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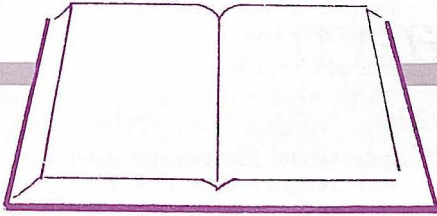
LUTHERAN

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The Resurrection

Wood-carving by Elly-Viola Nachmacher
Credit: Religious News Service Photo



According to the Word

REPENTANCE Lessons From Jonah

In the 2nd chapter of Jonah, which we dealt with last time, we have his prayer and repentance. Here he cries unto the Lord out of the belly of the fish. He confesses his sin and he cries for mercy. He promises to sacrifice with the voice of thanksgiving, and vows to do that which the Lord has bidden him to do. The result is that the Lord commands the prepared fish to vomit up Jonah on the dry land.

In the 3rd chapter we have further results of the repentance of Jonah. Now the word of the Lord comes to Jonah a second time to go to Nineveh and to preach that which the Lord would tell him. Jonah goes at once into Nineveh, a day's journey, and cries out what God told him to say: "Yet forty days and Nineveh will be destroyed." Jonah was now obedient to God and preached that which God wanted him to preach. I wonder how many preachers today are doing this, that is, preaching what God wants them to preach. There are so many liberals and modernists, unsaved preachers in the pulpits today who are not preaching what God wants them to preach. God cannot use them and they are a detriment to the work of the Kingdom of God. It is no wonder we have so many spiritually-dead churches in our land when we have so many spiritually dead preachers who are men-pleasers and not God-pleasers.

God was merciful to Jonah and gave him a second chance. Now, it says that the people believed the message

that Jonah brought from God and they acted at once. In verse 5 it says that they proclaimed a fast and they put on sackcloth. And word came also to the king and he also put on sackcloth and sat in ashes and he proclaimed a decree, which we have in verses 7 and 8. In this decree they were also to cry mightily unto the Lord, and to turn from their wicked ways that perchance God would still have mercy upon them. We have the result of their repentance in verse 10. God saw their humble repentance, and that they turned from their evil ways and He had mercy upon them and did not destroy Nineveh as He had said.

Nineveh was an extremely wicked city, and if our eyes are open then we must say the same about our own country. Never before has there been so much sin, evil and wickedness in this land of ours. Crime of all kinds, a tremendous increase in the use of narcotics and dope and liquor, with the result that immorality, divorce, and broken homes have increased by leaps and bounds. We have a sex-crazed nation. In our theaters, on TV, in our literature, in society, and even in our schools, the emphasis is on sex. We could also add to this the miniskirts and the music of today. Communism has been very successful in breaking down the morals of this nation and the Bible and history teach us that God punishes or destroys an immoral nation.

Our only hope is the same as that of Nineveh, repentance in sackcloth and ashes, a crying unto the Lord for mercy, and last, but not least, a turn-

ing from our evil ways. The people of our land need to come back to faith in God, to obedience to His commandments. They need to let Jesus Christ come into their hearts and save their souls, and we include ourselves in this also if we do not know the Lord. Could you see our president and congress do what this king of Nineveh did, together with his nobles and his people, clothe themselves in sackcloth and sit in ashes, fast and cry unto the Lord and turn from their wicked ways? I do not think so. We are too proud a nation from the top to the bottom. The Lord will have to break us first, before He can humble us.

The reason why God's righteous anger and wrath has not been unleashed upon us already is because of the remnant, the few faithful ones who are praying and interceding for this country, and who are trying to live lives pleasing in the sight of God. But God's patience will not last forever. He gave Nineveh 40 days before the city would be destroyed. But Nineveh repented and turned from its evil ways and was spared.

We have often of late heard the passage from II Chronicles 7:14 referred to as the only hope and the great need of this country, and I am in agreement with this: "If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will **heal their land.**" This is actually what Nineveh did and they were saved.

—Hans J. Tollefson

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Decision At Dawn

John 20:1-18

By Pastor Wendell E. Johnson
Dalton, Minn.

There have been many decisions made during the history of our country that were very important. Some of the decisions made have perhaps caused our nation to be feared by others as a world power. The dropping of the atomic bomb on enemy territory, August 6, 1945, was a decision that brought about the signing of a peace treaty with Japan. The decision to send a man to the moon has given our country much prestige. To be sure, if decisions were never made we would not have history. Decision, therefore, determines our destiny. This is not only true in the case of nations but also it is true of an individual. The decisions we make are tremendously important.

In the twentieth chapter of John we have Mary deciding to go to the tomb of Jesus early in the morning. Her discovery was a very shocking thing to see. It caused her to leave the tomb immediately and seek help. The empty tomb caused Peter and John much concern as they went in and saw with their own eyes that Jesus was not there. Mary stood outside the tomb weeping when suddenly Jesus came to her side. Jesus assured her that He was alive, that He had risen from the grave. Sorrow was turned to joy. What a privilege it must have been to be the first person to see the risen Lord.

DECISION AT DAWN, a decision made by God himself, was the sealing of our justification. God's objective justification was now completed. In the eyes of God every sin in the whole world had been paid for. Jesus had made complete satisfaction. God's own Son paid the price. Think of this for a moment, every sin, all sin, has been paid for by the precious blood of Jesus. This means that as soon as a contrite sinner believes in the divine

promises of grace, which for Christ's sake are offered to him in the Gospel, and puts his faith and trust in Jesus alone, then he is declared righteous before God.

What a tremendous decision was made for mankind! What new opportunity is offered to us because of this blessed morn. HE LIVES, HE LIVES, that we too might live. I would like to share three guarantees that we have as a result of this DECISION AT DAWN.

First of all, that Jesus is truly the Son of God. Jesus identified himself to Mary by making His appearance and calling her by name. This was proof to Mary that Jesus was alive and that He was the Son of God. His voice had not changed, His body had. Jesus in His resurrected body could now appear in different places. God's Word tells us that as the disciples were on the road to Emmaus Jesus appeared unto them. He appeared to Thomas while the door was shut. He appeared to all who were present at His ascension. There was no doubt in the minds and hearts of these people now. They had seen the Lord. They believed. This is why we have the Word of God written for us today. This is why John wrote his gospel that we might believe. John 20:31: "But these are written, that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing ye might have life through his name."

This was the problem in John's day, **unbelief**. We have this same problem in our day. The Bible tells us that this is the only sin that will keep one from having his name written in the Book of Life. O, that we would cry out like the man who had a son that had a deaf and dumb spirit, "I believe, help my unbelief!" God has no other plan for our salvation outside of Jesus Christ. Jesus is truly the Son of God.


Secondly, the resurrection guarantees that the believer has an advocate before the Father. Jesus said He was

going to His Father. To His God and our God. Jesus is making intercession for you and me. This gives joy and comfort to the Christian, to know that someone is pleading his case, so to speak. Romans 8:34: "Who is he that condemneth? It is Christ that died, yea rather, that is risen again, who is even at the right hand of God, who also maketh intercession for us." This fact, that we have an intercessor, that we do not have to go it alone, gives us strength and encouragement, for we need not despair.

