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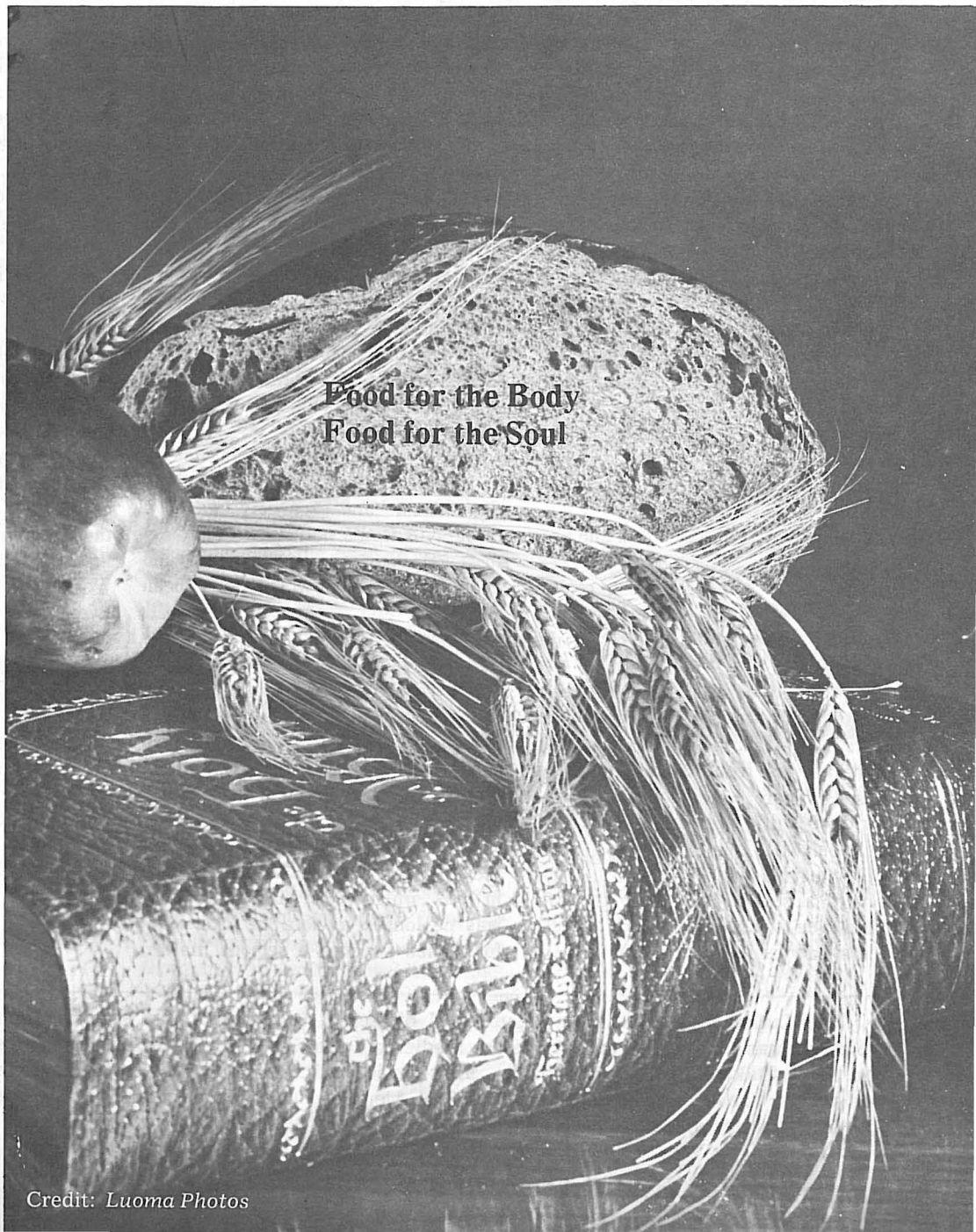
Vol. 7

November 11, 1969

No. 22

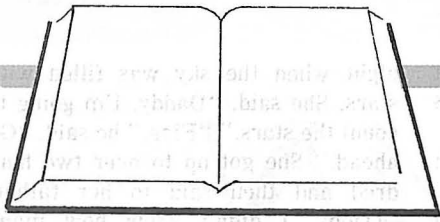
# *LUTHERAN*

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**Food for the Body  
Food for the Soul**

Credit: Luoma Photos



## According to the Word

### THE UNBENDING TRUTH

Some years ago I travelled down a comparatively open street in a Minneapolis suburb. Having driven there often I felt the ease one experiences when covering familiar ground. Suddenly a "cop" in line of duty signalled me to the curve. Very courteously he told me I had driven through a stop sign. With evident surprise on my face, I asked him, "Where is that sign? I have driven here often and have not seen a stop sign there."

The officer of the law explained that the sign was displayed during school hours only; any other time it was folded up. Since I had never before passed that spot during school hours I had assumed that the sign did not exist!

Laws are for our correction and protection.

Desirous of a clean driving record I felt better when the officer did not give me a ticket, though I had deserved one.

But the Law of God is never "folded up." Indeed it is in force twenty-four hours a day; and no human being can exonerate us from its verdict. God uses His holy Law to "convict the world of sin," and sin is the transgression of HIS LAW.

How just God is!

It is a serious moment when we stand face to face before God, because God's Law is just as holy as God is.

And God requires total holiness: "Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy strength, and with all thy mind;" and, "Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself." All of God's commandments are contained in this summary. Then God says, "Do this and you shall live."

God never compromises His Law. "Till heaven and earth pass away, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled" (Matt. 5:18).

Dear friend, if you feel uneasy and disturbed over your relationship to Jesus, rest assured that you have heard God's alarm clock—His Law!

How merciful God is!

Before you had been sleeping in sin. You obeyed the will of your flesh and your mind and scarcely gave a thought to God's holy Law. Your desire and your joy were in sin and worldliness. But now you have been awakened. You are aware that God is not "dead," for you are standing before His face. His Word is sharper than a razor edge and has struck into your conscience. The garments you thought made you respectable suddenly came to look tattered and filthy.

God's mirror is always polished, and tells no lies.

What brought us to such a view? We met God in HIS WORD. We took a look in His mirror—the Bible—and sin was no longer a word to joke about for it had become a serious matter,

in fact, a terrible reality.

A young man had become ill. He had lived in that far-away-land where they try about everything at least once. But now his health was gone. God had applied the brakes as He had in Saul of Tarsus' case. As the pastor and the health-broken youth talked together he cried out, with hot tears streaming down his face, "I have sinned against all God's Commandments—yes, against all."

And that is the truth about the rest of us. For God sees the heart. "Cursed is everyone that continueth not in all things which are written in the book of the law to do them" (Gal. 3:10).

When God has awakened us we come to see Him as a fire that consumes everything but the "gold." But, alas, the fire consumed everything—there was no gold! Everything we had thought were assets turned out to be liabilities under the testing of His Word. Now we came to see that our lives were wrong because our hearts were wrong.

We no longer liked what we saw.

Cost what it may, the power of sin must be broken. We must become changed people. Somehow we must come to terms with God. How? Yes, HOW can a bankrupt person ever pay his debt when only deficits accrue from all his efforts?

Let us continue that thought next time.

Karl Stendal

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

# THE BENEFITS OF GOD

by Pastor Forrest Swenson  
Winger, Minnesota

Psalm 103

We celebrate Thanksgiving because of tradition and because of the President's proclamation, and the Lord asks us to do so through His Word. We take time again to thank God for the blessings of the past year and ask guidance in the days ahead. The early settlers after being here one year set aside a day to return thanks to God for His goodness and mercy to them. The founding of our country was based on faith and trust in God, as the motto "In God we trust" on our currency should help us all remember.

There is a poem by Ingraham, which reflect some thought of why we thank and bless God on Thanksgiving day.

## THIS LAND IS MINE

This land is mine. Its mountains, plains and streams  
Spread out before my eyes in pleasant dreams.

Its fields of grain, its gardens, orchards and farms  
I glory in and shield with jealous arms.

Its schools and churches I and mine may share  
For greater wisdom and more fervent prayer.

