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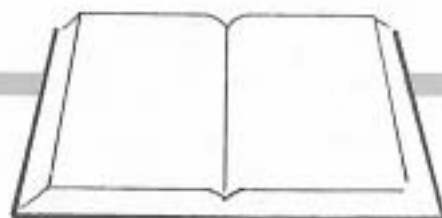
LUTHERAN

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Beginning in this issue: Meet the Churches of Our Fellowship



Roger C. Huebner, D.D.S.



According to the Word

GOD'S PLAN FOR YOUR HOME

John 21:15-17

I am sure you have heard of family plans. Motels, airlines, railroads advertise them. Special rates are offered for certain age children on planes and railroads. Motels provide playgrounds and swimming pools.

God also has a family plan which He describes for us in the Bible. The Lord's plan for the entire family is eternal life. The Gospel plan is, "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved and thy house."

God's Word cannot be effectively taught apart from Christian family life and the Christian home. There is an old Hebrew saying that "religion that is taught apart from life leads to a life apart from religion." If we want God's prescription for abiding happiness, for strong Christian homes, and, most of all, for eternal life, then let us meditate briefly on our text.

God made the home the crown of creation. When everything else in the universe had been made, His final task was to unite the first man and the first woman in marriage; thus setting human history into motion. He gave the earth, not to individuals, but to the family, and He told them that it was theirs to rule and replenish.

It is in the home that the Lord lays a tremendous responsibility on the parents, especially the fathers. "And these words, which I command thee this day, shall be in thine heart; and thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou

sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up" (Deut. 6:6, 7). "Fathers, provoke not your children to wrath, but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord" (Eph. 6:4).

In these directives, God shows clearly that Christian training is primarily the responsibility of the home. And in our text the Lord Jesus Christ points out that parents need twice the amount of spiritual food as children. Christ tells Peter twice, "Feed my sheep" and once, "Feed my lambs."

An unknown poet expresses it this way:

'Twas a sheep, not a lamb, that strayed away

In the parable Jesus told—

A grown-up sheep, that had gone astray

From the ninety and nine in the fold,

'Twas a sheep the Good Shepherd sought;

And back to the flock, safe in the fold,

'Twas a sheep the Good Shepherd brought.

And why for the sheep should we earnestly long,

And earnestly hope and pray?

Because there is danger if they go wrong

They may lead the lambs astray; When the sheep go wrong, it will not be long

Till the lambs are as wrong as as they.

And so with the sheep we earnestly plead,

For the sake of the lambs today;

If the lambs are lost, what terrible cost
Some sheep will have to pay.

Fathers and mothers, are you bringing up your children in the fear and admonition of the Lord? Is it true with you, as the unknown poet has pointed out, that you have gone astray and thus your children are led the same way? Note the words of the anonymous poet:

There's a wide-eyed little youngster
Who believes you're always right;
And his ears are always open,
And he watches day and night;
You are setting an example
Every day in all you do,
For the little one who's watching
To grow up and be like you!

How important it is for parents, not only to teach their children the way of salvation but that they themselves, be an example and also live that Way. It is basic that you have to be a Christian in order to bring someone to God's grace through your witness. The light of grace goes on from flame to flame, sharing fire. A cold candle never gave light to another. The warmth of Christian love is best expressed by togetherness, not only because of our natural love to our children but more so because of a oneness in the love and mercies of God, knowing that they are His gift to us.

Parents, feed upon the Word of God that you may in turn feed your children the Bread of Life, so that they may be in God's Family Plan of eternal life.

—Albert Hautamaki

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## Christ At Your Wedding

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From a mercenary point of view, it was fortunate for the bride and groom at Cana that Jesus of Nazareth had been invited to be a guest at their marriage feast. When the supply of wine was unexpectedly exhausted, Jesus was there to replenish the supply.

In a far less mercenary but vastly more important sense, we should be sure that Christ is invited to every wedding and is welcomed there as an honored guest. This implies that he should be known before the day of the marriage ceremony. In fact, he should be a part of the courtship. We are to think of the spiritual nature of those with whom we "keep company." It is entirely proper to ask God for guidance in the choice of a life partner. It is just as important to follow his guidance by avoiding the company of those persons of whom he would not approve.

Christ should be a part of the engagement period also. The almost unrestricted freedom of modern couples; the constant emphasis on a "new morality" and the unrestrained stress on immorality in books, magazines, pictures, movies; the examples sometimes set by friends and acquaintances, make

the presence of Christ in an engagement absolutely necessary if temptations to sin are to be successfully resisted.

The Christian marriage ceremony—one where Christ is present—is not a "show." It is a sacred, solemn, joyful service, especially suitable for the atmosphere of the church. Each part of the service should be planned, and entered into by every participant, with the thought in mind that Christ is present. He is to be honored by all. To Christians the ceremony itself means that Christ's blessing is being sought.

It goes without saying that we dare not bid goodbye to Christ after the wedding ceremony has ended. The service states clearly that, "by reason of sin, many a cross hath been laid" upon marriage. Christ must be present in the newly formed home or it can never be the kind of home God intends his children to have.

"There was a marriage in Cana...and...Jesus was called...to the marriage" (John 2:1). A wise invitation for every marriage!

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O PERFECT LOVE

O perfect Love, all human thought transcending,
Lowly we kneel in pray'r before Thy throne,
That theirs may be the love which knows no ending,
Whom Thou forevermore dost join in one.

O perfect Life, be Thou their full assurance
Of tender charity and steadfast faith,
Of patient hope, and quiet, brave endurance,
With child-like trust that fears no pain nor death.

Grant them the joy which brightens earthly sorrow;
Grant them the peace which calms all earthly strife,
And to life's day the glorious unknown morrow
That dawns upon eternal love and life.