Thirdly, the resurrection guarantees that the believers will also be raised and be like their risen Lord. Jesus said He was going to our Father. This is the promise that through faith in Jesus God can be our heavenly father. We read in I John 3:2: "Beloved, now we are the sons of God and it doth not yet appear what we shall be, but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is." Philipians 3:20-21: "For our conversation is in heaven; from whence also we look for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ: who will change our vile body, that it may be fashioned unto his glorious body." Believers are guaranteed, according to God's Word, new and glorified bodies.

When a bell is cast, two molds of sand are made, an inner and an outer. They are so arranged as to form between them precisely the shape desired for the bell. The metal is poured in and then the molds are broken. But that form is not destroyed. It is only fulfilled, and the bells ring out the glad song of fulfillment. And so this Easter again we are reminded that even though our bodies be destroyed, someday we will have new, glorified bodies. The real you and the real me will never be destroyed. The man who stands up inside of me will live forever. Visiting a crippled children's hospital brings sadness to one's heart.

[Continued on page 8]



WOMEN *for Christ*

A CROSS TO BEAR

by Mrs. Stephen Odegaard
Minneapolis, Minn.

“Since all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God” (Rom. 3:23). I thank the Lord for sending His Son to earth, who, taking human form and in His innocent suffering became obedient unto death, was crucified on the cross and on the third day arose victorious over death to save us from our sins.

What a glorious assurance! God so loved us that He gave His only begotten Son, that **whosoever believes in Him** should not perish but have eternal life (Jn. 3:16). How easy can we have it? Christ did the suffering for us, He was tormented, humiliated, tortured. We are living on a bed of roses.

Or are we? As Easter draws near we are reminded more fully of Christ's death on the cross to save us from our sins. But just because it is Easter does not mean we are automatically saved or can reap the benefits of the death and resurrection of Christ.

Put yourself in this position: “I, _____, have been charged with **sin**; the **verdict** was **guilty** as charged; the **penalty** that was sentenced to me was **death**. That debt was paid for me in A.D. 33 when **Jesus Christ died sinless for me**. What have I done to repay that debt? What have **you** done to repay that debt?” (Author is unknown

to me.)

God's gift of grace is eternal life to those of us who believe in our Savior Jesus Christ and place all our faith in Him and His mighty works. But as followers of Christ we have a responsibility—to Him, to our Father in heaven, and to our brothers and sisters here on earth. Jesus told His disciples, “If any man would come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me” (Matt. 16:24).

We are our brothers' keepers. An excellent place to start is in our own back yards. “Let no one seek his own good, but the good of his neighbor” (I Cor. 10:24). But because we all wear the old Adam I think we tend to place self before service. Here in the U.S. we have every opportunity to turn to a neighbor and say, “Say, have you heard...,” and we should use every opportunity that we do have. But we become lazy and content to step one foot forward and two backward by confessing to be **good Christians** and at the same time hoping that maybe the next guy will invite the neighbor to church so we won't have to be burdened with him if he accepts. This one act, though seemingly unimportant or even unnoticed by us, may be the deciding factor as to the neighbor's trust or distrust in Christian “love and understanding.”

How often have you been confronted directly with a question about your faith and, instead of searching the

person's question for real meaning, you tell him how happy you are to have Christ in your heart and forget about telling this person what Christ can do for **him**.

Also, we do not voice our faith in public because we may be afraid of rejection or ridicule. If we don't communicate our faith to people it grows stale, and then cold. We may think we are being in the world without being part of the world, but silence is part of conformity. Christ warned us, “he who does not take up his cross and follow me is not worthy of me” (Matt. 10:38).

Example speaks louder than words, and we have no greater example to follow than that of Christ Himself. He lived a perfect life of love and service to His Father while here on earth; He preached the Gospel to others wherever He was and whenever there were people to listen to Him; He suffered such as we will never suffer, all to the glory of God. Not only should we be speaking of the Lord to our neighbors, but foremost, we should be **living** the life we want him so dearly to come to know and love. “So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God” (I Cor. 10:31). Wherever we are, whatever we do or say, we must remember that Christ should be the center of our lives. As Christ used every opportunity to witness and lead others to the Lord, we, too, with the help of the Lord, should strive to do the same.

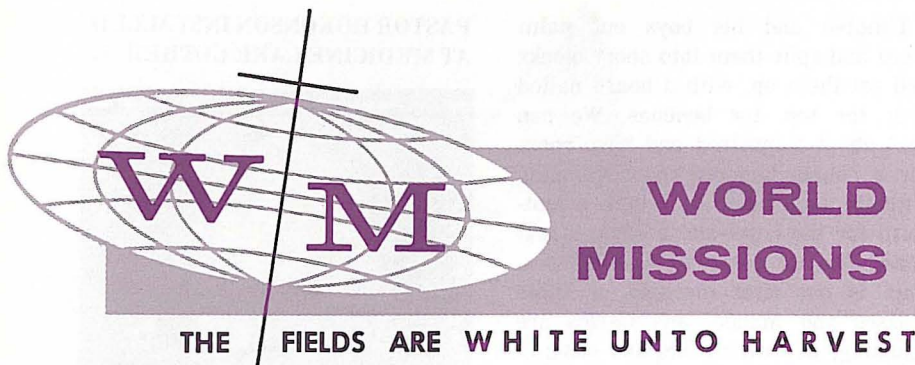
How often we want to grab the bottom of that cross and simply be pulled along, when it is our responsibility to carry our share of that load. Let's put our faith on our shoulders and carry the cross with Christ. Then we can joyfully say, “I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me; and the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me” (Gal. 2:20).

PRAISE AND PRAYER

Praise for:

- the success of the Daily Vacation Bible Schools held in many locations.
- the many people who have taken

(Continued on page 13)



Editor's Note: Pastor John H. Abel is on an evangelistic trip to Brazil at the present time and will be returning shortly to his furlough base at Fargo, N. Dak. Following is the first installment in an account of his experiences in visiting the mission field after an absence of some seven months.

EVANGELISM TRIP DIARY

By John H. Abel

January 13

"The heavens declare the glory of God; and the earth showeth his handiwork" (Ps. 19:1).

I'm writing you a quick line this morning as Connely is going back to Sao Paulo tonight and I would like to have him mail this from there.

Connely and I drove his Jeep station wagon out last Friday evening. On Saturday we started having troubles as we neared Parana. The waterhoses kept blowing off and the engine would really get hot. We discovered after the third hose blew, and the third gas station, that his overflow radiator tube was plugged and pressure built up. So we had a couple holes drilled in the radiator cap and it has been running well ever since.

We arrived Saturday evening and had supper at the Knapps. We are sleeping at the Bible Institute. It is vacation time so the students are not here. The place is now nicely finished.

On Sunday, Connely, Euclides (caretaker and Bible school student) and I went to Iretama and then on 20 miles to the new city of Alvorada where I will have the first tent meetings next week. A very rough trip over hills, rocks and through rivers. We were back in time for me to preach at the evening service in Campo Mou-

rao. They had a reception for me after the service and it was a joy to meet everyone again. The choir sang and sounded very good.

