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Vol. 4

May 17, 1966

No. 10

LUTHERAN

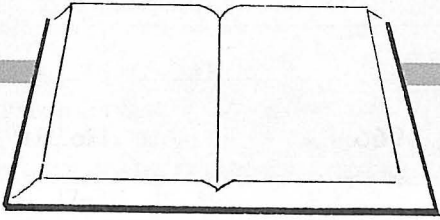
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Our Savior's Lutheran Church, 401 St. Paul Ave., S., Thief River Falls, Minn., Rev. Marius Haakenstad, pastor, host church to the Annual Conference, June 8-12, 1966.



Knox Elementary School, 701 East Hughes, site of all Conference business sessions.



According to the Word

LOVE IN ACTION

“There came unto him a woman having an alabaster box of very precious ointment, and poured it on his head, as he sat at meat” (Matt. 26:6).

It must have been a very dramatic scene as Mary quietly entered the room where Jesus was eating with His disciples. She carried her box of precious ointment, and ignoring all others, she anointed the head of Jesus. It appears that not a word was spoken, but the actions of Mary spoke volumes to Jesus. Her actions told Him that she loved Him as her Lord and Savior above all others. Her gift was a real sacrifice too, for the value of this ointment was equal to the annual wage of the average worker of that day. Real self-denial was involved, but Mary did not find the cost too great. Love never counts the cost. Mary was conscious only of the great privilege she had of being able to bestow this gift on Jesus. In giving this gift, Mary was also giving herself.

The disciples of Jesus did not approve however. They felt that Mary was guilty of wastefulness and extravagance. It was not too long after this that Judas betrayed his Lord for less than Mary's love offering. Surely at this moment, the expression of the disciples was that of false piety on parade. It

can surely be said that the disciples were not guilty of any such extravagance in showing their love for Jesus. But before we criticize these disciples too severely, let us examine ourselves lest we find ourselves mirrored in their actions and words. What sacrifice am I making for Him? What of the time, talents and treasure that I am spending on self, that should be spent for Him? So often it is but the leftovers that I present to Him. It is disturbing but true that our lives are a reflection of our love. Could it be that I am guilty of false piety in my disapproval of another's actions of love for Christ?

The question which the Lord directed to Peter that really searched his heart was the question, “Do you love me?” So important was this matter that the Lord put the question to Peter three times. The one great need in the lives of each of us is for a greater love for Christ. Where this love exists everything else He requires will follow. If this love is lacking, I am not able to be pleasing to Him in anything I do. The apostle Paul says in his love chapter, “If I have all faith, so that I can remove mountains, and have not love, I am nothing.”

Why did Mary love so much that she was willing to make such a sacrifice for her Savior? Jesus gave the answer in reply to the Pharisee in Luke 7:47, “Wherefore I say

unto thee, her sins, which are many, are forgiven; for she loved much: but to whom little is forgiven, the same loveth little.” Mary was constrained by love to bestow a sacrificial gift upon Jesus because He had done so much for her. Is our coldness due to an unawareness of our great need before God—a need that He has abundantly met at Calvary?

After Peter had acknowledged that he loved His Lord, Jesus gave him something to do. The Christian is to put his love into action as Mary did. Constrained by love the Christian never asks: “How much?” Love never bargains.

We read how a business man one day found a little ragamuffin taking in every detail of his shiny new automobile. The boy asked, “Mister, how much did you pay for this car?” The man said, “I really don't know, son.” Taken aback, the boy said, “You mean that this is your car, and you don't know how much it cost?” The man said “That's right. I don't know how much it cost. You see, my brother gave me the car.” The little boy looked again at the shiny new automobile, but he didn't say what you or I would have expected him to say—“I wish I had a brother like that.” Instead, he said, “I wish I could be a brother like that!”

Where is your alabaster box for the Lord? Do you love Him?

—R. Snipstead

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Annual Conference of the Association of Free Lutheran Congregations

June 8-12, 1966

Thief River Falls, Minnesota

Our Savior's Lutheran Church
401 St. Paul Ave. S.

The Rev. Marius Haakenstad, Pastor
Host Congregation

Sessions at the Knox Elementary School Auditorium
701 East Hughes

Conference Text: I Peter 1:3-9

Conference Theme: "Our Precious Faith"

Wednesday, June 8

9:00 a.m. Registration for the annual Women's
Missionary Federation Convention

10:00 a.m. The WMF Convention begins

10:00 a.m. All Conference Committees are to meet
at Our Savior's Lutheran Church for
a devotional session and room assign-
ments

8:00 p.m. Opening service, with a message on
the Conference Text by Dr. Iver Olson,
Minneapolis, Minnesota
Opening of the Conference by Presi-
dent John P. Strand
The appointment of necessary commit-
tees

Thursday, June 9

9:00 a.m. Devotions

The report of the Credentials Com-
mittee

The election of the Nominating Com-
mittee for 1967

The President's Message

The report of the President of the Co-
ordinating Committee

The Treasurer's Report

The Report of Committee Number 1

11:30 a.m. Prayer Hour

The Prayer Hours will be lead by Pas-
tor Hans Tollefson, Hatton, N. Dak.

2:00 p.m. Devotions

The report of the Credentials Commit-
tee

The report of the Nominating Commit-
tee:

The election of nominees for the
Mission Corporation and Board

The election of nominees for the
Free Lutheran Theological Semi-
nary Corporation and Board

Continuing discussion of the report of
Committee No. 1

The election of President, Vice-Presi-
dent and Secretary of the Association
of Free Lutheran Congregations

The election of Committee No. 1 for the
1967 Conference

The election of one member to the Co-
ordinating Committee

The Report of the Committee on the
Conference Committee set-up

The Report of the Committee on re-
vising "The Rules for Work"

7:30 p.m. Mission Festival Service conducted by
the Women's Missionary Federation of
the Association of Free Lutheran Con-
gregations

Friday, June 10

9:00 a.m. Devotions

The report of the Credentials Commit-
tee

Seminary

The report of the Seminary work
by Mr. Howard Lieder

The report of the Dean of the
Seminary, Pastor John P. Strand

The report of Committee No. 2

The report of the Nominating Com-
mittee

The election of Committee No. 2 for the
1967 Conference

11:30 a.m. Prayer Hour

2:00 p.m. Devotions

The report of the Credentials' Commit-
tee

Missions:

The report of the Missions' Direc-
tor, the Rev. Harold Schafer

The report from the chairman of
the Commission on Evangelism

The report of Committee No. 3

The report of the Nominating Com-
mittee

The election of Committee No. 3
for the 1967 Conference

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

8:00 p.m. Laymen's service with a message by
Mr. Melvin Walla, Sidney, Montana

Saturday, June 11

9:00 a.m. Devotions

The report of the Credentials Commit-
tee

Stewardship

The report by the chairman of the
Stewardship Board, Dr. Iver Olson

The report of Committee No. 4
The report of the Nominating Committee
The election of Committee No. 4 for the 1967 Conference
The election of one member to the Stewardship Board

Publications and Parish Education

The report by the chairman of the Board of Publications and Parish Education

The report of the Executive Secretary of the Department of Parish Education

The Report of Committee No. 5
The election of Committee No. 5 for the 1967 Conference

The election of one member to the Board of Publications and Parish Education.

11:30 a.m. Prayer Hour

2:00 p.m. Devotions

The Report of the Credentials Committee

Youth Work

The report of the Youth Board

The report of Committee No. 6

The election of one member to the Youth Board

The election of Committee No. 6 for the 1967 Conference

Pensions

The report of the Pension Board

The report from Committee No. 7—Pensions

The election of one member to the

Pension Board

The election of Committee No. 7 for the 1967 Conference

General Resolutions

The report of the General Resolutions Committee

8:00 p.m. Youth Night at the Conference, with our youth in charge of the service

Sunday, June 12

8:00 a.m. Holy Communion Service

Meditation by Pastor Hubert F. De Boer, Fosston, Minnesota

10:30 a.m. Worship Service

Message by Pastor John P. Strand, Minneapolis, president of the Association of Free Lutheran Congregations

2:00 p.m. Closing Service

The 35-voice choir from St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Cloquet, Minnesota, will sing the cantata, "Let the Earth Hear His Voice," by Eugene Clark
Message by Pastor Herbert Franz, Cloquet

CREDENTIALS STATEMENT

(To be signed by all who wish to speak and/or vote at the conference)

"I, the undersigned, am a voting member of a Lutheran congregation. I approve of the Guiding Principles and Rules for Work of the Lutheran Free Church, and will work for the continuing of the Association of Free Lutheran Congregations. I have not, nor do I plan to participate in activities that are in opposition to the established principles and endeavors of the Association of Free Lutheran Congregations."

PERSONALITIES

Rev. E. Edward Tornow, Fargo, N. Dak., has resigned as pastor of St. Paul's Lutheran Church of that city, effective in the latter part of June. His immediate plans are not known. Mr. Tornow is a past president of the Luther League Federation.

Rev. Trygve F. Dahle, currently serving the Grand Forks-Grafton parish, lives at 716 3rd Ave. S., in Grand Forks, N. Dak. His mailing address is Box. 805, Zip Code 58201.

SHEYENNE VALLEY LUTHERAN BIBLE CAMP SETS CAMP WEEK

The Sheyenne Valley Lutheran Bible Camp will have a week of camp at the Red Willow Camp,

August 21-26. Cost will be \$15.00 per camper. Dean of the camp will be Pastor Hans Tollefson, Hatton, N. Dak. Pastor Ernest J. Langness, McVile, N. Dak., will be assistant dean. The dean of boys will be Pastor Fritjof Monseth, Valley City, N. Dak., and the dean of girls will be Miss Pearl Aanstad, Hampden, N. Dak. Young people of Eastern North Dakota are invited to attend. Watch for further announcements.

Donald Jacobson, Sec.

BETHANY BIBLE CAMP ANNOUNCES CAMP WEEKS

Senior Camp will be July 18-24. Speakers will be Pastor Jay Erickson of Radcliffe, Ia., and Evangelist Nels Pedersen of the LEM, Min-

neapolis, Minn. Dean will be Gary Skramstad, Winger, Minn.

Junior Camp will be July 24-29, with Dr. Iver Olson of the AFLC Seminary, Minneapolis, Minn., and Miss Eula Mae Swenson, Fargo, N. Dak., as faculty. Dean will be Pastor Marvin Undseth, Shevlin, Minn.

Bible Camp Sunday will be July 24. All young people are invited to these camps.

Also, if other Lutheran groups, congregations, parishes, or family groups would like to use the camp at some time during the summer, they may contact camp manager Peter Christianson, Rt. 3, Bemidji, Minn., or the secretary.

Oliver Landsverk, Sec.

The following document will be presented to the Annual Conference in Thief River Falls in June and is submitted here for the consideration of the delegates.

The Relation Between Free Lutheran Seminary and the Association of Free Lutheran Congregations

1. The Free Lutheran Theological Seminary is affiliated with and supported by the AFLC, and is the training school for the pastors and missionaries of this Association.

2. Candidates for membership in the Corporation of Free Lutheran Theological Seminary are nominated by the Annual Conference of the AFLC before being elected by the Corporation. The total number of Corporation members at any given time is also to be approved by the Annual Conference.

3. When there is a vacancy in the Board of Trustees of Free Lutheran Theological Seminary, the Annual Conference shall nominate from among the members of the Corporation two candidates and submit these to the Corporation for election.

4. The Board of Trustees of Free Lutheran Theological Seminary shall each year submit to the Annual Conference a report concerning the financial status and the spiritual and material needs of the School.

5. The faculty of the Seminary is chosen and called by the Board of Trustees of the Seminary, in consultation with the President of the Seminary and/or the Dean of the Seminary, or both. The Board of Trustees has the power to dismiss any faculty member.

6. The theological faculty and the Board of Trustees jointly are to be the Matriculation Committee for the Seminary. They also have the authority to dismiss any student from the student body of the Seminary.

7. The Board of Trustees shall through its appropriate Committees confer with the Faculty of Free Lutheran Theological Seminary concerning the Seminary curriculum. Whenever basic changes in policy or curriculum are deemed desirable, these shall first be reported to the Annual Conference of the Association for consideration and action.

8. The Dean and/or President, or both, of the Theological Seminary is/are to be elected by the Annual Conference of the Association of Free Lutheran Congregations. Nominations for this/these positions are to be made to the conference by the faculty of the Seminary and the Board of Trustees of the Corporation. They are to call for recommendations for this/these positions from the congregations of the Association of Free Lutheran Congregations.

