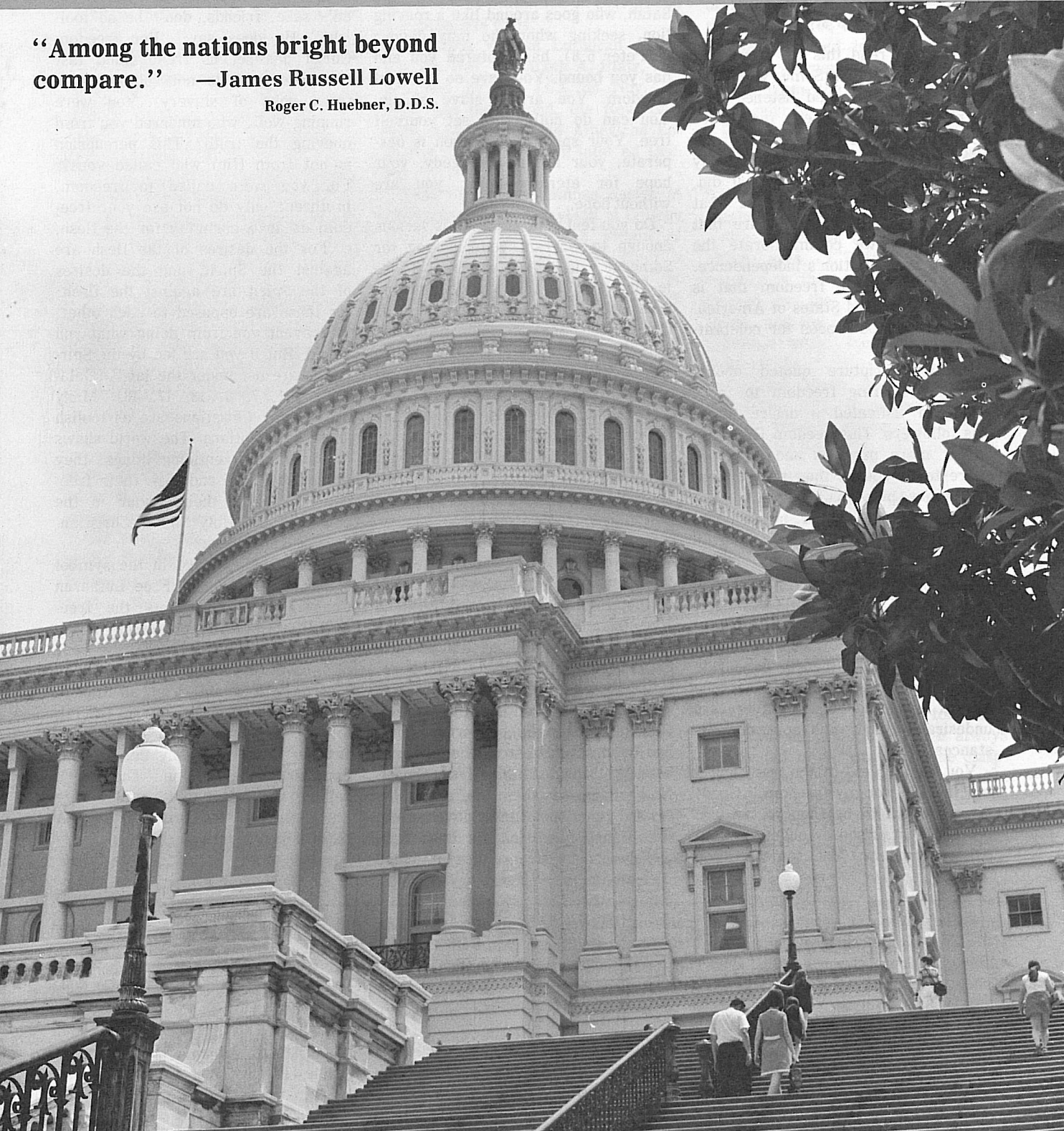


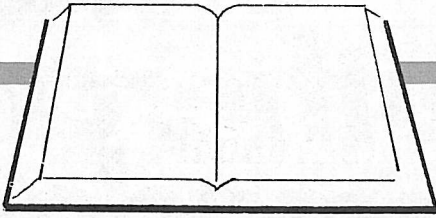
July 4, 1972

The Lutheran Ambassador

**“Among the nations bright beyond
compare.” —James Russell Lowell**

Roger C. Huebner, D.D.S.





According to the Word

OH, TO BE FREE!

John 8:31-36

When you read this the Fourth of July will be past. Some will have watched a parade and listened to a patriotic speech. Others may have gone on a picnic with family and friends, or simply spent a quiet day at home. No matter what you did, I am sure you were aware of what day it was. We are all aware that on this day we commemorate the winning of our nation's independence. We rejoice in the freedom that is ours in the United States of America. We have a good reason for celebrating.

In the Scripture quoted above, Jesus is offering freedom to those who had indicated a desire to be His followers. The freedom He offers is far more precious and therefore more to be sought than the national freedom we prize so highly.

Many people behind prison bars have said, "Oh, to be a free person again." Likewise, many who are living in lands controlled by tyrannical governments have said, "Oh, to live in a free country again." These people long to be set free but cannot find freedom. Our hearts go out to these unfortunate ones. Everyone agrees that bondage and slavery are undesirable and unhappy circumstances.

You say, "Yes, that's true, and I am thankful for my freedom." Good! We all ought to be thankful we are not living in prison or under tyrannical government. Yet some of you

are, right now, in spiritual bondage. Satan, who goes around like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour (I Peter 5:8), has captured you and has you bound. You have no spiritual freedom. You are a slave of sin. You can do nothing to set yourself free. Your spiritual condition is desperate, your life is a tragedy, your hope for eternity—none; you are without hope.

Do you feel your situation is serious enough to warrant your looking for Someone who can set you free? There is One who is able to deliver you from your bondage. He is Jesus Christ, the Son of God, crucified, buried, risen again, and exalted to His position of power, the right hand of God. Don't monkey around with anything or anyone else that may be offered as the solution to your dilemma. He doesn't monkey around. When He sets you free, you are really free. "If the Son shall set you free, you shall be free indeed."

Now, if you really mean business when you say you want to be set free from your sin, you will give Him an opportunity, and he will set you free from being sin's slave. There can be no question about that, because He has never failed yet.

"Oh, how good to be free."

Paul, writing to the Christians in Galatia, was justly concerned. They had been set free from their former bondage through faith in Jesus Christ. Now many of them were leaning toward going back to the slavery from which they had been set free. Paul is horrified by such a thought. I can

almost hear him saying, "For heaven's sake, friends, don't be so foolish!" He does say, "For freedom Christ has set us free; stand fast therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery... You were running well; who hindered you from obeying the truth? This persuasion is not from Him who called you... For you were called to freedom, brethren; only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for the flesh, ... For the desires of the flesh are against the Spirit, and the desires of the Spirit are against the flesh; for these are opposed to each other, to prevent you from doing what you would. But if you are led by the Spirit you are not under the law" (Galatians 5:1, 7, 8, 13, 17, 18). Many present-day Christians are as foolish as those Galatians. The world shows them so many enticing things; they grasp for them and lose their freedom to follow their Savior in the power of the Holy Spirit. Christian, are you one of these?

The ascending dove in the symbol of the Association of Free Lutheran Congregations represents the freedom the Christian possesses in the Holy Spirit. He has freedom to soar up above the things of this world, thus to be separated from all impediments and enabled to live in the fellowship and service of God alone. Brother and sister, may this be your experience, and mine. Then let's rejoice and celebrate together—here below and in the presence of our blessed Savior, forever.

Howard Kjos

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Rev. John P. Strand Re-elected: New Dormitory Voted: Mortgages Burned at Church's 10th Annual Conference

Election of Officers

Rev. John P. Strand, New Hope, Minneapolis, Minn., the only president the Association of Free Lutheran Congregations has had, was easily elected to his fourth consecutive three-year term at the church's tenth annual conference, held at Plymouth Village, Minneapolis, June 14-18.