This land is mine. If willing I heed  
Its laws, that is my title and my deed.

Its flag is mine. The glory of its name,  
Its might, its honor, and its fame.

Its constitution and its Bill of Rights,  
These, too, are mine, in them my heart delights.

I thank thee Lord, for liberty's design,  
My lot is kingly, for this land is mine.

We have many temporal things to thank God for. The abundant harvest this past year, and the freedom enjoyed by everyone to work or play where they want, to write or say what they believe, freedom to bring up our families the way we please, and the

freedom to worship where and in a manner that brings peace to one's self.

This has not been the case with many people during the past fifty years. In our generation it has been estimated that over 70 million have been killed by the Communists. Many of these were our brothers in the Lord. How long do we in America have to exercise the freedom now enjoyed? Many are saying not too long. We have just been reminded of the unrest in America by the Oct. 15th moratorium which brought to the attention of the whole world the displeasure felt by many Americans concerning our involvement in the Vietnam war. Who of us is not for peace? Let us pray for a just and lasting peace. But Jesus said, "In the world you will have tribulation but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world." This is our hope.

Many people like proof. They say, why should we thank God, where are the blessings? It was for that reason that David said, "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" (Ps. 103:1, 2). The Psalmist goes on to list the benefits of the Lord, which are of infinitely more value than all earthly gifts and blessings.

A successful politician said about the American people, "They forget soon." This seems evident, too, concerning God's benefits. God's blessings have been as great as ever but many have forgotten them. Letting the pursuits of this life and the joy of living with loved ones dominate their living is the cause of many forgetting God's benefits.

The benefits of God are more in the spiritual realm and not in the temporal or things that are seen. They are of things not seen, which are eternal (II Cor. 4:17, 18).

Count all His benefits. A man was out walking with his little girl one

night when the sky was filled with stars. She said, "Daddy, I'm going to count the stars." "Fine," he said, "Go ahead." She got up to over two hundred and then said to her father, "Daddy, I didn't know how many there were. I didn't think there were so many." So it is with our benefits from God.

First, above all the blessings and benefits, is our Savior, Jesus Christ. It is great and good to be thankful for the land in which we live and the things it offers, but how much greater it is to know that we have been saved and redeemed and our Savior is now building us a mansion in a better land than this. The Bible says that this is not our real home, that we are just passing through it as a stranger. Our homeland is in heaven.

The first benefit listed by the Psalmist is forgiveness. "Who forgiveth all thine iniquities, who healeth all thy diseases." Where else should he begin but with sin. You read and hear of all the crimes, dope, sex and war, but only the Bible calls it sin. How men hate to hear it preached to them that they have sinned and missed the mark. It is sin in our lives that brings us the unhappiness, that strains our relationship within our own homes and with others. It is lust for power in the hearts of evil men that plunges nation against nation in war. And very seldom does an individual sin without causing injury and and hurt to others.

Yet the Lord forgives all our sins. How can He do this? The Psalmist says He does deeds of righteousness. He does not deal with us accordingly as we sin. But to those who fear him, as far as the heavens are above the earth so gracious and merciful is He to them. And He says that as far as the east is from the west, so far will he remove our sins from us. Have you ever wondered why He didn't say as far as the north is from the south?

East from west is quite different than north from south. One can come from the west going east and continue for all eternity and he will still be coming from west going east. Our sins are forever behind us.

The second benefit: "Who healeth all thy diseases." Sin is the cause of all sickness, disease and death. All these come upon men as the consequence and punishment of sin being in the world. Sin makes the diseases and it is God, then, who must heal all our diseases, for only God can forgive sin. This means not only the physical, outward sickness but that of the mind and heart, the inward suffering of the soul likewise.

The third benefit: "Who redeemeth thy life from destruction." In the larger cities you will find pawn shops, places where people will leave personal items for money. When the person has enough money, plus a good amount of interest, and within a certain time limit, he can go back and redeem the article that was once his. We have been bought back at a great price, too; the blood of Jesus at Calvary. The explanation of the Second Article puts it so well:

"I believe that Jesus Christ redeemed me, a lost and condemned creature, purchased and won me from all sin, from death and from the power of the devil, not with gold or silver, but with His holy, precious blood and with His innocent suffering and death, that I might be His own and live under Him in His kingdom and serve Him in everlasting righteousness."

The fourth benefit: "Who crowneth thee with lovingkindness and tender mercies." Charlotte Elliott wrote in the hymn, "Tho' tossed about with many a conflict, many a doubt, dread fears within and strife without, O Lamb of God, I come." Whatever our station and lot in life, despite our own unworthiness and feelings which can lead to doubt, we can be assured of being received with lovingkindness and tender mercy. The full grace and mercy of the Lord is like a crown on those who fear Him and keep his commandments. "Like as a father pitieth his children, so the Lord pitieth those who fear Him. For He knoweth our nature; He is mindful that we are dust."

The last benefit listed: "Who satis-

fieth thy mouth with good things, so that thy youth is renewed like the eagle." Certainly nothing or no one satisfies like Jesus. Jesus said, "If any man thirst let him come to me and drink." Peter said, "Casting all your cares on Him, for He cares for you." Jesus said, "Come to me all who labor and are heavy laden and I will give you rest." Those who have known Him as Lord and Savior through the years and have brought Him their troubles and problems and thanked Him for the joys of life, know how He has satisfied.

The eagle is a bird which best illustrates continued growth, strength and endurance. The promise is given to the believer, to the one who fears the Lord, that his faith and new life shall grow as such and he will gain new spiritual insight and power.

"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."

Let each day be a day of thanksgiving, a day for thanking God for all His benefits.

#### NOW SING WE A SONG FOR THE HARVEST

Now sing we a song for the harvest,  
Thanksgiving and honor and praise,  
For all that the bountiful Giver  
Hath given to gladden our days;

For grasses of upland and lowland,  
For fruits of the garden and field,  
For gold which the mine and the prairie  
To delver and husbandman yield.

And thanks for the harvest of beauty,  
For that which the hands cannot hold,  
The harvest eyes only can gather,  
And only our hearts can enfold.

We reap it on mountain and moorland,  
We glean it from meadow and lea,  
We garner it in from the cloud-land,  
We bind it in sheaves from the sea.

But now we sing deeper and higher,  
Of harvests that eye cannot see;  
They ripen on mountains of duty,  
Are reaped by the brave and the free.

O Thou who art Lord of the harvest,  
The Giver who gladdens our days,  
Our hearts are forever repeating  
Thanksgiving, and honor, and praise.

(from *Concordia*, 1917)

#### WEDDING ANNIVERSARY IN BAGLEY

Mr. and Mrs. Henry E. Hanson of Bagley, Minn., celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on Sunday, July 13, 1969, at Grace Lutheran Church.

A good program was given with several taking part.

Following the program the guests were invited to the basement for refreshments, hosted by their son, Dr. Orville D. Hanson, and daughter, Evane Rusdahl.

Mr. and Mrs. Hanson are spending the winter months in Weslaco, Texas.

#### PIERRE STATION TO CARRY NEW BROADCAST

On Sunday, November 2, at 1 p.m., the Pukwana-St. Olaf Congregations broadcast their first Gospel program over station KGFX, 1060 KC, Pierre, South Dakota. The broadcast will be known as the Pukwana-St. Olaf Lutheran Hour.

KGFX, 10,000 watts, clear channel, can be heard a considerable distance into North Dakota as well as into Nebraska. It will also reach approximately to the boundaries of Wyoming, Iowa and Minnesota.

Main speaker will be Rev. Herbert Franz, pastor of St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Cloquet, Minnesota. Pastor Franz presently speaks on six weekly broadcasts in the Midwest and over KGEZ in Kalispell, Montana.

The Pukwana-St. Olaf Parish has been pastored by Rev. Karl Stendal since last May.

All correspondence relating to the program should be sent c/o Pukwana-St. Olaf Lutheran Hour, Box 252, Pukwana, South Dakota 57370.