The President of the Seminary and/or Dean of the Seminary, and/or both may be dismissed by action of the Board of Trustees of the Corporation, or by action of the Corporation.

The following document will be presented to the Annual Conference in Thief River Falls in June. It is submitted here for your consideration.

Order of Business for the Annual Conference of the Association of Free Lutheran Congregations

I. SESSIONS

1. The Opening Session

- a. The opening session shall be in the evening of the first day of the Conference and shall be in the form of a regular church service with Holy Communion. The sermon shall be an introduction of the Conference theme.
- b. At the close of the opening service a short business session shall be held, at which the president shall make the necessary announcements and appointments.

2. Devotional Sessions

- a. The devotional session shall consist of the opening service, the evening sessions and the Sunday services.
- b. One evening during the Conference may be devoted to Christian education.
- c. One evening session shall be primarily a laymen's meeting, conducted by laymen.
- d. One or more prayer sessions shall be held each day at times designated by the Conference Committee.
- e. The clergy shall, when possible, conduct a fellowship dinner not interfering with regular sessions.

3. Business Sessions

- a. Regular sessions shall be held each forenoon and afternoon, except Sunday.
- b. All business sessions shall begin with Scripture reading and prayer.
- c. A calendar shall be prepared by the Conference Committee, designating specific periods of time for the consideration of the reports of the committees on recommendations, provided that the Conference may extend or limit the time for consideration of any report or resolution.
- d. Unless otherwise provided for by the rules of the Conference, all proceedings shall be governed by Roberts Rules of Order.
- e. The following shall be the order of business:
 - 1) The committee on credentials shall report at the beginning of each business session.
 - 2) The report of the committee on nominations shall be in order at all times after the report of the committee on credentials.
 - 3) The order of the day.
 - 4) Announcements.

II. REPORTS AND RESOLUTIONS

1. Reports

- a. All reports submitted to the Annual Conference shall be as concise as possible consistent with an adequate presentation of the activities of the respective boards or institutions during the past fiscal year.
- b. All boards and institutions reporting to the Annual Conference shall, for the convenience of study, summarize the major matters which they desire considered by the Annual Conference.
- c. At the beginning of the period allotted for consideration of each institution, each institution whose reports are considered by the committees Nos. 2, 3, 4 and 5 shall be given 15 minutes to present its cause in an oral or written form. The reports of the President and Co-ordinating Committee shall not come under this limitation.

2. Resolutions

- a. Each committee on recommendations shall prepare mimeographed copies of resolutions presented to the Conference, the same to be ready for distribution at the first regular business session.
- b. The five committees on recommendations shall meet jointly for a devotional period at 9 a.m. on the opening day of the Conference, and immediately afterwards proceed to organize themselves separately for the work allotted to each committee.
- c. Committee No. 1 shall be ready to report at the first regular business session of the Conference, and the other committees shall be ready to report at the time provided in the calendar of the Conference.

III. COMMITTEES AND DIRECTORS

1. Election of Officers

The President, Vice-president and Secretary of the AFLC shall be elected by ballot and must have a majority of the votes cast. Nominations for these offices shall be made from the floor and at least two nominations shall be made for each office.

2. The Committee on Nominations

The Committee on Nominations shall be elected at one Annual Conference to serve at the next. It shall consist of seven members, three pastors and four laymen. There shall be at least one

person nominated from each of the Districts in the AFLC. The three pastors and four laymen receiving the largest number of votes shall be declared elected. No District, however, shall be represented by more than one member on the committee elected. Election shall be by ballot. Members on the committee on nominations shall not be elected to serve more than two consecutive years.

3. The Committees on Recommendations

a. The following committees on recommendations shall be elected at one Annual Conference to serve at the next:

Committee No. 1 — On the reports of the President of the AFLC and the Co-ordinating Committee. This committee shall also act as Committee on Resolutions. All resolutions of thanks shall be given principally in the form of a personal letter to parties concerned.

Committee No. 2 — On the reports of Free Lutheran Theological Seminary, and any other reports which deal with the matter of Christian education.

Committee No. 3 — On the report of the Board of Missions and any other report dealing with the subject of missions.

Committee No. 4 — On the report of the Committee on Publications and Parish Education and Youth.

Committee No. 5 — On the report from the Boards of Stewardship and Pensions, and other special reports.

b. If, for any reason, any member of any committee on recommendations knows that he will not be able to serve on such committee, such member shall send his resignation to the secretary of the Co-ordinating Committee at least thirty days before the Annual Conference, which Committee shall then make appointment to fill such vacancy.

c. The Secretary of the AFLC shall notify members of the various committees on recommendations, as to time and place of the Annual Conference at least two months before such Conference is held. Such notice shall supplement original notice of elections.

4. Journal Committee

All minutes of the Conference shall be reviewed daily by a Journal Committee appointed by the president at the opening session of the Conference.

5. Committee on Credentials

The Committee on Credentials shall be appointed by the president sufficiently early to enable the committee to be on hand at the beginning of the Conference. This committee shall consist of at least three members of which at least one member shall be a layman.

6. Conference Personnel

The following personnel for the Annual Conference shall be appointed by the president as early in the Conference as possible: tellers, postmaster, press representatives, chaplain and such other officers as the Conference shall require.

7. Conference Equipment

The Conference Committee shall make provisions for stenographic service and arrange to have on hand the necessary equipment and supplies.

IV. REGISTRATION

1. Each person who registers as a member of the Annual Conference shall pay a registration fee the amount of which is to be determined by the Conference Committee, and shall entitle the registrant to a prepaid copy of the Annual Conference Report.

2. When more than one member of a family registers at the Annual Conference, the full fee shall be paid by only one, and additional members of the family shall pay one-half of the regular registration fee, but shall not be entitled to a prepaid copy of the Annual Conference Report.

V. REPRESENTATION

Every congregation affiliated with the AFLC shall earnestly encourage one or more of its members to attend the Annual Conference.

Letters TO THE EDITOR

After spending two and one half months at the mission compound at Nogales, Ariz., where Pastor L. C. Dynneson is serving the newly organized Triumph Lutheran Church, we would like to tell what we saw and heard so that we of the Association can effectively pray and support this work. What we saw and heard did our hearts so much good. It was such a sweet Christian fellowship we had with those working there and also with the members of the congregation.

