

March 26, 1974

# The Lutheran Ambassador



***'He Is Not Here; He Has Risen'***

*Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome  
encounter an angel in Jesus' tomb on the first Easter morning.*

RELIGIOUS NEWS SERVICE PHOTO

# MEDITATION MOMENTS

## HE IS RISEN!

He is risen! This is the truth that gives significance to all the rest of the Gospel message. At Christmas time we hear the joyful tidings, "Unto you is born a Savior." On Good Friday comes the comforting message, "Christ died for our sins." But these announcements would be but a hollow mockery if they were not climaxed by the triumphant cry, "He is risen." The fact that Jesus arose out of the clammy hand of death gives proof that it truly was the Savior who was born in the humble stable of Bethlehem. It gives proof that when Christ died on the cross His death satisfied divine justice and that complete atonement for our sins was made. It gives us the blessed assurance that because He lives, we shall live also (Jn. 14:19).

He is risen! People of many other religions can point to a specific place and say, "There's where the founder of our religion lies buried." But we can point to the empty tomb and shout the wonderful news, "He is risen!" "He arose a victor from the dark domain and He lives forever with the saints to reign; He arose, He arose; Hallelujah! Christ arose!"

There are always those unbelievers who deny this glorious news but all four of our Gospel records present to us a resurrected, living Lord. The witness of the disciples was, "This Jesus God raised up again, to which we are all witnesses" (Acts 2:32). The coming of the Holy Spirit into the heart of every believer enables us to answer the skeptics, "You ask me how

I know He lives? He lives within my heart!"

Because Christ arose we, too, shall rise from the dead. Jesus said, "An hour is coming, in which all who are in the tombs shall hear His voice and shall come forth;" (Jn. 5:28, 29). Man was created in the image of God. He was created to live forever. Sin came in and destroyed the perfect fellowship between God and man. Sin separated man from God. Man could do nothing to break down the barrier of sin and death that doomed him to everlasting banishment in hell. Then, what man could not do, "God did: sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and as an offering for sin, He condemned sin in the flesh, in order that the requirement of the Law might be fulfilled in us, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit" (Rom. 8:3, 4). He lived a perfect life to fulfill the Law for us. When He died He suffered the punishment due us for our sins. Then He rose again from the dead to break forever the curse of death which sin had brought upon man. Paul puts it this way: "For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ all shall be made alive. But each in his own order: Christ the first fruits, after that those who are Christ's at His coming" (I Cor. 15:22, 23).

We naturally fear death and fight against it. But in Christ the grave has lost its horror. Death does not end my existence. It merely ushers me into the very presence of my Savior. The temptations and taint of sin are forever in the past and everlasting joy

and peace are forever mine.

Dr. Oscar Hanson, in his book, *Live to Win*, speaks of the peace the resurrection message brought to a certain man in the face of death, and I quote:

"A pastor tells about the experience of a Christian dad who was notified by his doctor that he had only about six months to live. The shock was tremendous. He looked at his wife and children with troubled thoughts. One day he walked down to the river to think things through. After prayer and meditation he spoke aloud, 'River, if the world stands you will be running for generation after generation but some day you will dry up. When you do, I'll still be living.' Then looking at the beautiful stately mountain in the distance, he continued, 'If the world continues to stand, you will stand in all your majesty from generation to generation, but there will come a time when you will crumble into the dust. When you do, I will still be living.' This he could say only because by his side that day stood the eternal Christ saying to him, 'I am the resurrection and the life; he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live and whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die' (Jn. 11:25-26)."

Yes, death is a formidable foe. It brings heartache and grief into every home. But the fact that "He is Risen" makes it possible for us to say, "Death is swallowed up in victory—thanks be to God who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ" (I Cor. 15:54, 57).

Edwin M. Kjos

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# The Place of the Resurrection

by Rev. John Rieth,  
Ortley, S. Dak.

Text: Matthew 28:1-8

"In the end of the sabbath, as it began to dawn toward the first day of the week, came Mary Magdalene and the other Mary to see the sepulchre. And, behold, there was a great earthquake: for the angel of the Lord descended from heaven, and came and rolled back the stone from the door, and sat upon it. His countenance was like lightning, and his raiment white as snow: And for fear of him the keepers did shake, and became as dead men. And the angel answered and said unto the women, Fear not ye: for I know that ye seek Jesus, which was crucified. He is not here: for He is risen, as He said. Come, see the place where the Lord lay. And go quickly, and tell His disciples that He is risen from the dead; and, behold, He goeth before you into Galilee; there shall ye see Him: lo, I have told you. And they departed quickly from the sepulchre with fear and great joy; and did run to bring His disciples word."

We are celebrating at present another Lenten season where we are reminded again so vividly of what Christ accomplished for us in His life, death, and resurrection. Certainly to try to separate any of these three and hold one higher than the others would destroy the meaning of all, for each had and has its definite place. They are intertwined, a thread woven by God for the salvation of man.

Inseparable as these three are, it is still good to look at each in close perspective. When the women came that morning to anoint the body of Jesus, what they saw drew their

minds to one single truth, "He is not here. He is risen." Many since that day have compiled volumes on the "proofs" of the resurrection, endeavoring to prove that Christ did indeed rise from the dead—all well and good. But I believe that all the proofs of the resurrection ever compiled can be of no effect unless one realizes personally the **place** of the resurrection in his heart and life.

We must realize first that the resurrection was the **place of God's purpose**. What was God's will concerning man? That he might be saved from the penalty of sin and restored into fellowship with the Father. God told our first parents that disobedience brought death (Genesis 2:17). Since that first sin of disobedience in the Garden, man has been bound under the penalty of death. "Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned" (Romans 5:12). The cry of Job over three thousand years ago was, "If a man die, will he live again?" (Job 14:14). God has made it plain for us in His Word that He "takes no pleasure in the death of the wicked," but would rather see them "turn and live" (Ezekiel 18:32). In Christ's life, we can see the preparation for our salvation. A man who knew no sin as opposed to mankind born into and bound by sin. In Christ's death we can see the provision for our salvation. His blood was shed—innocent blood to cover our sins and blot them out in the eyes of God.

But would the purpose of God have been realized had Christ not risen? No, for Jesus stated very clearly to Martha, "I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he

live: and whosoever liveth and believeth on me shall never die" (John 11:25, 26). For Christ to have remained on the cross and then in the grave would have signalled defeat for God's purpose to save mankind, for it would have revealed the power of sin and Satan too great for God the Creator. Had Christ not risen, you and I could not have assurance of our salvation. We could not have peace of heart and soul in the midst of life's trials and for the ultimate journey through the valley of the shadow of death.

After the fall of man, sin became his master. Sin is a cruel and harsh master—taking the best of what is pure and good from a man and leaving him broken, abused, and lost. Satan is the father of lies and the tempter to sin. Man, alone, was incapable of overcoming Satan's power because of his sinful condition. Only a life lived free from sin could succeed. Only the power of God could defeat sin, and the resurrection was the **place of God's power**. We read in the text in Matthew of the physical manifestations of the resurrection, but what of the spiritual? Paul tells us, "For if when we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of His son, much more being reconciled we shall be saved by His life" (Romans 5:10). We read also that Christ was raised from the dead by the "glory of the Father," (Romans 6:4) and that "knowing that Christ being raised from the dead dieth no more; death hath no more dominion over Him. For in that He died, He died unto sin once: but in that He liveth, He liveth unto God. Likewise reckon ye yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord"

(Romans 6:9-11). The power of God in the resurrection prevents separation from His love and promises to "present us faultless before the presence of His glory with exceeding joy" (Jude 24), if we abide under the umbrella of protection and grace He provides. How blessed to awaken each morning knowing God has the power to keep you today and to fall asleep at day's end with that same assurance.

