

June 17, 1975

# The Lutheran Ambassador

## GOOD FRIENDS

Roger C. Huebner,  
D. D. S.

In this issue:  
The President's  
Report to the  
Church



# MEDITATION MOMENTS

## BICENTENNIAL REMINDERS

"First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all men, for kings and all who are in high positions, that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life, godly and respectful in every way" (I Timothy 2:1-2).

This New Testament passage is one of a number which deal directly with Christian responsibility toward civil government. One of the better known ones is that spoken by Jesus, "Render therefore to Caesar the things that are Caesar's and to God the things that are God's" (Matthew 22:21). From that word of the Lord we understand that there is an obligation to the governments of men (although they ultimately derive their authority from God).

Like many of you, I have the intention of reading the history of America before the year 1976 is over. Those of us more than a few years removed from college or high school courses in American history need that refresher if we are to rightly observe the 200th birthday of our country.

But for today, what are some ways, at this point in time, in which we can do our country good and build up our national life? Here are several ways and as we look at them we will see that they are timeless, for they come from the Scriptures.

First, we should pray for those in high positions, as our text suggests. Some people in government really desire prayer in their behalf. They call for it out of more than a politician's play for votes. And prayer for their sakes will do the most good. Remember, though, that prayer should be offered for **all** in high positions. In some mysterious way God can act, He can change things, where prayer has been made.

Second, we should teach our children the Law of God in our homes and in our church teaching situations. It isn't at all uncommon to hear about communities troubled by some of their young people, of city authorities at their wits' ends over rebellious youth who seem to have no regard for order and tranquility. We may be quite sure that there existed among the early American generations a much deeper concept that some things were right and some things wrong and that the wrong brought punishment, than is the case today.

Yes, the Law of God must be taught, and always with the accompanying truth that civil powers have the right to call us to account for violations in certain areas. They do not "bear the sword" in vain.

In the next place, we should strive to be good citizens and only then will

the children and young people pay attention to what we teach. There has been much reaction over the country to evil in high places. It is right that there be sadness about this, but let us be careful that our own lives be unimpeachable. No, we won't be able to manage being without any fault, but may people be able to see that we don't want to commit wrong and are sorry when we do fall. Government is a necessity where people live together. Let us give our support to order and decency.

Finally, the bicentennial observance is a good time to urge again the spirit of patriotism. We believe, don't we, that America is a good place in which to live? (Readers in other countries will say the same about their countries.) We have great freedoms and opportunities. There is the foundation of Christian religious principles. God has blessed our nation with great natural resources. It is right that we fly the flag with pride, that our hearts beat faster when we think of our heritage. There are things wrong with America, to be sure, but we can be glad we are where we are, while we work, under God, to destroy the wrong and strengthen the right.

Raynard Huglen

# THE PRESIDENT'S REPORT TO THE CHURCH

To the congregations of the Association of Free Lutheran Congregations, and to the 13th Annual Conference in session at the Association Schools and Medicine Lake Lutheran Church, 3110 East Medicine Lake Boulevard, Minneapolis, Minnesota, June 11-15, 1975.

## GRACE AND PEACE!

This is the 13th Annual Conference of the Association of Free Lutheran Congregations. There have been many changes these past 13 years. As we have met in conference in previous years, a variety of concerns were in focus. At no time have we had greater global concerns than now.

We meet on the beautiful and rapidly developed campus at our schools, invited here by the Schools and the Medicine Lake Lutheran Church, pastored by the Rev. J. G. Erickson. We are grateful for the opportunity to meet here, a place very precious to us all. It can be said that this campus is an expression of our commitment to God's Truth and to the "living congregation," God's instruments to disciple the world. We are deeply grateful to God for what He has made possible. It strengthens our faith to be here. It also should humble us.

After 13 years, we must again say that the Association is of God. There is no place for human pride or glory because of the past. We depend not on human wisdom and strength for the days to come. Our future is in the Hands of God. Only as we submit to Him as individuals, as congregations, and as a fellowship, will our Association endure. God forbid that personal pride, ambition, or self-seeking destroy our fellowship and undermine our purpose.

We meet in a time of unmatched global concerns. Creation seems to be writhing in anguish. Nations are in turmoil and despair. Famine, want, and war stalk millions. Communism is increasing its foothold on nations. Homes are crumbling. Crime and immorality are on the increase. Pol-

lution is destroying the good earth. There is much silly giddiness and little true joy. Millions know nothing but fear. Yet few want to face the reasons. It is easier to blame political systems and leaders than to face up to personal and national sins.

The world is ripe for judgment. Our nation is ripe for judgment. We are ripe for judgment. God has been forsaken.

How has God been forsaken? His Word is judged as less relevant and true than the words of men. His Law is made of little consequence in comparison to public opinion and individual lusts and desires. Abortion, homosexuality, drunkenness, immorality, and covenant-breaking are among many sins that are not only defended, but taught as being virtuous. Little attention is paid to what God has to say about sin and righteousness. Demonism, witchcraft and mysticism are gaining a wider acceptance. A high standard of living has become god. Jesus Christ is only a good man, largely unknown. Few confess to sinfulness.

We must ask ourselves what our mission is today. Having realized our mission, we must pursue it with wisdom and determination, believing that the life of the world is at stake.

Our first task must be to preach and teach God's Word in all its truth and purity. Many do not accept the Word of God, but that is not to shape our actions. It is God Who gives the increase. Even if all ignore, we can do no better than to preach and teach God's Word.

The demands and judgments of God's Law must be clearly proclaimed. Sin must become exceedingly sinful before there can be hope. There must be repentance over sin.

The gracious invitation of the Gospel must be shared with those who have been awakened to their sinfulness. Christ, the only Savior, must be raised up so that He can draw men to Himself. Only in Christ is there for-

givenness, mercy, life and hope.

Christ does not become ours through an "easy believism," so prevalent today. There must be a genuine conviction of sin brought about by God's Law. This conviction of sin is not just an awareness that life is not as happy as it should be, and that one is restless and unfulfilled. It is a genuine remorse over one's own sins, sins realized as being against a loving God. It is a recognition of rebellion against God and His will for our lives. It is a conviction of sin that causes one to throw oneself on God's mercy in Christ as one's only hope, and by faith the sinner looks to Jesus for salvation. The miraculous new birth is experienced.

A common error in our day is to confuse awakening to the realization of spiritual need with conversion. When this is done, the Gospel is often applied to folks still in ignorance of their sin and depravity. Faith then becomes only a good work instead of surrender to Christ. A psychological peace is achieved without conversion. The Law must kill before lasting peace can come. We must preach and teach the whole counsel of God, that thorough conversions take place, and not take human and evasive shortcuts.

Human physical needs must not be ignored. There is so much physical suffering today. There is great need for famine relief. Thousands of refugees must be cared for. Through our support of the World Relief Commission, we are showing concern, and sharing our blessings. We could and should do more than we have been doing.

## Our Nation

Our country has been shamed by many of the events of this past year. Sin in high places and of great magnitude has been revealed. Our national policies have been found wanting. We have undoubtedly forsaken some friends in their need. Inflation and re-

cession plague our people. Energy shortages are becoming more acute. There is a woeful lack of leadership in many areas. Politics seems to be more important than national good. There is little concern about our national and individual sins, but a great deal of pride.