The Word of God is being proclaimed in its purity and souls have been saved. The attendance is around 60-70 at the 11 o'clock service. All Sunday school children stay for the service. The Wednes-

day evening Bible study and prayer service is better attended than in many larger congregations I've seen. On Sunday afternoon the pastor and his wife go out to the outlying places and have several short services in the homes of those who can't come to church.

The Sunday evening service is a study on personal evangelism and it is so good. It makes us feel the need of speaking to those around us and shows us how to approach them.

The congregation meets in a building owned by the city. They need a place of worship of their own. They may get to buy a church that is for sale at a very reasonable price. That includes a three-bedroom parsonage. But they can't do that by themselves as the people do not have much. Unless the people of the Association help them, I don't think they will get it.

Nogales has no industries and we have seen very little farming done, so there is not much opportunity for work. We are thankful that the

Lord laid it upon our hearts to go down there and see this new mission field of ours and the need they have there.

John and Paula Ostby
Marysville, Wash.

(We print this communication from Mr. and Mrs. Ostby as a letter. It was written on March 5. The Ostbys are members of our congregation in Everett, Wash.—Ed.)

FAMILY BIBLE CAMP DATES SET

The fourth annual Family Bible Camp of the Association of Free Lutheran Congregations will be held at Lake Geneva Bible Camp, Alexandria, Minn., August 8-14, Monday through Sunday. Registration will take place Monday afternoon, the first public meal will be supper that day and the first service will be that night.

Dean of the camp will be the Rev. A. L. Hokonson, Faith, S. Dak.



NEWS of the Churches

KALISPELL CHURCH DEDICATES PARSONAGE

All photos are by Inter Lake Staff Photo.

For the Stillwater Lutheran Free Church Dec. 5 was the climax of more than six months of planning and work toward the building of a home for their pastor, the Rev. Karl Stendal. Previously he had lived in a house rented by the congregation.



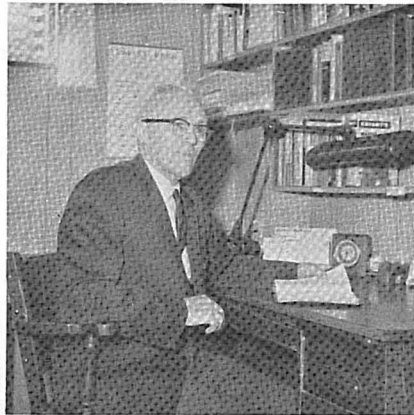
Rev. and Mrs. Karl Stendal are seated in the corner of their living room in the new parsonage of Stillwater Lutheran Church that was recently completed by the congregation. A picture window in the room frames the snow-capped Rockies. On clear days they have a view of two mountain peaks in Glacier Park.



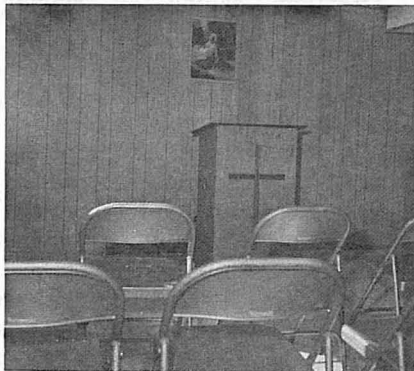
Entrance to the chapel and the pastor's study is on the lower level of the parsonage. There also are stairs leading to the living quarters of the parsonage. Future plans of the congregation include the planting of grass and landscaping the grounds.

Pastor John Strand, president of the Association of Free Lutheran Congregations, delivered the sermon at the 11 o'clock service. The choir sang "God's House" by Loucks. The congregation celebrated Holy Communion.

The dedication service was held at 3:00 p.m. at the parsonage on Three Mile Drive. The audience shared in singing, responsive Scripture readings and prayers. A dedication poem was read, after which Pastor Strand conducted the dedi-



Rev. Karl Stendal sits at his desk in his study, also on the bottom level of the split-level house.



The chapel in the basement of the parsonage seats about 60.

catory rite. The congregation then joined in the doxology, a hymn and the Lord's Prayer. Refreshments were served by the Ladies Aid.

Located a short distance outside the Kalispell city limits, in a new residential area, the parsonage is built on a split-level plan with three bedrooms and two baths. The pastor's study and a chapel seating about sixty are on the first level.

The parsonage site, donated by Oscar Olson of the Sunset Builders (a member of the congregation), affords an excellent view of the hills and mountains surrounding the Flathead Valley, and a part of Glacier National Park.

Cost of construction was kept at a minimum, since by far most of the labor was volunteer. The property has been appraised at \$20,000.

The Stillwater parish, formerly A.L.C., has its house of worship about ten miles northwest of Kalispell in the Stillwater farming community. However, an increasing number of worshippers are coming from Kalispell and other places. Sunday school enrollment now stands at 86.

Pastor Karl Stendal came to the Stillwater Church in December, 1964. His wife, Christine, and youngest son, Paul, moved to Kalispell after the Stendals had sold their Minneapolis home last year. Another son, David, is married and lives in Minneapolis. Dean, the oldest son, is a student at the Moorhead State College, Moorhead, Minn.

May the Lord Jesus, the Head of the Church, continue to keep His mighty blessing hand upon His work among us. Corr.

FOSSTON, MINN.

Calvary Free Lutheran Church of Fosston is elated over the purchase of choice property in the city. This property had been the subject of prayer for about two years. We are praising God that He made it possible to acquire this beautiful site for our new church plant.

When the ground is sufficiently dry, the congregation anticipates beginning work on the basement.

[Continued on page 15]

**REPORT OF THE SPECIAL
COMMITTEE ON THE ANNUAL
CONFERENCE COMMITTEE
SET-UP**

The following report will be presented to the Annual Conference in Thief River Falls in June. It is presented here for study by all delegates to the Conference.

The undersigned committee was given the responsibility of proposing changes in the committee set-up for our annual conferences by the Conference of 1965. It has been the understanding of the committee that it was the feeling of many that there should be fewer committees on recommendations reporting to the conferences in the interest of efficiency. At present there are seven committees in addition to a general resolutions committee.