We have seen God's purpose in the resurrection as that of seeing man reinstated into fellowship with his creator; God's power in the resurrection to overcome spiritual death and keep us from falling, and now, finally, we see the resurrection as the place of God's provision. It provided assurance to the disciples that what Christ had testified to prior to the cross was indeed true. In defeating death, sin must first be defeated. Christ, who rose from the grave had to live the sinless life that death had no right to claim. At the crucifixion the disciples were hopeless, but on the first day of the week their hearts glowed with certainty. A positive sign and tribute for the provision made at the time of the resurrection is the place given to Easter in the church of Jesus Christ from then until now. It is not Lent or Good Friday that is held in highest esteem, but Easter. Easter—the time God sealed for us hope, forgiveness, assurance of salvation. In the resurrection God provided victory over sin and relief from the guilt of sin. When we repent of our sins and seek God's forgiveness, there is a death and resurrection that takes place within us. We die to sin and rise to newness of life.

Jesus Christ—His life, His atoning death, His resurrection. Today, because of your life and rebellious nature, were they all in vain for you? Let us all recognize afresh what the message of Easter should mean to us. How precious the cross, where Christ died for you and me, but also, my friends, how precious that He walks and talks with us today. May this Easter find us all living as though He may come again—today.

He lives, O the bliss of this glorious thought;

My sin, not in part, but the whole;  
is nailed

To the cross and I bear it no more,  
Praise the Lord, it is well with my soul.

And, Lord, haste the Day when our  
faith shall be sight,  
The clouds be rolled back as a  
scroll,  
The trumpet shall sound and the  
Lord shall descend;  
Even so it is well with my soul.

—H. G. Spafford

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#### MRS. O. E. NESTVOLD

Mrs. Ole (Hilda) Nestvold died Feb. 20 at Laramie, Wyo., at the age of 79. Funeral services were held Feb. 24 at New Luther Valley Lutheran Church, McVile, N. Dak.

Ragnhilda Quanbeck was born at Aneta, N. Dak., June 22, 1894, the daughter of Jorgen and Karen Quanbeck. She grew up on her father's farm south of McVile, graduated from Oak Grove Lutheran High School, Fargo, N. Dak. in 1920, and attended Mayville (N. Dak.) Teachers College for two years. She taught in rural North Dakota schools near McVile, Aneta, and Binford in the latter 1910's and much of the 1920's.

She moved to Minneapolis, Minn., in the latter 1920's, where she married Ole E. Nestvold on Aug. 27, 1930. During their 32 years of marriage, Ole and Hilda Nestvold and their two sons lived in small towns in North Dakota (Palermo and Hartland), South Dakota (Glencross, Piedmont and Lily), and Montana (Peerless) where Ole Nestvold held positions as Superintendent of Schools. Upon his retirement in 1951 they moved to Laramie, Wyo., where he died in 1962. Hilda Nestvold lived in Laramie for more than 22 years, and for most of that time was employed by the community's Ivinson Memorial Hospital. She was a member of Trinity Lutheran Church of Laramie.

She is survived by two sons, Dr. Elwood O. Nestvold—an executive for Shell Oil Co. in Houston, Tex., and Dr. Karl J. Nestvold—a professor at the University of Oregon in Eugene, Ore., a sister, Mrs. Olaf (Ella) Frederickson of Paulsbo, Wash., a brother, Aron Quanbeck of Laramie, Wyo., and five grandchildren.

Hilda Nestvold was a deep and abid-

ing Christian, with a great love for her own—both family and friends.

—Corr.

(Ed. Note: It was good to meet Mrs. Nestvold and her brother Aron Quanbeck at the Annual Conference in Ferndale, Wash., last June. I had known her sons Elwood and Karl at Augsburg. Blessed be her memory.)

#### MRS. OVEDEA WEEK

Mrs. Ovedea Week, 87, Sisseton, S. Dak., passed away there on Sat., Jan. 19. Four days later she was to have been honored by her ladies aid from Hope Lutheran Church, of which she was a charter member. The aid meeting was to have been held in honor of her birthday on Jan. 25.

Funeral services for her were held at Hope Church on Jan. 22 with the church's pastor, Rev. Howard Kjos, Roslyn, officiating. Mrs. Ronald Hills accompanied herself in the song "Den Store Hvite Flok." Mrs. Elmer Bakke sang "He the Pearly Gates Will Open." Burial was in the church cemetery.

Ovedea Kjoren was born at Wendell, Minn. She came to South Dakota in 1896. On Feb. 25, 1909, she was united in marriage to Christ Week. He passed away in 1952. She had resided in Sisseton since that time. She was a member of Hope Lutheran Church.

In addition to other relatives she is survived by two sons, four daughters, one brother and one sister.

Blessed be her memory.

#### GOOD RESPONSE TO HYMNBOOK QUESTIONNAIRE

There has been a good response to the questionnaire sent out by the Board of Publications and Parish Education relative to the publishing of a hymnal by the Association of Free Lutheran Congregations.

Any who may not have yet returned the questionnaire are asked to do so at the earliest opportunity in order that as full a report on the feeling of the congregations concerning this matter may be in hand before the Annual Conference as possible.

Please send the completed questionnaires to Rev. Raynard Huglen, chairman of the Board.

# Women For Christ

## JESUS, THE WAY, THE TRUTH AND THE LIFE

by Mrs. Darrel Moe  
Grafton, N. Dak.

In two churches I entered some time ago, the first thing I noticed and was so happy to see was a picture or banner in the front of the building with the words of the familiar text, "Jesus said, 'I am the Way, the Truth and the Life...'" John 14:6. This whole chapter—John 14—is a favorite and a great comfort to many Christians, and of all the verses, verse 6 stands out as one of my favorites.

Where would we be and what hope would we have without Jesus, the WAY, the Way to God and the Way to Heaven? We can't reach out vaguely to touch God, no matter how much we might desire to. God is accessible to us through Jesus alone. I Timothy 2:5 tells us, "For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus." He gave Himself a ransom for us all, shed His precious blood, and has already paid the debt for all of our sins, that we might have atonement and stand before God justified by faith and at peace with God (Romans 5:1). Yes, Jesus is the Way-maker to God and Heaven and we also find in His Word that He will make a way for us through this life. I have chosen the way of faithfulness, (Psalm 119:30) and prayerfully in all my ways acknowledge Him, and know that He will direct my paths. There is such blessed peace in being a Christian—a truly enviable position, knowing that nothing or no one can touch a Chris-

tian unless God allows. And when the way is through "deep waters," He truly "giveth more grace when the burdens grow greater, He sendeth more strength when the labors increase." I thank God for every path He has led me on, and know there is no other way I'd rather be in than "the way of faithfulness."

Jesus said, "I am... the Truth." In Romans 2 we read that we shall be judged according to truth, that is, according to what we have done with Jesus, God's only Son. It is unnecessary and doesn't make sense to try to pay for our own sins. Remember, God loves us so much He "made Him to be sin for us," that we might become the righteousness of God. That moment on the cross, when God turned His back on Jesus, hurt Jesus even worse than all the cruelty and torture He had received at the hands of men. It was there He paid the debt He did not owe, because we owed a debt we could not pay. Jesus was willing to take on a robe of flesh (Hebrews 10:5) that we might wear a robe of righteousness. You see, it has all been done by Jesus, but it is still up to each of us to make the choice to accept Him. When we stand before God, we must plead Jesus. All kinds of good works, any particular denomination, ritual, ceremony or good intention will not gain us an entrance to Heaven: but simply what we have done with Jesus. "No one cometh unto the Father, but by Me," says Jesus, speaking of Himself in John 14:6b.

