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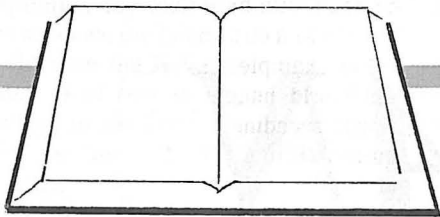
LUTHERAN

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Perhaps to Some Strange
and Foreign Port



—Luoma Photos



According to the Word

RELIGIOUS OR CHRISTIAN?

There are millions of people today, most of them persons of religious upbringing, who will turn angry at the suggestion that they are lost. Such a notion stings their pride, and annoys them in their self-confident opinions. The reason they do not see their need of salvation is that they compare themselves with other human beings instead of viewing themselves in the light of God's Word. They fail to realize that sin is a matter of our condition before God. It is not a question whether we are more religious than other human sinners. The awful truth is that because sin has become innate in the race, the human heart itself has become alienated from God; and it is this which constitutes our lost condition.

It is when sickness lays men low, or when emergencies face them with dire realities, or when the hour of death stalks them down, that they wake up in sudden consternation to their lost condition. What fools we are to ignore the Word of God! For besides exposing our malady the Word reveals the remedy, and besides showing us our need of salvation it also shows us the way of salvation.

In the 12th chapter of Matthew, Jesus is describing people who are re-

ligious but not Christian. He compares their souls with an empty house. From birth every soul, even the Christian's, has a tenant, the devil. He is driven out by Christ through His Word. However, that does not mean that the devil will stay out, for he constantly seeks to move in again. He is always busy house-hunting. Wherever he finds people who, because of their former contact with Christ now live outwardly reformed lives but apart from God, he is quick to note that Christ is no longer there, and sees a visible "To Let" sign, which invites him in and so he comes in, and brings a larger family with him.

It cannot be otherwise. An empty house invites stray tenants. If nothing else, rats and mice scamper about and make it their home. So also the empty soul. If Christ is not living there with His Spirit of prayer, love, and sincerity, then evil habits will. Without Christ such a heart simply gives up the fight, and the devil takes complete control. He no longer is a temporary guest, but a squatter. Therefore the cross of Christ must completely fill the heart. It alone gives faith the power to throw out the devil and to keep him out.

Yes, it is well worth our time to ponder this matter seriously. Are you religious or Christian? Do you feel that

you have done your duty when you have attended church, that this is all that God expects of you? Are you satisfied to just go through the motions in your church attendance and in your devotional prayer life? Do you think that God is pleased and satisfied with such a person? We answer, certainly not. Christ is looking for people who will live the Christian life in their daily lives. People who will say No to the devil, the world and their own flesh.

Jesus doesn't say, blessed are you when you go to church and read your Bible, etc. But He does say: "Blessed are they that hear the Word of God and keep it." He is looking for people who will obey Him and live for Him. With the Word of God in our hearts, the devil will not succeed in entering, because they are not "to let," they are not empty, they are filled with Christ. The question you and you alone must answer is this: Is Jesus Christ living in my heart? Remember Jesus' words in Matthew 7:21, where we read: "Not everyone who says to me, Lord, Lord, shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of my Father who is in heaven." How is it with you? Are you doing the will of God in your daily living? Are you religious or Christian?

—Marvin S. Undseth

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WHAT WE CAN DO

for a

HUNGRY WORLD

What can our exclusive "village" do for the deprived majority? Orval Friedrich offers guidelines for those who care.

World population has been compared to a village of 1,000. Living in an exclusive section are 60 people, representing the United States. Though this section has only 6% of the total population, it hoards half of the village wealth, 15 times more possessions per person than the other residents and produces 16% of the total food. These 60 people consume 90% of the food they produce, giving themselves a diet which is 72% above that needed to maintain good health. Thus their life expectancy is 70 years, nearly twice that of the rest of the village.

Most of the 940 outside the exclusive section are poor, hungry, sick and poorly educated. Almost half of them are illiterate and more than half have never heard of Christ.

We in America (two-thirds of us claim to be Christians) cannot overlook the suffering of our fellowmen.

Tremendous changes are taking place today in our world "village." In the West there has been the rapid growth of scientific technology. In the field of agriculture, this increased technology has enabled us to double our yield of grain crops in the past 20 years. In America a few people with a smaller percentage of land can produce more than enough food for the nation. We take abundance for granted.

But in the underdeveloped countries things are quite different. Disease runs rampant and famine is commonplace. The reasons that these nations have not kept pace agriculturally are numerous: unfavorable climate, limited natural resources, primitive economies and superstitious pagan religions which hinder scientific advance.

One of the greatest problems is the population explosion, brought about in

part by medical advances. The underdeveloped countries must feed an ever-increasing population with relatively constant resources. For example, in the past 20 years, these countries have increased their yield of grain crops by 10%—but their populations have increased 45%.

While there are nations with insufficient natural resources, world resources could meet the demands if they were equitably distributed. Some scientists estimate that the world could support 20 times its present population. Yet two-thirds of the world's population today is hungry or starving. The United Nations' Food and Agriculture Organization warns that one billion people, about one-fourth of our present population, will die of starvation within the next ten years. Agricultural experts say that the world is on the threshold of the worst famine in history.

Men's hearts might well fail them for fear at this prospect. But as Christians we know that no situation is without hope. God can use the talents we have, if they are fully committed to Him.

We will not solve all the problems facing mankind—the end of the age will be characterized by human failure and rebellion. But might our refusal to act in the face of world problems not also be failure and rebellion?

Christians differ on the proper emphasis in this troubled age. Some say that we should only proclaim the Gospel. But starving humanity is not a fertile field for sowing the Word. Gospel proclamation must come first, as Acts 6:1-7 clearly teaches, but the same passage also teaches Christian concern for temporal needs. The body of Christ has many members and each is gifted to perform specific functions in this world.

In regard to world famine, how can we put our gifts to work? As Christians and citizens we have a responsibility to exert our influence in national

affairs. Some phases in this crisis can be dealt with by a Christian only from his role as a citizen.

For example, one means of combating world hunger is to increase national spending. Our nation once did quite well in this regard, investing 2% of our Gross National Product in the Marshall Plan. We now invest less than one-third that amount, only 0.62% or \$22 per person—less than the national per capita spending for cigarettes!

Yet experts say we could be winning the battle against world hunger by investing only 1% of our GNP or about \$35 per capita.


In addition to spending more money as a nation, we should ease the production restrictions we now place on agriculture. While export of food is not a full answer, we must continue to be a heavy supplier of food. Yet the 1968 Feed Grain Program was geared to remove 30 million acres of farm land from production. How can we morally allow ourselves to produce less food when the world is starving?

