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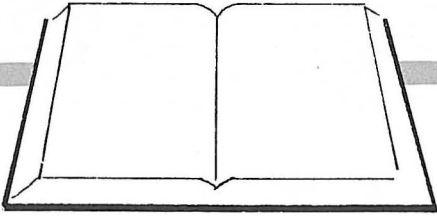
LUTHERAN

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Fall in the Pond

Credit: Religious News Service Photo





According to the Word

THANKSGIVING

"In everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you" (I Thess. 5:18).

In this sinful world of ours, there is a people filled with joy and thanksgiving to God. God's own peculiar people. They are not spared from adversities, trials and temptations. Sometimes they have to pass through fire and deep waters, but they experience that the Lord is with them, and through it all there is a deep undercurrent of joy unspeakable and full of glory.

In everything give thanks. How can we do that? Because we know that "all things work together for good to them that love God" (Rom. 8:28).

"Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning" (Jas. 1:17). By all good gifts, James no doubt means all temporal blessings which He gives us to enjoy from day to day.

Dr. Luke says, in Acts 17:25, "He giveth to all life, and breath, and all things." The very breath of life is a gift from God. We breathe 18 times each minute, 1080 each hour, 25,000 each day, and 9,125,000 each year. Then all these other good gifts: food,

raiment, home, dad, mother, brothers, sisters, etc. Hundreds and thousands are without food and shelter in the world today, and we are not more worthy than they are. Many of us just take these things for granted and forget to thank God for them.

"Count your many blessings, name them one by one, and it will surprise you what the Lord has done."

Abraham Lincoln said, "America is the best country ever given to any people." Also this past year God has blessed our land abundantly; in spite of all sin, ungodliness and turmoil. "He maketh his sun to shine on the evil and the good, and sendeth rain on the just and the unjust" (Matt. 5:45). He is not partial nor a respecter of persons. He does not stop to investigate if you are worthy. He showers freely and generously His blessings upon all. Every sun ray and every raindrop is a gift from above, from a never-changing Father. The earth would not give any seed to the sower and bread to the eater, if it weren't for God's sunshine and rain. He has graciously and bountifully supplied all our needs also this past year, yea, even granted us to live in abundance, as undeserving as we are.

This day is our national Thanksgiving Day (Thursday, Nov. 26th). It is proclaimed by our President to

be set aside for the purpose of giving thanks to the Almighty God for His goodness and blessings.

He has not only given us good gifts, but He is also the giver of every perfect gift. By the "perfect gifts" I am sure the writer means the spiritual gifts and blessings. The most outstanding of all the perfect gifts, of course, is His Son. He is the unspeakable gift. That means He is so marvelous and wonderful that He cannot be described with human words. And with Him we have all things: salvation, peace, joy, hope, eternal life (Rom. 8:32; I Cor. 3:21, 23).

The Holy Spirit is another of these perfect gifts from above. He is indispensable. Without Him we would not be able to receive and appreciate any of these perfect gifts. Now we have received not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit which is of God; that we might know the things that are freely given to us of God (I Cor. 2:12).

Most people will not receive these perfect gifts. They are willing to receive and enjoy the good gifts, but they do not want Jesus, the Holy Spirit, the spiritual and eternal blessings. In a hopeless eternity they will discover with the rich man how foolish they were (Luke 16:25).

Lars Stalsbroten

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Bless the Lord , O My Soul

Gospel Text: Psalms 103:1-14

By Pastor Stephen E. Odegaard
Hatton, North Dakota

"Bless the Lord, O my soul: and all that is within me, bless his holy name. Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits: Who forgiveth all thine iniquities; who healeth all thy diseases; Who redeemeth thy life from destruction; who crowneth thee with lovingkindness and tender mercies; Who satisfieth thy mouth with good things; so that thy youth is renewed like the eagle's. The Lord executeth righteousness and judgment for all that are oppressed. He made known his ways unto Moses, his acts unto the children of Israel. The Lord is merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and plenteous in mercy. He will not always chide: neither will he keep his anger for ever. He hath not dealt with us after our sins; nor rewarded us according to our iniquities. For as the heaven is high above the earth so great is his mercy toward them that fear him. As far as the east is from the west so far hath he removed our transgressions from us. Like as a father pitieth his children, so the Lord pitieth them that fear him. For he knoweth our frame; he remembereth that we are dust."

"God be praised for everything!" was the motto of Chrysostom, Bishop of Constantinople. This man in his old age was removed from office, banished from his country, suffered much misery and in the time of war fled for his life. He suffered hunger and pestilence, yet his dying words were "God be praised for everything." In

the midst of all the problems that surrounded him and his country he could still praise God.

On the fourth Thursday in November of every year, we as a country set aside that day supposedly to thank God for the many blessings, spiritual and material, that He has given us. It is a time when we as a nation are to give thanks to God, when we are to assemble in His house to praise and to bless Him. How many people honestly take the time to thank the Lord? Or are we too busy traveling to someplace where there is a family get-together, not even thinking about taking an extra hour to give thanks to the Lord. Some people think, "Why should I take time to thank a God who has never helped me?" Let's take a look at some of the things that we do have to be thankful for.

In the first verse of our text, David sings: "Bless the Lord, O my soul; and all that is within me, bless His holy name. Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all His benefits."

The benefits that the Lord has given to us are great and wonderful. Have you ever stopped in your mad rush of living to count your benefits? These we take so much for granted: our eyes, which let us see; our ears, which let us hear God's greatness around us, our arms and legs, which move without any conscious thought going to them; the air that we all breathe, and there are many others. Yet we fail many times to think of these as gifts from God. As we do think about these gifts our whole being should sing out with "praise to our Lord."

As Christians, Thanksgiving is a day to be observed with the Word of God and prayer and as citizens of a great country it is a day of na-

tional Thanksgiving that we are observing. On each count we are mindful, or should be mindful, of God's many blessings which we so thoroughly enjoy.

