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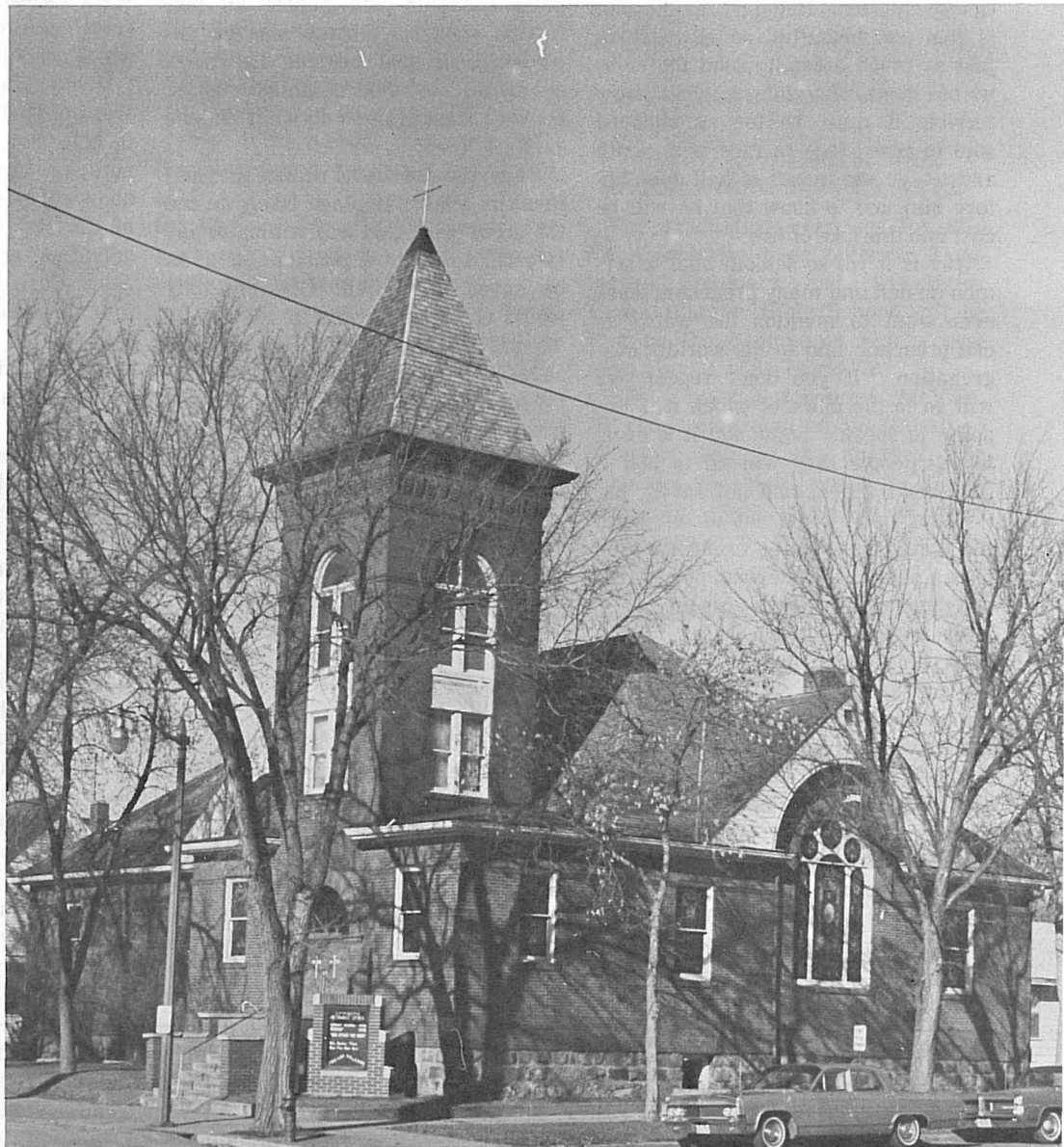
Vol. 8

May 12, 1970

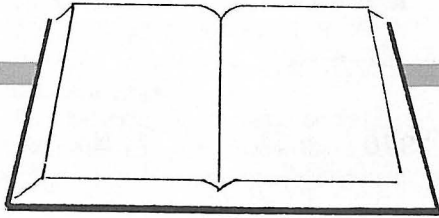
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**GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH
VALLEY CITY, NORTH DAKOTA
Host Church to the 1970 Annual
Conference of the AFLC**



According to the Word

HELL—THE ABODE OF THE UNSAVED

In our last message we dealt with heaven, the eternal abode of the saved, and it was wonderful to behold its matchless beauty and to hear of all the things that are in store for God's children. But just as heaven is real and beautiful, so also hell is just as much a reality, and the sight we see there is horrible to behold. How terrible it must be for an unsaved soul to come face to face with death and to see the mouth of hell open before him and to know that he will be cast into this lake of fire.

Why is it we so seldom hear a sermon on hell and many preachers don't even want to mention the word; as one preacher said to his worldly congregation, "If you don't repent you will go to the place of which it is impolite to speak." Some say it is cruel to tell people they will go to hell if they don't repent and get saved, but it is far more cruel not to tell them the truth. Is a doctor cruel when he tells a patient that he has appendicitis and then operates to save his life?

Sin makes hell necessary. There must be a place for those who love sin and hate God and righteousness. An unsaved soul would be miserable in heaven and would not enjoy the company there. If the unsaved could not find taverns, dance halls, theatres, and enjoy the sin of adultery and other sins in heaven, they just wouldn't feel at home and enjoy themselves.

Then also, there can be no repentance after death. The rich man remained the same haughty, selfish

individual as he opened his eyes in the torments of the fires of hell. There is no word of repentance. He is only concerned for his own comfort and that of his relatives who are still upon the earth.

Then, too, the holiness and justice of God makes hell necessary. God must condemn and punish all sin. If God should let some sins go unpunished, or just pretend He didn't see them, He would be unjust and we couldn't trust Him to do what He has said.

Then, too, we should realize that hell must be a terrible place when we see the great price God was willing to pay in order to make it possible for us to be saved from hell. God certainly would not have permitted His Son to die the horrible death of the cross to save us from nothing. Hell must be far more terrible than we can imagine when we see the tremendous price God paid in order to save us from hell.

If we don't believe in hell then we don't believe the Bible. Let us look at what the Bible says about hell. In Ps. 9:17, we read: "The wicked shall be turned into hell, and all the nations that forget God." No one spoke more strongly of hell than Christ Himself. In Matt. 10:28, He said, "Be not afraid of them that kill the body, but are unable to kill the soul, but rather fear Him who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell." How strongly He speaks to the hypocritical Scribes and Pharisees in Matt. 23:33: "Ye serpents, ye generation of vipers, how shall ye escape the damnation of hell." In Matt. 25:41, He speaks of judgment day: "Then shall He say to

them on the left hand: Depart from me ye cursed into everlasting fire prepared for the devil and his angels." (In Rev. 20:15, we read: "And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire." Read also Rev. 21:8 and Rev. 14:11. A very good portion to read is Mark 9:43-48. This Word of God speaks very definitely of the fires of hell which cannot be quenched.)

It is also interesting to see what the Word of God says as to who are going to hell. Not only coarse and vile sinners, but God's Word says: "they who know not God and obey not the Gospel of Christ." Neglect of accepting the salvation of God provided through Jesus Christ is what is sending souls into hell every day. Those who sink into hell do so because they choose hell rather than give up the pleasures of sin and accepting Christ. God has done all He can, but He cannot force anyone to be saved. He pleads, and knocks at the heart's door, but He cannot force entrance. The choice of opening the door or not He has left with us. It is the love of God as we see it on the cross that should draw us to God, but I believe that the dread of hell has also driven many a soul to seek Christ. How can anyone live a day or sleep a night unprepared, without Christ in his heart. I would not take the place of a Christless soul for a single day for all the wealth in the world. Why? Because, for one thing, maybe that day the Lord would come. My friend, are you heaven-bound or hell-bound today? Think! Ahead lies an endless eternity.