Perhaps the best way of combating world hunger is to export our scientific know-how. This is essential for any lasting solution. Our government has encouraged programs to do this; many of our young people have volunteered for the Peace Corps in order to share their farming knowledge.

This is one area in which the Church can also be directly involved. However, not many mission boards have seen the necessity of sending missionaries whose specialty is agriculture. They send teachers and doctors, but not agriculturists.

Several agencies do have this vision. CROP, Farms and Heifer Project all specialize in sharing know-how as well as good. They have sent around the world more productive animals in order to up-grade the local stock. They have sent new, more productive hybrid seeds and have taught farmers

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WOMEN *for Christ*

LIVING FOR HIM

Mrs. Oliver Moen
Maple Bay, Minnesota

II Cor. 6:17—"Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord."

This portion of the 17th verse is very important to those of us who believe in God and the Bible as His Word to us in all its parts. With most of the so-called Christian churches it is becoming very easy to compromise one's behavior—somehow it is always all right—to man and society. But to God? This may well be another story. It is to Him we will make our final answer for our thoughts and deeds in this life.

John is an example of a man who, as an exile on the Island of Patmos, was living in complete surrender to God. He was there as a prisoner because he had surrendered his life to Him. Now he was in a position to record the Book of Revelation for God to give to man. So it is with us. If we will but surrender our lives to Him, God can work in and through us to accomplish His work through the talents He has given us. We must stop, think, and remember that it is only through men and women who will surrender their lives to Christ that His work can be done. This does not necessarily mean full-time Christian service. We each have a talent or talents and a place in God's plan if we will but surrender our wills to let Him make use of them for himself and mankind.

As a housewife and mother, I learn to know what He wants of me through

my daily "Quiet Time." My experiences have shown me that the best time for this is as soon as possible after awakening in the morning. The reason this time proves to be the most beneficial, I believe, is because it pleases God to give Him that part of the day when we are fresh and bright. He can speak to us then and be heard. We have not as yet become enmeshed in the activities of the day. Some mornings I admit I have awakened and thought, 'oh, I'm so tired yet! But you know this evening I'll be even more tired! Is it right to give Him, Who gave all for me, what little I have left at the end of the day? No, I do not really believe it is. In the early part of one's day, he can with concentrated effort "be still and know that He is God." This is a difficult enough assignment for early in the day so I try never to leave it until later for it definitely requires an uncluttered and alert mind. In the quiet early morning hours I find it easier to know God's will for my day.

When I consistently take this time daily to pray, read His word, and be quiet before Him, He in turn does my work for me, for it goes much more quickly and ever so much better. This, however, one finds to be true as he becomes a better listener and stays within His will. I have also learned that when time is given to Him joyously because I indeed want to, that to my amazement there is time and energy for other things I like to do. It is truly a new experience daily to take hold of the handle of faith and follow Him. It takes courage and self discipline but is well worth the effort.

The time came for us that these periods alone with God gave us the courage and it may well come again as it follows in Christ that we may have to sacrifice old church ties, pride, and perhaps even a bit of comfort for this faith in our beloved Savior Who was willing to die alone on the cross for us. The words of the hymn writer become ever more dear:

"Take time to be Holy,
Be calm in thy soul;
Each thought and each motive
Beneath His control;
Thus led by the Spirit
To fountains of love,
Thou soon shalt be fitted
For service above."

EASTERN NORTH DAKOTA WMF MET AT HATTON

The Eastern North Dakota District WMF hold her Spring Rally at Zoar Lutheran Church at Hatton, N. Dak., on Sat., Apr. 26.

The theme of the rally was, "Work while it is Day" and the theme song, "To the work."

Mrs. David Jacobson, Binford, N. Dak., presented the morning Bible Study on "Personal Witnessing."

Mrs. Robert Knutson, McVillage, gave a report of their recent visit to our mission field in Brazil.

The rally speaker was Mrs. Lillian Brekke, who is on the faculty at Mayville State College. Her message was based on John 9:4, "I must work the work of Him who sent me."

A total of 130 were registered for the rally.

Mrs. Russell Duncan
Fargo, N. Dak.

BEAVER CREEK LUTHERAN SITE OF WMF WORKSHOP

The Western North Dakota-Eastern Montana District WMF Workshop was held at Beaver Creek Lutheran Church, Ray, N. Dak., on April 13, 1969, Rev. Robert Lee and Rev. Reuben Wee, pastors. Mrs. Wayne Vance, Ray, welcomed the group, followed by devotions and prayer by Mrs. Clifford Berglee, Brockton, Mont., taken from Phil. 2:1-17.

A workshop Bible study was given by Rev. Robert Lee, which centered around the theme "Fishers of Men" (John 21:1-14). We find that God's great command is to bring the Gospel to others and our mission fields begin

[Continued on page 13]



NEWS

of the Churches

MENTOR, MINNESOTA

Rev. John DeBoer, Villard, Minn., spoke at special meetings March 30 to April 4, at Maple Bay Lutheran Church. He spoke on the topic "Is Jesus the Christ?" Special music was presented each evening.

Rev. DeBoer was interim pastor of the Maple Bay, Dovre and Union Lake churches (Winger parish) during the winter and spring months of 1967-68.

KALISPELL, MONTANA

On November 19, 1967, members and friends of the Stillwater Lutheran Church started a radio broadcast called the Stillwater Lutheran Hour. The broadcast is carried on Station KGEZ in Kalispell and enjoys a large listening audience. Pastor Herbert Franz of Cloquet, Minn., has been the featured speaker on all the broadcasts but one.

VALLEY CITY, NORTH DAKOTA

Another parish with a radio ministry is the Valley City parish. The Fellowship Hour comes over the air from KOVC, Valley City, each Sunday evening from 6:35 to 7:00. Harry C. Molstre is the pastor of Grace and Zion Lutheran Churches.

EVANGELISTIC MEETINGS HELD AT ABERCROMBIE

A week of evangelistic meetings were held at Bethany Lutheran Church, Abercrombie, N. Dak., March 16-20. Larry V. Severson is the student pastor of the church.

Rev. Edwin Kjos, Roseau, Minn.,

was the speaker at the services. On the opening evening a youth service was held. A mixed ensemble from Association Lutheran Bible School in Minneapolis participated.

These services have afforded blessings to individuals in this community as well as members of Bethany and Stiklestad (Doran, Minn.).

—Corr.