As a nation, we are entering our bicentennial year. God's blessings have been on us as a people. The accomplishments of our people and the quality of life enjoyed are tremendous. We believe these came because of our spiritual foundations and concerns. We have forsaken many of these convictions. God grant that there be a wave of repentance sweeping our land so that God can use us as a light among the nations.

The Bicentennial year should be a time to remember our spiritual heritage, and a time to turn back to God. Christian people should be involved in bicentennial observances. We trust that all of our congregations will appropriately observe our nation's bicentennial.

### **Our Congregations**

We are a congregation-centered fellowship. Our Fundamental Principles and our practices give emphasis to the truth that the congregation is the right form of the Kingdom of God on earth. The Association lives to build up congregations and to establish new ones.

We are a fellowship of Lutheran congregations. Our Lutheran heritage is precious. Our doctrinal position is Scriptural.

To be Lutheran does not mean much among many so-called Lutherans today. Lutheran doctrines and distinctions are sacrificed to syncretism and well-meaning neo-evangelicalism.

As Lutherans we understand the centrality of worship, worship in Spirit and Truth, in the life of the congregation and Christian individual. Worship is not a program that is personality-centered, gift-centered, or even mission-centered, even though it may be enjoyable and entertaining. These things often go for worship. Worship must always be Word-centered and Christ-centered, raising our thoughts from the earthly and human to the heavenly and eternal.

Worship is not always successful to those caught up with programing and numbers, but nothing succeeds in the church without it. Worship meets our needs as nothing else does. Entertainment is replacing true worship in many congregations today. God thus becomes human, understandable, and small, not One Who inspires awe and surrender.

So much programing and evangelism available today is talent- and personality-centered, much given to entertainment and appealing to the old nature. They boast of their successes, abilities and callings. They promote themselves and their talents and need generous financial support. It is questionable stewardship to support such efforts. The fruits of this kind of religious activity do not abide. The oft-times slower and humble, steady work of pastor and congregation is what really counts. This Godly work is often really hindered by the "Word-peddlers" with their musical and emotional extravaganzas.

The congregation is to meet the truly spiritual needs of people. The world cannot be won by worldly methods and forms. The old nature is not changed by things enjoyable to it. It is the foolishness of humbly preaching the Word that counts for eternity.

### **Our Work Together**

The Association has been blessed consistently through Word-centered Bible camps. It is easy for camp programs to become only activity, testimony, or fellowship-centered. Programs and schedules must be constantly examined and retuned. The best is hard to come by and keep.

For several years the Association has rented the Assembly of God campgrounds at Alexandria. As that church body's needs grew, it became difficult to secure the use of their camp. The camp committee felt forced to make other arrangements this year. We are grateful to the Assembly of God church body for the use of their camp for so many years.

Through the enthusiastic cooperation the camp corporation and committee of the Galilee Bible Camp, Lake Bronson, Minn., that camp will be used for our family gathering this year. The folks of that area are working hard

to get the camp ready. We are sure the facilities will be adequate.

Lake Bronson may not meet our long-time camp needs, however. Other possibilities are being explored. It surely would be wonderful to have adequate facilities for use when we need them. While there is an abundance of smaller camps, large camp facilities are very scarce. We must proceed with caution and care, however. This is another development that calls for God's guidance, and the cooperation of our entire fellowship.

After many delays, the men's dormitory for our Bible School was finally completed and taken to use. It certainly is a fine addition to our school facilities. Progress has been made on the landscaping of the campus grounds. Costs have been high, but are not coming down.

It is with regret that we note that Pastor Richard Snipstead is resigning as dean of the Bible School. He has faithfully led the school through years of rapid expansion and growth. He has always been mindful of the convictions and desires of our people in the manner the school has operated. He has courageously withstood tendencies and trends not in keeping with Scriptural and Lutheran practices. He has always considered that which was best for the students, not necessarily what they wanted. These are the most important qualifications for a dean. We thank God for Pastor Richard Snipstead. There are procedures for the selection of his successor.

At the request of a previous conference, the president of the Association visited our mission field in Brazil with the chairman of our Foreign Mission Board. It was a worthwhile trip.

The Association has a fine work in Brazil. Brazil is a large and rapidly developing country. The Bible School and Seminary enrollment is small. The present facilities will accommodate a much larger student body. Our missionaries are working hard, but their living conditions are good. The Brazilians are lovely people, showing much enthusiasm for the work. The congregations are not large, and seemingly have the same kind of basic problems we have here in America.

*(Continued on page 13)*

## CHRISTMAS FESTIVAL

Two Foreign Exchange students from Oslo, Norway, who had attended the same grade school, had the happy occasion to meet for the first time at the Scandinavian Christmas Festival sponsored by Our Saviour Lutheran Church, Vancouver, Washington, Sunday afternoon, December 29, 1974. Miss Anne Walentin attended High School in Eugene, Oregon, and Mr. Morten Ericson was a student at Hudson's Bay High School in Vancouver.

Rev. Lars Stalsbrotten, pastor of the Vancouver church, who had not preached a Norwegian sermon in 26 years, suggested the festival idea for those who still "cherish their native language" and enjoy traditional customs. A sermon, several solos, a greeting, all in the Norwegian language, set the mood for carol singing in both languages around the tree.

Following the service the congregation served coffee and flat brød, lefse (several varieties), vaffler with gjaete ost, kaffe brød, rosettes, fattigmand, berliner kranser, sandbakelse, sprits, krumkaka, doughnuts and a variety of cookies. Only about 75 were in attendance due to inclement weather. It was snowing in Washington.

But again the celebration of Is. 9:6: "For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, the mighty God, the everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace," was made very real to us in song, sermon, and fellowship.

Mrs. Ralph A. Thompson  
Secretary

After teaching the immigrant Americanism, it might be a good idea to tell the natural-born citizen what it is.

—Greenville, S. Car.

find a new land for the Norwegian Quakers.

The emigrants settled first in Orleans County, New York, where their arrival is commemorated on a marker along Highway 18 at Kendall. They were known as "Sloopers" from the vessel that brought them here. They were trail blazers for a movement that was to bring close to 800,000 Norwegians to America during the next 100 years.

In 1834 most of the Sloopers moved on to the Fox River Valley in northern Illinois where they joined a larger Norwegian community. There is still a Sloopers society in the valley.

The events of 1825 are being observed this year in a Norwegian Immigrant Sesquicentennial Celebration. Dr. Fredrik A. Schiotz, ALC president emeritus, is chairman of the sesquicentennial celebration committee.

After the original small group of Quakers left Norway, succeeding waves of emigrants included almost entirely members of Lutheran churches.

Peerson led other immigrants to Chicago and Milwaukee, into Missouri and Iowa, and finally into Texas. He was given a grant of 320 acres of land by the Texas legislature for his "service as a pioneer leader."

Peerson was buried in Norse, Texas, under a headstone that identifies him as "the first Norwegian Emigrant to America."

The Sesquicentennial Association is sponsoring 16 area festivals in the U.S. Oct. 5, 12, and 19, in observance of the arrival of the Sloopers. Celebrations are being held in Norway between May 17, Norwegian Independence Day, and July 4.

Norway was a province of Denmark until May 17, 1814, when Norwegians demanded and received their political freedom and the status of an independent nation.