Connely and I have been invited out every night for meals, so they have been treating us well. We are now going to take the tent over to get it ready with end pieces and poles. (We found out it would cost about \$300.00 to get the tent ready so pray about this.)

January 22

"He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High, who abides in the shadow of the Almighty, will say to the Lord, my refuge and my fortress; my God, in whom I trust" (Ps. 91:1-2a).

A lot has happened since I wrote to you last weekend from Herveira. We had a good day on Sunday. The little church was full, with six adults making profession of faith, two adults and three babies baptized. In the evening we were back in Campo Mourao. I preached the evening service in Lar Parana. Again we had a full church.

Monday Carlos, Manoel, Euclides and I worked in getting the truck loaded and ready. They have a frame that goes on top of the truck box and on top of this goes a large canvas. This will be our home or traveling tent for the next few weeks. We put the big tent sack in and two barrels full of tools, rope, pullies, bedding, books for our traveling bookstore, lights, battery, etc. Then we put in our bed rolls and three mattresses, and finally our suitcases. We were ready to go, or so it seemed, but then the old '42 Chevrolet truck, or as it is affectionately called here, "Bluebird," began to miss and pop, backfire, etc. So we chugged from the Bible Institute down the hill and up the hill to the city. We went to Bluebird's doctor and he

decided to take its head off and look inside.

There he found a broken rocker arm shaft. We ran around town trying to find a new one, but none of the garages had one. Finally we went to the Ferro Velho Furquim (a place that sells scrap iron) and they had just what we needed. Soon Bluebird's head was back on and she was purring like a kitten. It was now six o'clock in the evening when we finally said good-bye to Helen, George and family, and went rolling out of town. I had said to the boys earlier that I wanted to travel after the heat of the day and that's the way it turned out.

This being my first trip with Bluebird I wasn't too sold on her qualities and said someone had given her the wrong name. She should have been called Goony bird. The old Chevie seemed determined to prove me wrong or better yet, the Lord was determined to show me that He can work in spite of all the obstacles. At any rate, we chugged, puffed and rattled and ground our gears over 50 miles of rough roads, high hills, rivers, and frontier bridges with no more inconveniences than the bounces.

About 9 p.m. we arrived in Iretama. The boys headed for their families on the farm and I slept in the hotel. Iretama is growing well. Our church and the city will soon receive electric lights. The electric company has now put posts and wire over most of the center of the city. The streets have cement gutters and may get asphalt streets soon.

Our desire was to roll on to our destination, Alvorada City, a little town only three years old but growing fast, and set our tent up in the cool of the morning. I told the boys, "Be up and on the road by 5 a.m." At 4:30, I was rolling out of bed and soon down the road. I picked Carlos and Manoel up on the ridge road and now we really headed off on some rough, winding roads. It took us about two hours to make 40 miles. We passed one little town and then on another stretch to Alvorada, which means "sunrise." George Knapp has begun work here but has only been out here a few Sundays. Connely and I were also out here for one Sunday, but we knew only a couple of families and not enough to know what to expect.

A man named Timoteo (Timothy) is the head of quite a clan of grown sons and in-laws. He is a fine Christian, converted years ago in the state of Sao Paulo by the Methodists. Now he is asking our help to reach out to this city and encourage his own family and others. They have their own Sunday school on their farm. He directs the choir, and also worked eight years as a pharmacist, so is a practical nurse around here, as well as a humble believer.

Timoteo was waiting for us with a couple of his grown sons and we soon had the truck unloaded, in a nice fenced-in vacant lot alongside of a grain warehouse.

Things are really new and rustic out here, but there is a tremendous spirit of good-will and open-heartedness. The day we arrived the priest from a neighboring city was having a big celebration of Saint Joseph and this little place was full of people. There must have been nearly a thousand souls milling around. At night they had a long procession and marched right by our tent lot, later on there was considerable drinking and noise, but no one bothered us in any way.

Our first day here, Tuesday, was spent getting ready to set the tent up. We had to go out in the jungle to cut two tall trees for poles, 25 ft. each, and drag them in with the truck, then five miles to a saw mill and pick up a load of sawdust to put on the bare ground to keep the new tent clean as we rolled it out. This was the first time I've put a tent up like this since we were with the Haalands and it was a puzzle to start with, but it finally came up. It looks quite nice, in spite of the fact that we were unable to purchase the proper poles and end canvases at this time. We got an estimate on the cost and found it would cost over three hundred dollars and we just don't have that kind of money. So I bought some pieces of canvas and some makeshift poles for about 30 dollars and will get along with this for the time being. Was it hot? I think I melted off five pounds. Better than a sauna. We stopped about three times that day to take a good sponge bath. Carlos says we're washing so much we're going to wear out our skin.

Timoteo and his boys cut palm trees and split them into short blocks and set them up, with a board nailed over the top, for benches. We can seat about a hundred and have room for a couple hundred more standing with the tent sides up. I built a platform for the front and a large blackboard for our morning VBS classes. This is our first morning of Bible classes and Manoel and Carlos are teaching, as I write this and observe them. They're really doing a good job and are well organized, which speaks well for our Bible Institute. Only a few children this first day, but we are sure it will grow. We have 15 children matriculated.

Last night, our first in the tent, we had almost full house, but not an overflow. There were 12 that stayed after to accept Christ and be prayed with. We think this is a wonderful answer to prayer. The response was especially wonderful because our loud speaker wouldn't work, so there was no music or advertisement except our house-to-house visits made in the morning yesterday. God gave us a tent-full and several decisions, certainly a work of His grace.

My health has been good, even though I'm eating with the people and sleeping in the truck. Haven't had a meal on a wood floor in four days, all the places of our Christians are still palm tree cabins and mud floors. We are blessed with a good well right beside our tent, so have lots of good water.

I know that the many blessings we are experiencing here are an answer to the prayers of the Christians here and at home.

(To be continued)

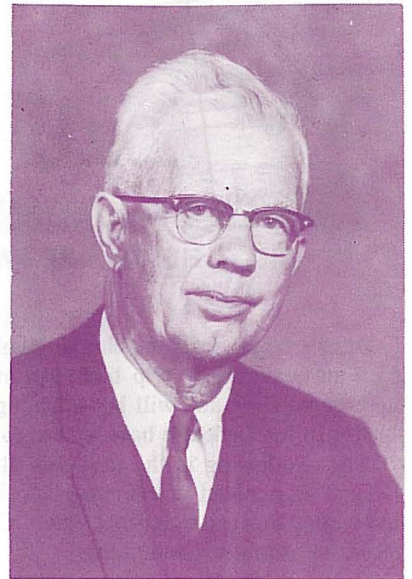
"And through Him to reconcile to Himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of His cross."

Colossians 1:20

"He entered once for all into the Holy Place, taking not the blood of goats and calves but His own blood, thus securing an eternal redemption."

Hebrews 9:12

PASTOR HOKONSON INSTALLED AT MEDICINE LAKE LUTHERAN



Rev. Arvid L. Hokonson, formerly of Faith, S. Dak., officially became pastor of Medicine Lake Lutheran Church, 3110 E. Medicine Lake Blvd., Minneapolis, Minn., on Sunday, Jan. 25, in a ceremony conducted by Rev. Julius Hermunslie of Fergus Falls, Minn., at the congregation's morning worship.