Let's take a look at some of the benefits that God has bestowed on our nation. Our Thanksgiving Day is an American national holiday, a day which our chief executive has proclaimed as such. Our country has been involved in several wars in which millions of our men and women have lost their lives. They died fighting that we might enjoy the benefits that the Lord gave us. Even though there have been wars and the demands from them have been great, we are still a land of plenty. Yes, there is political, social and economic upheaval in our great country. There is crime on many pages of our newspapers; there is disease in every form. But we are rich in the things that we need for daily living, so rich that we often send food, clothing, medical supplies, and building material to far-off lands. Yet we always seem to have enough for ourselves. Truly, we have to say with David, "He satisfieth thy mouth with good things" (v. 5).

We are at present trying to end a war on foreign shores, to bring home our men and women who are over there. We are trying to bring peace to the world as well as in our own country. There are many problems that are facing us in this battle. There are social problems, problems in politics, in health safety and in the thinking of many people. There are many people who think that we need a change in the government, that this is where we have to work. The apostles of Christ could have found

many reasons to launch movements for the betterment of the Roman world. There were problems in the slums of Rome and Alexandria; there was social corruption for the wealthy; there were public festivals that defied decency, a tyrannical form of government—yet the apostles never made it their business to lead a popular crusade against these evils. Their work was limited to bringing souls to Christ and to instructing their converts in the will of God that they might lead godly lives. The result of their work was slow in coming, but a change did come. The more aggravated ills of the heathen society had largely ceased to exist. Where the Gospel gained a foothold, the heathen practices came to an end.

Though our love for our Church comes first, we also love our country and we cannot give any better evidence of that love than by trying to raise our nation's standards of conduct. Remember, it has to begin with us. When the Gospel is presented to the people and they see their need for the Savior and return to Him, we will see day by day how one difficulty after another is overcome. Then we can say as David did, "He healeth all thy diseases."

At times it seems that the Lord has withdrawn from our country, from the affairs of men, and is determined to let men fall prey to their own folly. As we look back over the years since our country's founding we see how many times and how wonderfully the Lord has blessed us. Yes, He is still with us. But, my friends, return unto Him. Let Him know that there are still people who love Him, who will work for Him and who are thankful for the many blessings that we have.

A fact that is no secret to any of us is that the true Word of God is not being taught in many churches in this country and other parts of the world. One of the greatest blessings that we have is to know that there are some churches which DO preach and teach the TRUE Word of God, in all its truth and purity. THANK THE LORD. Many times in our lives we have failed in trying to keep God's law, and even though we deserve nothing but God's wrath and anger, temporal death and eter-

nal damnation, we give thanks and bless the Lord who "forgiveth all our iniquities," (v. 3). ALL our iniquities forgiven! ALL our sins, which are as red as scarlet and as many as the sand in number are all taken away. Only grace and mercy; "as the heaven is high above the earth, so great is His mercy toward them that fear Him."

Stop and look at the brief time that you have lived here on earth and if you fail to perceive the love and the mercy of God, you could easily say, "Vanity of vanities, all is vanity" (Eccles. 1:2). As citizens of this great country, we strive for the good welfare of the people, yet many times we fail. As Christians we must daily confess our sins and acknowledge our faults and failings. We would be without any hope if it were not for the love and the benefits of God. In spite of all our weaknesses, with God it shall be well with us, for "He knoweth our frame, He remembereth that we are dust" (v. 14). He framed us out of the dust of the ground and blew into us the breath of life; He knows of what we are made and how we fell. Knowing this, His everlasting love embraced us, that man should not die but should live in Him who is the Resurrection and the Life. Thus,

my friends, on our national Thanksgiving Day, lay aside all complaints and problems and rather raise your voice in thanksgiving to the Giver of every good and perfect gift and say:

"BLESS THE LORD, O MY SOUL: AND ALL THAT IS WITHIN ME, BLESS HIS HOLY NAME!"

THANKSGIVING HYMN

The Star of the Morning
He comes to us now.
All earth is adoring
His glory-crowned brow.
Praise Him for salvation,
Free gift from above.
The King of Creation
Has shown us His love.

All glory to God
For all He has done.
All thanks be to Him
For making us one.
All praise to the Father,
All praise to the Son,
All praise to the Spirit:
The great Three-in-One.

(Tune: My Jesus, I Love Thee)

Lorilee Torgerson '70

(A hymn poem by a member of last year's Bible School senior class. Lorilee is attending Junior College in her home town of Fergus Falls, Minn., this year.)

Annual Christmas Concert

at

Association Free Lutheran Bible School
3110 E. Medicine Lake Boulevard
Minneapolis, Minnesota

Sunday, December 13, 1970
8:00 p.m.

Featuring the Bible School Choir and Choral Club
Mr. Don Rodvold, Director



THANKSGIVING

T is for the Trinity, the blessed
Three-in-One,
H is for the Harvest, for now the
season's done.
A is for the Altar, offerings given to
thee,
N is for our Nation, abundant in lib-
erty.
K is for His Kindness, so lovingly be-
stowed,
S is for Salvation—our precious gift
—Behold!
G is for the selfless gift, His love so
undefiled,
I is for the Infant, so loving, pure
and mild.
V is for His Victory, His precious
blood was shed,
I is for His Innocence, yet to the cross
was led.
N is for His nail-pierced hands, as
He answered His Father's call,
G is for His giving,—eternal life to
all!

THANKSGIVING! So many thoughts go through our minds—turkey, family, fun, fellowship, etc., etc., but how often have we stopped to thank Christ for our blessed America—the land so abundantly full of food, life and liberty?

Certainly we pray "bless this land," but do we pray, "thank you, dear God, for our blessed land"?