Thirdly, Jesus says, "I am the Life." This is the abundant life here for the Christian, and life everlasting

through Him who alone can give everlasting life, because He possesses life that is everlasting. In John 10:10, Jesus says, "I am come that they might have life and that they might have it more abundantly." Nothing the world has to offer can compare to the joy, peace and blessing in knowing my sins are forgiven, that God will daily direct my path and give strength as it is needed. He gives the assurance of the blessed hope of the Christian someday being in Heaven, around His throne, for all eternity praising His holy Name.

The choice is yours and the choice is mine. If you don't have this hope and new life we have been talking about, they can be yours. Simply by faith receive Him. "But as many as received Him, to them gave He the power to become sons of God, even to them that believe on His Name."

"For nothing good have I whereby

Thy grace to claim,—

I'll wash my garments white—  
in the blood of Calvary's Lamb.

And when before the throne,

I stand in Him complete,

'Jesus died my soul to save,'

my lips shall still repeat.

Jesus paid it all, all to Him I owe;

Sin had left a crimson stain,

He washed it white as snow."

### WMF WORKSHOP AT VALLEY CITY

Each year during the Winter Bible Conference the ladies look forward to the WMF Workshop at 4:30 on Friday. Each year the WMF national board plans and prays and wonders—**plans** how we can get much into the short allotted time that will inspire the ladies present and help them bring home to their local groups information that will promote the work of the WMF; **prays** that each lady privileged to attend will receive spiritual food for Christian growth and a vision of the fields white unto the harvest; and **wonders** what weather conditions, illnesses or other factors influencing attendance will be!

This year 140 ladies from our many congregations in the Midwest assembled at the Congregational Church just a few doors from Grace Lutheran Church in Valley City, where the long tables were beautifully

decorated by the women from Grace and rural Zion. It was Washington's Birthday and cherry trees, hatchets and logs (on which were printed Bible Verses), cherry candles, and just everything to make it festive and beautiful cheered our spirits. A delicious dinner was prepared and served by the women of the Congregational Church—thus enabling the AFLC ladies of Valley City to sit and enjoy the dinner and program also.

National WMF President Mrs. Robert Dietsche welcomed the ladies and led the program.

Mrs. Kenneth Johnson from Mentor, Minnesota—writer of our current Bible Studies on Jeremiah—led us in devotions, reading and expounding briefly on several verses from Jeremiah that had become dear to her. She said, "Jeremiah and I have become good friends this past year."

The Ladies Chorus from Grace Lutheran of Valley City favored us with songs.

Mrs. Emberson read the treasurer's report and explained our projects motivating us all to continue giving to promote the Lord's work in the various aspects. Mrs. Dietsche called on Mrs. Amos Dyrud to lead all in a prayer of thanksgiving to the Lord for how He has blessed.

Mrs. Dietsche made some pertinent announcements regarding: **Betty Crocker Coupons**—if anyone wishes to give coupons to help obtain an electric meat slicer for the kitchen of the Bible school, please send them to Headquarters in Medicine Lake in care of Miss Linda Moan or to Mrs. Amos Dyrud.

**Memoranda Sheets** that were sent to each local group—please fill these in and get them sent to Mrs. Dietsche so a complete mailing list with necessary information can be made.

**World Day of Prayer**—encouraged all groups to use the program mailed out for this and to have a Prayer Service on March 1st.

**Projects**—encouraged all local groups to support the projects and to give some time at each District Rally to promote the projects.

**Bi-Monthly Newsletter**—encouraged the local groups to read this letter prepared by the national President at the monthly meeting because this is the means of getting infor-

mation from the national board to the individual members.

A vocal duet was sung by Mrs. John Rieth and Mrs. William Haas from Zion Lutheran.

Mrs. George Knapp, recently returned from Brazil, gave a warm and interesting greeting. She said they arrived home to very cold weather but found warm hearts. She noted many changes in the U.S., but added there have been changes in Brazil also these years. She shared a prayer found in her mother's belongings (her mother passed away as they were leaving Brazil and they arrived home here in time to help make the funeral arrangements) and she read this touching poem. "Prayers cannot be answered unless they are prayed" was one of the impressive thoughts. She expressed gratefulness to the WMF for the furnishings in their comfortable trailer home and hoped many could stop to visit and see.

Miss Judith Wold was the speaker of the evening and in her enthusiastic manner, mixed with humor, told about her very recent visit to Brazil. Instead of trying to summarize this talk, I encourage you to watch the article she will write for the May WMF Bible Study.

In closing, Mrs. Dietsche duly thanked all. She also encouraged all women to remember the WMF in prayer.

The Scriptures printed on the logs were read by ladies sitting near the centerpieces. Then Mrs. Kenneth Moland was asked to lead in closing prayer and the singing of the Doxology.

God be praised for a wonderful evening again and, God willing, we look forward to the WMF Workshop and the Bible Conference next year! (If you couldn't get there this year, we hope you can next year!)

Mrs. Amos Dyrud, WMF Secretary  
Minneapolis, Minn.

#### EASTERN NORTH DAKOTA WOMEN SET RALLY DATE

The Eastern North Dakota District Women's Missionary Federation will hold its spring rally at Zoar Lutheran Church, Hampden, N. Dak., R. L. Larson, pastor, on Saturday,

May 4, with registration at 9:30 a.m.

The Bible study will be presented by Mrs. Harvey Carlson, Grand Forks, N. Dak. Missionary George Knapp will bring the mission message.

Mrs. Russell Duncan  
Fargo, N. Dak.

#### NEW WMF OFFICERS AT CULBERTSON



Pictured here are the new officers for the Culbertson (Mont.) parish WMF. Left to right, they are Mrs. Erling Brekke, president; Mrs. Lyle Sorby, vice-president; Mrs. Theodore Thompson, secretary; and Mrs. Gary Qualley, treasurer. Lay pastor Verle Dean, right, installed the new officers.



**Willmar, Minn.**  
Zion Lutheran Church  
Rev. Leslie Galland, pastor  
April 7-10  
Dr. Iver Olson, AFLC Schools, speaker

#### PERSONALITIES

**Rev. C. S. Odell**, a teacher at the Lutheran Bible Institute in Minneapolis, Minn., from 1946-53, and dean from 1948-51, died in California on Dec. 10, 1973.

# The Trip That Was

by Gene B. Smith  
Minneapolis, Minn.

On the afternoon of Saturday, February 3rd, 12 Lutheran Church people, including four married couples, together with our pastor tour-guide, left on the long-awaited trip to South America and our AFLC mission field in Brazil. There was, of course, much excitement at the Twin Cities International Airport as the individual members of the tour group from locations in Washington, Minnesota, and Wisconsin each discovered those with whom he or she would be spending the next two weeks covering distances of thousands of miles. The plane on which we made the first lap of our round-trip tour was one of the largest and yet left the airport with not many more persons on it than the plane personnel and the members of our particular tour group. Mrs. Olive Jacobson busied herself right at the start tape-recording individual impressions of many of us, presumably for historical record. The flight to Milwaukee was otherwise uneventful except that the "big bird" managed to ice up its wings, thereby necessitating a de-icing procedure at the Milwaukee stop. Because of the extended amount of time anticipated in that stop, we on the plane were given limited freedom to spend time in the airport building. Even after filing back onto the plane there was still enough ground time left for the serving and eating of an afternoon luncheon before taking off for New York City.



Mr. Gene B. Smith

Landing at the airport (Kennedy) in New York City, we were faced with the problem of catching a bus to another airport, the field used by the Varig plane that would soon take us non-stop to Rio de Janeiro. Our group, however, came to understand that in New York City no one waits for anyone generally, inasmuch as the inter-airport bus driver divided our group at the end of the first ten, leaving three of us to try to figure out where to go and how to catch up to the rest of the group. All worked out, however, so that the two parts of the group were soon reunited, and the necessary details relevant to clearance for boarding the Varig plane to South America were likewise completed.