Hans J. Tollefson

The Lutheran Ambassador is published biweekly (except the first issue of August) by the Association of Free Lutheran Congregations, 3110 East Medicine Lake Blvd., Mpls., Minn. 55427. Rev. Raynard Huglen, Roslyn, South Dakota 57261, is the editor. Subscription price is \$2.50 per year in advance. Subscriptions should be sent to *The Lutheran Ambassador*, 3110 East Medicine Lake Boulevard, Minneapolis, Minnesota 55427. Second-class postage paid at Minneapolis, Minn.

THE EIGHTH ANNUAL CONFERENCE

of

THE ASSOCIATION OF FREE LUTHERAN CONGREGATIONS

City Auditorium, Valley City, North Dakota

June 10-14, 1970

HOST CONGREGATION: GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH, HARRY C. MOLSTRE, PASTOR

Theme: "The Lordship of Christ"

Conference Text: Colossians 1:9-20

Wednesday, June 10

The Conference Committees meet at 10:00 a.m. for devotions, instruction and room assignments.

8:00 p.m. Opening service with a message on the Conference text by Pastor Robert E. Rieth, Kirkland, Washington. The opening of the Conference by President John P. Strand. The appointment of the necessary committees.

Thursday, June 11

9:00 a.m. Devotions
Report of Credentials Committee
Election of Nominating Committee for 1971
President's Message
Report of the President of the Co-ordinating Committee, Pastor Julius Hermunslie
Report of the Budget Analysis Committee
Treasurer's Report
Report of Committee No. 1

11:30 a.m. Prayer Hour. The prayer hours will be led by Pastor L. C. Dynneson, Nogales, Arizona

2:00 p.m. Devotions
Report of the Credentials Committee
Report of the Nominating Committee
Election of nominees for the Mission Corporation and the Mission Boards
Election of nominees for the Association Free Lutheran Theological Seminary Corporation and Board
Continuing discussion of the report of Committee No. 1
Election of nominees to the Co-ordinating Committee
Election of the Vice-president and the Secretary of the Association of Free Lutheran Congregations
Election of Committee No. 1 for the 1971 Annual Conference

6:00 p.m. Meeting of the Seminary Corporation

8:00 p.m. Mission Festival Service conducted by the Women's Missionary Federation. Sermon by Pastor Amos Dyrud.

Friday, June 12

7:00 a.m. Meeting of the Mission Corporation

9:00 a.m. Devotions

Report of the Credentials Committee

Report of the Dean of the Theological Seminary, Dr. Iver B. Olson

Report of the Dean of the Bible School, Pastor Richard Snipstead

Report of the Chairman of the Seminary Board, Pastor Ernest Langness

Report of Committee No. 2

Report of the Nominating Committee

Election of Committee No. 2 for the 1971 Annual Conference

11:30 a.m. Prayer Hour

2:00 p.m. Devotions

Report of the Credentials Committee

Report of the Chairman of the Foreign Mission Board, Mr. Robert Knutson

Report of the Chairman of the Home Mission Board, Pastor Herbert Franz

Report of the Chairman of the Commission on Evangelism, Pastor Trygve F. Dahle

Report of Committee No. 3

6:00 p.m. Banquet for the pastors and their wives

8:00 p.m. Worship service conducted by laymen of the Church

Saturday, June 13

9:00 a.m. Devotions

Report of the Credentials Committee

Continuing Discussion of the Report of Committee No. 3

Report of the Nominating Committee

Election of Committee No. 3 for the 1971 Annual Conference

Report of the Chairman of the Board of Publications and Parish Education, Pastor Raynard Huglen

Report of the Executive Secretary of the Department of Parish Education, Miss Judith Wold

Report of the Chairman of the Youth Board, Mr. Sheldon Mortrud

Report of the President of the Luther League Federation, Pastor David C. Molstre
 Report of Committee No. 4
 11:30 a.m. Prayer Hour
 2:00 p.m. Devotions
 Report of the Credentials Committee
 Report of the Nominating Committee
 Election of members to the Board of Publications and Parish Education and the Youth Board
 Election of Committee No. 4 for the 1971 Annual Conference
 Report of the Chairman of the Stewardship Board, Dr. Iver B. Olson
 Report of the Chairman of the Board of Pensions, Mr. Eldor Sorkness
 Report of Committee No. 5
 Report of the Nominating Committee
 Election of the members to the Stewardship Board and the Board of Pensions
 Election of Committee No. 5 for the 1971

Annual Conference
 Report of special committees
 Election of the Budget Analysis Committee for 1971
 Report of Committee No. 1 as the committee on General Resolutions
 8:00 p.m. Youth night at the Conference with the youth in charge of the service

Sunday, June 14

8:00 a.m. Communion Service in Grace Lutheran Church. Meditation by Pastor Forrest Swenson, Winger, Minnesota
 10:30 a.m. Worship Service in the City Auditorium. Message by President John P. Strand
 2:00 p.m. Festival of Music. Message by Pastor Richard Snipstead, Dean of the Bible School. Closing of the Conference

Conference Committee
 Pastor John P. Strand
 Pastor Robert E. Rieth

A Greeting from the Host Pastor

WELCOME TO VALLEY CITY

"It is a good thing to give thanks unto the Lord, and to sing praises unto thy name, O Most High: to shew forth thy lovingkindness in the morning, and thy faithfulness every night" (Ps. 92:1-2). The psalmist tells us also, in Psalm 89:1, "I will sing of the mercies of the Lord for ever: with my mouth will I make known thy faithfulness to all generations." The prophet exhorts us to praise God for His



Rev. Harry C. Molstre

great works, for His wonderful power, for His covenant of grace which is greater than all our sins and failures, and how He still blesses when somehow through it all, we wonder how He could be so gracious, but He is God.

Our Mighty Fortress, who is so faithful, has demonstrated this again and again as we now can announce our Eighth Annual Conference of the Association of Free Lutheran Congregations for June 10th through the 14th at the Valley City Memorial Auditorium. All sessions will be held in the City Auditorium with the exception of the Sunday morning Holy Communion service which will be at Grace Lutheran Church.

We believe we are going to have many coming from all of our fellowship churches in our Association. We are most thankful that Valley City can be a second-time host to this splendid group of people and believe we are going

to be refreshed both spiritually and physically as we draw water out of the wells of salvation. He is our strength and our song. May the Lord grant you journeying mercies as you wing yourselves in the direction of Valley City. God willing, we will see you on Wednesday, June 10th.

Sincerely in Christ,
 Harry C. Molstre, Pastor
 Grace and Zion Lutheran Churches
 Valley City, North Dakota

Address of the City Auditorium is 320 Central Avenue South; address of the church, 202 N.W. 3rd Street; address of the parsonage, 1033 S.W. 5th Street.

WHERE TO STAY IN VALLEY CITY

Here is a list of recommended lodging places in Valley City, N. Dak., where Annual Conference delegates may stay. Contact the hotel or motel of your choice soon.