We always wish for more—nicer homes, newer cars, more free time, boats, all the pleasures we can fill

into our waking hours—but we must stop and think—how many other countries have been so blessed with the one huge gift God gave us—FREEDOM!? The people in Godless countries would tell us, what good would all those material pleasures be, if you had not the freedom to pursue them. To a Christian behind the Iron Curtain a Bible is the most precious gift, read, reread, and passed on with loving care. We can run downtown and pick up a Bible when we want one, borrow one from a friend, have as many as we want in our homes, and why? Because God has blessed our country with FREEDOM! Think! A country so singled out.

It is time for America to once again count her blessings, get down on her knees and pray for deliverance and realize how very fortunate we are to live in FREEDOM—AMERICA!

"If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways, then will I forgive their sin, and will heal their land" (II Chron. 7:14).

So again, giving thanks, thanksgiving for the Trinity, harvest, sacrificial altar, nation, His unselfish gift of life to us, liberty and vigilance the Almighty has given us, we give unending thanks. Pray we will always remain worthy of this gift. "May God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ, give you all of

His blessings and great peace of heart and mind."

"Praise ye the Lord. O give thanks unto the Lord for He is good" (Ps. 106:1). "Give unto the Lord the glory due unto His name; bring an offering and come before Him: worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness" (I Chron. 16:29).

—Sharon Tutvedt
Kalispell, Mont.

As we near the Thanksgiving season we tend to recall and enumerate the blessings we have. We may differ in some of the gifts and treasures we count, but we have one special bond, a gift given to each of us that can never be taken away, Jesus Christ and His promise: "Lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the world" (Matt. 28:20).

One aspect of our thankfulness that we might not often think of is being thankful for adversity.

This is hard for us but God gives us these words, "All things work for good to those that love God" (Rom. 8:28).

It is hard to see the "good" in a crop failure, large unpaid bills or other more serious events that we face, but at times like these we see more clearly the blessings we do have. Our families, our love for one another, and over all, Christ's love for us.

Maybe at this time we are being chastened in preparation for a future task. "Behold, happy is the man whom God correcteth: therefore despise not thou the chastening of the Almighty" (Job 5:17).

"As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten: be zealous therefore and repent" (Rev. 3:19).

Sometimes when financial plans go awry we are able to see the wealth we do have that is not of material things, and once again we remember these words: "But seek ye first the kingdom of God and His righteousness and all these things shall be added unto you" (Matt. 6:33).

Let us pray a thankful prayer. God has been so good to us.

"O, give thanks unto the Lord for he is good: for His mercy endureth forever" (Ps. 136:1).

Doris Knox
Kalispell, Montana



Officers of the new northeastern Minnesota, Wisconsin and Upper Michigan District of the WMF (yet to be officially named), elected at the organization rally at Redeemer Lutheran Church, Ontonagon, Mich., are, from left to right, Mrs. Norman Lindrus, Ontonagon, secretary; Mrs. Aini Myking, Cloquet, Minn., vice-president; Mrs. Henry Peterson, Ishpeming, Mich., president; Mrs. Grace Christianson, Drummond, Wis., cradle roll secretary; and Mrs. Hans Tollefson, Eben Junction, Mich., treasurer.

EARLY OCTOBER SNOW AFFECTS SOUTH DAKOTA WMF CONVENTION

Because of unexpected snowfall in northeastern and central South Dakota, the delegates from the Lake Region parish, which included the district officers for the year, were unable to attend the South Dakota District Women's Missionary Federation convention at Pukwana Lutheran Church, Pukwana, on Wed., Oct. 7. Another casualty for the day's program was the guest speaker, Miss Judith Wold, WMF executive secretary, who had planned to drive to the convention with the Lake Region delegates.

But the representatives from Faith and Eagle Butte did arrive and the convention was carried out under the theme "Prayer, Praise and Thanksgiving." Registration was from 10 to 11 o'clock with cookies and coffee served by the Pukwana Elim Aid. Rev. Karl Stendal was the host pastor.

Mrs. Edna Gunderson of the St. Olaf Church was the acting chairman and Mrs. Etta Swanson, Pukwana, was named secretary.

The morning session was opened by Mrs. Gunderson. She extended a

greeting and welcome to all those in attendance. A hymn, "Prayer is the Soul's Sincere Desire," was sung. Mrs. Karl Stendal was the accompanist. Mrs. Stendal then read Scripture and led in prayer.

Mrs. Alma Nelson of St. Olaf sang a solo, "O Mighty God."

An invitation for next year's convention was extended by Pastor Edwin Kjos on behalf of Bethel Lutheran Church, Faith.

The election of officers was held, with the following elected: Mrs. Emma Baker, president; Mrs. Alma Nelson, vice-president; and Mrs. Etta Swanson, secretary-treasurer. All are from the Pukwana-St. Olaf parish.

"O, For a Thousand Tongues to Sing" was the closing hymn. The morning session was then closed with Pastor Stendal leading in the Lord's Prayer.

The noon meal was prepared and served by the Elim Aid.

The singing of the hymn "Saviour, Like a Shepherd Lead Us" opened the afternoon meeting. Mrs. Otto Saukerson had the Scripture and prayer. Mrs. Gwen Kilness of Bethel led in a number of choruses and hymns with Mrs. Karen Sletten at the piano. The choruses were nicely illustrated and Mrs. Kilness gave inspiring thoughts on each one.

The Bible study was presented by Pastor Kjos. The Scripture text was Phil. 4:4-7. The message was truly inspiring and timely. The main thoughts were these: we can have true joy and peace only in Christ; we must witness to all the world, at home and through missions; there is a great need for prayer by God's own. Pastor Kjos closed with the reading of a fine hymn, "I Look Not Back," followed by prayer.

Mrs. Alta Hosek and Mrs. Ruth Hloucha of St. Olaf sang a lovely duet, "A Moment of Prayer." Mrs. Stendal accompanied them on the piano.