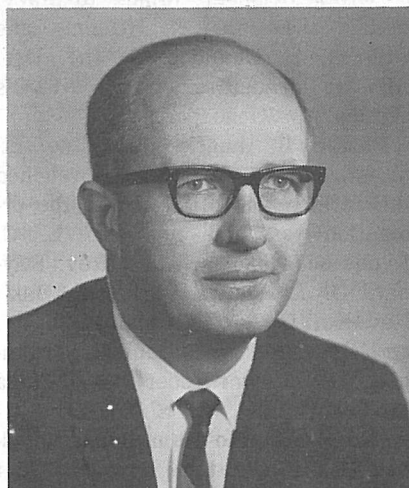
Rev. John P. Strand

In all, five candidates were advanced from the floor in the Thursday afternoon balloting. Rev. Herbert Franz, Cloquet, Minn., and Rev. R. Snipstead, Minneapolis, asked their nominators to withdraw their names and this was done. Pastor Strand then received 243 votes or 86 per cent of the total cast for the three remaining men. Rev. Jay Erickson, Ferndale, Wash., and Rev. Kenneth L. Anderson, Radcliffe, Ia., divided the 39 other votes cast.

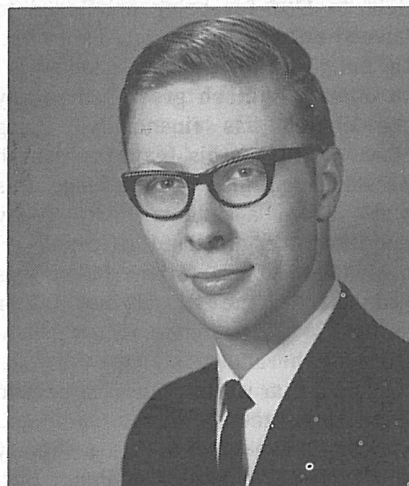
Mr. Strand, who was serving the Tioga, N. Dak., parish when the AFLC was organized in 1962 and had previously served at Grafton and Vang, N. Dak., needed a three-fourths majority to continue in office, according to the church's **Rules for Work**.

Pastor Anderson was later re-elected vice-president of the Association in a contest with Pastor Snipstead. Rev. Robert Rieth, Kirkland,

Wash., incumbent secretary, failed to get the three-fourths majority he needed after three full terms, in a race against Rev. Robert L. Lee, Tioga. Then in four-way match among Mr. Lee, Mr. Clifford Johnson, Esko, Minn., Rev. Hans J. Tollefson, Eben Jct., Mich., and Rev. Leslie Galland, Spicer, Minn., Pastor Lee was returned the winner and becomes the new secretary on Oct. 1, the beginning of new terms for constitutional officers in the church.



Rev. Kenneth L. Anderson



Rev. Robert L. Lee

Two incumbents were given by the conference to the Co-ordinating Committee for election (such nomination is tantamount to election here). They are Sheldon Mortrud, Thief River Falls, Minn., and Clifford Johnson, Esko. Their terms are for five years. Pastor Lee was nominated for the Committee for the unexpired four-year term of Rev. Albert Hautamaki, Negaunee, Mich., who had resigned to accept a position at the church headquarters in Minneapolis. The Co-ordinating Committee works together with the church president in guiding Association business between annual conferences.

New Dormitory

On Friday afternoon after a lengthy debate which had begun in the morning, the conference voted 186 to 18 to authorize construction of a boys' dormitory at Association Free Lutheran Bible School in Minneapolis. No one spoke in opposition to a dormitory, but some delegates wondered about financing and timing.

As proposed, the structure will house approximately 65 boys, contain a lounge and some faculty offices and provide on a temporary basis two classrooms and a library. The girls' dormitory, built four years ago, also contains two classrooms. These areas can be converted into housing for students at such a time as a classroom-library building is erected on the campus on the shores of Medicine Lake.

The original resolution of conference Committee No. 2 called for a structure about two-thirds the length of the girls' building. An amendment by Dr. Wayne Sletten of Faith, S. Dak., changed that to "at least two-thirds the size of our present dormitory."

It was felt by some that it would be wiser to put up a dormitory as long as the other, but with only two stories, provision being made for adding a third at some later date, if need be. Some delegates expressed the desire that the new dormitory be as large as the first from the start. The resolution passed seems to leave that possibility open although the authorization of "the expenditure of an estimated \$250,000 toward such construction" would fall far short of accommodating a three-story building, the height of the girls' dormitory.

A second amendment, actually offered before the one by Dr. Sletten, presented by Rev. Orville T. Olson of McIntosh, Minn., declares that one-half of the estimated cost of construction must be raised through cash or pledges before actual building begins. The amendment was offered and passed in light of outstanding loans, all to individuals, mostly in the AFLC, against the construction of the first dormitory in 1968. The amount, not entirely against that project, is approximately \$235,000.



Rev. Orville Olson

The Board of Trustees of the Schools has already taken steps to encourage gifts for the new building. The fund drive is to be called "Building for Truth" and each parish will soon receive promotional material and it is hoped that parishes will first act on their own initiative to encourage larger gifts and pledges, but ones of all sizes will be welcomed.

Mortgages Burned

Offerings to the special debt retirement fund in the AFLC this year had reached such a level by conference time that it was possible to

burn several mortgages at the closing service on Sunday afternoon. There are now no existing mortgages on Association property. The ones burned were on the headquarters property in Plymouth Village and the president's residence in nearby New Hope. After some remarks by Pastor Strand, Rev. Julius Hermunslie, Fergus Falls, Minn., chairman of the Co-ordinating Committee, set fire to the mortgages and while they were still burning began his prayer of thanksgiving to God.

Four Men Ordained

The clergy roster of the Association was increased by four men when the ordination service was held on Sunday morning. The men set apart for the church's ministry are Bruce J. Dalager, Roseau, Minn., to Bagley, Minn.; Henry A. E. Johansen, Carlton, Minn., to Virginia, Minn.; Alvin J. Grothe, Badger, Minn., to Stacy, Minn.; and Elden K. Nelson, Lake Preston, S. Dak., to Eugene, Ore. All are graduates of the AFLC's seminary in Minneapolis.

Pastor Hermunslie was the liturgist. Rev. John Strand preached the sermon and officiated at the ordination, assisted by Rev. L. C. Dynneson, Nogales, Ariz., Rev. Raymond O. J. Huglen, Roslyn, S. Dak., Rev. Karl G. Berg, Cathlamet, Wash., and Rev. Albert Hautamaki, Negaunee, Mich. Pastor Robert Lee of Tioga read the vitae.

In his charge to the ordinands, Pastor Strand said that he hoped that the Association is ready to pay its debt to God for being privileged to have the Gospel of Christ. That debt, the obligation to bring the "good news" to others, is much greater than any the church has financially. Using Rom. 1:14-17 as his text, the church president outlined his message this way: I am a debtor, I am ready and I'm not ashamed of the Gospel.

Michael Brandt, Minneapolis, was ordained at the church his father serves in Bloomington, Minn., Emmaus Lutheran (A.L.C.) on May 21. He has begun work at his first parish, Elim, Lake Stevens, Wash.

A sixth graduate of the seminary this spring, Kenneth J. Moland, Fertile, Minn., was ordained on July 2

at his home church, Maple Bay Lutheran. He is serving the Kenyon, Minn., parish.

Opening Service

The sermon at the opening conference service on Wednesday night was preached by Rev. Hermunslie. He used the conference text, Ephesians 4:1-16. He said that we look backward in order to give honor and praise to God for what He has done. He then proceeded to trace the history of the Association, from the last Lutheran Free Church annual conference in 1962 and on. As the old fellowship drew to a close, he said, God was already opening doors for a new fellowship, one that officially began in October, 1962, at the organizational conference in Thief River Falls.



Rev. Julius Hermunslie

The last ten years, Pastor Hermunslie testified, have been the best in his life. "My God, how wonderful Thou art!" He went on to discuss the divine call we have to live for Him. This life is evidenced by patience and forbearance, by unity and peace, Mr. Hermunslie observed. At the last, he spoke of the one hope of God's calling and he asked the members of the audience, "Are you in this fellowship?"

