutheran Church near Sunburg. Besides Our Savior's and West Lake, Crow Lake Lutheran and Sunburg Lutheran make up the parish served by Dennis Gray, a seminary student.

Mr. Yeddo Gottel, also of the seminary, spoke at the meeting and showed slides of his native Brazil and answered questions. He also sang at the worship services in the morning.

The newly-formed organization is a family league with the youth in charge. Separate meetings for the young people will be held from time to time.

LEBANON LUTHERAN CHURCH HELD EVANGELISTIC MEETINGS IN JUNE

Rev. Harry C. Molstre, Valley City, N. Dak., spoke at evangelistic services in Lebanon Lutheran Church, Brinsmade, N. Dak., June 16-19. The congregation is served by John Rieth, student pastor.

Wonderful meetings were experienced with good turnouts. Special music was provided each evening.

Mr. Marius Holm
 Secretary

TREASURER'S PROGRESS REPORT

February 1, 1969 to June 30, 1969

	Proposed Yearly Budget	Current Budget	Total Received
General Fund	\$36,000.00	\$15,000.00	\$17,404.03
Seminary & Bible School	51,175.00	21,322.92	12,393.07
Missions	72,800.00	30,333.33	19,290.55
Praise Program	30,000.00	12,500.00	7,450.02
	<u>\$189,975.00</u>	<u>\$79,156.25</u>	<u>\$56,537.67</u>

One Grand Fellowship—\$6,233.33
 Library—\$50.00

YOUR NEXT AMBASSADOR: AUGUST 19

In accordance with our policy, there will be no Ambassador on August 5, the first issue in August. The next paper you receive will be published on August 19. Copy intended for that publication should reach the Editor by August 1. All regular correspondents, please note. The Editor's address is:

Rev. Raynard Huglen, Editor
 The Lutheran Ambassador
 Roslyn, S. Dak. 57261

Scenes From the Annual Conference



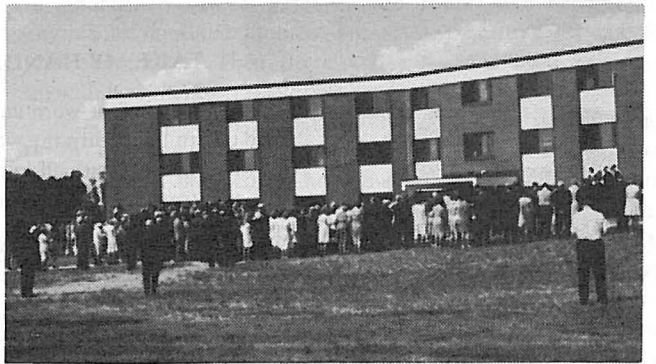
The bookstore at the conference. Pastor Gerald Mundfrom, the manager, is shown at the left of center.



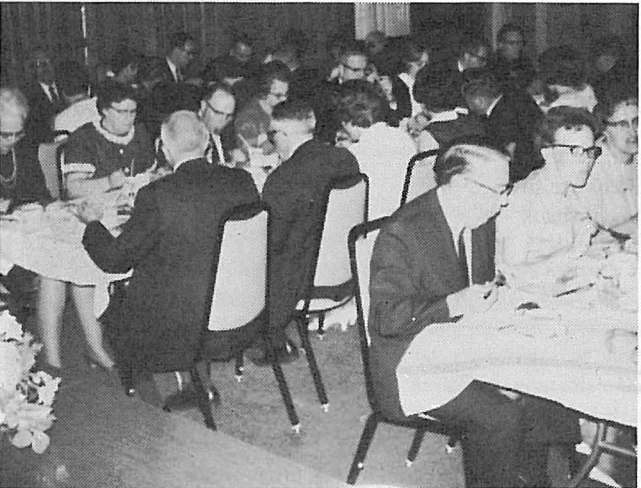
Rev. John Strand, the president, presides at a conference session. Others pictured are Pastor Harry Molstre, secretary, and Mrs. J. C. Eletson, stenographer.



A convention travels also on its stomach. Left to right, Kathy Ross, Alice Raina and John Wenzel once again this year served as cooks for the gathering. They were assisted by Mr. and Mrs. Henry Johanson and Mr. Wenzel's daughter, not shown here.