Lay Pastor Otto Saukerson gave the offertory prayer, followed by the hymn "Now Thank We All Our God." Pastor Stendal gave the benediction, after which lunch was served by the St. Olaf Aid.

Mrs. Etta Swanson
Acting Secretary

UNUSUAL EXPENSE INCURRED BY THE MINNEAPOLIS PROPERTY

The Village of Plymouth, Hennepin County, Minnesota, in which the Association's headquarters and Seminary and Bible School are located, has levied an assessment for water and sewer lines being laid along East Medicine Lake Boulevard. For the Association it amounts to approximately \$36,000.

Investigation of the assessment in behalf of the Board of Trustees and the Co-ordinating Committee has been made and at its meeting on October 26 the Board of Trustees voted to accept the assessment.

It will be paid over a period of years, as many as 30 years being possible. About \$4,000 will be needed for the initial payment yet this year. The payment will come from both the General Fund and the Schools fund since the property ownership is shared by both the Co-ordinating Committee and the Board of Trustees.

Since the item has not been budgeted, additional income is needed to meet this unusual expense which must be paid. At any rate, the budget for 1970-71 must be subscribed in full. It is important not to have to go in debt to meet this assessment payment.

The assessment does not include the hooking up of the buildings on the Minneapolis property to the new sewer line. That will have to be done before long because the present private sewer system is being taxed to capacity.

BIBLE CONFERENCE DATES SET

The ninth annual winter Bible conference sponsored by the Association of Free Lutheran Congregations will be held at Green Lake Lutheran Church, Spicer, Minn., Rev. Leslie Galland, pastor, Feb. 18-21, 1971.

Information about housing and the program will be announced in a later issue of **The Lutheran Ambassador**.

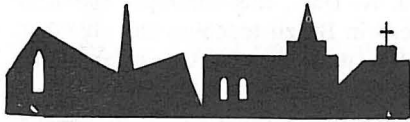
MEET

the

Churches

OF OUR

FELLOWSHIP



Today: The Brooten-Sunburg (Minn.) Parish, Concluded

West Lake Lutheran Church

West Lake was organized on Nov. 13, 1903. Its background is to be found in Norway Lake and East Norway Lake Lutheran Churches in Kandiyohi County. Those congregations were of the Norwegian Synod whereas West Lake began under the United Church. Subsequent affiliation was made with the Norwegian Lutheran Church (later the Evangelical Lutheran Church), the American Lutheran Church and the AFLC.



West Lake Lutheran Church

The church was built six miles southwest of Sunburg or nine miles northeast of Kerkhoven, in 1904. A basement was placed beneath it in 1945. The sanctuary was remodeled in the early 1950's. The basement was panelled and remodeled in 1970.

Rev. B. S. J. Sund was the congregation's pastor from the beginning until 1935. A Rev. Weeks from Kerkhoven filled in until Rev. K. A. Bodin assumed the pastorate the next year. He served until 1968. Student pastor Dennis Gray has served the church since then.

Dale Mellgren of West Lake Church

is a prospective seminary student in the Association.

Sunburg Lutheran Church

Also coming out of Norway Lake Lutheran Church is Sunburg congregation. The former was organized in 1866, the latter in 1876. The church was affiliated with the Conference in the beginning. Then followed the United Church, until the merger of 1917. Today the congregation affiliates with the Association of Free Lutheran Congregations.

The church, two and one-half miles north of Sunburg, was constructed in 1876. A service hall was obtained in 1969 when a schoolhouse near Brooten was moved to the church site and remodeled. Kitchen facilities were added. The building is used for Sunday School in the steadily growing church.

Rev. Ole Paulson was the congregation's first pastor. He was succeeded by S. Almklov, 1877-86; M. H. Hegge, 1886-90; Holten, 1890-91; B. S. J. Sund, 1891-1936; and K. A. Bodin, 1936-62. Student pastor Larry Johnson took care of the work from 1966-67. In 1967-68 Rev. Jonas Helland gave pastoral service. Student pastor Dennis Gray presently serves the congregation and parish while attending Free Lutheran Seminary.

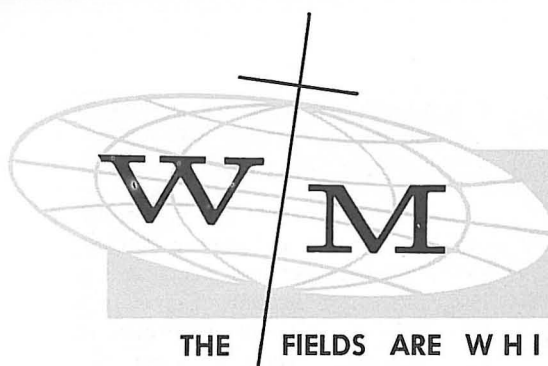
Directional signs for the church were erected in 1969.



Sunburg Lutheran Church



The parsonage for the parish was purchased in 1936 and is located in Brooten. Prior to that the pastors lived in Belgrade. The parsonage was redecorated in April, 1969. It has been furnished by the parish so that Student pastor Gray and his family can live in it over the weekends when they come out from the Twin Cities.



WORLD MISSIONS

THE FIELDS ARE WHITE UNTO HARVEST

AMERICAN CHILDREN AND EDUCATION

American children on the mission field do have their schooling problems. They can go to private American schools far away from home or study by correspondence at home. This involves a parent serving as instructor for the course. Or they can attend the public schools in the local language and hopefully be bookworms of English books during their spare time at home. The schooling problem is a real one that new candidates for the mission field should consider some beforehand. It has caused many an upset in mission families. But it need not be so, if the many things are taken into account in relation to the child's age, location, opportunities and if the goals of education are kept in mind.

