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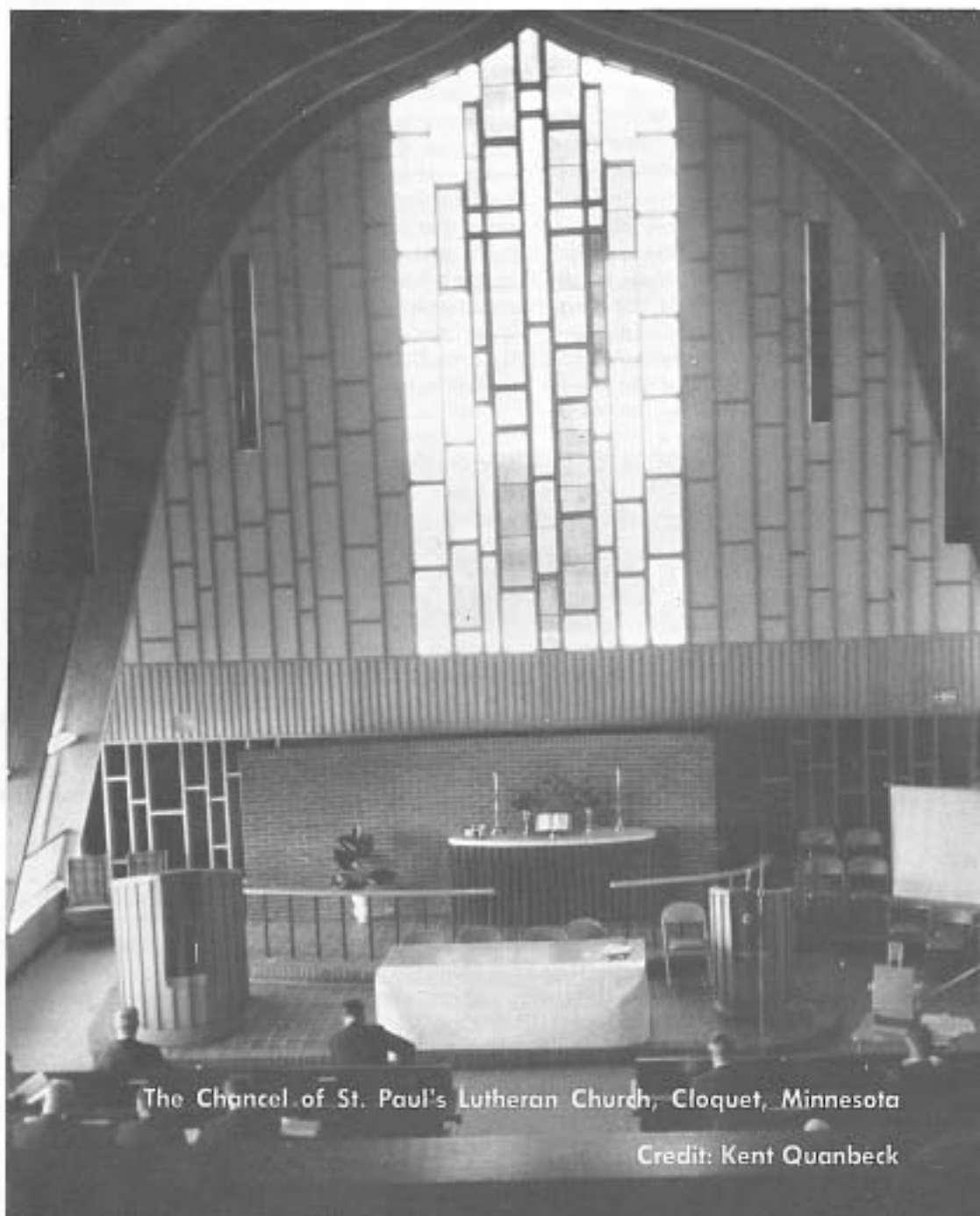
Vol. 6

July 9, 1968

No. 14

LUTHERAN

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The Chancel of St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Cloquet, Minnesota

Credit: Kent Quanbeck



According to the Word

DEPENDENCE DAY

"Righteousness exalts a nation, but sin is a reproach to any people" (Prov. 14:34).

Our beloved nation has been shocked this year by the slaying of two of its citizens in political circles. We know that there are many more such acts which are unknown to many of us, as the victims are ordinary people whose name and rank mean little to the public. In the sight of God these people are just as precious for "He died for all."

As we think of these murders in the past and at the present, we ask ourselves "What is the problem?" The people of the world who do not know God, i.e., have not experienced a conscious faith in Jesus Christ, say that the conditions which prevail in the world today such as the war in Vietnam, automation, the population explosion and riots are to blame. They say we lack security, therefore this unrest.

This may be true in part, but there is a deeper cause. Ever since man broke fellowship with God, sin entered the world. "As it is written: none is righteous, no, not one; no one understands, no one seeks for God. All have turned aside, together they have gone wrong; no one does good, not even one" (Rom. 3: 10-12). Sin rules in the heart of man and so we experience these tragedies which are a result of man's sin. "For the wages of sin

is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord" (Rom. 6:23).

Today we are experiencing a broken relationship with God. As a nation we have become slaves to sin and Satan. "Jesus answered them, 'Truly truly, I say to you, everyone who commits sin is a slave to sin'" (John 8:34). Because we have become slaves to sin, we are suffering the consequences of sin in our beloved nation. We learn from our Catechism how sin has injured the human soul: "Sin has darkened the understanding, disabled the will, and disturbed the peace and joy of conscience." So in ourselves and by ourselves we are unable to help ourselves. There is an answer to our need which is from God and He has revealed it to us in His Word.

The answer is found in Jesus Christ who came to this world to free us from sin, the consequences and doom of sin. This freedom was made possible for us by His death on the cross. Once we have experienced this freedom we know that we have been made "new creatures in Christ Jesus." Everything becomes different. We receive light in understanding, in the will, a holy desire and a steadfast purpose, in our conscience, real peace and joy.

This freedom is appreciated in the true sense only when we give God the glory. We then respect our government and the laws which we have to protect us from tyranny. As we look upon our country

today with the evidence of sin and disgrace, we can point our finger at the lawlessness which prevails and with regret say that these things have come to pass but now, what should be done?