—Dorothy Frances (Blomfield) Gurney, 1883



NEWS

of the Churches

CONGREGATION FORMED IN DULUTH

At a special business meeting of the Duluth Fellowship Group of the Association of Free Lutheran Congregations, held after regular Sunday services on April 28, 1968, it was voted to affiliate with the Association of Free Lutheran Congregations under the name of St. Stephen's Lutheran Free Church.

Members elected to the Church Board were: Mr. Paul Bjornstad, Mrs. Raymond H. Sutton, Mrs. James C. Eletson, Mr. John W. Baumann and Mr. Neil Nordvall. This will serve as Board of Deacons and Board of Trustees until such a time as the membership requires two boards.

Earnest money has been paid on an older church building, now occupied by the Church of Christ, 1931 West Third Street, and final papers were signed sometime in the month of May. The seating capacity is in excess of 200 and there are several Sunday School rooms. Inasmuch as we will be sharing the church with the Church of Christ congregation during the summer months (until their new building is completed) we do not plan for the church dedication until fall, when we are the sole occupants.

We are thankful to God for the moving prayerful spirit of two fine Christians from St. Paul's Lutheran Church of Cloquet, Mr. Lyle Twite and Mr. Kenneth Sortedahl, who have been so instrumental in encouraging the work in Duluth.

We are most fortunate that Pastor Herbert L. Franz shares his busy schedule with us and comes into Duluth each Sunday from Cloquet (23 miles) for an 8:30 a.m. service. As a church we are also sponsoring Pastor Franz on a local radio station (WWJC) every Sunday afternoon at 1:00. We pray that God will be very near to our pastor both in health and spirit as he carries this extra heavy load.

Our attendance averages about 30. Some Sundays we have more and some less. Because we did not have a permanent church location we were unable to do any serious visitation, but now plans are underway for canvassing the church area.

Bible Study is held each Friday night in the church building.

We solicit the prayers of all that this work of the Lord here in Duluth will prosper and that many souls may be won in this vineyard.
—Corr.

KALISPELL NEWS NOTES

The members of the Stillwater Lutheran Church in annual meeting last November opened a discussion relating to a remodeling project on the church building located ten miles northwest of Kalispell.

At a later special meeting the congregation decided to seek financial pledges from the membership, and if these pledges indicated sufficient interest the project would be undertaken. Since the request for pledges met with an excellent

response a well driller was hired last March to start work at once. A water vein was located eight feet from the wall of the church and water was found at a depth of 126 feet. Subsequently a septic tank and drainage field were installed and a lavatory was built in the basement. The project also included the building of a kitchen with running cold and hot water and an indoor stairway from the basement to the upstairs vestibule.

These improvements became necessary in the face of a growing work, especially in the Sunday School department, where the enrollment now stands at 83. The pastor's report to the congregation in annual meeting last November showed that the membership had grown over 81 percent during the last three years. Carpenters and others who are professionals in their field, along with other members of the congregation, as well as friends, donated a generous amount of their time to the remodeling project.

The West Coast District Annual Luther League Rally met in the Stillwater Lutheran Church, April 26-28. A forty-five passenger busload and occupants of five cars from the Coast, as well as one from Spokane, including the local Stillwater young people, totaled nearly one hundred young people and counselors who met for the sessions.

Over twenty-five of these young people made decisions for Christ; others received assurance as to their future work in God's kingdom. Eight of those making decisions for Christ are from the Stillwater Lutheran Church.

The third annual Stillwater Lutheran Family Bible Camp will be held at Dickey Lake near Trego, Montana, August 1 to 4. Last year's enrollment was 46. This camp is sponsored solely by the Stillwater Lutheran Church, due to the distance from Kalispell to our West Coast congregations.

"O magnify the Lord with me, and let us exalt his name together" (Ps. 34: 3).
—Corr.

NEWS NOTES FROM BAGLEY, MINNESOTA

A combination fellowship and farewell supper was held at the Grace Lutheran Church in Bagley, Minn., on May 1.

It was in honor of new members who had joined the church during the past year, including those of the Emmanuel Church, north of Bagley. They had voted to merge with Grace and about 22 members made the transfer.

This was also a farewell supper in honor of Rev. and Mrs. Hubert DeBoer and family. His resignation as pastor of the parish became effective June 1. He is now serving the Granite Falls-Willmar parish. Dale Battleson has accepted the call to serve this parish, consisting of Grace and Rice, and began work on June 1.

Supper was served to about 75 people.

The parsonage has been renovated for the occupancy of our new pastor.

—Mrs. Frank Fletcher

ORDINATION, INSTALLATION AND DEDICATION HELD IN ROSEAU PARISH

September 24, 1967, was a big day in the Free Lutheran Parish of Roseau, Minnesota. Following the morning service at Roseau Lutheran Church, Pastor John Strand, the president of the Association of Free Lutheran Congregations, conducted the dedication of the congre-

gation's house of worship and also of the newly completed parsonage provided by the parish.

In the afternoon, Pastor Edwin Kjos, who serves the parish, was ordained into the ministry at Rose Lutheran Church. Dr. Iver Olson delivered the ordination address and the Rev. John Strand was the ordinator.

Others participating in the ordination were Rev. Julius Hermunslie, Chairman of the Co-ordinating Committee of the AFLC, and Rev. Howard Kjos, a brother of Edwin Kjos. The installation of Pastor Kjos followed the ordination ceremony.

An overflow crowd, including friends and relatives of the Kjos family, attended from the Twin Cities area, from Pelican Rapids and Hawley, Minnesota, and from Wheeler and Menomonie, Wisconsin.

Pastor Kjos and his wife Yvonne and their children, Mark, Karen, and David, moved to Roseau in June 1967 to assume duties in the newly formed AFLC parish there. Other congregations in the parish are Spruce and Norland.

FAMILY BIBLE CAMP PLANS NEAR COMPLETION

The sixth annual Family Bible Camp, sponsored by the Association of Free Lutheran Congregations, will be in session from August 12-18 at the Lake Geneva Bible Camp, Alexandria, Minn.