Before the service ended, Pastor John Strand opened the conference, greeting the large gathering with Psalm 100. He made three points: 1) we are here to serve the Lord; 2) we are to know God and have assurance of Him; and 3) there is

(Continued on page 14)

(A continuation of the report of the President to the Tenth Annual Conference of the AFLC last month in Minneapolis.)

The President's Message

Our Congregations

We thank God for the spiritual quality evidenced in our congregations. There are signs of awakening in many places. There is generally a concern for and cooperation in the work of the Association. There is always room for improvement. Spiritual growth comes where there is the "quickenings" preaching of the Word of God, and genuine love for people. This is the "seed" of living congregations.

The enemy also is busy sowing tares. There is fake spirituality built on subjective feelings and experiences and not on the Word. The spirit of discernment is needed to "try the spirits," but it is wrong to "believe every spirit." It is a sin for Christian people to be deceived.

There is a great need for evangelism. Evangelism takes many forms. Some become "works of the flesh," instead of "of the Spirit." Anything that does not lead to a genuine repentance over sin, a surrender to Christ, and fellowship in a Christian congregation is of doubtful value.

Some men of God have the gift of an evangelist. Evangelists are needed today. Our parishes faithfully utilize their ministry. We thank God for those pastors and laymen who have this gift. We are grateful to the congregations who share their pastors with other parishes desiring their evangelistic gifts.

There has been some discussion concerning the Association having a full-time evangelist. It has been felt that we have not had a qualified man to spare from the pastoral

ministry for this work as yet. The need becomes greater, however, as the Association continues to grow. It is often difficult for parishes to secure the services of an evangelist who can serve them effectively.

The congregations of the Association have some distinct convictions and desires. Some evangelists not of the Association do not understand these and create problems for the parishes. Some do not really believe the Association has a valid reason for existence. Some do not agree with the Association's clear position on the modern tongues movement. Some do not understand the congregation as a fellowship, and seek only to reach individuals and are not concerned for the congregation. Some are more entertaining or self-selling than expository. Some really do not understand the work and concern of the pastor of the congregation. Such evangelists have a very limited usefulness in our congregations.

It would seem well that the Association prays out a man of God's choice to be an evangelist in the Association in God's good time. This man must not be self-appointed or man-appointed, but God-called and directed. This could be a joint project of our mission boards, or under our Evangelism Committee.

A nation-wide evangelism project called Key '73 is receiving the enthusiastic support of a high percentage of church bodies and congregations. The local congregations arrange their own evangelism thrust as they desire, but have the benefits of nation-wide and community promo-

tion. As yet the Association is not connected with this effort. Undoubtedly many of our congregations will be. There may be some dangers involved. But the benefits should outweigh them. It perhaps is wiser to have a part in this effort than to remain aloof.

Our Cooperative Work

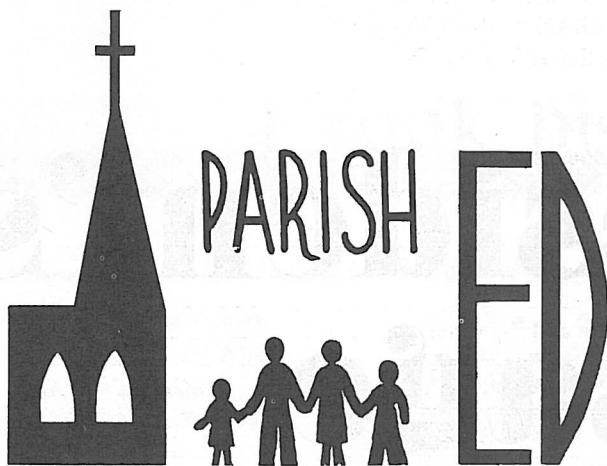
The congregations have again shown tremendous loyalty to the work of the Association. Again there was a good increase in contributions. There is evidence also of a great deal of prayer support. God hears and answers prayer.

There has been good progress in our missions and schools. We thank God for our countless opportunities and blessings.

The Lutheran Ambassador continues to serve the Association in a fine positive manner. This magazine has an ever-widening ministry, perhaps the widest ministry of all our work. After ten years, and rapid growth, we still have only a part-time editor. Undoubtedly the quality of the magazine would be greatly improved if the editor had this as his only responsibility. It would appear that decisions should be made to make the position of editor full-time. Perhaps this could be done in two steps, if not in one. Our editor has not received the consideration due him in the light of his growing responsibilities. This has not been good for **The Lutheran Ambassador** or the Association.

We continue to rejoice in the con-

(Continued on page 12)



TAKE AND TEACH THE WORD

Good teaching is goal-directed. Goals provide direction and encourage both progress and persistence. His goal provided the stimulus for Jesus to endure the agonies of the cross (Hebrews 12:2).

The AFLC Sunday School curriculum was developed with definite goals in mind. Each grade level has a planned Bible study with a suggested memory verse. The doctrines of the church as developed in Luther's Small Catechism are also studied. Interesting class activities have been planned and correlated art ideas have been suggested both in the student's book and the teacher's handbook. The AFLC Sunday School materials are now available for grades two through the adults. As yet there are no materials for grades one and down.

The second grade boys and girls have Bible stories from the Old Testament. These stories are used to develop a study of the Ten Commandments. Some of the commandments are retaught in a later lesson as well to reinforce the learning and application.

Boys and girls in the third grade are led in a study on prayer. Bible studies have been carefully selected to develop the study of the Lord's Prayer. Luther's Small Catechism is used as the basis for the study of the petitions as well.

The Apostles' Creed is developed through selected Bible stories in the fourth grade. The meaning of the Creed as taught in Luther's Small Catechism is also presented.

A more consistent Bible study is developed in grade five. The entire course is a consecutive study of the Old Testament. Included in this course is a review of the Ten Commandments, Lord's Prayer and the Apostles' Creed.

This same method of consecutive Bible study is continued in grade six as they conduct a similar study of the New Testament. Included in this course is a study of the various sacraments of the Lutheran church as taught in Luther's Small Catechism.

A different type of Bible Study is presented in grade seven. The title **Christ in the Bible** describes the entire course. Various portions of both the Old and New Testaments are investigated to verify the attributes of Christ. Some of the titles are: Jesus Christ, Promised by the

Prophets; His Work as a Prophet; His Work as King; The Deity of Christ and The Teachings of Christ. This study is also reinforced with questions from the Catechism.

Grade eight is a study of the Book of Acts. This study continues through three quarters of time. The Board of Parish Education has a series of filmstrips that correlate with this study. Because these students are in confirmation class, it has been suggested that the Catechism review correlates with their confirmation assignments.

Grade nine presents a general Bible review with the course **An Overall Study of the Bible**. The lives of various Bible characters are reviewed.

For the senior high and adult classes there is a study on the **Epistles of Peter and the Book of Galatians**. The organized Christian church and our responsibilities toward it are studied in the course **Congregational Life and the Bible**. Practical Christian living is taught in the course entitled **The Christian Citizen**. Suggested hymn analysis is also encouraged in this study. Everyday personal problems are investigated in **The Christian Teen Looks at Life**. Some of the titles are: God's Marvelous Creation; The Home; Temptation; Forgiveness; Seeking Entertainment; Seeking God's Guidance; Sacredness of the Marriage Vows; Establishing of the Christian Home and Family Relationships.

We are also able to present a series of lessons based on Dr. Iver Olson's book entitled **Baptism and the Spiritual Life**. This book is a paper back and sells for 60¢. This will be made available through the Office of Parish Education.

Let us give our children a good Bible background so that they might have a sound basis on which to guide their convictions and discussions. Guidance does not come through an empty mind.

Office of Parish Education
Judith B. Wold

FAMILY BIBLE CAMP PLANNED IN NORTH DAKOTA THIS SUMMER

A new family-centered AFLC Bible Camp will be held this July 24-30 at the Lake Metigoshe State Park near Bottineau, N. Dak., in the beautiful Turtle Mountains. This camp is sponsored by the AFLC churches of North Dakota and eastern Montana, and it is hoped that many families and individuals will take advantage of this new opportunity.