The dedication of the dormitory building took place outdoors following the service on Sunday afternoon in the church.



A large crowd of pastors and wives attended the annual dinner on Friday at which Pastor Laurel Udden, right foreground, spoke.



Meals were served in this fashion by the efficient kitchen crew headed by John Wenzel of Cloquet, Minn.



The men who were ordained on Sunday morning at the conference, front row, and the pastors of the church who took part in the impressive service.



Missionary John Abel participated in conference business deliberations.

TAKE MY HAND, BROTHER

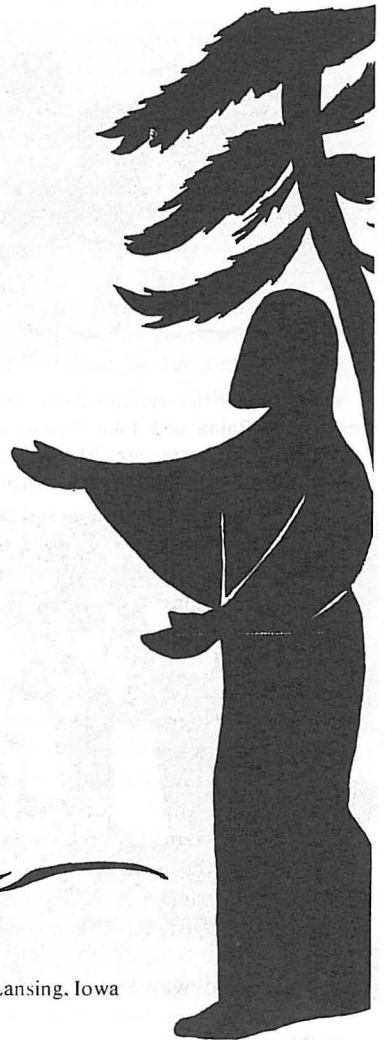
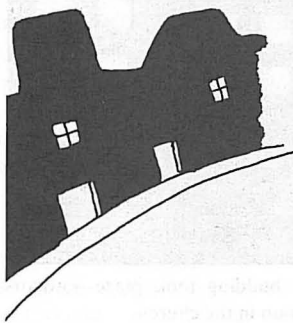
The highway is foot-worn and smooth and wide,
And tavern lights turn the weak ones aside,
Inviting the flesh with all kinds of sin,
Enticing travelers of life to come in.

A traveler stumbles down the weary road,
His back pained and bent 'neath his heavy load,
As he but stops at the bright tavern's door,
His pack is weighed down by sin all the more.

Now searching for help his steps "chance" to stray
To where a faint path meets the broad highway.
A Man stands there by the side of that road,
A strong Man and good and free from sin's load.

"I came to help you," softly now speaks He,
"Take my hand, brother, and come walk with Me.
My way is narrow, through steep rock and thorn;
My hand will guide you and keep you from harm."

Together they go now and glad is their song,
Their way is sure, and their footsteps are strong;
The merry traveler, how straight is his back —
His merciful Lord bears the awful pack!



Poem and illustration by Marlene Moline, Lansing, Iowa

range the printing of the resolutions in one agreed-upon form.

The obvious problem with this suggestion is that it would be difficult to get the committee members to take the extra day that starting on Tuesday would involve. Yes, this is a problem. A possible way out would be to have the committees meet a week or two in advance of the conference, for a day or two, in a mutually agreeable place. The bulk of the work could be done then with the Wednesday before conference devoted to a final check.

But whatever way it can be done, we must have more uniformity in our procedure. As we said, a stranger or visitor must be puzzled by the way we do some things.

Now a word about nominations. The Nominating Committee has a big job, one that could well begin before Wednesday also. Sometimes, as with the Committee this year, names are sought out before the conference and this is a help.

The Committee has to keep several things in mind in making its selections: geographical representation, number of other jobs held by the prospective candidate, availability to attend meetings, etc. The Committee is glad to get the well-known and familiar names, but it must constantly seek out new names and faces, too, so that no possible talent is ignored. In several years certain people will become ineligible to continue in their present assignments on boards and committees. Then there will be added need to come up with new names.