Pastor A. L. Hokonson, Faith, S. Dak., is again the dean of the camp. Pastor Hubert DeBoer, Willmar, Minn., is the assistant dean. Mr. Sheldon Mortrud, Thief River Falls, Minn., is the business manager and Mr. John Arlen Johnson, Sacred Heart, Minn., is registrar.

The evening speaker this year will be Rev. Oscar Laaveg, Belmond, Ia. Rev. Robert Rieth, Kirkland, Wash., will teach the youth Bible study group and Rev. John Strand, Minneapolis, Minn., will lead the adult section.

A more complete story on the camp will be carried in a future issue of *The Lutheran Ambassador*.

BIBLE CAMP FOR ME

My friends are on vacation;
They're bound for here and there,
And all across the nation
The summer days are fair.
But not for me the pleasure
To travel land or sea;
For I've a greater treasure—
It's Bible Camp for me!

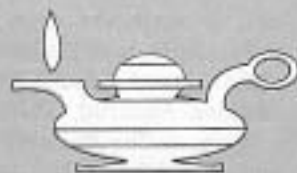
They say that camp's exhausting;
You're always on the go;
But no matter what it's costing,
You'll find me there, I know.
For when the camp's all over,
Tho' tired as tired can be,
I'm like a bee in clover—
So it's Bible Camp time for me!

Let others take the notion
To visit Mexico,
While others cross the ocean
To France or Tokyo;
I think of my salvation,
(I'm bound for eternity!)—
Let others take vacation,
It's Bible Camp time for me!
—Gospel Banner

(This poem was sent in by Mrs. Lawrence Dahlgren, Lake Park, Minn. The liberty has been taken to make "camp meeting" "Bible Camp" in this reprinting.—Ed.)



Roseau Lutheran Church with the parish parsonage on the left.



SCHOOL NEWS



From left to right, Marsha Maltby, Orpha Flaten, Carolyn Jensen (seated), Terry Olsen, Tim Skramstad.

"For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ; for it is the power of God unto salvation to everyone that believeth; to the Jew first and also to the Greek" (Rom. 1: 16).

I am so thankful that I can say this and really mean it. It is so wonderful to know Christ as your personal Lord and Savior and have the Gospel of Christ and not be ashamed of it. God has blessed me so very much this year at school and all I can do is thank Him for it. All of our classes have been such a blessing to me and I know to everyone. Bible School is really great and it's been wonderful to learn more and more of Him. —Marsha Maltby

From Kalispell, Montana, Marsha is from Stillwater Lutheran Church.

This has really been a great year at Bible School. We have really seen the Lord working as souls have been saved and lives surrendered to Him.

I'd like to share two verses with you. Jude 24, 25, "Now to him that is able to keep you from failing and to present you faultless before the presence of his glory with ex-

ceeding joy. To the only wise God our Savior, be glory and majesty, dominion and power both now and ever." I thank God for this because He keeps me from falling. That, as I have found out, I can't do one part of it myself.

One of our teachers in class one day said, "In these days, if you're not going to be all out for Christ, forget it; you'll never last." These words really stayed with me and I realized I wasn't all Christ's. He had saved my soul but was not Lord of my life. So I started trying to do more for Christ; that is what I thought, for a while anyway. But I thank God for His patience and love for me. While I was going to do it my way He kept dealing with me until finally I had to say, "Jesus, I can't do it," and surrendered my heart and life to Him. I wanted Him and that's when He took over and in just a moment He lifted the load and filled me with the wonderful peace and joy that only He can bring.

I've heard many times that to be a Christian is surrendering daily and walking with Christ. Now this has become real to me, too. Every day there is sin and self that enter in, but Christ takes care of anything that's on my heart if I only ask and trust in Him. —Orpha Flaten

From Strandquist, Minnesota, Orpha's home church is Hegland Lutheran. She is planning to return to Bible School this fall.

"But seek ye first the kingdom of God and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you" (Matt. 6: 33).

I truly thank the Lord that I could attend Bible School this past year to study God's Word and to

prepare myself for whatever He would have me do.

God can and will solve our problems if we just let Him. How wonderful it is to have someone to turn to. There is no real peace and joy until we do commit ourselves to Him and let Him have His way.

"Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you" (Matt. 7: 7).

I thank the Lord, too, for sending His Son, Jesus Christ, to die on the cross to save me from my sins. He can free you from your sins, too (if He hasn't already), if you only acknowledge yourself as a sinner, believe in Christ and then confess Christ as your Savior and Lord. My prayer is that you can have the peace and joy that only Christ can give. —Carolyn Jensen

Carolyn is from Colfax, Wisconsin, and a member of the Barum Lutheran Church, Elk Mound. She works part-time at the Colonial Acres Nursing Home and as of now plans to attend Bible School next year.

"Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind" (Matt. 22: 37).

This one verse has been a great inspiration to me and also my key to the Scriptures this year.

I am so thankful to Christ Jesus that He is living and real to me and that in Him I have eternal life. God gave me salvation in Jesus and because of His great love for me, I love Him.

This year at Bible School has been one of the most important ones of my life. During this year I have increased my knowledge of the Scriptures, made many new friends, and have had a great deal of fun, but the best part is perhaps that I have begun to realize how truly magnificent and all-powerful God is. Jesus was my Savior before I came to Bible School and I would read my Bible, but now I see how

[Continued on page 10]

MEET

the

Churches

OF OUR

FELLOWSHIP



TODAY: THE PUKWANA-ST. OLAF (S. DAK.) PARISH

Pukwana Lutheran Church

Selmer Framstad, a seminary student at Augsburg in Minneapolis, Minn., conducted the first worship services in Pukwana leading to the formation of the present congregation in the same year, 1920. Upon his graduation, also that year, he continued as pastor until 1923.

Church services were held in the public school until 1927. At that time the congregation built a basement church, intending to build a superstructure upon it. This was never realized, but in 1955 and 1956 under the leadership of Pastor Philip J. Halverson, a church building from south of White Lake was moved into town and placed on a new foundation south of the old basement.