The Bible study hour will be led by Rev. Robert Lee of Tioga, N. Dak., and the Christian Growth Hour will be led by Rev. R. Snipstead, dean of Association Free Lutheran Bible School in Minneapolis. Lay Pastor Gene Sundby, Culbertson, Mont., will be the evening speaker, while Rev. Dennis Gray, Grafton, N. Dak., will lead the youth in Bible study. A children's program will be held each morning under the direction of Miss Judith Wold, parish education secretary in the AFLC. In addition to the aforementioned hours of interest, a sinspiration will be held each day under the leadership of Rev. Stephen Odegaard of Hatton, N. Dak.

(Continued on page 14)

**THE AMBASSADOR SUNDAY SCHOOL SERIES
ASSOCIATION OF FREE LUTHERAN CONGREGATIONS
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NAME OF ITEM		Circle	Quarter	Number	Each	TOTAL
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Teacher's Handbook	The Book of Galatians	1	2	3	75¢	
Congregational Life and the Bible	Senior High and Adult Classes	1	2	3	55¢	
Teacher's Handbook	Congregational Life and the Bible	1	2	3	75¢	
The Christian Citizen	Senior High and Adult Classes	1	2	3	55¢	
Teacher's Handbook	The Christian Citizen	1	2	3	75¢	
The Christian Teen Looks at Life	Senior High and Adult Classes	1	2	3	55¢	
Teacher's Handbook	The Christian Teen Looks at Life	1	2	3	75¢	
Baptism and Spiritual Life, by Dr. Iver Olson					60¢	
Student's Book					55¢	
Teacher's Handbook					55¢	

Total of Order	Charges
Up to \$ 1.00	25¢
\$ 1.01 to \$ 3.00	30¢
\$ 3.01 to \$ 5.00	35¢
\$ 5.01 to \$ 7.00	50¢
\$ 7.01 to \$10.00	65¢
\$10.01 to \$15.00	80¢
\$15.01 and up	5%

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Reverence and Sincerity

by Rev. Albert Hautamaki
Negaunee, Mich.

Every person has a name by which he is known to his fellows, but his name tells us nothing of the person's character. Many people have Biblical names. Everyone's name has a meaning but very seldom do we find individuals living according to the meaning or definition of his or her name.

I. The Name of God

God has several names. These names not only tell us who He is, but they also tell us what He is. There is something unique and different about God's name. Let us pause for a moment and think about the Name of God. What is meant by that? Sverdrup's explanation of Luther's Catechism has a two-fold answer to the question, "What is God's Name?" First, it refer's to the proper names by which He is called in the Scriptures, and second, to His nature and attributes, and all that by which He is especially known, such as His Word, Sacraments, and works. This is a good answer primarily for the reason that it calls attention to the fact that the divine Name is not limited to such words as "Lord," "God," etc. God's name is a revelation. G. Campbell Morgan in his commentary, **The Gospel according to John**, in his comments on John 17:6, that "God has only one name according to the Biblical revelation. God is not a name. It is a designation. The Lord is not a name; it is a title. He has only one name, and His name is Yahweh-Jehovah as we now render it. Jesus had borne that name, linked with the thought of salvation; Jesus the Greek for Jehoshua, Jehovah-salvation." So the name of God is that which is linked with His saving acts, His Word, Sacraments, and works. When Jesus said in the High Priestly prayer, "I had manifested Thy Name," He had revealed to men God's desire to save men from sin and death.



Rev. Albert Hautamaki

So we see that all God is, does, and says is included in His name. The commandment does not simply forbid the vain use of God's name, but all irreverence to God Himself. God is holy; man is human. God is perfect; man is sinful. God is high above all; man a lowly sinner. Man owes Him reverence, awe, fear and respect. When we show disrespect for His name, we show disrespect for God. When we honor His name, we honor Him.

It shouldn't be necessary to write this article to Christian people because what I write is and will be read by those who claim allegiance to Christ, but sinning against this Second Commandment is one of the most common sins of today. I want you to note what Elton Trueblood says in his book, **Foundations for Reconstruction**, "It is instructive to note that there is not, in the entire Decalogue, any explicit condemnation of intellectual atheism. The commandments are all addressed to **believers**. Jesus stood in this tradition when He directed His strongest censure, not against the avowed pagans or infidels of his day, but against those who claimed to be believers."

Truly our speech reveals what kind of people we are. A man may have a flat tire and he curses the tire. But that doesn't put air into the tire. A man may stumble upon a chair

in the dark and he curses the chair, but that doesn't heal the bruise.

One day I was in the company of a businessman and his language was filled with the vain use of God's name. Then he remembered that I was a pastor and he apologized. I told him that he shouldn't apologize to me but to the One whose name he was using in vain. If it is wrong to curse when the pastor hears you, it is wrong to curse any time. Remember that God hears you, wherever you are and whatever you say. If one speaks in profanity, his heart is sinful. Jesus said, "Out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh." Pure water comes out of a pure well: impure, out of a polluted well. It is the same with the heart.

Profanity not only corrupts you, but it corrupts others. One day I had my little son with me where there were several men working and in the course of conversation these men were cursing and swearing. As I took my son home it was not long before he came along with one of vain words used by the men. Yes, your child hears your profanity and takes it up. I always have a supply of tracts with a clear message against swearing. It says, "When You Swear! It may hurt others; It does no good; It reflects discredit upon your training; It is SIN against God. 'For the Lord will not hold him guiltless, that Taketh His name in vain'" (Ex. 20:7).

Another intentional form of sinning against this commandment comes under the name of conjuring. This includes witchcraft, fortune-telling, and all attempts by signs or formulas to discover what God has kept hidden or to attain what He has withheld. Oh, how many people, even Christian people, rely on fortune-telling, belief in horoscopes, reading of Zodiacs and palms, to find out what kind of people they are to build up their own egos and to reveal to them their future. God in His love has veiled the future from our eyes. The future belongs to God. May we, too, be able to say, "My times are in the hands of the Lord."

Luther, in giving the meaning to the Second Commandment, gives us

(Continued on page 14)



UNITY OF SPIRIT

Unity of spirit marked the Tenth Annual Conference of the Association of Free Lutheran Congregations. As people gathered from all sections of the church fellowship, a real atmosphere of good-will quickly became evident. Old friends met again and new friends were made. As the business sessions began on Thursday morning, the sense of unity carried over.

All deliberations were made without one unkind word that we can remember. True, there were no volatile issues before the conference, but even so the possibility of something arising is always present. Discussions were carried out in the best of humor and brotherly love. Concerning the resolution about the boys' dormitory, for instance, there were at least 23 speakers. That doesn't indicate controversy but simply that ample opportunity was given for airing views.

There were emotional peaks at this conference. It was a heart-warming moment when delegates broke into a standing ovation when the news was announced that Pastor Strand had been re-elected president of the church. The decision on the dormitory was another. The ordination of four men into the ministry was memorable. Hearing the vitae read and learning of the various paths by which men have walked in order to stand together on ordination day is always thrilling. But for us the high point this year was reached in the very last service of the conference. Seeing and hearing the Bible School alumni choir, and catching their obvious sense of pride in identity with the school was one thing. Pastor Snipstead's fine message on the Captain of our salvation (Hebrews 2:9, 10) marching on before the hosts of Truth was another. Then it was all capped in those moments of silence as we all watched the mortgages against our original properties in Minneapolis go up in flames. That simple service was the symbol of God's goodness and His provision. It was the sign that we had come some

distance, but surely no one present felt other than that God was the enabler. The singing of the doxology at the very end of the service was a fitting conclusion.

The 1972 annual conference probably had more first-time attenders than any previous in our history. This was due in large part to the new congregations coming into the fellowship. All help to build up and encourage. From all indications, these new friends liked what they saw in the conference. God is good.

More impressions from our annual conference next time.

SACRIFICE

One of the girls in the alumni choir at that closing service in her testimony thanked the people of the Association for the sacrifices they had made in providing the Bible School for them to attend.