#### In Memoriam

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

#### WASHINGTON

Burton (Vashon Island)

Linus Mickelson, 76, Oct. 12

Tabor, Webster, S. Dak. (Former)

# THE GOOD OF THE DAY

by Eunice E. Heizer  
Blackwell, Oklahoma

A while back I read a little human-interest story which has had a definite impact upon my habit of thinking. It was more or less a character sketch of a cleaning woman who came each day into the home of the author to help with the housework. It seems as if she had within her own heart found a very simple secret of happiness that many of us of greater opportunities have not found. Her lack of beauty and education and the fact that she was foreign born and spoke with a very pronounced accent did not deter her from being optimistic.

When she came to work each morning she met the family with a wide smile which was really more than a smile because the spirit of a grateful heart seemed to be shining through. Her form of salutation was not "Hello" or "Good morning" but instead it was, "Well, what's the good of the day?"

At first the family did not know what answer to give her but as time went on they understood that she wanted them to ask her the same question. Then she proceeded to tell them just what was the good of the day. In her rapid half-foreign dialect she would relate to them something good she had already seen that day. Some little thing that had made her to be glad. Even though it may have been only a new rose in the garden, the song of a bird, or even the dew on the grass, it had made her to be thankful.

She had learned early in life how to work and she accepted it as a blessing. She went about her work in a cheerful mood humming a strange little tune, and pausing only occasionally to comment briefly upon something that appealed to her. Then she would handle the very simplest and cheapest of things as carefully as if they were valuable.

When evening came her body betrayed the fact that she was tired but the spirit of appreciation never

seemed to leave her and holding up her toil-worn hands she would say again, "Well, what's the good of the day?" Then quite often it would be a smile, a kind word or even a glass of cold water. Just things that we had never even noticed.

I clipped the little story, and every once in a while I run across it and it never fails to give me a lift. It proves so definitely that it is not material possessions but a grateful heart that makes for happiness. In fact, the few word sentence has become a valuable addition to my philosophy of life because it makes me realize that life itself is made up of nice little things which we take for granted. Things that we take no note of, and so do not appreciate.

Of course, we cannot fail to know that we are living in a world that is very imperfect, a world that is also filled with things that irritate and confuse us, and we know, too, that there is no way to avoid contact with these things. But there is a way that we can live above them. First, we must realize that there are many of these things over which we have no control. If we mistakenly feel that we must isolate ourselves from our fellowman, and try to live to ourselves, we are almost sure to become critical and unhappy. So it is far better to ignore such things and fill our mind with the wonderful things that the Apostle Paul tells about.

Surely the writer anticipated a world that would be very much as ours is today, a changing world that we can neither control nor understand. So he gave us a formula for the relief of troubled minds. In Phil. 4:8, he says in brief, "Whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are of good report, if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things."

We can hardly direct our thoughts to things which are worthy of these descriptions without realizing that ev-

ery day has its own share of nice things for which we should be thankful. And when we do this we are soon aware that our attitude towards the common things about us is changing, and we experience a feeling of unexplained contentment because it is true that a thankful person is a happy person.

As for the disturbing things, they will always be with us but if we have no power over them we can put them in the hands of the Creator and Sustainer of the universe and devote our own thinking to things that are good and uplifting. Also, the fanatical critics will always be around but in time we shall become used to them as we notice that he who is not thankful for what he has would not be thankful for what he wants.

Thankfulness can be stated in words but the depth of it is manifested by our way of living and our relationship with God and our fellowman. The Christian way of life has its own reward of the abundant life and changes our viewpoint from the sordidness to the beauty of life. And it does give us an awareness of the goodness of God.

So "the good of the day" is something worthwhile to think about. It is a crude way but a very wise way to say that each and every day we are thankful for things that we might otherwise overlook. Then when the big, annual day of Thanksgiving comes, we will find it easy to assemble all of our blessings and thank God for His tender concern and His watchful care over us for the whole year.

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## NOTICE

Our Brazil Mission could use paperback books, such as the Danny Orlis series, either new or used (in good condition), in the English language. Perhaps each WMF could mail one a month to be added to their library. These can be mailed in a brown envelope to:

Mr. George Knapp  
Caixa Postal 44  
Campo Mourao, Parana  
Brazil, S. A.

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## "FILL 'ER UP"

Most people who drive cars have stopped many times at a filling station and said the above words to the attendant and then driven away with a full gas tank on trips that really were not necessary. We think nothing of parting with a five dollar bill or more for gas, but it comes harder to put the same amount in the collection plate for schools, or missions, or the local work in God's Kingdom.



Rev. Trygve F. Dahle

At this writing, all the treasuries of our Common Endeavors are at a low ebb, and need instant help or we are in for real trouble.

Crops, generally, all over our Northwest were good, and some even have reported, "The best crop I ever had." The greater percent of our constituency is rural, and now that harvest is practically over, there ought to be many "thank offerings" to God, in spite of the low prices on what we have to sell and the high prices of what we have to buy. If a thousand or two individuals would right NOW sit down and send in to headquarters five dollars or more it would help considerably, while we wait for the gifts that soon will be coming in from the congregations, mission festivals, etc.

If every person was a tither and sent in his tithe regularly, we would have no financial troubles. We have seventy-five of our best young people in our two schools in the States, and about 20 at our Bible School in Brazil, S.A. And did you know that each student at home costs the congregations \$300.00 per year, above what they pay for tuition, board and room? The School Fund is the furthest in the red, although all funds are operating in the red at present and must have help NOW. Can you help?

All Boards of our AFLC recently met jointly to take a good look at our finances and the picture is serious, but not hopeless. But it means that all of us will have to tighten our belts, cease unnecessary spending and give more liberally toward the work in the Kingdom, which God has entrusted to us, if we are to come out on top.

There are open doors in every direction at home and abroad, but the only answer we can give them at present is, "Sorry, but all we can do for you at present is to pray for you." Our first responsibility is our own work, then others.

May God open our eyes to the blessings of "GIVIN WHILE WE'RE LIVIN, AND WE'RE KNOWIN WHERE IT'S GOIN."

Trygve F. Dahle

P.S. Please do not put it off, but send in something right NOW. Thank you. II Cor. 9:6-8

# MEET

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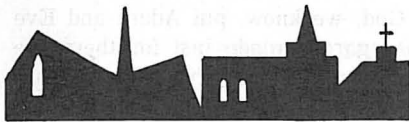
# Churches

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# OF OUR

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# FELLOWSHIP



**Today: The McVile-Binford  
(N. Dak.) Parish**

### New Luther Valley Lutheran Church

The congregation was organized on Feb. 5, 1882, southeast of McVile. Construction of a log church was begun in 1884 but had to be halted as flood waters from the Sheyenne River threatened. A new site was chosen and a church erected. That remained the congregation's home until 1943 when the Presbyterian church building in McVile was purchased. That structure served well, with remodeling and a sizeable addition, until 1967-68 when the beautiful new church was built. Dedication for that took place on April 28, 1968.

On August 17, 1958, Zion Lutheran Church, northeast of town, merged with New Luther Valley. It had been organized in April, 1898, but had an earlier history tracing back to Our Savior's (Vor Frelzers) Lutheran

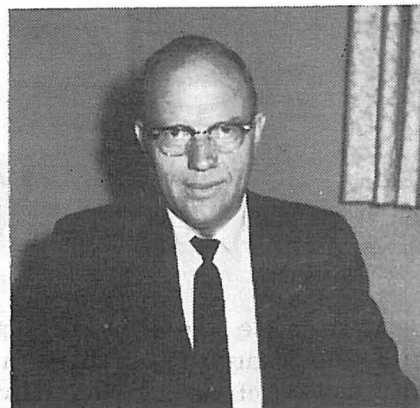
Church. Zion had been served by the same pastors as New Luther Valley.

A windstorm demolished the New Luther Valley building in the country and this was the immediate reason for the move into McVile in 1943.

The congregation has been served by the following pastors: I. O. Lundebly, 1883-96; H. S. Quanbeck, 1896-1904; B. I. Land, 1904-11; C. J. Nestvold, 1912-17; K. Gjesfjeld, 1917-19; O. P. Grambo, 1922-24; O. Swenson, 1924-33; D. W. Lyngdal, 1933-37; T. F. Dahle, 1937-45; E. C. Peterson, 1945-50; O. K. Olson, 1950-52; Paul C. Ronning, 1952-1960; Hamar Benson, 1962-63; and E. J. Langness, 1963—. Rev. Halvor Quanbeck and Rev. G. A. Almqvist served as interim pastors.

