

September 11, 1973

The Lutheran Ambassador



Berchtesgaden, Bavaria, Germany

Roger Huebner, D.D.S.

MEDITATION MOMENTS

OLD FAITHFUL

Faithfulness is as basic to the nature of God as gravity is to the physical world.

We believe that God created this universe. As a good craftsman He has placed the mark of His own creative genius upon His handiwork. Indeed, Paul declares that the invisible nature of God can be clearly perceived from the things He has made, predicating particularly His power and deity.

There is a remarkable constancy and consistency in the laws and motions of nature. Gravity always has a downward pull; heat expands, and cold contracts; pressure varies directly with heat; when water is heated it vaporizes and exerts a tremendous pressure—men call it steam; but as soon as steam is cooled it becomes water again. Water shrinks as its temperature lowers, though its weight remains constant; consequently, cold water is heavier than warm water. Because of this fact water that is heated in the furnace in the basement of our homes is forced upward through one set of pipes by the heavier cold water which sinks down through another set of pipes to be re-heated. God has willed it so. But when this same water is cooled to within four degrees of freezing it ceases to shrink and begins to expand. Therefore, ice is lighter than water, and floats; if it were not so, our lakes would freeze

from the bottom and up. Only a God such as ours could think up and operate such a system.

Old Faithful is the name of a geyser in Yellowstone Park. Also this summer thousands of tourists have stopped to see this geyser shoot steam and water into the air with hourly regularity. "Geyser" is the word that is related to the word "geist", or spirit. Before people knew better they thought a spirit was down there in the earth, blowing water into the air whenever he pleased. When they became better informed they were convinced there was no spirit there at all. Some people have even concluded that there may be no God at all behind nature.

The Christian sees in the regularity of nature's laws a reflection of God's faithfulness. When he stands before a phenomenon of nature such as Old Faithful he realizes that it is to God the appellation "Old Faithful" most appropriately belongs. He has been at work, operating through the laws of nature longer than the human race can remember. He operates through the spectacular, such as the northern lights, thunder and lightning, storm and hail; more commonly He works through the commonplace and regular—that which happens every day through the unchanging laws which He has established.

Besides these laws of the physical universe there are other laws which are just as real as the laws of gravity and inertia; these are the laws of right and wrong. Down through the ages people have wrestled with the problem of determining why an action is right or wrong. Solutions have been suggested—only to be discarded by the next generation. Perhaps our age is peculiar in this that as knowledge has increased convictions have decreased. We know a good deal about the world around us; but we are more confused than ever about what is right or wrong, and why it is one or the other.

For the Christian the answer is simple. Right is what pleases God, and wrong is what displeases Him. Rightness is rooted in the nature of God. Stealing is not wrong primarily because a neighbor loses money or property by another person's action; it is wrong because God does not want people to steal. All that which God does not want people to do is wrong. The Bible calls it sin. God has let us know what is right and wrong in the Ten Commandments which He has given. It is possible to deny that there is a valid law which has come from God; but every person must take the consequences of violating this law. Back of the law stands God.

—Iver Olson

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Luther League Convention '73

by Linda Moan, Secretary, LLF

How can one express in writing the meaning of souls saved, lives surrendered, sins confessed, and renewed dedication to serve the Lord? If this could be done, this is how I would describe the meaning of our Luther League Convention held here at the Bible School on July 24-29. Many lives were transformed and many dealt with sins in their Christian lives. For this we can only thank and praise God.

Realizing the importance of total commitment to Christ, we centered our convention around the theme "All My Life." Each day we stressed specific aspects of life which are important considerations in living and serving Jesus Christ. Wednesday's topic was "Sex, Dating, and Marriage." Our morning hours included studies by Pastor John Strand and Pastor Robert Rieth, followed by a discussion period on how to honor God in this area of our lives. On Thursday we centered our thoughts on the subject of "Vocations and God's Will." We were instructed in the morning sessions by Pastor Richard Snipstead, Pastor Connely Dyrud, and a Christian guidance counselor. We were challenged with the need for Christian witness in many avenues of life, as well as our response to God's call into full-time Christian service. On Friday we studied about "Satan and His Tools." Pastor Jay Erickson, Pastor Victor Ernest and Pastor Al Palmquist shared with us the reality and power of Satan today. Most important was the assurance they shared of total victory in Jesus Christ. No Christian needs to fear, whose life has been given to Christ. His blood not only cleanses from all sin but delivers the trusting Christian from the power of Satan and his forces. Christ died to set us free. "But thanks be to God, which giveth us the

victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labor is not in vain in the Lord" (I Cor. 15:57-58).