Norwegian bishops will be guest speakers at 13 of the area festivals. Bishops already accepting speaking engagements are the Rt. Rev. Kaare Støylen, the Bishop of Oslo, and the Rt. Rev. Dagfinn Hauge of Tonsberg. While Norway does not have an archbishop, the Bishop of Oslo is considered to be the primate of the church in Norway.

## NORWEGIAN LUTHERANS OBSERVE DOUBLE HOLIDAY ON JULY 4

Minneapolis (LC)—American Lutherans of Norwegian heritage will celebrate a double holiday on July 4—Independence Day and the departure of the "Norwegian Mayflower" from Stavanger, Norway, for New York in 1825.

The sloop "Restauration," built as a vessel for spring herring fishing, was twice enlarged and was purchased by the emigrants for \$1,350. It was little more than half as long as the 90-foot Mayflower and carried one-third as many people.

Fifty-two persons left Norway on the Restauration under the leadership of Cleng Peerson, the "pathfinder of Norwegian settlements in the northwest and southwest," and Lars Larson, a Quaker. Margaret Larson was born to Mr. and Mrs. Lars Larson on the voyage and the ship with 53 on board arrived in New York Oct. 9, 1825.

The Norwegians came to this country for much the same reason as did the Mayflower pilgrims: to escape religious persecution and to find economic opportunity.

During the Napoleonic war, Norwegian fishermen and seamen were captured and interned in England. They were ministered to by Quakers and when they returned to Norway formed a Quaker meeting. Lars Larson was the leader.

The state church of Norway did not look with favor on the Quakers' refusal to baptize and confirm their children and serve in the military. This separatist life style and lack of economic opportunity led the group in Stavanger to seek its fortune elsewhere and Peerson, who had spent three years in the U.S., was commissioned to return to this country and

## UNANIMOUS VERDICT

B. E. Bergesen

The police say:

"Alcohol and gasoline make for accidents."

The murderer says:

"I don't know what I did; I was drunk."

The judge says:

"Alcohol makes for crime but doesn't excuse it."

The psychologist says:

"Alcohol robs a human of reason!"

The doctor says:

"Alcohol weakens resistance and shortens life."

The moralist says:

"Alcohol and morals never kept company!"

The lady says:

"The breath of alcohol is repulsive!"

The mother says:

"Alcohol robs the home of its peace!"

The children say:

"When father is sober, we run to to meet him; when he is drunk we run to hide from him."

The wife says:

"Alcohol makes for divorce."

The undertaker says:

"Alcohol speeds up business."

The liquor dealer says:

"Give youth a sample and you have a customer for life."

The wet voter says:

"I voted for this!"

The dry-voting legislator says:

"I'd rather oppose my constituency than my conscience."

The pastor says:

"Alcohol robbed many a soul of its eternal life."

The Bible says:

"A drunkard shall not inherit the kingdom of God."

WHAT DO YOU SAY?

—Courtesy, Tract Mission

Unless your Bible knowledge develops into faith and love and devotion, it is of little practical value for your life.

Arthur Brunn

## BOOK REVIEW

**CODE, NAME SEBASTIAN** by James L. Johnson price \$1.95

This is a fast moving Christian novel filled with suspense and danger. Sebastian, the hero, was one of the few who survived from the plane which crashed in a dessert south of Palestine.

The few survivors faced extreme thirst, hunger, fatigue, and many other dangers as they made their way across the desert sand to safety after the crash.

The hero, a Christian, leaves a Christian witness with the little group as they together face all the dangers that threaten their lives.

This Christian witness left an impression with the other characters of this novel, but when the hero showed real love to an enemy this left the greatest impression.

This novel is for anyone who loves adventure with a Christian plot.

Rev. Gerald F. Mundfrom

A close parallel to this book is **Nine Lives of Alphonse** by the same author and at the same price. This time the story centers around a shipwreck in which the survivors escape to Cuba.

These books may all be purchased from the **Bible Book Mission**; 809 Mc-Hugh Ave.; Grafton, North Dakota 58237. Add 18 cents postage for the first pound and eight cents a pound for each additional pound.

## REST

Rest! You tired men and women, think of it—rest! How will Jesus give you rest? He will this morning give you a vision of His boundless love as you kneel in spirit under the cross, His love as revealed by giving His body and shedding His blood for you, so that you feel you can trust this love under any and all circumstances, this mighty, imperishable love, which passes human understanding. He will strengthen your assurance of forgiveness, so that you know that there is nothing separating you from your God, that you may count on His love and protection and care in all the storms of life. He will give you peace. Come unto Him, turn to Him in honest self-surrender, and you shall find rest unto your soul.

Fred H. Lindemann

## SUNDAYS IN TRINITY

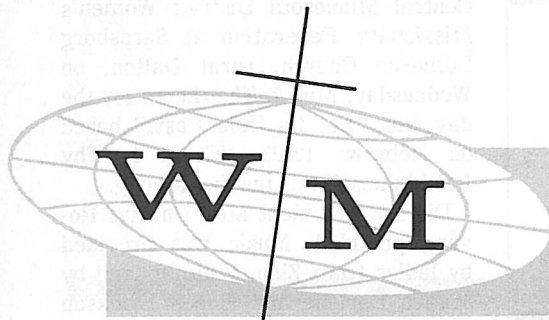
The lessons for the Sundays after Trinity present great diversity. We cannot expect them to follow one another in the order of logical sequence, for they were not selected with that purpose in view; rather, with the idea of presenting the rich variety that is found in the life and teaching of our Lord.

L. S. Keyser

### ASSOCIATION OF FREE LUTHERAN CONGREGATIONS 3110 East Medicine Lake Boulevard Minneapolis, Minnesota 55441

#### Budget Receipt Report February 1—May 31, 1975

	Total Budget	Current Budget	Received in May	Total Received to date	% of Current	% of Total
General Fund	\$ 64,250.00	\$ 21,416.64	\$ 2,118.48	\$12,877.67	60	20
Schools	102,000.00	34,000.00	5,954.95	28,041.21	82.4	27
Home Missions	53,000.00	17,666.64	3,206.80	10,574.24	60	20
Foreign Missions	66,840.00	22,280.00	4,453.42	13,005.68	58	19
Praise Fund	18,000.00	6,000.00	1,233.31	4,147.23	69	23
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$304,090.00</b>	<b>\$101,363.28</b>	<b>\$16,291.96</b>	<b>\$68,646.03</b>	<b>67.7</b>	<b>22.5</b>
1974-75	\$264,200.00	\$88,066.68	\$15,474.92	\$56,104.11	63.7	21
Legacies—\$326.97						
Dorm Fund—\$2,374.65						



# WORLD MISSIONS

THE FIELDS ARE WHITE UNTO HARVEST

## BACK IN BEAUTIFUL BRAZIL

By Priscilla Wold

Praise the Lord for bringing me back to this beautiful but needy land! And how I praise Him for going before me and leading the way! The Holy Spirit constantly reminds me of Ephesians 3:20: "Now unto Him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us." For God has provided above my highest expectations in everything, from knowing were to get on and off buses in the big city of Sao Paulo, to providing an apartment for me.

I arrived in Brazil in the middle of January and spent a very interesting month with our missionaries in Campo Mourao. Four of the highlights were: 1) Visiting our church in Alvorada with Connely Dyrud. To get there we had to cross a river at a point where there was no bridge—just drive right through the water. 2) Getting back to Umuarama and visiting the missionaries with whom I used to work. 3) Visiting Karen Knapp and the Blake family (who used to live

in Umuarama) at the Maranatha Bible Institute. 4) Helping at our youth Bible Camp in the first part of February. A Brazilian girl and I were the co-deans of girls.