- Bel-Air Motel, Highway 10 West
 - Double beds sleeping 4—\$12.00
 - Double bed sleeping 2—\$8.50
 - Single bed sleeping 1—7.00
 - Accommodations for sleeping 6—14.00
 - Twin beds sleeping 2—10.00
- Flickertail Inn Motor Lodge, South of City
 - Double beds sleeping 4—\$16.00
 - Double beds sleeping 2—10.00
 - Twin beds sleeping 2—12.00
 - Accommodations for sleeping 3—14.00
- Char-Mac Motel and Motel, 140 3rd Ave. S.E.
 - Double beds sleeping 2—\$9.00
 - Double and single beds sleeping 3—10.00
 - Twin beds sleeping 2—9.50
 - Single bed sleeping 1—7.50
 - Double bed sleeping 2—7.50 and bath
 - Single bed sleeping 1—6.50 and bath
- Valley City Motel, 1139 West Main
 - Two units—beds sleeping 6—\$14.00
 - Two beds sleeping 4—12.00
 - Double beds sleeping 2—8.00
 - Single bed sleeping 1—6.00

Mid-town Motel, 906 East Main
Double bed sleeping 2—\$9.00
Two beds sleeping 4—14.00
Units sleeping 3—12.00
Accommodations for sleeping 6 or 7—16.50

Rudolph Hotel, 15 Central Ave. South
Double bed, bath—\$6.50
Double bed, no bath—5.00
Single bed, bath—4.50
Twin beds (2) bath—7.25
Roll aways for extras—1.50
Units with beds for 6, bath—18.00
4 single beds for 4, bath—10.00
4 single beds for 4, bath—12.00

Dakota Hotel, 213 Central Avenue North (male guests only)

Valley City Tourist Park has accommodations for trailers and tents, on Main Street

TO BE ELECTED

Vice-President (1 year)

Rev. R. Snipstead, Minneapolis, Minn.*

(Under the Rules for Work, Pastor Snipstead's re-election would require a three-fourths majority vote, having served three or more consecutive terms.)

Secretary (1 year)

Rev. Robert Rieth, Kirkland, Wash.*

* denotes incumbent

NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE FOR 1970

Rev. Raynard Huglen, Roslyn, S. Dak., Temporary
Chairman

Rev. Kenneth L. Anderson, Radcliffe, Ia., Temporary
Secretary

Mr. G. N. Arneson, Fargo, N. Dak.

Mr. Earl Hartsoch, Ray, N. Dak.

Mr. Irvin Schmitke, Thief River Falls, Minn.

Mr. Edwin Mathison, Bagley, Minn.

Rev. Wendell Johnson, Dalton, Minn.

Mr. George Johnson, Eben Junction, Mich.

Rev. Jay G. Erickson, Ferndale, Wash.

An effort is being made by the Committee prior to the opening of the conference to secure suggestions for possible nominees for vacant positions. Anyone wishing to advise the Committee is asked to contact one of the members as soon as possible.

MISSION CORPORATION

The Nominating Committee of the Annual Conference will nominate two persons for every vacancy on the Mission Corporation from which the Conference will elect one. Nominations can also be made from the floor. Mem-

bers of the World and Home Mission Boards must come from the membership of the Corporation.

Terms expire in 1970:

Mrs. Torkel Ose, Thief River Falls, Minn.

Mr. Chester Dyrud, Thief River Falls, Minn.

Mr. Sheldon Mortrud, Thief River Falls, Minn.

Miss Pearl Aanstad, Hampden, N. Dak.

Mr. Marvin Quanbeck, McVillage, N. Dak.

Rev. Carl Ostby, Spicer, Minn.

Mr. Donald Jacobson, Binford, N. Dak.

Rev. Gary Skramstad, Kalispell, Mont.

Mr. Jacob Ullestad, Story City, Ia.

Rev. Larry Severson, Abercrombie, N. Dak.

Terms expire in 1971:

Mr. Edwin Swanson, Pukwana, S. Dak.

Mr. Erling Brekke, Antelope, Mont.

Lay Pastor Knute Jore, Spokane, Wash.

Mr. Robert Bursheim, Minneapolis, Minn.

Mr. Eldor Sorkness, Sand Creek, Wis.

Mr. Joel Rogenes, Buxton, N. Dak.

Mr. Chester Halvorson, White Earth, N. Dak.

Mr. Nels Jodock, Northwood, N. Dak.

Mr. Oscar Olson, Kalispell, Mont.

Mr. Oliver Landsverk, Fosston, Minn.

Terms expire in 1972:

Dr. Wayne Sletten, Faith, S. Dak.

Mr. Iver Solberg, Ray, N. Dak.

Rev. Harry C. Molstre, Valley City, N. Dak.

Miss Judith Wold, Thief River Falls, Minn.

Mr. G. N. Arneson, Fargo, N. Dak.

Rev. Howard Kjos, Hampden, N. Dak.

Mr. Clifford Johnson, Esko, Minn.

Rev. Fritjof Monseth*

Rev. Herbert Franz, Cloquet, Minn.

Rev. G. F. Mundfrom, Grafton, N. Dak.

Terms expire in 1973:

Mr. Philip Peterson, Sand Creek, Wis.

Mrs. Morris Borstad, Tioga, N. Dak.

Mr. Torkel Ose, Thief River Falls, Minn.

Rev. A. L. Hokonson, Osseo, Minn.

Mr. Obert Berg, Everett, Wash.

Mrs. Birdeen Holt, Fosston, Minn.

Rev. Robert Rieth, Kirkland, Wash.

Rev. Hubert DeBoer, Willmar, Minn.

Rev. Edwin Kjos, Roseau, Minn.

Mr. Fred Ferguson, White Earth, N. Dak.

Terms expire in 1974:

Rev. Francis Monseth, Everett, Wash.

Lay Pastor Gene Sundby, Culbertson, Mont.

Mr. Paul Flaten, Newfolden, Minn.

Mr. Edwin Mathison, Bagley, Minn.

Mr. Andrew Anderson, Radcliffe, Ia.

Rev. Reuben Wee, Tioga, N. Dak.

Mr. Alvor Christopherson, Grand Forks, N. Dak.

Mr. Daniel Oien, Binford, N. Dak.

Mr. Alvin Grothe, Stacy, Minn.

Mr. Roy Mohagen, Grafton, N. Dak.

* Deceased

SEMINARY CORPORATION (SCHOOLS)

The Nominating Committee of the Annual Conference will nominate two persons for every vacancy on the Schools Corporation from which the Conference will elect one. Nominations can also be made from the floor. Members of the Board of Trustees of the Schools must come from the membership of the Corporation.

Terms expire in 1970:

Mr. Howard Lieder, Minneapolis, Minn.
 Mr. Martin Konsterlie, Willmar, Minn.
 Mrs. Robert Bursheim, Minneapolis, Minn.
 Rev. A. L. Hokonson, Osseo, Minn.
 Rev. Hans J. Tollefson, Eben Junction, Mich.
 Rev. R. Snipstead, Minneapolis, Minn.
 Rev. Harry C. Molstre, Valley City, N. Dak.
 Rev. David Molstre, Grand Forks, N. Dak.

Terms expire in 1971:

Rev. Karl Stendal, Pukwana, S. Dak.
 Rev. Raynard Huglen, Roslyn, S. Dak.
 Mr. Amos Hinderaker, Radcliffe, Ia.
 Rev. Lars Stalsbroten, Eugene, Ore.
 Rev. Julius Hermunslie, Fergus Falls, Minn.
 Mr. Orville Qualley, Brockton, Mont.
 Mr. Philip Grothe, Thief River Falls, Minn.
 Mr. George Johnson, Eben Junction, Mich.
 Mr. Even Ose, Thief River Falls, Minn.
 Mr. Olve Willand, Ferndale, Wash.