The answer is found in II Chronicles 7:14: "If my people who are called by my name humble themselves, and pray and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land." Think of the wonderful promise which we have as God's people. If God's people, yes, we, will humble ourselves and pray—here lies the secret. How many of God's people believe in united prayer? In many churches there are no prayer meetings. We must confess that we are to blame. We, i.e., the church at large, have become a prayerless church, consequently a prayerless nation and we are reaping what we have sown.

It is strange today, when tragedy or emergency strikes, then people will pray, but when everything is going fairly smoothly, we rule out prayer. May God have mercy upon us and may we as God's people on this Independence Day humble ourselves, acknowledge our sins, and God has promised to forgive us and heal our land, that our land may again be respected as a God-fearing land and a righteous nation. Let us declare it "Dependence Day"—dependence upon our God!

—E. J. Langness

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ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF FELLOWSHIP HELD LAST MONTH IN CLOQUET, MINNESOTA

"Working Together With Him" was the theme of the Sixth Annual Conference of the Association of Free Lutheran Congregations held in St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Cloquet, Minn., June 12-16. The Rev. Herbert L. Franz is the pastor.

268 delegates, representing 69 congregations and 11 states, were registered for business sessions of the conference. Not all of the congregations are necessarily AFLC-affiliated because it is possible for "friends" from other congregations to participate in conference deliberations and decisions.

The Rev. J. G. Erickson, Radcliffe, Iowa, preached the sermon at the opening service on Wed., June 12. He spoke on the conference text, II Corinthians 5:20-6:10. Special music for that service as well as for most of the worship services was sung by the local church choir under the direction of Mrs. William Smerdon.

Re-elected vice-president and secretary of the church were the Rev. Richard Snipstead, Ferndale, Wash., and the Rev. Harry C. Molstre, Dalton, Minn., respectively. Both terms are for one year. The Rev. John P. Strand, Minneapolis, Minn., is in the second year of his second three-year term.

Pastor Strand's annual message to the church dealt with present-day social problems among other things. The conference responded in resolutions calling for concerned Christian citizenship, dependence upon changed lives through the Gospel in order to change society and an expression of gratitude to God for His blessings upon America in spite of the current difficulties.

Mr. Strand also spent considerable time in his report warning against making the Means of Grace an end in themselves and in emphasizing the "quickenings" preaching of the Word of God as referred

to in the *Fundamental Principles*. Such preaching, he said, and the right administration of the Sacraments ought to provide the free and living congregations we desire.

Due to increasing activity on the home mission front and no lessening of work on the world mission scene, the conference voted to establish a separate board for home missions. A board was chosen by the mission corporation and that board will name an executive director.

Another interesting development was the directive to establish a study commission of five members to explore the desirability of increasing the Co-ordinating Committee, the between-conferences governing body of the church, from its present potential nine members. The resolution asked that specific study be given to the suggestion that the Committee corporation go to 21 members.

A spirited discussion ensued upon the reading of a resolution concerning the names of the Seminary and

Bible School of the church. The final decision was Association Free Lutheran Theological Seminary and Association Free Lutheran Bible School. The corporation of the schools concurred with the conference decision at its annual meeting in Duluth, Minn., on June 13.

A budget for 1969-70 of \$176,175 was proposed by the Analysis Committee. The conference voted to raise that figure by \$13,800 through increases to both world and home missions. The new total is \$189,975 as compared to the budget goal of \$162,000 for the current year. The increase amounts to a little over 17 per cent.

One of the conference highlights was the ordination of six men into the ministry of the church on Sunday afternoon. The men and the places they will serve are Dale Battleson, Bagley, Minn.; Leslie Galland, Stacy, Minn.; Robert Lee, Tioga, N. Dak.; Francis Monseth, Everett, Wash.; Jerome Nikunen, Ontonagon, Mich.; and Reuben Wee, also Tioga, N. Dak.



Shown here as they served as conference tellers are the six men who were ordained into the ministry of the AFLC on Sunday, June 16. From left to right, Jerome Nikunen, Dale Battleson, Francis Monseth, Robert Lee, Leslie Galland and Reuben Wee.

—Photo, courtesy Cloquet newspaper

Serving as ordinator and also delivering the sermon at the service was Pastor Strand. He used as his text, John 13:1-15. Special music was sung by the Bible School Choir, under the direction of Mr. Donald Rodvold, and by Mr. Rodvold.

Other conference speakers were Mr. Marvin Tungseth, Fergus Falls, Minn., at the laymen's service on Friday; Pastor Snipstead on Saturday night at the youth night; the Rev. Albert Hautamaki, Ishpeming, Mich., at the Commu-

ion service Sunday morning; and Pastor Franz at the Sunday morning worship.

Missionary Alvin Grothe spoke at the Women's Missionary Federation festival service on Thursday evening.

The Rev. A. D. Erickson, retiring president of the Church of the Lutheran Brethren, spoke to the pastors' and pastors' wives at a banquet on Friday evening.

The 11:30 a.m. prayer hours were led by Mr. Albin Fogelquist, Spo-

kane, Wash. The meditations were given by the Rev. Lars Stalsbroten, Eugene, Ore. He based them on prayer promises of Jesus as found in John 16:23, 24. A season of prayer was held at this time each day.

Various laymen led the devotional sessions which preceded every business period.

Noon and evening meals were served at the church. A large tent was set up adjacent to the dining hall to handle the meal-time rush.

From the President's Annual Report

**TO THE ANNUAL CONFERENCE
OF THE ASSOCIATION OF FREE
LUTHERAN CONGREGATIONS
JUNE 12-16, 1968
AT CLOQUET, MINNESOTA**

Grace and Peace!

As this report is being prepared, the nation is in shock over the assassination of Senator Robert Kennedy. Not too long ago the nation was aroused by the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King. People in high and low places are asking, "What is America?" Something tragic has descended on us as a people.

This past year has seen greater and greater political and social turmoil. There has been open rebellion against the laws and institutions of the land. This is not true of only a segment of the population, so no one can point fingers and with a great deal of authority segregate those who cause the disturbances. The conduct of the Viet Nam war, racism, poverty, inflation, summer heat, and the population explosion are often singled out as prime causes for the unrest. We are being urged to join in the battle against these enemies.