The flight plane from New York City to Rio de Janeiro, although large, was nevertheless still somewhat smaller than the jumbo version that had already carried us on the first lap of our journey. The ride was smooth (no noticeably bumpy air), the plane personnel efficient, and the night dark as we enjoyed another prepared meal and sped onward to our goal on the far side of the equator. It is interesting to note that the previously-prepared meals aboard any of our plane flights on the tour were invariably preceded by the serving of some beverage, either alcoholic (in very small bottles or cans) or non-alcoholic (orange juice or coffee) or both. On flights during periods of time that people generally assign to sleep, the cabin lights were turned off, and each individual was then left with only his single spot-light, so to speak, to control. Perhaps non-smokers in some instances would prefer smokers to abstain from the continuance of their habits, especially after lights-out, but unfortunately there was an occasional light glowing in the dark while others could have been sleeping. It would appear that the cultures of neither North America nor South America have yet come to classify tobacco smoke as pollution.

Around seven o'clock Sunday morning the Varig plane set down at an

airport in Rio de Janeiro, to end the longest lap of our whole tour. Imagine, if you can, our walking away from the plane in 90-degree weather, especially when we had encountered mid-20's temperature in Milwaukee and New York City and six-degree weather in the Twin Cities. Furthermore, we were very soon to discover that people were dressed for summer and that bathing suits in Rio de Janeiro (River of January) were very popular items of attire in the vicinity of the many miles of beaches down there. Lovers of compact cars would surely be impressed by the great number of Volkswagens scurrying about the city. Such cars are actually manufactured in another part of Brazil even though their design is of German origin; and, what's more, they are kept well-polished by most of their drivers.

The sunrise seen from the airplane had been a beautiful one, and perhaps it was some sort of a token to us that most of our time in South America would be spent in almost rainless weather. Any protective outer footwear that might still have been in evidence from our trip out of the United States was soon shed, not to be worn again during the remainder of the entire tour, with the possible exception of La Paz in Bolivia (which we were to find more or less in the clouds). Many of those who travel by plane find that both the ascent to and the descent from the altitude at which the plane flies causes a pressure change on the body, particularly noticeable in the plugging of the ears. To this writer the descent was more painful than any ascent on the trip, so that one might even wish the plane would start a more gradual slipping down to ground level and start that descent at a greater distance from the airport scheduled for its landing.

Once in the airport we were subject to inspection by authorities; and while such did cause a lot of preliminary waiting (loss of time), the only material effect to come out of it was the imposition of duty on a special used-projector being transported by our group to the missionary Abel home. It is both interesting and disappointing to note that the amount of duty on that used-projector wasn't



The tour group leaves the plane at Rio de Janeiro. Miss Judith Wold and Mrs. Raymond Jacobson are shown to the left of the ramp.

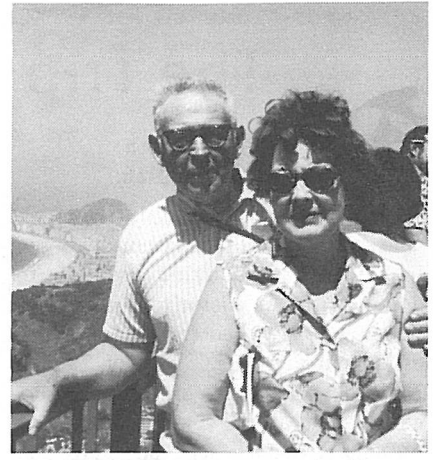
very far under the actual value of the machine itself. Confusion in getting the duty paid almost caused one of us to miss his ride to the scheduled hotel in Rio but here, again, all turned out well, as we were not long in finding ourselves settled in the Novo Mundo (New World, in Portuguese) located just across the highway from one of Rio's great beaches. In the three days that we were to be spending in Rio we were to see great numbers of swim-suited people passing that hotel, both going to and coming from the beach. Inasmuch as the restaurant in the hotel was situated with its large windows overlooking one of the very busy streets, this one leading right to the beach, we were able to observe not only numerous swimmers and Volkswagens but an almost uncountable number of city busses as well.

The food in public eating places was generally good throughout our whole tour. One item which did seem to be prominent on the menus of such places was the hard roll, often shaped into sort of a twist and served with butter. The several dishes available in any one eating place would be designated on the menu either in Portuguese (for Brazil) or in Spanish (for the other three countries in which we made homeward stops). However, the person who had only an acquaintance with English was often not completely helpless, as some of the menus did contain translations. The main course of a meal would likely be flavored a bit differently from that which one might



Flamengo Park in the foreground at Rio with Sugarloaf Mountain in the background.

normally expect "back home;" but, then, any particular culture is surely entitled to the enjoyment of those flavors that have become traditional with it. This writer was to learn in Brazil that two green peppers on one's plate are one green pepper too many, not to mention red peppers on the same plate. Non-refrigerated desserts were commonly wheeled about through the restaurant on a cart, and the individual eaters could then make selections directly from the cart. Ice cream was also generally available (not from the cart, however); and while its taste was never quite like any served in the USA, a number of interesting and enjoyable flavors were spooned up by us. Almost never were we served cold water in a tumbler or glass, but cold beverages were available in the form of Pepsi-Cola, Orange Crush (pronounced Croosh), Seven-Up (Siete-Arriba, in Spanish), mineral water, water with or without gas, and so forth. Coffee was an inevitable part of any meal. Coffee cups were smaller than the ones we generally use—maybe about half-size—and the coffee itself was much thicker than that which we ordinarily brew. The coffee drinker fills his cup about half full of coffee, which looks like syrup but will not yet allow a spoon to stand up straight in it, adds (much) sugar to the coffee (thereby bringing it closer to the status of syrup), and finishes filling the cup with either milk or warmed milk. One has to admit that the resulting flavor within the cup is different from that flavor served back in our own country but



Mr. and Mrs. Howard Paulson, Clayton, Wis., with one of Rio's famous beaches to the left

that the South American drink of coffee is, nevertheless, interesting, if not even actually good.

While we were in the great city of Rio de Janeiro, we were scheduled not only for so-called "leisure for rest and individual exploration" but also for conducted tours. One's own exploration could reveal many sights and experiences, such as beach activities, sports, dodging traffic, shopping in stores of various sorts, trying to prevent oneself from getting gyped while spending the local currency, people-watching, car-watching, shaking off those asking for some sort of handout (I was asked once for a cigar, which I didn't have, and once for money), and just generally snooping around to find out what could be seen while on foot. On both individual strolls and conducted tours one would be very apt to have his camera at his side. On the tours, however, there would often be so many things to photograph that any one tour member might easily come short of taking all the pictures he would really want and would therefore trust that other members of the tour group were getting the photographs he was missing. During the course of the conducted tours within the city of Rio we were to see many sights that were unique to the city itself. While beaches are common sights in other parts of the world, there is, nevertheless, only one set of beaches located near each other and bearing names of Copacabana, Ipanema, and Leblon. You can be

[Continued on page 12]



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# editorials

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## THE DAY THE LORD HAS MADE

"This is the day which the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it" (Psalm 118:24).

Whatever the psalmist had in mind when he penned those words they are certainly true of the day of Christ's resurrection. There have been other great days in history: the day in which Noah stepped from the ark following the Flood, the day in which Abraham's hand was stayed at the sacrifice of Isaac, the day in which the Israelites found themselves safely across the Red Sea waters. And great days of more recent time: Armistice Day, V-J Day, V-E Day, the day of the release of the war prisoners, and so on.

But Easter surpasses all else. It is the great signpost in human history.