Terms expire in 1972:

Mr. Clarence Quanbeck, McVile, N. Dak.
 Rev. Ernest J. Langness, McVile, N. Dak.
 Rev. Trygve F. Dahle, Spicer, Minn.
 Mr. Arthur Olson, Tioga, N. Dak.
 Mr. Irvin Hodnefield, Radcliffe, Ia.
 Mr. Paul Bjornstad, Duluth, Minn.
 Rev. Albert Hautamaki, Negaunee, Mich.
 Rev. Leslie Galland, Spicer, Minn.
 Mr. Vernon Madsen, Virginia, Minn.
 Mr. Lester Hanson, Ferndale, Wash.

DETAILS GIVEN IN DEATH OF JOHN REUM OF MONTANA

As noted in a previous issue of the *Ambassador*, John R. Reum, Brockton, Mont., passed away on March 19. Release came at the Community Hospital in Poplar, Mont. Mr. Reum was a longtime friend of the Lutheran Free Church and, since the merger, of the AFLC.

Mr. Reum was born at Trondheim, Norway, in 1885. Five years after his marriage to his wife Martha, they came to the United States. In 1916 they came to Montana and homesteaded 16 miles northwest of Brockton. Recent winters were spent in Poplar.

Funeral services were held at Bethel Lutheran Church of Culbertson on March 23, with Pastor Gene Sundby officiating. He was laid to rest in the Zion Lutheran Church cemetery, across the road from his homestead.

"Blessed in the sight of the Lord is the death of His saints."

—Corr.

(Ed. Note: Mr. Reum was a member of my first parish. He was one of those people who had an occupation by which to make a living, but whose real interest in life was the extension of the kingdom of God.)

MISSION EXTENSION FUNDS NEEDED

We would like to appeal to anyone who may have some funds to invest to consider investing their funds now with the Mission Extension Fund.

We are offering 7% interest payable annually on a five-year certificate in amounts of one thousand dollars or more.

Short term loans or amounts less than one thousand dollars will earn 6% interest.

If you can participate, use the form below to make application to invest in this program.

APPLICATION

ASSOCIATION OF FREE LUTHERAN CONGREGATIONS
 Mission Corporation.

Mailing Address
 3110 East Medicine Lake Blvd.
 Minneapolis, Minnesota, 55427

Date _____

Dear Sirs:

Enclosed find \$_____ for investment with the Mission Extension Fund of the Association of Free Lutheran Congregations.

Please send me a certificate for the amount enclosed, and make certificate payable to:

Name _____

Street _____ City _____ State _____

Signed _____

WHEN GOD SAYS GO

by Rev. Larry Severson
Abercrombie, N. Dak.

Epistle: Acts 2:32-41

Gospel: John 14:15-21

The supernatural events of Easter, the earthquake, the open tomb, the risen Christ, startled guards, the frightened disciples who disbelieved for joy, build up to the blessed truth of Easter. Paul summarized this blessed Gospel in I Tim. 3:16:

"He was manifested in the flesh, vindicated in the Spirit, seen by angels, preached among the nations, believed on in the world, taken up in glory."

Jesus' disciples, as normal people, needed time to rest their bodies and minds following the stress of Holy Week and all the events of Easter. They needed to meditate, to pray, to think through all they had heard and witnessed. The truth of God not only had to be known as an historical fact in their minds, it had to reach their hearts and become a living part of them. This blessed Gospel had to be reflected in their lives.

These events of Easter are now history and well known by the Christian Church; yet there are many who only hear the message of Easter and let that suffice. What a tragedy! We who are living in the turmoil of the 1970's need to turn aside and rest awhile as did the disciples. Oh, how we need to open our hearts and minds and prayerfully meditate on the truths of Easter. We need to continue to grow in the grace of our wonderful Savior. We need these times of refreshing, not only on Sunday or at midweek services, but daily in our homes.

Pentecost can be a time of renewal for us, but it means more than that. Pentecost means going out in the Spirit of God, with the fire of God's Holy Word in our hearts to a world dying in sin and unbelief. In short, we must go out with the living testi-

mony of Easter in our lives and on our lips.

The Gospel for this Sunday gives us direction on this matter.

Jn. 14:15: "If you love me, you will keep my commandments." Jesus wants first things first. If we are to go with God in the spirit of Pentecost we must reaffirm our faith. It is essential in this age of apostasy or willful return to ungodliness among many, that we check our relationship with Jesus often. No one can "contend for the faith" if he has sold out spiritually and has no faith to contend for. Friend, how is your love toward God? Are you keeping His Word? Are you faithful to Him?

Then, too, we need to re-affirm our love toward the brethren and the lost world. As congregations, as parishes, as a church, we need to re-affirm our faith and love in Christ. It is essential that we in the church have a loving relationship among one another just as we do with Jesus who is the Christ.

When our love to God and to our fellow man is re-affirmed in our hearts and lives, this loving relationship between Jesus and his followers results in a common concern for lost souls, those who are out in sin and those precious souls in the church who are on the borders of falling into the apostasy of this age of humanism.

The Holy Spirit of Pentecost 1970 speaks to us more strongly than ever to be on fire for the faith and the author of our faith, Jesus Christ. If the fires of our faith burn low there will be little concern to obey the Lord and witness to the lost world. The result will be plain. If this spiritual vacuum is present in the congregation of once committed souls, there will be the gradual turning toward the willful ungodliness of humanism, which I believe is our present apostasy.

Pentecost Sunday is a high point in the Church year, yet passed over lightly by many today. This day can be a very special day in your life.

If you do not know this Jesus of Easter, nor the power of life in Him, now is the time! Let Him begin a new life in you! To you, too, Christian friend, if you have lost the fire of Pentecost in your soul, now is the time to return from lukewarm and Godless living and let the Comforter work through your life again.

Think with me for a moment on what this power can mean in your life.

Rom. 8:37-39 "In all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us. For I am sure that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord."

These words are living testimony to the resurrection power of our Lord. You see, in your own strength, or in my strength, nothing will happen. When Jesus rules and the Holy Spirit of Pentecost takes up residence in your heart, things begin to happen. Paul says we are more than conquerors. Jude, in his epistle, insists that God is able to keep you from falling. Christian friend, when your life is in Christ you are no longer a victim of your circumstances no matter what they may be!

Secondly, the message of Pentecost encourages us to end our period of rest and GO OUT and witness for this faith we have in common. This is the action of Pentecost. This is the point where God says GO.

Jesus was a comfort to His followers during the days shortly after Easter, when they were confused and frightened. This was a time when they needed to reaffirm their faith in Jesus and His words. This time came to a close, however, when Jesus called His disciples together and promised a Comforter. This He did after he had

[Continued on page 15]



NOTICES

Ladies are asked to bring cookies for coffee breaks during the Annual Conference.

WMF Breakfast, Thursday morning, 7 a.m., at Grace Lutheran Church, 202 N.W. 3rd Street, Valley City, N. Dak., cost 75¢. Breakfast open to pastors' wives, district and national officers, and aid presidents or a representative of aid if president can't attend.

EIGHTH ANNUAL CONVENTION WOMEN'S MISSIONARY FEDERATION OF THE ASSOCIATION OF FREE LUTHERAN CONGREGATIONS

THEME: "And Amaziah said to the man of God, But what shall we do for the hundred talents which I have given to the army of Israel? And the man of God answered, The Lord is able to give thee much more than this."
II Chronicles 25:9

Theme: "The Lord Is Able"

Theme Song: "Are Ye Able?"

Host Churches: Grace and Zion Lutheran Congregations
Valley City, North Dakota

City Auditorium, 320 Central Avenue S.W.—June 10, 1970

Registration 9:00-10:00 a.m.