No truly Christian person can be unmoved by the suffering of people. There is a great deal of poverty, but there is also a great deal of the promotion of poverty. Instead

of urging people to count their blessings, many are seeking to convince people that they are in desperate need and to blame someone else. Self-examination is often forgotten.

Racism is ugly and ought to cease. It has become a popular charge to make, however. There is a great deal of racism but perhaps not as much as some would say.

Some of the laws of the land are archaic. This by itself, however, gives no one a reason to rebel against the authorities placed over them.

That which we are seeing in our land are symptoms of a tragic rot that has infected us as a people. When humble Christian faith and righteousness die, there is always a harvest of godlessness, secularism and materialism. Personal sinfulness and wilfulness is seen at the heart of the host of social sins that are the center of our attention.

It appears that our nation is becoming aroused by the symptoms. Not so little effort will be expended to treat them. We would give these efforts our support if they do not make it harder to get at the source of the problem—the spiritual poverty of our people. We as a church are called of God to primarily deal with the basic spiritual needs of mankind. This, however, does not

exclude us from action to solve man's physical needs. Our first calling must always be, however, man's spiritual needs. I do not know how we as an Association can reveal real concern for the legitimate physical needs of many who feel downtrodden today. We as individuals, however, will have, I trust, ample opportunity to show concern.

To the Christian church, God has given the command to make disciples of all nations. We are not commanded to be judges or dividers among our people, but to be witnesses to God's grace and will. To the Christian church, God has given the weapons of the warfare in His Word and the Sacraments. Thank God for their power even in our day!

The power and authority of the Word is still under attack and always will be. We believe and are assured of the accuracy and authority of the Bible. The Bible is our source of wisdom, faith, and courage. Nothing must shake our confidence that the weapon, God's Word, is the best weapon to overcome all man's enemies. Because we believe this, we have our congregations and have established our Seminary and Bible School.

The Sacraments, too, are Means of Grace. We are confident of their

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Some Highlights of the Conference Business Session

Here are some of the issues which aroused the greatest interest at the recent Annual Conference. A brief objective description is given of the situation, the discussion and the result.

THE CO-ORDINATING COMMITTEE

The present Co-ordinating Committee has seven members but has authorization for nine. The Committee is the board which takes care of the Association's business affairs between annual conferences. It works closely with the president. The Minneapolis headquarters property is owned by the Committee, also the president's home.

In his report, Pastor Strand asked whether some other arrangement should be considered or is the present situation of ownership best. If the Committee retains ownership, should it be enlarged? What procedure best fits our particular polity?

The conference set up a study committee which is to report next year. It is asked to consider especially a proposal of enlarging the Committee to 21 members which would meet several times a year, but an executive board of seven members would meet monthly; this Committee would continue to hold the ownership of the Minneapolis property.

Members of this study committee are Pastor Julius Hermunslie, Spicer, Minn., of the present Co-ordinating Committee; Pastor Gene Sundby, Newfolden, Minn.; Pastor Raynard Huglen, Roslyn, S. Dak.; Even Ose, Thief River Falls, Minn.; and H. Morris Borstad, Tloga, N. Dak.

THE NAMES OF THE SCHOOLS

The Corporation of the Schools in annual meeting last year had passed motions that the new Bible school be named Association Lutheran Bible School and the name of the seminary be changed from Free Lutheran Theological Seminary to Association Lutheran Theological Seminary.

The next day the Annual Conference (1967) voted to call the seminary Association Lutheran Free Theological Seminary and the Bible school, Association Lutheran Bible School.

After a lengthy floor discussion at this year's conference, a resolution passed recommending the names Association Free Lutheran Theological Seminary and Association Free Lutheran Bible School. The Corporation held its annual meeting that same night and agreed to the wishes of the conference and officially accepted those names.

In the conference discussion on the question propo-

nents of the names which were accepted urged that the word "free" be a part of the name because it distinguishes us as to polity. That is, the congregations are free and wish to remain free. The schools are the children and servants of the free congregations.

Opponents of the use of the word "free" stated that its use in connection with the names of the schools makes it look as though the schools are free, whereas it is the congregations which are free. The word "Association," they said, is enough of an identification with the AFLC.

The names finally chosen were accepted by a vote margin of about five to one.

HOME MISSION BOARD

Since her beginning, the AFLC has had only one board governing world and home missions. This arrangement had served the purpose to the present time. But in his annual message to the church the president asked whether the time had not come to organize a board whose specific interest would be home missions (United States and Canada).

The convention liked the idea and passed an enabling resolution setting up such a board within the present Mission Corporation. Named to the board were Pastor Fritjof Monseth, Valley City, N. Dak.; Pastor Hubert DeBoer, Granite Falls, Minn.; Pastor Herbert Franz, Cloquet, Minn.; Eldor Sorkness, Sand Creek, Wis.; and Torkel Ose, Thief River Falls, Minn.

The Conference declined to make any recommendation for home mission director and the board will name that person soon. Pastor Harold R. Schafer, DeKalb, Ill., is the world mission director.

BOARD MEMBERSHIPS

The *Rules for Work*, working "constitution" of the church, were adopted in 1967 without containing any regulation as to how many board or standing committee positions one person may hold at one time.

The conference this year made the recommendation that "no one person hold more than two elected positions on standing committees or boards."

The above resolution is merely a recommendation and does not become a part of the *Rules for Work*.

ORDER OF BUSINESS FOR THE ANNUAL CONFERENCE

The "Order of Business for the Annual Conference" was given second and final reading after having been laid over a year longer than expected due to the press of other business in Fargo a year ago.

THE BUDGET FOR 1969-70

Two significant changes were made in the document. (See the "Order" as it was printed in *The Lutheran Ambassador*, April 30, 1968.) In Article I, Section 1a, the words "with Holy Communion" were stricken. Several persons spoke in favor of having a Communion service on Sunday morning, as has been done each year since the formation of the AFLC. And the heavy vote in favor of striking these words was cast with this in mind. On the other hand, the document now makes no reference to Holy Communion so that the matter is left up to the Conference Committee each year whether or not there shall be a Communion service and when it shall be held.