ONTONAGON, MICHIGAN NEW MEMBERS

During a special mid-week Lenten service on Wednesday, March 12, four adults confirmed their faith and twenty-five new members were received into fellowship with Redeemer Lutheran of Ontonagon, Michigan. Following the service a reception honoring the new members was given by the ladies of the WMF.

Redeemer Lutheran is an AFLC home mission congregation located in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan. The pastor is the Rev. Jerome C. Nikunen.

JR. LUTHER LEAGUE ORGANIZED

A Junior Luther League for grades seven through nine was recently organized at Redeemer Lutheran. Elected as officers were Patti Lindrus, president; Patricia Moilanen, vice-president and Marie Peterson, secretary-treasurer. In addition to their regular monthly devotional and business meetings the League has enjoyed a toboggan party, a "backwards" party and a bike hike. Counselors for the League are Mrs. Toivo Keranen and Rev. and Mrs. Jerome Nikunen.

MISS JUDITH B. WOLD NAMED TO WMF, PARISH EDUCATION POSTS



Miss Judith B. Wold

Miss Judith B. Wold, Thief River Falls, Minnesota, has been named as Executive Secretary for the Women's Missionary Federation and for the Department of Parish Education, both in the Association of Free Lutheran Congregations. She will assume her new duties on August 1.

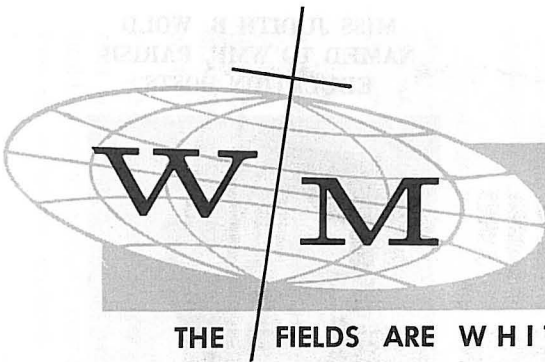
A teacher in the public schools system in Thief River Falls, Miss Wold has been active in both women's work and the Sunday School in her home congregation, Our Savior's Lutheran Church, Melvin Walla, pastor. She has also been an effective Bible camp teacher.

Miss Wold has been a member of the Board of Publications and Parish Education since 1963 and thus has an intimate knowledge of the work which has been done to the present time in that area.

In a statement issued after her acceptance of the Letter of Call, Miss Wold stated: "Following His resurrection, Jesus one morning stood on the beach of the Sea of Tiberias. Sighting His disciples out fishing, He called, 'Young men, haven't you caught anything?' A negative reply was received, so He commanded, 'Throw your net out on the right side of the boat, and you will find some'" (**Good News for Modern Man**). The result of obedience was that of a multitude of fishes.

"It was this Word that came to me when I considered the Letter of Call offering the position of Executive Secretary for Parish Education and the Women's Missionary Federation. What would God have me to do? Does

[Continued on page 16]



W M WORLD MISSIONS

THE / FIELDS ARE WHITE UNTO HARVEST

EVANGELISTIC CRUSADE

Dear Friends of our **Ambassador**,
We greet you with Col. 3:16: "Let the Word of Christ abide in you richly"

We ask you to pray with us that this saving Word may abide richly in all our churches and workers this year. We see evidences already that He is active in and through many of our students and people here. January and February were very busy months for us. Besides Vacation Bible Schools, there was a good deal of preparation for the first city-wide evangelism campaign to be realized in Campo Mourao. Our city now claims to have some 30 thousand souls and we encouraged the various pastors to cooperate with Rev. Walter Kaschel and his team, whom

we had contacted and scheduled for the second week of February. Below are some pictures of this campaign. In all, six churches cooperated. The Bible Institute students did a great deal of work painting signs, helping set up and install the tent, borrowed for the occasion. They and various men from the various churches also served as ushers, personal workers, etc. Truly it was a week of miracles and blessings.

A week before the meetings we had prayer daily in the Presbyterian church, and then during the week, early morning prayer meetings. The team brought their well-equipped sound truck and projected Moody Bible Institute films on the street and gave brief numbers and messages

there. It rained some afternoons and a few nights, but never a drop to spoil our meetings for eight days, and each day the tent was filled. Some 150 decisions for Christ were made, some of which we are still following up. Ruby was kept busy during the week since she was hostess to the team and accompanied the music on her accordion. We have an 8-man tent which saved the day, as all boys, big or little, were routed to the tent where they slept for eight days.

You will enjoy some of the pictures below which tell a little more and will help you pray for the work here this year. Perhaps by the time this gets into the **Ambassador** we will be on our way home. We hope to arrive near the end of May, and then will have a chance to see many of you during the summer months through our Bible Camps and Conferences. Continue to pray as the Knapps and a national pastor couple helping them, plus our national teachers and evangelists, have their hands full, and need much prayer. The Bible School has now grown to 22 students with the inclusion of a night course for first-year students, which has eight in the class.

Sincerely in Him,
Pastor John Abel



Our oldest member of the Iretama Church (also a board member), Manoel Alves.



There were crowds of nearly 1,000 people at each of the services conducted over eight days.

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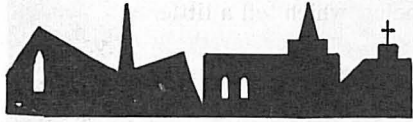
MEET

the

Churches

OF OUR

FELLOWSHIP



**TODAY: The Willmar - Granite Falls
(Minn.) Parish**

FREE LUTHERAN MISSION CHURCH

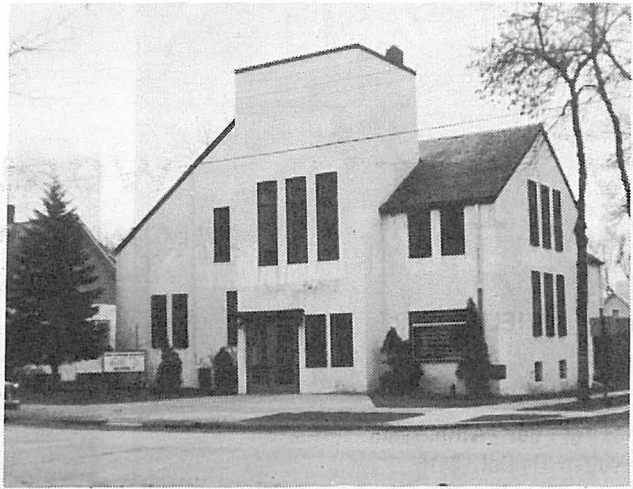
Free Lutheran Mission in Willmar, organized on Aug. 20, 1963, was fortunate to be able to purchase a fine commodious church building on the corner of 5th Street West and Minnesota Avenue from the Assembly of God congregation.

