

March 27, 1973

The Lutheran Ambassador



“And as they were eating, Jesus took bread, and blessed it . . .”

RNS Photo

MEDITATION MOMENTS

Lent and the Cross in Your Life

"Follow Me"

Luke 9:23: "If any man would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me."

Self-denial, cross-bearing and Christ-following are our themes for this Lenten season. This, the last in the series, challenges us to service for Christ, to persevere in testings, have victory over sin and to experience the realization of the promise.

Following Jesus is a very noble expression and has been manifested in unbelievable ways. The one point on the pendulum would have to be the cloistered monk who lived in terrible circumstances of depravation. The other extreme would be the total involvement economically, socially and politically to the point of revolutionary tactics, such as Camil Torres in Colombia. In between is a whole world of interpretations each equally promoted as the truth. In an effort to not digress from the premise, the words of Jesus "follow me," I would propose to show through the life of Christ and His teachings how he explained this statement.

First, the following as I previously mentioned, is premised upon the fact that Christ rules in our lives and the ego is set aside. Also, on the gracious divine power that works through our inadequacies as we take up our cross. Then the following is conditioned by His will and power as He works in and through us.

Secondly, following means to have a vision. Jesus was not alone on the

Mount of Transfiguration, He had His disciples with him. The truth of His messianic Sonship and divinity plunged even deeper into their whole being as they saw and heard what took place.

Thirdly, the disciples as His followers experienced the heat of embarrassment as the Messiah was rejected by the Samaritan village for His Jewishness. That, as we know, was only one of the many times such a reaction took place. The ultimate rejection was at Calvary.

Fourthly, His followers experienced the frightening loss among themselves of members. The press of family and business was far too great as was the struggle of doubt caused by the psychology of numbers as more and more individuals left this Way. Following Jesus was no longer "in."

Fifthly, the Savior did many works that excited the multitudes and were, to His followers, unbelievable blessings. A crippled woman walked again. The man with swollen arms and legs was healed. Healthy bodies were restored to lepers. A blind beggar went away from Jesus beholding a world that previously was only understood by touch, sound and smell. A sense of reassurance because the world was a bit better off because of this ministry of healing.

Sixthly, the Savior taught his disciples in an informal, fluid setting, helping them to utilize what they learned. There were no blackboards, chairs, closed circuit TV, textbooks, or time schedules. Yet the disciples were knowledgeable men of the Scrip-

tures. They had their laboratory test-outs as they witnessed and partook of the feedings of the thousands. They applied their knowledge as they went out, casting out demons, healing bodies, convincing people that Jesus was the Messiah. This was their internship. When it was time, they returned and evaluated their experiences. Following was a time of discovery and utilization of the new.

In the seventh place, to follow Jesus is to have fellowship. The scene at Martha's and Mary's house... friends with whom there was rapport. The Last Supper and final words of instruction and encouragement. Just two instances that stand out for me as principles to carry into my life as one among a multitude of this great fellowship. How we can pray together, eat together, help one another, weep together and many other like things.

And lastly, they struggled, were tempted, and ran away. Yet, there was a way back and it was brought about by the One whom they followed. They remembered the instructions of Jesus. While they had followed from a distance when Jesus went to Calvary, they knew in their hearts that they had been untrue, they had abandoned Him. Eleven of the disciples returned through repentance and faith. Each one of us knows from how far off, from what distance we are following Christ. Of what effect is our service to him? Is there perseverance in testings? Is there victory over sin? Would you save your life? Then, follow Him!

—Richard W. Gunderson

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The Victorious Victim

by Rev. Bruce Dalager
Bagley, Minn.

Isaiah 53:1-6

During this Lenten Season we again take special notice of the suffering of our Lord. His suffering was an integral part of our redemption. As we examine the Gospel narratives, we realize that Christ's greatest suffering was not the physical mistreatment He endured. It was rather the inner turmoil caused by His knowledge of the Father's will, coupled with Satan's attempts to divert Him. The Passion of Christ and His temptation are intimately connected.

The Tempted Messiah

In our text we are given a picture of the tempted Messiah. Isaiah gives us the most intimate glimpse of Christ's mission among men. He writes with the vividness and accuracy of an eyewitness. His description of the Lord's work plainly indicates that there would be temptation. As the Messiah, promised often by God and publicly proclaimed by the prophets, the Christ was to redeem His people from sin. One of the steps involved in His ultimate victory over the devil, the world, and the flesh was His temptation. An untempted man would have no right to lay hold of the claim of sinlessness. The Savior would, of necessity, have to be "made like His brethren in all things, that He might become a merciful and faithful high priest in things pertaining to God" (Hebrews 2:17).

When we think of the temptation of Jesus, our thoughts usually go to the experience of Christ during His wilderness fast. The variety of our Lord's temptations has been obscured by the attention that is concentrated upon this one episode known as the temptation in the wilderness. Yet it must be included because of its prominence.

Luke states that the temptations by Satan were carried on for forty days, after which time the three commonly known temptations occurred. Each temptation begins with a questioning of God's Word. Some forty days earlier, Jesus had heard the voice from heaven declaring Him to be the Son of God; now He was hearing the voice of one doubting and tempting Him to doubt—"If you are the Son of God"—"If you will worship me"—"If you are the Son of God." Satan's tactics were the same here as they had been when he tempted Adam and Eve. He will use logic or emotion; if only he can get man to doubt what God has said. He knows what God has said, but will distort it to accomplish his own end. Today he tempts, "If God is love, He won't punish sin too severely," or, "If you are a Christian, God will forgive you if you do this just once." Satan is an unbeliever and will take God's Word for nothing. He denies the Word of God and all who deny that Word today are his followers.

To think that this temptation in the wilderness was the culmination of Satan's efforts to stop the ministry of Jesus is a mistake. After Jesus successfully thwarted the purpose of Satan, the tempter "departed from Him until an opportune time" (Luke 4:13). Satan was not done yet. His kingdom and power were in danger. Christ was come to undo the condemnation which had resulted from Satan's successful assault on the first Adam. Satan well knew the power of Christ and sought by every means possible to turn Him from the purpose for which He had come.

Other Temptations

The temptations Jesus encountered were not all as obvious as those He faced in the wilderness. Subtle suggestions to swerve Him from His mission were presented by friend and foe

alike. The Savior's own family and brethren were a source of trial as we see from the incident at the wedding at Cana (John 2:4) and the request of His brethren that He go to Judea to perform miracles (John 7:3-6). Even Peter, His dedicated disciple, was used by Satan to suggest that He escape death at the hands of the chief priests, scribes, and elders.

It is likely that the greatest temptations Jesus encountered were in the days immediately preceding His death. From the time He left Galilee and "resolutely set His face to go to Jerusalem" (Luke 9:51), we can be sure that the temptation to depart from the Father's plan was very strong. On this eighty-mile journey Jesus had many opportunities to turn from His path which led to the cross. While in Bethany enjoying warm fellowship in the home of His intimate friends, Martha, Mary, and Lazarus, Jesus surely was tempted to remain there where He was dearly loved rather than go to Jerusalem where He knew He would be rejected and crucified. We are all acquainted with the trials in Gethsemane and later on the cross where, with victory within His grasp, He was again challenged to save Himself. None of us can fully comprehend the intensity of Satan's attack against Jesus.