On Saturday we considered our call to Personal Evangelism. Sharing with us on this subject were Pastor Jay Erickson, Evangelist Nels Pedersen and Mr. John Spreiter (Kenyon, Minnesota). In each session we were challenged with the opportunities and blessings of sharing our faith with others. Following the film in the afternoon many of the youth divided up to go out to different parts of the city for personal outreach. They returned with great joy to testify of the rich blessings they received and encouraged one another to continue sharing Christ.

Our evening services were special times of spiritual blessing and challenge. Pastor Robert Rieth was our evening speaker. He was accompanied by his wife Marion who shared her testimony in music on the marimba. We praise God for the working of His Holy Spirit in these services to deal with sin and reveal the truths of Scripture. Our afterglow meetings, led by our Youth Worker, Wayne Pederson, were also rich times of fellowship and testimony of new life in Christ. Each evening was clear evidence of God's power and victory.

The Luther League Federation held its biennial business meeting on Thursday afternoon. The following were elected to compose the LLF Executive committee for the next two years: President, Pastor Kenneth Mo-land (Kenyon); First Vice-President, Wayne Floan (Fertile, Minnesota); Second Vice-President, Lyle Forde (Everett, Washington); Secretary, Linda Moan (McIntosh, Minnesota); Treasurer, Kathi Jones (Wyndmere,

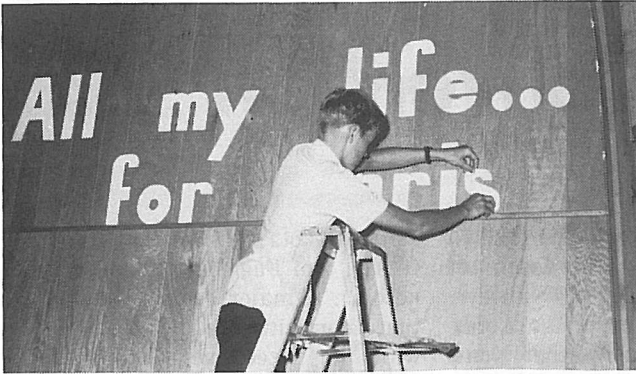
North Dakota); Devotional Life Secretary, Jim Fugleberg (Badger, Minnesota). A major decision was made that a committee be appointed to work with the Executive Committee to choose a national Luther League Federation project. They would report their decision in **The Lutheran Ambassador** and this project will be established by February 1, 1974, with a guiding figure of \$2,000.00 per year. We want to encourage all local and district leagues to send in their suggestions for this project.

We thank God for the wonderful staff for the week: Pastor Kenneth Pentti, head counselor; Mrs. George Olson (Kenyon), dean of women; pastor John Rieth, songleader; Mr. Don Rodvold, convention choir director; and our counsellors and kitchen staff; as well as the nameless others for their part in this week. We thank each one who remembered those days in prayer. God did answer, and continues to answer these prayers. For this we praise Him.

In closing I would like to share the words of our theme song. I know that many left with this prayer on their hearts. May it be your prayer, too.

"All my life, through the good and bad of life,
Whether I should gain or lose,
Still I choose to live my life,
every moment
All for Thee, walking, oh, so close to Thee,
While I'm learning every day,
Come what may, to trust in Thee.
Take away the doubt that hides
Thy perfect will,
Give me faith instead and with
Thy Spirit fill,
Then all my days, be the guardian
of my ways,
Then I'll know the glory of, all
Thy love, through all my days."