The Holy Spirit taught us much at camp through our teachers, including the three guest speakers. Two were Brazilian pastors. One was from the Oriental Missionary Society Bible School in Parana and the other from the Brazilian branch of Evangelism in Depth. The other guest speaker was an American missionary who is also with Evangelism in Depth. We had Bible studies in the morning, sports and swimming in the afternoon, and evangelistic meetings at night. The last night (or early morning) some of us girls serenaded the boys' dorm, our guest speaker's family and our cook's family! About 80 campers were registered and many made decisions for the Lord. Please support these new converts in prayer as it's so easy for the dear Brazilians to fall away.

Now I'm in Sao Paulo studying at the Bible Missionary Language School. There are five teachers and

17 students. We have three classes a day; this term all of mine are in the morning, which I appreciate. We have classes in phonics, vocabulary, grammar, conversation, perfection reading, writing articles, dictation, Bible reading and memorizing, and Brazilian culture. It's very challenging but God gives wisdom for this, too.

The Lord has also marvelously provided an apartment and a Christian roommate for me. She doesn't understand English, so this forces me to use all the Portuguese I possibly can. This certainly helps me in learning the language.

I am also learning to adjust to life in Sao Paulo, but this is no small matter for this country girl in this huge city of seven million plus. Just finding my way around and deciding what city bus to take is a big challenge, especially when one doesn't even know the language very well. But the Holy Spirit leads here also.

Therefore, I now do enjoy living in this city. It's a picture of all of Brazil with all of its contrasts. We have beautiful parks and yet much pollution. We have many people who dress in the very latest styles and yet many beggars on the streets. We have many modern supermarkets and also quaint fruit and vegetable stands on the sidewalks and in the streets. We have modern sports cars and yet an occasional horse and cart, and also policemen on horseback. In one part of town there's a modern shopping center and American restaurant, and yet less than a block away there's a terrible

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Conservative Presbyterian Church where the language classes are held.



AFLC Bible School students harvesting rice by hand.

# Women For Christ

## PORTLAND CHURCH SITE OF WOMEN'S GATHERING

Valley Free Lutheran Church in Portland, N. Dak., was host to the Spring Rally for the Eastern North Dakota District Women's Missionary Federation on Tuesday, May 13, 1975. The theme for the day was "CHRIST BELIEVED IS SALVATION RECEIVED" based on Isaiah 12:2-4. "I Know in Whom I Have Believed" was the theme song for the rally. The district president, Pearl Aanstad, presided over the sessions. Music was provided by women from St. Paul's Lutheran, Fargo, and the Portland parish. An offering was received for Cradle Roll-Junior Missions and My Missionary for a Day. Mrs. Gerald Knudsvig conducted the morning Bible study. She told of the changes that take place in a heart that is black with sin. As the sinner repents and accepts Christ his heart is cleansed and becomes white as snow, and at the end of life here on earth he will receive the crown of life.

Pastor Kenneth Heppner brought a challenging mission message at the afternoon session. He based his message on Is. 12:2, asking why is "Christ believed Salvation received?" Christ came to earth to preach salvation. God so loved us that he who believes on Christ should have eternal life. Christ died for our sins—Christ was our salvation. My life should be so full of Christ that others can see that I have been with Jesus. The Great Commission to tell others should have gripped our lives so that we will tell others. We must believe and live the message in order to be able to proclaim it. Mrs. Donald Olson was song leader for the day. There were 119 in attendance. A memorial service

was conducted by Mrs. Marlowe Martinson.

Rodney Stueland is the lay pastor of the host congregation.

Mrs. Russell Duncan  
Secretary

## MRS. MICKELSEN HONORED FOR SERVICE

The 57th Honorary Membership in the Women's Missionary Federation given by the Aid at Calvary Lutheran Church, Everett, Wash., was awarded to Mrs. Harold Mickelsen last February.



Of the 57 who have received this distinction, 22 have gone on to be with the Lord down through the years.

Mrs. Solveig Hays is president of the local WMF at Everett and is shown presenting the certificate to Mrs. Mickelsen. Rev. Michael Brandt is serving as interim pastor at Calvary.

—Corr.

## SARPSBORG LUTHERAN CHURCH SETTING FOR WMF RALLY

Kvam-Sarpsborg Ladies Aids hosted the spring rally for the Southwest

Central Minnesota District Women's Missionary Federation at Sarpsborg Lutheran Church, rural Dalton, on Wednesday, May 7. The theme for the day was "Let Us Hold Fast," based on Hebrews 10:23. "Great Is Thy Faithfulness" was the theme song.

District president Mrs. Charles Rovang presided. Music was provided by ladies from Zion, Willmar, and by Misses Darlene and Eileen Erickson and Mrs. Becky Houge.

Rev. Wendell Johnson, the host pastor, led the Bible study, using our theme verse and citing Daniel, who truly was steadfast and "purposed in his heart not to defile himself."

An offering was received for Cradle Roll-Junior Missions.

Mrs. Julius Hermunslie led the afternoon prayer session. Miss Judith Wold, our WMF executive secretary, spoke, telling us about the different projects of the WMF and how each project is being carried out. The afternoon offering was given to the General Fund.

Mrs. Lorella Hartman was our song leader for the day. There were 119 in attendance.

Mrs. Irene Torgerson  
Secretary

## A WELL-EARNED TRIBUTE

In a congregational meeting at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Virginia, Minn., a little ceremony of appreciation was held for Mrs. Robert (Laina) Waisa, who has this year completed her tenth consecutive year



Mrs. Robert Waisa receives a corsage from her successor, Mrs. Lempi Karki.

as president of its Ladies Aid. Her worsening vision has made it necessary for her to leave that office, to the great regret of its members.

Mrs. Waisa is a kindly person and a good Christian with great consideration and empathy for others. The

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# editorials

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## FIRST TIME FOR EVERYTHING

The other Sunday we took part in something for the first time in our experience, the recitation of the Athanasian Creed in a church service. Yes, the pastor had duplicated copies of the Creed for the congregation and we read it responsively together.

This writer had never done such a thing in his years of parish ministry. Perhaps many of the people in the audience the other Sunday had never read the Athanasian Creed before. To us it was a thrilling experience and one that our readers might consider sharing in a public worship service.

The Athanasian is one of the three creeds of the Lutheran Church and of some other Christian churches. It is much longer than the better known Apostles' and Nicene Creeds. Because of its length and character it is not a creed we are apt to use regularly (and may never have used in public up to now), but it is one with which we should become familiar.

When you read the Athanasian Creed, remember that it is speaking to a particular need in the history of the Church. It is answering critics and heretics, insisting on the equality of the three Persons in the Godhead and describing the nature of Christ. And since history repeats itself and heresies never really die, the Creed is relevant to today also.

The Athanasian Creed is from the 5th or 6th century. While it bears the name of Athanasius, we cannot be certain of its authorship. **The Lutheran Ambassador** (February 8, 1966) contained a copy of the Athanasian Creed.