New Luther Valley has sent a number of sons into the Christian ministry, education and missions. They are Pastors Halvor Quanbeck (deceased), J. T. Quanbeck (deceased, and former director of home missions in the LFC), Alfred Knutson, Russell Quanbeck, Randolph Quanbeck and Oliver Johnson. Rev. Milo Gudim was a missionary to Madagascar but now serves a parish at Rollag, Minn. Gerald Carlson is an agricultural missionary in Ethiopia. Dr. Martin Quanbeck is at Augsburg College in Minneapolis, Minn. One daughter of the congregation is a pastor's wife, Mrs. Justin (Hazel Almaas) Dokken.

The congregation was started in the Norwegian-Danish Conference, became a part of the Lutheran Free Church in 1897 and was a charter member of the Association of Free Lutheran Congregations in 1962-63.



Ernest J. Langness, pastor of the McVile-Binford parish, is a graduate of Luther Theological Seminary in Saskatoon, Sask. Before coming to McVile, he served parishes at Viscount-Bulyea and Leroy in Saskatchewan. A native of Grygla, Minn., Mr. Langness served in the U. S. Army for 3½ years. He attended Northwest Bible College and Seattle Pacific College in Seattle, Wash., and did home mission work for the Lutheran Free Church at Edmonds, Wash., before entering seminary and organized Bethesda Lutheran in that Washington town. He is married to the former Hazel Goodman, Des Moines, Ia., and the couple has three daughters and a son.

### Bethany Lutheran

The Griggs County town of Binford is the location of Bethany. Originally a part of West Prairie Lutheran, north of town, it was organized in 1901. Miss Inga Helland, a missionary to Madagascar for many years under the LFC and now retired in her native Norway, considered Bethany as her home congregation in America.

The church building was constructed in 1901 and remodeled in 1908 and 1916. It was modernized in 1967. The next year an electric organ was

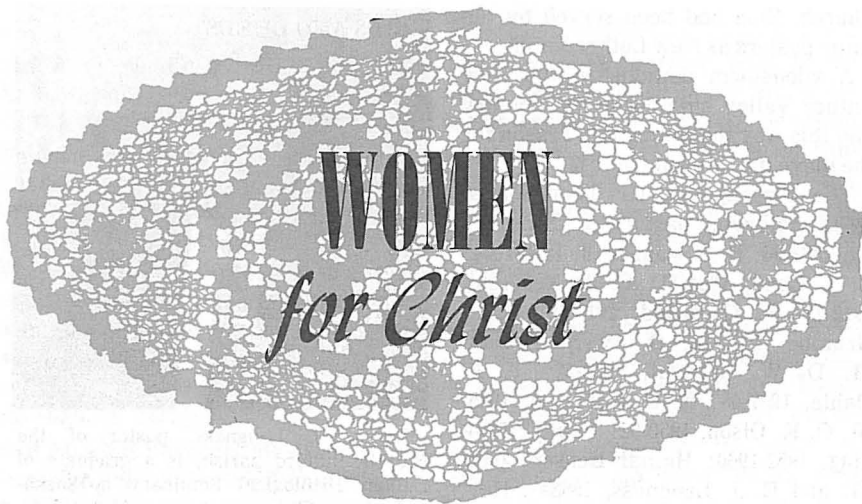
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New Luther Valley Lutheran Church



Bethany Lutheran Church



# WOMEN for Christ

## COUNT YOUR BLESSINGS

by Mrs. Rodger Olson,  
Tioga, N. Dak.

"Now thank we all our God,  
With heart and hands and voices,  
Who wondrous things hath done,  
In whom His world rejoices;  
Who from our mother's arms  
Hath blessed us on our way  
With countless gifts of love,  
And still is ours today."

Thanksgiving, 1969, is just around the corner for us in the United States. This will be the 349th year that "Thanksgiving Day" has been celebrated in our America. The first one was held in December of 1621, when Governor William Bradford of Plymouth colony appointed a day of celebration. This day was set aside to thank God for the first harvest reaped by the colonists in America. The Pilgrims had come ashore on the Mayflower the previous year, and though they had suffered many hardships and deaths from hunger, disease, and cold during the hard winter months, they had not given up. Spring had come and with it came two Indians to befriend those remaining. They brought with them seed to be planted and then taught our forefathers how to fertilize the soil. The summer proved to be warm and bright and the crops grew and thrived. The harvest was plentiful that autumn and so Governor Bradford thought it fitting to invite the Indians to join the Pilgrims in a feast of thanksgiving to God for the great harvest.

Perhaps this has been a prosperous year for us; the crops were good and

everything just seems to be going our way. Many of us will travel hundreds of miles to be with family and friends to enjoy a hearty feast of turkey and all the trimmings. Doesn't this sound wonderful? Yes, truly we in America have much to thank God for today, and yet in many homes across the nation God will scarcely rate a few words of grace at the overladen table.

Calvin Coolidge in a Thanksgiving Proclamation said, "We have been a most favored people. We ought to be a most grateful people. We have been a most blessed people. We ought to be a most thankful people." I once read, "If you have nothing to be thankful for, make up your mind that there is something wrong with you."

Often we sing that great chorus, "Count your many blessings, name them one by one, and it will surprise you, what the Lord hath done." Have you ever tried to count your blessings one by one? If you have, you will find, as I have, that it can't be done; but it is profitable to try, that we might see God's unsearchable greatness and love toward us.

What are some of the blessings we have to be thankful for today? Let us ponder on just a few of them. First of all, we can be thankful for God's great love shown to us through the creation. As we look around us we see the miracles of life in the beauty of the earth. We see the great sun which shines by day, to give warmth and to make all things grow. Psalms 19:6 says this about the sun, "Its rising is from the end of the heavens, and its circuit to the end of them; and there is nothing hid from its heat." God also

made a lesser light called the moon to rule the night and with it He made the stars. Without these few but great gifts we could not possibly live upon this earth. He, God, created flowers and plants, and trees to yield fruit. He created animals, birds of the air and fish in the sea. Surely all this is great but He didn't stop there. God created man in His own image, with a living soul. Surely just pondering over God's great power manifested in the creation makes us stand in awe and in all humility we must thank God.

God, we know, put Adam and Eve in a garden made just for them. He made trees to grow that were pleasant to look at and good to eat. Here Adam and Eve could live happily, enjoying the many benefits of God's abundance. Adam was given permission to eat of the fruit of the garden, except for one tree—the tree of knowledge. This was to make it clear that Adam's responsibility was to offer God perfect obedience. He was also warned of the consequences of disobedience if he did eat of the forbidden fruit. But we all know Adam disobeyed and thus reaped death for himself and for all mankind, of which he was the federal head. But again we can see God's love shown, for in Gen. 3:15, God again brings hope to Adam and Eve by giving the first promise of a Savior. So, secondly, we see God's love shown to us through His redemptive power. In I Cor. 15:21, 22, we read, "For as by a man came death; by a man has come also the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive." "For God so loved the world that

[Continued on page 9]

## AS YOU LEAVE

AS YOU LEAVE CHURCH, may God grant you:

Enough darkness—to see the light;  
Enough trials—to evaluate rest;  
Enough conviction—to seek redemption;  
Enough tears—to understand love;  
Enough kindness—to lift burdens;  
Enough grace—to shield sinners;  
Enough silence—to hear the Spirit;  
Enough vision—to reflect Christ.

—Selected



Thanksgiving which finds expression only in words when there is the ability to go beyond that turns out to be no thanksgiving at all.

Built into life is the idea of the necessity of bringing gifts to God. Cain and Abel brought offerings to the Lord and the practise has continued. In addition to the offerings and sacrifices of Old Testament times there were the contributions to be made to the building of the Tabernacle and the Jerusalem Temple, and of the synagogues. There were no mission programs in those days but the tithe was required for even these "house of worship" needs.