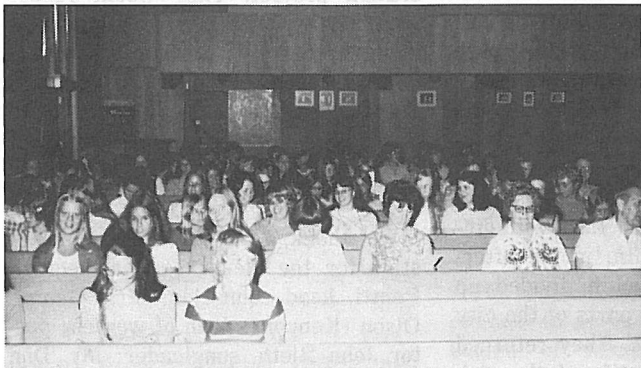
Scenes from the 1973 Luther



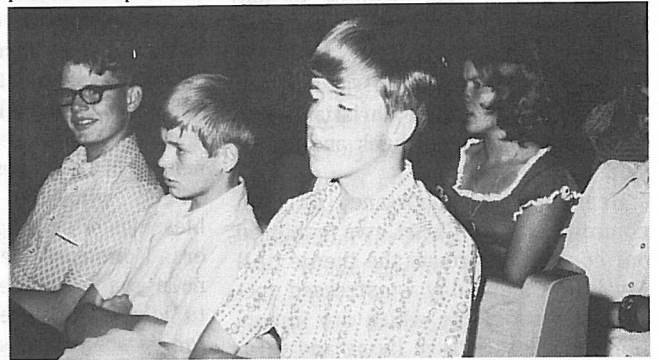
Steve Moan put up the convention motto: "All My Life... for Christ"



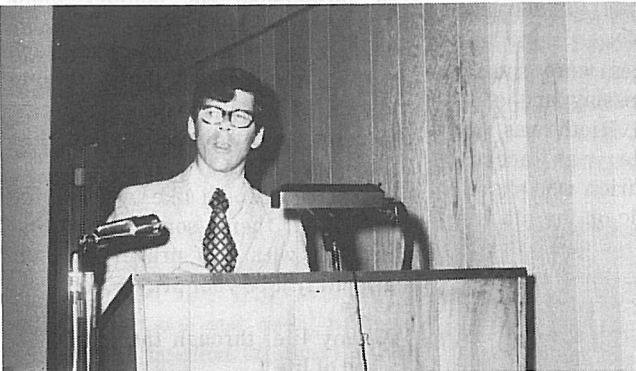
Three girls arrive at the school dormitory and look for a place to sleep



Part of the audience at the opening night service



Hearing the Word of God



Rev. Robert Rieth, evening convention speaker



Mrs. Rieth played marimba music

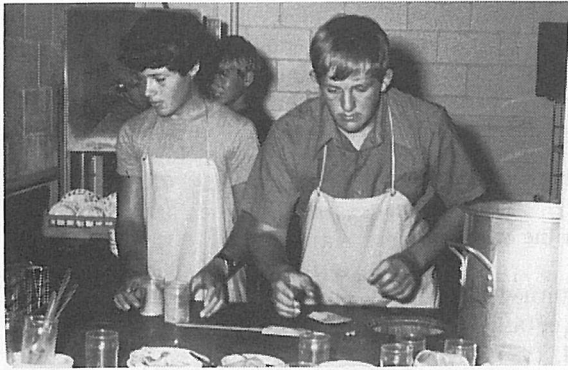


Why does everyone look so glum?