Then, also, a man from the above congregation remarked to us that in the course of the past Sunday School year he had used and become acquainted, for the first time, with the Augsburg Confession. This had been an enjoyable experience for him and, we are sure, for the members of the adult Bible class which he teaches.

And why shouldn't we get acquainted with the Augsburg Confession and the Athanasian Creed? They are two of the five chief statements of faith, or symbols, of the Lutheran Church, the others being the Apostles' Creed, the

Nicene Creed and Luther's Small Catechism. (Other Lutheran churches may officially subscribe to other historical documents, too, but the above are the basic ones.) Every local constitution in the Association of Free Lutheran Congregations should mention these documents or symbols by name or refer to them collectively. Further, the constitution should declare that the preaching and teaching in the congregation will conform thereto.

Certainly, the holy Bible itself is the source of all our doctrine and teaching and your church constitution mentions the Bible first of all. But the Lutheran symbols are the gathering together, the systematizing of Bible teaching. They are a summary of what is believed about various subjects with which the Bible deals.

It is right that we know the Scriptures and the major statements of the faith. Our children study the Small Catechism and Explanation in confirmation instruction and to some extent in Sunday School. As adults we neglect these and at a time when they would do us even more good.

The Apostles' Creed we know, the Nicene Creed to a certain extent. But the Unaltered Augsburg Confession and Athanasian Creed remain mysteries. We can imagine the furor which would arise among us and others should we hear of attempts to write new confessional statements or to change the present ones. But why defend so strongly what we know so little about?

Perhaps a good bicentennial project for us would be a concerted attempt to become familiar with the Lutheran symbols, particularly the Unaltered Augsburg Confession. Perhaps **The Lutheran Ambassador** can have a part in this effort.

## PLACES APART

The previous **Ambassador** carried information about a number of Bible camping opportunities in the Association. From that information it is obvious that some very fine camp weeks have been planned for the summer.

Some of the camps are youth camps. This was the first type of camp with which many of us were familiar. Some of our camp facilities were built as youth camps and do not easily lend themselves to family-type camps, which is the other basic approach to camping. Both have their good points.

Of the family camps, the one at Lake Bronson receives the most attention because it is operated by the will of the whole church. It can call on people throughout the AFLC for help, it can involved workers from all the districts more easily than can the other family camps. But there are several such district or regional camps and they are doing well, too.

It will certainly be a good thing if all of our camps are well supported by attendance and that people, young and older, come to these "places apart." Added to the opportunities for teenage youth this summer is the Luther League Federation Convention in Minneapolis next month. That may hurt camp attendance somewhat but there are enough young people to go around.

May God's blessings be on the Bible camping efforts in our church again this year.

# Letters TO THE EDITOR

## THE LORD IS USING ME

Being a student writer, it pleases me to learn that my writings are being enjoyed by readers of Christian magazines. It further humbles me to know that after a lifetime of nominal, useless Christian living, the Lord is using me in my old age to be, unworthily, a blessing to others.

Thank you for your appreciation of my sharing of my life experience ("What Does Love Have to Do With Employee Relations?" April 22, 1975). All glory to "Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all" that I asked or thought was possible through me.

Guy A. Young  
Detroit, Mich.

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(Continued from page 8)

church has benefited from her experienced leadership and her energetic drive so that we have almost reached half the goal in the Biblical injunction of not owing any man anything.

The photo shows her also well-qualified successor, Mrs. Lempi Karki, pinning the corsage of gratitude on her for her decade of faithful work in the service of the Lord at our church in Virginia.

—Corr.

## NORTHERN MICHIGAN WMF SESSION HELD AT EBEN JUNCTION

The spring meeting of the Northern Michigan Women's Missionary Federation was held at Calvary Lutheran Church at Eben Junction on May 3. The meeting was opened by the president, Mrs. Helen Woimanen. The theme for the day was "Be Not Hearers Only, But Doers," from James 1:22.

Mrs. Wallace Jackson gave a welcome. Shirley Kiranen read Scripture and offered prayer. Five members of

Calvary Church sang "I Will Serve Thee." Mrs. Jalkanen, superintendent of the local Sunday School, took charge of the Bible study on our theme, after which everyone filled out a checklist about themselves. A discussion was held on each item and we found that as Christians we have broken every item. The president read a portion from "Our Daily Bread" after the study.

Mrs. Dean Morgan sang the solo "He Lives." In the business meeting, Impi Maki and Hazel Langness volunteered to be on the nominating committee. It was announced that the fall meeting will be held at Hope Lutheran Church, Ishpeming, on Sept. 20. It was decided that the offering should be given to the General Fund of the WMF.

Following noon lunch, the afternoon session opened with the singing of "This Is My Father's World." A group from Eben Jct., sang "His Love Sent Him to the Cross."

Dr. James Gerdeen, Chassell, gave the afternoon talk on "Doers of the Word." He mentioned many people in Scripture and outside of it who were "doers," including St. Boniface and Martin Luther. He told of those who are missionaries in the AFLC, saying that the number is few.

Impi Maki, Donna Adams, Burdine Peterson and Shirley Kiranen took part in a sharing time. Donna Adams and Wanda Gerdeen sang a duet. The closing song was "Lord, Dismiss Us With Thy Blessing." Pastor Jackson, host pastor, offered the closing prayer.

Mrs. Elsie Moilanen  
Secretary

## SCHOLARSHIP ACKNOWLEDGED

We would like to thank the Alumni Scholarship Committee for the \$300 our son David received. We ask the Lord to bless each of you. Ephesians 3:20, 21.

Mr. and Mrs. Robert Rudebusch  
Ortley, S. Dak.

## PATRIOTISM

Too many patriots claim to be supporters of the Government when they are merely holding it up.

—Oklahoma City Times

## BEFORE THE LORD WE BOW

Before the Lord we bow,  
The Lord who reigns above,  
And rules the world below,  
Boundless in power and love.  
Our thanks we bring  
In joy and praise,  
Our hearts we raise  
To heaven's King.

May every mountain height,  
Each vale and forest green  
Shine in Thy Word's pure light,  
And its rich fruits be seen!  
May every tongue  
Be turned to praise,  
And join to raise  
A grateful song.

Earth! hear Thy Maker's voice,  
Thy great Redeemer own;  
Believe, obey, rejoice,  
And worship Him alone.  
Cast down thy pride,  
Thy sin deplore,  
And bow before  
The Crucified.

Francis Scott Key  
(from *The Hymnal*)

## AFLBS GOSPEL TEAM TRAVELED IN WISCONSIN, UPPER MICHIGAN AND MINNESOTA

A girls' Gospel Team from Association Free Lutheran Bible School made a week-long tour to western Wisconsin, Upper Michigan and Duluth, Minnesota, May 30-June 6. The team visited congregations at Colfax, Cumberland and Mason (Faith and Moland), Wisconsin; Ishpeming, Eben Junction, Chassell and Bessemer, Michigan; and Duluth.

Members of the team were Den Nelson, Valley City, N. Dak.; Suzi Draeger, Medford, Wis.; Paula Benson, Colfax, Wis.; Vonnie Kylo, Zumbrota, Minn.; Verna Whitaker, Bloomington, Minn.; Ruth Mundfrom, Grafton, N. Dak.; and Janet Wall, Comfrey, Minn. Pastor Raynard Huglen of the faculty accompanied the team and brought a brief devotional message at each concert.