As has been said before, since so much of the Association's business is done between conferences (and if you don't believe this, count how many actual decisions were made at the conference), it is very important that delegates to the conference register their wishes in the electing of officials and board members. The choices made have far-reaching effects.

And lastly, and this is totally unrelated to what has gone before, Association people could use a little more reverence as they await the beginning of a church service. They are great visitors and they find it confining even to be silent after the prelude has begun. To go back to the visitors and guests again, what do they think of our casual attitude in God's house at convention-time or even in our home churches? We have been in non-Association Lutheran churches where a real spirit of quietness has prevailed before a service. We should not be stumbling-blocks in this regard. Greater care should be taken.

SHORT AND SWEET

In one or two resolutions, short and sweet, the Association at her annual conference covered the area of social concerns with which most church denominations spend a great deal of time in their conventions these days. The resolution which we would cite is paragraph 3 of Committee No. 1: "Be it resolved, the Conference encourages the individuals within the congregations of the AFLC to take on the responsibility of active participation in the schools, local, state and national affairs."

Now that isn't a bad resolution and it does represent the approach which the Association takes toward social responsibility. The idea is that it is really individuals, acting ac-



MORE ON HOUSEKEEPING

Prior to the Annual Conference we did an editorial relative to some housekeeping, or routine, matters having to do with the mechanics of our church's yearly business session. With your permission we would like to turn again to that matter now that the conference is over and consider two or three points which we feel are worthy of attention.

What is said here is meant to be constructive criticism and we trust that it will be taken in that spirit.

First of all, let us take the matter of conference resolutions. There is a need for a uniform policy in regard to their formulation for presentation to the body of delegates. To illustrate the need here, take the sets of resolutions from the conference, if you have them, and spread them out on a table or bed. You will notice several different approaches taken by the committees, from the "be it resolved" attack of Committee No. 1, to the unnumbered paragraphs of the essay style adopted by Committee No. 3 when dealing with Home Missions and Evangelism.

What must this look like to observers who come to our conference and perhaps are used to precision in these matters? Before suggesting a solution, may we also refer to the fact that a good number of grammatical errors creep into the material which is presented to the conference for consideration. Among ourselves, where we know each other, it may not seem of great importance whether grammar usage is correct or names are spelled properly, but there should be a striving for the greatest accuracy possible. And again, what must visitors think of this technical carelessness?

The solution we suggest is this, that the resolutions committees begin meeting earlier than even Wednesday morning. In that way they would not have to rush to get their work done and a secretarial staff would have time to ar-

ording to the dictates of their consciences, who provide improvement in society and work for justice and equal opportunity for all. And naturally, it is the Christian conscience of which most is expected.

Therefore, while our church came out of annual conference with only one or two resolutions on social issues whereas another church might have one or two dozen, every bit as much, or more, is expected of us as members of society, if we are Christians, in building a better world.

What are some things which are expected of the Christian citizen? We suggest these: He lives peaceably with his fellow men, as much as it depends on him. He deals honestly in all business matters. He looks conscientiously and diligently to his own affairs, not forgetting the obligation to assist those who are unable to provide for themselves. He does not judge others superficially, that is, as to color, nationality, religious beliefs, economic status or education, but tries to meet every person on the basis of his own individual worth. He makes his decisions not only on the basis of what is good for him and his family, but also on what is good for those who live about him. He opposes all forces in life which work to break down decent and respectable life and supports those efforts which will build up individual and community life.

These are some of the things the AFLC expects of her Christian members and of Christians in other communions. Such attitudes and approaches will have a good effect on the life of society. Resolutions will not do it unless they are put into effect by men and women who own stores on Main Street or folks who live on 21st Avenue or in the small towns and the open country.

The primary need of the world and of our country is to hear and accept the Gospel of Jesus Christ. But there is also a pressing need that people who profess belief in the Savior live according to His principles in everyday life.

It is this that the AFLC hopes her Christian people will do. The annual conference didn't say much about it, but this is the approach we take. Are we justified in assuming this? If we are, then our dearth of resolutions on the subject of social needs is no shame. But if we not only do not pass more resolutions, but also fail to be Christians in society, a double judgment will be ours before God.