Girls eating in the school lunch room

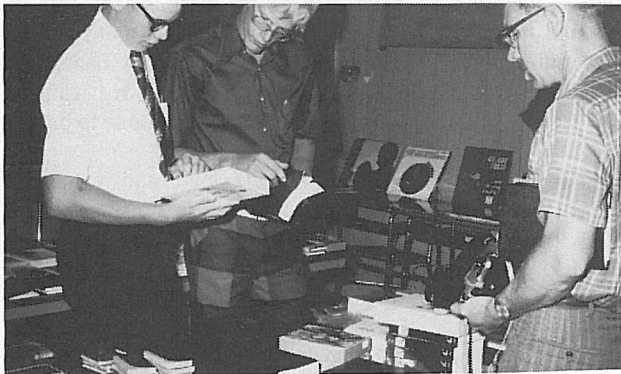
League Federation Convention



Someone has to wash the dishes



Mrs. Aini Mykind and Clifford Holm helped make the meals



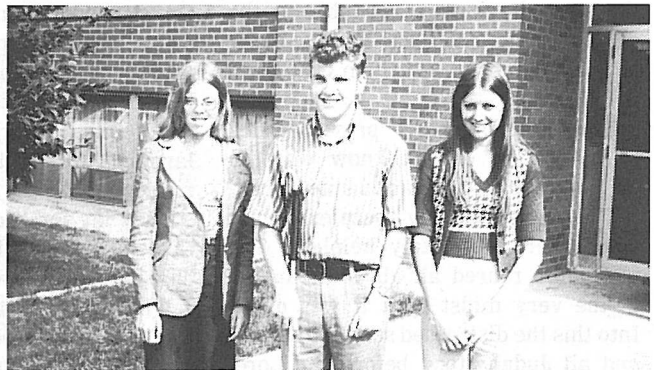
Two South Dakota leaguers and Pastor Edwin Kjos, right, visit the book display



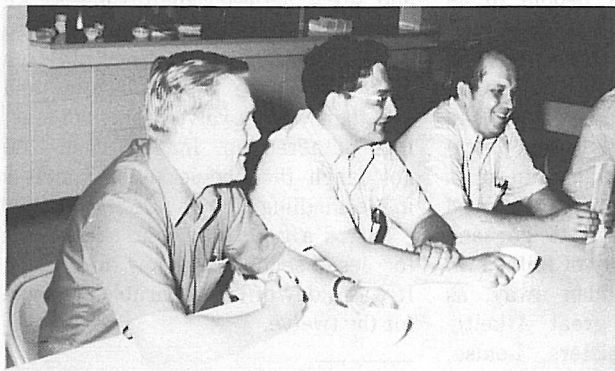
That's long enough now, girls



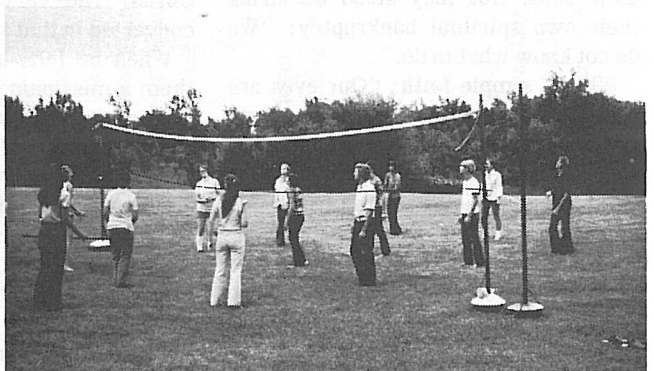
Rev. Victor Ernest, one of the convention speakers



Tommy Anderson, Greenbush, Minn., and two admirers



Pastors Howard Kjos, Jerome Nikunen and Kenneth Pentti enjoy a coffee break



Volleyball was part of the recreational program

A FIRM FOOTING

THE LORD'S WAY IN STORM

The Lord has His way in the whirlwind and in the storm, says the prophet Nahum. The one who praises the goodness of the Lord in the 107th Psalm tells us that the Lord commanded and raised the stormy wind, to chastise and to humble, that his people might see His wonderful works.

Then they cried unto the Lord in their trouble, when they were tossed by the angry waves and the Lord brought them out and led them to the desired haven. And when the storm had done its work, the Lord stilled it.

The Lord had His way in the storm.

* * *

They cried to the Lord in their trouble.

This is the old, solid way. This is the way the king of Judah and the people went, when the mighty army of Syria came against them (II Chron. 20).

King Jehoshaphat's prayer ended in this: "We do not know what to do, but our eyes are turned unto Thee."

They were sorely perplexed and stood there absolutely helpless. The whirlwind roared all about them, but in the very midst of it it was quiet. Into this the distressed sought to come: and all Judah stood before the Lord, with their little ones, their wives, and their sons. But they stood declaring their own spiritual bankruptcy: "We do not know what to do."

What a simple faith: "Our eyes are turned unto Thee." A such complete trusting in the Lord of the helpless soul is pleasing to the Lord. Such child-like simplicity He can never disappoint.

The next morning the enemies' army lay there slain, having fought one against the other—none escaped. But not a single one of the men of Judah lost his life. Then the people won rich spoils, and assembled in the Valley

of Praise to honor and sing praises to the Lord their deliverer.

The Lord had His way in the whirlwind.

The day of distress was turned into a day of great strengthening of faith.