The events immediately preceding the resurrection didn't seem to presage or portend victory and triumph. Jesus Christ had spoken of the Bread of life, of living water, of making death something less than death. But His coarse arrest, shameful treatment, unjust trial and inglorious death at the hands of Roman crucifiers did not speak of victory. Even His burial in an unused, rich man's grave was small consolation to His followers. The Sabbath day which followed and the early hours of the first day of the week were ones of numb despair for those who had cast their lot with the Galilean.

But how all of that changed when the news that Jesus had risen gradually was believed by His disciples! To the women first, then to other women and men the glad tidings came—Jesus Christ is not dead any longer! We have seen Him! He has appeared to us!

The empty grave is basic or essential to Christian faith. It speaks of a **living** Lord. All arguments in favor of some other solution to the mystery of the missing body fall by their own weight of foolishness. Had the enemies of Jesus taken His body somewhere else they would have produced it to silence forever these men who preached a risen Leader. And if the disciples of Jesus Christ had themselves stolen the body only to inter it in a place of their own choosing they would not have gone out before the world risking martyrdom for a lie. It was because they had seen Him risen and living that they braved whatever the world could do to them in order to tell of this One who has victory even over the grave.

Some magnificent burial places grace the world's terrain. The Great Pyramid of Egypt was constructed by 100,000 workers straining to put 2,300,000 giant blocks

of limestone in place over a span of 20 years, all to satisfy the whim of a vain monarch. The Taj Mahal of India is the most beautiful tomb in the world and yet is of little help to India's masses. Many of England's famous lie beneath the floor of grand old Westminster Abbey. Tourists flock there, proud of the names they recognize, puzzled by those which are meaningless to them. Arlington National Cemetery chiefly honors the dead of the nation's wars, dominated by the impressive Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. Mohammed's grave is known. The body of Lenin still lies before the gaze of the curious in Red Square.

The grave of Jesus Christ, however, is empty. We are not even certain of the exact spot where Joseph and Nicodemus tenderly laid the bruised and lifeless form of the One they had followed all too secretly. Jesus arose from the dead. We are not so concerned about where He was laid as we are with the fact of His resurrection.

What does that resurrection mean for us today? It tells us that the sacrifice of Jesus was acceptable to God. This means that sin had been atoned for. The death of a martyr would have had no such consequences. A noble thing, yes, but not efficacious. Jesus, the sinless One, gave Himself for the world's sins. His resurrection tells us that sin has done its worst and Jesus, because He is God, is victorious over sin. All who take refuge in Him share that victory, they are free.

Furthermore, the resurrection of Jesus gives promise of the resurrection to come. Jesus is the first fruits of the great host which shall one day rise at the trumpet sound to be clothed in spiritual bodies of glory and power and to be reunited with their souls, already in the presence of God and of the Son and Spirit. That is something to wait for, isn't it?

A man of our acquaintance passed on recently. His illness was such that he knew that death would come before long. He was asked how he felt under such prospect. He replied that he felt as though he was standing on the brink of some glorious adventure. And indeed he was. Surely this is the truth our Lord Jesus proclaimed to sorrowing Martha as they discussed the death of her beloved brother, "I am the resurrection and the life; he who believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, and whoever lives and believes in me shall never die." Doubtless it is from these grand words that the saying "It is not death to die" comes. Of course, this speaks of those who in this life believe in Jesus and trust in Him alone.

It is the hope and prayer of **The Lutheran Ambassador** that her readers all be able to testify that this day, the resurrection day, is the day which the Lord has made, and that they will be able to rejoice and be glad in the Savior Jesus and His victory. Such confidence and witness will indeed make every day a resurrection day, a day of hope.

Further, it is our prayer and hope that all who bear such witness will sense anew the urgency of bringing the news of resurrection to our needy world, that men everywhere might share in the triumph of Christ.

A blessed Easter to all our readers.

# LUTHER LEAGUE ACTIVITIES

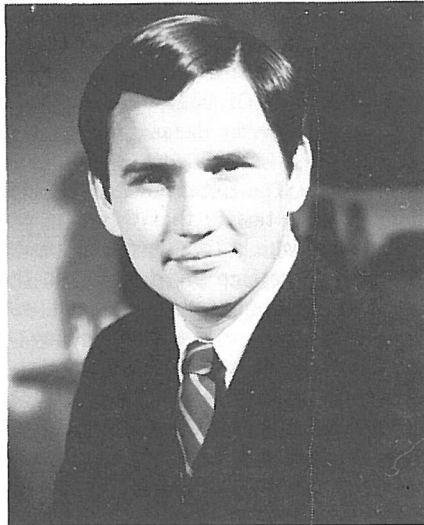
## YOUTH DIRECTOR WAYNE PEDERSON RESIGNS

Mr. Wayne Pederson resigned as youth director of the Association of Free Lutheran Congregations effective Feb. 1, 1974. He had served for two years.

Mr. Pederson is a graduate of Free Lutheran Seminary and is a member of the staff of radio station KTIS and the other radio ministries of Northwestern College, Roseville, Minn. He found it difficult and somewhat unsatisfying to attempt to do the youth work in addition to caring for his other responsibilities, he stated.

Mr. Pederson is married to the former Norma Ness of Fertile, Minn., which is also his home town. The couple has one child.

It is not known who the new youth director will be. The suggestion has been made that possibly the post could be combined with that of a promotional worker for Association Free Lutheran Bible School. The Youth



Board will make the ultimate selection upon consultation with the Luther League Federation executive committee and approval of the Annual Conference of the AFLC.

## A DESIRE FOR THE WORD

How strong is your desire for the Word? One of the marks of a Christian is that he has a desire for the Word of God. The 1st Psalm says of the righteous man that "His delight is in the law of the Lord, and in His law doth he meditate day and night."

Why does a Christian desire the Word? Because it was through the Word that his heart was quickened so that he knew he needed to be saved. It was the Word that invited him to come to Christ. It was the Word that instructed him in the way of confession, and the Word spoke forgiveness to his soul. All throughout his life since he was born again and to this day it is the Word that has instructed him, guided him, and has spoken words of peace, joy and comfort to his storm-beaten soul. It is the Word that has sustained him. If he had been in Peter's shoes he might very well also have said, "Lord, to whom shall we go? Thou hast the words of eternal life" (Jn. 6:68). He trusts the Word because "the grass withereth, the flower fadeth: but the Word of our God shall stand forever" (Is. 40:8).

But it seems as though there are many Christians who don't have such a burning desire for the Word. If this were not the case there would be more people at midweek Bible studies. There would be a greater regularity in church attendance on the part of some. You may probably gauge yourself best by taking an honest look at your faithfulness in your daily devotions.

We all desire to communicate with someone we love. But when love grows cold, communication becomes a chore. Are Bible reading and prayer, church services, and midweek Bible studies chores to you? Are there things you would rather spend your time on? Be honest; examine your priorities. How much do you love God?

Now take a long look at Calvary

and see that God still loves you. See how He longs to have fellowship with you. Confess your coldness and lack of love to Him and ask Him to create in you a clean heart and a right spirit. He will give you a new desire for His Word.

"Thy testimonies have I taken as an heritage forever: for they are the rejoicing of my heart" (Ps. 119:111).

Jim Fugleberg  
Devotional Life Secretary  
Luther League Federation

## EUGENE CONGREGATION HOSTED YOUTH CONVENTION

Doesn't it seem at times that we have so many things to do in one day that we can't stop to have a quiet time with Jesus? We found a solution to this problem in this verse: "Seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things shall be yours as well" (Matthew 6:33). This verse was the theme of the annual West Coast District Luther League Convention held near Eugene, Ore., February 15-18. Pastor Elden Nelson and his congregation applied this verse to their preparation and thus the convention was a success.

Friday night leaguers and a few adults from the West Coast District arrived at Spencer Creek Lutheran Church and registered for the convention. It was really fun to see old friends and meet many new ones! We met in the church sanctuary for a welcome, devotions and singspiration. Refreshments followed and everyone was assigned to a home for the weekend. There were about 150 registered!