The thought came to us at once, has there been any real sacrifice yet in order to bring the school to where it is today? Perhaps we have been able to come this far without sacrifice. Have any deprived themselves of necessities in order to give to the Schools? Some may indeed have. Maybe it is only the writer who hasn't.

Now Association people and other friends of the school face another building project. No one should deny that a need exists. It was pointed out in Minneapolis that even without an increase in enrollment the boys at the School should have their own dormitory. And when interest in attending Bible School is on the upswing, it is hard to justify dampening that interest by limiting enrollment, something that must be done now. (What would we think if after four years of use we were trying to keep the dormitory at least half-filled instead of having it all taken up?)

The immediate hurdle is to raise at least \$125,000 in cash or pledges as soon as possible. If this is taken care of quickly, construction can begin in the spring and the building be ready for occupancy in the fall of 1973. How big a task is this? One delegate to the conference pointed out that if the 10,000 people of the Association (and there are even more than that) each gave fifty cents more per week for a year, the amount would be raised. Through pledges, several years can be taken to raise the amount.

Or think of this. It must certainly have cost every person attending Explo '72 in Dallas three weeks ago at least \$75.00, on the average (the package deal for costs in the city itself amounted to \$50 for high schoolers). Some delegates paid several times more than that to be there. If 10,000 of the Association members spent that amount on the dormitory now we would have \$750,000, not just the \$125,000. We know that in actual life things never work out that way, but it is interesting to contemplate anyway.

We think that our immediate objective will be met in a good way. And when that has been done we might have been able to do even that with very little of what might be called sacrifice.

When opportunity is given, give your gift or make your pledge. It is hard to imagine a greater potential for good than the dollars given to support a Bible school.

ANNUAL CONFERENCE ELECTIONS

President

3-year term

Rev. John P. Strand
Minneapolis, Minnesota

Vice-President

1-year term

Rev. Kenneth L. Anderson
Radcliffe, Ia.

Secretary

1-year term

Rev. Robert L. Lee
Tioga, N. Dak.

Co-ordinating Committee by the Committee

5-year terms

Sheldon Mortrud, Thief River Falls,
Minn.

Clifford Johnson, Esko, Minn.

4-year term

Rev. Robert L. Lee, Tioga, N. Dak.

Other Committee members are:

Rev. Julius Hermunslie, Fergus Falls,
Minn.

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

Ernest Miedema, Valley City, N. Dak.

Clarence Quanbeck, McVile, N. Dak.

To the Board of Trustees of Associa- tion Schools by the Corporation

2-year term

Stanley Holmaas, Newfolden, Minn.

5-year term

Howard Lieder, Minneapolis, Minn.

Other Board members are:

Rev. Ernest J. Langness, Ishpeming,
Mich.

Rev. Leslie Galland, Spicer, Minn.

Amos Hinderaker, Radcliffe, Ia.

Rev. Raynard O. J. Huglen, Roslyn,
S. Dak.

Raymond Jacobson, Minneapolis,
Minn.

To the Board of World Missions by the Corporation

5-year term

Rev. Alvin Grothe, Stacy, Minn.

Other Board members are:

Roy Mohagen, Grafton, N. Dak.

Rev. Trygve F. Dahle, Spicer, Minn.

Chester Dyrud, Thief River Falls,
Minn.

Robert Knutson, McVile, N. Dak.

To the Board of Home Missions by the Corporation

5-year term

Joel Rogenes, Buxton, N. Dak.

Other Board members are:

Rev. Herbert Franz, Cloquet, Minn.

Eldor Sorkness, Sand Creek, Wis.

Rev. Hubert F. DeBoer, Thief River
Falls, Minn.

Rev. Larry Severson, Abercrombie,
N. Dak.

Board of Pensions

5-year term

Clifford Holm, Minneapolis, Minn.

Other Board members are:

Eldor Sorkness, Sand Creek, Wis.

Rev. Jerome Nikunen, Roseau, Minn.

Stanley Block, Spicer, Minn.

Lay Pastor Melvin Walla, Fargo, N.
Dak.

Board of Publications and Parish Education

5-year term

Palmer Haugen, Portland, N. Dak.

Other Board members are:

Rev. Raynard O. J. Huglen, Roslyn,
S. Dak.

Kent Quanbeck, McVile, N. Dak.

Mrs. Philip Dyrud, Minneapolis, Minn.

Miss Eula Mae Swenson, Fargo, N.
Dak.

Youth Board

5-year term

Roger Strom, Minneapolis, Minn.

Other Board members are:

Robert Bilden, Bagley, Minn.

Rev. Herbert Franz, Cloquet, Minn.

Rev. R. Snipstead, Minneapolis, Minn.

Rev. Forrest Swenson, Winger, Minn.

Stewardship Board

5-year term

Arne Aanestad, Moorhead, Minn.

Other Board members are:

Rev. Wendell Johnson, Dalton, Minn.

Robert L. Dietsche, Sand Creek, Wis.

Erling A. Brekke, Antelope, Mont.

Rev. Marvin Undseth, Everett, Wash.

Commission on Evangelism

5-year term

Ed Mathison, Bagley, Minn.

Other Commission members are:

Rev. Jay Erickson, Ferndale, Wash.

Verle Dean, Redby, Minn.

Haldor Hegg, McIntosh, Minn.

Harry Rorvig, Dalton, Minn.

Rev. Hans J. Tollefson, Eben Jct.,
Mich.

(The term of one of the last three
mentioned in the Commission expired
this year. We are not certain which.)

ANNUAL CONFERENCE NOMINATIONS

Editor of The Lutheran Ambassador

3-year term

Rev. Robert Rieth, Kirkland, Wash.

Rev. Raynard O. J. Huglen, Roslyn,
S. Dak.

Lay Pastor Rodney Stueland, New-
folden, Minn.

(The Co-ordinating Committee elects
the Editor.)

ELECTED TO THE MISSIONS CORPORATION

The following persons were nomi-
nated by the 1972 Annual Conference
to membership on the Missions Cor-
poration and were subsequently elect-
ed by the Corporation to membership.
*denotes Board of Home Missions
member.

Vernon Russum, Grafton, N. Dak.

Rev. Eugene Enderlein, Minne-
waukan, N. Dak.

Mrs. Grace Syverson, Tioga, N. Dak.

Dr. Wayne Sletten, Faith, S. Dak.

Miss Judith Wold, Thief River Falls,
Minn.

Wm. J. Kangas, Minneapolis, Minn.

Rev. Herbert Franz, Cloquet, Minn.*

Lee Haag, Nogales, Ariz.

Olve Willand, Ferndale, Wash.

Leslie Kjos, Kalispell, Mont.

ELECTED TO THE SCHOOLS CORPORATION

The following persons were nomi-
nated by the 1972 Annual Conference
to membership on the Schools Cor-
poration and were subsequently elect-
ed by the Corporation to membership.
*denotes member of the Board of
Trustees.

Dale Quanbeck, McVile, N. Dak.

Orville Qualley, Brockton, Mont.

Rodger Olson, Tioga, N. Dak.

Rev. Dale Battleson, Pukwana, S.
Dak.

Stanely Holmaas, Newfolden, Minn.*

Rev. Robert Rieth, Kirkland, Wash.

Rev. Leslie Galland, Spicer, Minn.*

Rev. Ernest J. Langness, Ish-
peming, Mich.*

Leonard Swanson, Nogales, Ariz.

Rev. Michael Brandt, Lake Stevens,
Wash.

As a sick friend of mine, who had
never been sick before, said to me:
"My! but things look differently from
the horizontal!"