Prayer Service 9:00-9:30 a.m.

Prelude—Mrs. Ernest Miedema, Valley City, N. Dak.

Singspiration—Song leader, Mrs. John Abel, Fargo, N. Dak.

Devotions—Mrs. Bernard Myking, Cloquet, Minn.

Welcome—Mrs. Paul Bjornson, Valley City

Response—Mrs. Melvin Walla, Thief River Falls, Minn.

Musical Number—Valley Lutheran, Portland, N. Dak.

Bible Study—Mrs. Irvin Hodnefield, Radcliffe, Ia.

Hymn Sing

Business Meeting—Mrs. Melvin Walla, presiding

Musical Number—Valley Lutheran, Portland, N. Dak.

Memorial Service—Miss Pearl Aanstad, Hampden, N. Dak.

Offertory—Home Missions

Announcements

Closing Prayer

Table Prayer

LUNCHEON—\$1.50

1:30 p.m. AFTERNOON SERVICE

Prelude—Mrs. Miedema

Hymn Sing—Song leader, Mrs. Abel

Devotions—Mrs. Kenneth Nash, Colfax, N. Dak.

Solo—Mrs. Rodney Stueland, Newfolden, Minn.

Unfinished Business

Music—Ladies Chorus of Grace Lutheran, Valley City

Message—Rev. Herbert Franz, Cloquet, Minn.

Hymn

Offertory

Greetings

Comments

Skit—On WMF Projects by Beaver Creek Ladies Aid, Tioga, N. Dak.

Benediction—Rev. Harry C. Molstre, Valley City

7:30 p.m. MISSION FESTIVAL SERVICE, JUNE 11, 1970

Prelude

Singspiration

Devotions—Miss Judith Wold, Thief River Falls, Minn.

Solo—Mr. John Rieth, Valley City, N. Dak.

Message—Rev. Amos Dyrud, Minneapolis, Minn., former missionary to Madagascar

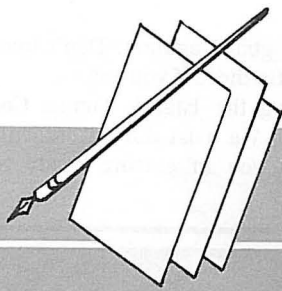
Offertory—Foreign Missions

Music—Bible School Group, Minneapolis, Minn.

Installation of Officers—Rev. John P. Strand, President, AFLC

Hymn

Benediction—Rev. Strand



EDITORIALS

A CONVICTION OF GOD

The safe return of the Apollo 13 astronauts after it was known around the world that their lives were in serious jeopardy was heartwarming and an answer to prayer. Through means of satellite television people all over the globe watched the splashdown together and the arrival of the men aboard the **Iwo Jima**.

The whole Apollo 13 affair spotlighted some interesting phenomena. One was in the importance given to one life, and three, in our country and indeed in many places in the world. Someone will quickly ask, what about the hundred young American men who die weekly in the war in Viet Nam? Or the 1,000 Americans of all ages who lose their lives weekly in auto accidents right here in our country? And what about the thousands who depart this life each week from one cause or another? Aren't they important as individuals? Of course, they are.

But here were just three men in a terribly public position. Like it or not, space flights are high adventure and those who engage in them have caught the world's fancy. The thought that three men might be lost in space was a terrifying prospect even as men trapped in coal mines have aroused wide sympathy. Individual life, as represented by the Apollo crew, was very important. Offers of assistance from other nations in the splashdown and recovery showed this.

Are we not reminded of the great worth of the individual soul in God's sight? This is pictured in Jesus' parable of the shepherd who leaves the ninety-nine safe sheep to search for the lost one. And in the question of the Christ, what is a man profited if he gains the whole world but forfeits his life? Christian people should be greatly motivated to evangelism by this knowledge.

A second phenomenon of the "successful failure" was the coming to the fore of a great conviction that there is a God. There were calls to prayer. People in high and low places spoke of praying. In an extremity many thought of God. Belief in God was "dusted off" in many lives in the realization that if anything good was going to happen God would have to come through.

No Christian would say that he is unhappy that people thought of the Lord in a crisis situation. Rather, it shows that there is an undercurrent of religious belief in the world, not enough, in many cases, to save, but something to which to appeal. Prayer only in an emergency situation is not real prayer, although God may act on it anyway, but it does show that there is something to speak

to in people. And so, again, it is the responsibility of Christians to show others that truly knowing God is to approach Him through His Son Jesus and fellowship with God tones up the total life and isn't only for emergencies or when one's back is against the wall.

One final thought. The shared concern for James A. Lovell, Jr., Fred W. Haise and John L. Swigert, Jr., felt around the world, seemed to, at least while it lasted, draw mankind together. Too bad that spirit can't carry over better and be applied to the thousand problems vexing the world.

POPULATION EXPLOSION

In the overwhelmingly rural Association of Free Lutheran Congregations, the talk about the threat of over-population seems foolish if not downright dishonest.

Look at our midwestern countryside. Farm places stand empty. Small towns face dwindling population. Open country churches are closed for lack of membership. Where there are fine, relatively new educational units in churches in country or town, a few students rattle around in accommodations that could handle many more. Stand and look at the wide open spaces where the density of the population per square mile is counted by the fingers of two hands, not by the thousands. Drive on improved roads for several miles without perhaps meeting an on-coming car.

Population explosion? It seems very remote and yet there is the awareness that a rapidly increasing world population could mean real problems in the future.

For the present, as the cities get more and more crowded and become less governable, it would seem to make sense to try to keep people away from the cities or attract them to the rural areas where life has many rewards, too, and one is close to the fascinating world of nature.

Why not keep the country and small town churches open? Because of their size they can have the personal touch and the sense of family, which is probably what the congregation was meant to have in the first place. The larger churches become the larger the group of inactive members within it becomes, except in some notable cases.

While the world worries about over-population, there are great sections of the nation where there's plenty of room and churches stand ready to minister to many more than they're doing right now.

THAT TIME AGAIN

You will notice some of the first harbingers of the coming annual conference of the AFLC in this issue of the **Ambassador**. Thus, we have about come full circle and it will soon be time for another general assembly of the church, or fellowship, as we often speak of it.

In this issue and the next, we hope that you will pay special attention to the elections that are noted. By looking at names now, you will be much better prepared for voting at the conference, should you be privileged to attend the gathering in Valley City, N. Dak., June 10-14. (It is something of a coincidence that at the last confer-

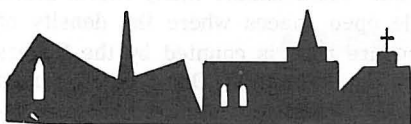
ence in Valley City, in 1964, the dates were the same.)

It goes without saying that good attendance is very desirable at our conferences. It is a "free" conference in the sense that any voting member of a congregation can participate fully in conference business. But what is everybody's business sometimes gets to be nobody's busi-

ness and this is what we must guard against. Don't leave attendance up to someone else. Be there if you can.

More information concerning the Eighth Annual Conference will be given next time. We trust that all information given will be of help to you in getting ready for Valley City 1970.

MEET the Churches OF OUR FELLOWSHIP



Today: Medicine Lake Lutheran Church, Minneapolis, Minn.

Medicine Lake Lutheran Church is one of two AFLC congregations in the Minneapolis area, the other being Morgan Avenue Lutheran Church in the northwest part of the city. Medicine Lake congregation is located at 3110 East Medicine Lake Blvd., overlooking beautiful Medicine Lake in Plymouth Village, a western suburb of the mill city. The church serves a wide area, one of the most rapidly developing in the Twin Cities.