A time of conversational prayer led by President John Carter started our Saturday morning sessions. Pastor Ray Persson of Astoria, Oregon, then led our morning Bible study on the theme verse. We learned that God really seeks us first! In the book of Matthew we learned what is meant by the "kingdom" and "all these things shall be added to you."

After a short break we held our business meeting. The main item of business was the election of officers, who are as follows: President—Tad Spading, Kirkland, Wash.; Vice-President—Scot Robinson, Eugene;

[Continued on page 14]



# SCHOOL NEWS

## REV. DENNIS GRAY SPOKE AT SPIRITUAL EMPHASIS WEEK

The speaker at the annual Spiritual Emphasis Week at AFLBS this year was Rev. Dennis Gray of Grafton, N. Dak. The dates of the week were Feb. 24-28. Members of Medicine Lake Lutheran Church also participated in the preaching mission. In the fall of the year the congregation sponsored a week of special meetings with Rev. Eugene Enderlein as speaker and the Bible School co-operated.

In addition to the evening services, Pastor Gray spoke to the Bible School students each morning. He was also available for counselling each day.

His topics for the evening services and texts used were as follows: Sunday—Walk Circumspectly (Eph. 5:15-21); Monday—Jealousy (I Sam. 18:1-9); Tuesday—Daniel Purposed in His Heart (Dan. 1:8); Wednesday—Lot Flees Sodom (Gen. 19:15-22); and Thursday—(not available).

At the morning sessions he used these themes: Monday—Weighed in the Balances and Found Wanting;

Tuesday—Assurance of Salvation; Wednesday—Prayer; and Thursday—The Will of God.

Special musical numbers were provided for each evening service. At the Wednesday morning joint chapel service a quartette of faculty members sang two songs. The members were Mr. Donald Rodvold and Pastors R. Snipstead, Francis Monseth and Amos O. Dyrud.

Seasons of refreshing were experienced in Bible School, Seminary and congregation during the Spiritual Emphasis Week.

## MONTHLY YOUTH RALLIES HELD AT AFLBS

A series of monthly youth rallies is being held at AFLBS again this year. A student committee, with Rev. Francis Monseth as faculty advisor, arranges for each rally. Young people from the Twin Cities and Association churches within driving distance are invited to take part in the rallies.

A fellowship lunch follows the program and that, in turn, is followed

by an "afterglow," a time of sharing and informal singing.

The final youth rally of the school year will be held on Sat., Apr. 6, during Promotion Days. Featured speaker will be Pastor Herbert Franz of Cloquet, Minn. Special musical numbers are a vital part of each program, and a message from God's Word.

At the March rally the Bible School-Seminary Choir from the Lutheran Brethren Schools at Fergus Falls, Minn., presented the program. The group is called the Good News Singers and has approximately 35 voices and is directed by Rev. Joel Lunde. Rev. C. Lloyd Bjornlie, president of the Bible School, brought a message.

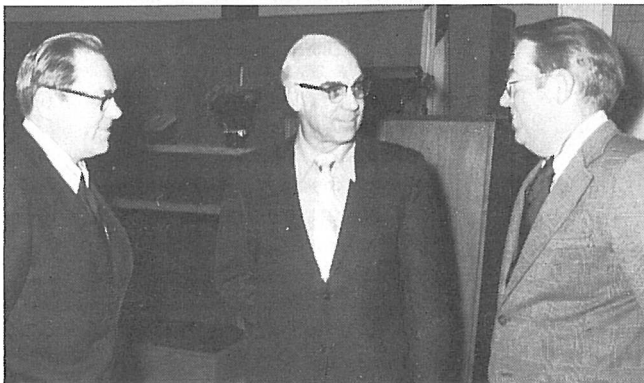
Other guest speakers during the year have been Rev. Allen Monson of the Hauge Lutheran Inner Mission Federation and Rev. E. W. Klawitter and Ev. Nels Pedersen of the Lutheran Evangelistic Movement.

The student committee for youth rallies consists of Jennifer Broden, Fertile, Minn., Ruth Solheim, Everett, Wash., Paul Jore, Erskine, Minn., and Wesley Kvanvig, Aitkin, Minn.

## VARIANCE SECURED; DORM BUILDING PROGRESSES

A petition to have an elevator removed from the building plans of the boys' dormitory now under construction was granted by the Plymouth City Council in regular session on March 11.

This deletion apparently removes the last hindrance in the way of building plans and will mean a saving of about \$25,000 to the Association of Free Lutheran Congregations, sponsors of the two-year Bible School. To



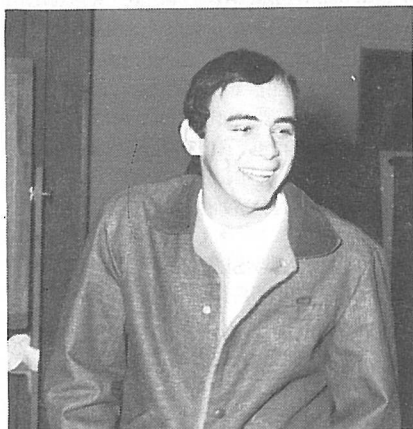
Ev. Nels Pedersen, center, who spoke at the February youth rally, chats with Rev. Albert Hautamaki, left, and Rev. Laurel Udden after the service.



Richard Anderson, seminary student, plays the guitar for an "afterglow" as the closing event of a monthly youth rally at Bible School.

provide accommodations for any handicapped boys who might attend AFLBS, one of the reasons why an elevator might have been installed, two rooms will be furnished for them on first floor, which will have ground level entrance.

Work on the dormitory which will house some 60 boys, and afford various other facilities, resumed on March 7 after being held up since January 25 due to lack of permit. The first thing that was done was to lay Spancrete slabs over the basement, making part of the floor for the first or ground floor. Fortunately, the ground was frozen that morning, in the midst of the spring thaw, and the Spancrete could be hauled in. Immediately following that the workmen began to lay blocks for the first floor walls.



Clemente Pinto of Brazil who attended Free Lutheran Seminary during the first semester and then returned to his own country.

Students, faculty and staff are watching the project with keen interest and each day sees good progress made.

Friends of AFLBS are reminded of the need for cash gifts, pledges and loans for this dorm project.

#### BASKETBALL SCORES

(playoffs)  
AFLBS Conquerors 35  
Calvary Lutheran No. 2 72

#### ANNOUNCEMENTS

Apr. 5-6—Promotion Days  
Apr. 10-21—Easter Recess and Music Groups Tours  
May 17—Graduation Day

[Continued from page 8]

very sure that they were all well occupied. Downtown Rio and the residential sections of the city, including the slums, offered the viewer an experience he would not be able to have in his own America, differences probably coming about largely because of differences in histories of the respective countries.

One memorable part of our tour of Rio de Janeiro took us to its Urca section, where we made a two-stage ascent by cable car to the top of famed Sugar Loaf, from which we could both see and photograph various sections of the great city amidst its many beaches—all from a height of 1400 feet. No doubt it was intended that a visit to Sugar Loaf should precede a trip to the top of Corcovada Mountain, inasmuch as the latter is even higher than the former—over half again as tall, 2272 feet. What's more, at the top of Corcovada rests the world-famous statue of Christ the Redeemer, dominating the city of Rio. If the view from Sugar Loaf was impressive, surely the view from Corcovado was even more so, enabling one to become not only much aware of the grandeur of the city but also very observant of the relationships existing among the locations of its sizable hills, beaches, tall buildings, and populated sections. While returning by motorcoach toward the lower levels of the city, we passed through the Tijuca Forest, now a park noted for its lush foliage. Historically, it was maintained as a forest preserve



Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Jacobson in front of the Novo Mundo Hotel in Rio de Janeiro.

by Dom Pedro II, the last emperor of the country of Brazil.