The chancel was enlarged and a pastor's study, some Sunday School rooms and an entry were added. In 1967 the basement was completely remodeled with memorial gifts received in memory of Miss Velora Lake. A new furnace was also installed in 1967.

Pukwana Lutheran Church was organized as a congregation affiliated with the Lutheran Free Church. In 1963 it became a part of the Association of Free Lutheran Congregations, being one of the churches which did not enter the merger.



Pukwana Lutheran Church

The congregation serves a community in which there are many unchurched people. The only other church in town is a Roman Catholic one.

Pukwana Lutheran has a son and a daughter engaged in full-time Christian work. Rev. Claude Millage is a Lutheran pastor in Washington state. Mabel Liddiard (Mrs. Ernest Butterfield) is a Methodist pastor's wife in New York.



Rev. Gerald F. Mundran, pastor of the parish, is a graduate of Luther Seminary, St. Paul, Minn. He was ordained in 1950 in the ALC. He became a member of the AFLC clergy roster in 1967. He and his wife, the former Margaret Lindquist, have six children.

St. Olaf Lutheran Church

Situated at a crossroads spot called Ola, St. Olaf Lutheran Church is 18 miles southeast of Chamberlain and 14 miles southwest of Pukwana. A few miles to the west is the Missouri River.

The result of a merger between Norwegian and Swedish congrega-

tions in 1909, the church completed a sanctuary for worship the following year. In 1961 an addition was built on the east side.

Pastors who served the Norwegian group prior to 1909 were M. O. Waldal, 1891-98; H. M. Wang, 1899-1903; and E. H. Tou, 1904-08. Rev. Tou had the distinction of being the second pastor sent by the LFC to Madagascar as a missionary, in 1889, and his first wife was buried out there.

For eleven years the congregation was called the Swedish Evangelical Lutheran Church and had as her pastors B. P. Farness, 1909-14 and J. J. Pederson, 1914-17. Student P. G. Sotnack (Sonnack) and Rev. P. A. Nordstrand, Kimball, helped out during the vacancy of the next several years.

In 1920 the congregation changed her name to English Lutheran Church, the sign that that language was in use then. Later, at a Ladies Aid meeting, the name St. Olaf was given to the church. Now, too, the congregation was affiliated with the LFC. In 1963 St. Olaf became part of the AFLC, electing not to enter the Lutheran merger of that year.

St. Olaf also has a son and a daughter who have served or are serving in full-time Christian work. And both were converted in a revival which occurred in 1940, during the pastorate of Rev. A. L. Hokonson. Otto Saukerson in later years has worked as a lay pastor, presently serving at Eben Junction,



St. Olaf Lutheran Church. The community hall is in the background to the right.



Peter Jacobson of Binford, N. Dak., went home to be with the Lord on March 31. Mr. Jacobson was a member of the Bethlehem Lutheran Church which later merged with Bethany in Binford.

Mr. Jacobson was perhaps best known by his activities in the Laymen's movement and the Red Willow Bible Camp. He was always active in the former Lutheran Free Church, too.

He was born on January 28, 1887, and lived all his life in the Binford area. —Corr.

Mich, Miss Beatrice Long spent a few years as a missionary in Japan. Today she is working at the hospital in nearby Chamberlain.

The Parish

The present parish arrangement, Pukwana and St. Olaf, has existed since 1920, although at that time a third congregation belonged, Red Lake. That later merged with Pukwana.

The parish has a parsonage in Pukwana and it was built in 1926.

Pastors who have served the parish are: Selmer H. Framstad, 1920-23; G. A. Almquist, 1924-30; John Thompson, 1930-32; Holger Hagen,

1933-38; A. L. Hokonson, 1938-42; Lester Dahlen, 1942-44; Leslie F. Brandt, 1945-46; Emil C. Martinson, 1949-53; Phillip J. Halvorson, 1954-58; Carl I. Ostby, 1959-62; Trygve F. Dahle, 1963; Karl G. Berg, 1964-65; and Gerald F. Mundfrom, 1965—.

Others who have assisted in vacancies are Rev. Earl Anderson, Rev. R. C. Nankind and Otto Saukerson, on a number of occasions.

During Pastor Halvorson's ministry a mission was started in Chamberlain, later to become Trinity Lutheran Church. He also served Zion Lutheran at Hamill for a time. They later formed a parish of their own and are a part of the American Lutheran Church.

In Memoriam

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

SOUTH DAKOTA

Chamberlain
Darlene A. Nelson, 31, March 15, St. Olaf.

Pukwana
Paul Ruder, 82, May 16, Pukwana (Mr. Ruder was a member of One Grand Fellowship.)



The parsonage of Pukwana-St. Olaf parish.



EDITORIALS

A LONG TIME COMING

Almost since the time that *The Lutheran Ambassador* was started it has been our hope that we might run a series of articles on the congregations making up our fellowship. Others have expressed their desire over the years for such a feature.

Lack of time to initiate the project and just a general case of not getting at the task have kept it on the ground until now. But today, in this issue, you will find the first of the historical sketches of the churches which comprise the Association of Free Lutheran Congregations.

A church fellowship, congregations working together to accomplish what they cannot do alone, is the sum total of the local churches which affiliate with her. They, in turn, and ultimately the fellowship also, are the sum total of the individual members. We are speaking of the organization.

Of varying backgrounds, many of them founded by immigrant pioneers, the congregations are bound together by a common approach to Lutheran church life: low-church, pietistic, congregational in polity and conservative in theology, although not as far to the right as some Lutheran groups. And they are united by a common purpose, the extension of Christ's kingdom in the hearts of men.

We hope that this series will prove interesting. Perhaps some of you, children and even adults, will want to preserve these sketches which will always appear on page 7 of your *Ambassador*. This can be done by means of a scrapbook, of whatever type you prefer.

As much as possible, we shall endeavor to have them appear continually until all our churches have been covered. Where parishes consist of several congregations it may be necessary to use two issues to tell the whole story.