This year I am going to teach our 11-year-old sixth grader here at home. There is an evaluation test every fourth week. This is sent in to the school in Chicago for grading and teacher help. It is going well except for modern math! Mother is from the basic math school. So Calvin is going to teach it as he has had it. This sixth grade pupil is also attending a Brazilian primary school each morning. This has been our family's goal everywhere we have lived in Brazil—to have our children attend schools in both languages, if at all possible. When not possible in English, there have been enforced reading sessions if they have not done so from natural interest and the studying of spelling words. Home study takes a lot of the mother's time from visitation and her other mission activities. It also depends on the child's aptitude and the mother's attitude as to how pleasant and profitable the sessions are.

by Helen Knapp

I have asked Halvor to tell about his schooling: I am the third one in our family to study high school by correspondence. My oldest sister, Karen, graduated as an R.N. at St. Luke's in Fargo, N. Dak., this summer. My older brother, Charles, is here in Brazil teaching and studying. Then there is I and I'm 16 years old. I'm in my tenth year of education. Ever since I was six years old I've been in and out of both American and Brazilian schools. It depended on where we lived and the situation. It didn't make much difference to me what school I went to, they really amount to the same thing. American school was more fun though, nice work books and those big books with all the colored pictures. Brazilian schools are dull and drab with yelling teachers and noisy pupils, many holidays, lots of written work, marching with classmates in dusty streets on hot Independence Day on September 7, having Brazilian friends to chum with, learning correctly to speak and write the national language which is Portuguese.

I am studying in Brazilian high school in the mornings from 7 to 12 o'clock, six days a week. I was privileged to be chosen as one of the members for the marching band. All schools in Brazil use uniforms. The boys' uniform for Ginasio here in Campo Mourao is a navy blue trouser, light blue long-sleeved shirt, black socks and shoes. I have to have still another uniform for the band. I'm not finding it very easy to fit my correspondence school work in. The afternoon is open to do the homework from Brazilian school and sometimes it takes all the afternoon. Also,

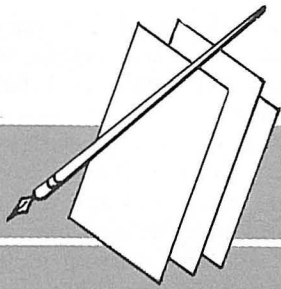
(Continued on page 15)



Halvor in his ginasio uniform at the students' entrance to the Brazilian school. One of the Bible School students shows you the girls' uniform.



Calvin arriving on Saturday from attending American school away from home.



EDITORIALS

THE PRAISE PROGRAM

An area of the Association's budget about which little has been said is the Praise Program. It is also a segment whose support has been lagging and to use Biblical-sounding language—brethren, this ought not to be.

The Praise Program is concerned with debt retirement and capital expansion. As to the former, some debt still remains on the purchase of the original holdings in Plymouth Village, Minneapolis, and the president's residence in New Hope, Minneapolis. These debts are being paid on a systematic basis, but it will be good when they can be liquidated completely. We continue to rejoice over the excellent property the Lord permitted us to secure as a site for our headquarters and schools.

The other phase of the Praise Program is capital expansion. Connected with that at present is the construction of the dormitory building for the Bible School. Currently being used for classrooms, too, the structure is now operating at near capacity, in only its third year. This is wonderful, but a large debt remains on the facility and must be taken care of on a systematic schedule. Much of the debt is in the form of loans by people of the Association and interested friends. Nevertheless, these are real obligations and must be honored as seriously as bank notes. Part of the repayment of these loans will come from room rentals by the students, but a good share will have to be taken care of by Praise Program funds. Thus we can see the need for strong support for the Praise Program.

It is not a program that will be phased out in a few years. It will have to be an integral part of the budget as long as the Association stands. The reason for that is that there will always be the need for capital expansion. Pastor R. Snipstead, in the last issue of the *Ambassador*, raised the possibility of the need for another building for the Bible School in the next few years. A growing church will have growing needs in facilities. Unusual expenses arise from time to time also.

If there were not a Praise Program, it would be necessary to conduct periodic church-wide fund drives. That in itself need not be bad, but it seems preferable to have income coming in every year for debt retirement and capital expansion.

As presently constituted, the Praise Program is concerned with the Schools and headquarters property. It

would be good if in future years it could also assist in the areas of home and world missions, that is, expansion in every part of our kingdom work. This was the original intention for the Praise Program.

Let the congregations give generous support also to the Praise Program. Should this part of the budget be neglected the consequences will be felt very definitely by the General Fund and the Schools. It is not a superfluous item in the budget. The Praise Program looks backward, to take care of debts, and forward, to build for the future.

FAVORING ONE OVER THE OTHER

For some reason or other, income for the Bible School is running well ahead of that for the Seminary at the present time, almost two to one, in fact.

It is natural enough that the Bible School receives more publicity than the Seminary. And that a larger number of gifts are designated to it because of that. The Bible School has a choir, a choral club and Gospel teams. More people attend it and they come from a wide area. It is more in the public eye.

The Bible School students pay tuition. They pay perhaps one half of the real cost of their education.

The Seminary is the training school for the church's pastors. For that reason it has been traditional to subsidize their theological training by paying their tuition. After all, they have already been responsible, in many cases, for their advanced education costs up till the time they begin seminary training. The paying of their tuition by the church amounts to providing the teachers for them and the place for their classes to be held.

The seminary students are responsible for their own living costs, such as board and room, in addition to purchasing their books.

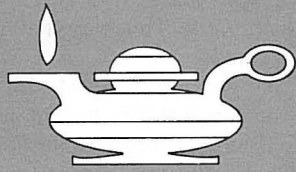
Both the Bible School and the Seminary are important. They are worthy of the church's support.

It would be good, however, if our congregations, at least, would not differentiate between the Schools when they make their gifts. That is, it would be preferable if offerings were sent to "Schools," not to "Bible School" and/or "Seminary." In this way, the money could be used where it is needed most and as it is required. It does not make sense to have twice as much money coming in for the School which is most self-supporting while the other, more dependent on the church's assistance, lags far behind in receipts for current operating expenses.