The other change is in Article III, Section 2, concerning the Committee on Nominations. The second sentence is changed to read "It shall consist of one representative from each district, the majority of the members being laymen."

One other point could be mentioned. In the paragraph dealing with Election of Officers (III, 1), it is stated that the President, Vice President and Secretary must have a majority of the votes cast in their elections. The question was raised as to how this is to be correlated with the *Rules for Work* stipulation that after having served three consecutive terms these officers can only be re-elected by a three-fourths majority vote (No. 7e). The president ruled that the *Rules for Work* regulations would take precedence should such a situation arise.

And it could arise in 1969 when the vice president and secretary will have served three consecutive terms in their present offices. The earliest date on which it could apply regarding the presidency is 1972.

The Analysis Committee (Pastors Hermunslie, Strand, Huglen and Schafer) recommended to the Annual Conference through the Co-ordinating Committee report the following budget for 1969-70:

General Fund —	\$36,000
Schools —	\$51,175
World Missions —	\$32,500
Home Missions —	\$26,500
Praise Program —	\$30,000
TOTAL —	\$176,175

The figures were accepted by the Conference except in the case of the two Missions. World Missions was raised to \$39,400 and Home Missions to \$33,400. Much discussion preceded the vote. Finally, a secret ballot was taken and the increases were passed by a count of 108-12.

The final budget adopted was this:

General Fund —	\$36,000
Schools —	\$51,175
World Missions —	\$39,400
Home Missions —	\$33,400
Praise Program —	\$30,000
TOTAL —	\$189,975

This compares with our current budget (1968-69) of \$162,000 and the 1967-68 budget of \$139,980. The latter budget was approximately reached, due in part to the personal contacts which were made in behalf of the building program for the Bible School.



Shown at the head table of the conference are, left to right, the Rev. Harry C. Malstre, secretary of the AFLC; Mrs. J. Eleton, secretarial assistant; and the Rev. John P. Strand, president of the AFLC.



This large tent was used as an overflow dining area at the conference.

MEET the Churches OF OUR FELLOWSHIP



TODAY: Aadalen and Aspelund Lutheran Churches in North Dakota.

Aadalen Lutheran Church

Aadalen, named after the valley in Norway from which so many of the settlers in that part of Walsh County had come, was organized in 1886 as Adams congregation. It wasn't long afterward, however, that the name was changed.

Situated one mile south from Fairdale, N. Dak., Aadalen was affiliated with the Conference until 1890 when it became a part of the United Church. From 1893 and on the congregation was a member



Aadalen Lutheran Church, Fairdale, N. Dak.

of the Friends of Augsburg and later the Lutheran Free Church.

The present church structure was built in 1903. A basement was excavated in 1917 and a sacristy added to the building. Extensive repairs and alterations have been carried out from time to time.

In 1961 Aadalen observed her 75th anniversary and five years later her 80th. That latter occasion was marked by an all-Norwegian service.

Pastors who have served the congregation are: G. J. Omland, 1886-94; M. Iverson, 1894-1900; J. O. Arevik, 1900-05; Ludvig Pederson, 1905-11; Gustav Nordberg, 1911-14; P. O. Laurhammer, 1915-25; George Larson, 1925-30; P. O. Laurhammer, 1931-52; A. L. Bervig, 1952-55; Leland B. Underbakke, 1955-61; Thomas Steenberg, 1961-64; and Lay Pastor Roy Mohagen, 1964—.

Aspelund Lutheran Church

The history of Aspelund Lutheran Church goes back to the Anti-Missourian Brotherhood, being organized in that fellowship in 1887. In 1890 it became a member of the United Church and in 1900 of the Lutheran Free Church. Three years later a division occurred in the congregation, the dissenting group taking the name Vang Lutheran Church.

Aspelund has been served by the



Aspelund Lutheran Church, Langdon, N. Dak.



Roy Mohagen, Grafton, N. Dak., who serves the two churches. He is also secretary of the Board of World Missions of the AFLC.

following pastors: J. Skugstad, 1888-90; T. J. P. Langemo, 1890-92; H. M. Wang, 1892-94; M. Iverson, 1894-1900; J. O. Arevik, 1900-05; H. E. Bode, T. A. Hagen, N. I. Harveland, A. C. Rykken, G. J. Bretheim, G. Sather, H. M. Hemmingsen, Morris Eggen, Alfred Knutson, John Strand, Gilbert Feig, Oliver Sidney and Lay Pastor Roy Mohagen, Grafton, N. Dak., who has served the congregation since the Association was formed.

In 1904 the church now in use was erected. The steeple was added some years later. A basement was dug in 1926 and a furnace and light plant installed. A new basement was dug in 1952 and the church was moved onto it. This location is on higher ground in the churchyard. In the days before there was

[Continued on page 13]

SIXTH
ANNUAL

FAMILY BIBLE CAMP

AUGUST 12-18

ON SUNDAY AFTERNOON:
THE GANDDAL PIKEKOR
FROM NORWAY

Robert Rieth • John Strand
• Oscar Laaveg • Richard
Snipstead • L. C. Dynneson

LAKE GENEVA
BIBLE CAMP
ALEXANDRIA,
MINNESOTA

ACTIVITIES FOR EVERY MEMBER
OF THE FAMILY • SPIRITUAL
GROWTH • MUSIC • BIBLE
STUDY • PRAYER • REC-
REATION • INSPIRATIONAL
PREACHING • CHRISTIAN FEL-
LOWSHIP • BOOKSTORE

SPEAKERS:



PRE-CAMP REGISTRATION

Mr. Mrs. Miss _____ Age _____
 Address _____ City _____ State _____
 If family, give children's names
 _____ Age _____
 _____ Age _____
 _____ Age _____
 _____ Age _____

John Arlen Johnson, Registrar
 Sacred Heart, Minnesota 56385
 Make checks payable to
 Association Family Camp
 Registration fee
 per family \$ 3.00
 Registration fee
 per person 1.00
 Cost per week:
 Adult 18.00
 Teen-ager 13.00
 Child (2-12 years) 7.00
 (Under 2 years no charge)
 Special family rate 70.00



EDITORIALS

A FINE CONFERENCE

Another fine annual conference is now history. For a year a person looks ahead to conference-time. Then it comes and all too rapidly is past.