J. H. Jowett



Luther League Activities

Edited By Wayne Pederson

FALSE FREEDOM

by Paul Persson, Astoria, Oregon,
First Vice-President, Luther League Federation

The freest cells in the human body are cancer cells. Just as they are the cells that destroy, in Christianity those people who take unqualified freedom destroy the work of Christ. Today this is especially true of young people. Among us there is the idea that to be a Christian is a popular and glittering glamorous thing. Jesus said that the world will hate and persecute us just as the world did Him. But among the many who claim to be Christian young people today, there are those who use worldly devices to identify and "win" the world to their brand of Christianity. They claim that physical appearance is unimportant because "God looks on the heart." Length of hair or length of skirts, they say, are not the important issues of the faith, since these issues are part of the adiophora, and, after all, we have freedom in Christ, do we not? Yes, they go on, worldly popular music has its good points and what can it hurt if one listens to it selectively. Moreover, they say, "Christian" rock is a mode of music which is contemporary and can reach the lost because they groove on it. These ideas are of Satan.

We can do one of two things with Christ's redemption and both will cause us to appear, at least outwardly, to be living for Jesus. Either we can live a genuine life of faith in the

liberty from sin which Jesus has won for us and accept our voluntary burden of duty to Him, or we can stick on ourselves the label which says to everyone that we are Christians, when we really are only using a candy-coated covering for our carnal, sinful and perhaps even completely unchanged lives.

Much evil is being done to the cause of Christ by fakes or deceived Christians, in the name of freedom in Christ. Recently I attended a musical service presented at an interdenominational young people's retreat. The service was the production of a Gospel team of young people well known here on the coast. Their entire repertoire was contemporary songs. Many were popular songs of the world which have been written and recorded by unregenerate artists. They were the same songs you can hear by turning on the radio. At the end of the program of music and short, empty and doctrinally-unsound testimonies, the group asked kids who wanted to be saved to come forward and join them on stage as they sang their altar call song, "Jesus Took the Trouble to Burst-A My Bubble." Flocking to the stage, kids joined the group, holding hands and swaying to the beat of the rock number.

This is not an isolated case. It is accepted practice in many churches and church groups. Sadly, an annual Lutheran youth conference in Minneapolis must be placed in this category. Campus Crusade leans toward this emphasis. This false free-

dom approaches the idea called anti-nomianism which says that we can do whatever we please because Christ has given us unqualified freedom. "Abstain from all appearance of evil," says the Word. This strikes directly at worldly physical appearance and actions of Christians. "True Christian liberty never sets us free to indulge our lusts or to follow our fallen impulses," said Tozer. "Freedom is liberty within bounds: liberty to obey holy laws, liberty to keep the commandments of Christ, to serve mankind, to develop to the full all the latent possibilities within our redeemed natures."

So far the AFLC has not been influenced much by this idea of freedom based on false premises. We must thank God for the consecration and spiritual discernment of pastors and of the faculty of our seminary and Bible School. I am especially thankful for the leadership of the music director of our Bible School. We must pray that these men will continue to have spiritual discernment.

However, there is a deception leading some of our young people into false freedom. Worldly music and other worldly pleasures, and worldly physical appearance are signs of some young people departing from Jesus. These say that one should not get hung over minor issues like hair, dress and music. They do not realize that these minor issues are symptomatic of the inner condition of an unchanged heart which in following the Satanic premise of false freedom is being led to a destruction more sure than cancer.

FORMER SOUTH DAKOTA LUTHER LEAGUE PRESIDENT LOSES BOTH CHILDREN IN RAPID CITY FLOOD

Debbie Griffith, president of the South Dakota District Luther League in 1968-69, and now Mrs. Tim Traversie, lost both her children in the disastrous flood at Rapid City, S. Dak., June 9-10.

The children were Jeremy, two and one-half years, and Jennifer, four months. The family had recently moved to Rapid City from Faith, Debbie's home town.

I took his hand

Sketches from the hospital ministry of the late Rev. Wm. Hagen

THE SOLDIER II. ON GUARD

There is a good deal that could be written about the soldier. One remarkable thing is that even though he knows that he will never get well again he is quite content with his lot and makes the best possible use of his time, facing each day with fresh courage.

Morning, noon, and night he has a little devotional period while he lies there flat on his back. He cannot have a good day without devotions, he says. In addition, he reads one book after the other from the Bible. One can easily tell from his conversation that the divine truths are becoming more and more real to his heart. He grows to a full stature spiritually by laying aside the old and putting on the new man in Christ Jesus, who is his only joy and hope. There are already a number of brethren in the faith who are praying that he may become able to witness about his Savior to fellow patients.

The soldier has hit upon the idea of collecting pennies in a little tin bank on his table. Whenever any one comes in who has a penny or two that he doesn't need he is invited to put it in the bank. He explains to them that this time it goes to home missions; another time to foreign missions; then again to the Children's Home; or still another time to Augsburg Seminary in Minneapolis. He puts his own pennies in the bank when he has them, but they are necessarily few.

He has also been able to gather enough subscriptions to **The Friend** so that the little wagon could be sent home to his children. In such a way can a father sick unto death make life bright and happy for the children at home. Is it not true that God's grace works among men?

He was glad to hear that his war

buddy from Goodhue "got leave to go home" the other day. One of his former roommates is now in his last struggles at another hospital. Our friend, spiritual warrior that he is, has a warm heart for the salvation of his fellow-men.

Thus the faithful soldier stands guard, battling day by day, looking forward to the day of freedom. I have received a new insight into God's goodness and wisdom through the friendship of this soldier.

Wm. Hagen

(Continued from page 5)

stantly-improved "Ambassador Series" of Sunday School studies. We look forward to the day when such materials will be available for Daily Vacation Bible Schools.

Our Times

While we rejoice in the progress of the Association, and praise God for His blessings, we are not unmindful of the chaos in our world. These are days of moral depravity, theological apostasy, racial tension, physical sufferings brought on by war, starvation, and upheavals of nature, and a general rebellion against authority. There are unmeasured spiritual needs in the hearts of the people in the world. We, therefore, recognize these as days of opportunity for the Christian church. It is the Gospel of Jesus Christ that gives hope today. The proclamation of the Gospel is the unique privilege and responsibility of the Christian congregation. When a congregation is faithful in this task, it is doing that which is most needed and effective to help people in need.

Christians are also concerned about physical suffering, particularly the physical suffering of fellow believers. The church is not expected

or commanded to meet the physical needs of the world. This is not the church's unique ministry. We are, however, to show compassion and give help where it serves a spiritual purpose.

The Association has not been involved in giving physical aid during the many crises of physical need that have arisen. The National Association of Evangelicals has a very effective program of giving physical help with a spiritual ministry. Through the World Relief Commission of the N.A.E., we could give satisfying and effective help in needy areas.

The spiritual and physical needs in the world are of such magnitude that man is helpless. God is not. He alone is our hope. Let us give ourselves to concerned prayer that God may intervene and a spiritual awakening come. This is our only hope. As Christ is seen as the Savior, the Bread of Life, the Hope of the world, peace and righteousness can return to individual and corporate lives.

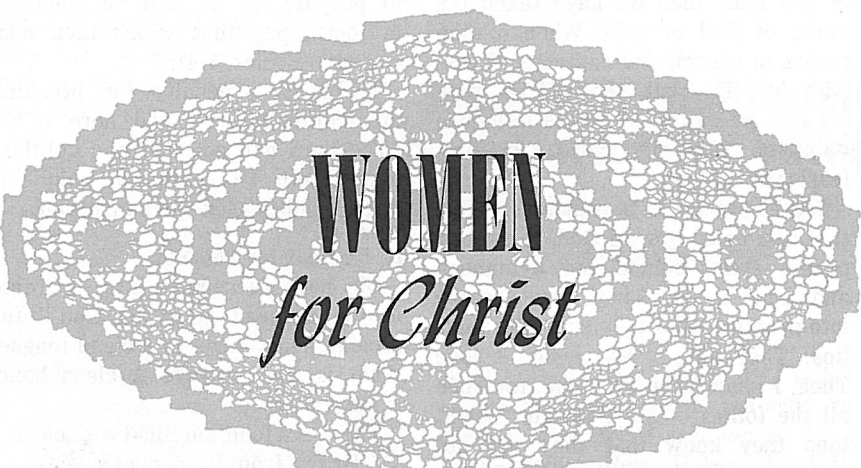
Necrology

The Rev. Carl I. Ostby, Spicer, Minnesota, passed away December 25, 1971. Funeral services were conducted at the Green Lake Lutheran Church, Spicer, Minnesota, on December 29, 1971, with the Rev. Leslie Galland, officiating. Pastor Ostby was a humble and sincere man of God, faithful to the Lord and His church. May God continue to use his witness. May our Lord comfort the bereaving family.