"Be it resolved, the Conference encourages the individuals within the congregations of the AFLC to take on the responsibility of active participation in the schools, local, state, and national affairs."

GOD BROUGHT US TOGETHER

One of the very fine by-products of the formation of the Association of Free Lutheran Congregations has been the bringing together of people from the former Suomi Synod and from several of the Scandinavian-oriented Lutheran churches.

In all honesty, we must confess that too many of us knew little about this pietistic Finnish group. Personally, we recall hearing Rev. Isaac of that synod speak several times in the Augsburg College chapel. But knowledge was extremely limited.

Now Wm. Kangas, a loyal Association member and also a member of Morgan Avenue Lutheran Church in Min-

neapolis, Minn., has written a brief history of his former church for us. It would be good if sometime later more details could be filled in in what must have been an exciting seventy years of existence, but for the present we appreciate this glimpse into the life and background of Suomi. It is interesting to note that early Finns in America had associations with both Norwegians and Swedes in church life. So our coming together was not an unnatural or new thing. No one should forget either that there were Suomi people at the organizational conference of the AFLC in Thief River Falls, Minn., in October, 1962. So they are no Johnny-come-latelys to this work.

We have found in the people of Suomi a kindred spirit, namely, the same spirit of pietism and concern for personal and experienced Christianity. When we had our annual conference in Cloquet, Minn., in 1968, it was not as though we were among strangers but with brethren. God has brought us together and life is richer because of it.

We are all proud of our national ancestries and with justification. But it is good that we are not limited to one nationality in the church, or to Scandinavians, or to northern European stock. The church must be for all who find what they want within it. That goes for people of other races, too.

HOW BIG IS GOD!

"How Big is God!" Luther Leaguers of the Association will gather under that theme on the campus of Moorhead State College, Moorhead, Minn., next month. That will be a worthy and challenging theme for the second biennial convention of the Luther League Federation.

The Association has always been proud of her youth. God has given a goodly number of them to us and quite a few truly consecrated young people are among them. The future indeed looks bright also when we consider our youth.

Some concern was expressed here editorially recently as to whether or not the Association will be able to put to work all of her youth who may be called of the Lord into full-time Christian vocations. Let us trust that this challenge will be met when it comes.

As the Luther Leaguers gather, mostly in their teens and early twenties, the whole church will be listening to hear what message not only comes to the convention through the speakers, but what comes from it, to the church and to the world.

God give our youth rich and promise- and hope-filled days at Moorhead.

BEST WISHES, MAYOR

It may just be an indication of the passage of time, but we noted with special interest the election of Charles Stenvig as mayor of Minneapolis, Minn., one of the nation's great cities.

You see, we went to Augsburg College with Charles (Chuck) Stenvig. We weren't personally acquainted with him and we are sure he never knew who this writer was, but at least we remember seeing him around the campus.

The **Lutheran Ambassador** doesn't engage in partisan politics, but perhaps a simple "Congratulations and best wishes" will be permitted from one college mate to another. It is that word which we send today to Mayor Stenvig.

LET THE WORD OF CHRIST DWELL IN YOU RICHLY

Colossians 3:16

by Pastor O. J. Haukeness
Everett, Washington

Paul gives here a reminder to the Christian congregation in Colossae, to people who through his preaching had been won for the Gospel and had begun to believe in Jesus Christ. These words are a reminder not only to those to whom they were first given, but they are something that we all need to notice and take to heart. God's people should have daily fellowship with the Lord, seek Him in prayer and use the means of grace.

When the Spirit of God can enlighten us, then we see what we really are, we see an abyss of sin and misery, and we will cry with the prophet, "Woe is me! for I am undone; because I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips: for mine eyes have seen the King, Jehovah of hosts" (Is. 6:5). When we speak about sin it is not only outward acts, but sin that dwells in the heart, and the evil inclination of the heart. The Spirit of God will convict us of our sin in particular, for He doesn't only speak about sin in general.

The Word of God also reveals to us what God's will is in regard to man. We read that God created man that he should be eternally saved. We know that that was God's will when man was holy and without sin in Paradise. But we should thank God that it is still His will, our eternal salvation. Already the same day as man fell into sin and became disobedient to God, God preached the Gospel and gave a promise of restoration, the seed of the woman should bruise the serpent's head. Likewise does the apostle Paul reminds us of it, "God... Who would have all men to be saved and come to the knowledge of the truth" (I Tim. 2:4).