He Was Victorious

Thank God for His victory over temptations! Christ withstood them. He conquered. His obedience has great significance for our own spiritual life. "We are more than conquerors through Him that loved us" (Romans 8:37, KJV). As Jesus withstood the onslaughts of Satan, so we, through Him, shall conquer. Our High Priest can sympathize with our weakness since He "has been tempted in all things as we are, yet without sin" (Hebrews 4:15). Tempted as we are—how are we tempted? In the final anal-

ysis, the trial and temptation which hounded our Lord was the temptation TO SEEK AN EASIER WAY THAN THAT OF DOING THE WILL OF THE FATHER. But Christ's life was dominated by the desire to do the will of the Father. Everything that tended to swerve the Savior from that purpose was a temptation.

We, too, are tempted to swerve from God's purpose for our lives. What is His purpose for us? We are not products of chance set adrift in this world without a goal. God "desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth" (1 Timothy 2:4). Since the fall, man has been trying to accomplish salvation from sin and guilt and has sought a knowledge of truth. But his godless efforts are usually attempts to accomplish the will of the Father via more comfortable channels (i.e., salvation through works or social reform, knowledge of the truth through education). It is difficult for man to accept God's terms, that is, to deny self and admit a dependence on God for salvation. Thus man succumbs to the temptation that Christ conquered—seeking an easier way than that of doing the will of the Father.

Dangers to Spiritual Life

What things in the world endanger and threaten to destroy spiritual life? In 1 John 2:16 we find the three basic categories into which all temptations of the world fall: the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, the boastful pride of life. Let us compare these words with the recorded accounts of the first Adam's fall and the last Adam's victory. Genesis 3:6 says, "the tree was good for **food**, and that it was a delight to the **eyes**, and that the tree was desirable to **make one wise**." These three temptations were the cause of Adam and Eve's undoing and through the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners" (Romans 5:19). Christ's threefold temptation in the wilderness also involved the three areas to which Adam had been subjected. The parallel is obvious. But, because of the obedience of Christ, many will be made righteous.

"All we like sheep have gone astray, each of us has turned to his own

way; but the Lord has caused the iniquity of us all to fall on Him." The sinner's sins are placed on the Lamb of God. He who was obedient brings God's favor upon those who were disobedient. There is no promise in Scripture that the children of God will escape temptation. Rather, we are reminded to "consider it all joy, my brethren, when you encounter various trials; knowing that the testing of your faith produces endurance" (James 1:2, 3). The enemies that harass our faith and overcome Adam have been defeated by Christ. He was obedient. His promise should encourage us. "In the world you have tribulation, but take courage; I have overcome the world" (John 16:33).

Rejoice in the victory that is ours through Christ. Though Satan is still active in tempting and deceiving through the world and our flesh, there has come One Who has broken his strangle hold on mankind. Remember the One Who endured the same temptations you face, look for the way of escape God has promised, and thank God for the victory that is yours through Jesus Christ our Lord.

(All Scripture quotations are from the New American Standard Bible unless otherwise indicated.)



THROUGH THE VALLEY OF THE SHADOW

Through the valley of the shadow
To the victory beyond
My dear Shepherd walks the pathway
By my side to higher ground.
He has shared my joys and sorrows,
All my burdens rest on Him.
He has strengthened and sustained
me,
He has borne my very sin.
Why should I now doubt His promise?
Why give in to foolish fears?
I would lose my way completely
In the midst of my own tears.
I will lean my heart upon Him
Through the darkness and the cold.
Past the valley of the shadow
Lies the glory of the fold.

Marlene Moline
Lansing, Ia.

CHARTER PLANE TRIP TO ANNUAL CONFERENCE BEING STUDIED

The Co-ordinating Committee has asked Mrs. James C. Eletson of Duluth to check into the possibility of arranging a charter plane flight to the Annual conference in Ferndale, Washington.

We can arrange for a 100-passenger DC-9, leaving Minneapolis on Monday, June 11, and returning to Minneapolis on Monday, June 18. There would be a stop in Fargo for passengers to board and embark, and the destination for the flight will be Bellingham, Wash. about ten miles from Ferndale. All of these plans are tentative and the quotation for round-trip per person is \$135.00. The regular plane rates for this trip would be between \$216 and \$260 per person. Bus rates for the round trip from Minneapolis to Vancouver are \$92.15, requiring three days, at least, of travel, plus all the expense of meals and lodging, if you stop over along the way.

Of course, arrangements will have to be made for the possible parking of cars at headquarters and transportation to the airport in Minneapolis, as well as travel plans from Bellingham to Ferndale. These are all being checked out, but we did want to publicize the fact that a charter flight is being worked on, and to request all those who may be even slightly interested in this method of transportation to the Annual Conference to get in touch with Mrs. Eletson at 2130 East Superior Street, Duluth, Minnesota 55812, immediately.

OMISSION

Due to an oversight, credit was not given for the article "The 'Pentecostal' Movement and the Jesus Revolution" which appeared in the February 27 issue of the **Ambassador**. This article was taken from **Present Truth** magazine, Fallbrook, Calif. We are sorry for this omission.

All preaching should be doctrinal,
and all preaching should be practical.
Charles G. Finney

THE MYSTERY OF GODLINESS

by Pastor Lars Stalsbroten
Woodburn, Oregon



"These things write I unto thee, hoping to come unto thee shortly: But if I tarry long, that thou mayest know how to behave thyself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth.

And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifest in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen of angels, preached unto the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up into glory" (1 Tim. 3:14-16).

Let us first notice briefly what the true church is, and what her business is here in the world.

1. She is the house of God.

A place where God dwells and works. The house of God does not necessarily mean the church building. You cannot box God into a wooden or stone structure. But as Peter says: Ye are living stones built up as a spiritual house (1 Pet. 2:5). God dwells with His people. And Paul is telling Timothy, and you and me how to conduct ourselves properly in the house of God.

2. She is the church of the living God.

God is not dead, He is very much alive, so is His true church.

The next two names tell us what her business is: She is the pillar, the ground or foundation of the truth. Just as sure as the pillar and the foundation hold up the building, so does the true church hold up the truth.

The devil and his gang are working overtime to hold down the truth in unrighteousness (Rom 1:18). The wrath of God is upon them that hold down the truth, whether they meet in a chapel, church or cathedral; but the blessing of God is upon all those who are lifting up and holding forth the truth. There is a terrific competition between these two camps.

What truth is the church of Jesus Christ especially called to proclaim?

The mystery of godliness.

What is the mystery of godliness?
CHRIST.

In the last verse here we find six things concerning Christ which make up the mystery of godliness.

1. Christ is God manifest in the flesh

He is the eternal Word clothed in our flesh and blood, Jn. 1:1,14. God was in Christ reconciling the world unto himself, II Cor. 5:19. This is the "good news," the glorious Gospel of Jesus Christ.

2. He was justified in the Spirit.

He was made to be sin for us in the flesh, delivered up to death for our offenses; but being raised again, He was justified in the Spirit. He was declared to be the Son of God with power, by the resurrection from the dead, Rom 1:4. By the resurrection, He proved that He was just what he claimed to be.