Pastor Hermunslie, chairman of the Association's Co-ordinating Committee, gave the charge to the congregation and Pastor Hokonson responded by emphasizing the solemnity of congregational work in this present age.

Following the services a fellowship dinner in honor of Pastor and Mrs. Hokonson was served. There was special music by the Sunday School and the families of the church were introduced. Mr. Tolbert Berge, president of the congregation, was master of ceremonies. Pastor and Mrs. Hokonson responded graciously to the fine reception given them.

Their coming to serve the congregation and the Bible School and Seminary students is the Lord's answer to prayer as Medicine Lake Church has been without a full-time pastor since the death of Pastor George Soberg. Serving in the interim were Pastors John Strand, Richard Snipstead and the late Fritjof Monseth.

Pastor and Mrs. Hokonson reside at 9467 Pilgrim Lane, Osseo, Minn.

—Corr.

MEET the Churches OF OUR FELLOWSHIP



TODAY: THE VALLEY CITY (N. DAK.) PARISH

Grace Lutheran Church

The former Methodist Church building in Valley City, N. Dak., at 202 N.W. 3rd Street, and built in 1905, is the home of Grace Lutheran Church. For several years this non-merging portion of First Lutheran Church conducted worship services and carried on congregational activities in other locations in the city until this fine facility became available in 1965. And the name Grace was adopted.

First Lutheran Congregation became the focal point of the struggle surrounding the merger of the Lutheran Free Church with the American Lutheran Church in 1963. A law suit testing the validity of the procedures used in the merger was held that year in Valley City and was decided in favor of the ALC part of First Lutheran.



Grace Lutheran Church

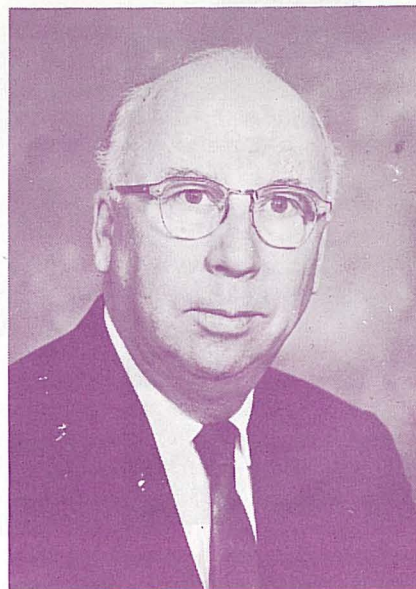
But the history of Grace Lutheran is the history of First Lutheran prior to 1963 and to the date of organization on Oct. 22, 1879. Some authorities say it was started in December, 1881, but whatever, it is around 90 years old, perhaps the oldest Lutheran congregation in Barnes County yet in existence.

An independent Lutheran congregation for the first several years, the church belonged to the Conference, 1884-90, the United Church, 1890-96, and affiliated with the Friends of Augsburg (the LFC) in 1896. First Lutheran hosted the 1910 annual conference of the LFC, the last one Prof. Sven Oftedal was to attend.

Many young people have gone out from First-Grace into Christian work. They are Pastors James Christopherson, Waldemar Framstad, Lawrence Gudmestad, Daniel Faust, Marlo Peterson, Norman Tomsen, Francis Monseth, and Gary Skramstad, the latter two being clergymen in the Association of Free Lutheran Congregations, with which Grace Lutheran now affiliates. In addition, Marcia Faust (Mrs. Arthur Robert) has been a missionary to Madagascar since 1950.

The pastors who have served First-Grace are: C. I. Wold, 1879-83; J. G. D. Bothne, 1883-86; J. H. Brønø and O. K. Andersen, 1886-88; Henrik Langeland, 1888-90; Edias Nielsen, 1891-94; L. M. Halling, 1896-1911; E. S. Solheim, 1912-23; Clarence Framstad, 1923-44; Donald Ronning, 1944-53; Fritjof Monseth, 1953-68; and Harry C. Molstre, 1968-.

The first church building for the congregation, which was early known as the Norwegian-Danish Evangelical Lutheran Church and later simply as



Harry C. Molstre, pastor of Grace and Zion Churches, is a native of Hampden, N. Dak. A graduate of St. Olaf College, he also studied at Iowa State University and the Lutheran Bible Institute. His seminary training was received at Luther in St. Paul, Minn. Pastorates prior to Valley City have been at Clarkston, Wash., and Troy, Ida., Fennimore, Wis., Armstrong, Ia., Lake Crystal and McIntosh, Minn., all in the American Lutheran Church, and Winger and Dalton, Minn., in the AFLC. He and his wife, the former Sylvia Steiger, have three sons, David, AFLC pastor in Grand Forks, N. Dak., Paul, an elementary school consultant in Owatonna, Minn., and John, in the U.S. Army.

the Lutheran Free Church, was erected in 1882. That structure was remodeled and a basement placed under it in 1904. The new First Lutheran Church was built in 1952 and stands at 425 3rd Ave. N.E.

First-Grace was host to the 1964 Annual Conference of the AFLC, the sessions being held in the city auditorium. The congregation will also entertain the 1970 conference and this will be the first opportunity for many people to see the new home of the congregation.

There have been a number of parsonages. The first was constructed in 1892. Another was built in 1903 and served until a new one was erected in 1960. Grace Lutheran purchased a fine new home in south Valley City as parsonage in May, 1965.

Zion Lutheran Church

Zion of Green Township is the other

[Continued on page 13]



Luther League Activities

Edited by Jane Thompson

(Continued from page 3)

But this promise we have from God's Word gives us hope. Jesus promises new glorified bodies. Believers shall be like their risen Lord.

A touching incident has been told of a sixteen-year-old girl who was a chronic invalid and whose mother was a pleasure-loving woman who could not endure the idea of being with her shut-in daughter so much. While the mother was traveling abroad in Italy, she remembered the coming birthday of her daughter and sent her a rare and beautiful Italian vase. The nurse brought it to the girl, saying that her mother had sent it and it came right on her birthday. After looking at its beauty for a moment, the girl turned to the nurse and said, "Take it away, take it away. O mother, do not send me any more things; no books, no flowers, no vases, no pictures. Send me no more. I want you."

This is the cry that comes from Jesus. He doesn't want things. He wants you. "Son, daughter, give me thy heart." This daughter wanted her mother. She wanted her presence, her companionship, her love. Christ wants you. He wants your yielded heart, your confidence, your trust, your union with Him.

DECISION AT DAWN was made by God because He loves us. This decision has grace for sinners such as you and me, as we:

"Turn (our) eyes upon Jesus,
Look full in His wonderful face,
And the things of earth will grow
strangely dim,
In the light of His glory and grace."

MY EASTER PRAYER

May you walk a little surer
On the path that lies before,
May you see a little clearer
May you trust a little more.

May you come a little closer
To the Lord of Love Divine,
That your heart may sing for
gladness,
Is this Easter prayer of mine.