The undersigned committee therefore respectfully submits the following resolutions to the Annual Conference of 1966:

"That the number of committees on recommendations reporting to subsequent annual conferences be reduced from eight to five, and that these committees be as follows:

- No. 1—President's Report and Co-ordinating Committee
- No. 2—Schools
- No. 3—Missions
- No. 4—Publications, Parish Education and Youth Work
- No. 5—Stewardship, Pensions and Other Special Reports

Committee No. 1 shall act on all resolutions of a general nature, including those which are concerned with the giving of thanks for services rendered to the conference."

All of this is in accord with the proposed revisions of Section III, Paragraph 3, of the Order of Business for the Annual Conference of the Association of Free Lutheran Congregations, an appendage to the *Revised Rules for Work*, which are also being presented to this Annual Conference, 1966.

Rev. Julius Hermunslie
Mr. Norval Thorud
Rev. Raynard Huglen



Luther League Activities

News from Grafton, North Dakota:

The young people of Bethel Free Lutheran Church at Grafton organized a Luther League on March 20, 1966. They plan to meet once a month and to plan programs for the congregational "family nights." The following officers have been elected: President—Henry Mohagen, Vice President—Darlene Monson, Secretary—Judy Russum, and Treasurer—Lois Presteng.

Announcement:

The Fourth Annual Luther League Convention of the Association of Free Lutheran Congregations will be held in August, 1967, at Kalispell, Montana. Host congregation will be Stillwater Lutheran Church, which is served by Pastor Karl Stendal. This means that there will be no national convention for our youth this summer.

After much consideration and prayer the officers were led to make this decision, and they feel that this longer period of time between conventions will enable them to be better planned and more effective—and also more anticipated.

However, don't think that your officers are taking a year's vacation. No, siree, they haven't been sleeping on the job. This summer's Annual Conference of our Association, June 8-12, will have a special accent on the youth of our church, and as many as possible are urged to attend. Here's the line-up:

Wednesday, June 8—LUTHER LEAGUE MISSION DAY. This rally will coincide with the WMF convention, and as with the women, our emphasis will be on the Christian's missionary obligation and opportunity. We're not counting on a big crowd, but we are counting on a group of youth who have come with a purpose.

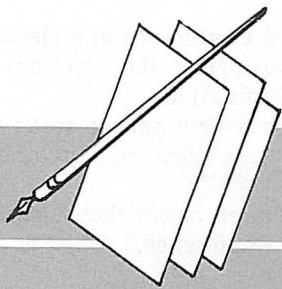
Thursday, June 9—MISSION FESTIVAL SERVICE. This time the youth will be meeting with the whole conference at this WMF-sponsored service. Seminarian Dick Gunderson will bring the message, and a youth choir will provide special music. Plan on singing.

Saturday, June 11—YOUTH NIGHT. The last evening service of our annual conference has been turned over to the Luther League Federation. A special speaker will be chosen, and the program will be in the hands of the young people.

See you in Thief River Falls!

Attention: calling all singing leaguers—good, bad, or indifferent. Let's start practicing NOW in our local congregations for that Thursday night "youth choir." Here's a suggestion: at your next meeting organize the group into a choir and run through the numbers a few times. Both songs are found in the Concordia Hymnal (388 and 396). Then we'll "merge" all these local choirs together for the big night and run through the songs a few times before the service. O.K.?

—Bob Lee



EDITORIALS

Another in a series on the Apostles' Creed

DEAD AND BURIED

Even with belief in resurrection the grave is a lonely place. At best it marks the suspension of associations, some of them life-long. A thousand years may be as a day in the sight of the Lord and to the saints in Paradise. But to those left behind each day may seem interminably long.

Without the knowledge of resurrection which we have, think how desolate the disciples must have felt when the One on whom they had pinned their hopes hung lifeless on the cross. All the disciples, even faithful John, stumbled away, blind with grief.

"And Jesus cried again with a loud voice and yielded up his spirit" (Matt. 27: 50).

"But when they [the soldiers] came to Jesus and saw that he was already dead, they did not break his legs" (John 19: 33).

Jesus was not to be denied a decent burial, however. From out of the shadows into which John and Peter and James, yea, even the mother of Jesus, had melted, stepped Joseph of Arimathea and Nicodemus, who had come to Jesus by night. In a show of courage which was a long time coming, they took the bruised body of Jesus from the cross and laid it in Joseph's own tomb.

"And they made his grave with the wicked
and with a rich man in his death,
although he had done no violence,
and there was no deceit in his mouth"

Isaiah 53:9

Why must the Son of God become true man?

In order that He might suffer and die for us.

Why must our Savior be true God?

In order that His death and His blood might have everlasting power to atone for sin.

OUR BIGGEST PROBLEM

The past year has been one of sifting and settling. Some people have come to the decision that the Association of Free Lutheran Congregations is not a fellowship in which they can see their hopes and ideals realized and they have left, seeking new associations more to their liking. Others, having become familiar with the Association's aims and purposes, have found

it the spiritual home in which they choose to dwell and to share in God's outreach for the world.

Thus, we suppose it will ever be. Paul, the apostle, wanted to be all things to all men. Great as that ambition may be for an individual, it is a difficult goal for a church fellowship. At least we have found it so, and in our desire to preserve certain ideals, some persons have been disappointed. We can only wish them well in new fields of fellowship and service.

The Association of Free Lutheran Congregations, after a year of sifting and settling, continues to stand on the threshold of tremendous opportunities. These open doors also point up our greatest problem today. How many of them can we reasonably expect to enter in the coming year? How much should be done in faith, how much on a sound business basis?

God forbid that we should become "brakemen" on the Lord's express, but there is a need for sober judgment also at this point in our history.

What are the immediate forward steps contemplated in our work? In world missions: the beginning of a Bible school in Brazil and the sending out of several new missionaries in the next few years. In home missions: the establishing of several home mission congregations while at present being able to do little with a meager church extension fund. In schools: the starting of a Bible school in Minneapolis, requiring at least two new staff members to begin with and the construction of a first building within several years. The seminary must be brought back this fall to a faculty of two full-time professors.

A forward step in administration which has not been given any official go-ahead, but which we see as a must very shortly is the securing of a full-time man in the areas of publicity, public relations and stewardship.

These, then, are things which ought to be done in the Association soon. Last year congregations and individuals contributed \$86,709.14 toward a budget slightly above that figure. This year we are working on a budget just under \$100,000. The conference this year will approve our first budget above that figure. How many of the expansion projects listed above will be in that budget we do not yet know. How much do you think we are ready to seriously accept?