The group enjoyed the fine scenery of the area covered and had the opportunity to do some sightseeing. All the congregations visited received the team warmly.

and concentrating on verses 4 through 8 many attributes of love (Agape) are given.

9. List some of them:

Now, if you look over the listing again, you will notice that the opposite of every attribute of love listed in I Cor. 13 is SIN. Impatience, unkindness, jealousy, arrogance—all are works of the flesh and all are acts of sinning. But how is it possible for any such as you and I to display this high and holy love in our everyday life?

10. (Perhaps you will find the answer in such a Scripture portion as Col. 1:27

or Phil. 2:13

—Mrs. Esther Farrier

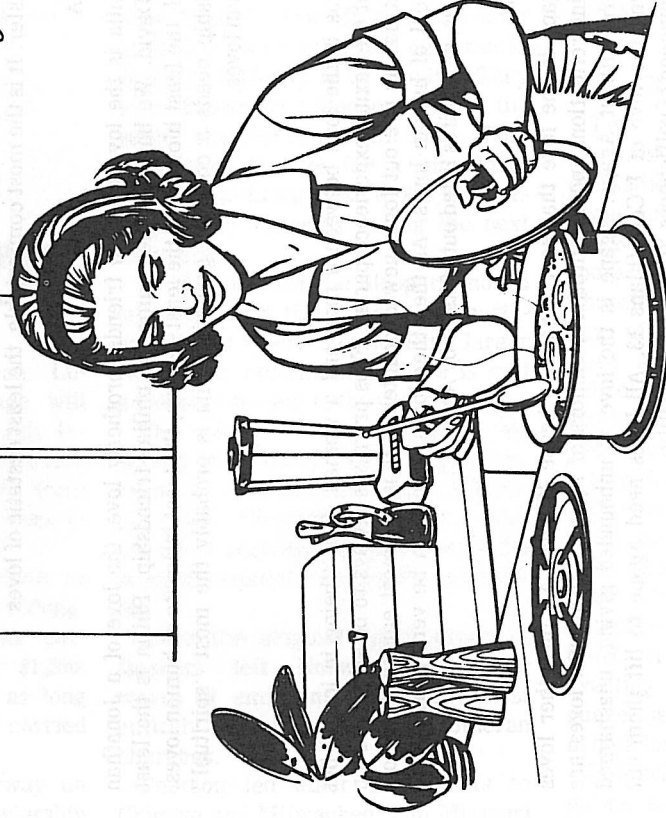
#### WMF REMINDERS

June was the month for convention offerings. This year our offerings went to Church Extension and Seminary Library. They are both so very important to the work of the AFLC. If you have not already sent in your convention offerings, there is still time to do so.

Our project for July is Mission Scholarship. This fund makes it possible for seminarians to receive help with their education. Let us also be fervent in prayer that God will call out more men into our Seminary.

Mrs. Robert Dietsche  
President

# WMF Bible Study



GOD IS FOR WOMEN... GOD IS FOR YOU

LESSON VII

July, 1975

GOD IS FOR YOU—HE WILL GIVE YOU LOVE FOR LIVING

Ephesians 5:1-7 I Corinthians 13

## MANY FACES OF LOVE

C. S. Lewis, author of *Screwtape Letters* and many other writings, was in Minneapolis several years ago to deliver lectures on "Four Loves" over one of our college stations. The addresses were made available in printed form and have since been published as a book, *The Four Loves*. Lewis uses four Greek words, each of which is translated "love" in our English:

### STORGE

Storge is affection for the familiar. It is the humblest and least demanding of all human loves. It includes the love of a mother for her child, of a child for parents. It includes a master's love for a servant, of an old servant for his master. It is the most comfortable, the least ecstatic of loves.

### PHILIA

Philia is the love between friends, brotherly love, the love of a Jonathan for a David. We have another name for philia—friendship. Philia is the least natural, the least biological, the least jealous, the least intimate of human loves. Friendship needs a common ground. Philia is probably the most "spiritual" of human loves.

### EROS

Eros is the love between a man and a woman. It is "being in love," but it is not the sexual experience per se. Eros promises always to be eternal (even when it has an eye out for a new encounter!). It is the most earthy, the most biological of human loves. As the other loves, Eros can be very selfish, and usually is, unless it is lifted out of itself by Agape.

### AGAPE

Agape is the love that sent a Savior. Agape IS love. All the other loves are faint reflections, poor imitations, rumors of Agape. All natural loves are a failure without Agape. Agape is the love of unbounded giving, unashamed receiving the love of I Corinthians 13. All loves need Agape to lift them out of the dungeon of selfishness, to give them reality.

### IN THE FIRST FIVE VERSES OF EPHESIANS 5

Paul says that the Christian is to walk in love, and then he mentions two "loves" which must be set aside. What are those two "loves"?

1. \_\_\_\_\_

When a grandson was quite small, about three years old, he was caught several times at the table placing his arm at exactly the same angle as that of his father seated next to him. In the first verse in Ephesians 5 we are exhorted to be "imitators of God as dear children." What does this mean to you?

2. \_\_\_\_\_

When we speak of love we tend to become sentimental. What phrase or phrases in these verses serve to remove any tendency toward the saccharine?

3. \_\_\_\_\_  
To get back to this bit about being imitators of the Father, why do children imitate their earthly parents?

4. ( ) a. Because they consciously, deliberately decide to be imitators;  
( ) b. Because they are told to do so; ( ) c. Because they are children.

Is this what God is trying to get across to us here? If we are children of a loving God we will be imitators of Him because we will be partakers of His nature. Therefore, the imitating of God is a kind of family seal—a proof that I am a child of a loving God. Being His child, I will display the family resemblance and walk in love as He does.

When Paul speaks of our walking in love, he specifically mentions the love that brought salvation, the love that gave itself unto death to rescue the children. So the love that we are exhorted to demonstrate is the love that seeks the lost and brings home the strays, a love that gives of itself even unto death in concern for the eternal good of another.

5. What, in practical terms, could this walking in love mean to us as women?

Does the phrase "walk in love" mean that God expects us all to go to another country, another community, another town, to display the love of God to others?

6. If not, what does it mean? \_\_\_\_\_

As usual, God here in these verses gives both the negative and the positive, the warning and the commendation.

7. List the anti-love characteristics mentioned under these two headings:

Lust \_\_\_\_\_

Greed \_\_\_\_\_

Both lust and greed are rampant in our society today. How do you propose to "walk in love" in the midst of the preoccupation with sex and money that seems to be the hallmark of our American way of life?

8. How can anyone not be "partakers with" the sons of disobedience? \_\_\_\_\_

*(Continued from page 4)*

It is impossible in a short time to get a complete picture of a mission work. Some observations can be shared, however.

It appears that more definite goals in procedure be established for our work in Brazil. Missionaries are to be selected who would fit in with these plans. Not all who may want to go to Brazil would fill a need in our mission.

Our Bible School and Seminary need direction from a qualified educator whose main concern and task is to be our schools. More definite areas of responsibility should be established. Everybody's business is nobody's business. All of our missionaries should not be stationed near our schools, but some should be closer to our congregations to give greater direction and nurturing, as well as to cut down travel. Our missionaries should limit their work load. They should keep in closer touch with the home office and work in close cooperation with the board. Greater use should be made of qualified Brazilians in the school program. We are thinking specifically of people like Yeddo Gottel, a graduate of our seminary here. Someone should visit our field every year to encourage our people there, as well as to grow in understanding of the work. Our foreign mission promotion should be centered more on our Lord's mission command than personalities, the physical needs of people, and sympathy. Our task is not to impose our living standards on the Brazilians, but to give them the Word of God.