May you, distressed soul, take this lesson to heart: you who are tossed about in the storm, like a weather-beaten dove, and have found no help with the Lord there is a quiet place of peace, when the stormy wind is raging.

Seek this quiet place!

For in the time of trouble He shall hide you in His pavilion (little cottage). In the secret of His tabernacle shall He hide you (Ps. 27:5).

How often His power has roses out of thorns brought.

More than 50 years ago a man came from his mission work in Portugal to visit his home country, America. On the way home a terrific storm arose, so the ship had to seek haven at the Azore Island out in the great Ocean—1,000 miles from Portugal and 2,000 miles from New York. The islanders are under Portuguese dominion.

They lay for anchor at the city Ponta del Gada on the island of St. Michael for several weeks.

While the great storm was raging, the warm-hearted American Christian labored for his Master, and during these weeks he led six men to Christ. The very first people to be converted in that town.

When he left, he promised to send them a missionary from America. But this proved to be easier said than done: No mission society would promise support, and no one wanted to go.

But then one of his sisters stepped forward and volunteered to go; and off she went—on the way of faith. Two more came later. Hidden away, as it were, out in the great Atlantic Ocean, these three sisters, Louise, Mary and Ellen Wright, did a wonderful work for the Lord from

year to year, to the salvation of many souls.

When the storm drove their brother out of his course and stopped him on the way then it was the Lord Himself who took hold of the helm and led him to the place He had decided.

The Lord has His way in the storm.

* * *

Jesus had fed the 5,000. The people were enthusiastic: It should be great to have Him for their king. Read John 6. For the Twelve it felt like a special distinction to be one of His men now. It had never been so popular with the discipleship before.

But just as the enthusiasm was at its very highest, Jesus constrained His disciples to enter the boat, and He sent the people home; He Himself went up into a mountain alone to pray.

A marvelous Master,

Yes, He constrained, and just about forced them to enter the boat. See Matt. 14 and Mark 6.

But this night His disciples met the storm: the boat labored hard against the waves. The wind was contrary. It got to be a toilsome boat trip. But the Master did not let them out of sight; He saw they were in distress, and then He came to them.

Surely a marvelous Master: First He compels His disciples to go into a storm, then His eye watches them in their struggle against the stormy wind and waves, and when their distress is the greatest, then He comes Himself to them with His comfort and with His joyful sense of safety.

The day had been wonderful and rich in events. There the disciples went about distributing the five loaves and two little fishes—and supply grew and grew between their fingers. An entire five thousand men were filled now; how many women and children in addition, we do not know, and still there were twelve baskets of leavings gathered up. Indeed, Jesus did not teach the people to be reckless in the handling of food.

It was a great day. The admiration for Jesus seemed to know no bounds. It was a day of incomparable sunshine for the twelve.

In the Christian life there are happy and prosperous periods. When Jesus

gets much out of little, when His wonderful power is shining through, when the glory of being His disciple is felt to be a living reality, when the soul is joyful in the happy fellowship of Jesus.

Indeed, this joy is of fundamental character in a sound and true Christian life.

Even in the day of trial and in the dark night of the storm, this calm, deep joy in God is the sustaining power.

The joy in the Lord is your strength.

But in days of joy and exaltation it is not a long way to pride and swollen words in the heart of the disciples, due to the weakness of the flesh.

And then Jesus, in His deep concern for His own, will have to lead them out into a storm, where the boat must struggle hard against wind and waves.

For He desires to hold His own down as a poor and humble people.

“When through the deep waters I call thee to go,
The rivers of sorrow shall not overflow;
For I will be with thee, thy trials to bless,
And sanctify to thee thy deepest distress.”

A marvelous night after a wonderful day!

That night Jesus appeared like an apparition to His disciples, when He came walking on the sea. They did not know Him, and they cried out in great fright. That night Peter had his faith tested by walking in the waters—and sank. But that night they saw the raging storm turned into a great calm—when Jesus entered the boat. During this sailing trip the disciples of Jesus obtained a clearer vision of their Master than ever before: They fell down before Him and confessed Him to be the Son of God.

The storm ended well. It led the followers of Jesus into a deeper spiritual fellowship with the Lord.

Blessed be every storm which grants us a humble spirit and a clearer vision of what we possess in our Lord and Savior!