The needs are there. There is a desire to encompass them all at once. Balancing that is the desire to build wisely and well. At what point would we most honor Christ, who provides the open doors? This is the question with which the Annual Conference must wrestle. Do you see why it is so important that those who come to Conference sense the mind, temper and vision of the congregations which are not bound by what the annual gathering decides?

The status of the Praise Program continues to be a sobering factor in the face of needed expansion in every area of our work. According to original plans, this ingathering ought to be completed at least by the end of this fiscal year (Jan. 31). What has been taken in thus far does not come up to the half-way mark of

the total \$130,000.00. If we do not reduce the balance markedly in the next nine months, are we justified in expanding much at all? Personally, we have looked upon the Praise Program as a barometer of the speed with which our church is willing to move forward. If it is that, the indication is not overly favorable.

At conference time, 1966, we do well to examine our lives individually and as a fellowship whether we have a mind to work as the returning Jews did after the exile and which Pastor R. Snipstead called to our attention in his devotional in the previous *Ambassador*. If we have a mind to work, there is no telling what can be done. If the willingness is not there, we had better cut bait for a while. Which will honor Christ more?

THE RULES FOR WORK

A proposed revision of the *Revised Rules for Work* was published in *The Lutheran Ambassador* of May 3. Today's *Ambassador* contains proposed revisions of two appendages to the *Rules for Work*: the Order of Business for the Annual Conference and the Relation Between Free Lutheran Theological Seminary and the Association of Free Lutheran Congregations.

Now, if you will take the *Revised Rules for Work* (L.A., May 3), we will comment on some of the paragraphs briefly, in the interest of clarification.

4.) This paragraph is very similar to the one under which the Lutheran Free Church operated. It calls for affiliated congregations of the Association to declare themselves. It is a call to good faith and mutual trust. Without these, neither a free association such as ours nor a tight synodical organization can prosper.

6.) Members of non-Association Lutheran congregations must request the right to vote in an AFLC convention at least two weeks prior to a conference. This is a precautionary measure while continuing a unique privilege of voting for non-member, interested friends.

7a.) We call attention to this description of the president's duties to point out that he is given no power over local congregations, but assists them when he is asked.

The committee is proposing that the salary of the president be determined by the Co-ordinating Committee rather than the Annual Conference, as in the past. This is an effort to ease what was always an awkward and embarrassing situation at previous conventions.

8.) An increase in the size of the Co-ordinating Committee is asked in this proposed change. The Committee would have seven members. In addition to bringing more persons into responsibility, it would also assure larger attendance at board meetings as not all members can attend every time. A limitation to two consecutive terms is asked and the conference will have to determine how long the terms shall be since this is not indicated in the paragraph.

9f.) In the LFC the editor of the church organ

was nominated by the Annual Conference and elected by the Board of Publications. Now the election is given to the Co-ordinating Committee.

9g.) This sub-paragraph is a new one. It seeks to place responsibility for all areas of work not otherwise provided for.

10.) "The editor of the church organ shall also be nominated by the Annual Conference." This is in accord with previous practice.

It has been our desire from the beginning that we serve only by the will of the people. Always we are ready to abide by your decision.

15.) The last sentence in the paragraph is an addition. "All amendments must be in agreement with paragraphs 5 and 10 of Fundamental Principles." This is just another attempt to make as crystal-clear as possible the freedom of the local congregation from all outside domination.

16.) This is a new paragraph. Any decisions made by Association conferences from 1962 and on, or by boards and committees, which are in conflict with these *Revised Rules for Work* are superseded by these *Revised Rules for Work* as they are duly accepted by the Annual Conference. Specifically, it should be noted that there is no limitation upon the term of any regular officer of the Association, or a board member elected by the conference, unless designated in the *Revised Rules for Work* themselves.

We trust that these comments will be helpful to you in preparing for the coming conference. We believe the document prepared by the committee is a good one and deserves acceptance without major change.

THE PULSE QUICKENS

The imminence of another Annual Conference quickens the pulse and excites the mind. For the conference is the one time of the year when the people of the Association, and a host of dear friends, gather to officially discuss the work which they do together because it is too large for them to attempt alone as congregations.

More than that, conferences are a time of Christian fellowship. Some of that fellowship is found in the services and devotional periods, as well as the business sessions themselves. Beyond these times there are the interludes between sessions, the coffee-breaks, the visiting around the convention city—all times when the delegates may enjoy informal get-togethers.

All indications point to a large conference. Some very key decisions must be made at Thief River Falls in June. Among them, as indicated in a previous editorial, is the whole question of how swiftly to move forward in the Lord's work. Every conference chooses leadership and 1966 is the year in which people once again vote on the presidency.

For all who come as working delegates, the conference will be work. Those who serve on committees will be even busier. The Nominating Committee will

[Continued on page 16]

in New England. Of his 150 hymns, many were on missionary themes, and after his graduation he became a missionary to the Burmese. At 86 years of age Samuel Smith was still writing hymns for the Lord and His church. Would hymnwriting be a missionary service? Have we ever encouraged our children or others to serve in this way?

“The Morning Light Is Breaking”

1. The morning light is breaking, the darkness disappears;
 The sons of earth are waking, to penitential tears;
 Each breeze that sweeps the ocean brings tidings from afar
 Of nations in commotion, prepared for Zion’s war.
2. See heathen nations bending before the God we love,
 And thousand hearts ascending, in gratitude above;
 While sinners, now confessing, the Gospel call obey,
 And seek the Savior’s blessing, a nation in a day.

But we see more than Zion’s war among the nations today, don’t we? What a call this is to us to uphold our missionaries and servicemen abroad in earnest prayer to God. As martyrs increase, we do well to remember Matthew 10: 16–34 and John 15: 17–22.

Examples of Christ’s “Go Ye” include Acts 8: 26–29
 Acts 22: 3–12 Acts 16: 6–11
 Acts 10: 17–24

In every “Go Ye” His power and love attend us. May we never limit Him by our little faith.

WMF Bible Study

JUNE



THE CALL FOR REAPERS

Some time ago a missionary statesman with rich experience in home and foreign missions said that it seemed easier to win ten people to Christ in this nation than to convince one Christian of the importance of foreign missions. What a sad commentary on our lack of Christ’s vision for His Kingdom, and on the selfishness and disobedience of our hearts. Can we hear, unmoved, the sad cry of perishing millions, “Carest thou not that we perish?” I John 2:1, 2
 Matt. 9: 35–38

"The Call for Reapers"

by J. O. Thompson

Far and near the fields are teeming
With the waves of ripened grain;
Far and near their gold is gleaming
O'er the sunny slope and plain.