Our mission work in Brazil is young. There has been good progress. Naturally, mistakes have been made, but they are not serious. We support our missionaries, but do not exalt them. We appreciate the good work of our foreign mission board. We trust that the work in Brazil will continue to grow in effectiveness and will always have good support.

The financial support of our common work last year was excellent, although much of the support came in the last two months. One notable development was the even support percentage-wise given our endeavors. This speaks of thoughtful giving rather than impulsive giving. All of our

endeavors are good, and need support. If one part suffers, all suffer.

After years of discussion, the Association has an evangelist. We are grateful to God that Pastor David Molstre accepted the call to be the Evangelist-Youth worker. He is admirably gifted for the calling. We must uphold him with our prayers.

Pastor David Mostre will have some responsibilities as a youth worker. While the expenses of his office will be met through the General Fund, it is expected that our Luther Leagues support financially Pastor Molstre's ministry on their behalf.

Many of our people are of Norwegian descent. This year marks 150 years since our ancestors began to leave Norway to settle in North America. This sesquicentennial is being marked by appropriate events. Many of our congregations will undoubtedly cooperate and have a part in these observances.

#### **Pastoral Shortage**

The Association is experiencing a severe shortage of pastors. Our need for pastors is critical, as many congregations do not have one.

We remember our Lord's admonition. We are to pray to the Lord of the harvest that He send forth laborers. This is the best and only valid solution to our pastoral needs. May we learn to pray to the Lord of the harvest for the needed laborers.

Undoubtedly the Lord desires to send forth more laborers. When our Lord was on earth, He called multitudes to follow Him. Few followed to the end. Most were not fitted for the task. The Lord's sifting processes eliminated many. "Many are called but few are chosen."

Many followed the Lord when He "entertained" with miracles. This was exciting, particularly when their physical needs were met, too. But when our Lord just preached, they became a little less enthusiastic, and some dropped out. This was not exciting enough. It is not always exciting and thrilling to follow Jesus now either. Sin or good earthly vocations seem to offer more in the eyes of many whom the Lord may desire for full-time service. These are sifted out.

Christ's teaching and preaching were wonderful. Some thoroughly en-

joyed them. But they were not committed to the Lord. The Lord removed Himself to the desert and wilderness. It was not so easy to follow Him that far. It just did not work out for many to follow to this extent. This was too much for them. They were sifted out. Even today, many will not put themselves out to follow Jesus, if it is not convenient.

Then Jesus began to speak in parables. To the undiscerning, they were simple stories with no real challenge, fit more for children than intelligent adults. Some evidently felt insulted by this kind of approach and left Jesus. Today, too, there are those who feel themselves too intellectual for God's Word, for the simple Gospel approach. They are demanding learned insights rather than the old, old Story. A seminary such as ours is just not for them. There are not enough doctorates around, the library is too small, the curriculum is too limited, the pietism too naive, the fields too limited. They are sifted from us.

Then Jesus preached the sermon on the Bread of Life, demanding identification with Him, submission to Him. This was a hard saying. The multitudes left Jesus. He had only the twelve left, and one of them was to deny Him. Today, too, as the call for the surrender of one's life to Christ's will is given, few follow. It is hard to surrender the will. "Many are called, but few are chosen."

Yes, God's sifting process is working today. We thank God for that. While we pray for laborers, we desire only those chosen by God. We do not "promote" seminary enrollment as such. We pray. Our seminarians are given good opportunities. Unlike most seminarians, they pay no tuition. The facilities are constantly being improved. We have a fine faculty. The basic needs of the "chosen ones" are met.

Possibly eight of our seminarians will be ordained this summer. We thank God for this answer to prayer. Most of them will go into the pastoral ministry. One will continue in Brazil. One desires to go into the chaplaincy in the armed forces. This is particularly pleasing as it will be good to have at least one of our pastors in the chaplaincy. These men were not promoted into the ministry. We

believe they endured the sifting and are chosen of God. We wish there were eight more. God knows best!

### Necrology

The Rev. Reuben Wee died during the worship service at Faith Lutheran Church, Granite Falls, Minnesota, on June 23, 1974. Funeral services were held at Faith Lutheran Church, Granite Falls, and at Ellsborough Lutheran Church, Ellsborough Township, Minnesota, on June 27, 1974. Pastor Reuben Wee was loved by all who knew him. We express sympathy to the bereaving family.

The Rev. Raymond L. Larson passed away on August 7, 1974, at Grand Forks, North Dakota. Funeral services were held at Zoar Lutheran Church, Hampden, North Dakota, on August 10, 1974, and the St. Paul Lutheran Church, Rolfe, Iowa, on August 12, 1974. Pastor Larson was a staunch defender of the Faith, and a beloved pastor. We express sympathy to the sorrowing family.

One of the loyal founders and friends of the Association was Mr. Paul Bjornstad, Duluth, Minnesota. He died on December 24, 1974. Paul was loved by us all, and is greatly missed at our conferences and gatherings.

(Omitted here is the section of the Report dealing with Events of Special Interest. These may be read in the Annual Conference Report available this fall.)

### Our Commitment

Our world needs the Gospel of Jesus Christ. The task before us is great, and we are weak. Let us heed the invitation of Jesus found in Revelation 3:18-22:

“I advise you to buy from Me gold refined by fire, that you may become rich, and white garments, that you may clothe yourself, and that the shame of your nakedness may not be revealed, and eyesalve to anoint your eyes, that you may see. Those whom I love, I reprove and discipline; be zealous therefore, and repent. Behold, I stand at the door and knock; if any one hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him, and will dine with him, and he with Me. He who over-

comes, I will grant to him to sit down with Me on My throne, as I also overcame, and sat down with My Father on His throne. He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.’ ”

Let us repent of past sins and failure and receive the help and strength our Lord desires to give. We have a great God. May He be glorified by what we do here. May Jesus Christ be praised.

Sincerely in Him,  
Pastor John P. Strand

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*(Continued from page 7)*

slum district where people just live in shacks. Downtown we have a beautiful municipal theater and yet poor men sleep on its very steps.

Now with our winter approaching, please pray for these people of Sao Paulo especially. Last winter so many died from spinal meningitis and many still have it. And now encephalitis is spreading here, too. At least eight people have died from it just recently in this city. But above all pray for the people's spiritual needs. Materialism is spreading rapidly and spiritism is already very strong. However, the Holy Spirit is working here, too, and is continually bringing Brazilians to the Lord Jesus Christ.

### EIGHT YOUNG PEOPLE CONFIRMED AT BETHEL, GRAFTON

The following young people were confirmed at Bethel Lutheran Church, Grafton, N. Dak., Rev. Dennis D. Gray, pastor, on Sunday, May 25, in a 10:30 a.m. service: Gregory and Wendy Moe, children of Mr. and Mrs. Glenn Moe; Nancy Moe, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Darrel Moe; Todd Pederson, son of Mr. and Mrs. Joey Pederson; Sandra Russum, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Vernon Russum; Rachel Mundrom, daughter of Rev. and Mrs. Gerald Mundrom; Nathan Simmons, son of Mr. and Mrs. Lyle Simmons; and Chris Vogsland, son of Mr. and Mrs. Dennis Vogsland.