In February, 1966, Free Lutheran Mission was host to the annual winter Bible conference of the Association.

Rev. Morris Eggen, Spicer, Minn., was the first pastor of the congregation which is made up mostly of former Lutheran Free Church people. He served from the fall of 1963 to March, 1967, except for the summer of 1966 when Student Marvin Haara took care of the work. Richard Gunderson, now with the World Mission Prayer League in Bolivia, served for six months in 1967 and was followed by Reuben Wee, from November, 1967, to May, 1968. Rev. Hubert DeBoer became pastor of the church on June 1, 1968, and continues to serve the congregation.

During the first ten months after organization, services were held at a paint warehouse building in Willmar. The church the congregation purchased in 1964 was erected in 1934. The adjoining educational unit was added in 1945. The exterior was changed in 1954 in an expansion project which included the adding of more Sunday School rooms. The church is

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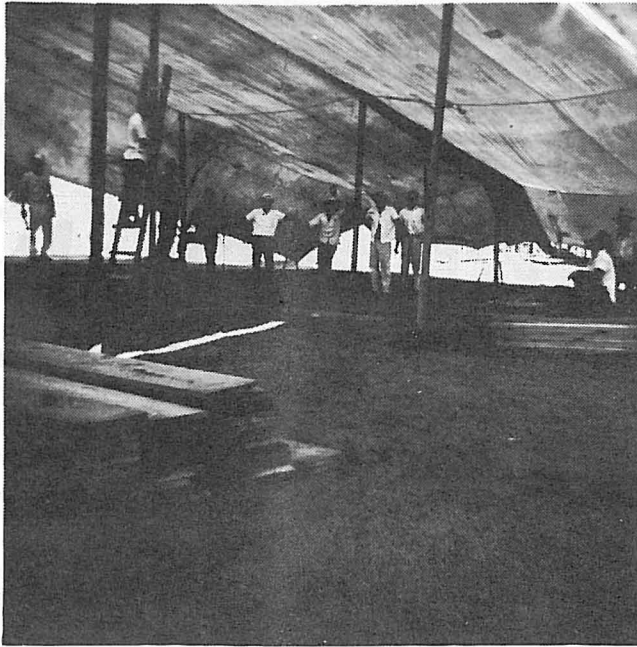


Free Lutheran Mission Church

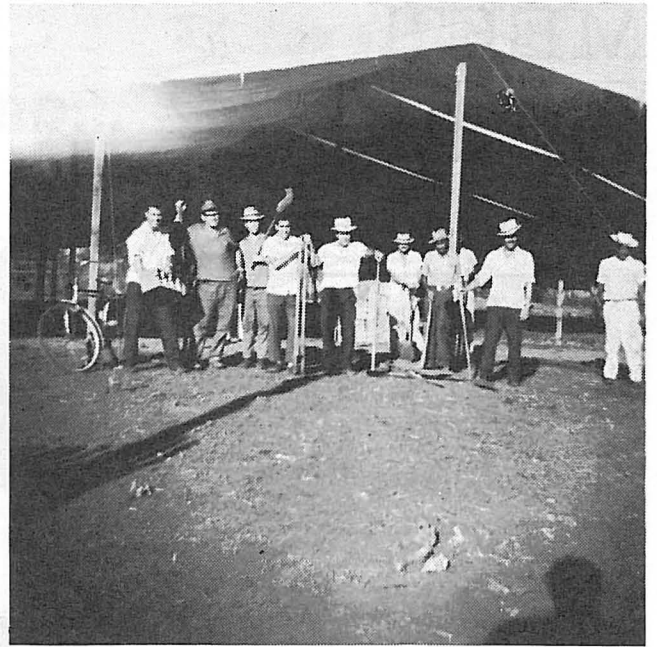


Pastor Hubert DeBoer is shown here with his wife, the former Emerald Opland of Thief River Falls, Minn., and their three daughters, Annette, 15, Lori, 12, and Sandra, 7.

Pastor DeBoer, son of Rev. John DeBoer and a native of Ocheyedan, Ia., entered the ministry in an Evangelical Lutheran parish at Elk Mound, Wis., in 1955, following his graduation from Luther Seminary in St. Paul, Minn. He is also a graduate of Augsburg College in Minneapolis, Minn. His second parish was at Clearbrook, Minn. He left the ELC, now the American Lutheran Church, in 1963 to accept a call to organize Faith Lutheran Church in Austin, Minn., for the Association. The next year he accepted the call to re-organize the parish at Fosston - McIntosh - Bagley (Minn.). When the work proceeded sufficiently to divide the parish and call two pastors, he moved to the present parish.



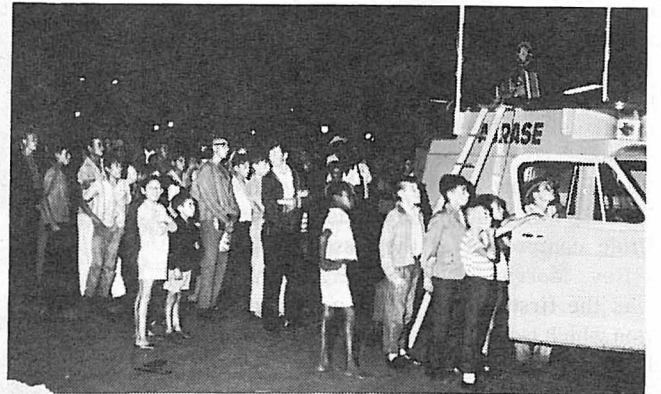
Men of the various participating churches setting up the crusade tent.



The tent crew.



Ruby Abel (arrow) and the three youngest children visiting a Brazilian farm home.



A street meeting during the evangelistic campaign in Campo Mourao.

**HELMER PEDERSON, SR., 91,
DIES: ATTENDED 1896
CONVENTION OF THE FRIENDS
OF AUGSBURG**

Helmer Pederson, Sr., Sisseton, S. Dak., and a long-time resident of the New Effington area, passed away on May 11. Funeral services were conducted at Faith Lutheran Church, New Effington, and burial was in the cemetery of the former Ferkingstad Lutheran Church, north of Hammer, to which he had belonged for so many years.

Mr. Pederson, a respected Christian gentleman, had an unusual interest in and recollection of church affairs.

Among his memories was the experience of hearing Missionary Lars Skrefsrud speak on his American tour of 1894-95. He was also in attendance, as a young man, at the annual convention of the Friends of Augsburg in Pontoppidan Lutheran Church in Fargo, N. Dak., in 1896. It was at that meeting that plans were made for the formation of the Lutheran Free Church the following year.