Chorus: Lord of harvest, send forth reapers! Hear us, Lord, to Thee we cry

Send them now the sheaves to gather, E'er the harvest-time pass by.

O thou, whom thy Lord is sending,

Gather now the sheaves of gold;

Heav'nward then at evening wending,


Thou shalt come with joy untold.

In our day we do rejoice over every laborer who has responded to the prayer for reapers, and we praise God for the many modern means available to us in sending out the Good News of salvation through Jesus Christ, but with doors closing to missionaries in many parts of the world we realize the truth of the last line of the chorus, "Send them now the sheaves to gather, E'er the harvest time pass by." Shall we re-read Chapter 17 of John to see Christ's concern for His messengers and the perishing millions to whom they go? What impresses you most about this chapter?

On the evening of the first Easter our risen Lord and Savior gave

His disciples their first missionary assignment. John 20:19-24 Shall we take a second look at verse 21? Is He still saying this to us in 1966? How blithely we sing the chorus, "Ev'rybody ought to know who Jesus is" without the companion-thought, "How shall they know of Him of whom they have not heard?" Romans 10:14, 15. When you pray the petition in the Lord's Prayer, "Thy Kingdom Come," of what do you think? Luke 11:2 Have you ever felt deeply convicted about indifference, or lack of interest in subscribing to mission periodicals, magazines, books, etc., or writing to missionaries serving in hard places, or here at home? Do we think of rescue mission work, the chaplaincy in reformatories and prisons, as well as the military service? What have you found most helpful in keeping alive mission concern in your heart and life? Is there a relationship between Matthew 28:18-20? and Matthew 10:32, 33? Is witnessing mission work? Does John 21:14-18 have a message for us today? What ways have been the greatest blessing to your own soul in responding to this challenge?

Again we shall refer to a second hymn in our Bible study, "The Morning Light Is Breaking." Samuel Smith, a patriotic American hymnwriter, wrote both "My Country 'tis of Thee" and our mission hymn in the winter of 1832 while he was a student at Andover Theological Seminary



WOMEN *for Christ*

WMF CONVENTION SET FOR THIEF RIVER FALLS

The women of the Association of Free Lutheran Congregations will meet for their annual convention at Thief River Falls, Minnesota, June 8, 1966, with sessions beginning at 9:00 a.m. with a prayer session.

The program has been planned with the prayer that those who attend will be inspired to a closer walk with Christ, informed of the work that is being done within the Women's Missionary Federation, and stirred to action in prayer and in giving.

Miss Eula Mae Swenson of Fargo, N. Dak., will be the Bible study leader in the morning session. Mrs. Lawrence Dynneson of Nogales, Ariz., will bring a message to the afternoon gathering. There will, of course, be good singing and good food and good instruction in the things of the WMF. There will also be the election of a vice-president and a secretary, and other important business to care for.

At the mission festival service of the WMF on Thursday evening, June 9, the speaker will be Mr. Richard Gunderson, student in the seminary of the AFLC.

The offering received Wednesday will be given to Home Missions (Church Extension) of the Association; the offering Thursday evening will be given to help care for medical expenses for Mrs. John Abel and Mrs. Alvin Grothe. It is hoped that those who desire a part in the offerings will avail them-

selves of the coupon below to designate where they wish their offering to be used.

Again this year women are asked to bring cookies with them to the convention, to be served throughout the conference at various coffee breaks. Thank you!

COUPON

Enclosed is my offering for Church Extension to be included in the offering of WMF day, June 8, 1966. May God multiply, and bless, and use it to His glory.

Name _____

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Congregation _____

Amount \$ _____

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Mrs. R. M. Konsterlie

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CULBERTSON WOMEN WERE HOSTESSES TO SPRING WORKSHOP

Women from five congregations of the AFLC filled the chapel in Culbertson, Mont., on April 5, for the spring workshop of the Eastern Montana-Western North Dakota District Women's Missionary Federation.

The theme chosen was "Prevailing in Prayer" based on James 5: 16: "The effectual, fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much."

The meeting opened with the hymn, "Sweet Hour of Prayer." Mrs. LeRoy Nelson was the pianist.

Mrs. Orville Qualley, president of the Culbertson Ladies Aid, extended a welcome on behalf of the hostess aid.

Mrs. Knute Jore led in prayer and presented a Bible study on Moses, stressing the many times Moses prevailed in prayer for the Israelite nation, and so must we do today.

A duet, "Prayer is the Soul's Sincere Desire," was sung by Mrs. Vern Zurich and Mrs. Lyle Fox of the Norman aid.

The Culbertson Ladies Aid presented an inspiring candle-lighting service on the Lord's Prayer.

"Prevail in Prayer" was the title of the talk given by Mrs. Melvin Walla, Sidney, Mont. She stated that as we prevail in prayer, God will surely answer our prayers, even though it may not be in the exact way or time that we expect. She also brought out the wonderful promise of God, "Ask whatsoever you will and it will be done unto you."

A beautiful musical reading on the "Praying Hands" was done by Mrs. Virgil Hartsoch, accompanied by Mrs. Donald Anderson. A pair of praying hands, sketched by Mrs. Erling Olson, were displayed and added to the effectiveness of this reading.

A parade of projects was presented by a group of ladies from the Zion aid. Each lady carried a poster for a WMF project and stated the cause and the goal set for it. A Bible verse depicting each project was also stated.

Mrs. Eilert Haakenson gave a flannelgraph lesson on prayer, using the stories of the persistent friend from Luke 11, the persistent widow of Luke 18 and the Pharisee and Publican, also in Luke 18. These stories depict the verse, "Ask and it shall be given you; seek and ye shall find, knock and it shall be opened unto you" (Luke 11:9).