Also, two youth were confirmed at a 2 o'clock service on Sunday, June 1, at Aspelund Lutheran Church, Langdon, N. Dak. Members of the class were Dennis Flaten, son of Mr.

and Mrs. Carlton Flaten and Kenneth Stegman, son of Mr. and Mrs. Albert Stegman.

### FEAR NOT

Fear not, for I am with you—

Hear me, your Savior and Friend—  
Be not dismayed nor discouraged,  
But trust me to the end.

Fear not, for I will strengthen  
And hold you with my right hand;  
When you are weak, I am beside you,  
To give you courage to stand.

Fear not, for I uphold you,  
Whatever your need may be;  
When problems of life overtake you,  
Just keep on trusting in me.

Fear not, for I have redeemed you,  
You are mine, I have called you by  
name;

I gave my life to save you,  
For this cause to earth I came.

(Isa. 41:10 and 43:1)

Mrs. Laura Norum  
Clear Lake, Wis.

Conviction, then, is the chief purpose of the Law. God desires nothing more of the sinner than that he as a lost and condemned sinner permits Him to grant him grace from the fullness of Christ, believing and accepting that which Christ Jesus has wrought for him. Then behold! everything is corrected. All is well.

C. O. Rosenius

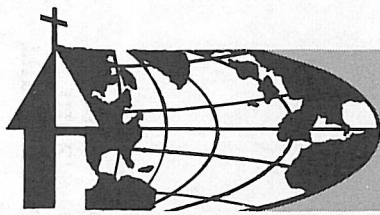
### LOVE FROM GOD, OUR LORD

Love from God, our Lord,  
Has forever poured  
Like a fountain pure and clear.  
In its quiet source,  
In its silent course,  
Doth precious pearl appear.

Love from God, our Lord,  
Comes with sweet accord  
Like a pure and lovely bride.  
Dwell within my heart,  
Peace from God impart,  
Heaven doth with Thee abide.

Love from God, our Lord,  
Has to men restored  
Life and spirit from above.  
Who in love remains,  
Peace from God obtains;  
God Himself is ever love.

J. N. L. Schorring  
(from Hymnal for Church and Home)



## ORGANIC UNION SUBJECT OF LCA, ALC DISCUSSIONS

New York (LC) — Organic union of the two denominations was one of the topics discussed at the first meeting of a Committee on Church Cooperation appointed by the American Lutheran Church and the Lutheran Church in America.

The first meeting of the inter-church committee was held here May 8-9 and a short report released by the participants said the two-day meeting reviewed ALC and LCA actions regarding inter-Lutheran relationships, including those actions aimed at effecting an organic union of the two church bodies.

The committee also discussed current cooperative activity between districts, synods and national agencies of the denominations as well as other inter-Lutheran and ecumenical relationships currently practiced in the ALC and the LCA.

The meeting of the 12-member committee was closed to outside observers.

The LCA coordinator for the committee is Dr. H. George Anderson, president of Lutheran Southern Seminary in Columbus, S. Car. The ALC coordinator is Albert E. Anderson, general manager of Augsburg Publishing House in Minneapolis, Minn.

Scheduling another meeting for Sept. 23-24 in Minneapolis, the committee said it would discuss a study of the "characteristics of the people of the two church bodies," evaluation of possible additional cooperation and consideration of various possibilities for future organizational structures for Lutherans in the USA.

A third meeting is set for Feb. 9-10, 1976, in New York City.

## LCMS SCHOOL OFFICIAL SEES INJUSTICE IN COURT DECISIONS

St. Louis — Al H. Senske, Secretary for Elementary and Secondary Schools

of The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, has called two May 19, 1975, Supreme Court decisions rejecting the constitutionality of certain types of aid to nonpublic schools in Pennsylvania "a great injustice to parents and children."

The Court, ruling on the Meek versus Pittenger case, upheld the loaning of public school approved textbooks to children in nonpublic schools, but rejected the following: loaning of instructional materials and equipment by the state to nonpublic schools; and offering of auxiliary services (testing, speech therapy, psychological, special education for the handicapped, etc.) through public school personnel to nonpublic school children on nonpublic school premises.

"This decision of the Supreme Court rules out some important educational services and materials for all Pennsylvania nonpublic school children, and especially the disadvantaged," Dr. Senske said. "It severely limits for parents the exercise of free choice in education, their constitutional right. It is an injustice that should not be allowed to stand."

He pointed out that the decisions on the three issues are not consistent and that two of the dissenting justices, Rehnquist and White, wrote, "We are left then with no explanation for the arbitrary course chosen." Dr. Senske related that the dissenting justices, who also included Chief Justice Burger, felt that all three categories of materials and services under challenge were constitutional, and that their arguments, which he termed "strong and forceful," were consistent with policies previously adopted by the LCMS.

One of the major arguments for the Court's denying auxiliary services, materials and equipment, according to Dr. Senske, was that there is a high percentage of church-related nonpublic schools in Pennsylvania, and that the various aids for education

were ruled out because, as he stated, "It was felt that their availability and utilization would aid in the advancement of religious beliefs."

Dr. Senske also wrote the following in reaction to the Supreme Court decisions:

It is impossible to understand why providing a secular textbook is constitutional and a secular filmstrip is not, or why a map in a textbook is acceptable whereas that same map hanging on a wall is in violation. It does not make sense to believe that a public school teacher providing speech therapy on church property will be promoting religion while that same teacher will not be guilty of such an act while providing that same therapy off the church property.

It appears that the Court is guilty of seeing only schools and their religious purpose while it is not able to see children receiving basic secular education services in those types of classrooms. We must agree with Bishop James S. Rausch, the General Secretary of the United States Catholic Conference, that this decision makes the children attending nonpublic schools in Pennsylvania "second class citizens."

## PREUS URGES SEMINEX GRADS, OTTEN TO BECOME CERTIFIED

St. Louis—(LC)—Dr. J. A. O. Preus, president of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, has urged all 1974 graduates of Concordia Seminary in Exile to get proper certification as ministers of the synod before the denomination's convention this July.

The synod president also encouraged the Rev. Herman Otten, controversial editor of "Christian News," and an uncertified pastor of Trinity Lutheran Church in New Haven, Mo., to apply for certification as a pastor of the synod.

Mr. Otten was graduated from Concordia Seminary in 1957, but not approved for ordination. The New Haven

congregation went ahead with the ordination, resulting in a lengthy controversy in the synod, which at one time suspended the congregation and then restored it to synod membership.

Dr. Preus said, in a letter to 1974 Seminex graduates, "it is my hope that, not only can the problem involving district presidents be solved by mutual conversation and dialogue prior to Anaheim (the convention site), but I also dare to hope that prior to the convention, a solution to the problem of your certification and your relationship to the ministerium of the synod can also be resolved."

The faculty of Concordia Seminary is keeping its "special certification" program open until June 25, Dr. Preus told the Seminex graduates. He said he was asking district presidents to arrange for uncertified ministers to meet with the Concordia faculty committee.

In his letter to Mr. Otten, Dr. Preus said he did not believe all the problems of the case could be resolved. "But it would seem that now is the time to let bygones be bygones and I would urge you to move prior to the Anaheim convention toward a solution," the synod president wrote.

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