Author Unknown
(from *Prayer Poems*)

NEWS FROM ASTORIA, OREGON

Our Bethany Luther Leaguers have been busy here in Astoria, under the leadership of our new president, Leonard West. This year we miss Bette Moksness who is assisting at the new Ballard Church while she is attending Seattle Pacific College and Debby Johnson, Susan Rockhold, and Paul and Pauline Persson who are all attending the Bible School in Minneapolis.

This year at Christmas-time we put on a candlelight service, singing many of our favorite Christmas carols. We formed a huge lighted cross up the aisle of the church with the senior choir forming the transept of the cross. Members of the Luther League joined with the choir in singing "The Light of the World Is Jesus." A sermonette from John 10 on the theme "Jesus, the Light of the World" was given by Bill Moberg, one of the Luther League advisors. Carol Johansen, another advisor, planned and directed the candlelight service.

Other Luther League activities besides our regular meetings have been Christmas caroling and a progressive dinner with each course of the meal at a different house. We also sent let-

ters to ex-Luther Leaguers who are in the service, and to those who are at Bible School, we sent a special tape.

We are now planning to form a group of as many of our Leaguers as possible who play instruments. Our first assignment is "The Old Rugged Cross" in the key of C. Since several of our members play musical instruments we are hopeful of having a ministry in music that can be useful in the service of Christ.

Bill Moberg, Reporter

DATES SET FOR SOUTH DAKOTA DISTRICT LUTHER LEAGUE CONVENTION

The sixth annual convention of the Luther League Federation of the South Dakota District will be held May 1-3 at Tabor Lutheran Church, rural Webster, S. Dak., Raynard Huglen, pastor.

Special guests at the convention will be Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Moland of Minneapolis, Minn. Mr. Moland is treasurer of the LLF and is a student at Free Lutheran Seminary.

Miss LuAnn Olson of Webster is the state president.

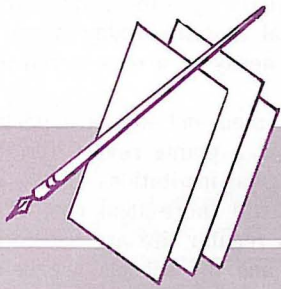
"And from Jesus Christ the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of kings on earth. To Him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood and made us a kingdom, priests to His God and Father, to Him be glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen."

Revelation 1:5, 6

USED CONCORDIAS WANTED

The Bagley, Minnesota, parish is in need of about 35 used Concordia Hymnals, in good condition.

If you have any available you are asked to contact Rev. Dale Battleson, Bagley, Minnesota 56621, concerning prices.



EDITORIALS

THE ASSURANCES OF EASTER

Sir Francis Bacon had an engraved picture on his bookplates of a small ship sailing out between the great Pillars of Hercules. On the other side of the Pillars was the uncharted sea. The picture was entitled "More Beyond." The resurrection of Jesus from the dead has made that motto true for the believer. The best is yet to be.

The rising of Jesus from the dead made a tremendous difference to His followers of that day. Without doubt they were badly demoralized by the crucifixion. Most were in painful seclusion on the first day of the week as several courageous, loyal women went to the cemetery to see if they could perform the unfinished burial chores to the body of the One whom they had considered the Christ. If any reader has known the experience of shattered dreams and hopes, he can sympathize to some degree with the Christian community that second day after the Passover.

As the conviction of Christ's resurrection gripped the Lord's company a great change took place in them all. Now they did have something to live for. Now they had a faith by which to die confidently. Following the outpouring of God's Spirit upon them they were fully ready to take the message of the victorious Christ to the world they knew about.

The resurrection produced certainty for the believers. Let us note two of the **assurances** of Easter.

First, death is not sovereign. It has seemed that way many times. In a sense it is an absolute. Even the Scriptures say "it is appointed for men to die once." Death is no stranger to any of us. We have seen it come to the enterprising who had accumulated wealth and lands and noted that others assumed control of the fruits of their industry. We have seen it come to the slothful who occupied time and space and whose places in society were speedily filled as water returns to the puddle after the wheel has passed through. We have seen the aged depart and we say it was to be expected and when the youthful are summoned we wonder why. The kind and the helpful pass on and we are thankful for their lives. The selfish cease to live and we feel pity.

Yes, death is no respecter of persons. And if it did indeed end it all, it would be lord.

The resurrection of Jesus Christ assures us that death doesn't end it all. More positively, it assures the Christian

that death ushers him into the presence of the living Christ, into Paradise where he will be but a step away from the final abode which he will enter at Christ's return and the great resurrection. At that time the bodies of the believers will be glorified, re-united with the soul, free from the infirmities and sins of earth.

Jesus was taken by sinful men, pawns of Satanic force. At Calvary men did their worst to the God-Man and took His life. But it is important to note that He was also laying it down of His own free will, making the one great sacrifice.

And He arose, pledge of God's satisfaction with the Son's sacrifice, victor over death and the grave. No wonder the great Apostle could ask, "O death, where is thy victory? O Death, where is thy sting?" And he could go on to say, "But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ" (I Cor. 15). Man has unleashed terrible forces and powers. Some are so great we dare not test them. But God has the greatest power. He has opened the grave.

The second assurance of Easter is that God's love is the most certain thing in the world. Think of Calvary again. There the rejection of Jesus reaches its zenith, or nadir, as you will. Might not God have lashed out at His tormentors and consigned those of that day and their descendants to eternal damnation? Ah yes, but instead He offered forgiveness and now it could be even more clearly shown. No transgression was so great that it couldn't be taken away.

As then, so today, if anyone is lost it must be in spite of a love like that. Preachers have long spoken of a salvation "full and free," but there are those who miss it. God doesn't violate human personality to force Calvary-won salvation on anyone, but to all who receive His Son He gives the power or right to become His children (see Jn. 1:11, 12).

The children of God, having no native or earned merit, but having yielded to His grace and mercy, know the resurrection power of Jesus now and await the fuller revelation of His glory beyond death and the resurrection.

It is such confidence and assurance that **The Lutheran Ambassador** desires for its readers, for our fellowship and for the world. It is to the task of proclaiming the message of the resurrection to our generation that all Christians must dedicate themselves anew in this troubled day.

THE DUKE'S CHRISTIANITY

We'd like to comment on two references to Duke Ellington which we read recently. The Duke, you may remember, has played some of his jazz music in churches and church gatherings, and is being hailed in some quarters as one of the authentic Christian voices of the middle of the twentieth century.

The editor of **The Lutheran Standard** in an editorial on February 17, which is part of his series concerning the National Council of Churches and which he really favors the American Lutheran Church joining, wrote this paragraph: "The experience of trusting a Christ-follower of a different denomination is exhilarating. Sitting on the platform with Billy Graham in San Francisco, I recog-

nized that this was the same Christ being honored that I was preaching. So I knew that Duke Ellington at the last NCC Assembly in Detroit was telling the world through his words and music to look to the same Savior I was proclaiming."

We had a question mark about that last part and that was confirmed the next day when we read the article "14 People Who've Seen It All" in the Feb. 14, 1970, issue of **The Canadian Magazine** (newspaper supplement). The article features 14 famous people who have lived the seventy years of this century listing their outstanding memory and what they think the Seventies will bring. Included were such personalities as Jimmy Durante, Jack Benny, Joey Smallwood, premier of Newfoundland, and Bill Cook of hockey fame.