"Unworthy" was the title of the solo sung by Mrs. LeVern Jorgen-

CHURCH-WORLD NEWS

GLEANINGS FROM AN EDITOR'S READING

In *Honest to God* one finds statements in which Bishop (John A. T.) Robinson seems, with Tillich, to view all affirmations about God as symbolic rather than literal, and this sword is wielded with great vigor against the biblical revelation of God as supernatural, personal, and independent of the universe. But this sword is double-edged. If Bishop Robinson wields it, we shall require its use against any statement he himself makes about the Unconditioned, whose reality and immanence are no less a matter of faith than that of the supernatural, personal God of the Bible; we shall require its use even when he says, "God is love," and when he speaks of the function of God no less than when he speaks against his existence. If our affirmations about God are not universally valid cognitive truths, if they are merely symbolic, we see no reason for taking Bishop Robinson literally whenever he speaks about God, and particularly not when he seems to want us to understand him literally.—Editor in *Christianity Today*, April 15, 1966.

There are no people in the world who make me bow my head in reverence as much as those who have learned to take pain in the Christian way. They do not draw attention to it or to themselves for having it. They do not seem to fight it, but accommodate themselves to it graciously. They seem to offer it as a sacrifice to Christ, who suffered for us. What suffering must be for those who see no purpose in life and have no ultimate faith about it, I cannot imagine. But here, as everywhere else, Christ has victory for us if we will take it.—Samuel Shoemaker in *Extraordinary Living for Ordinary Men* (Zondervan Publishing House, 1965).

The words, "God loves you and

I love you," struck an immediate and thrilling response in my heart. Here was divine truth expressed so simply that none could mistake its meaning, yet so dynamically that it had the power to change lives. To affirm that God loves is the central issue of Christianity. To affirm that out of His love we too can love is to grasp the alternate pulse beat of the greatest spiritual law ever proclaimed.—Paul Eppinger in *Faith at Work*, April, 1966.

ACTIVITIES ARE SUSPENDED BY LUTHERAN NURSES GUILD

St. Paul, Minn. (NLC)—Lack of financial resources has forced suspension of the Lutheran Nurses Guild, Inc., after 25 years of activity to unite Lutheran nurses in Christian fellowship and service.

Miss Alice C. Sanne, executive director of the Guild for the past five years, stressed that the organization has not been dissolved and expressed the hope that "it may be reactivated in the not too distant future."

The Guild's annual budget of about \$16,000 has been met only in part by membership dues, according to Miss Sanne, making it necessary to seek support from other sources, particularly church women's groups.

"Since the three major Lutheran bodies have issued such strong directives against contributions to anything outside the budget of local congregations, I did not feel that we could appeal to the local women's groups for assistance as we have done in the past," she said.

"We had also asked for a small contribution from each of the major Lutheran bodies but since this, too, could not be granted, we finally decided to allow the Lutheran Nurses Guild to become dormant as of the end of December of last year."

The Guild also suspended publication of its monthly magazine, *Lutheran Nurse*, with the December

issue, and closed its office in Aasgaard Hall on the campus of Luther Seminary in St. Paul. While Miss Sanne is no longer salaried by the Guild, she devotes several hours daily to its affairs.

The Guild has \$4,000 in a reserve fund against the day when its board of directors decides to reactivate the organization, she said.

The National Lutheran Nurses Guild was organized in 1941, held its first convention in 1946, named its first full-time executive director in 1953, and was incorporated in 1958.

The Guild's program has always placed strong emphasis on individual and group Bible study and personal evangelism. It also sponsored lectures and workshops, disseminated tracts and published two bulletins, "News for Nurses" and "Flash" that were incorporated into a monthly journal in 1959.

FINLAND NOW REPRESENTED AT VATICAN BY EMBASSY

Rome (LWF)—Finland has raised its diplomatic representation to the Holy See of the Roman Catholic Church to embassy rank, the Vatican has announced.

Catholic sources said this was in accordance with steps that have been taken recently by most of the nations that previously were represented at the papal court only by legations.

News of the Churches

[Continued from page 7]

We are trusting that God shall continue to provide for our needs—even as He has in the past.

Corr.

BAGLEY, MINN.

Grace Free Lutheran Church of Bagley is nearing completion. Soon the work shall be far enough advanced so it can be dedicated.

It is thrilling to both pastor and

congregation to see the work going forward with such good response and cooperation for all the activities. Corr.

PUKWANA, S. DAK.

Pastor Trygve F. Dahle was our speaker at a series of evangelistic meetings in the Pukwana parish, April 17-21. In spite of stormy weather the meetings were well attended. There was an open spirit at the meetings.

We greatly appreciated the messages that Pastor Dahle brought us from God's Word. We were also

blessed as he led us in singing. Pastor Dahle sang several of the hymns that he has composed.

Pastor Dahle is a former pastor of this parish. Also, it was a privilege to have Pastor and Mrs. Carl I. Ostby, Spicer, Minn., with us for the week. Pastor Ostby sang at one of the services. He, too, formerly served the parish. Corr.

FERNDALE, WASH.

Evangelist Sterling Johnson, Minneapolis, Minn., preached at special meetings here, May 1-5.

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Double—\$5.00 per night

2 double beds—\$7.00 per night

Room with bath or shower—\$2.00 extra

Please reserve the following at a motel
(6 to 12 blocks from church)

Single—\$5.50 per night

Double—\$8.00 per night

2 double beds—\$12.00 per night

Twin beds—\$12.00 per night

Summer-vacated 'student' housing as well as rooms in private homes will be available.

Camping and trailer accommodations will be available.

The above reservations are to be sent to:

Mrs. Norman A. Peterson
Convention Housing
Route 5
Thief River Falls, Minn. 56701

Remember this month, in both giving and praying, the missionaries which are supported through the MY MISSIONARY FOR A DAY program of the WMF.

Editorials

[Continued from page 10]

be particularly so. The stated officers of the Association will be the busiest of all as they seek to keep abreast of every convention development. And think of the people of the host congregation and her pastor with the myriad details they must be concerned with in taking care of a conference of our size.

Yes, there will be work, long hours, some drudgery. But there will be many rewards as the work of God's kingdom, as it pertains to us, is debated, prayed over,

and decided. We only regret that so few people out of the thousands in our churches, and interested friends, can be at the scene of action. May there be much prayer by those who cannot be at Thief River that those of us who are there may devote ourselves to the work in such a way that the Lord of the Church will be honored. And that where we must disagree among ourselves it may be in such a way that we maintain one another's integrity and do not love the less.

Thief River Falls is before us. May the name of that pleasant northern Minnesota city be synonymous with the Association seeking the will of God.