But if we shall be eternally saved we must listen to and accept God's invitation when He calls to repentance. When the Word of God tells us that we all like sheep have gone astray and that all have come short of the glory of God, then all need to turn away from their evil ways and seek the Lord while He may be found and call upon Him while He is near. God places before us the way of life and the way of death, and we must choose whom we will serve. The Word of God says, "The soul that sinneth, it shall die" (Ezek. 18:4).

When we call upon God there is deliverance from death, for there shall be a fountain opened to the house of David and to the inhabitants of Jerusalem for sin and for uncleanness (Zech. 13:1).

But it is not enough only to hear God's Word and listen to the invitation to come into fellowship with Christ, for the invitation must not be rejected, but received. We must not only be hearers of the word, but also doers. When Jesus preached the Sermon on the Mount there were undoubtedly many

who listened and heard. It is necessary to hear God's word, but we must also **keep** it. Jesus undoubtedly saw they were forgetful hearers. But Jesus compares those who were only hearers and not doers to one who builds his house on sand, and when the rains descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and smote upon the house, it fell, and great was the fall thereof. (Matt. 7:24)

Jesus has a good message to all. He is willing to go in to sinners and to eat with them. Many used that as an accusation against Christ, that He was a friend of publicans and sinners, but to many this has been a message that has given peace and joy.

But as all are sinners the door to salvation is open to all who will go in through it. If you come as a poor and lost sinner, you will in Christ find a friend that sticketh closer than a brother, you will in Him find life, joy and blessedness. For Jesus says, "who-soever cometh unto me, I will in no wise cast out."

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HOW BIG IS GOD!

He's big enough
to rule the mighty universe;
Yet small enough
to live within my heart!

**2ND BIENNIAL AFLC LUTHER LEAGUE FEDERATION
CONVENTION**

AUGUST 20-24

**MOORHEAD STATE COLLEGE, MOORHEAD,
MINNESOTA**



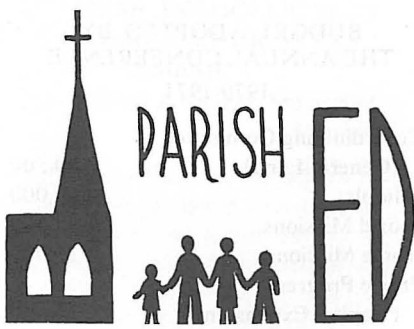
Rev. Alban Douglas, Three Hills, Alberta, Canada, will be bringing the evening messages. They will center around the subject of "Christian Warfare" (Eph. 6:10-18). Mr. Douglas, a former missionary in China and the Philippine Islands, is on the faculty of the Prairie Bible Institute. He will also present a lecture on "The Big Beat—A Christian Analysis."

Rev. Robert Rieth, Kirkland, Washington, will be leading the morning Bible studies around the convention theme, "How Big Is God!" Mr. Rieth, a graduate of Valley City, N. Dak., State College and Free Lutheran Seminary, is pastor of Our Redeemer Lutheran Church, and secretary-elect of the Association of Free Lutheran Congregations.



- **Youth Speaks Out!** —messages by AFLC Leaguers
- **Interest Hours** —sessions on pop music, missions, Bible school, and a discussion on Christians at College or in the Armed Services.
- **Science Films** —"God of Creation," "The Prior Claim," and "Signposts Aloft." (Moody Bible Institute)
- **Studies in Personal Evangelism, Question and Answer Hour, Chalk Talks...and much more!**

Registration: 9 a.m. — 12 noon on Wednesday, August 20
Total cost — \$22.00 per leaguer



AFLC SUNDAY SCHOOL MATERIAL AVAILABLE

The Board of Publications and Parish Education announces that Sunday School material will be available early in August. The Board encourages all Sunday School superintendents and teachers to place their orders for material as soon as possible so that shipment can be made and received in time for Sunday School this fall. Orders for material may be sent to Miss Judith Wold, 324 North Arnold, Thief River Falls, Minnesota.