3. He was seen of angels.

The angels worshipped Him. They attended His incarnation, proclaimed that He was born, Lk. 2:10-11. They came and ministered to Him when He had been tempted by the devil in the wilderness, Matt 4:11. When He was agonizing and sweating blood in the garden of Gethsemane an angel came

and strengthened Him, Lk 22:43. On Easter morning an angel came and rolled away the stone and said: "He is not here for He is risen" (Matt. 28:2-6). As Jesus ascended into heaven, two angels came and said to His disciples: This same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen Him go into heaven" (Acts 1:11). Indeed, He was seen and served by angels.

4. He is preached unto the Gentiles.

This is a great part of the mystery of godliness. The good news was first preached to the Jews, but now through the death of Christ, the middle wall of partition was broken down and Christ was proclaimed Savior and Redeemer to all the people also the Gentiles.

5. He was believed on in the world.

There is power in the preaching of Christ. It produces faith. "Faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God." He is believed on in the world; out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation there are believers in Christ.

6. He was received up in glory.

This is the last stop.

He came from heaven's glory clear down to the death of the cross to take away our sins, and He took them all away by the sacrifice of Himself. God let the enmity of man crucify His own Son and thereby slayed the enmity and reconciled the world unto himself, Eph. 2:16.

What mystery of godliness,

He died for the ungodly, for sinners, for the weak and helpless, for people with a nature full of hatred to God, Rom. 5:6-10. So now you can come as ungodly as you are, as sinful as you are, as weak and helpless as you are and be saved and justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus.

This is a mystery of godliness only revealed to and experienced by repentant and believing sinners. How He could leave heaven's glory and come down clear to the death of the cross to save a sinner like me, I cannot understand. But I believe it, and I rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory, and the best comes last—I will be received up into glory.

Where are you going when you get to your last stop?



NEWS

of the Churches

ROSEAU CHURCH BURNED MORTGAGE

Roseau Lutheran Church of Roseau, Minnesota, burned their mortgage during a special service on Sunday, January 21. Representing the Association of Free Lutheran Congregation and its Home Mission Board was the Rev. Herbert Franz of Cloquet, Minnesota, who also brought the message. Also taking part in the service were the first trustees, Francis Drown, Ed Olson and Art Welin, as well as the present trustees, Leonard Kveen, Nels Johnson and Art Welin, along with the pastor, the Rev. Jerome Nikunen. Special music was provided by Mrs. Clifford Elgin and the Junior Choir. A dinner served by the Gleaners followed the service.

Members of the congregation began meeting on February 22, 1966, and officially organized as a congregation on May 25, 1966, using the former Seventh Day Adventist Church as a place of worship. They purchased the former Emmanuel German Lutheran Church and moved it to its present



Francis Drown, Ed Olson, Pastor Nikunen, Art Welin, Nels Johnson, Leonard Kveen (on right edge). Not pictured: Pastor Franz.

location at the corner of 9th Avenue and 2nd Street N.E. and extensive remodeling was begun. First services were held in the church on August 28, 1966, and the church and parsonage were dedicated on September 24, 1967. On October 29, 1966, the congregation voted to affiliate with the Association of Free Lutheran Congregations and is presently aligned with Rose, Spruce and Norland to form the Roseau Free Lutheran Parish.

Those who have served as pastors are Student Pastor Larry Severson, June, 1966, to June, 1967; Rev. Edwin Kjos, June, 1967, to June, 1970; Student Pastor Michael Brandt, June, 1970, to April 1971; and the present pastor, Rev. Jerome Nikunen, who began serving in April, 1971.

NEW CONGREGATION AT GREENBUSH BUILDING CHURCH

On February 21, United Lutheran Church of Greenbush, Minn., Gene Sundby, Lay Pastor, voted by nearly 95 percent to launch a \$102,550 building program. This will include a nave or sanctuary for worship, a fellowship hall and also nine classrooms and a pastor's study. The nave will seat 200 and with an overflow capacity in the parish hall can accommodate around 450 people in all.

Construction will be of brick and will begin in mid-May or at the first of June. Completion is set for Thanksgiving if delays are not caused by material shortages. United Lutheran Congregation just completed a parsonage, too, last September, at the approximate cost of \$25,000.

United Lutheran is a merger of Bethania, Pauli and Zion congregations, with additions from Bethlehem Lutheran Church.

We are encouraged by the unity of spirit and the interest shown in the work.

—Corr.

FOR SALE

Two-piece altar, pulpit and baptismal font for sale. Please make an offer.

Willard Sletten
Route 1, Box 14
Thief River Falls, Minn. 56701

GUEST SPEAKER AT PUKWANA

Rev. Gerald Mundfrom, former pastor at Pukwana, S. Dak., was guest speaker at the Lenten service at Pukwana Lutheran Church on Wednesday, March 14. At 6 o'clock he spoke to the parish youth at a supper meeting. Rev. Dale Battleson is the present pastor at Pukwana.

PHYSICAL EXAM REPORTS NECESSARY AT FAMILY CAMP

The dean of the Association Family Bible Camp, Pastor Gene Sundby, wishes to stress the importance of everyone coming to Family Camp having a report of a recent physical examination. Minnesota State law requires this. Be sure that the exam report is dated. You may use the same report for other camps if you have extra copies of it made.

Later on forms will be provided to the parishes for this purpose. Remember that every camper regardless of age must have a physical exam before coming to camp. Dates of this year's camp are July 9-15. The place is Lake Geneva Bible Camp, Alexandria, Minn.

ONE-TIME BOARD MEMBER AT POULSBO DIES

Adolph Lovas, one-time member of the Board of the Old Folks Home in Poulsbo, Wash., died on Feb. 20, 1973. His present church membership had been in Crown Lutheran Church, Ballard, Wash., ALC. Formerly he belonged to Grace Lutheran, Poulsbo.

Women For Christ

REAL FREEDOM by Burdeen Peterson, Ishpeming, Mich.

Of all the words most often used this day and age it would seem to me the word "free" ranks among the most frequently used. We read in our newspapers and hear on our radios and television about the POW's being freed and returning to their homes. The hippie wants to be free to do his thing, the drug addict takes dope to free him for a time of his problems, youth want to be free to live their own lives, the elderly seek more benefits so they can be independent and free of financial worries.

The dictionary says to be free means to be at liberty, cleared or devoid of something, unrestrained. I guess just about all of us could say we surely would want to be free but how many know we can all be free if we but desire.

John 3:16 says, "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life." Now this means all of us can receive Christ into our hearts if we believe in Him. Free, you say. "Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: No man cometh unto the Father, but by me. And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free." Yes to know Christ, to believe and abide in Him is freedom unexplainable and hard to understand but wonderful to enjoy.

The Word tells us, "There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit. For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death." What a blessing and joy to know that Christ has paid our debt, taken our sin and set us free from the fear of death, the one fear all of us experience at some time in our lives.

Another fear common to man is fear of each other. Once again the Word comforts us. Proverbs 16:7 says, "When a man's ways please the Lord, he maketh even his enemies to be at peace with him." How can we please God? Only through faith in Christ Jesus. And we have known and believed the love God hath to us. God is love; and he that dwelleth in love dwelleth in God, and God in him." "There is no fear in love; but perfect love casteth out fear: because fear hath torment." To believe and wholly trust in the Savior frees us from all fears.