Born in Norway, Helmer Pederson came with his parents first to Pelican Rapids, Minn., and then to Roberts County, South Dakota.

His wife preceded him in death, in 1968. She was a cousin of Mandius Ol-

son, well-known lay preacher in Saskatchewan and father of Dr. Iver Olson. The Pedersons celebrated their 65th wedding anniversary in 1967. Eight sons and three daughters survive them. One son preceded them in death.

(Ed. note: With the passing of Mr. Pederson, a former parishioner of mine, we wonder if there are any persons remaining who were at the convention in Fargo in 1896. Mr. Joe Husfloen of that city attended as a small child in arms. If there are others, we would be interested to learn of them.)

be some ultimate reality which has always existed" (**The Problem of Origins**). Dr. Keyser is not here arguing against creation out of nothing (**creatio ex nihilo**), which he does believe in, but he is arguing that there has always been something. With Dr. Keyser we believe that something is God.

"In the beginning God."

NEARLY FORTY YEARS OF CAMPING

Bible camp work among us is nearing the 40 year mark. We can remember the first time we heard about it and that is almost 30 years ago. So it isn't a new thing any more.

Bible camps are spiritual retreats. They are days in which to come aside with the Bible and Christian teachers to concentrate on matters of the faith. There are classes and services and hopefully some discussion periods. There are opportunities to pray together and to sing.

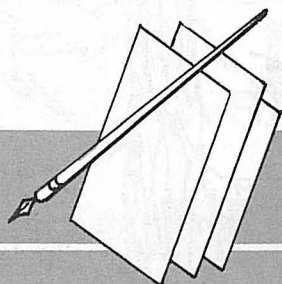
The days are warm with summer's warmth, the nights a bit cooler. The nearby lake, whether it is ringed by pines and spruce or lined intermittently with oak and ash, willow and poplar, or is quite barren of foliage, is a good place for meditation. Looking out over a lake can give one the same sense of withdrawal from everyday life that one finds in the mountains.

Bible camp means new friends and old friends. Familiar faces from other years and new people to meet. Persons with whom to share hopes and fears, ideas and ideals, dreams and disappointments. Someone to seek out for advice. Someone to whom one can perhaps be a help.

And the greatest Friend of campers is Jesus Christ. His is an unseen presence and it is not only confined to the chapel. He is out on the campgrounds, at the waterfront, in the dormitories. Wherever the Word goes or He lives in a heart, He is present. He is what camp is all about. He wants to bring peace and purpose to troubled, frightened youth. He wants to steady and build up lives already established on Him. Sometimes He is able to accomplish what He desires in individual lives.

Laughter and animated conversation at mealtime. Good natured banter at the ball diamond and volleyball court. The clang of metal against metal in a horseshoe game. The splash of oars dipping in the water. The fun of watching a group of campers acting out a Bible story. Topping off a picnic supper with a slice of cool watermelon. Getting out a few words of prayer in the presence of others, perhaps for the first time. Browsing at the book table, picking out a lapel cross as a gift for a brother at home. The sound of the bell in the early morning, calling to another day. The smell of pancakes frying.

Yes, there have been nearly forty years of Bible camping in our circles. Almost two generations. Children at camps now who are children of the pioneer campers. Bible camps have been a great blessing in the church. There is a camp available for young people near you. There is Family Camp for all ages. Make use of these great opportunities to come aside for a time this summer.



EDITORIALS

IN THE BEGINNING GOD

It has certainly been a fine thing to see the U.S. postage stamp bearing the words "In the beginning God," issued as a commemorative for the Apollo 8 flight to the moon. On Christmas Eve last, the astronauts read from a Gideon Bible the first verses of the Bible, dealing with the creation.

What a wonderful testimony this was and how good it is that from this zenith of scientific achievement there came this recognition of God as the Creator. As man takes these infant, toddling, stumbling steps in the incomprehensibility of space, it is well that he acknowledges God.

Just this morning in our devotional reading we noted that one person has figured out that the chances to one that the world could have happened by chance would produce a string of numbers that would go around the world 35 times (E. Stanley Jones, **Abundant Living**)! What colossal odds! And they are no doubt conservative because it could never happen.

May America's space ventures always be carried out in a spirit of humility. What has been done so far is as nothing compared to the vastness of space. It is as though a man living in a city has for the first time gone next door to his neighbor's house, but has seen no more than that of the world. Consider that the sun is 108 times greater in diameter than the earth and lies 92,900,000 miles from the earth. Yet the sun is only of average size among the stars of the universe. No one knows how large the universe is. Man will never get very far from home base even if he manages some millions of miles.

Dr. L. E. Keyser wrote, "Since there is something now, there must always have been something; for if there ever was a time when there was nothing, nothing could have ever been. **Ex nihilo nihil fit**. Therefore there must

DRAW NIGH UNTO THE LORD...

7th ANNUAL FAMILY BIBLE CAMP



**July 7-13
LAKE GENEVA
BIBLE CAMP
ALEXANDRIA, MINN.**

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT ▶

THE ASSOCIATION OF FREE LUTHERAN CONGREGATIONS
3110 EAST MEDICINE LAKE BLVD. MINNEAPOLIS, MINN. , 55427



21. Who were the Sadducees?
a. How did they differ from the Pharisees?

Jesus did have enemies; and it was the self-righteous, not the gross sinner or the heathen, who was His enemy.

Who is Jesus' greatest enemy today? Who is the greatest hindrance to His work and His cause today? Isn't it the self-righteous, those who think so highly of themselves, but who have no soul-burden for others?

Many are the people who feel no guilt of sin, and who take for granted that they are Christian, but who have no burden in their heart for the lost. They are self-righteous. They are not friends, but enemies of Jesus.