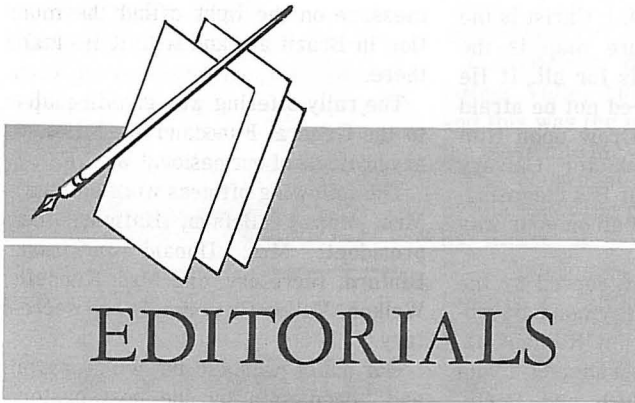
In the New Testament time, and before, it was customary to give gifts or alms to the poor. Jesus said that food for the hungry and clothing for the ill clad were services rendered unto Him. In Acts and the writings of Paul the idea of missionary offerings enters. To the Corinthians the Apostle suggests the thought of setting something aside each week (I Cor. 16:2) and also that giving be according to how one has prospered (proportionate giving).

The New Testament does not make the tenth for God mandatory but there are those who contend that if the Law required the tithe, those who live under Grace ought to do at least as much. In any case, all agree that the tenth or tithe is never meant to be a ceiling on giving.

Today there is a great variety of Christian work toward which to contribute. There is the upkeep of the local congregation, without which the whole organized church concept falls. There is the common work done by the congregations together because they cannot do it alone and without which the local units would lose much of their purpose for being. Then there are a thousand more or less independent charities and evangelistic endeavors worthy of assistance.

The truly thankful person not only lifts his voice in praise to God the Giver, but he opens his billfold to share with others in their need for the Gospel and in their physical needs. Even as James wrote that faith without works is dead so it can be said that the profession of thanksgiving without accompanying charity in the heart which shares another's need is as nothing and worse than nothing in the Lord's eyes.

Let Thanksgiving-time be a season in which to review one's offerings to the Lord.



CROWNING THE YEAR

David the Psalmist said to the Lord, "Thou crownest the year with Thy bounty." That whole psalm, the 65th, is a hymn of praise to the largesse or generosity of God. All about him in the world of nature the psalmist saw the handiwork and the wisdom of the Lord.

Harvest and the closing of the year coincide. In one sense the year ends with the gathering of the earth's produce. As David saw the garnering of the grain and fruits he declared that God was crowning the year with His bounty or **goodness**, as the American Standard and King James Versions put it. All of us are close enough to that most basic of all occupations, agriculture, to appreciate the description.

If the Lord has crowned the year with His bounty, and He has, how shall man crown the year? By offering up his songs and shouts of praise to God for His goodness. It is in such a response that the blessing really comes. If one only takes and gets, gets and takes with no recognition of God's providence, his soul becomes ingrown, his world narrows and he becomes a pitiable creature, however much goods surround him.

The song of thanksgiving to the Lord and Giver of life opens the windows of the soul. Instead of turning inward upon itself, the soul is lifted upward to God and becomes more beautiful, more attractive. In the act of true and sincere praise of God, the individual places his crown upon the year. In his own way, poor though it is, he sings his doxology and in doing that draws closer to God for man reaches his purpose in glorifying the Maker of heaven and earth.

He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life" (Jn. 3:16). What a promise, and we can have this great gift of salvation if we just claim Jesus for our own! To God, each one of us is very important, so important that He knows us by name and when just one sinner repents there is joy in heaven. "There is joy before the angels of God over one sinner who repents" (Lk. 15:10). If we are Christians this Thanksgiving, we have

much to be thankful for, don't we? If you are not a Christian, God still loves you and wants you for His own. II Peter 3:9 says, "The Lord is not slow about His promise as some count slowness, but is forbearing toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance." God loved us so much that He GAVE His only begotten son to die for your sin and mine. Praise His name!

Thirdly, He promised us something

far greater than this life has to offer. This gift is an eternity spent with Christ in heaven. I heard a pastor once say that if we are Christians, "This life is the only hell we will ever have to know." God, in love, is offering us an eternal life in heaven! Christ is coming again, this time as King! We find in John 14:1-4 a great promise which Christ gave His disciples and we, too, as Christians, can rejoice in: "Let not your hearts be troubled; be-

[Continued on page 10]

lieve in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house are many rooms; if it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And when I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also." Heaven is going to be wonderful. We cannot begin to know what our Lord has planned for His children. We are told we will never again thirst; we will be made whole; there will be no tears in heaven, and even greater, we shall be like Him. I John 3:1a, 2, tells us, "See what love the Father has given us, that we should be called sons of God; and so we are. Beloved we are God's children now; it does not yet appear what we shall be, but we know that when He appears we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is."

Surely with these blessings offered us, there will be no room for grumbling and complaining in our lives. Instead our hearts will be giving praise and thanksgiving for His past, present, and future benefits.

"Oh give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good: for His mercy endureth forever. Oh that men would praise the Lord for His goodness, and for His wonderful works to the children of men!

"Let them sacrifice the sacrifices of thanksgiving, and declare His works with rejoicing" (Ps. 107:1, 8, 22).

#### **Minneapolis District Women Met in Iowa**

On the evening of October 17 a bus load and several carloads of ladies from Minnesota and Wisconsin arrived at Salem Church near Radcliffe, Iowa, to be overnight guests and to attend the Minneapolis District Rally of the WMF on the 18th at Salem.

The theme of the rally was "One Thing is Needful"—Luke 10:42. Mrs. Roger Rasmussen, president, was in charge of the meeting. Mrs. Wally Hanko, of Wyoming, Minnesota, had devotions after which Mrs. Benard Huisman brought the welcome, using John 4:35, 36. Mrs. Argyle Ullestad of Radcliffe sang "God Did a Wonderful Thing for Me." After the offering was taken, Mrs. Eugene Enderlein of Minneapolis had the Bible study on "One Thing Needful... To Find the

Treasure!" (Luke 10:42). Christ is the Treasure. The treasure map is the Bible. This treasure is for all. If He is our Treasure we need not be afraid of anything but sin. Draw upon Him for little things. Ask for Calvary love—it works! Accept His cleansing. Claim His victory and go on your way rejoicing!

After the noon meal, served by the Salem ladies, Mrs. Raymond Jacobson had devotions, from Romans 12. Mrs. John Abel, Deborah and Lydia sang for us in English and Portuguese. Mrs. Abel gave the ladies an opportunity to ask about the mission work in Brazil. Her message was based on Luke 10:38-42. We do much outward serving and are busy with things of no value. Christ calls us for a purpose in life. Jesus is the Living Word of God. God's plan is "Go—preach to every creature." If we can't go to the mission field, we can pray! We should be like Mary and do the good part. There is One Thing Needful—have you chosen that good part?

The afternoon and morning offerings are to go to the General Fund. Mrs. Argyle Ullestad, Mrs. Kenneth Olson and Mrs. Vernon Handsaker sang "Shall I Find Some Star?" Pastor Kenneth Anderson, host pastor, closed the meeting with announcements and prayer.

The ladies enjoyed coffee before starting on their homeward journey, thanking and praising the Lord for another opportunity of Bible study and fellowship.

Mrs. Irvin Hodnefield, Secretary

#### **GRAND FORKS SITE OF WMF FALL RALLY**

The Eastern North Dakota Women's Missionary Federation Fall rally was held in Trinity Lutheran Church, Grand Forks, N. Dak. Sat., Oct. 4, 1969, with our president, Pearl Aanstad, presiding.

The theme of our rally was "Do All Things Unto The Lord" with Col. 3:14-17 as our theme verses.

Mrs. Gerald Mundfrom, Grafton, presented the Bible study, based on Colossians 3.

Rev. John Abel, returned missionary from Brazil, was our mission speaker. He gave a very challenging

message on the work of our Association in Brazil and of the future needs there.

The rally offering was given equally to the General Fund and My Missionary projects of our national W.M.F.