We suggest that our congregations think in terms of "Schools" when they send in their gifts.

**For Thyself, best Gift divine!
To our race so freely given,
For that great, great love of Thine,
Peace on earth and joy in heaven,
Christ our God, to Thee we raise
This our sacrifice of praise.**

F. S. Pierpoint



SCHOOL NEWS

CHOIR TO TOUR NORWAY

The Association Free Lutheran Bible School Choir, directed by Don Rodvold, will travel to Norway next summer ('71). Arrangements are presently being made to fly the 28-voice choir from Minneapolis to Norway on or about August 1, 1971, and

return five or six weeks later, on or before September 15.

Pastor Albert Hautamaki of the Coordinating Committee of our Association officially announced that an invitation was extended by Aage Nevland, director of Norea Radio (Nordic Radio Evangelistic Association) in Oslo, Norway. They are the sponsors

of the Ganddal Pikekor, a girls' choir which recently visited the United States and Canada on behalf of their mission.

Mr. Nevland has already scheduled an itinerary for our Bible School Choir which has it singing over 40 concerts in as many different towns, starting in Oslo and reaching northward nearly to the Arctic Circle, with the members testifying of their personal faith in Jesus Christ and their love for Him, Who sends them on behalf of our Association to strengthen ties with one of the lands of our forefathers. Dr. Iver Olson will travel with the choir and address the congregations at every concert.

(Continued on page 14)



THE CHOIR

4th Row, left to right: John Nichols, Linda Moan, Tim Jones, Phyllis Moland, Paul Johnson, Becke Lanning.

3rd Row: Nancy Thingelstad, Jim Fugleberg, Tuppie Andreasen, Duane Nordvold, Mary Nyhus, Lyle Forde, Arlene Myking.

2nd Row: Linda Luchsinger, Lois Eversvik, Jerry Holmaas, Darlene Voiss, Jim Lumppio, Kathy Seifert, Judy Russum.

Front Row: Eloise Johnson, Randy Hall, Eileen Samdahl, Barbara Laitinen, Emory Flaten, Corrine Hermunslie.

Everyone of us writes the final verdict of his own soul concerning Jesus. However we may debate and discuss, evade or postpone, at length comes the verdict which must stand forever and which we must face when we stand before the judgment seat of Christ. Is your verdict about Christ the one that you really desire to be the final one, the one that cannot be reversed, the one that will confront you as your final, irrevocable decision about Christ, when, instead of Christ standing before you and awaiting your verdict, you stand before Christ to await His verdict?



Lesson Eleven

November, 1970

A DIVINE MOMENT . . .

. . . WITH the MASTER

THE GREAT QUESTION

Jesus had personal encounters with individuals presenting varied needs. In every case He very skillfully directed each of them to Himself. This He did in John 11:25.

1. Who was involved in these “Divine Appointments” and what release and promise did Jesus pronounce in each situation?

PERSON in NEED	PROMISE
a. John 4:4-26	John 4:14
b. Luke 7:36-50	Luke 7:50
c. Mark 4:1-20	Mark 5:8
d. Mark 9:14-29	Mark 9:23
e. John 9:1-38	John 9:4
f. Luke 18:35-43	Luke 18:42
g. Luke 18:18-27	Luke 18:22
h. Luke 19:1-10	Luke 19:5
i. Mark 1:16-20	Mark 1:17
j. Acts 9:1-9	Acts 22:8

In Matthew 5:1, 2, we read, “And seeing the multitudes, He went up into a mountain, opened His mouth and taught them.” So He speaks to us today through His Word.

In Isaiah 1:18, we have recorded, “Come now, let us reason together, saith the Lord.”

This might prove to be our “Divine Moment.”
What have these Scripture verses to say to you?
Try to memorize them in this order.
Underline them in your Bible.

1. James 1:21b
2. I Peter 1:23
3. Romans 10:17
4. Romans 3:23
5. Isaiah 53:6
6. Luke 19:10
7. Romans 5:6-8
8. John 1:12
9. I John 1:9
10. Romans 10:9, 10

Our entire salvation is centered in Jesus Christ—Acts 4:12.

In Him we have life—apart from Him there is no life (I John 5:12)! In the final analysis, it will not be my sins that condemn me. What I do with Jesus will determine my eternal destiny. He paid the complete price for my salvation. We must stake our entire lives, our entire eternity, on what is revealed to us in the Bible.

The Christian Life

by Raynard Huglen, Editor
The Lutheran Ambassador

PART III Review

In the second article of this series we discussed, first of all, the subject of justification, saying that it is the act of God taking place in the baptism of children and, in the case of one who turns back to God from a life in sin, in his conversion. In the next place, we said that the Christian life must be one of complete surrender or commitment to Christ and to God, pointing out the reasons why God can demand this of those who would follow Him.

Finally, in the second installment of this series on the Christian life, we considered the topic of assurance. This means **knowing** that one is a Christian. Three objections or excuses people give for not having assurance were dealt with. Our conclusion was this. Assurance is based on three things. 1). Jesus has paid for our sins. We must believe this. 2.) We must confess our sins and forsake them. 3). If we accept and live by the first two, we may claim His promise of forgiveness and justification.

Those kept in the covenant of their baptism as well as those who turn back to the Lord from a life in sin base their conviction of salvation on those same facts. Each day one must be renewed by them.

Today, then, I shall proceed in our discussion by seeking to establish what being a Christian is not, as well as what it is, and then considering the subject of the will of God.

What Being a Christian Is

First, let me suggest several things which being a Christian is not. 1). It is not the same as belonging to a visible church or congregation. There may be countries in the world where church membership is synonymous with possessing a living faith in Jesus as Savior, but that can hardly be said of the American and Canadian scene. A Christian will belong to a local congregation if at all possible, but simply belonging to a church does not make one a Christian or mean that one is a Christian.