This conference, as all the others, was marked by good fellowship. There weren't very many big decisions to make, in fact, many of the resolutions passed were ones expressing gratitude to the Lord and to certain individuals, but the delegates found a great deal of satisfaction in renewing acquaintances and making new friends.

The people of St. Paul's Lutheran in Cloquet outdid themselves in showing hospitality and friendliness. It was evident that much preparation and planning had gone into the conference arrangements, from Pastor Herbert Franz and co-chairmen Clifford Johnson and Tim Korhonen on down. And we know that the whole effort had been undergirded with earnest prayer locally. This all made for a very pleasant convention setting bathed in a spirit of unity and goodwill.

The church building of St. Paul's is a beautiful and well-planned structure. The nave of the church exudes a warmth that is not found in every new church and the congregation can be glad for this.

It was an independent-minded conference, too, perhaps best shown by its action in regard to the budget for the next fiscal year. The supposedly reasoned judgment of an analysis committee was swept aside by the conference as it proceeded to attach an additional \$13,800 to the budget for world and home missions.

As noted earlier, the conference was not faced with very many big decisions, but yet it didn't become dull and boring. Apparently there were enough interest peaks here and there to prevent it from bogging down.

The conference voted that the 1969 Annual Conference should be held at the AFLC property in Minneapolis and that the dormitory building should be dedicated at that time. Such an event would be a natural drawing card and be a focal point of interest for the whole fellowship.

It is traditional that a congregation invites the annual conference and so we trust that Medicine Lake Lutheran Church of Minneapolis will extend the invitation, just to make it official. So, we're acting like self-invited guests, in a sense, although the Association

owns the property involved.

In the next issue of the *Ambassador* we want to continue our evaluation of Annual Conference, 1968.

THANK YOU, PASTOR HAUTAMAKI

The regular devotional messages in *The Lutheran Ambassador* under the heading "According to the Word," were written by Pastor Albert Hautamaki in the first half of the year. Beginning with this issue they are from the pen and heart of Pastor Ernest J. Langness.

We wish to express our appreciation to Pastor Hautamaki for His Word-centered messages to us. They have been down-to-earth and very fitting for our times. Without doubt, many readers have been touched by them, through the Holy Spirit.

May the Lord bless you, Pastor, in your ministry in Hope Lutheran Church, Ishpeming, Mich.

And for Pastor Langness, serving churches in Binford and McVillage, N. Dak., we ask joy and satisfaction in sharing this devotional effort with us all.

GO TO BIBLE CAMP

Some of the Bible camps with which our congregations are affiliated have already been held. Yet others remain, including the Family Bible Camp at Alexandria, Minn., sponsored by the Association.

It is to be hoped that everyone who possibly can, especially the young people, will have a Bible camping experience this summer. To come aside for a season in order to concentrate on the things of God is not something to be lightly ignored. Bible camps are often in places of great natural beauty and this increases the sense of the presence of God to those who are there.

A resolution passed at the Annual Conference requests that a February issue of the *Ambassador* carry information about all our camps for 1969. That means that all our camps must be well arranged for by the end of January. Well, that will give us something to work toward.

Perhaps we can go a bit further and make this a special Bible Camp issue with pictures from all of our camps and a special article or story from each one. The stories could be in the form of personal testimonies from Bible camp experiences with Christ. Or they could be the "What Bible Camp Means (or has meant) to Me" type. Or they could be a collection of random memories of camp.

If anyone feels led to write an article of one of these types, or is asked to do so, may we encourage you to do that. Give it to your camp dean and he will see that it is evaluated for possible use in our special issue. The cooperation of the leadership of all our camps will be necessary if we are to oblige the request of the Annual Conference.

We wish that the Committee No. 1 recommendation of a May issue had been followed rather than the February one, but we shall see what can be done.

President's Report

[Continued from page 4]

effectiveness that people may know Christ and grow in Him.

We are not alone in our confidence in the Means of Grace. Thank God that confidence is shared with others! There is, however, in the midst of this confidence, a certain danger. The weapons of our warfare can become an end in themselves and we have dead orthodoxy.

Christ, speaking to the Pharisees of that day, who certainly were students of the Scriptures, said, "Ye search the Scriptures, because you think that in them you have eternal life; and it is these that bear witness of me" (John 5:39). The Word had become an end in itself to these Pharisees and had not been permitted to bring them to the Savior.

In the fifth chapter of I John, we are told of the three who bear witness to Christ. They are the Spirit, the water and the blood. They bear witness that life is in the Son of God. "He who has the Son has the life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have the life." Salvation is only in Christ. You can have and use the Means of Grace without experiencing salvation. The Means of Grace must never be an end in themselves.

The people of Israel had allowed the ceremonies and the sacrifices to become an end in themselves. In Isaiah 1, the Lord speaks to them rejecting their sacrifices, offerings of the blood of bulls, lambs, and he-goats. The Lord was weary of them. Instead of their being a means to know God, they had become an end in themselves. Unfortunately for many in our day, too, the Means of Grace have become an end in themselves. If this is to be avoided, there must always be what our Fundamental Principles call the "quickenings" preaching of God's Word.

We as an Association are also committed to the building of a certain kind of congregation, a congregation that is free and living.

Where God's Word is rightly preached and the Sacraments rightly administered, such congregations ought to come forth. We cannot say that they always will, however. The Means of Grace must fall on the right kind of soil.

Personal Christian faith and free and living congregations are our basic goals, however. Towards this end we must work and pray. We do not know how much time we will have to work. Many people, even unbelievers, are convinced the present signs point to the soon return of Christ. Something awesome is in the offing. We are commanded to "occupy" until He comes. Let us do just that, not giving way to discouragements so prevalent. Even if real Christianity is being driven underground, our Lord is still King.

We continue to have little faith in the present ecumenical movement. While some expressions on the wider scenes sound fine, actions in the local communities bear witness that ecumenical thoughts are very shallow. Real Christian brotherhood must begin at home. Many are persecuted locally by those who speak eloquently of Christian brotherhood on the world scene. Such things ought not be.

We thank God for signs of awakening in several of our congregations. God is still honoring His Word. We thank God for our faithful pastors and for our faithful lay people. Many pastors need more encouragement. Some are underpaid and this is making the work more difficult. Attendance at a Conference like this is a real sacrifice for some. Each congregation ought to, annually at least, examine herself to see if her shepherd is properly cared for.