The statement by Duke Ellington began this way, in looking at the past: "Oh, my —, what a — of a depressing idea! To talk about the past. It bugs the — out of me when reporters expect a recital of, etc."

There is always the possibility that a man has been misquoted. If that is the case here, we apologize and stand corrected. If it is a correct quotation, we cannot accept it as the speech of one who is pointing the way to Jesus the Savior. It is corrupt and depraved speech and doesn't reveal the cleansing, liberating power of God's Holy Spirit.

If the Duke does normally speak in this way, it would not be surprising for one who has spent his life in entertaining in night clubs and dance halls. Just because a man will show his talent in a church doesn't mean all that much today. Being a Christian doesn't denote a sinless, faultless life, but it does signify a dedication to holy living and true sorrow over every offense against God's law, whether by word, deed, or thought.

Let those who are held up as public examples of Jesus' followers be such as by their lives testify that they have been with the Master, and are living with Him in daily communion.

A DECLINING SYSTEM

It was the goal of the Roman Catholic Church that every one of her children should be educated in parochial or church schools from kindergarten through college. In practice that never worked out although thousands of Roman Catholics were educated totally in the schools of that church.

Today we witness the incredible phenomenon of Cath-

olic school after school shutting down, how many at this time, we don't know. Twenty years ago Americans feared a growing Catholic educational system. Today there is almost a sense of pity in the decay of a once proud endeavor.

The drop in the number of men and women entering the religious teaching orders is a prime reason for the decline in the number of parochial institutions. Those instructors were available at little more than cost. The salaries of replacements from regular life are becoming prohibitive in many parishes and the schools are being closed down.

But that is not to say that American taxpayers should step in and save what is left of the Catholic educational system. That would be wrong and contrary to our tradition of the separation of church and state. This goes for the schools of any other denomination. If any wish to operate private schools, let them do so through whatever private financing they may arrange.

Government has intruded into some aspects of religious education in the past years, but further moves in that direction should be resisted. In a pluralistic society such as ours the government must not aid the propagation of the various faiths, while at the same time being sympathetic to the churches and protective of their rights.

The religious instruction of the young shall be the privilege and duty of the home and the churches, and the privately-financed parochial school, where that is wanted. At the same time, the public school must be careful to be fair in its stewardship of the many hours of influence it has over the lives of the school children. While the school is not to teach religion on a sectarian basis, neither should it in any way intentionally undermine the religious faith of the students.

To get back to our original concern, the decline of the Roman Catholic school system, the students of the closing schools are being absorbed into the public schools without undue problems. At one time Catholics, in a bid for public funds, faced the public system with the threat of dumping their students on the public schools. Now that many parochial schools are being closed, it is found that the problem is not insurmountable, partly, of course, because the Catholic schools are being made available for rental, in many cases, for the time being.

Yes, many Roman Catholic schools are closing, but it is not the duty or the right of the American public to sustain what is left or to revive what is gone.

SOME COPIES OF OLD AMBASSADORS STILL AVAILABLE: LAST CALL

Copies of most of the issues of **The Lutheran Ambassador** still are available from our office in Minneapolis, Minnesota. Anyone wishing any of these numbers may have the same by ordering them by date or number (please indicate the year). There will be no charge but payment of the postage would be welcome.

This is the final notice about old copies of the **Ambassador**, through 1968. In a short while all such copies except those kept on permanent file will be destroyed. If you wish any of the copies during 1963-68, please order them at once.

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3110 E. Medicine Lake Blvd.
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AMBASSADOR NUMBERS AVAILABLE

Vol. 1, 1963 Nos. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 11, 12, 13, 15, 16, 18, 19, 22

Vol. 2, 1964 Nos. 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 21, 24

Vol. 3, 1965 Nos. 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 21, 22, 23, 25

Vol. 4, 1966 Nos. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 8, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 16, 19, 20, 22, 23, 25

[Continued on page 15]

too, must see Jesus as God's Son—Savior of mankind. He must be revealed as others had learned to recognize Him.

14. What did each of these followers say of Him?

John the Baptist — John 1:29

Peter — I Peter 1:18-19

John — I John 1:7b

Isaiah — Isaiah 53:6

Our Lord Jesus, even in His transfiguration, was willing to enter into a discourse concerning His suffering and death.

15. What did the disciples want to do when they finally looked upon the scene (Matthew 17:4)? Why?

It has been said that those who by faith behold the beauty of the Lord in His house cannot but desire to dwell there all the days of their lives.

16. What did the disciples see (Matthew 17:5)?

a. Such a cloud is mentioned elsewhere in Scripture. How do they compare?

Exodus 13:21; Numbers 11:24, 25

Leviticus 16:2; I Kings 8:10-11

17. What did they hear (Mark 9:7)?

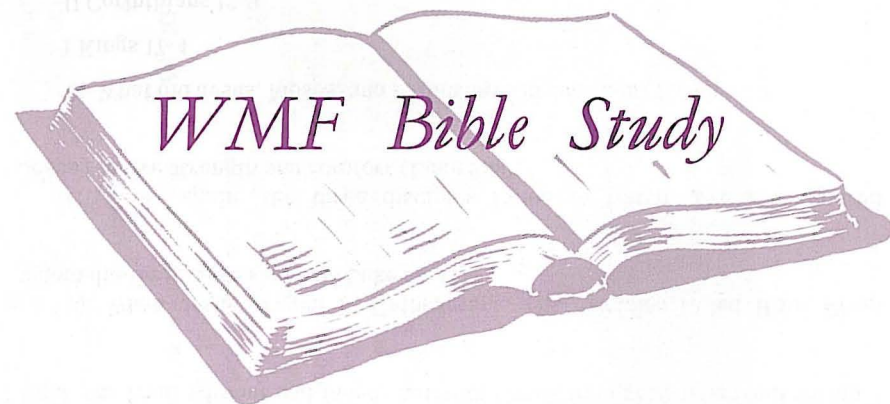
a. When were these words spoken before (Mark 1:11)?

18. What was their reaction (Matthew 17:6)? Why?

19. Who remained?

Does it thrill your soul and kindle your mind to talk about the redeeming death of Christ?

Sing "Jesus Only."



A Divine Moment ...

... With The Master

THE TRANSFIGURATION

Those who have weathered the obstacles and have climbed towering mountain heights are awed by the magnificent view as they look out over the handiwork of God. The view is inspiring after such a painstaking climb. Yet, who would say, "Let's stay here."

So it is with the Mount of Transfiguration. Peter wanted to remain and build three tabernacles, one for Moses, one for Elijah, and one for Jesus. The Mount of Transfiguration was for them a mount of vision, of uplift, of comfort, and of faith confirmed—and then back to the work of life.

Read Matthew 17:1-8; Mark 9:2-10; Luke 9:28-36

1. Shortly before this mountain-top experience, what question had Jesus asked of His disciples (Luke 9:18)?

2. How varied were their answers?

Some say this famous mountain was Mount Hermon. Others acclaim the Transfiguration site to be Mount Tabor.