Each study course is for thirteen weeks. The first lessons begin in September and continue through the month of November. The cost of each booklet will be 45 cents per copy with no charge for mailing.

The following courses will be available in August:

Grade Four THE APOSTLES' CREED

The first quarter of study in this course is centered about the First Article of the Creed. Each Sunday a portion of the First Article is assigned as memory work. The lessons correlate with the memory work to teach how God has created us, provides for our daily needs and how He calls and leads us. There are lessons on God's protection, His care, and His rewards for faithfulness and how He provides a way of escape in times of trouble. These are a few of the thirteen lessons in this quarter.

Students are tested each week by true and false questions, multiple choice answers or discussion questions.

The course ends with a Thanksgiving lesson and a review test.

The material has been worked out

carefully by the author and meets the need of the fourth grade student.

Grade Five OLD TESTAMENT HISTORY

This is an Old Testament History study with related Catechism lessons presented by the writer with an appeal to Grade Five.

In this quarter the student advances through the Old Testament from Creation to a study on Jacob. He pauses to learn some very important spiritual truths along the way: the seriousness of sin, our attitude toward God and each other and many more important topics.

The fifth grader will do some heart searching to answer such questions as "Why should America's success in the space program help us to keep God in mind?" He will deliberate over his responsibility to God as did the Old Testament hero of years long passed.

This is a serious study for today's children.

Grade Seven CHRIST IN THE BIBLE

Some of the subjects dealt with in this course are: The names of Jesus, The Eternal Son of God, His Work as Prophet, High Priest and King, and three studies on Jesus Christ, Promised by the Prophets. There is also a lesson on the Traits of Jesus.

There is a strong evangelistic appeal through these studies, and selected memory verses will lead to a meaningful study for each pupil.

Questions from the Catechism are reviewed each week and the student will be led to participate through discussion questions.

Grade Eight THE BOOK OF ACTS

The author is working with the first nine chapters of the Book of Acts in this quarter of material.

We walk with those first Christians as they experience the Ascension of Jesus and wait for the coming of the Holy Spirit, and we experience with them imprisonment, martyrdom, persecution and glorious victories as men and women are added to the Kingdom.

There is a fresh eagerness in these studies similar to that which the New

Testament Christian must have known.

Grade Nine THE OVERALL STUDY OF THE BIBLE

Some of the character studies that the writer has chosen for this thirteen-week course are Jacob, Joseph, Moses, Joshua, Gideon, Samuel, David, Solomon, Hezekiah, Naaman, Nehemiah. There is a wealth of information and concentrated Bible study in each lesson. The course is closed with a study on several Psalms, Proverbs and a lesson on Thanksgiving.

There are thought-provoking discussion questions and questions that will test the pupil's understanding of Bible History through these studies in the Old Testament.

Senior High STEWARDSHIP AND TEENS

Stewardship for the believer is a theme that involves more than the giving of money.

The writer presents the many sides of stewardship as he comments on the Tithe, Discernment in Giving, Stewardship of the Body, Self and the Blessings of Stewardship, together with a lesson on Our Attitude In Giving.

There is sufficient material and questions for discussion here which will lead to a meaningful exchange of ideas in the Senior High classroom.

Because of the brevity of each lesson there is "meat" for discussion in almost every sentence.

The writers for these and further high school lessons are:

Miss Martha Kleppe
Miss Ona Broden
Rev. Gerald Mundfrom
Mrs. Gehard Solberg
Rev. and Mrs. Francis Monseth
Rev. and Mrs. Robert Rieth
Mrs. Kenneth Johnson
Rev. Marvin Undseth
Mr. Dennis Gray

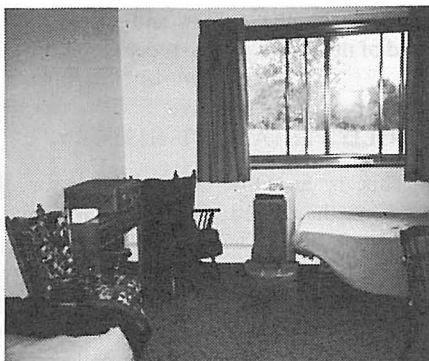
New courses will be announced as they are completed. Courses for the second and third quarters of the Senior High year will be ready soon.