2). Being a Christian is not the same as abstaining from certain things. That is, a person may live an exemplary, wholesome, morally upright life, free from questionable habits, and not be a Christian. Consequently, an individual cannot say I don't do this or that, therefore, I am a Christian. The fact of being a Christian must depend on something other than not practising certain things. A farmer for whom I once worked kept his tongue in a most admirable way even in the face of great provocations and yet he made no profession of being a Christian. For him to have cursed would have been a sin, but I simply point out that his great self-control did not make him a Christian. Certainly a Christian will shun what is wrong, but the absence of sinful or questionable habits does not mean that one is a Christian.

3). Being a Christian is not the same as doing certain good things. Do I make myself clear? A person may engage in charitable work and church endeavors and not be a Christian. The fact of doing such good things does not make one a Christian or mean that one is a believer. Surely the fol-

lower of Christ will want to do good but this must come as a response of thanksgiving to the Savior.

Having said that, let us now define what being a Christian is and again I suggest three statements. 1). It is standing in a relationship of accepted grace to God. It is the state of being **in Christ**. "Therefore, if any one is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has passed away, behold, the new has come" (II Cor. 5:17). "I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me; and the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me" (Gal. 2:20). "He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned" (Mk. 16:16). It is having one's sins judged already in Christ and being looked upon by the Lord as holy.

2). It is growing in holiness. The Christian life is not static, it must advance, as the old Latin proverb states, "Qui non proficit, deficit" (He who does not advance, falls behind). Dr. Gerhard Frost of Luther Theological Seminary once proffered the helpful truth, "All of God's grown-up children are in heaven." That is, all of His children on earth are in the process of becoming more Christ-like, of possessing more fully the fruits of the Holy Spirit (Gal. 5). There are no finished products here, but in the Christian there must be the great desire to live more closely to the Savior. "Strive for peace with all men, and for the holiness (sanctification—Am. St.) without which no one will see the Lord" (Heb. 12:14).

3). Being a Christian is expressing one's life in Christian activity. Of this we shall speak more later, but for

now it is sufficient to say that a Christian is committed to concern for all needs of mankind, spiritual and physical. He becomes God's hands to work among men. "So faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead" (Jas. 2:17). I take this to mean that the Christian is to live the life of concern which Jesus lived in His earthly sojourn.

Now we move on to consider another subject of supreme importance.

The Christian's Highest Good

In the field of ethics it is said that everyone has a "highest good" or **summum bonum**, as it is stated in Latin. That is, every living person ultimately faces the question, what is of most value to me in life? and for what am I willing to sacrifice myself?

The Greek philosopher, Plato, saw the life of virtue as the highest good while his countryman, Aristotle, depicted it as self-realization ("know thyself"). The Epicureans, a philosophical school, considered a life of pleasure as the best goal in life ("Eat, drink and be merry, for tomorrow we die"). Communism sets forth the highest good as the promotion of the Communist State. We could say that democracy avows the rights of the individual as life's chief aim. The Christian sees the **will of God** as the highest good.

The Christian is one who belongs to God and has given Him complete allegiance. He says, "Jesus Christ is Lord." As foundational principles let us note these Bible passages. "And he died for all, that those who live might live no longer for themselves but for him who for their sake died and was raised" (II Cor. 5:15). "For you have died, and your life is hid with Christ in God" (Col. 3:4). "It 'It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me'" (Gal. 2:20b). This indicates something high and holy.

Therefore, the Christian life becomes a different life. It is not governed by the questions, "What are the rest doing?", "Is this the most financially profitable for me?", or "Will this give me the greatest enjoyment?" I am not saying that these questions have no place for the Christian, but rather that his determining

question will be "What is God's will?" "Come now, you who say, 'Today or tomorrow we will go into such and such a town and spend a year there and trade and get gain?'—Instead you ought to say, 'If the Lord wills, we shall live and we shall do this or that'" (Jas. 4:13, 15). God has a plan for every life and blessed is the man who seeks to walk in that plan.

The Christian searches the Bible for directions. (He also uses prayer, the counsel of others, and other helpful aids to find God's will.) So many have started on the Christian way, but their Bibles were closed or sparingly used and God couldn't speak to them. Gradually the life was choked out and the first love lost.

The Christian must take his Bible and read such passages as these. "If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated on the right hand of God" (Col. 3:1). "And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires" (Gal. 5:24). "And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him" (Col. 3:17).

This new direction is what makes the Christian life different from the natural life, this and his experiences of accepting God's grace and living in it.

The Christian seeks God's will for his life. He knows that he must be **where** God wants him and that his life must count for Jesus Christ in this world.

Because what remains to be said concerning the will of God requires more space than I should use now, I shall continue in the next issue with that topic in our whole consideration of the Christian life.

(To be continued)

[Continued from page 10]

Partial cost of the tour is being assumed by the choir members. There will be no dependence on the AFLC budget. While in Norway they will stay in homes much as they do

when visiting our own congregations. Efforts are being made to charter a jet plane which seats 125 people. The choir entourage will include about 30 people. The remaining seats will be made available to members of the Association of Free Lutheran Congregations wishing to visit Norway next summer. The round trip cost is likely to be under \$250 per person. Those interested should write to Mr. Don Rodvold in care of the Bible School.