Man strives more to provide the needs and desires of his heart and loved ones than anything else. He will work, steal, bargain, sell or trade anything to acquire those things pleasant to the eye or wanted by himself or his loved ones. Psalm 23:1 tells us, "The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want," and in Matthew, "But seek ye first the kingdom of God and His righteousness; and all these things shall be added

unto you." No, he does not promise everything for He knows what we have need of but He does generously supply all of our needs. He keeps us poor enough to be humble and rich enough we need not steal. He is joy unspeakable and full of goodness. What man can deny this desire and deprive himself by not trusting in the Lord? We should pray without ceasing that the Father grant us faith to believe and receive and rely on Christ. "For the Father Himself loveth you, because ye have loved me, and have believed that I came out from God."

Free, yes, I'm free by the authority of God's Word to serve and live for Christ for I believe Jesus to be the son of God, born of a virgin. He lived among men, died on the cross for my sins; He descended into hell and rose again. He ascended into heaven and shall return for me where I will live free eternally with Him.

EDWARD L. WAHL

Funeral services for Edward L. Wahl, 95, were held on Tuesday, Feb. 20, at Calvary Lutheran Church, Everett, Wash., Rev. Marvin Undseth officiating. Burial was in Valley View Cemetery, Silvana, Wash.

Mr. Wahl was born July 21, 1877, in Trondheim, Norway. He had farmed in the Silvana area from 1907 until moving to Everett in 1945. He was a member of Calvary.

He leaves his son J. Haakon Wahl of Everett; daughters, Mrs. Bernhard (Ingrid) Nysether of Stanwood, Wash., Mrs. Walter (Esther) Krull of Langley, Wash., and Mrs. Cameron (Hilda) Page of Everett; 15 grandchildren; 44 great-grandchildren; sister-in-law, Mrs. Inga Jensen of Altadena, Calif., and many nieces and nephews. Mr. Wahl was preceded in death by his wife Gurine in 1967 and son Edward in 1934.

Casket-bearers were six grandsons: Gerald and Donald Wahl, Irving and Lyle Nysether, and Ronald and Edward Page.

Mr. Wahl was well known for his singing, having sung in church choirs for over 50 years.



Letters

TO THE EDITOR

DEPLORES ARTICLE ON PENTECOSTAL MOVEMENT

How very saddened I was by the mixed up and erroneous article "The 'Pentecostal' Movement and the Jesus Revolution" by John A. Slade in the Feb. 27, 1973, issue of **The Lutheran Ambassador**! My conscience couldn't possibly allow this article to go by without an expression of disappointment and earnest prayers concerning it. How I sincerely hope that all the viewpoints in this article are not the standard embraced by the Association.

The "Pentecostal" Movement today (be it in the Catholic Church, Protestant Church, or wherever) is as valid today as it was in New Testament times, when it draws folks to Christ through the Cross, and sets them free from the bondage of sin to live happy, exciting, useful, fulfilling lives, at peace with themselves and others, and dedicated in spontaneous service to others! The "Baptism of the Holy Spirit," "speaking in tongues," miracles, etc., when rightfully used, are nothing to be afraid of. They are of God, and most definitely according to Scripture, and are precious! The genuine Pentecostal experience is not only a subjective experience without reliance on the Word of God as the author of the articles implies. And by no means does it degrade God. It is the opposite! And, the Pentecostal experience does not lack emphasis on repentance, faith, and obedience as point No. 5 in the article says. It is vice versa.

The message of the Cross, deepened through the "Baptism of the Holy Spirit," brings an increased revelation of one's sins and the need for repentance, and also increases one's faith to trust and believe in forgive-

ness and the hope of all the Lord has promised to His own. There also is the heightened sense of a sincere desire to obey Him and serve one's fellow men and to draw them to our precious Savior. A person in this relationship with Jesus is only a **channel** for His use, a "delivery boy," bringing His precious message to others. Absolutely none of this is of any credit to a person himself, The Lord has given him the gift of faith, belief, assurance, etc. We are but recipients. They are **GIFTS** in every sense of the word. And **HAPPY** is the person in this relationship as recipient! And what a shame it would be if he wasn't happy, after all the heavenly treasures have been laid at his feet through his having been adopted as a child of God! It is **SENSATIONAL**, It is beautiful, and it puts one on an incomparable "high." There is joy, praises, singing, laughing and, yes, possibly, even shouting and leaping for joy. . . . all in a truly reverent sense.

I am not ignorant of the fact that Satan does and has gotten in and often messed up precious relationships like the above. That is Satan's work and nature. Where the Lord is working, we can be sure Satan is close behind. Praise His Name, someday, Satan will no longer be around to bother us! But please, let's not judge the Biblical, genuine, beautiful work of the Holy Spirit through the Pentecostal Movement by the situations where man has stepped in under Satan's influence and has discolored the genuine Gifts of the Holy Spirit. Judge the work of Satan, but we must pray for the gift of discernment so that we would not belittle the genuine Gifts. All His Gifts are worthwhile and wonderful—the Lord does not give anything that isn't. Praise His Name,

I am not just rambling on, speaking out of inexperience. I have personally tasted of the goodness of the Lord, even as experienced in this Pentecostal manner and my heart overflows with gratitude to my Lord and I hold His Name high in all beauty and majesty and honor! He is **ALL** in **ALL**, And I look forward in faith and hope for the day when our "old adams" will be stripped away and we will be able to praise and serve Him adequately!

Mrs. Alice Kinnunen
Minneapolis, Minn.

ARTICLE WAS ONE-SIDED

The February 27 issue of **The Lutheran Ambassador** had a three-page article by John A. Slade on the Pentecostal Movement and the Jesus Revolution. Every paragraph was filled with criticism. I didn't see one charitable or kindly statement toward the movement whatever. I think there are a number of things that can be said for the other side.

Perhaps the best known Pentecostal clergyman in the country today is David Wilkerson. Certainly you must agree that the Lord has used him to bring many of the most depraved people in the country to Himself. And surely there must be many among these churches who have likewise brought sinners from the kingdom of darkness to the kingdom of Light.

Mr. Slade faults those who shout, laugh and leap for joy. If he had been present when the man at the Beautiful Gate was healed, in Acts 3, would he have tried to calm him down? Read verse eight.

I surely do appreciate the teaching and the emphasis on justification I have received in the Lutheran Church. But certainly the Holy Spirit uses many other avenues to reach sinners with the Word and salvation. It is certainly too bad when various branches of Christendom spend their energies finding fault with one another rather than attacking the sins of the world as Jesus and the Apostles did. Things like profanity, divorce, fornication, abortion, violent crime, shoplifting, devil worship, witchcraft, astrology, disrespect for civil government, ho-

editorials

WE CALL OURSELVES A "FELLOWSHIP"

At the time that the Association of Free Lutheran Congregations was begun in late October, 1962, and in the months that followed, we deliberately often used the word "Fellowship" to describe ourselves. This was done, at least in part, as a reaction against anything that would smack of control over congregations from above, in an organized church structure. The AFLC congregations were free to run their own affairs and their associating together was not to be carried out in the sense usually associated with the word "synod." (Although that word, too, is sometimes used among us as simply a synonym for church body.)