"For with Thee is the fountain of life; in Thy light shall we see light."

Psalms 36:9

1970 ANNUAL CONFERENCE

No invitation for the 1970 Annual Conference was on hand during the conference just concluded and hence no action could be taken in determining where that meeting shall be held. The determination of place will be made by the Co-ordinating Committee after one or more invitations have been extended from local congregations. The dates of the conference will be June 10-14, 1970.



The faculty lounge in the new dormitory building was converted into a bedroom during the annual conference.

BUDGET ADOPTED BY THE ANNUAL CONFERENCE 1970-1971

Co-ordinating Committee (General Fund)	\$40,500
Schools	59,000
World Missions	35,500
Home Missions	25,000
Praise Program (Capital Expansion)	15,000
Total	\$175,000



Some of the WMF project posters on display at the WMF convention.



Open house at three residences owned by the church was held on the WMF day. Here some ladies are seen entering the home of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Bursheim, the maintenance engineer.

PERSONALITIES

Mrs. J. C. Eletson, Duluth, Minn., new treasurer of the Women's Missionary Federation, has recently been on a trip to Norway. She left the week following the Annual Conference, where she had again served as stenographer for the business sessions.

shortened and joined together and appeared as a statement contrary to what the President said. The correct reading of the two sentences is as follows: "There can be no social justice where law and order are sacrificed. There must be the pursuit of social justice or law and order are meaningless."

We regret the error.

Free Lutheran Theological Seminary and Association Free Lutheran Bible School, passed away at the Lutheran Deaconess Hospital in Minneapolis, Minn., on July 15. He was 64.

Funeral services were conducted on July 19 at Medicine Lake Lutheran Church, Minneapolis, with burial later that day in the cemetery of the church of his childhood, Hemnes Lutheran, near Minneota, Minn.

CORRECTION

In the President's Report, Part I (June 24, 1969), in the second paragraph, under "Our Times" on page 3, two sentences were unintentionally

REV. FRITJOF B. MONSETH PASSED AWAY ON JULY 15

Rev. Fritjof B. Monesth, teacher at

News of Pastor Monseth's passing arrived after this issue of the *Ambassador* had been prepared. A complete obituary will be printed next time.

CHURCH-WORLD NEWS

LUTHERAN SOLON LEADS WAY IN FINANCIAL DISCLOSURES

Washington, D.C.—A Lutheran Congressman has won high praise from one of the nation's leading newspapers for going "far beyond the requirements of the House disclosure rule in trying to level with his constituents."

"Rev. Thomas S. Kleppe of Bismarck, N.D.," said The Washington Post in an editorial on June 16, "is entitled to a salute from his constituents, his colleagues in the House and the public at large."

The Republican Congressman, in mid-June, made public the details of a private fortune of more than 3.5 million dollars.

"I believe in laying my financial assets on the line," he said.

Congressman Kleppe and his family are members of Trinity Lutheran Church in Bismarck, a congregation affiliated with the American Lutheran Church. In Washington, they attend Grace Lutheran (ALC).

POOR REGISTRATION ENDS LCA'S YOUTH EXPO PLANS

Detroit—(LC)—Youth Expo, a new concept in mass youth gatherings slated here August 19-24, has been cancelled by the Commission on Youth Ministry of the Lutheran Church in America.

The step was taken at a June meeting of the commission in Philadelphia, after reports indicated that no more than 3,500 could be expected at Youth Expo, an event which had been planned for a crowd of 10,000.

By June 19, four days after the deadline, only 3,158 persons had registered.

"Such a small number of registrations means that we can no longer include in Youth Expo many of the elements we judge to be essential for its fulfillment," the commission was told by its Youth Expo Cabinet.

The cabinet, a planning and decision-making body which had been appointed by the commission, recommended cancellation after noting that "were it to

happen in August, (it) could no longer be the event it was conceived to be."

BUSINESS LEADER ELECTED GUSTAVUS ADOLPHUS HEAD

St. Peter, Minn.—(LC)—Frank Russell Barth of Lake Forest, Ill., a businessman, educator, consultant and financial specialist, has been elected president of Gustavus Adolphus College here.