We are happy that so many of our congregations have built new churches or remodelled existing ones. We have many beautiful church buildings in our fellowship and such progress, coupled with a humble Christian faith, speaks well for our congregations.

—The Rev. John P. Strand
Minneapolis, Minnesota

ELECTION RESULTS OF ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Vice President

1-year term
Rev. Richard Snipstead
Ferndale, Wash.

Secretary

1-year term
Rev. Harry C. Molstre
Dalton, Minn.

Co-ordinating Committee

5-year term
Rev. Julius Hermunslie
Spicer, Minn.

4-year term
Sheldon Mortrud
Thief River Falls, Minn.

3-year term
Rev. F. B. Monseth
Valley City, N. Dak.

BOARD OF PUBLICATIONS AND PARISH EDUCATION

4-year term
Mrs. Vernon Nelson
Grand Forks, N. Dak.

BOARD OF PENSIONS

5-year term
Stanley Block
Spicer, Minn.

STEWARDSHIP BOARD

5-year term
Rev. Trygve F. Dahle
Spicer, Minn.

YOUTH BOARD

5-year term
Rev. Richard Snipstead
Ferndale, Wash.

2-year term
Rev. Herbert Franz
Cloquet, Minn.

BOARD MEMBERS ELECTED BY CORPORATIONS

To the Board of Trustees of Association Schools

5-year terms
Rev. A. L. Hokonson
Faith, S. Dak.

Rev. Raynard Huglen
Roslyn, S. Dak.

Amos Hinderaker
Radcliffe, Iowa

[Continued on page 13]



12. What did King Ahab mean when he called Elijah "Troubler of Israel"? (18:17 and 17:1)
13. Who was really the troubler of Israel according to 18:18?
(a) Why?
14. What did Elijah command King Ahab to do? (18:19)
15. What did Elijah hope to prove at Mount Carmel? (18:20-24)
16. Who represented Baal and who represented God in this contest?
17. What was each side to ask for?
18. What did Elijah do to make it more difficult for the Lord to answer his prayer for fire?
(a) How did the Lord answer Elijah?
19. How did this affect the people present? (18:39)
20. What happened to the prophets of Baal?
21. For what did Elijah pray on top of Mount Carmel?
(a) Why did God hear and answer Elijah's prayer? (See James 5:16b-18)

CONCLUSION

God loves to work with man, or to work with those He can. Again, in Elijah, like in David, we see a man who walked with God. He didn't lag behind. He didn't get ahead of God. Elijah was a humble man. He drew enough attention to himself in order to get the people to look at him and listen to him. But then he pointed the people to God and in a very humble, gracious way moved into the background so that the people saw only God and not Elijah.

Our next lesson is on King Hezekiah, who lived and reigned not so many years after the time of Elijah.

OLD TESTAMENT BIBLE STUDY QUESTIONS

INTRODUCTION

We are now in the fifth major time period—the period of the Kings. This period begins with the building of Solomon's Temple or about the year 3148 after Adam. It ends with the exile into Babylon about the year 3566 after Adam, a period of 418 years. This was between 1023 B.C. and 605 B.C.

Elijah, a great prophet of God, lived and ministered in about the middle of this period.

After David, his son Solomon became king. This was a prosperous time for all Israel. Israel became the greatest and most wealthy nation on earth during this time. But ungodliness set in. The idea of a king as supreme human authority again did not prove to be the best. The devil with his evil way was often able to have influence and promote his cause through this supreme human authority.

After Solomon the kingdom became divided, and there were two kingdoms—the ten northern tribes and the two southern tribes. Because of circumstances and weak unstable human authority, this was as God willed it. This proved to be a blessing rather than a hindrance to God's will being accomplished. Humanly speaking we wouldn't imagine such to be the case.

These two kingdoms never got along too well and were jealous of each other. But we can believe that they were also critical of one another. They were a check on each other. If it hadn't been for this double check, certainly things would have been much worse and the final judgment for both of these kingdoms would have come much sooner than it did.

This truth has been repeated many times in history. Some people feel it a shame that we have so many Protestant denominations. They feel that we should have only one. But the various denominations have been a check on each other. The same is not true in the Roman Catholic Church, where they have a supreme human authority.

This also includes us as an Association. We have been criticized and evaluated by others. Now these criticisms and evaluations may be fair or unfair, just or unjust. But in either case these criticisms can and should serve as a measure whereby we can examine ourselves. We can see if we are to the right or left of these criticisms, and gauge our sights accordingly. By so doing we can better establish the direction in which we should and want to go. These criticisms can serve to help us in avoiding certain temptations and pitfalls.

Pastor and people, clergy and laity can and also should be a double

check on each other in the same way. Such should be in the spirit of love and on the authority of God's Word. No other authority (not even tradition, apart from the Word of God) should ever be used.

Elijah was truly one of God's great men of all times. He was a prophet sent to the ten northern tribes. He often stood alone pointing to God, unmovable in his convictions and faith. God greatly trusted Elijah. In his ministry God gave Elijah control over the rain, which Elijah was to use to bring glory to God in whatever way he saw fit. Elijah very wisely used this (by first causing famine, and then rain) in bringing the people back to God.

ELIJAH

(I Kings 17 and 18)

1. What did Elijah tell King Ahab?
2. Where did Elijah then go and why? (17:3)
3. How did God feed His prophet?
4. What command did Elijah give to the widow who lived there?
5. What was her problem?
6. What was unusual about the jar of meal and cruse of oil that this widow had?
7. What happened to the widow's son?
8. What did Elijah do?
9. Who was Obadiah? (18:3)
10. What did Obadiah do for God's prophets?
11. Why was this necessary? (18:4)

Meet the Churches

[Continued from page 7]

a church building, services were conducted in the Vang school and in the homes of members.

Aspelund is situated ten miles north and 11 miles east of Langdon or ten miles southwest of Walhalla in Cavalier County.

In 1955 the congregation celebrated her 72nd anniversary.

The Parish

Aadalen and Aspelund are not formally organized into a parish but are served by the same lay pastor.