Appreciation

It has been my privilege to serve as the President of the Association of Free Lutheran Congregations these first ten years. There have been great joys, and deep struggles. Our God has been faithful. The congregations and members have been faithful and understanding. First I thank God for His Grace and for strength and guidance. Then, to the congregations and members of the Association, I say thank you for your cooperation, patience, support, and understanding. May God bless you all.

Sincerely in Christ,
Pastor John P. Strand



WOMEN *for Christ*

PRAY WITH ENDURANCE by Mrs. Birdeen Holt, Fosston, Minn.

The word "endurance," according to the dictionary, means lasting, or a continuance or "to keep on."

As Christians we must recognize that there is a war going on. It is a war between good and evil, which we must fight every day as we are in the thick of this battle.

Every day God is calling us to be good soldiers. He wants us to be prayer warriors, who will fight for the cause of righteousness. And if we are to be good soldiers for our Lord, we must master the art of prayer. Prayer is not always an easy task—it involves hard work.

The early Christians knew that prayer took effort. They had learned to pray with endurance. Paul had a helper named Epaphras, who is mentioned in Colossians 4:12 as striving in prayer for the people. Not much more is said about him but that he prayed earnestly that the people should learn to know the will of God.

In Romans 15:30, we read about how Paul begged the followers of Christ to strive together with him in prayer on his behalf. Paul didn't have an easy life—his life was in danger many a time and he needed his people striving in prayer for him.

In the twelfth chapter of Acts we read about Peter's friends praying for him when he was in prison. You remember that Peter was bound with chains. There were guards by the locked doors and one night an angel awakened Peter and told him to get up quickly and as he did so

the chains were loosed and the doors were opened. Peter walked out and went to the house of one of his friends where many were gathered praying. These people had been striving in prayer for Peter's release and now their prayers were answered.

If we read the first chapter of Acts, we find that the disciples and many others continued steadfast in prayer. We see it pays to keep on—God listens and will answer in due time.

Before we can serve God effectively, we must realize that to be a Christian is to be a good soldier. We must be for Christ and against the evil one. Paul knew his foe. The devil tempted him so many, many times.

Prayer is the key weapon of the Christian. The devil shivers when we really settle down and strive in prayer. To be an effective prayer warrior, we must be trained in the highly-skilled art of prayer. But we may ask, "Who shall train us?" Well, Paul tells us how. He says, in Ephesians 6:13, that we should take up the whole armor of God if we are to be effective soldiers in God's army. By armor, Paul means the promises of God. In I Corinthians 10:13, we have the promise that God is faithful and will not let us be tempted beyond our strength. In Philippians 4:19, we read that God will supply all our needs according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus.

There are many promises. Take time to look them up in your Bibles. Satan's forces are very strong and in order to withstand them we must have a clear understanding of the truths of the Bible.

Next, Paul tells us, in Ephesians 6:15, that our feet should be shod in preparation. By this he no doubt means that we should be ready to give ourselves in earnest service to bring the Gospel to others. Maybe many of us think that if we give to missions that is enough. We leave it up to the missionaries to bring the Gospel to others.

I wonder how many of us are ready or find time to go and tell. We're usually too busy, are we not? We put it off until another day and then it just does not get done. There are many sick in our midst, also shut-ins and the aged who cannot see to read. Oh how they love to have someone come and read and sing for them. Christ commands us to visit the sick and lonely. I imagine we are all guilty of neglecting this duty.

Next, in Ephesians 6:16, we read about the shield of faith. A strong simple trust in God is to be our weapon to quench the fiery darts of the evil one. These fiery darts are fired at us many times a day.

And then in Ephesians 6:17, we read about the helmet of salvation. The helmet of salvation no doubt refers to a clear understanding of our own salvation and relationship to God. I'm sure we all know that without this assurance, we cannot be effective soldiers for Christ.

Then we also read about the sword of the spirit which is God's Word, which we should read and study daily. Paul urges us to read the Word, tells us to be ceaseless in prayer night and day and in all seasons.

Many times we neglect prayer because we don't feel like praying. There are days when we do not feel like working and so there may be times we do not feel like praying. Maybe we aren't in the right mood. When these times come to us, perhaps reading a prayer or a hymn or a prayer Psalm will help us. I so often sit down to the piano and play hymns and study the words. This helps to put me in the right mood and to help my wandering mind. It is easy for our minds to wander, is it not? The devil sees to that.

When we are tempted to neglect prayer, we should always remember

(Continued on page 15)

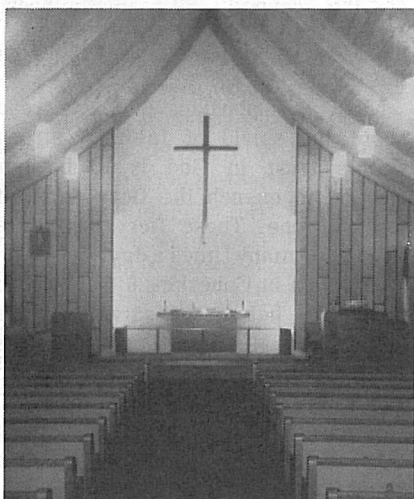
(Continued from page 4)

the note of thanksgiving in the Psalm. The Lord is good.

Next Year's Conference

An invitation to hold the 1973 annual conference at Triumph Lutheran Church, Ferndale, Wash., Jay G. Erickson, pastor, was accepted by the conference in Minneapolis. That will be the first time the AFLC has held its conference west of the Rockies. Dates for the gathering will be June 13-17.

Final unofficial registration totals for the conference were 348 total; 297 lay, 45 pastors and six lay pastors. A year ago, at Cloquet, Minn., the total registration was 321 persons.



Interior of Triumph Lutheran Church, Ferndale, Wash.

(Continued from page 8)

another way in which this commandment is broken. He says, "lie or deceive by His name." When a man says, "Lord, Lord," and lives a sinful life, he is guilty of breaking this commandment. Profanity is worse in church than profanity on the street. When our prayers are denied by our lives, when our praise is contradicted

by our sins, then we have taken the name of God in vain. When a man comes to church and confesses Christ with his lips, but denies Him with his life, he has a far worse influence than the man who makes no profession of religion.

Sacred music is a wonderful thing that lifts us up toward God. But many people stand behind the hymnbook and sing a lie. They never carry into practice what they sing with their lips. They sing, "My Jesus, I love Thee, I know Thou art mine, for Thee all the follies of sin I resign." Right then they know that they are not willing to give up anything for Christ. They sing, "Take my silver and my gold," but they are not willing to part with one penny. They sing, "Have Thine own way" and they go their own way. It is hypocrisy to sing and talk of the love of God and to live to one's own self. Let us beware of what the Apostle Paul said, "Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away" (2 Tim. 3:5).

Lying by God's name is one of the common sins of church people. Ask yourself, how many vows and promises have I made to the Lord? Any man who makes a pledge to the Lord and breaks that pledge has taken His name in vain. It is like making bargains with God. Lord, if You will make me well I promise to serve You the rest of my life. How about our confirmation vows? What about your belief in the triune God as you confess your faith according to the Apostles' Creed? What about your marriage vows? Note what the Word says, "When thou shalt vow a vow unto the Lord thy God, thou shalt not slack to pay it: for the Lord thy God will surely require it of thee; and it would be sin in thee" (Deut. 23:21). "When thou vowest a vow unto God, defer not

to pay it; for he hath no pleasure in fools; pay that which thou hast vowed" (Eccles. 5:4).

There is a penalty for breaking this commandment and here it is: "The Lord will not hold him guiltless that taketh His name in vain." If you are guilty, God will punish you.

II. Remedy for This Sin

Oh, how we need to pray, "Create in me a clean heart, O God," for a clean heart leads to a clean tongue. What is the remedy? A clean heart is the remedy.