* * *

Jacob Tronhus was minister of the Fron parish, Gudbrandsdalen, Norway, from 1830 to 1850. At that time

there happened to be a year with a very dry summer. The parish-helper, or deacon, Torger Graav, and one of the pastor's neighbors went on a Saturday night to request of the preacher to pray for heaven's rain from the pulpit next day—upon the parched earth.

The pastor answered: “Yes, I am willing to pray for rain, my dear Torger, but I hardly believe it will help so long as this north wind is blowing.”

We present-day Christians smile at these words. For we are wiser than this. We know, of course, that the Almighty God is able to turn the north wind—or to still it—when it pleases Him.

But still—do we really believe it?

Does not our faith stumble between this and that which comes upon us as a sweeping north wind.

If our condition had not been thus and thus, our prayers could be answered. If it were not for this and that thing in the way, the blessing would come from God!

This is the way we reason it out and calculate. We measure God up with the impossibilities within us and the many hindrances around us—till we are about to lose faith in a God who is able to do something for us.

“He that observeth the wind shall not sow; and he that regardeth the clouds shall not reap,” says the Wise Man (Eccles. 11:4). It leads to laziness and starvation instead of a rich and happy Christian life and boldness of faith and trust in the power of God.

We need a great God in these days, a God who gives advice and help in our perplexed and helpless condition. We have, indeed, a great God.

“I know that thou canst do everything, and no thought can be impossible for Thee to carry out” (Norse translation), said the man who was tried in heavy afflictions (Job 42:2).

Let us pin our faith onto Him!

“Jesus knows all about our struggles,
He will guide till the day is done.”
Peder Fostervold

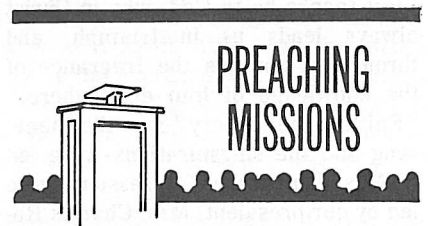
PERSONALITIES

New address for **Rev. Francis Monseth** is 401 30th Ave. North, Minneapolis, Minn. 55411. Pastor Monseth is

back at the Association Schools again after a year of graduate study at Concordia Lutheran Theological Seminary, St. Louis, Mo. He and his wife became the parents of a baby daughter, Jennifer Rebecca, on Monday, Sept. 3. Congratulations.

Lay Pastor Rodney Stueland resigned as pastor of the Newfolden, Minn., parish (Westaker, Bethania and Hegland) on Sunday, Aug. 12, having accepted a call to become pastor at Buxton, N. Dak. He will take up the work there at the first of the year, serving Ny Stavanger of Buxton and Valley Free of Portland. Zoar Lutheran of Hatton, formerly a member of the parish, will be calling its own pastor and there is a parsonage in Hatton. A new parsonage is being built in Buxton. **Student pastor Norman Tenneboe** is presently serving the three congregations.

Recently ordained **Rev. Kenneth Pentti** has the address of P. O. Box 47, Bessemer, Mich. 49911.



Spicer, Minn.

Green Lake Lutheran Church

Leslie Galland, pastor

Sept. 16-19

Rev. Wendell Johnson, Dalton, Minn.,
speaker

Sully, Ia.

St. Andrew's Lutheran Church, ALC

Wilfred Lindquist, pastor

Sept. 16-20

Rev. Gerald F. Mundfrom, Grafton,
N. Dak., speaker

Garden City, Ia.

Stavanger Lutheran Church

Terry Olson, pastor

Sept. 20-23

Rev. Laurel M. Udden, AFLBS,
speaker

Fergus Falls, Minn.

Calvary Lutheran Church

Julius Hermunslie, pastor

Sept. 30-Oct. 4

Rev. Laurel M. Udden, AFLBS,
speaker

EASTERN NORTH DAKOTA WMF MEETING SET

The Women's Missionary Federation of the Eastern North Dakota District of the Association of Free Lutheran Congregations will hold its fall rally in Bethel Lutheran Church, Grafton, Dennis Gray, pastor, on Friday, October 12. Registration will be at 9:30 a.m., with sessions at 10:00 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. A Bible study and mission program is planned. Come and bring a friend.