Therefore, the word fellowship has served us well. It connotes people of like mind and spirit living, working and meeting together.

mosexuality and many others.

An article by Willmar Thorkelson in the February 3 issue of *The Minneapolis Star* tells of a woman who was healed of multiple sclerosis at a Lutheran service in First Augustana Church. If Mr. Slade would call this a work of the devil, he must be confused. Is it wrong to pray for healing? Does Mr. Slade ever make use of James 5:14?

If I understand Scripture correctly, God is pleased when His people give vocal praise to His name and manifest a spirit of joy in their lives. God has given us our emotions. Shouldn't we give them back to Him?

If people get as excited about Christ as they do about basketball is that offensive to God? I protest this article by Mr. Slade because he finds only faults in people who are my brothers in Christ.

Erling Johnson
Burtrum, Minn.

(Ed. Note: In fairness to John A. Slade, I do not think his article conveys the impression that he could not pray for healing or that he could

not rejoice if that were to come. Nor was our use of his article intended to question the faith of Pentecostal believers or the possibility of Christian work being done through them, but rather to point out the dangers in their theology.)

COMMENDS ARTICLE BY MR. SLADE

I just have to tell you what a wonderful job I feel was done in the article "The 'Pentecostal' Movement and the Jesus Revolution" by John A. Slade. I wish this could have an even greater exposure. The issues that are really significant are dealt with and presented very well.

In my opinion, this is one of the real problems of our day. You are to be commended for the excellent stand you have taken on this very controversial issue. I am sure you will be honored for it in the long run.

Rev. Andrew E. Johnson
First Evangelical Free Church
Lincoln, Nebr.

Someone raised a point about this word "fellowship" the other day, though. He suggested that our frequent use of it in relationship to the AFLC may be a barrier to the expansion of our group. He reasoned thus: "fellowship" may give the picture of a group which so enjoys the company of those who make it up that it fails to reach out in evangelism to others or is hindered in the outreach it attempts to make.

We hadn't thought of it that way. Nor are we sure this is a valid argument. What do our readers think?

It is true that individual congregations have had this happen to them, whether they were using the word fellowship to describe themselves or not. They have become tightly-knit groups, perhaps quite small, the members of which enjoyed their own company and intentionally or unintentionally excluded others from coming in. There is little interest in growth and expansion.

Getting back to the AFLC, let's keep using the word fellowship as a noun to describe our association together. It is a good word. But let's also examine to see whether we use this precious togetherness that the Lord has given us as a comfortable pillow which lulls us into carelessness or lack of concern. Shame on us if others get the impression that we don't want to evangelize and that ours isn't a fellowship open to all.

We aren't speaking about lowering confessional standards or other beliefs about life and practise. But we do mean that others must sense that we care about them and that other things being equal they are welcome to "fellowship" with us.

ADDRESSES OF OUR MISSIONARIES

Rev. John H. Abel
Caixa Postal 44
87300 Campo Mourao, Parana
Brazil

Rev. Connely Dyrud
Route 2
Thief River Falls, Minn. 56701

Pastor George Knapp
Caixa Postal 44
87300 Campo Mourao, Parana
Brazil

Home Missionary Address:
Rev. Lawrence C. Dynneson
1548 Patagonia Road
Nogales, Ariz. 85621
(The Leonard Swansons may also be reached at this address.)

To believe is to be strong. Doubt
cramps energy. Belief is power.

F. W. Robertson



GOSPEL TEAM WENT TO BUXTON

March 3-5, a Gospel team consisting of thirteen members, went to the Buxton, North Dakota area to share with that community the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

We left the Bible School March 3rd, about 9:30 a.m. It was a beautiful day for traveling and God was with us each mile of the way. We arrived in Buxton about 3:15 p.m., and immediately we began to prepare for the program that evening.

That evening the Ny Stravanger Church of Buxton provided a delicious supper for the members of our team, which was much appreciated.

We also realized the power of prayer during these meetings. Before each service we would come together before God in prayer. This really uplifted us, and gave us the strength to share with these people what Christ really meant to each one of us.

Our programs consisted of group singing and testimonies, then special musical numbers we had prepared. Each of us really felt the Spirit move throughout the service. It was also a real blessing for each of us to share our own personal testimonies with these people.

After the service we were introduced to our host families. Marion Nelson, a former student, and Marjorie Sorteberg stayed with the Marlow Martinson family in Hatton. Darlene Stulen, Norma Myhre, Jeff Kamphaugh and James Lindgren stayed with the Rufus Kamphaughs, also of Hatton. The Reuben Gunderson family of Buxton were the host family of John Kjos and Larry Haagenson. The Julian Harstads of Cummings housed Debbie Flach and Gary Stai, and the Melvin Finstroms were hosts to Cris Carlson, Peggy Burns and Gene and

Dale Finstrom. We were very thankful to each one of these families for making us feel so much at home with them during our short stay.

Sunday, March 4th, we attended one or more of the church services in the area. Peggy Burns sang a solo for special music at the Portland church and Marion Nelson sang a solo at the Hatton service. Also, a quartet consisting of Jeff Kamphaugh, James Lindgren, Norma Myhre and Marjorie Sorteberg sang a number at Hatton. Each of us found the services a real blessing.

We then returned to the homes of our host families and were treated to a delicious meal. They made sure we didn't go hungry. At 3:00 that afternoon our team once again met at the Ny Stavanger church in Buxton for practice. Again we prayed for God's guidance. How God can really give you confidence when you are unsure! We could do nothing but praise Him throughout our entire stay.

That evening we were invited to the Reuben Gunderson home for a light supper. Then it was back to Buxton for our final service. We even felt the Spirit's presence closer this time. Again we were given an opportunity to share Christ. What a privilege that really is. We then returned to our host families for a good night's sleep before returning home to AFLBS. We started back about 6:30 a.m. Monday, March 5th. All the members of our team were richly blessed from this trip. It was a weekend we will always remember. We pray that we were able to share with the people of the Buxton area what Christ truly means to each one of us, and the peace and happiness we have because of Christ.

When we arrived back at school we

were able to share with all our friends the blessings we had received.

Once again we would like to thank the people of the Buxton area for their friendliness and hospitality. You will always remain in our prayers.

Marjorie Sorteberg

(Ed. Note: Many visits by Gospel have been made during the school year. This report of one of the trips is given as a fairly typical account of the experiences these Gospel teams have.)

REV. WENDELL JOHNSON SPOKE AT SPIRITUAL EMPHASIS WEEK

"Thinking With God" was Pastor Wendell Johnson's theme for the spiritual Emphasis Week held at AFLBS, Feb. 25 to Mar. 2. The Dalton, Minn., minister also chose Romans 12:2 as the Biblical text.

He preached at five evening services, beginning on Sunday night. Individual topics were: Sunday—Empty Houses; Monday—Living the Christian Life in Modern Society; Tuesday—Snares of the Devil; Wednesday—The Danger of Drifting; and Thursday—Decided Christians.