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE OF THE BIBLE SCHOOL CHOIR IN NORWAY (Reiserute)

	Arrive
Aug. 4	Arrive Oslo
Aug. 5	Oslo
Aug. 6	Sarpsborg
Aug. 7	Fredrikstad
Aug. 8	Tonsberg
Aug. 9	Larvik
Aug. 10	Skian/Porsgrunn
Aug. 11	Kragerø
Aug. 12	Arendal
Aug. 13	Grimstad
Aug. 14	Kristiansand
Aug. 15	Mandal
Aug. 16	Lyngdal
Aug. 17	Liknes
Aug. 18	Flekkefjord
Aug. 19	Stavanger
Aug. 20	Akra, Karmøy
Aug. 21	Veavagen
Aug. 22	Haugesund
Aug. 23	Stord
Aug. 24	Os
Aug. 25	Bergen
Aug. 26	Norheimsund
Aug. 27	Voss
Aug. 28	Sogndal i Sogn
Aug. 29	Breim
Aug. 30	Volda
Aug. 31	Alesund
Sept. 1	Kristiansund
Sept. 2	Oppdal
Sept. 3	Trondheim
Sept. 4	Steinkjaer
Sept. 5	Namsos
Sept. 6	Orkdal
Sept. 7	Roros
Sept. 8	Tynset
Sept. 9	Kongsvinger
Sept. 10	Arrive Olso
Sept. 11	Oslo
Sept. 12	Oslo
Sept. 13	Oslo

(Continued from page 8)

two times a week I have music lessons and it sometimes gets to be late before I get done. All in all, I'm satisfied with my educational opportunities. I really enjoyed taking eighth grade at Plymouth Jr. High in Minneapolis two years ago. It was my first experience with stateside schools. Those were good days, too, and now I must get at the books.

by Halvor Knapp

I'm Calvin, 15 years old, and today I received my first box of books for high school correspondence studies. I am the fourth one in our family to study high school this way. I'm eager to get going. I fixed up an old table for my room where I will study and I put a shelf on the wall for my books.

My first experience at stateside schools was two years ago when I studied the seventh grade from September until February when I came back to Brazil with my parents. This past school year I have been away from home to study the eighth grade. I would come home on the bus Saturday p.m. and leave Tuesday morning on the 5 o'clock bus. This way I could help with the church work over the weekend. I enjoy American schools because of the extra activities, namely sports and music. But I like going to Brazilian school, too, as that way I get to know

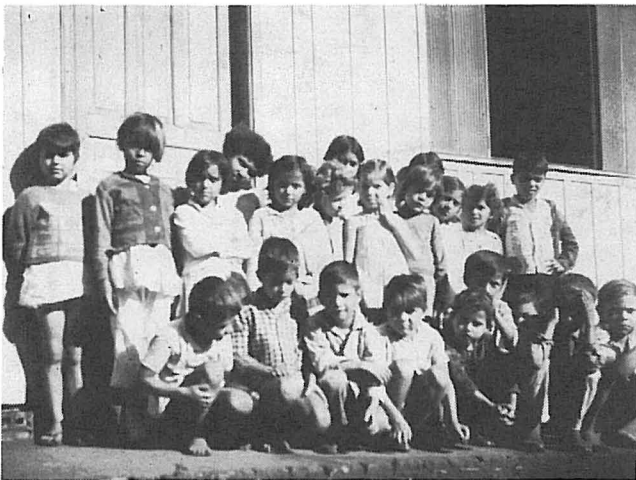
the Brazilian kids and maybe win them to Christ. My daily schedule now will be correspondence studies in the morning until noon. From 1 to 3 o'clock I am attending a class where I am preparing to take the tests required for entering Ginasio next year. After that I will teach my sister modern math and if there is time yet in the day I'll kick my soccer ball around to limber up from all this sitting and brain work.

by Calvin Knapp

NOSSOS ESCOLAS EVANGELICAS

"Everything for the glory of God." This is our goal in our evangelical primary schools at Lar Parana and Central churches in Campo Mourao. Christian teachers are hired, often from within our own church membership. Daily devotions are held at the opening of each class session and a hymn is sung. A Bible class is conducted once a week, on Saturdays. Many children have decided for Christ and are now attending our Sunday schools. We trust the Spirit of God to work in the hearts of the parents of these same children and that adults also will be won through our primary school ministry. Many parents have shown that they appreciate our teaching methods, which makes us happy.

by Dona Nair Faverani



First graders at Lar Parana Primary School



At the right is the Evangelical Primary School. To the left is the Lar Parana church showing the new addition at the rear.

A LETTER FROM NOGALES

Dear Ambassador Readers:

It has been some time since I have written, so a brief word is due.

A word of thanks to many individuals and groups who remembered my birthday and also my family's birthdays. God bless you all very much. When most of my cards came I was sick with pneumonia so I took

them as get well greetings, too.

The Roger Olsons, several youth and members of Triumph Lutheran carried on very well during the Swanson's and our absence of five weeks last summer. We were privileged to attend the Conference and Family Bible Camp and to take part. All here are very grateful for the part the Olsons of Tioga had in the ministry at Nogales.

God is blessing our evening Bible study and prayer meeting, Monday

through Friday, in five different homes. Meeting the family, children included, face to face is reaching more than our former Wed. evening prayer and Bible study at the church. Sometimes unchurched neighbors come, too.

We are happy and fortunate, for the present, to have our next oldest daughter, Miriam, with us. She is good help at the three meeting places in Mexico, and also helping her parents where needed.

Thanks for laboring together with us in His love for the folks on the border and in Mexico.

Greetings from the co-workers: Mr. and Mrs. Leo Swanson, Mr. and Mrs. Lee Haag and Curt, Mr. and Mrs. Mel Heggem and all the members of the Dynneson family.

We always give thanks to God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, when we pray for you. For we have heard of your faith in Christ Jesus, and your love for all God's people, Colossians 1:3-4.

Sincerely in Christ,
Rev. L. C. Dynneson

WILLS PAMPHLETS AVAILABLE

A pamphlet on Wills was recently mailed to the mailing list of **The Lutheran Ambassador**. Thus, most of the homes in the Association were reached.

If there were any mailing errors, some people may not have received the pamphlet. There may be some who do not get the **Ambassador** who would be interested in receiving a copy of the Wills pamphlet.

Some additional copies remain and may be had for the asking. Write to
Business Office, AFLC
3110 E. Medicine Lake Blvd.
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55427

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