Today, then, begins the series "Meet the Churches of Our Fellowship."

QUITE A THRILL

We had occasion to be in Minneapolis several weeks ago and at that time saw the two building projects underway on the church property in Plymouth Village on the west side of Minneapolis.

It was quite a thrill to see this work in progress. The one is the dormitory for girls and the other

is the home for the dean of the Bible School.

Five years ago it would have stretched the imagination, if not one's faith, to think that we would own the fine, sizeable property that we do, and be building the two structures which we are, at this time. So the Lord has been good in opening doors and permitting us to go through them.

The progress which has been made, and each working day sees more accomplished, should spur us all on to greater support of these building projects. And what is needed? More loans for the loan program (the response has been good), more cash gifts through One Grand Fellowship and the Praise Program, more students for the Bible School this fall and greater prayer support to undergird it all.

Thank you for what you have done. Thank you for what you will do.

And if you want a thrill, too, stop at our church property by Medicine Lake the next time you get to Minneapolis. The rising wood and brick will warm your heart as it did ours and cause a prayer of thanksgiving to rise up to the Lord.

SAVE OUR SUNDAYS

Elsewhere in this *Ambassador* you will find reprinted an ad which appeared in *The Minneapolis Star* on May 25, 1968. It expresses a concern over the "business as usual on Sunday" approach being taken by some of the stores in the Twin Cities area of Minnesota.

We are deeply gratified to see the sixteen signing clergymen of many faiths take this action. In a day when ministers put their names to any number and kinds of resolutions, even endorsing one candidate or another out of purely political considerations, it is good to find some who will put their names to one defending the day of rest and worship for the great majority of Americans.

The growing commercialization of Sunday is one of the real shames on our nation. It does its part in rotting the moral fiber of our land.

The churches themselves have not always shown leadership in defense of the Lord's Day. One suburban church out of Minneapolis announced that it would hold no Sunday services for a number of weeks this summer. In their place services would be held on a week night. The action is almost absurd enough to be laughable.

It is our hope that Association people, wherever they are confronted by "business as usual on Sunday" merchants, will heed the exhortation of the ad: "Don't buy on Sundays!"

We have another suggestion. In your business dealings during the week, give preference to those merchants who keep their stores closed on Sundays. In this way you can register your protest to those who operate seven days a week and they will be pinched in the only place where they are sensitive, the pocket-book.



Luther League Activities

Edited by Jane Thompson

ALL OUT—FOR CHRIST

The newly organized Minneapolis District Luther League held its spring rally at Medicine Lake Lutheran Church, Minneapolis, Minn., and elected the following officers: president—Connely Dyrud, Minneapolis; vice-president—Michael Strand, Minneapolis; secretary—Gwen James, Minneapolis; treasurer—John Nichols, Minneapolis; and devotional life secretary—Lynda Hendrickson, Sand Creek, Wis.

Plans are now being made for a summer retreat during July 27-28 with the theme "All Out—For Christ." Plan now to attend and be richly blessed by fellowship, Bible studies, special speakers, and Christian fun in God's wonderful outdoors.

The Minnesota District includes churches from Wisconsin, Minnesota and Iowa. Watch for further information as it appears in the *Ambassador* or contact your pastor for details. —Corr.

SUMMER TEAM TO TRAVEL

At a recent meeting of the Luther League Federation officers, it was decided to send a team of college-age youth to travel in the congregations of the AFLC this coming summer. There has not been such an outreach program since the well-received male quartets traveled several years ago.

The executive board felt it was necessary to sponsor such a team to enliven the youth work of the AFLC. A youth-to-youth presentation of the Gospel of Jesus Christ

can be one of the most effective ways of telling the story of salvation.

After considerable deliberation, the board decided that a mixed team would be sent. The team will feature the established Portland, N. Dak., Trio—Rosemary Hanson, Nada Hanson and Phyllis Nelson. Rosemary and Nada have attended Association Lutheran Bible School and Phyllis will be enrolled there in the coming fall.

An alumnus of the Bible School, Richard Anderson of East Grand Forks, Minn., will also be on the team. Richard is presently attending Mankato Junior College in Minnesota.

Mr. and Mrs. David Voiss will complete the six-member team. Both Dave and his wife Kathy are graduates of California Lutheran Bible School in California. Dave is presently attending the University in Grand Forks, North Dakota.

The team will begin its summer expedition the first week of June. Plans are already being made to have them at various Bible camps and local churches. Bob Lee, Tioga, N. Dak., is setting up the itinerary. Those interested in having the summer team in their area should contact him.

It is the prayer of the LLF executive board and the Youth Board that many will be blessed by this ministry this summer. We ask that you also pray and attend their services when they are in your area. "Let no man despise your youth." We send this team as messengers of the Gospel.

Further action by the LLF board

included the selection of dates and site for the 1969 National Convention. The board accepted the invitation of St. Paul's in Fargo, N. Dak. Arrangements are being made to secure Moorhead State College for convention facilities. The dates are August 19-24, 1969. Much planning and much prayer will be necessary if this National Convention is to be a success. You are asked to help.

The youth of the AFLC are reminded that Saturday night is youth night at the Annual Conference. Plans are for a banquet preceding the evening service. Pastor Snipstead, newly selected dean of our Bible School, will be the speaker and the entire program will be in the hands of the youth. The outreach summer team is also expected to be there. This will be Saturday, June 15. See you there!

—Ken Moland
LLF Treasurer

CORRECTION

Two pictures in *The Lutheran Ambassador*, May 14, 1968, were incorrectly placed and thus received wrong captions.

On page 6, the interior view of the church is that of Hope Lutheran Church, Wyoming, Minn. (see page 13). The interior view of the church on page 13 is that of Pukwana Lutheran Church, Pukwana, S. Dak. (see page 6).

School News

[Continued from page 6]

living and real the Word can be in my own life.