Then each morning Monday through Friday, Pastor Johnson spoke to the student body for one hour. On Monday, at the Bible School chapel service at 7:45 a.m., he talked about "If God Sends a Revival." "Going God's Way" was the topic selected for Tuesday. On Wednesday, at the joint chapel exercises with the Seminary, he described "Tall Christians." The two concluding presentations, on Thursday and Friday, were used to consider "The Surrendered Life."

Mrs. Johnson joined her husband at the Thursday night meeting and at the close of his message the two sang a duet. Special music was provided for all evening services.

The Bible School family is grateful for these opportunities to gather about the Word in these special meetings. Blessings of renewal and refreshing were experienced.

MISSION CHALLENGE MADE BY REV. CONNELLY DYRUD

During the week of March 5-12, Rev. Connelly Dyrud, missionary to

(Continued on page 14)

LARGE ATTENDANCE MARKS AFLC'S WINTER CONFERENCE IN FARGO

The recently concluded Winter Bible Conference at St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Fargo, N. Dak., was one of the best attended of the 11 held thus far. Dates of the gathering were Feb. 22-25. Melvin Wålla was the host lay pastor.

Rev. Harold Hosch, a member of the faculty of the Association Schools, was the Bible study leader. His five presentations were on the timely topic "The Holy Spirit." The first period dealt with the names of the Spirit. In the second and third hours, Rev. Hosch discussed the ministry of the Holy Spirit in the Old Testament. The Spirit's presence and work in the New Testament era was the subject of the final two sessions. Due to popular demand, the five lectures are being prepared in a form available to all interested persons. Announcement of how they may be ordered will be made to **Ambassador** readers soon.

The conference evening preacher was Rev. Galland of Spicer-Willmar, Minn. On Thursday night he used the theme "Lingering in Sodom," Gen 19:1-26. He said that delay is one of Satan's most effective traps to put off Christ. The longer we delay the harder it is to leave a life of sin. We live in times when Christians need to take a stand, Pastor Galland declared. The cost is high and the return small if we linger in Sodom. And to look back as Lot's wife did was disastrous. There is a great danger in being nearly saved, he stated.

On Friday night, Pastor Galland took Gal. 3:6, 7 as his text. Abraham believed God and went forth from his own land to one the Lord showed to him. Would we have the same obedience to do as Abraham did? Pastor Galland asked. There is only one true religion, he said, that of Jesus Christ. Satanism is on the increase and we must stand fast on what God has revealed to us.

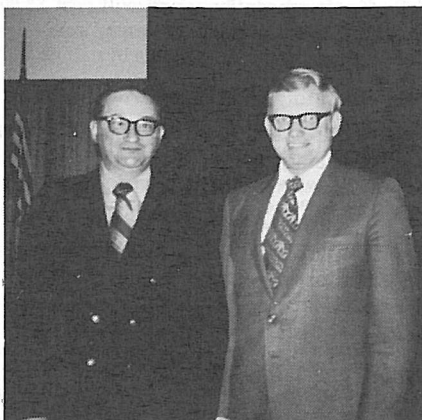
In his final message to the conference, Mr. Galland read Col. 2:20-3:17 as a basis for his message and talked about positive aspects of relationship to Christ. Death with Christ, he asserted, is turning our backs on the old life. Following that experi-

ence, the basic Christian principles to be found in Scripture will guide us. The passage he had read contained many such principles and Pastor Galland elaborated on them. Among them was the exhortation to let the peace of God rule in our hearts.

Rev. Henry A. E. Johansen, Virginia, Minn., delivered the sermon on Sunday morning. Using Isaiah 55:10, 11 as his text, he talked about the written Word, the Bible, and the Living Word, Jesus Christ. The written Word, he stated, doesn't return void as it is sent out, but it saves and judges, as the case may be. The Living Word is a well of living water and it destroys the works of Satan. Pastor Johansen challenged his hearers to be scatterers or sowers of the precious Seed, the Word of God, which is the message of the living Christ.

The closing conference session was on Sunday afternoon and featured musical numbers and testimonies by a Gospel team from the Bible School. Rev. Raynard Huglen, dean of men at AFLBS, brought the message. He pointed out that Christian life must have length, that is, it must grow and mature; it must have breadth, reaching out to help others; it must have depth, be grounded in a vital devotional life; and it must have height, the look beyond the things of life to what the Lord has prepared for those who love Him.

Other lectures given at the conference in the heart of the Red River Valley were "Church Life in Norway" by Dr. Ier Olson; "The Call to Awakening" by Rev. Herbert Franz; "Our Task through the AFLC" by Rev. John P. Strand; and "Our Brazilian



Rev. Harold Hosch, left, Bible teacher, and Rev. Leslie Galland, evening conference speaker.

Mission" by Missionary Connely Dyrud. The latter was aided by Jonathan Abel and Charles Knapp, students at AFLBS, and Clemente de Santos, student at Northland Junior College, Thief River Falls, Minn.

There were morning devotions on Friday and Saturday mornings to begin the day.

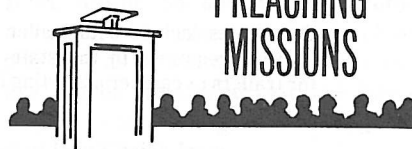
Noon meals and coffee breaks were served at the church.

The Women's Missionary Federation sponsored a workshop on Friday from 4:30 to 7:30 p.m. at Messiah Lutheran Church. A large attendance was reported also for that meeting.

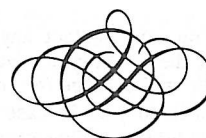
The conference evening speaker was Rev. Leslie Galland of Spicer-Willmar, Minn. On Thursday night he used the theme "Lingering in Sodom," Gen. 19:1-26. He said that delay is one of Satan's most effective traps to put off Christ. The longer we delay the harder it is to leave a life of sin. We live in times when Christians need to take a stand, Pastor Galland declared. The cost is high and the return small if we linger in Sodom. And to look back as Lot's wife did was disastrous. There is a great danger in being nearly saved, he stated.

In his final message to the conference many such principles and Pastor Galland by Dr. Iver Olson; "The Call to Awakening" by Missionary Connely Dyrud Friday and Saturday mornings to begin the day.

PREACHING MISSIONS



Spicer, Minnesota
Green Lake Lutheran Church
Leslie Galland, pastor
April 5-8
Missionary Connely Dyrud, speaker



HOUSING ACCOMMODATIONS FOR ANNUAL CONFERENCE

NAME	ADDRESS	PHONE	**PRICE RANGE (\$)	DIST FR CHURCH (Mi)	*TYPE OF HOUSING	BLOCKS AVAIL.
Aloha	315 Samish Way Bellingham, Wash.	733-4900	9-17	15	1	
Birch Bay St. Park	Rt. 1 Blaine, Wash.	366-4674	3-4	10	2	
Bay Shore Resort	Rt. 1, Bx. 158 Blaine, Wash.	366-4452	8-10	12	3	
Bay Center Resort	8050 Harbor View Rd. Blaine, Wash.	332-6124	7-9	14	3	
City Center Motel	2419 NoWest Ave. Bellingham, Wash.	733-2330	9-18	9	1	X
Leopold Hotel	1224 Cornwall Ave Bellingham, Wash.	733-3500	8-19	14	1	X
Key Motel	212 Samish Way Bellingham, Wash.	733-4060	12-18	15	1	
Motel '6'	3701 Byron St. Bellingham, Wash.	734-6940	6-10	15	1	
Park Motel	101 Samish Way Bellingham, Wash.	733-8280	9-15	15	1	
Scottish Lodge	P. O. Box 997 Ferndale, Wash.	384-4040	12-22	2	1	X
Shamrock	4133 W. Maplewood Bellingham, Wash	733-9754	9-13	7	1	X
Travelodge	202 E. Holly Bellingham, Wash.	734-1900	11-16	14	1	X

**Prices as of Feb., 1973, subject to change.

*(1) Motel (2) Campsite (3) Cabins at Birch Bay Resort

"MOTELS"

If motel accommodations will be your means of housing during the conference, the above are recommended. Each motel has eating facilities within one to two blocks, and all request you make your reservations at least one month in advance. If there will be groups of delegates that would like to stay together, those noted above will offer blocks of rooms where indicated.