Before closing this portion of the account of the South American mission tour, we here make note of impressive visits both to a jewelry-processing firm and to the Botanical Gardens in Rio. We were informed that the garden area contains the largest collection of tropical plants in the world. Amid the great variety of plants, including the orchid, we could hardly miss rows of stately palm trees. Our city guide told us that the palms we were looking at were all the offspring of a mother palm, now dead, inasmuch as lightning had fallen into it. Our tour guide (not the city guide) spoke to us briefly about some of the characteristics of the palm tree; and we learned that the palm grows from the inside out, even as the Christian life should do. While this writer did not happen to see the dead mother palm, he did enjoy the impressive sight of her many tall descendants as well as the many other lovely sights within the gardens and will return in the next issue of this magazine to relate more of the total trip, including the visit to the mission station and Bible school at the city of Campo Mourao.

(to be continued)

### In Memoriam

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

#### MINNESOTA

Fosston  
Mrs. Anna Vedbraaten, 85, Jan. 26, Calvary

#### McIntosh

Mrs. Walter Rolf, 78, Kalispell, Mont., Feb. 28, service at Trinity (Mrs. Rolf was a sister of Knute Jore and mother of Kenneth Rolf.)

Mr. Oscar Voigt, 86, Mar. 2, Trinity

## THE CERTAINTY OF CHRIST'S RESURRECTION

Christian faith and hope of eternal life rest on the historical fact that Jesus of Nazareth who was crucified on Good Friday arose from the dead on Easter morning. This unique occurrence in history places Jesus in a class all by Himself.

Great religious geniuses have arisen among different people of the world and as a consequence new religions have been started. Death, however, on its march against human life came also to these founders of religions and death has kept them securely entombed. The work they did, the influence they wielded, the moral laws, the code of ethics and the philosophies of life they formed and as a heritage left behind, are all held in sacred memory by their faithful followers. They themselves, however, are dead and gone though their memory lives on.

Jesus was not a religious genius. Neither was He a founder of a religion. He was the Son of the living God. He came into this world, not to start a religious sect, but to give His life in death as a ransom for the sins of the world. He could give his life and He could take it back. And He did. His death was as much of a miracle as His resurrection. Both were supernatural.

Jesus lives on. Not only through the life He lived, the work He did, the words He spoke and the supreme sacrifice He made. Jesus Himself lives on. His glorious personality is an ever present reality in the living church of which He Himself is the head and where His believers are members upon His body, which is the Church.

Against the background of current religious thoughts and beliefs of that day we can to some extent appreciate how difficult it was for the disciples to believe that Jesus really had risen from the dead. Somehow, His references and even direct words concerning His suffering and death as well as His assuring word that He would rise again from the dead on the third day had not registered with them.

They disbelieved.

In a confused and disturbed frame of mind we find the disciples gathered, probably in the upper room, in the evening of the first Easter Day. So many strange things had been reported to them throughout the day. There were the women who early in the morning had gone to the grave and found the seal broken and the stone rolled away. An angel had told them that Jesus was risen from the dead.

Later Jesus had revealed Himself to Mary Magdalene and shortly after to the women returning from the sepulchre. Peter and John, too, had gone to the grave to assure themselves of the certainty of the women's report. Later He had appeared to Simon Peter alone. And now they are gathered behind closed doors.

Presently there is a knock and the sound of a familiar voice is heard. Cleopas and his friend had returned from Emmaus the same evening that Jesus had appeared to them to relate their marvelous experience of how He had come to them on the way, walked by their side and opened the Scriptures to them, and how He had made Himself known through the breaking of the bread. While they still were rehearsing these wonderful happenings Jesus stood in their midst and said: "Peace be unto you."

We might have expected that the disciples now would have fallen prostrate before His feet in worship, praise, and adoration and that they would have hailed Him as their deliverer and the conqueror of death. But no, they were terrified and affrighted and supposed that they beheld a spirit. They simply could not believe that this person their eyes gazed upon was the Jesus whom they loved, whose departure they mourned and with whom they had trodden the dry and dusty roads of Galilee. They could not believe their own eyes.

Christian people in all ages of little faith and troubled with doubt will forever be thankful to God for the

telling scene which now followed. He does not scold them. He does not lose patience with them. He meets them on their own ground and He adds new evidences to the conclusive proofs of His resurrection already given.

There is, first of all, the evidence of hearing. He speaks to them. The perfect Man undoubtedly had a perfect voice, rich in tone and color. His greeting: "Peace be unto you," must also have reminded them of His parting words: "Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you, not as the world giveth, give I unto you."

Then, too, there is the evidence of sight. "Behold my hands and my feet that it is I myself." And when He had spoken He showed them His hands and His feet. John, who had been an eyewitness at the cross, recalls also that He showed them His pierced side.

This is followed by the evidence of touch. He invites them to handle Him as though He would say: Touch me and feel me. A spirit has not flesh and bones as ye must be convinced that I have. He stood there before them with essentially the same body as was nailed to the cross, though admittedly it had undergone changes.

Furthermore, He gives them the evidence of eating. He asks for food and a piece of broiled fish is given Him which He eats before them. Years later in His talk to Cornelius and his friends, Peter tells how he and the other apostles ate and drank with Jesus after His resurrection.

Finally, He gives them the evidence of Scripture. He reminds them how He had told them before how all things written concerning Him in Moses and the prophets and the psalms must needs be fulfilled. This had now come to pass and their minds were opened to understand the Scriptures. They realized that what they had heard, seen and witnessed these last days completely harmonized with what was foretold concerning Him in their sacred writings. They themselves were now witnesses of His death and resurrection. But before they go out on their witnessing mission they must be imbued with power and He promises to supply it.

Easter is to be followed by a Pentecost and Pentecost has forever

given unmistakable testimony to the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, that there is life in His name for all who believe, and that even as He lives so shall we eternally live with Him.

—T. O. Burntvedt  
(from *The Lutheran Messenger*)

[Continued from page 10]

Secretary—Gracia Stenberg, Lake Stevens, Wash.; Treasurer—Lana Robinson, Eugene; Devotional Life Secretary—Pauline Persson, Astoria; and Pastoral Advisor—Michael Brandt, Lake Stevens. A brief sharing time was followed by lunch served by the ladies of Spencer Creek. Many of the leaguers then spent their free time swimming, shopping, horse-back riding, or seeing the movie "Time to Run."

Everyone had a good time at the banquet that evening held at a nice restaurant in Eugene. After dinner and special music, we heard Art Gunderson, the student body president of the Lutheran Bible Institute of Seattle. Speaking from Ephesians 1:18-20, Art likened God to the source of power driving a generator, Jesus Christ, which transmits this power through us, the power lines. In this illustration, sin in our lives became resistors to the flow of God's power. We then went back to the church for an "After-glow" led by Pastor Michael Brandt. It was really neat to have a time of sharing and singing together!

Sunday morning Paul Persson, a student at a seminary in Portland, Ore., led our morning session in the youth chapel. Paul gave us many good helps on how to study the Bible. He also recommended the New American Standard version for general use, but especially for Bible study. Because of the quantity of people, two simultaneous worship services were held. Pastor Robert Rieth of Kirkland spoke in the church sanctuary, and Pastor Gary Skramstad of Kalispell, Mont., spoke in the youth chapel. Special music was provided throughout the weekend by each West Coast league. Following the services a pot-luck dinner was held at Bethesda Lutheran Church in Eugene. Many of the leaguers then departed for home,

but fellowship was provided for those who stayed until Monday.