Bible School has given me the training necessary to study the Word on my own and witness to others. It has also pointed me in the direction of the ministry as my life's work. If it is the Lord's will, I shall return to Minneapolis to attend our seminary after college. —Tim Skramstad

Tim's future plans are to attend Valley City State College next fall. He is from Grace Lutheran in his home town of Valley City, North Dakota.

19. Should we be angry when our faults are revealed to us?

20. Did God forgive David? (II Sam. 12:13) *

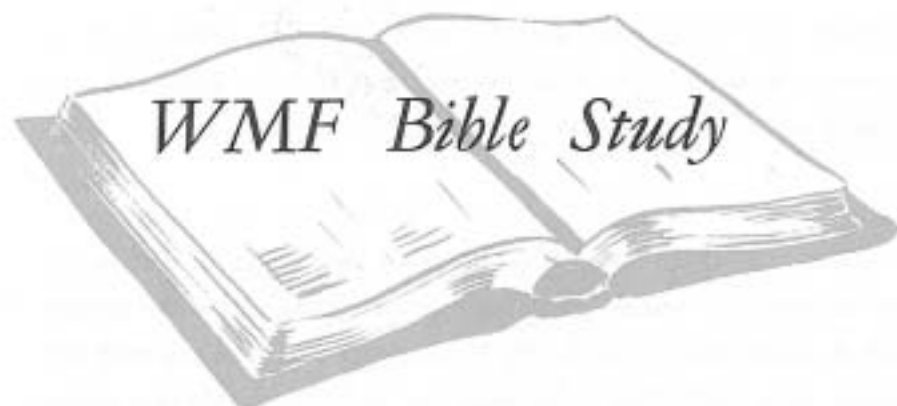
*There is a misprint in the answer key on this question. It should be the opposite of what it says.

CONCLUSION

Although David accomplished much for God's people and his country, nevertheless David had one ambition which he did not accomplish. David wanted to build a temple to the glory of God. But God said no—the time for that was not yet. David bowed to God's will in this matter. David did not go ahead of God in this after having been checked by God. How very unlike Saul David was here. Saul refused to bow to God's will and took matters into his own hands, which even he as a king had no right to do.

David walked with God. He didn't lag behind, and he didn't get ahead of God. What a lesson there is here for us. Too often in our mission endeavors we either lack vision and zeal to move with God in spreading the Gospel and extending God's kingdom on this earth, or else we get ahead of God. We fail to let God lead and direct. We fail to consult Him in prayer. We wish to draw attention to our own abilities and achievements, rather than take God along and let Him have the credit for that which is accomplished. Both of these ways are displeasing to God. Let us learn from David and walk with God, letting Him lead, guide and direct our every endeavor.

The next lesson is on Elijah.



OLD TESTAMENT BIBLE HISTORY QUESTIONS

JULY, 1968

LESSON SEVEN

Introduction

The lesson today is on David. His time was during the close of the fourth major time period. Already the children of Israel had suffered a great deal because of their foolishness in wanting a king. Saul, after he gained power and was in office, soon forgot and became jealous of anyone who might contend for the throne. Because of this jealousy Saul hunted David for many years as a wanted criminal. But God was with David. Saul was no longer God's choice—David now became God's choice for king. But it took a long civil war in order for David to establish himself as king over all twelve tribes.

Under the Judges the children of Israel had foreign enemies; but now they also had enemies within the kingdom, which led to much suffering, unrest, war and bloodshed.

David, however, proved to be a good king. Though he, too, fell into sin yet he never forsook God. He repented of his sin and God

forgave him. As a great king he remained humble before God. He always acknowledged God as the final and great authority. He ever readily subjected himself to that authority.

David, by God's help, did much for his people and for his country. He succeeded in settling the unrest and civil strife within the country, which was brought about by the jealous King Saul who preceded him. David with God's help drove back and defeated the foreign enemy (the Philistines), which was such a threat at this time. So well was this done that the Children of Israel had no more trouble with foreign powers for years to come. Most important of all, David led the Children of Israel back to God. David's life, the many psalms of praise which he wrote, and his godly testimony no doubt were a tremendous witness which rang throughout the whole kingdom in which he reigned. The people could see and sense that David truly had a treasure (something other than riches and power) that was well worth having. This treasure was the peace of heart and mind that only God can give. David also made it clear that this great treasure which he possessed was also available for others to possess.

DAVID

(I Samuel 17, II Samuel 2: 1-11, 5: 1-10, 6: 1-19 and ch. 7)

1. What experience had David had in the past which gave him assurance that God would help him to overcome Goliath?
2. What did David say to Goliath as he met him in combat? (I Sam. 17: 45)

3. Where was David anointed as king?
4. Over what area was he anointed as king?
5. What was David's attitude toward the former king, Saul? (2: 5-7)
6. Who was king over the eleven other tribes? (2: 8-11)
 - (a) Of what family was he a member?
7. How long was David king over just the one tribe? (2: 11)
8. How did David gain power and become king over all 12 tribes? (3: 1)
9. What happened to King David at Hebron after his reign over just one tribe? (5: 3)
 - (a) How many times was David anointed as king?
10. Why did David go to Baal-of-Judah?
11. Why did they bring the Ark only part way at first?
12. What did David do after the Ark had been relocated? (6: 17)
13. What do you think David had in mind in 7: 2? (7: 5)
 - (a) Was this according to God's will?
14. Who was to fulfill David's plan in this? (7: 12, 13)
15. How did David react when God interfered with his plan?
16. How did the story that Nathan told affect David? (II Sam. 12: 5)
17. What penalty did David say was deserving of the man who stole the lamb?
18. Who did Nathan say was that man?
 - (a) Did David see himself as the guilty one?
 - (b) Was David angry with Nathan for telling him his sin?

Christ or Antichrist?

by Pastor Knut Gjesfeld
McIntosh, Minnesota

The writer gives his views on a subject dealing with the end times.