The building that presently is the Medicine Lake Lutheran Church was built by the Hauge Innermission Society in 1960. The church and the grounds were purchased by the Association of Free Lutheran Congregations in the summer of 1964. Immediately thereafter the Medicine Lake Lutheran Congregation was formed using the former Hauge headquarters as their church. Pastor George Soberg was called to be the pastor of the congregation serving on a part-time basis. About ten families made up the charter membership list of the congregation and the congregation was incorporated in June of 1965. The congregation has always used the building which has become the center for the Association of Free Lutheran Congregations. Here, too, is the classroom and library for the seminary as well as the dining facilities for the Bible school. The congregation pays rent to the Association for the use of the facilities for their activities.

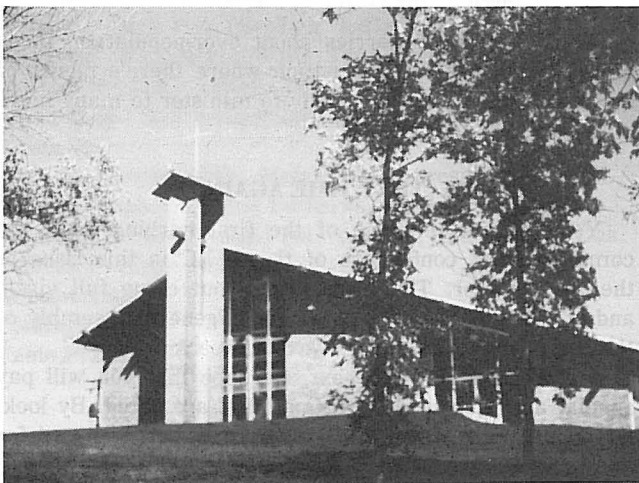
On the death of Pastor George Soberg the congregation was served on an interim basis by Pastor Richard Snipstead, the Dean of the Bible School, assisted by the faculty of the Bible school and seminary. Pastor John Strand also served for a short time as the interim pastor.



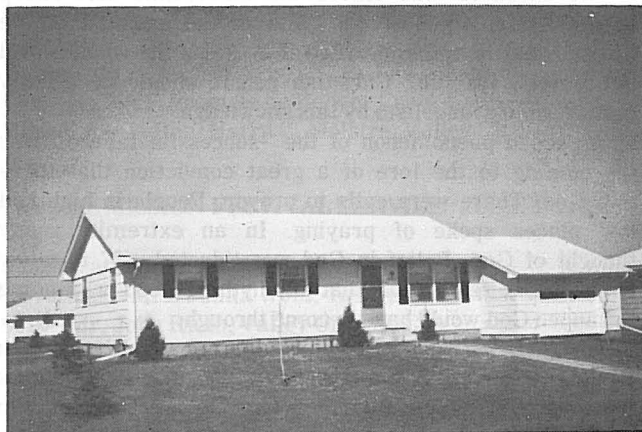
Rev. A. L. Hokonson has been the pastor of Medicine Lake since January of this year. More complete biographical information about him can be found in the write-up on the Faith, S. Dak., parish where he served before coming to Medicine Lake Lutheran Church.

The congregation has also been assisted by seminary students particularly as far as youth work is concerned. Presently, Mr. Wayne Peder-son, a junior in the seminary, is in charge of the youth work in the congregation.

The present pastor of the church is Rev. A. L. Hokonson who took up the work in January of this year. He is a graduate of Augsburg Theological Seminary in Minneapolis.



Medicine Lake Lutheran Church, also serving as headquarters of the Association of Free Lutheran Congregations.



The parsonage of the church is located at 9467 Pilgrim Lane, Osseo. It is a three-bedroom house with one being used as the pastor's study. The house was purchased in January of this year from Mrs. Fritjof B. Monseth.

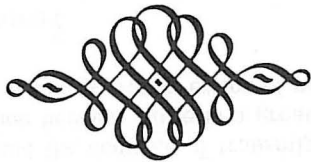
Isn't it interesting that the theme of John 10:1 should follow this account? Read John 10:1-5.

18. This man was very receptive. How did he respond, in verse 38?

What a wonderful expression of gratitude and faith! He did homage to Him as the Messiah.

19. If we have been spiritually enlightened, what should our response be?

“Come to the light, 'tis shining for thee,
Sweetly the light has dawned upon me,
Once I was blind, but now I can see,
The light of the world is Jesus.”



Lesson Six

June, 1970

A Divine Moment ...

... With The Master

THE MAN BORN BLIND

What greater personal testimony can be voiced than was expressed by a man who had regained his sight, when he said, in John 9:25, "One thing I know, whereas I was blind, now I see." Yes, this was the result of physical healing, but how blessed to recall these words when acclaiming the results of spiritual healing. Jesus offered both, but it was so evident in his ministry that "many are called, but few are chosen." Failure to recognize Jesus as the long-awaited Messiah produced diverse reactions.

1. After a long discourse concerning Himself in John 8, what did the people attempt to do to Jesus (John 8:59)?

According to Jewish law, to be accused of blasphemy brought punishment by stoning (Lev. 24:16). This they proceeded to do even without a fair trial. King Herod was in the midst of having a temple repaired so stones were easily available.

2. In the process of His escape whom did Jesus meet (John 9:1)?

Can we assume here that it is the “needy” people whom Jesus stops to help? Maybe we sometimes fail to recognize that we are a needy people. Therefore, might we be considered blind also? Then, in this state of spiritual blindness, might we be accused of casting stones?

3. What unusual question did the disciples ask (John 9:2)?

This question causes one to wonder if some of the Jews believed in the pre-existence of souls and the doctrine of transmigration of souls. Surely this was a legitimate question because there is a great deal of physical weakness and disease that is the result of transgression of parents before the child was born.

4. How did Jesus answer?

Good News for Modern Man states it this way: “He is blind so that God’s power might be seen at work in him.”

5. The Great Physician again reveals His power over physical ailments. What remedy does He give?

6. What faith did the blind man exercise?

How does this remind you of II Kings 5:10?

7. How differently Jesus dealt with the various blind people! Compare the following:

The Afflicted

Method Used

Matthew 20:29-34

Matthew 9:27-31

Mark 8:22-25

Mark 10:46-52

8. What prompted the discussion in verses 8, 9 and 10?

9. To whom was the blind man then brought?

10. Can it be possible that religious fervor might overshadow the marvel of such a miraculous healing (John 9:14, 16)?

According to **Barnes Notes**, the Jews regarded spittle as medicinal to the eyes when diseased. Their laws restricted the use of medicine on the Sabbath. Therefore, this act was contrary to obedience to their Sabbath laws.

11. Why did they call Jesus a sinner?

They must have believed that only God could perform such a healing. Their eyes had witnessed the miracle so that could not be denied. Therefore, Jesus must be an impostor or a deceiver. To their reasoning, would God give such a power of working miracles to an impostor?

12. What acknowledgement did Jesus receive from the healed man (John 9:17)?

This is a tremendous testimony before all these people and his parents. In a moment his eyes had become open to the true value of things, as well as to the world of nature.

13. Why didn’t his parents come to his rescue?

The expression “of age” might be about thirteen years of age.