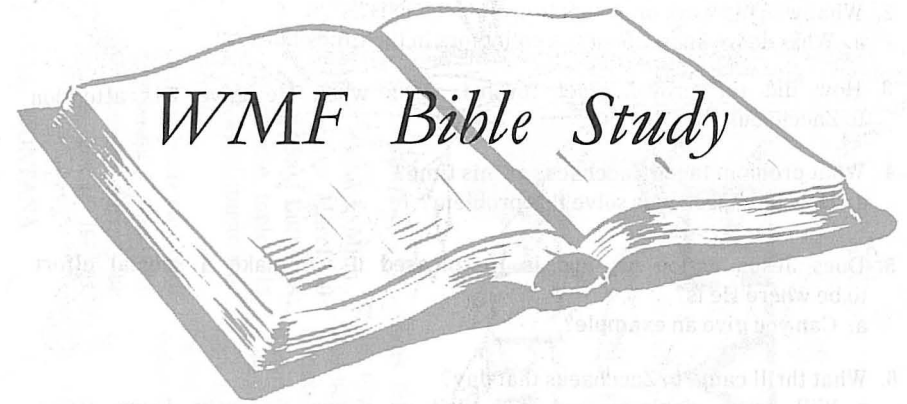
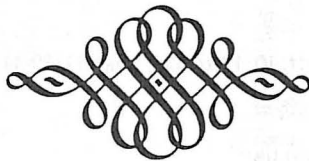
CONCLUSION

As we study the latter part of Jesus' ministry in such accounts as referred to in this lesson, we sense the growing unpopularity and critical attitude of the people toward Jesus.

Note the critical attitude of the crowd in the street of Jericho when Jesus visited Zacchaeus. Note this same attitude in the people at the graveside of Lazarus, and which caused Jesus to weep.

Behind these critical people were the enemies of Jesus, even the spiritual leaders of that day, who were extremely jealous of Jesus and who hated Him bitterly. We can be sure this group lost no time in playing up the criticism as expressed by the public, thus causing the masses to leave off following Jesus.

We, too, need beware. Jesus still has enemies. They may be even more subtle today. The enemies of Jesus today would misquote Jesus. They would present to us a different concept of Jesus than the Bible pictures. It is important that we study our Bible and become acquainted with the Christ of the Bible, so that we will not be led astray in following a false Christ.



NEW TESTAMENT BIBLE HISTORY QUESTIONS

Lesson 7

July 1969

THE LATTER PART OF JESUS' MINISTRY

INTRODUCTION

We usually expect a great man (including great men of God) to gain as he grows older in popularity, in influence and the impact he has on the public.

But not so with Jesus' ministry while on this earth. When Jesus first began His public ministry, and to perform miracles, many flocked to Him. He made a great impression upon the public.

However, when the crowds found out that Jesus was primarily interested in the soul welfare of man (more so than man's bodily needs), they lost interest in Jesus. Many left off following Jesus. Some became disgusted with Him. And some, like Judas, became angry with Jesus.

First we see Jesus as very popular. Many voices spoke favorably of Him. Next, many became indifferent and left off following Him. Then they became critical. This all led to hatred and finally to crucifixion.

In the beginning Jesus spoke to the multitudes. In the latter part of His ministry He ministered only to His disciples and a few other close friends.

Zacchaeus (Luke 19:1-10)

1. In what city do we now find Jesus?
2. What was the work or occupation of Zacchaeus?
 - a. What do we know about tax collectors in the time of Jesus?
3. How did the crowd react toward Jesus when He gave His attention to Zacchaeus?
4. What problem faced Zacchaeus at this time?
 - a. How did Zacchaeus solve this problem?
5. Does Jesus notice us, and is He pleased if we make a special effort to be where He is?
 - a. Can you give an example?
6. What thrill came to Zacchaeus that day?
 - a. Will Jesus single us out and visit us if we sincerely desire Him?
7. What was different about Zacchaeus that Jesus desired His company rather than the company of the crowd?
8. How do we know this crowd was insincere?
9. In what way was Zacchaeus different after being with Jesus?

We see here a sinner who longed to come to Jesus, and we see the Savior longing to save a sinner. Nevertheless, there was a problem that needed to be solved before they could get together.

A crowd that pretended to be for Christ stood in the way. Why did Jesus reject the crowd? I think it was because they had no love for Zacchaeus. Instead of standing in Zacchaeus' way, they should have opened the way so that Zacchaeus could come to Jesus.

There is a danger that we, too, by our actions and attitudes even while going to church, will hinder rather than help people like Zacchaeus to find Jesus. By our manners and dress we set a certain social standard that others feel they must keep in order to feel at home in church. People like Zacchaeus then assume that Jesus is not for them and doesn't really care for them.

When we come to church in this way, I wonder if Jesus actually sees us as much as He sees the "Zacchaeus," still outside, who is too timid to come in. Can't you see Jesus looking past many a church congregation on a Sunday morning (as he looked past this crowd in the street

of Jericho). He looks longingly past them to the "Zacchaeus," because they have no mission concern for those who should have been invited and loved into the church but were not. His gaze is on the one outside, who longs for Jesus with his whole heart.

Jesus Raises Lazarus from the Dead (John 11:1-46)

10. What was Jesus' feeling toward Lazarus and his two sisters?
 - a. Did Jesus go at once when He heard that Lazarus was sick?
 - b. How long did He wait?
11. What problem faced Jesus in going near Jerusalem, where Lazarus lived?
12. Did Jesus fear these Jews?
 - a. Did the disciples fear them?
13. What did Thomas suggest to the other disciples that they do?
14. What comforting words did Jesus give to Martha? (Memorize John 11:25)
15. Why do you think Jesus wept?
 - a. Why did the people think He wept?
16. What did the people who followed Jesus accuse Him of?
17. In what way was the raising of Lazarus from the dead a greater miracle than the raising of the widow's son at Nain and Jairus' daughter?
18. What one miracle was greater than this one?

Jesus did not weep for Lazarus, because He would raise him from the dead. Lazarus was a believer. Death would have no hold on Lazarus either at this time or at any time in the future.

But Jesus wept for the many present who were critical of Him, and who refused to be saved by Him. Death truly had a hold on them. And because of their hardened hearts, Jesus was powerless to help them. Little did these people realize that they were really more dead than Lazarus was. Death would eventually claim them, but death has no claim upon the Christian.

The Enemies of Jesus (Matt. 15:12-14 and Luke 11:39-44)

19. Who were the Pharisees?
20. What were most of them like?

[Continued from page 7]

located three blocks from the downtown business district and has a seating capacity of slightly over 300.

FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH

Rev. John DeBoer, father of the present pastor, gave the first service to Faith Lutheran, serving from the date of organization, June 6, 1965, to April 24, 1966. Richard Gunderson, a seminary student, took care of the work briefly in 1966 and later, for six months in 1967, the major part of that period as an ordained pastor. Student Marvin Haara served from July, 1966, to March, 1967. Student Reuben Wee

[Continued from page 3]

in famine-ridden lands how to raise more and better crops. Other agencies have sent better equipment to increase production.

The Church could do much in sharing our scientific know-how concerning food production. Certain principles, however, should be kept in mind:

1. These activities should be closely coordinated with indigenous churches and ongoing missionary work.
2. The Gospel message of salvation must be central. Technical assistance then becomes a primary example of Christian love in action.
3. Thus the work must be staffed by committed and qualified Christians.