3. Who were selected to accompany Jesus?

4. These three had accompanied Jesus in other situations. What were they?

Luke 8:41-56

Mark 14:26-42

5. We can only speculate why Jesus honored these men in this way. Why do you think they were asked to go with Him?

a. Maybe John received strength for his trials when he remembered this experience. Where is John in Revelation 1:9?

b. James possibly could get victory over the fate he was to suffer under Herod. How was James put to death?

c. Then, Peter. Maybe he was helped to overcome a personal problem as he reviewed this experience with Jesus.

Luke 12:32

II Peter 1:14-18

In his **Commentary**, Matthew Henry states it this way: "A sight of God's glory, while we are here in this world, is a good preparative for the sight of His glory in the other world."

6. Why might we assume that this event happened at night (Luke 9:32)?

7. But with what was Jesus occupied (Luke 9:29)?

8. For what might Jesus have prayed here (Luke 22:42)?

9. In what way was Jesus changed?

It has been said that earnest, heartfelt prayer transfigures the face of the man who prays.

a. What similar experience did Moses have in Exodus 34:29-24?

b. Who also startled the people in Acts 6:15?

F. B. Meyer in his **Devotional Commentary** declares: "With Moses the light was from without and faded; but with Christ the light shone from within."

10. When Jesus prayed in Gethsemane, His disciples failed Him. From whom did He receive support (Luke 22:43)?

11. Now, again, the three disciples failed to watch. From whom did Jesus receive strength and comfort (Luke 9:30)?

12. What did Jesus, Moses, and Elijah have in common? Exodus 3:8

I Kings 17:4

II Corinthians 12:9

Hebrews 11:27

13. How had Moses and Elijah met death? Deuteronomy 34:5, 6

II Kings 2:11

Moses had so much to share with Jesus. Elijah, too, had much to praise God for. This grand history they perhaps passed over. For here—here they,

(Continued from page 7)

congregation of the Valley City parish. It is situated six miles west and four miles south of the Barnes County seat.

Like her sister church, Zion belonged to the Conference from organization on July 20, 1888, then to the United Church, and from 1895 and on, to the Friends of Augsburg and the Lutheran Free Church. A little over a year after organization, the

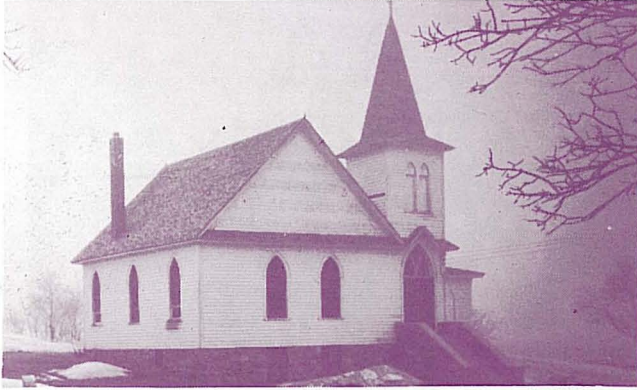
Swedish families in the church withdrew from the congregation to form one of their own.

The church was built in 1903. In 1935 stained glass windows were installed. A number of improvements, well ahead of the church's 80th anniversary observance in August, 1968, took place in 1967. The building was moved to a basement foundation, the interior was renovated and an oil furnace put

in, and a utility building was erected near the church.

Robert Rieth of Zion Church is the AFLC pastor in Kirkland, Wash., and is also the secretary of the Association. His brother John serves AFLC congregations in North Dakota as a layman.

Zion has had the same pastors as Grace Lutheran. Harry C. Molstre is the present pastor.



Zion Lutheran Church



The Parsonage

[Continued from page 4]

a stand for Christ during DVBS and the tent evangelistic meetings.

—the four happy days 24 young people had at the Bible Camp held at the Institute.

—the new members taken in at several churches.

—the harmonious and successful National Conference of our churches held in February and for a united effort for a program of expansion and outreach.

Pray for:

—the new school year which opened March 2. Remember especially our



Students at the AFLC Bible School in Brazil during a recent term. These students assist in daily vacation Bible School work and evangelistic outreach such as mentioned by Mrs. Knapp.

Bible School students. There will be many new ones.

—our teachers who will have a heavy schedule because our Institute is entering into its third year, creating new classes.

—the new converts.
—the missionaries' children as they begin a new year of school in the Brazilian school system.

—your missionaries that they may preach and teach faithfully the true 'milk of the Word,' that the church of Christ may grow in faith.

—your missionaries, the Dyruds, as they learn the language.

—the Bible Book Store, that it may have a successful ministry through evangelical literature.

Our missionary library will accept **used books** in good condition.

Please send me left-over Sunday school papers. Especially NURSERY BIBLE LESSONS and KINDERGARTEN BIBLE LESSONS. I need an unlimited amount. I send them out to our teachers in all the churches along with the proper lesson for the picture. I do not have the heart to ask they be returned; these teachers have so few materials on hand to work with. The big Bible story picture on the front is excellent to show while telling the story.

Sincerely in Christ,
Mrs. George Knapp
Brazil

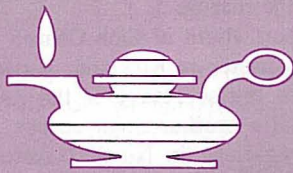
FORMER WMF EXECUTIVE SECRETARY DIES

Mrs. Floyd Cleveland (Mildred Ryan), former executive secretary of the Women's Missionary Federation, passed away on Nov. 28, 1969. She served the WMF from 1950-54 and was the first person to occupy that post.

Mrs. Cleveland was a graduate of Augsburg College in 1940.

Ideas:

I can make good use of **used** greeting cards. Cut away the one-fourth of the card that has the verse on it, **please**. I do not want it. Send them 'Printed matter,' **securely** tied. It costs only a small amount for postage.



SCHOOL NEWS



Combined Student Bodies of Free Lutheran Theological Seminary and Association Free Lutheran Bible School, 1969-1970, with faculty and staff pictured in the first row.

PROMOTION DAYS DATES CHANGED

Because of significant conflicts with the dates originally announced, the second annual Promotion Days for Association Free Lutheran Bible School has been moved to April 24 and 25.

At that time it is hoped that many young people from the parishes, and others who are interested, will visit the Bible School campus for a time of inspiration and fellowship, and to get acquainted with the school. Promotion Days will close on Saturday with a youth rally.

More detailed information is being sent out to the pastors. Because there must be some limitation on the number who can attend, please include only high school juniors and seniors and those who may have already completed high school.

PREACHING MISSIONS



Winger, Minn.

March 22-27
Dovre Lutheran Church
Forrest Swenson, pastor
Speaker: Ev. Clarence Haaland,
Gonvick, Minn.

Winger, Minn.

April 5-9
Union Lake Lutheran Church
Forrest Swenson, pastor
Speaker: Ev. Clarence Haaland,
Gonvick, Minn.

Culbertson and Brockton, Mont.

April 1-8
Bethel Lutheran Church, Culbertson,
and Zion Lutheran Church, Brockton
Gene Sundby, Lay Pastor
Speaker: Rev. Robert Lee, Tioga,
N. Dak.