Mr. Barth, 51, was named to the office—which he will assume as of Sept. 1—by the Executive Board of the Minnesota Synod of the Lutheran Church in America, on recommendation of the college's Board of Trustees. He succeeds Dr. Edgar M. Carlson, who had headed the school for 24 years up to last September when he became executive director of the Minnesota Private College Council.

A graduate of Luther College at Decorah, Iowa (1940) and Northwestern University (1947), Mr. Barth was a professor at Luther and chairman of its economics department from 1946 to 1953, following three years in the U.S. Navy as a naval air navigator.

COMMUNICANT MEMBERSHIP IN LC-MS PASSES 2 MILLION

St. Louis—Communicant membership in The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod passed the two million mark during 1968. As of Jan. 1, according to the church's newly released *Statistical Yearbook*, communicant members of congregations in its North and South American districts totaled 2,031,177. Total membership reached 3,032,245.

ORDINATION OF WOMEN ISSUE HEADING FOR ALC DECISION

Minneapolis—(LC)—The 1970 convention of the American Lutheran Church will be asked to decide whether it will ordain women, it was announced here by Dr. Fredrik A. Schiotz, president of the 2.6 million-member denomination.

The ALC Church Council "received

as information" the explanation that although two of three women, recent graduates of Luther Seminary, St. Paul, have requested that they be ordained, the theological aspect of the question has not yet been resolved.

A study of the issue by the Division of Theological Studies of the Lutheran Council in the USA, was requested by the Church Council two years ago, but has not yet been completed, Dr. Schiotz reported.

Meanwhile a study of the issue by the Luther Seminary faculty, also received by the Church Council, said "We can see no valid reason why women candidates for ordination who meet the standards normally required for admission to the ministry should not be recommended for ordination."

However, in response to a question, Dr. Schiotz said the ALC will determine its own ordination policy regardless of the outcome of the LCUSA study.

Most Lutheran churches in Europe ordain women, Dr. Schiotz said.

LONDON'S LUTHERANS MARK 300TH CHURCH ANNIVERSARY

London — (LWF) — Lutherans of Great Britain in June celebrated the 300th anniversary of the foundation of the first Lutheran congregation in the United Kingdom.

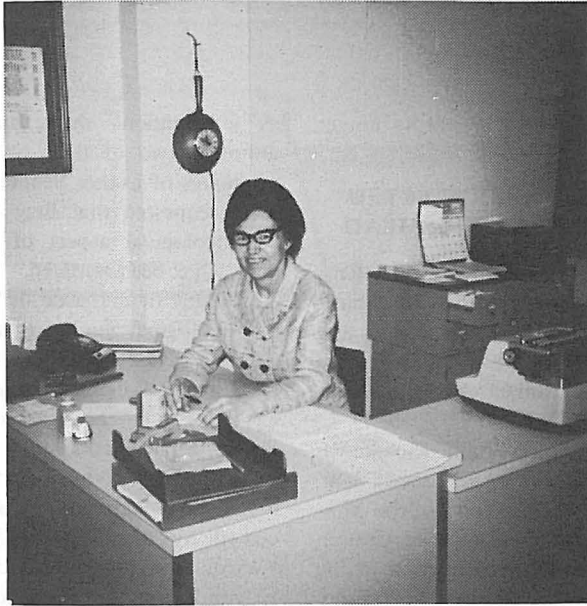
In a Letter-Patent dated June 17, 1669, King Charles II gave instructions to his Attorney General "to prepare a bill for our royal signature" granting permission for Lutherans in London to hold public services and build a church.

A first church constructed by the congregation was dedicated in 1673. In 1873 it was necessary to demolish this structure to make way for an underground railway station and today's Hamburg Lutheran church was erected.

Although the present Hamburg church congregation is German-speaking, an international group—North German and Scandinavian Lutherans who had come to London for the rebuilding of the city after the 1666 fire—

petitioned for the charter and started the first congregation. The Scandinavians

withdrew in 1692 to start their own congregation.



Mrs. Bert Tildahl, secretary of Medicine Lake Lutheran Church, who assisted delegates in securing lodging during the conference. She also handles the Ambassador subscription list during the year.

THE LUTHERAN AMBASSADOR
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