The following officers were elected: Mrs. Hans Tollefson, Hatton, vice-president; Mrs. Donald Jacobson, Binford, secretary, and Mrs. Kenneth Welken, Valley City, cradle roll secretary.

Our rally was closed with prayer and benediction by the host pastor, Rev. David Molstre.

Mrs. Russell Duncan, Secy.

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#### **Special Appeal**

The Annual Conference of the Association of Free Lutheran Congregations has given the mandate to the Pension Board to establish a fund for the purpose of giving assistance to retired pastors, pastors' widows, or pastors with certain needs, due to circumstances beyond their control.

The Pension Board appeals to the congregations that an offering be taken in the congregation each year, so that funds will be available for this purpose.

We ask that each congregation prayerfully consider the appeal. The offering should be sent to the Treasurer of the Association of Free Lutheran Congregations and earmarked "Pension Board Special Fund."

The Pension Board would like to take this opportunity to stress the need of providing a Retirement Income for the pastors.

We would like to have congregations and pastors, who presently have not availed themselves of the Pension Plan, the Group Life and Group Hospital Plan, get particulars in regard to the plan from the Association Office.

It is a method for congregations to have a part in providing a retirement fund for the pastor.

Eldor Sorkness, President  
Board of Pensions

# IN EVERYTHING GIVE THANKS

by Mrs. I. M. Norum, Clayton, Wis.

One day when a group of children were as usual playing on the parsonage lawn with our children, I brought out a plate of cookies for them. As our Karen took her cookie she politely said, "Thank you." One little boy looked at her in amazement and blurted out, "Do you know what you did? You said 'Thank you' to your own mother."

We strive to teach our children the 'Thank you' habit. Yet how apt we ourselves are just to take things for granted, as though we have everything coming.

A sincere 'Thank you' is more than mere empty words. It is an expression of true appreciation coming from the heart and is one of the secrets of happy and contented living. We need to cultivate the "attitude of gratitude" toward other people and toward God.

Do we recognize God's constant provision and care for us day by day? Do we remember to thank Him for all His goodness and mercy? You know that even the birds sing their praises to the Lord, beginning early in the morning.

If we have experienced the greater things, all the spiritual blessings, gifts of God which cannot be taken away from us, our hearts should overflow with thanksgiving. We have peace and joy in Christ, daily forgiveness and cleansing from sin, the consciousness of God's presence with us, the guidance of the Holy Spirit, the privilege of prayer, opportunity to have a part in the work in God's Kingdom, and the sure hope of heaven awaiting us. Let us praise God!

Then God expects of us that we remember those who are less fortunate. There are ways of helping to put a new song into other hearts. Just a little love can mean so much. Our girl, Baek Hung Soon, in Korea, whom we are sponsoring, writes, "I don't know how should I ever thank you possible enough for your love and thoughtfulness." There are so many who need to know that someone cares.

It is not difficult to thank God for what we call the good things in life. It takes much grace to thank Him for

burdens and troubles that may come our way. But God in His love permits those things for our good. We may not be able to see it at the time. "He knows the way that I take; when He has tried me I shall come forth as gold" (Job 23:10).

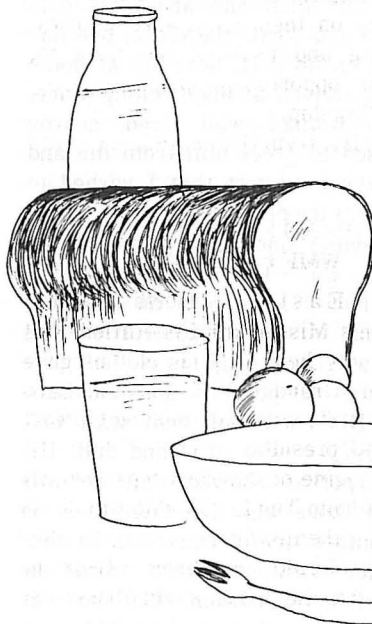
I read about Martin Rinkert, who wrote the well known hymn "Now Thank We All Our God." It was just after his wife died in a terrible epidemic, leaving him with the care of his motherless children, and almost penniless, that he was enabled to write the words of this wonderful song.

"Give thanks in all circumstances" (I Thess. 5:18). Sometimes we feel

that we must bow our heads in shame. It is good to have a special day for giving thanks to God. May we use it for the right purpose. Then let us try to make every day a day of thanksgiving, by translating thanks-giving into thanks-living.

"Thanks to God for my Redeemer,  
Thanks for all Thou dost provide;  
Thanks for times now but a memory,  
Thanks for Jesus by my side;  
Thanks for pleasant, balmy  
springtime,  
Thanks for dark and dreary fall!  
Thanks for tears by now forgotten,  
Thanks for peace within my soul."  
(A. L. Storm)

God, thank you for the food  
we eat,  
The bread and milk and  
oranges sweet.  
Thank you for the warm  
clothes we wear,  
Thank you for your most  
loving care.  
For family, home and faith-  
ful friends,  
Your love for me that never  
ends,  
These too I mean as with  
bowed head  
I thank You for my daily  
bread.



Poem and illustration by  
Marlene Moline, Lansing, Iowa

# BLACK MADS

A recollection from the journeys of a Swedish pastor

It was a glorious summer evening.

A recent and copious shower had purified the sultry air of the day. The flowers of the dean's garden sent forth a sweet fragrance especially of the pink climbing roses which formed espaliers on the wall of the low and cozy parish house which faced toward the old garden. After the refreshing rain there was again sunshine, but the heat was not oppressive. A Norwegian minister and his friend whom I had frequently met on my journeys were also the guests at the hospitable Danish parsonage that evening.

We were sitting around a table in the garden, overshadowed by an old fruit-tree, and enjoyed coffee with wiener-bread which one can obtain in Denmark only. The garden was situated near a little bay of Skanderborg sea, and on the other side, across the bay, the tower of the old castle church could be seen, which once was a part of the old historic castle, long since destroyed. Our kindly host, the dean, described in a most interesting way one historic event after the other from the remotest times of Skanderborg: of the great lords of the castle, of Nels Ebbesen, of king Valdemar and queen Dagmar, of the king's wild ride to Ribe, and much more. The hours passed quickly. It seemed as if we sat in a fairy-garden.

Then our conversation entered upon times and subjects which lay closer to us, about our ministerial work and pastoral cares. In many instances our experiences were alike, in others somewhat different, but, of course, we belonged to three different nations.

The world war, which destroyed so much old culture, so many art treasures and life necessities, and its terrible consequences, the deplorable dependence of our northern countries on the good pleasure of the war-powers, the unearned riches and the resultant refined luxury, and in contrast to all this the crying distress,

caused by profiteers, the alarming increase of crime, etc., all this became subjects for our conversation. The consideration of these abnormal conditions left us for a while in silent reflections. None of us could remedy these, except, as one of us suggested, that we ourselves seek to practice a self-denying love, and preach it to others.

"Self-sacrificing love is a rare flower in the Lord's garden," said our host, "but," he added, "I have seen it at close range and admired it. Would you like to hear where I saw it?" he asked.

Of course we would. And then he told the following little story from real life:

"Often," he said, "have I seen a man here in our little town, a man whom I did not know. In the summer time he used to pull the grass from between the cobble stones in the streets, and in the winter I saw him sometimes coming from the woods carrying windfall for fuel, for which he had been granted permission. I was anxious to know something about this man and about his conditions, and went, therefore, one day to call on him. He was not at home when I arrived at his dwelling place, but a woman who lived nearby promised to greet him from me and convey my request that I wished to see him at the parish house.

He came one day, grimy as he usually was. His black, uncombed hair showed no sign of an advanced age, but was somewhat ruffled. His cap was greasy, and his clothes gave evidence of poverty and carelessness. His back was bent with toil, and his look was tired and dull. His whole person showed that he was one of those who live their lives on the somber side of existence. In simple and straightforward words he told of his condition, that he was quite well, and that he could earn his living without being a burden to anyone.

"My friend," I said, "I never see

you in church."

"No," he answered, "there I never come, because I have not clothes to be seen in church, and then, I can't see very well, and even if I could see, I can not read, for that I never learned."