"CAMPSITES"

These sites include both trailer and tent accommodations, and will cost \$3.00 to \$4.00 per night depending on hookups required. In the state park, there are 126 sites for tents, small trailers, or campers; and 53 sites for trailers or campers. Starting in mid May, you may reserve sites by calling toll free 800-562-8200.

"CABINS"

The cabins available at Birch Bay Resort are very cozy and rent from \$7.00 to \$10.00 per night, depending on the amount of people. These are self-contained units and include facilities for cooking. However, you must furnish your own bedding and dishes.

"PRIVATE HOUSING"

In addition to the above, there will also be private housing available with members of Triumph. There is no charge for this housing. However, please note this on your application so we can make proper arrangements.

"RESERVATIONS"

You may contact any of the above directly, or send your application with a dollar deposit to the attention of the "Conference Housing Committee," c/o Gordon Pederson, 782 Malloy Road, Ferndale, Washington 98248. We will arrange for your housing, meeting any desires you request on the application, and return a confirmation back to you. In case of any difficulties; we will advise you immediately. Please indicate person to contact, address, and phone number.

FERNDALE '73

Greetings in the name of our Lord from Ferndale, Wash., site of the 1973 AFLC Annual Conference (June 13-17).

We at Ferndale are happy to be selected as hosts for the Conference this year and hope you are as excited about coming as we are about having you.

From the word we have received thus far we understand that many families are planning their vacations around the Conference. Wonderful! We in Washington are proud of our State and its beauty and we're sure it will be a vacation you'll always remember. Ferndale is located on Interstate Highway No. 5, about 12 miles south of the Canadian border and about 60 miles north of Seattle. It sits in the shadow of beautiful Mount Baker, a 10,750 foot volcanic snow capped peak that is enjoyed by outdoorsmen the year round. A fifteen-minute drive will take you to one of a number of salt water beaches where anyone can find something they like from a fresh crab bake to hours of swimming in shallow tidal waters.

For travelers with an international taste there is a beautiful ferry ride to Vancouver Island with the enchanted city of Victoria, "Queen of Canadian cities." Less than an hour north of Ferndale lies Vancouver with the second largest "Chinatown" in North America.

Weather in Washington is always beauti-

ful but it's a wise traveler who prepares for the showers we get once in a while.

As the months and weeks slip by, the preparations here are reaching the final stages. We are praying for and planning on a conference that will be a blessing to each person in attendance and we thank you for your prayers, too.

Our housing committee has compiled the following list of available housing along with the advance housing reservation card. We are leaving it up to each family to decide what type of housing would best fit their plans and we are asking that they indicate this on the card and send it to us as soon as possible. The address is;

TRIUMPH HOUSING COMMITTEE
782 MALLOY ROAD
FERNDALE, WASHINGTON 98248

If you feel that a motel would best suit your needs then we suggest the "Scottish Lodge." It is located right in Ferndale. They will also provide those needing rides with a bus service to and from the church. All services are near, including gas, food, and a golf course.

Any questions on housing or any other part of the conference should be mailed to the above address and we'll do our best in offering a speedy answer.

We'll be looking forward to greeting you in person in June.

In our Lord,
John Ellis
Publicity Chairman

ADVANCE HOUSING RESERVATION CARD

Name: _____

Home Address: _____

Phone: _____

City: _____ Date: _____

State: _____

Zip Code: _____

Age & Number of Children who will be coming with you: _____

Type Housing Desired: _____ Motel
(Please mark your _____ Bay Cabin
1st and 2nd choices) _____ Campsite for _____ Trlr. (sz _____); _____ Camper; _____ Tent
_____ Bay Cabin
_____ Private

Please reserve _____ rooms
_____ Single
_____ Double, with
_____ Twin beds
_____ Double beds
_____ Blocks

Price range \$ _____ day.
Date you plan to arrive _____ for _____ nights.

Remarks: _____

SIGNATURE: _____

(Continued from page 10)

Brazil on furlough, made a number of presentations to the Bible School and Seminary students. In addition to class hour lectures on the task of evangelizing the world, he spoke at the joint chapel service on March 7 and the Bible School chapel on March 12.

His work at the Schools was part of a larger visit to the Minneapolis District of the AFLC. Numerous appearances were made in AFLC churches in the Twin Cities and at Colfax, Wis., where he once served as student pastor. Mrs. Dyrud and two daughters and Mrs. Myrtle Hove, Carolyn Dyrud's mother, also made the visit in the Minneapolis District and the women assisted in programs at various times.

It is hoped that as a result of his visit some of our students will feel called into world mission outreach and will be obedient to that call.

Bible School and Seminary students and faculty gave good support to the series of evangelistic meetings held at Rosedale Lutheran Church, March 11-14. Rev. Herbert Franz, Cloquet, Minn., was the speaker. The Choral Club provided special music at the Wednesday night service. That morning Pastor Franz spoke at the joint chapel service at the Schools.

BASKETBALL SCORES

Salem Lutheran Church 37
Conquerors 34
Calvary Lutheran Church 51
Conquerors 50
(Play-off game)

It is evident that the standard of Christian living must be raised, or the world will never be converted. If we had as many church members now as there are families, and scattered all over the world, and a minister to every five hundred souls, and every child in a Sabbath-school, and every young person in a Bible-class, you would have all the machinery you want, but if the church contradict the truth by their lives, it never would produce a revival.

Charles G. Finney

FOLLOW ME

"Come," says the Savior, "Come, unto Me,
I'll give you rest, from sin set you free;
Life everlasting is yours today,
If you will follow Me all the way."
"What must I do, Lord, what do I lack?"
"Sell your possessions, hold nothing back;
Give up your all, and come, follow Me,
Stored up in heaven your treasures will be."
"And if I follow, is there reward?"
"Hundred-fold blessings richly out-poured,
Goodness and mercy, unending love,
Eternal life in mansions above."
"Will it be smooth and easy for me?"
"If my disciple you want to be,
Deny yourself, and take up your cross,
Count earthly things but worthless and loss."
"How shall I know the path I must go?"
"I go before, My voice you shall know;
I am the Life, the Truth, and the Way,
Lo, I am with you, with you alway."
Will you follow Him?