Gracia Stenberg, Secretary  
West Coast District Luther League

### RESURGAM

It happened on an April day,  
Bounded by skies so blue and still,  
And olive trees all hushed and gray,  
They led One up a skull-shaped hill  
Followed by a crowd  
whose piercing cry  
Was, "Crucifix!"

It happened on an April morn,  
They nailed a Man upon a tree,  
Whose head was circled with  
sharp thorn,  
Lifted Him high that all might see  
His agony, His heaving breath,  
His awful death.

It happened on an April eve—  
The air was cut by one sharp cry  
That wine nor gall could not relieve:  
"Eli . . . lama . . . Sabachthani!"  
Then lightning, thunder crack  
on crack,  
The sun was black.

It happened on an April day.  
They tumbled a Man (the crowd  
had fled),  
Sealed it; and set a watch that way  
To flout His words; to prove  
Him dead;  
And show Himself He could not save  
From the dark grave.  
It happened on an April day . . .  
A tremor shook the paling gloom,  
A white flame tore the door away,  
Life came a victor from the tomb.  
Love cannot die, nor truth betray . . .  
Christ rose upon an April day!  
—John Richard Moreland

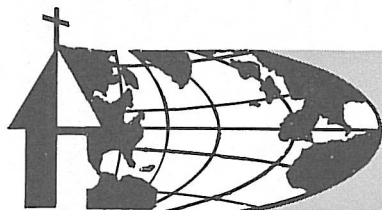
### THE QUESTION

A garden grave, a rock-cut tomb,  
A loved one deep within  
the cheerless walls.  
Christ stood before Mary and  
gently questioned,  
"Woman, why do you weep?"  
Another grave, another time,  
A loved one deep beneath  
the greening grass.  
Christ stands beside me and  
gently questions,  
"Woman, why do you weep?"  
Marlene Moline

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

#### Budget Receipts February 1, 1974-February 28, 1974

	Proposed Total Budget	Current Budget	Received To Date
General Fund	\$ 56,000.00	\$ 4,666.67	\$ 2,726.71
Schools	82,830.00	6,902.50	1,588.56
Home Missions	50,000.00	4,166.67	1,974.34
Foreign Missions	57,370.00	4,780.83	2,798.42
Praise Program	<u>18,000.00</u>	<u>1,500.00</u>	<u>715.08</u>
TOTAL	\$264,200.00	\$22,016.67	\$ 9,803.11
Received last year same date—\$6,781.66			
Legacies: \$44.39			
<b>Dorm Fund to date:</b>			
Unpaid pledges	\$ 22,255.50		
Cash Received	<u>144,139.77</u>		
	\$166,395.27		



# CHURCH-WORLD NEWS

## THE CHURCH AROUND THE WORLD

\*\* Dissident evangelicals within the Southern Presbyterian Church have formed America's newest denomination, the National Presbyterian Church. The split was precipitated by the proposed union of the Southern Presbyterians with the United Presbyterian Church. The new denomination has congregations in 14 states.

\*\* 450,000 nine-to-fourteen-year-olds in the U.S. have serious alcohol problems, according to a federal official. Alcoholics Anonymous groups for teens are growing.

\*\* A startling drop in U.S. Catholic church attendance occurred in 1973. 48 per cent now attend church weekly, compared to 61 per cent in 1972.

\*\* The presentation of creationism as an alternative to evolution in public school classrooms has been given the green light in California, Tennessee, Wisconsin and Michigan. Indications are the trend will continue.

\*\* Illiterate tribes in South and West Ethiopia can now listen to Scripture cassette tapes. Plans are being laid to reach hundreds of languages in this way.

\*\* Earlier this year, Moody Bible Institute students and staff retraced the steps of D. L. Moody through the British Isles on the one-hundredth anniversary of his crusades there. Preaching on street corners, testifying in factories, distributing Gospel tracts, and assisting President George Sweeting in mass evangelistic rallies, the students shared firsthand in winning Britons, Scots and Irish to Christ. Many nightly meetings were packed out, and evangelistic meetings in many high schools were well attended.

—Tyndale House Publishers

## LUTHERANS REPORTED WORSHIPPING IN USSR

Hamburg—(LC)—A pastor who

spent several years in Siberia and only returned to Germany last year reported to a gathering of some 50 north German and lower Saxony church representatives that though Lutherans no longer have an organized church structure in the Soviet Union they continue to gather for services and conduct baptism and other aspects of church life.

The Rev. Eugen Bachmann said that in spite of persecution by Communist authorities, an organized Lutheran church made up of Volga Germans existed until 1941. The institutional structure was broken up, he said, by the displacement of the Soviet citizens of German origin to the center of the USSR and to Siberia.

The report was given at the annual convention of the north German Martin Luther Association. Clergymen from the Netherlands and France also attended the sessions, which examined the present life of diaspora churches.

## DR. PREUS EXPRESSES REGRET OVER DEAL OFFERED SEM HEAD

Bronxville, N.Y.—(LC)—Meeting in a special convention here, the Atlantic District of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod voted to grant \$50,000 for the "seminary in exile" in St. Louis and heard Dr. J.A.O. Preus apologize for considering a "deal" with Dr. John H. Tietjen, suspended president of Concordia Seminary.

Dr. Preus, president of the Synod, told the delegates gathered at Concordia College here March 1-2 that he "should never have been involved" in the controversial "deal" allegedly offered to Dr. Tietjen.

After his suspension Jan. 20 on charges of administrative malfeasance and advocating false doctrine, Dr. Tietjen asserted that "agents of the president" had suggested that if he would accept a call to a parish the charges might be dropped.

Dr. Preus said here that although "no promises were made, and no assurances were given" discussions about the "deal" were a mistake. "I'll never do it again," said the Synod President.

Dr. Preus also told the delegates that it was possibly unconstitutional for a district to vote to raise money for "Seminex," the seminary in exile, especially since the resolution which passed 115-52 authorized the district president to appoint the fund-raising committee and administer the funds.

During the lengthy debate on the matter of the \$50,000 for Seminex, delegates expressed obviously strong opinions, but generally refrained from passionate rhetoric. Dr. Preus and Dr. Tietjen were both present at the special convention and fielded questions from Atlantic District delegates.

The convention also resolved to ask synodical and district leaders to urge "appropriate administrative officials to vacate charges of false doctrine, reinstate dismissed personnel, and refrain from any further such actions" until a special Advisory Committee on Doctrine and Conciliation could complete its work.

In other action, the special convention resolved to declare that in its opinion the "Statement on Scriptural and Confessional Principles," adopted by the 1973 convention of the LCMS was unconstitutional. The statement, authored by Dr. Preus as "guidelines" for dealing with the theological controversy at Concordia Seminary, had brought "suffering," the resolution stated, and asserted that the district was unwilling to permit the statement to be used as a "norm by which anyone is judged."

The Rev. Rudolph P. F. Ressimeyer, president of the district, said in his opening remarks to the special convention that the meeting was "not to be construed as an act of rebellion against the Synod." President Ressimeyer

meyer stated that he had ruled out several "overtures" submitted to the convention because he judged them to be "inflammatory and unconstitutional."

The special convention was the first such meeting to be called in the LCMS district, although regularly scheduled conventions in other parts of the Synod have dealt with similar concerns.

### MY LORD

Yesterday He helped me,  
Today He did the same,  
How long will this continue?  
Forever, Praise His name!

(from New Hope Center Beacon)

### A STIRRING IN THE GARDEN

What is the stirring in the tomb  
On the third day from its sealing?  
Can there be life amidst the gloom?  
Is God His power revealing?

What is the song the women sing  
From across the greening garden?  
Can it be good news that they bring?  
Can our Lord have bought us pardon?

My heart can hear before my ears  
The whole earth its joy confessing.  
The world is His for all the years,  
And death's curse is turned to blessing.

—Marlene Moline

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