[Continued from page 4]

at home. Mrs. Donald Anderson and Mrs. Vance, favored us with two musical selections.

The message was brought by Rev. Knute Jore, Culbertson, Mont. He told us we were either missionaries or a mission field. We are not here to serve ourselves but to serve others.

Two readings were given by two members of the host congregation, Mrs. Chester Halverson and Mrs. Virgil Hartsoch.

Norman Lutheran Church, White Earth, N. Dak., will host the fall rally. Rev. Reuben Wee, Tioga, N. Dak., closed with the benediction and the Lord's Prayer was prayed by all.

The offering was given to Church Extension and lunch proceeds went to the General Fund.

Mrs. Vernal Arnstad

June 10, 1969

fulfilled the same functions from November, 1967, to May, 1968. Rev. Hubert DeBoer, 1968—, is the first regular pastor of Faith Lutheran.

The church is situated at 310 8th St., in Granite Falls. It was bought from St. Paul's Lutheran Church (Missouri Synod) in February, 1965. A dedication service was held on May 7, 1967.

THE PARISH

Faith Lutheran and Free Lutheran Mission formed a parish in June, 1967. No parsonage has been secured as yet. Pastor and Mrs. DeBoer and family reside at 1175 15th St., in Granite Falls.

4. This work must be backed by Christians in the U.S. who believe in the work.

5. Those to whom the work is directed should be involved as much as possible and given leadership as soon as possible.

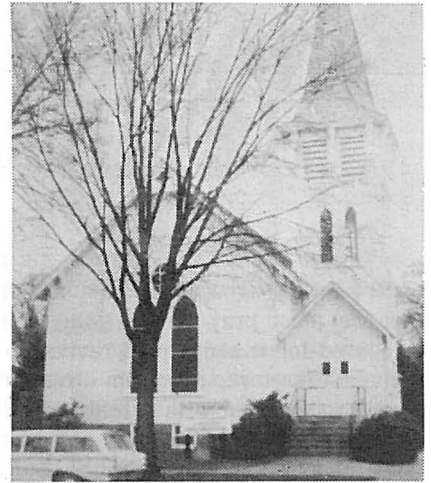
6. Goals of this technical assistance should include increasing productivity of cultivated land and increasing the acreage for cultivation.

7. Experimental farms should be established early to develop improved breeds, varieties and methods and to train leaders.

Many Christian leaders today warn that the end of the age is drawing near. This should not immobilize us, but motivate us to labor diligently at

GREEN LAKE CHURCH HOSTED MINNEAPOLIS WMF RALLY

The Minneapolis District WMF held its annual spring rally on April 16th at the Green Lake Lutheran Church, Spicer, Minn. The theme was "Am I a Soldier of the Cross?" (II Timothy 2:1-6). The morning Bible study was led by Mrs. T. L. Sand of Spicer. Mr. Connely Dyrud, missionary-elect, was the afternoon speaker. Mr. Yeddo Gottel, a seminary student, gave a testimony and sang a solo. Those leading in devotions were Mrs. Kenneth Anderson of Radcliffe, Ia., and Marion Hellekson of Minneapolis. A ladies' chorus from Green Lake Lutheran and also a ladies' chorus from the West Lake Lutheran Church of Sunberg, Minn., furnished special



Faith Lutheran Church

the Lord's work in the face of the world food crisis, knowing that night will soon come when we cannot work.

Mr. Friedrich, a graduate of Iowa State University, served with the U.S. Department of Agriculture from 1950 to 1964. He then studied at the Lutheran Brethren Seminary, Fergus Falls, Minn., and at Wartburg Theological Seminary, Dubuque, Iowa. He is now associated with the Kathryn Lutheran Parish, Kathryn, N. Dak., and plans to eventually serve in Central America as an agricultural missionary.

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music.

The following officers were elected:
Vice president—Mrs. Leslie Galland, Spicer, Minn.

Secretary—Mrs. Irving Hodnefield, Radcliffe, Ia.

My Missionary for a Day Secretary—Mrs. John Strand, Minneapolis.

Cradle Roll Secretary—Mrs. R. M. Konsterlie, Willmar, Minn.

Nominating committee—Mrs. Alloys Anderson, Spicer. Mrs. Hubert DeBoer, Granite Falls, Minn., Mrs. Clifford Rasmussen, Pennock, Minn.

Mrs. Roger Rasmussen, Pennock is the president and Mrs. John Hanka of Minneapolis, the treasurer.

There were 127 registered.

Mrs. Robert Bursheim, secretary

REVIVAL IN FINLAND

Gabriel Eikli

Revival is wrought by God alone, but we must pray for it, always be prepared for it and expect revival to come. Therefore, when an area or country is visited with a real revival it comes in God's own time and way according to II Cor. 6:2; "For he saith, I have heard thee in a time accepted, and in the day of salvation have I succored thee: behold now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation."

This "accepted time" — this "day of salvation" is being experienced in the Finland Evangelical Lutheran Folkmission, a mission so young that it has existed for only a year and a half.

The two weeks I have been privileged to spend here at their Bible School and Missionary Training School as well as visiting several of their groups who are now experiencing this great revival has convinced me, without a doubt, that this movement is truly of God. This mission came into existence according to God's plan and timing. However, what is true of any God-sent revival is being experienced also here for evidences of opposition from the formal church as well as from the world are in evidence and this can be expected to increase as revival continues.

I had the joy of spending a week at the Missionary Training School at Jamsa where I met about forty young people who were the fruit of this revival. They are a humble group of young people who are deeply consecrated and awaiting God's leading, willing to go wherever He points the way, not only to some foreign mission field but here and now they desire to be witnesses to souls they meet on their way. The power of the Holy Spirit could be felt in their prayer fellowship as well.

While I was traveling along the Soviet border northward to Lappeeranda, a group of four young

people boarded the train carrying Bibles and hymn books. They removed their fur caps and asked politely if there was anyone who would object to their singing and reading God's Word. Obviously no one objected and it was evident to all that these young people had been with Jesus, for a holy hush settled down upon the passengers. First they sang a song, then one of them shared a portion of Scripture, another testified of how he found Jesus as his Savior and another prayed. After the closing song a young girl arose and went over to one of them and handed him 50 marks for their Mission. This opened the way for them to share a copy of their mission paper entitled "Uutse — tie" (The New Way), Hebr. 10:20. Quietly they proceeded on to the next train coach, but the holy hush they brought lingered. The message of the Gospel was sinking into hearts that heard it from the lips of consecrated youth.