CHRIST THE LORD IS RISEN TODAY

Christ the Lord is risen today,
Sons of men and angels say.
Raise your joys and triumphs high;
Sing, ye heavens, and earth reply.

Love's redeeming work is done,
Fought the fight, the battle won;
Lo! the Sun's eclipse is o'er;
Lo! He sets in blood no more.

Vain the stone, the watch, the seal!
Christ hath burst the gates of hell!
Death in vain forbids Him rise;
Christ hath opened paradise.

Lives again our glorious King;
Where, O death, is now thy sting?
Dying once, He all doth save;
Where thy victory, O grave?

Soar we now where Christ has led,
Following like Him, like Him we rise;
Ours the cross, the grave, the skies.

Hail, the Lord of earth and heaven!
Praise to Thee by both be given:
Thee we greet triumphant now;
Hail, the Resurrection Thou!

Charles Wesley
(from *The Hymnal*)

CHURCH-WORLD NEWS

NEW YORK—Increased Scripture circulation in local communities and partnership in worldwide Scripture distribution are emphasized in the 1970 Vacation Bible School curriculum packet offered by the American Bible Society to local churches.

Contained in the packet are four colorful theme folders, each emphasizing a specific aspect of Bible Society work and providing related project activity for Vacation Bible School classes.

Themes include "The Bible Goes to School"—Translations (Africa); "A Record Goal"—Recorded Scriptures for the Blind; "Blanket Asia with Love"—Overseas Distribution (Asia); and "Moving on Up"—National Distribution (urban ministry).

The front cover of each folder carries a description of the related Bible Society activity, while the inside front cover lists Society publications and audio-visual aids which further interpret the global mission of the 154-year-old non-profit organization.

Flyers announcing the new curriculum packet have been mailed to 180,000 churches, according to Miss Marjorie L. Miller, a special secretary in the Society's Church Relations Department. The materials, although designed for Vacation Bible Schools, may easily be adapted for use by Sunday Schools, church family night

programs, youth groups, men's classes and women's organizations, said Miss Miller.

Cost of the complete packet containing one teacher's folder plus the four project folders, is \$1, plus 5 per cent for handling (\$.25 minimum). Orders may be sent to the American Bible Society, P.O. Box 100, Ansonia Station, New York, New York 10023.

Since 1930 the Society has provided informational materials about its program and work especially prepared for Vacation Bible Schools, with different emphases annually.

The number of schools utilizing the materials varies from year to year, with as many as 60,000 schools participating in a single year, Miss Miller added.

Many vacation schools and Sunday schools, she said, forward offerings to the Society to further its work of translation, publication and circulation of the Bible in the U.S. and throughout the world.

More than 70 denominations and church agencies contribute toward the support of the American Bible Society each year.

SEM ELECTORS DECLINE JUNGKUNTZ CANDIDACY

St. Louis—The Board of electors of Concordia Seminary here declined

the request of the school's board of control to appoint Dr. Richard Jungkuntz associate professor of exegetical-systematic theology.

The electors gave no reason for their decision.

The consent of the electors must be obtained for all appointments to the seminary faculty.

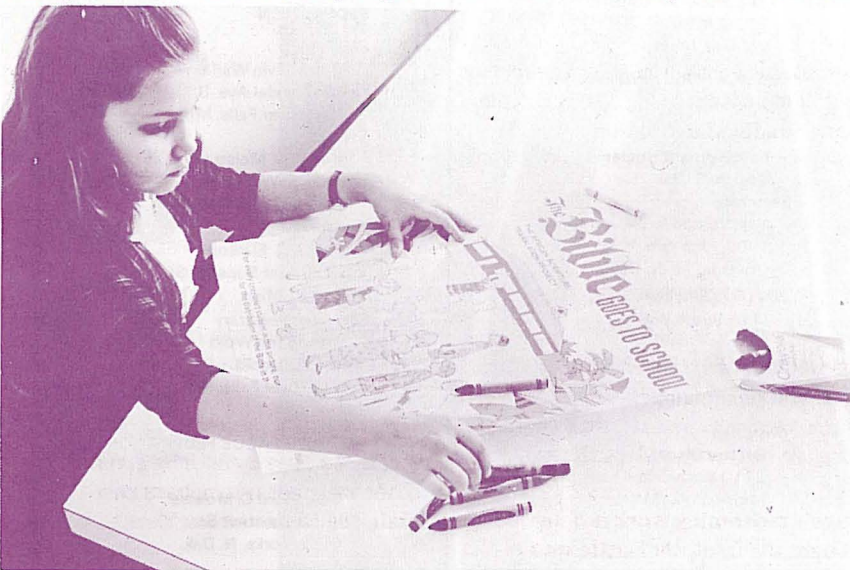
Electors were Dr. Jacob A. O. Preus, president of The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod; the Rev. Herman Scherer, president of the Missouri District of the LCMS; the Rev. Merlin Pohl of the LCMS board for higher education; and the board of control voting as a unit.

President John Tietjen, who had made the original recommendation, stated that he was "deeply disappointed that the seminary will not be able to offer this position to a pastor of the church who has demonstrated soundly Lutheran scholarship, consistent commitment to the Lutheran Confessions, unstinting devotion to his church body, and unusual competence as a teacher."

In response to the action of the electors, the faculty of Concordia Seminary passed a resolution expressing their "profound regret that Richard Jungkuntz has not been approved for a call to the seminary."

Dr. Jungkuntz said he was "disappointed but not dismayed" by the action of the electors.

He added that other than serving as visiting professor at Concordia Seminary during the spring quarter, he has no definite plans for the future.



African Scripture translation project poster is one of four offering projects in new Vacation Bible School curriculum offered by the American Bible Society.

(Continued from page 10)

Vol. 5, 1967 Nos. 4, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 17, 18, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25

Vol. 6, 1968 Nos. 3, 4, 5, 11, 16, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 24, 25, 26

Vol. 7, 1969 Nos. 2, 3, 5, 6, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25

Note: In some instances only one copy of a number is left.

MISSION SLIDES

Anyone wishing to secure slides of the mission work in either Brazil or Nogales, Arizona, should request them from the church office in Minneapolis. Simply address Mission Slides, 3110 E. Medicine Lake Blvd., Minneapolis, Minnesota 55427.

The slides are suitable for showing at Ladies Aids, Luther Leagues, district conventions, mission bands, etc.

“Let all the house of Israel therefore know assuredly that God has made Him both Lord and Christ, this Jesus whom you crucified.”

Acts 2:36

AURORA BOREALIS

We saw God hang His banners out
And furl His curtains roundabout
Across His diamond-studded
heights—

The beauty of His northern lights.

As we with wonder watched entranced
His heavens glowed in glorious dance,
Pulsations light as poets' verse;
The heartbeat of His universe.

Unwinding threads of emerald grace
Flung streaming ribbons into space,
Infusing soft with crimson light
The blushing mantle of His night.

Uncurling now before the eye
Veil of His temple of the sky
Slipped back that we should dimly see
The glory of His majesty.

—Marlene Moline
Lansing, Iowa

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