There is a fountain filled with blood

Drawn from Immanuel's veins,

And sinners plunged beneath that flood

Lose all their guilty stains.

Confess your sins to Jesus, for in Him we have redemption through His blood. He will cleanse you and He will place on your lips words of praise and thanksgiving.

IV. How to Respect God's Name

Let us call upon the name of the Lord; for His name brings help in every time of need. "Call upon Me in the day of trouble; I will deliver thee," says God, "and thou shall glorify Me." "The name of the Lord is a strong tower; the righteous runneth into it, and is safe" (Prov. 18:10).

That Name brings all our benefits, therefore praise it! "Bless the Lord O my soul, and forget not all His benefits" (Ps. 103:2). Let us remember all His benefits, all His blessings, and praise Him for them.

That name is salvation for the world, therefore proclaim it! God's name, especially as He has revealed His gracious, loving name through Jesus Christ, His Son, is the only help for a sinful world. Have you received Him as your Savior? If you have, then make it known to all the world. Worship the Lord in prayer, praise and thanksgiving.

(Continued from page 6)

Many recreational opportunities are available in this beautiful area of the Turtle Mountains: swimming, fishing, boating, ball games, nature trails, and visiting the nearby International Peace Gardens.

Dormitory rates for the week are \$16.50 for adults, \$13.00 for teens, \$10.00 for children, 6-12, and \$5.00 for pre-schoolers. Beautiful camp sites for trailers and tents are also available at the price of \$10.00 per week or

\$2.00 per day. Bible camp weekly rates for those staying on camp sites are as follows: adults, \$13.00, teens, \$10.00, children, 6-12, \$7.00 and pre-schoolers, \$2.00.

Registration begins at noon on Monday, July 24 and camp officially begins with that evening's 7:30 service. For camp folders or pre-registration write to Registrar, Rev. Stephen Odegaard, Box 67, Hatton, N. Dak. 58240, or Camp Dean, Rev. Eugene Enderlein, Box 95, Minnewaukan, N. Dak. 58351.

CHURCH-WORLD NEWS

LWR STAFFER ASSUMES POST IN BANGLADESH

New York—(LC)—Abner B. Batalden, a Lutheran World Relief official who has served in relief and rehabilitation projects in Korea, Vietnam, and India, has been assigned to the newly-formed Bangladesh Ecumenical Relief and Rehabilitation Service.

Mr. Batalden, a layman of the American Lutheran Church, will help administer a number of programs aimed at helping the people of Bangladesh recover from the effects of the India-Pakistan war.

Mr. Batalden was business administrator of Vietnam Christian Service and a deputy director of Korea Church World Service before going to India as assistant director of community development for India's Christian Agency for Social Action. CASA is an arm of the National Council of India and provides large scale relief and rehabilitation programs for the refugees and other needy persons throughout the country.

The Minneapolis native conferred with LWF staff members in New York and Geneva before arriving in Bangladesh in mid-June.

(Ed. Note: Mrs. Batalden, daughter of Mr. Paul Bjornstad of St. Stephen's Lutheran Church, Duluth, Minn., attended the closing service of the AFLC Annual Conference on June 18 with members of her family. She is a sister of Mrs. J. C. Eleton. She has since left to join her husband in Bangladesh.)

THIRD ORDAINED LUTHERAN WOMAN IS FIRST TO LEAD CONGREGATION

New York—(LC)—Judith Ann Hird, the third woman to enter the Lutheran ministry in North America, is the first to receive a call as the pastor of a local congregation.

Ordained on June 20, Miss Hird, 25, will serve Holy Cross Lutheran church of Toms River in the New Jersey Synod of the Lutheran Church in America. Her call came

through the LCA's Board of American Missions, which provides program support to the congregation of about 250 baptized members.

At least four other women—three in the LCA, including a pastor's wife, and one in the American Lutheran Church—are reported to have been approved for ordination on receipt and acceptance of calls.

The first woman Lutheran minister, the Rev. Elizabeth A. Platz, was ordained by the LCA on Nov. 22, 1970, and the second, the Rev. Barbara Andrews, by the American Lutheran Church a month later on Dec. 20.

Miss Platz is a campus pastor at the University of Maryland in College Park. Miss Andrews, a victim of cerebral palsy who works from a wheelchair, is assistant pastor of Edina Community Lutheran church in Minneapolis, Minn.

Miss Hird's ordination by the LCA's Western Pennsylvania-West Virginia Synod took place at her home church, Holy Trinity, in Freeport, Pa. She is the daughter of Mrs. Margaret Pratley of Leechburg, Pa. Her father is deceased.

FORMER GERMAN POW NEW UBS HEAD

New York (May 17)—A German church official, who as a prisoner of war in France in World War II, was handed a Bible and dedicated his life to Christ, is the new General Secretary of the United Bible Societies, a worldwide fellowship of 50 national Bible Societies.

In an announcement made today at the world headquarters of the organization in London, the Rev. Ulrich Fick, at present Executive Secretary (Oberkirchenrat) of the Lutheran Church in Wurttemberg, was named to succeed Dr. Oliver Beguin. Interestingly, his predecessor was the man who as head of a commission for chaplaincy aid to war prisoners, a project of the American Bible Society, was responsible for providing that Bible for him in the prisoner of war camp. Dr. Beguin

joined the United Bible Societies staff in 1947, became its General Secretary in 1949 and held this post until his death last April 1.

LUTHERAN COUNCIL MOVES TO NEW OFFICES IN D.C.

Washington, D.C. — (LC) — Offices of the Lutheran Council in the USA that are located in the nation's capital were moved in late May to a modern commercial complex several blocks from the Washington Monument, near the Federal Mall.

Beginning June 1 the new address of the council's Washington-based agencies will be 955 L'Enfant Plaza, S.W., Suite 4300 North Building, Washington D.C. 20024.

Situated in the heart of a federal office area, L'Enfant Plaza lies roughly in the center of a triangle formed by the Capitol, the White House, and the Pentagon, and is only "minutes away" from many government offices.

L'Enfant Plaza, which opened in November 1968, is named after the original planner of the city of Washington, Pierre Charles L'Enfant.

(Continued from page 13)

that prayer is the greatest work we can do for God for it is the deadliest weapon we can use against Satan. He doesn't want us to pray and he'll do everything he can to stop us. Prayer is as necessary to us as the air we breathe if we are to maintain our life in Christ. Men often misunderstand and mistrust us, but God never does. He is never too busy, He never disappoints us and is always interested in us. Prayer is the clasping of God's hand to steady us, guide us, protect us, help us, and use us in our daily walk.

May the Lord help us to be thankful for the many blessings bestowed on us each day.

(Mrs. Holt has done a very fine job in supplying articles for the Women for Christ page. As she relinquishes this task we express our thanks and ask God's blessing on her.—Ed.)

**27TH PSALM THEME OF WMF
RALLY AT MCLEOD,
NORTH DAKOTA**

The 27th Psalm was the theme of the spring rally of the Women's Missionary Federation of the Eastern North Dakota District, held at United Lutheran Church, rural McLeod, on Saturday, May 13. Rev. R. P. Haakonson is the pastor. Verse 14 of the Psalm was the key verse and the rally hymn was "Waiting on Jesus."

At the morning session, Pastor Haakonson led in devotions and Mrs. Paul Bjornson, Valley City, sang a solo. The Bible study was given by Mrs. Stephen Odegaard of Hatton.

Mrs. George Oien, Jr., of Binford led the afternoon devotions and mu-

sic was furnished by Pastor Haakonson and by Mrs. Olaf Solheim of Minnewaukan. The mission message was given by Mr. Verle Dean of Redby Indian Mission.

Mrs. Orville Vigness, Grand Forks, district president, presided over the meeting. There were 93 registered at the rally.

The emphasis for the day left us with the admonition to be witnesses for Christ, but not to rely on our own strength. Rather, we are to do as verse 14 says, "Wait on the Lord; be of good courage, and He shall strengthen thine heart: wait, I say, on the Lord."

Mrs. Donald Jacobson
Secretary

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