It also happens that these young people ask bus drivers for the privilege of using the microphone to bring a greeting from God's Word to the bus passengers and to witness of their Savior. It takes humility, tact and holy boldness to serve the Lord in this way.

It was also a rich experience to visit the Christian High School in Saaminki near Savonlinna, which is a beautiful place on one of Finland's largest lakes. From Savonlinna it is now possible to travel through the canal up to Leningrad. The evidence of revival is also real in this high school with an enrollment of about seventy. Their hearts are very open and receptive to the Word and the cause of missions. The church at Savonlinna was filled to capacity and overflowing at the evening meeting which was led by Dean Rokanen. After the message the dean asked those who had an inner call to become missionaries to arise. What an unforgettable sight it was when twenty-two responded! Truly, a day of visitation

and call to the Finland Evangelical Lutheran Folkmission to send them forth.

After two weeks of traveling and criss-crossing this country among the friends of this new mission one is left with the impression that there are dimensions to this revival which will cause it to spread from place to place through these newly saved young people who have had a personal meeting with their Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

The secretary of the mission revealed at the last meeting at Turku that he has the names and addresses of approximately three hundred young people in all who have this mission call and who are willingly volunteering to serve their Lord and Savior on the mission field.

The pioneer mission couple to be sent out from this mission this year and due to arrive in Kobe, Japan, on Christmas Day to work with the Norwegian Lutheran Mission Samband are Theol. Candidate Kimmo Juutilainen and wife Ritva.

Let us surround this revival-born mission with much prayer that the leaders will be given grace and wisdom to act and lead rightly in these difficult times. Let us also pray that the same spiritual power which has gripped these young people in Finland will also be experienced by our own youth.

Translated from Utsyn by Mrs. T. L. Sand

(Ed. Note: Gabriel Eikli of Norway is known by a number of people in the Association. He and his wife, a daughter of the late Ludvig Hope, have travelled extensively in the United States and Canada, their most recent trip being last summer. At that time they attended the concert by the Ganddal Pikekor at Medicine Lake Lutheran Church, Minneapolis. We rejoice in the good news of revival in Finland which Brother Eikli reports.)



Luther League Activities

Edited by Jane Thompson

SOUTH DAKOTA LEAGUERS HELD BIBLE QUIZ AT ANNUAL CONVENTION

Five-member teams from the Lake Region and Faith-Eagle Butte parishes took part in a quiz on the Book of Philippians at the fifth annual South Dakota Luther League convention held at Emmanuel Lutheran Church, Eagle Butte, the Rev. A. L. Hokonson, pastor, April 18-20.

The contest was won by the Lake Region team and they will maintain possession of a travelling trophy until the next convention. Whenever a team has won three contests it will have permanent possession of the trophy. The Pukwana-Chamberlain parish will enter the competition next year.

Another important feature of the convention was the acceptance of the first reading of a constitution for the district organization which had been prepared by a committee from the Lake Region parish. A final vote on the document will be taken next year.

Because the parishes in the district are widespread, the convention is a double overnight one. Leaguers were housed in various homes in the community and in a motel.

On Friday evening there was an informal devotional session, a get-acquainted game and refreshments.

The Bible quiz was held on Saturday morning and the convention choir also had its first rehearsal. The leaguers provided other special music during the conference.

At the Saturday afternoon business session the following officers were elected for the coming year: LuAnn Olson, president; Bruce Baumgarn, vice-president; Sharon McCarlson, secretary; Paul Tvinnereim, treasurer; and Randy Almos, devotional life secretary. All are from Webster except Randy, who is from Eden. They are all members of the Lake Region parish, which will host the convention next April at Tabor Church, Webster.

The convention voted to establish a scholarship for some student in the district to assist in attending Association Free Lutheran Bible School.

Softball was played later that afternoon and at 6 o'clock a banquet was served. Rev. Don Brynteson of the Opal area spoke and led the singspiration. Pastor and Mrs. Gerald Yellow Hawk of the Wesleyan Methodist Church sang two duets and gave their testimonies.

A devotional session and informal skits closed out the evening.

Mrs. A. L. Hokonson led a flannelgraph study on the fruits of the Spirit on Sunday morning before the worship

service. Pastor Raynard Huglen, Roslyn, preached the sermon at the service, using Phil. 4:8 as his text. The convention text was Phil. 4:4-8, and the theme, "Peace Through Understanding." The convention choir sang Sunday morning.

At the closing service on Sunday afternoon, Pastor Hokonson installed the new officers. Mr. Bob Samuelson, a deacon in Bethel Lutheran Church, Faith, gave the message.

Much credit is due the host Luther League, Emmanuel, and the past officers, Debbie Griffith, Joan Olson, Ann Wall, Earl Maier, Debbie Iverson, and Pastor and Mrs. Hokonson.



Pastor and Mrs. Gerald Yellow Hawk, who sang at the banquet on Saturday night.



Lake Region leaguers looking at an exhibit at Oahe Dam near Pierre, en route to the convention.

2ND BIENNIAL CONVENTION OF THE LUTHER LEAGUE FEDERATION,
MOORHEAD, MINNESOTA,
AUGUST 19-24

[Continued from page 5]

He have new fishing grounds for me? By faith I step out on this promise.

"Dad and Mother were precious, pious, born-again saints of God. Occasionally Dad was away from our farm because he was a devoted Christian lay preacher. Mother abounded with hospitality. My four brothers and sisters also love the Lord.

"Because the Holy Spirit has made Isaiah 44:22 real to me, I know that I belong to the Lord. If He has something for me to do in these days of

social unrest, I make myself available. For this I solicit your prayers and support."

The position of Executive Secretary for Parish Education has been vacant since the resignation of Mrs. David C. Hanson on June 1 last year. The position with the WMF has never been occupied since the beginning of the AFLC.

Miss Wold will continue to live in Thief River Falls, at 324 N. Arnold, an address which will become familiar to people involved with Parish Education and WMF work.

FOURTEEN WAYS TO PUT A CHURCH TO SLEEP

1. The times are uncertain. Let's go slow.
2. It didn't work before; it won't work now.
3. Let's not have too many changes.
4. There is a lot of talk going around.
5. But what will Mr. So and So say?
6. If you harp on money, people will not come.
7. Our people are poor.
8. If that's voted in, I'll quit my job.
9. I move we table the whole thing.
10. Charity begins at home.
11. We're doing too much for missions now.
12. That sounds like another scheme or racket to me.
13. There might be a depression.
14. "What if" to which any hypothesis can be added with great effect.

—Selected

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