Mrs. Laura Norum
Clayton, Wis.

Association of Free Lutheran Congregations 3110 E. Medicine Lake Boulevard Minneapolis, Minnesota 55441

BUDGET RECEIPTS February 1 - March 1, 1973

	Proposed Yearly Budget	Current Budget	Total Received
General Fund	\$48,316.00	\$ 4,026.33	\$1,760.50
Schools	81,886.00	6,823.83	2,399.56
Home Missions	44,000.00	3,666.67	2,461.50
Foreign Missions	44,000.00	3,666.67	1,037.17
Praise Fund	18,000.00	1,500.00	122.93
TOTALS	\$236,202.00	\$19,683.50	\$6,781.66

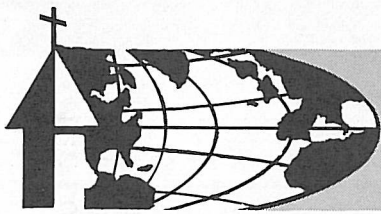
Legacies — \$36.54

Total New Dorm Fund Accumulation to Date

Cash Receipts — \$64,682.01

Unpaid Pledges — \$29,362.50

Total — \$94,044.51



CHURCH-WORLD NEWS

THE CHURCH AROUND THE WORLD

In 1972 the Southern Baptist Convention became the first U. S. Protestant denomination to boast 12 million members. The year's receipts also experienced a phenomenal rise, easily totalling more than a billion dollars.

British evangelist David Hathaway has been sentenced to a three-year prison term in Prague, Czechoslovakia, for smuggling Bibles. The government accused him of bringing in seditious literature to incite military revolution.

"We are completely neglecting newer cults that are making converts among our young people by the thousands," says *Eternity* editor William Petersen. Noting the growth of Zen Buddhism, Hare Krishna, the Children of God, etc., Petersen believes "America has never seen a time when its young people have been so religious and yet so non-Christian." Petersen has authored **Those Curious New Cults**.

Protests by Christian young people in Denmark were one reason Copenhagen police closed down most of the city's live sex shows.

Indonesia's Christian community is growing at an annual rate of 12-15 percent, perhaps the highest in the world. But of the 7,000,000 Christians, only one in four owns his own Bible. Now the Pocket Testament League, World Home Bible League, and the New York Bible Society International are cooperating to saturate the 2000-mile island chain with Scripture portions.

—Tyndale House Publishers

RARE MALADY CLAIMS LIFE OF PRESIDENT OF THE ALC, DR. KENT KNUTSON, AT 48

Minneapolis (LC) — Dr. Kent Sigvart Knutson, 48-year-old president of the American Lutheran Church, died here on March 12.

Hospitalized for four months and two weeks, Dr. Knutson succumbed to a mysterious malady that taxed the diagnostic skills of the best medical minds at the famed Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minn.

Death came to the young churchman at North Memorial Hospital in Minneapolis, where he had been a patient for seven weeks after 13 weeks of treatment at Mayo. He was moved to North Memorial on January 22 to be closer to his home and family.

Physicians at Mayo attributed Dr. Knutson's fatal illness to Jakob-Creutzfeldt disease, a bizarre disorder of the central nervous system.

Dr. David W. Preus, 50; runner-up to Dr. Knutson and later elected vice-president, is serving as acting president, by action of the Church Council, and will assume the presidency of the ALC. He is a cousin of Dr. J. A. O. Preus, president of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod.

Kent Sigvart Knutson was born in Goldfield, Iowa, August 7, 1924. He entered Iowa State University at Ames in 1941 but did not graduate until 1947 as he interrupted his studies to spend two years (1944-46) in the U.S. Navy during World War II. An aeronautic electrician's mate, he served in the South Pacific.

After the war, he returned to Iowa State for a year, 1946-47, to complete requirements for a Bachelor of Science degree in chemical engineering, then worked briefly in the process design and research department at Standard Oil of Indiana.

Dr. Knutson enrolled in Luther Seminary in the fall of 1947 and received a Bachelor of Theology degree in 1951. During 1949-50 he interned with the Lutheran Student Foundation of Minnesota. In the summer of 1949 he studied at the University of Oslo in Norway, and in 1950 at the University of Minnesota.

He met Mrs. Knutson, the former Norma Arnesen of Brooklyn, N.Y., at an Ashram, an annual retreat for Lutheran students, in Blue Ridge,

N.C. They were married in 1951. A graduate of St. Olaf College at Northfield, Minn., Mrs. Knutson, before her marriage, had served with both the Division of American Missions and the Division of Student Service of the former National Lutheran Council and as dean of women at Augustana College in Sioux Falls, S. Dak. Her father, the late Col. S. J. Arnesen, was publisher of *Nordisk Tidende*, Norwegian weekly newspaper, for which she was a writer and editor.

For three years after his graduation from Luther, he pursued post-graduate studies at Columbia University and Union Seminary in New York City and at the University of Heidelberg in Germany. He received a Ph.D. from Union in 1961.

Ordained in 1954 by the former Evangelical Lutheran Church, now a part of the ALC, Dr. Knutson served as pastor of Our Saviour Lutheran church in Staten Island, N.Y., from 1954 to 1958.

In 1958, he joined the faculty of Luther Seminary as assistant and later associate professor and then full professor of systematic theology. He was also director of graduate studies from 1960 to 1969 when he was called as president of Wartburg Seminary at Dubuque, Iowa, a post he held until he was elected to the presidency of the ALC in 1970.

Besides his wife, Dr. Knutson leaves six children, Kirsten, 19, Kristofer, 17, Kent, 15, Kaia, 12, Kimberly, 11, and Karl, 8. Kimberly and Karl are natives of Korea who were adopted by the Knutsons several years ago.

He is also survived by his mother, Mrs. Gunnar Knutson, of Eagle Grove, Iowa, a sister, Mrs. Charles Kanten of Milan, Minn., and a brother, the Rev. Gerhard Knutson, pastor of St. James Lutheran church in Minneapolis.

A family and congregational service was held at Golden Valley Lutheran Church, Minneapolis, on March 15. A memorial service was

conducted in Dr. Knutson's memory at Central Lutheran Church, Minneapolis, on Sunday, March 18, at 4:00 p.m.

Burial was at Goldfield, Iowa.

LCMS RECEIVES RECORD PERCENTAGE OF COMMITMENTS 1972 — SETS 1973 BUDGET

St. Louis, Missouri — 1972 Receipts from the 36 Districts of The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod totaled 99.5% of commitment, the highest percentage ever. The Board of Directors also announced that a budget of \$27,320,000 has been set for 1973.

Dr. Milton Carpenter, Treasurer of the Missouri Synod, said "It is encouraging to see that each year more

and more Districts are meeting their total commitments. In 1972, eleven Districts were able to exceed pledges. We commend these Districts for their extra efforts."

Dr. Carpenter said that in addition seventeen Districts also met their pledges in 1972. Dr. Carpenter added, "The strong support by the Districts certainly contradicts those who say the work of the LCMS is being hampered by controversy. 1972 represents the best financial year ever for the Synod and we thank God for His blessings on His church."

He continued to explain that although this year's budget tops the actual budget for 1972 by over \$28,000, that figure has been more than offset by certain required increases.

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