For many years Aadalen was a part of the Edinburg parish (Garfield, St. Peter, Hitterdal). The pastor lived in Edinburg.

Aspelund has been a part of several parish arrangements: with Goldberg or rural Osabrock, also with Leyden, with Garfield of Edinburg and for some years with Our Savior's at Grafton. The congregation had a parsonage, built in 1900. It was sold in 1952.

CHURCH OF MY CHILDHOOD

(written on the occasion of the 75th anniversary of Aadalen Lutheran Church.)

On this day of your seventy-five years,

Church of my childhood, I greet you today!

Fair do you stand—and in festive array,

As we greet you, with smiles and with tears.

Dear to our hearts—as you were to the hearts

Of your builders of long, long ago; Memory-rich—like an old song that starts

A refrain when the candles burn low.

Seventy-five years since they fashioned your frame

On this beautiful plain of the West.

From Mother Norway they borrowed your name,

It was "Aadalen"—land they loved best.

That was their homeland, and as its loved sound

Was transplanted on strange, prairie sod,

"Aadalen Church" was a name that they found

Drew them close—very close to their God.

Back in old Norway, a fjord winds and veers

Past a church—oh, so ancient and old.

It is so old that its days and its years

Are not known, so they cannot be told.

Once, in a beautiful poem, I read Where a pastor did write of his church.

I wish I could translate each word that he said

Of that God's-house mid Aadalen birch.

Steeple and tower it had not, he said,

Nor did altarcloth burnish with gold;

Yet—hidden there in a green forest bed

'Twas a guidepost of ages untold.

Not a stained window to glow and adorn,

And it had not famed carving or art.

Sunbeams but loitered about it at morn,

But its Word of God reached to the heart.

Church of my childhood—how like that old church

Ever lovely, unchanging and true. You, like your namesake 'mid

Aadalen birch, Mighty fortress you are 'neath the blue!

Spacious cathedrals that soar toward the skies,

And a wondrous renown often gain,

Are none the fairer in God's loving eyes

Than a little white church on the plain.

Out in the churchyard, the founders now sleep

Till the Dawn of Eternal Reward.

Name after name, in our memory cut deep,

Are the loved ones asleep in the Lord.

Great was that heritage that they had brought,

For their courage and faith—it was rare.

Great be our thanks for the lessons they taught,

All those faithful, who rest from their care.

Church of my childhood—may God ever bless

All the days of your years yet to be.

May you shine brightly with love's holiness,

A true guidepost for all men to see.

Now on this festival day, let us sing

Our glad praise to the Father on high.

Now on this day, let the steeple-bell ring

Till its silver-chime reaches the sky!

—Rosanna Gutterud Johnsrud

Election Results

[Continued from page 10]

To the World Mission Board

5-year term

Rev. Trygve F. Dahle

Spicer, Minn.

To the Home Mission Board

Terms to be established

Rev. Herbert Franz

Cloquet, Minn.

Rev. Fritjof Monseth

Valley City, N. Dak.

Rev. Hubert DeBoer

Granite Falls, Minn.

Torkel Ose

Thief River Falls, Minn.

Eldor Sorkness

Sand Creek, Wis.



WOMEN *for Christ*

REPORT OF THE SIXTH ANNUAL CONVENTION OF THE WMF

Mrs. Jay Erickson

This convention was held in the beautiful new St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church of Cloquet, Minnesota, where Rev. Herbert Franz is the pastor. A prayer service was led by Mrs. David C. Molstre. Our president, Mrs. Herbert Presteng, then opened the convention and introduced our song leader, Mrs. William Smerdon. After the singspiration, Mrs. Vernon Russum of Grafton had devotions and the welcome was given by Mrs. Walter Niemi. Following the response by our president, Mrs. Albert Moen and Mrs. Orville Vigness of Grand Forks sang a duet.

Mrs. Melvin Walla gave the Bible study, based on our theme, "And he died for all that they which live should not henceforth live unto themselves, but unto him who loved them and gave himself for them." She continued, "Physical life is so dear to us, but it is so short. How much more important is spiritual life which continues throughout eternity.

"Jesus died for all. We cannot fully understand such love that gives itself for someone else. Christ loves the unlovely and ungodly, and Christ wants us first to come to Him for life and then reach out into the lives of others. God's love constrains us to die to self, or sin,

or anything that is contrary to His will. The love of Christ changes our motives for living. We love others because Christ died for them also. God is making His appeal through us. An ambassador represents his home country. Whom do we Christians represent? The King of Kings.

"What does the world see in our lives? How we need the Holy Spirit to guide our walk as we represent a holy God and the greatest kingdom there is. May we return to our communities entreating others to be reconciled to God through Jesus, His Son."

Mrs. Presteng welcomed a number of new WMF groups into our fellowship from churches that have recently joined the AFLC. Her report went on, "The sins of believers have been atoned for, but every work must come into judgment. It is our prayer that we as a WMF may be willing to die to self and live for Christ. Then only can we be workers together with Christ." She reviewed the various projects and expressed thanks to everyone who has helped in the work during the past year.

The secretary's and treasurer's reports were read and accepted. A motion to have a second vice president was carried, and a motion to add the Praise Program to our list of projects will be voted upon next year. Pastor Mundfrom, who writes the Bible Studies in *The Lutheran Ambassador*, commented

that the indifference to the Bible is one of the greatest sins of our age. He stressed the need for Bible study groups in our homes in order to help others find the Lord.

In the afternoon, after a hymn sing, Mrs. Art Hietala of McGregor led in devotions. A duet was sung by Pastor and Mrs. Gene Sundby. Mrs. Raymond Jacobson conducted the Memorial Service and each district president placed flowers in a vase in memory of those of our WMF who have departed from this life; Mrs. Alvin Grothe was one of these. Mrs. Herbert Franz, Miss Lillian Koski and Mrs. Norman Tout sang two beautiful trio numbers.

The business meeting continued as follows: A motion to accept the 1969 proposed budget for \$16,000 was carried. The convention also went on record to encourage each local WMF group to help furnish or partly furnish a room at the new dormitory building on the Medicine Lake property in Minneapolis. The cost of furnishing each room is approximately \$500. The following officers were elected: Mrs. Birdeen Holt—vice president; Mrs. Clifford Johnson—second vice president; and Mrs. Harry C. Molstre—secretary. (My term as vice president and editor of the women's page of our paper expired this year.)