Which of them is coming first? There are many today who are talking about rapture and the coming of Christ. Some are waiting for the rapture to take place any minute. One sits down by the microphone and makes the remark that the Lord may be here "even before I am through with my message." But the Word states plainly that Antichrist will come first.

In II Thessalonians 2, we read: "Now concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our assembling to meet him, we beg you, brethren, not to be quickly shaken in mind or excited, either by spirit or by word, or by letter purporting to be from us, to the effect that the day of the Lord has come. Let no one deceive you in any way; for that day will not come, unless the rebellion (falling away) comes first, and the man of lawlessness is revealed, the son of perdition, who opposes and exalts himself against every so-called god or object of worship, so that he takes his seat in the temple of God, proclaiming himself to be God."

This must be a thorough description of Antichrist. It is from the Word. It is by Paul. Antichrist is called the lawless one. Why? The law and order are abolished to prepare the way for him. If there should be something left of law and order surely Antichrist will disregard it. He will no doubt be a great authority. In Revelation he is called the Beast and John tells us that the whole world will worship the Beast and follow in wonder. This man of lawlessness who is also called the son of perdition must be revealed before the Day of the Lord comes. If the whole world will worship this man, then he surely is

revealed when he no doubt will be seen. If he is abolishing all worship and making himself God here in this world of ours then no doubt he will be observed and spoken of throughout the whole world. No one has seen or heard of such a man yet.

There is no doubt, though, in my mind that we are living in the great falling away. The world is preparing for Antichrist. The great merger business is working towards ruling of one man. In Revelation 13:7, we read: "And it was allowed it to make war on the saints and to conquer them. And authority was given it over every tribe and people and tongue and nation."

This tyrannical rule by Antichrist is to last for seven years. Here we ask the question, can this despotic rule of Antichrist take place after the rapture? We think not. Those that hold the theory that the Antichrist rule and the big tribulation come after the rapture must have forgotten that the Scriptures place the rapture in connection with the first resurrection.

Here is the statement of Paul in I Thessalonians 4:15-18: "For this we declare to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, shall not precede those who have fallen asleep. For the Lord himself will descend from heaven with a cry of command, with the archangel's call, and with the sound of the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first; then we who are alive, who are left, shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air; and so shall we always be with the Lord. Therefore comfort one another with these words."

Have it clear in your mind that the rapture does not precede the first resurrection. But it follows

after, but so close after that they meet the resurrected from the dead in the air. In II Thessalonians Paul tells us that at this coming of the Lord He will destroy Antichrist. Word for word, it says: "And the Lord Jesus will slay him with the breath of his mouth and destroy him by his appearing and his coming." If Jesus has slain Antichrist and destroyed him at His coming then the reign of Antichrist is over. No more dominating by his power. Antichrist is dead. All of the first resurrection are risen. Living believers are caught up. After all this has taken place there can be no reign by Antichrist.

We have a word from Revelation that gives us some light on our topic. There we read: "Then I saw thrones, and seated on them were those to whom judgment was committed. Also I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded for their testimony to Jesus and for the word of God, and who had not worshiped the beast or its image and had not received its mark on their foreheads or their hands. They came to life again, and reigned with Christ a thousand years. The rest of the dead did not come to life again until the thousand years were ended. This is the first resurrection. Blessed and holy is he who shares in the first resurrection. Over such the second death has no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and they shall reign with him a thousand years."

In these verses, Revelation 20:4-6, John states that "this is the first resurrection." Paul, in I Thessalonians 4:13-18, speaks of the rapture and has made it very plain that the first resurrection goes together with the rapture or at the same time. Only the rising of the dead is first.

So when John says "this is the first resurrection," he does not

mean to separate it from rapture. Bear in mind, therefore, that where the first resurrection is there is also the rapture.

What did John see? "Also I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded for their testimony to Jesus and for the word of God, and who had not worshiped the beast or its image and had not received its mark on their forehead or on their hands." They came to life again and reigned with Christ a thousand years." These souls that John saw had no doubt been into the great tribulation in the reign of Antichrist. That reign of Antichrist was before the first resurrection. Consequently also before the rapture. Because where the first resurrection is, there is also the rapture.

John agrees with Paul that the reign of Antichrist comes before the second coming of Christ. Jesus belongs to the first resurrection and was risen before the rapture. But Jesus and others who have gone through a change of bodies are called the first fruits of resurrection. We know that Jesus is called the first fruit. But when John sees the dead coming forward to reign with Christ a thousand years, then he makes the remark, "This is the first resurrection." After the first resurrection has taken place, how many do you think there will be? Will there be any place for the reign of Antichrist after Christ and all the saints have taken over? It is not possible to place the reign of Antichrist into the millennium.

Both Paul and John place Antichrist's reign before the first resurrection and also before the rapture. The first resurrection and the rapture are they who are risen to reign with Christ for a thousand years, which is called the millennium.

John and Paul agree that the reign of Antichrist is before the first resurrection; consequently also before the rapture, not after the rapture.

WOMEN for Christ

Edited by Mrs. Jay Erickson
**PRAYER AND THE
PATCHWORK QUILT**

by Thea Trent
Santa Monica, California

When I hear friends speak of "being depressed" because they have met with a small disappointment, I am reminded that "depression" meant something far more serious to those of us who weathered the late '20s and early '30s on the dry farms of the southwest. Depression then meant fields of barley, stricken by blazing heat, and a falling market, insect pests and cattle sickness; it meant a pitying smile, and a grave shake of the head from the banker.

Yet we farmers didn't jump off the roof of a building when stark ruin stared us in the face—we just kept fighting and praying.

Often in those times, with my children off to school, my husband out working the fields and the housework done—I'd find myself walking down the road to Mrs. Green's tiny white-washed cottage. It had green shutters and a Gold-of-Ophir rose climbing all over it.

I had come to count Matilda Green as a dear friend. She was a tiny person, with tanned and wrinkled skin, hair pulled back in a tight bun—but with the most beautiful sparkling brown eyes! Her faith and friendship stood out in those dark years, like one of the bright patches in her quilts which she was forever sewing.