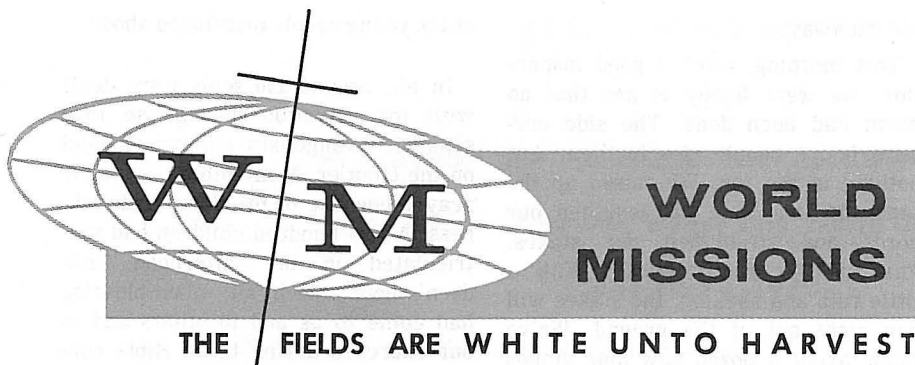
14. Review the discussion from verses 24-33. Take note of the number of times that the word “know” occurs. Does this have any significance for us?

Refer to II Timothy 3:15

15. Once more the healed man restates his testimony in verses 30-34. He must have been granted unusual strength. Read Matthew 10:19.

16. Loyalty to his convictions cost this man something. What price did he have to pay (vs. 34)?

17. It might very well be that Jesus was never seen by the healed man until he was approached (verse 35). How might he have recognized Jesus?



EVANGELISM TRIP DIARY

by John H. Abel

Editor's Note: In the following article Missionary Abel concludes his account of experiences during his recent evangelism tour in Brazil.

"Enlarge the place of your tent, and let the curtains of your habitations be stretched out; hold not back, lengthen your cords and strengthen your stakes. For you will spread abroad to the right and to the left and your descendants will possess the nations. . ." (Isa. 54:2, 3).

This was our theme at the Annual Conference of our Free Lutheran Brazilian churches in February of this year. And as sort of a visual reality of all this, it is interesting to see the enthusiasm of our Brazilian congregations for this tent ministry as we (two Brazilians and one American) carry the program to new towns.

March 2. Our Brazilian pastor, Vitor Faverani, arrived by bus to help us finish loading the truck in Goioere. God had given us much victory in this city of around 30,000 souls. We had prayed with about 50 adults in this place and the weather had been perfect, not one night rained out. But now it looked like rain and we were up about 6 a.m. to get loaded. When Vitor arrived about all we had left to do was to return the borrowed planks to the sawmill. Manoel and I thought we had missed the morning bus to Campo. Our plan was to go into Campo Mourao, while Vitor and Carlos drove the truck to Umuarama and got the tent set up there. Manoel had to register for high school and I had to check on my reservations for the homeward flight in a few weeks. Seems like things pile up after a couple weeks of meetings as one doesn't have

time during the campaign to take care of any personal items.

All four of us rolled out of town together in Bluebird. Rain was threatening and with some hundreds of miles of dirt road and plenty of small wooden bridges to cross, it wasn't a pleasant prospect if it should rain hard. We were going to accompany Vitor in the truck up to the fork in the road where we could show him the turn-off and then we thought we'd hitch a ride the other direction to Campo. However, what should we see soon following close behind us, but the bus we thought we'd missed? We flagged it down and Manoel and I dragged our suitcases out of the back of the truck and soon we had said goodbye and were on our way. Boy, praise the Lord! What a blessing; no time lost and no hitch-hiking in the rain.

March 5. Manoel and I pulled into Umuarama, driving the Jeep, which Pastor Vitor had left in Campo for repairs. Now he would take his Jeep back with him as we began the meetings. We found the tent set up in a nice city square, or praca, which had been cleared of brush and weeds by the city grader. The lights were hooked up and it seemed everything was ready to go. We'd never seen the tent so stretched out; now it would seat some over 300 people. Vitor was in a hurry to get off so as to reach Campo and the Bible Institute in time to give his first class in the evening. After he left we wondered what our first night's meeting would be like. The weather was good and a lot of advertisement through the distribution of folders had been done, but one always wonders. We didn't have long to wait and we rejoiced when the tent was almost filled.

Only a couple decisions for Christ, but we've found that on a first night people are generally timid.

Friday and Saturday were good nights also with a visit from some of our old friends from the Lutheran work in Cianorte, which Ruby and I started about 15 years ago. Several of these brethren are now living in Umuarama and have been worshipping in a church which the American Lutheran Church missionaries have now merged into the German Synod. There is much dissatisfaction among some of these brethren as they see liberalism in life and doctrine coming into the emphasis of their church. One of these couples had the boys over for breakfast almost every morning. I myself was staying uptown in a sort of motel. Up until now I have slept a good deal in the truck with Carlos and Manoel, but now that only a couple weeks remain until it's time to leave for home, I don't care to run the risk of getting sick the last minute. Also Manoel and Carlos have no place to eat meals or take showers, so with me here in a motel they can come up and take showers and eat meals here.

Carlos and Manoel have been continuing the house to house visits each morning, leaving tracts and a Gospel portion and invitations with the people. Our attendance is holding up good and Manoel who takes care of the bookrack said that on Saturday we had a great many people outside, as well as a full tent. We are using three loudspeakers, so I suppose everyone for a hundred yards around us can hear the whole service.

On Sunday evening we had an interesting case among the several adults who came forward for prayer and to accept Christ. A young couple, before our prayer, asked me if they could become Christians since they were living together and were not married. This is a very common situation out here on the frontier, and I asked them if there was any reason they could not get married. They said no, so I assured them that all sin condemns us and damns us but that one sin is no deadlier in God's eyes than another. Now Jesus said to the woman whom He had saved from stoning because of the sin of adultery, "Neither do I condemn thee; go, and

sin no more." So it is, Christ wants to save us just where and as we are, and then He wants us to put our lives in His hands and make things honest and right in the eyes of men and God. This young couple was dealt with, and they seem to be coming along fine, now a few days later, as they haven't missed a meeting.

March 11. Our tent just about blew away last night. We'd just got into the preaching, when it started to blow hard, as it often does just before the rain begins to fall. Then the rain came and the wind continued, and some of the stakes on one side came up. That side of the tent started moving in and just then the lights went out all over town. It was quite a bedlam of confusion. I tried to tell the people it would be safer if they would move out of the tent, but the mike had gone dead so no one could hear me. Well, everyone seemed to find their way out and Manoel and Carlos did a good job of gathering up books and the accordion and getting them into the truck, while I and a few men let the big-top down by the block and tackle. Then we ran around stretching out the ropes and restaking a little so the wind could not get under the tent and

blow it away.

This morning, after a good inspection, we were happy to see that no harm had been done. The side curtains had a couple rips in them, but nothing in the top. We raised up the tent and this time did lengthen our cords and strengthen our stakes. This sand is really tricky. With a little rain and shaking, the stakes will pop right out of the ground. We've made about a dozen new long stakes now and have them driven in at strategic spots, guess this is part of the secret of my being able to lose about 14 pounds in the last 60 days. When we returned to the hotel last night we were all soaking wet and then we had to open the boxes and dry out a few dozen books.

Note: Sequence to the above diary.

As I type this up back in the states, after a safe journey home, I am still rejoicing in the Lord over these experiences. In this last city, not a great many souls were dealt with, about 30, but because of some older Christians there, a group was left functioning as a church. They have rented a hall still under construction and until this is ready are meeting in the home

of the young couple mentioned above.

In all, around 150 souls were dealt with for salvation during the four separate evangelism campaigns held on the frontier. Many others came for prayer because of problems and sickness. A few hundred children had matriculated in our afternoon children's hour and, in all, much blessing had come to us and to others and to our churches during these Bible conferences and evangelism meetings. I believe the prayers of thousands of our Association people back here in the USA and the prayers of other friends, is the great reason for these blessings. There seems to be no other human explanation for the blessings that came to us during these days. Let us continue to hold the new churches and new converts and missionaries and Bible School youth of Brazil daily before the Lord of grace. Our foreign mission program struggles on with much less financially and physically than it should have, but your faithfulness has given us what is necessary. Now in this new year of His grace, 1970, let us try to do a little more, that the saving Gospel might advance in Brazil.