I now understood that he had his reasons for not attending services, but I held before him that he could nevertheless have God in his thoughts. "Do you sometimes pray to God? Do you know the Lord's prayer?"

"No," he said, "that prayer I have forgotten long ago, if I ever knew it."

"Have you never anything to speak to God about?" I asked him again.

"Yes," he answered, "every morning and evening I fold my hands and say to God: 'Dear God, be merciful to me a sinner, for Christ's sake!'"

The man's honest answer made a deep impression upon me, and I told him it was a very good prayer. Then I asked him, if I might arrange for him to go to a good home every Sunday where he would be cared for, and where he could hear the word of God read, take part in singing, and learn the Lord's prayer.

My proposition pleased him very much, and he mentioned a family himself whom he knew and would like to visit on Sundays. Thither he had been going occasionally, and they were always kind to him, he said. Thus it was arranged that Black Mads, for by this name he was known, became a steady Sunday guest at the home of this hospitable workman's family, where they not only read to him and taught him the Lord's prayer, but also fed him at their table, and treated him with what he liked most of all—fried eggs.

"I don't know," said one of the daughters of the family to me, "what Black Mads enjoys most, the Gospel, or fried eggs."

Several years passed. Without any previous sickness Black Mads was

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donated by two contributors.

On January, 1960, Bethlehem congregation north of Binford joined Bethany. It, too, had been started in the year 1901.

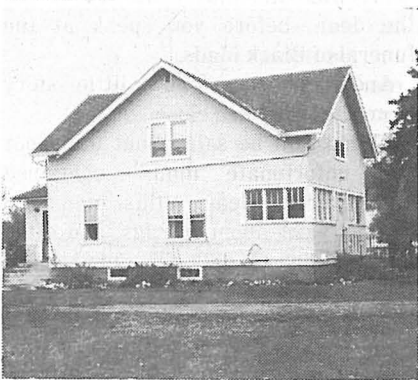
Bethany has had the following pastors: O. Swenson, 1901-11; L. Halling, 1912-33; I. M. Norum, 1935-38; John Loland, 1939-47; George Mellby, 1948-49; M. E. Helland, 1950-60; Oscar Johnson, 1961-62; and E. J. Langness, 1963—.

Bethany was a member of the Lutheran Free Church before affiliating with the AFLC in 1963.

### The Parish

The present parish was formed in 1963.

Prior to that, New Luther Valley was in a parish with Hoff Lutheran of Sharon and Bethany was associated with Gethsemane Lutheran of Tolna. The pastor of the latter parish resided in Binford.



The parsonage for the parish is in McVille. It was purchased in 1937.)

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### CHARITY

When our cup runs over, we let others drink the drops that fall, but not a drop from within the rim, and we call it charity; when the crumbs are swept from our table, we think it generous to let the dogs eat them; as if that were charity which permits others to have what we cannot keep; which says to Ruth, "Glean after the young men," but forgets to say to the young men, "Let fall also some of the handfuls on purpose for her."

—Henry Ward Beecher

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"God help you" is cheap charity.

### ADULT RETREAT HELD AT BATTLE LAKE LAST MONTH

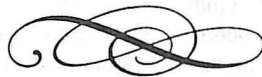
Because youth retreats have been successful and helpful, Trinity Lutheran of Grand Forks, N. Dak., David Molstre, pastor, decided to have a retreat for adults. And one was held at Faith Haven Youth Lodge at Battle Lake, Minn., on the weekend of Oct. 10-12.

On Friday night the group was treated to a musical program and testimonies by the "Narrow Road Rejoicers," a girls' Gospel team from the Dalton, Minn., parish.

Saturday's program included a Bible study, discussion, recreation, the film "In His Steps" and an evening service with Dr. Iver Olson of Minneapolis, Minn., speaking.

Dr. Olson spoke again to the group on Sunday morning at the worship service. Earlier there had been a Bible study.

Pastor Molstre gave as the main purpose of the retreat the fact that it is important in this busy age in which we live to get away for a time of refreshing in the Word of God and for a time of fellowship with friends.



### THANKSGIVING HARPSTRINGS

Thanksgiving is only a just tribute for all the blessings a loving Father has showered upon us.

Rev. Dr. John Jowett well says: "No one is going to have anything worth calling a harp in glory who has not already harped music in his own soul." If you have not used it, this Thanksgiving time is the time to get out your harp and play it. Use it. Try it. Practice on it. Try to learn some Thanksgiving tunes to play on it. Think, and you will thank. Recall your blessings and you will soon begin to finger the Thanksgiving harp.

But maybe you say that times are hard and your blessings few. This may be so, but, if it is, still play your harp.

—G. B. F. Hallock

### THANK GOD FOR YOU

Thank God for you, good friend of mine,  
Seldom is friendship such as thine;  
How very much I wish to be  
As helpful as you've been to me—  
Thank God for you.

Of many prayer quests, one thou art  
On whom I ask God to impart  
Rich blessings from His storehouse rare,  
And grant to you His gracious care—  
Thank God for you.

When I recall from time to time  
How you inspired this heart of mine,  
I find myself inclined to pray,  
"God bless my friend this very day"—  
Thank God for you.

So often at the throne of grace  
There comes a picture of your face,  
And then instinctively I pray  
That God may guide you all the way—  
Thank God for you.

Some day I hope with you to stand  
Before the throne at God's right hand,  
And say to you at journey's end,  
Praise God, you've been to me a friend—  
Thank God for you.

—Author Unknown  
(from *Quotes from the Quiet Hour*)

### PASTOR INSTALLED AT WINGER

Pastor Forrest Swenson was installed in the Winger, Minn., parish in a joint service at Union Lake Lutheran Church by Rev. John P. Strand, president of the Association of Free Lutheran Congregations, on Sunday, Oct. 19. Pastor Strand used Rom. 12: 1-2 as the text for his message. Dinner was served after the service.

### EVANGELISTIC SERVICES CONCLUDING AT GRAFTON

Pastor Trygve F. Dahle, Spicer, Minn., is speaking at a series of evangelistic meetings at Bethel Lutheran Church, Grafton, N. Dak., this week, Nov. 11-16. The services begin each night at 7:30 p.m. On Sunday morning he will preach at the church's worship service also. Rev. Gerald F. Mundfrom is the pastor of the church.

### Why Are You Not a Christian?

Is it because you are afraid you will not be accepted?

Him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out. John 6:37.

Is it because you are unwilling to give up all for Christ?

What shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? Mark 8:36.

Is it because you fear you are too great a sinner?

Though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow. Isa. 1:18.

God commendeth His love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. Rom. 5:8.

Is it because of the inconsistencies of professing Christians?

Every one of us shall give an account of himself to God. Rom. 14:12.

Is it because you are afraid of ridicule?

Whosoever shall be ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation; of him also shall the Son of man be ashamed, when he cometh in the glory of his Father with the Holy angels. Mark 8:38.

—Courtesy, Tract Mission

Are you an active member,  
The kind that would be missed?  
Or are you just contented  
That your name is on the list?

Do you attend the meeting  
And mingle with the crowd?  
Or do you stay at home  
And crab both long and loud?

Do you take an active part  
To help the church along?  
Or are you satisfied to be  
The kind to just belong?

Do you ever go to visit  
A member that is sick?  
Or leave the work for just a few  
And talk about the clique?

There's quite a program scheduled  
That means success if done.  
And it can be accomplished  
With the help of everyone.

So attend the meetings regularly,  
And help with hand and heart,  
Don't be just a member,  
But take an active part.

Author unknown

Reflect upon your present blessings, of which man has many; not on your past misfortunes, of which men have some.

—Charles Dickens

[Continued from page 12]

found in his bed one morning dead from a stroke of apoplexy.

He was to be buried the following Sunday after the church services. When I went to the graveyard to officiate, I was accosted by an aged and esteemed businessman whose servant Mads had been many years ago.

"Did the dean know Black Mads who is to be buried?" he asked.

"Yes, of course I knew him," I answered, and told him how I had arranged for him to visit the good people in whose home he was accustomed to spend his Sundays during the last few years of his life.

"Does the dean know that Mads has been in Horsen's prison?" asked the businessman.