She was as happy as a child over any small surprise, like a few scraps for a patchwork quilt that was all I had to give on that afternoon, but the colors of

the scraps were bright and she held them against the quilt she was working on, as if the scraps were jewels.

She brought glasses of sweet grape juice and ginger-cookies. Then she took up the quilt, and began to feather-stitch the basted edges of the patches. The fragrance of roses came in the windows, and the tabby-cat purred softly on his own rag rug.

"I loved your vine-and-bluebird quilt that you donated to the church bazaar," I said.

"Pattern-quilts are real nice," she said quietly, "but I favor patchwork ones most, because..." She glanced at the big Bible, always open, on its special stand. "I reckon you know we're from Tennessee hill country. We had a right nice little place, fruit and berries, chickens, a couple of cows and a good team. Jed..." she stopped the quick stitches and her eyes looked faraway, "there never was a better husband. He'd work hard as ten men all day, then in the evening get out his banjo, sit on the stoop and sing to me. But the time of testing came. Jed grabbed a little child off the road from in front of a big truck—and the truck hit him instead. Night and day I pleaded with the Lord to spare him, but he died in agony."

Mrs. Green resumed her stitching. "Somehow I had to go on living for our boy. I didn't question the Lord's will that He didn't spare Jed, but my heart was like a stone. Life seemed to have left me, too.

"It was rough farming, with just a 12-year-old boy to help; but Abner never whimpered, and neigh-

bor folks pitched in when they could.

"Then came the real bad year when fruit and berries and corn all failed, and chickens died of the croup.

"One night I was so desperate I fell on my knees by this same chest where the quilts are now, and I just grabbed onto the edge, like a drowning man would hang onto a boat. What I was really trying to hold onto was my faith, but all I could say was 'Help, Lord, Help!'

"I must have pushed on the big box of scraps for it fell to the floor, and the patches flew all over. Then, as I went about picking up those hundreds of odd pieces, all shapes and all colors, I sensed that somehow the Lord was giving me an answer to my prayer: *not to shout for more, but just to use what I had, and leave the rest to Him.*

"All that winter I worked half the nights piecing quilts, and my spirit grew calm and refreshed.

"When summer came, Abner and I fixed up a stand by the road. The quilts and preserves from the year before were our stock. The tourists bought everything and ordered more.

"Later on we sold the place and came out here to California with my brother. But that's the lesson God taught me in my dark hours: use what is at hand, the way a pieced quilt uses snips and scraps to make a fine comfort. And when we do that, I've found, the Lord will surely take care of the next step!"

As I stood to go, Mrs. Green put her work-hardened little hand on mine. "Our Savior didn't need the boy's loaves and fishes to feed the 5,000," she said. "He could have made a whole mountain of food just with the Word. But even God's Son used whatever there was at hand to make things come right."

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S . O . S .

SAVE OUR SUNDAYS

We the undersigned wish to express our very deep concern that the people of this nation and this area continue to observe Sunday as a Day of Rest for all families.

We do believe it is good in the sight of God and beneficial for our community for families to be able to have the same day of rest and renewal for both husband and wife, and their children.

It is beneficial that people may have a common time for worship, recreation and visiting with friends and neighbors.

In a day when our nation needs strength, wisdom and courage to work together for our common benefit, when family stress, delinquency and aimlessness tend to destroy the basic values which make our human community a decent and healthy place to live... in these days we call upon businessmen, mass media and all families to work together to preserve this precious aspect of our American heritage.

From 1620 when the Pilgrims and others came to New England, the Anglicans came to Virginia, and the Roman Catholics to Maryland...from the earliest days in this land Sunday has been honored as a family Day of Rest. When in 1776 our nation was formed and later our flag was adopted, we have observed Sunday as a day set aside for family worship and renewal.

We call upon those merchants who are merchandising on Sundays to reverse their decision!

We strongly urge all people who wish to preserve a common day of rest and to help their families and children...to support those responsible and courageous businessmen who continue to observe Sunday as America has always done!

We think it is time for all people concerned to express themselves and express themselves strongly! Don't buy on Sundays!

Spend more time with your families. Honor God in your hearts and your decisions! Let all people—businessmen and citizens alike—work together to Save Our Sundays!

(Signed by 16 Clergymen)
—The Minneapolis Star

EASTERN NORTH DAKOTA WMF RALLY HELD IN BINFORD

The Spring Rally of the Eastern N. Dak. District was held at Bethany Lutheran Church at Binford, N. Dak., on May 4, with 125 women attending. Pearl Aanstad, district president, presided at the sessions. The theme of the rally was "Love One Another" and the theme song was "The Love of God."

Mrs. Carl Mortenson, Hampden, presented the Bible study. Missionary Veri Dean, Redby Indian Mission in Minnesota was the afternoon speaker.

—Mrs. Russell Duncan, Sec.

THE CHOIR DIRECTOR SAYS "THANK YOU"

Dear Friends in Christ,

The ALBS Choir completed its tour Sunday night, April 7, at Abercrombie, N. Dak., in memorable style.

A long, steady rain had made the gravel road unsafe and the rural church unapproachable by bus. But cars shuttled us to the church where the choir, without

their robes and risers, and in remarkably good health and spirit considering the eventful ten days prior, began their final concert only twelve minutes late.

Following the concert some students left for their homes and rest while others returned to Minneapolis.

On behalf of the choir, I would like to thank all the host congregations for the warm receptions and the very delicious dinners, and especially thank the gracious families who gave us beds and treated us so royally.

God bless you all richly.

In Christ,
Donald T. Rodvold,
ALBS Choir Director

**NORTH DAKOTA
CONGREGATION VOTES
AFFILIATION WITH THE AFLC**
Antiochia Lutheran Church, Churchs Ferry, N. Dak., has voted to affiliate with the Association of Free Lutheran Congregations. Mrs. Bennie W. Thompson is the secretary of the church.

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