Mr. Connelly Dyrud, who is a candidate for our Brazil mission field next year, gave the message. "Our world is so unpredictable; the only stability we have is Jesus Christ. My wife and I hope to go to the mission field because helping people find new life in Christ is the only enduring goal. A smaller world means greater problems, but it also means that people in Brazil and Africa are our next-door neighbors. Whatever our vocation, Jesus must come first. There is a need for more prayer, dedication, and sacrifice in order to win the lost. We need to rely on the strength and wisdom of the Holy Spirit in order to work in His kingdom. Let us bear each others burdens and joys in life. Some people have won-

dered about the value of the years of missionary work in China, but when the Communists took over that country, many Chinese Christians were scattered to different places and won people in these new areas for Christ. Opposition will never stop the Gospel; it will flourish under opposition. Only neglect will stop missions. The call goes to each Christian to be a missionary where he is. Our only hope is in Jesus."

Greetings were given by Mrs. Leonard Swanson of Nogales, Arizona, and by Pastor Harold Schaffer, our Mission Director. The WMF also presented the Connely Dyruds with a \$500 mission scholarship to help with their final year of preparation before going to Brazil.

A 7:00 a.m. breakfast meeting was also held on Thursday for pastors' wives, district presidents, and national officers. Mrs. Strand led the discussion and many interesting ideas, problems and blessings were discussed.

On Thursday evening after a hymn sing, Mrs. Amos Hinderaker of Radcliffe, Iowa, led in devotions. St. Paul's Chapel Choir favored us with a song, and Missionary Alvin Grothe gave the message. "I am

happy for the wonderful spirit of fellowship and unity in this conference and am glad that tapes of some of these services will be sent to our missionaries.

"In Mark 16, the Lord tells us to 'Go ye into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature.' We are so like the disciples when Jesus scolded them for unbelief and hardness of heart. Christ worked with His Father, and every Christian should have one goal—to win the lost for Christ. We need to be united in this one goal as we have the privilege of having the Lord working with us.

"The disciples did not wonder if it would work; they knew God's promises were true. 'Faith of our fathers, living still.' Is it today?

"The early Christians endured mockings, stoning, were slain, wandered in the wilderness, were destitute and tormented. Life was not pleasant for them, but they had learned to sacrifice to get the job of winning the lost done. I wonder if America should have more opportunities to hear the Gospel when so many areas have never heard a word of Jesus? The command is to preach the gospel to every creature.

"When the rich man in the Scriptures came to Hades, it was too late to think of missions. The Lord is coming soon! Am I willing to walk the unknown by faith? Yes, Lord, I will do whatever You say."

St. Paul's Senior Choir sang several selections from the cantata, "The Greatest Story Yet Untold," and this was of tremendous inspiration. Pastor Strand installed the WMF officers and closed with the benediction. The offering to the Dormitory Furnishings was over \$1500 and the offering to Foreign Missions was also over \$1500.

It was such a joy to meet friends from various parts of our country and share the blessings of the work in His kingdom. One has to be present at such a conference to receive the full impact and challenge as we see and hear how God is opening doors for people to hear the true message of salvation. Why not plan now to attend the 1969 Conference in Minneapolis?

A special "thank you" to Pastor Franz and all the people of the St. Paul's Parish for your boundless labors of love and gracious hospitality. We shall never forget this visit to Cloquet!

SPECIAL NEWS REPORT

The sixth Annual Convention of the Women's Missionary Federation went on record to encourage each local WMF group to help furnish or partly furnish a room at the new dormitory building on the Medicine Lake property Minneapolis. The cost of furnishing each room is approximately \$500. This is a challenge, and the Lord will bless us as we work together with Him to the furtherance of His kingdom.



Pictured in the bottom row are the WMF officers of last year. From left to right, Mrs. H. C. Molstre, secretary; Mrs. R. M. Konsterlie, treasurer; Mrs. J. G. Erickson, vice president; and Mrs. Herbert Presteng, president.

Standing, left to right, are four women from St. Paul's Lutheran in Cloquet, who played a big role in hosting the WMF convention. Mrs. Bernard Myking, Mrs. Clifford Johnson, Mrs. Walter Niemi and Mrs. Herbert Franz. On the right is Mrs. Birdean Holt, new first vice president. Mrs. Johnson was chosen second vice president.

—Photo, courtesy Cloquet newspaper



Pastor John Strand, president of the church, presides at a conference business session.



Orville Qualley, left, Brackton, Mont., and Pastor Trygve Dahle, Spicer, Minn., visit during a coffee break.

SPECIAL NOTE ON FAMILY BIBLE CAMP

Persons planning to attend Family Bible Camp at Lake Geneva should not come until Monday,

August 12, unless they are on the staff. Also, camp will close on Sunday afternoon this year and all campers except staff should make arrangements to leave camp that day.

Directory of the Association of Free Lutheran Congregations

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

Vice-President

Rev. R. Snipstead
Ferdale, Wash.

Secretary-Treasurer

Rev. H. C. Molstre
Dalton, Minn.

Business Administrator

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Minneapolis, Minn.

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Roslyn, S. Dak.

Acting Dean of Free Lutheran Seminary

Dr. Iver Olson
3110 E. Medicine Lake Blvd.
Minneapolis, Minn.

Acting Dean of the Bible School

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

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McVillo, N. Dak.

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Mr. Roy Mohagen
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112 West Milner Ave.
DeKalb, Ill.

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EDUCATION

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Mrs. Vernon R. Nelson
1909 11th Ave. N.
Grand Forks, N. Dak.

Executive Secretary of Parish

Education

Mrs. David C. Hanson
7632 Harriet Ave. S.
Minneapolis, Minn.

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Minneapolis, Minn.

Secretary

Rev. T. F. Dahle
Spicer, Minn.

YOUTH BOARD

Chairman

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Secretary

Mr. Robert Lee
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Secretary

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Mrs. Herbert W. Presteng
Grafton, N. Dak.

Secretary

Mrs. H. C. Molstre
Dalton, Minn.

Treasurer

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Route 1
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Secretary

Miss Peggy Soyring
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