"No, that I didn't know. What did he do?"

"I thought it best that the dean should know it before the funeral, and I will briefly state how it happened," he said.

"It is now several years ago that one morning a messenger was sent to me by an old man who lay at death's door, that it was absolutely necessary that he should talk with me, for he had something very important to tell me before he died.

"Consequently I went at once to the dying man, and had scarcely sat down before he asked: 'Do you know that Black Mads, who is my brother, has been at Horsen's penitentiary?'

"I did not know that for certain, but as he called to my remembrance several things, it also seemed to me that I had heard of it.

"Then continued the sick man: 'I will not relate how it happened, because I can not die before I have confessed it all.

"It is now," he said, 'many years since a theft was committed far

away from here. It took a long time to connect anyone with it definitely, but at last suspicion fell on me. Then came Mads to me one day, and when we were alone said: "Is it true that you are the guilty one?" I admitted that I was. "It will be hard for your wife and children, if you are taken to prison; your home will be ruined when there is none to support it. But I am unmarried, no one will miss me, and so I shall go to the authorities and state that I committed the crime."

"Mads was arrested and sentenced to the penitentiary on his own confession. Everybody believed that he was the thief, while it was I, and now I must confess it, before I die. Mads has never been dishonest or guilty of the smallest offence; but he always thought more of the good of others than of his own, and therefore he has always been the underdog."

"It was this that I wanted to tell the dean, before you speak at the funeral of Black Mads."

And here the dean's little story from life came to a close.

"What can be said about that poor and unfortunate man," continued the reverend dean, "this man who always went about in rags, and often had nothing to eat? He didn't know the Lord's prayer, yet never forgot to pray: 'Dear God, be merciful to me a sinner for Christ's sake!' and who denied himself to such a degree that he took upon himself the shame and punishment of his brother's crime?"

We were silent for some time, gripped by the story of this poor man's singular self-sacrifice and loving heart.

At last my Norwegian colleague said: "Black Mads has advanced to a higher class." And in this I agreed with him.

It was growing late. The outlines of the old castle church were vanishing in the twilight. The pleasant evening in the old garden of the parish house was at an end, and each one withdrew to his own.

It seemed that Black Mads was following me, and said something of the love which "hopeth all things, endureth all things, and seeketh not its own."

—The Friend

# CHURCH-WORLD NEWS

## SELC VOTES LC-MS MERGER, ALSO FELLOWSHIP WITH ALC

Clark, N.J. (LC) — The Synod of Evangelical Lutheran Churches at its 43rd general convention here approved eventual merger with the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, declared altar and pulpit fellowship with the American Lutheran Church and authorized discussions toward such relations with the Lutheran Church in America.

Delegates voted 52 to 25 on a written ballot in favor of a union agreement formulated jointly with the LC-MS. Only a simple majority was needed for adoption. When the result was announced, the assembly sang "Blest Be the Tie that Binds."

Although not a constitutional requirement, it was further voted that the convention's affirmative action must be ratified by a majority of the SELC's 60-odd congregations. Assuming this approval, the agreement is expected to become effective by mid-1970.

A motion from the floor to require a two-thirds majority in both the convention vote and the congregational referendum was soundly defeated by a voice vote.

Earlier in the sessions, Dr. J. A. O. Preus of St. Louis, elected president of the Missouri Synod at its biennial convention last July in Denver, appeared before the delegates and reiterated his church's invitation to effectuate a merger of the two synods.

"The SELC has been in fellowship with the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod since 1908, a relationship that has been universally happy," Dr. Preus said.

"In inviting you to merge with us, I do it with love and affection on the basis of a long and happy relationship—for the work we all have to do, to proclaim Christ and spread His gospel to men."

The 20,556-member synod, according to the union agreement, will become the SELC District of the 2,870,355-member Missouri Synod for a period of seven years, after which the former Slovak Church will be dis-

solved and its congregations, pastors and teachers assigned to the appropriate LC-MS geographical districts.

At any time prior to consummation of the merger in 1977, either the LC-MS or the SELC may withdraw from the agreement by giving a year's notice. During the interim period, the SELC District is to be governed by the constitution and by-laws of the LC-MS.

After ratification by the congregations, the agreement will be executed and implemented by the SELC's newly-elected president, the Rev. Milan A. Ontko, pastor of St. Paul Lutheran church in Byram, Conn., and the Synod's Board of Directors.

## PREPARATIONS QUICKENING FOR BRAZIL LWF ASSEMBLY

Geneva (LWF) — Preparations for the Fifth Assembly of the Lutheran World Federation next summer in Brazil are "going forward at a quickening pace," the general secretary of the international fellowship said here.

In a letter to the 78 member churches of the LWF, Dr. Andre Appel stated that while political conditions in Brazil are being closely watched, it is still planned to convene the Assembly in that country.

The executive said many questions have been raised about "the possibilities, and even the wisdom" of going to Porto Alegre, making it advisable to reiterate a 1968 decision on the Assembly site already twice reaffirmed by officers of the federation.

A civil war or severe restrictions on entry visas or press freedom conceivably could change the site, Dr. Appel said, but at this point all preparations are aimed at carrying out the "Sent into the World" Assembly theme in Brazil.

The "Special character" of the next LWF world gathering has been evident, the executive noted, from the time it was planned for Weimar in the German Democratic Republic. Scheduled in 1969, that Assembly was stopped by an East German government decision that it would not "serve a useful purpose."

"The restless nature of the Latin American continent was fully recognized by the Executive Committee," Dr. Appel said, "as it decided to convene the Assembly, for the first time, in a 'third world' minority church situation."

Previous world gatherings have been at Lund, Sweden, in 1947; Hannover, Germany, 1952; Minneapolis, Minnesota, 1957, and Helsinki, Finland, 1963.

A primary reason for holding to the Brazilian site, the LWF executive said, is the opinion of leaders of the host Brazilian church that in spite of difficulties the plan should not be abandoned. He said they expect great enrichment for their church from the Assembly and "frankly, do not understand hesitations being expressed abroad."

## NEW CONFIRMATION PLANS MADE IN NORWAY, SWEDEN

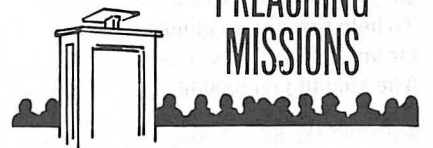
Oslo (LWF)—New plans in Norway and Sweden to prepare young people for confirmation were discussed at a recent conference here.

Programs being considered emphasize the involvement of youth in the parish life of the church in addition to the study of the catechism.

The need for extra help for pas-

[Continued on page 16]

## PREACHING MISSIONS



**Fosston, Minn.**

Nov. 16-19

Calvary Lutheran Church

Orville T. Olson, pastor

Speaker: Rev. David Molstre, Grand Forks, N. Dak.

**Winger, Minn.**

Nov. 23-27

Dovre Lutheran Church

Forrest Swenson, pastor

Speaker: Rev. John DeBoer, Villard, Minn.

tors has been recognized in both countries. The Swedish plan calls for the assistance of laymen with theological or teaching backgrounds and in Norway the old post of "cate-chist" has been reinstated, with educational work as a main task.

### CANADA LUTHERAN CHURCH MAY USE LAY MINISTERS

Winnipeg, Canada (LWF) — The use of lay ministers in certain parish duties usually reserved for ordained clergy men will be recommended to the 1970 convention of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Canada.

The Church Council, governing body between conventions of the ELCC, at a recent meeting endorsed a plan that would authorize calling laymen to serve in team ministries

with ordained clergymen in larger parishes. They would be given special areas of responsibility.

Also, laymen would be licensed for one-year terms to serve as fully-authorized pastors of vacant parishes, and a special course of theological education for laymen over forty years of age, leading to full ordination as a clergyman, would be provided.

Presently, Lutheran Theological Seminary at Waterloo, Ontario, has already enrolled one man in the latter category, anticipating the church approval of this plan.

The ELCC is Canada's only autonomous Lutheran Church with 340 congregations, 231 clergymen and 83,000 baptized members. Other Lutherans in Canada belong either to the Lutheran Church in America or Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod.

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