SEMINARY, BIBLE SCHOOL FACULTY AVAILABLE FOR SUMMER PREACHING

The following faculty members of Free Lutheran Theological Seminary and Association Free Lutheran Bible School are available on the Sundays indicated for preaching in the parishes of the AFLC, either as a fill-in while the pastor is on vacation or for a schools emphasis Sunday.

May 31—R. Snipstead

June 7—Laurel Udden, Amos Dyrud, R. Snipstead

June 21—Laurel Udden, R. Snipstead

July 19—Amos Dyrud

July 26—Amos Dyrud, R. Snipstead

August 2—Laurel Udden

August 30—R. Snipstead

September 6—Amos Dyrud, R. Snipstead

September 13—Amos Dyrud

Arrangements with these teachers should be made directly. Their addresses are given below. Dr. Iver Olson may also be available at certain times.

Rev. R. Snipstead
3102 Medicine Lake Blvd.
Minneapolis, Minn. 55427

Rev. Amos O. Dyrud
4509 Jersey Avenue North
Minneapolis, Minn. 55428

Rev. Laurel Udden
9234 Northwood Parkway
Minneapolis, Minn. 55427

Dr. Iver Olson
3311 14th Avenue South
Minneapolis, Minn. 55407

PERSONALITIES

New addresses are:

Rev. David C. Molstre
5224 Emerson Avenue North
Minneapolis, Minn. 55430

Rev. Hans J. Tollefson
Box 174
Eben Junction, Mich. 49825

REV. GORDON HOPE, SASKATCHEWAN PASTOR, DIED MARCH 25

Rev. Gordon Hope, 48, pastor of Central Lutheran Church of Moose Jaw, Sask., passed away suddenly on March 26. Dr. Karl Holfeld of Saskatoon, Sask., and Rev. Walter Kurtz of Regina, Sask., officiated at the funeral service.

Mr. Hope, a nephew of Ludvig Hope and a cousin of Mrs. Gabriel Eikli of Norway, served parishes at Estevan and Swift Current in Saskatchewan and Medicine Hat and Edmonton, Alberta, in addition to Moose Jaw.

He was raised at Elbow, Sask.

[Continued from page 7]

ascended to the Father. Note verses 16, 17a:

"And I will pray the Father, and he will give you another Counselor, to be with you forever, even the Spirit of truth—"

This Comforter, who was in the lives of the disciples, gave them the boldness and spiritual strength necessary to GO and to change the lives of men from a course of eternal death to eternal life in Jesus. This same Comforter is waiting to grip your life today. Great things can be done for God's Kingdom in your circle of friends if you allow this Comforter to use your life.

The Epistle Lesson for today shows what happens when lives are committed to God and God says GO.

Acts 2:38-39: "Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is to you and to your children. . . ."

The result of this action was 3000 souls added to the Kingdom of God in one day!

Pentecost is not just another Sunday. It is when God says "GO reach the lost." Amen.

YOUTH ATTEND BREAKFAST IN FERGUS FALLS

The Luther Leaguers from the Dalton, Minn., Lutheran Parish and from Calvary Lutheran, Fergus Falls, gathered on Good Friday for an easter breakfast at the Ranch House in Fergus Falls.

A total of eighty-two young people, pastors, and advisors came at 7:30 in the morning for the breakfast, which was followed by a program with Eileen Erickson as mistress of ceremonies. Mavis Bothun led in Scripture reading and prayer and a girls' trio from the Missionary Alliance Church in Battle Lake sang two numbers.

Our guest speaker was Mr. Ken Moland of Minneapolis. He presented a challenge to us on the necessity and significance of Christ's death and resurrection and what it means to us today. Following the message, Mrs. Moland sang "I Walked Today Where

Jesus Walked." Pastor Wendell Johnson closed with the benediction.

This was the second Easter breakfast that we have enjoyed and both have brought many blessings to those in attendance.

—Corr.

SELC PICKS JANUARY 1 FOR MERGER WITH LCMS

New York — (LC) — The 20,500-member Synod of Evangelical Lutheran Churches has selected next January 1 as the date for its merger with the 2,900,000-member Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod.

The Rev. Milan A. Ontko of Byram, Conn., president of the SELC, announced the date here following a meeting of the synod board of directors late in April.

Plans for observing the event are still to be made.

Prior to its merger with the LCMS, the churchman said, the SELC will hold a special, synod-wide day of thanksgiving for all "the blessings it has received from the Lord" since its origin at the turn of the century.

A special prayer and special litany as well as suggested scripture reading and suggested sermon topics will be provided for the occasion, he continued, but each congregation will be free to observe the day in its own fashion.

Named to develop the special materials was Dr. John Daniel, a parish pastor in Bethlehem, Pa.

According to Mr. Ontko, approximately 80 percent of the SELC congregations still provide Slovak language services in addition to English language services, and, as a result, materials will be offered in Slovak and English.

Under a union agreement with the LCMS, the synod will become a district in the larger church body. After seven years, it will be dissolved and its pastors and congregations will be assigned to appropriate LCMS geographical districts.

The SELC has been a participating body in the Lutheran Council in the USA since the cooperative agency was formed three years ago. It will continue to be recognized by the council as a separate entity until the end of the year.

SEMINARY, BIBLE SCHOOL GRADUATIONS SET FOR MAY 22

The graduation exercises for 1970 for Association Free Lutheran Theological Seminary and Association Free Lutheran Bible School will be held on the campus on Friday evening, May 22, at 8 o'clock.

Rev. Ernest J. Langness, McVille, N. Dak., chairman of the Board of Trustees, will be the speaker. The Bible School Choir, under the direction of Mr. Donald Rodvold, will sing.

The public is cordially invited to attend.

TREASURER'S PROGRESS REPORT February 1 to April 30, 1970

	Proposed Yearly Budget	Current Budget	Total Received
General Fund	\$40,500.00	\$10,125.00	\$ 5,035.85
Schools	59,000.00	14,750.00	6,539.75
Foreign Missions	35,500.00	8,875.00	6,993.41
Home Missions	25,000.00	6,250.00	3,269.54
Praise Program	15,000.00	3,750.00	1,516.74
	<u>\$175,000.00</u>	<u>\$43,750.00</u>	<u>\$23,355.29</u>

One Grand Fellowship Receipts — \$100.00
Special Pension Fund — \$160.50

**LCA LOSES 21,212 MEMBERS,
TOTAL NOW IS 3,259,558**

New York — (LC) — The Lutheran Church in America—largest of North America's Litheran bodies—has 3,259,558 members.

Dr. George F. Harkins, secretary of the church, announced the latest official statistics which are certified as of the last day of 1969. He noted they are subject to revision.

The new total of baptized members for congregations in the United States, Canada and the Caribbean is 21,212 less than it was a year ago. It's the second time since the LCA was formed in 1962 with the merger of four

Lutheran bodies that the membership total had declined. The peak of 3,288,037 was reached in 1967.

SOME MATERIAL CROWDED OUT

Because of the need to include certain material about the forthcoming Annual Conference of the church, it has been necessary to leave out some material which would otherwise have been used in this issue. Among this is information about summer Bible camping in the Association. This and as much other material as possible will be used in the May 26 *Ambassador*.

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Business Administrator

Mr. Donald Hansen
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