Mrs. Donald Jacobson, Secretary

Women For Christ

DALTON CHURCH SITE OF WOMEN'S GATHERING IN MAY

The WMF Spring Rally of the Central Minnesota District was held at Zion Lutheran Church, Dalton, on Wednesday, May 2. "To Triumph in Christ" was the rally theme with II Corinthians 2:14 as the theme verse, "But thanks be to God, who in Christ always leads us in triumph, and through us spreads the fragrance of the knowledge of him everywhere." "Faith is the Victory" was the theme song and the singspirations were led by Mrs. John Olson. The sessions were led by our president, Mrs. Charles Rovang, and Mrs. James Formo, Zion WMF President, responded with a welcome. Mrs. Everett Johnson led in scripture reading and prayer, reading different passages pertaining to the word "triumph." Mrs. James Christianson sang "Jesus, Jesus" and "God's Love" during the morning session.

Pastor Connelly Dyrud led us in the Bible study on II Corinthians 2:14-17. There is triumph in Christ, but between the triumphs there are trials. The apostle Paul knew what it was to suffer for Christ's sake. It is when we are crushed that the sweet fragrance of Christ can be seen by the world. This is like the sweet perfume that comes from a flower when it is crushed. Pastor Dyrud related many incidents from Brazil where there were difficulties and trials, but when they were faithful to present the word, then came the triumphs—being able to see the miracle of salvation in someone's life. Romans 8:37: "In all

these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us." A processional offering was taken for "My Missionary for a Day" in the morning and an offering for the general budget of the WMF in the afternoon.

The afternoon session was opened with prayer fellowship led by Mrs. George Hartman. A group of ladies from the host church sang, "O Wonderful Words of Salvation." Pastor and Mrs. Wendell Johnson sang "Love Lights the Way." Pastor Dyrud brought the message, speaking on Matthew 25:31-46. Unless we can see those dying in their sin around us, he said, we will never be mission-minded. In Brazil, many are dead in their religion as well as here, so it is not any easier to witness. We must work and not be content to just sit in our churches and get fed, but bring Christ out of the churches to our fellowmen. The Samaritan woman went immediately and told of what Christ had done in her life. In Brazil, people new in Christ start witnessing right away and this strengthens them. In all the different situations mentioned in Matthew 25, we must see the same situations in those around us. God can use us in our communities if we are willing. Pastor Dyrud asked each of us, "Can you lead a soul to Christ?" There was also a question and answer period on Brazil missions. Pastor Dyrud thanked the WMF for the support of the Brazilian bookstore.

Mrs. Charles Rovang was re-elected president and Mrs. Herb Jacobson was re-elected treasurer. There were 85 in attendance.

Mrs. Harold Erickson, Secretary

COUPLE HONORED ON GOLDEN ANNIVERSARY



Mrs. and Mrs. Ludvig Kvamme, former house parents at Association Free Lutheran Bible School, were honored on their 50th wedding anniversary at an open house held at Medicine Lake Lutheran Church, Minneapolis, Minn., on Sunday, April 15. Rev. R. Snipstead acted as master of ceremonies at the program which was given. The honored couple is pictured here with a "family tree" showing themselves, their children and grandchildren.

CORRECTIONS

Mrs. Robert Sampson, who wrote the article "Try It, You'll Like It" in the July 31st *Ambassador* (Fellowship Corner), is from Our Savior Lutheran Church in Bessemer, Mich., not Ishpeming, as indicated at the time.

In the July 17th *Ambassador*, it was incorrectly reported that ten persons had been elected to the Schools Corporation for five-year terms. That should have read three-year terms, for that is the limitation on that corporation.

editorials

YOUTH CONVENTION SUCCESSFUL

It is a month and a half since the 1973 Luther League Federation Convention was held in Minneapolis, but this is our first chance to carry a report of that convention. We are doing so by means of an account written by the secretary, Linda Moan, and some pictures that we took during those days. They will give some idea of what transpired at the biennial gathering of the youth of our Association of Free Lutheran Congregations.

Due to the press of other duties, we didn't get to take in very many sessions of the convention and so have to rely on the impressions of others. But the reports that have come our way all indicate that it was a good conference. Young people were spiritually challenged and no doubt the direction of some lives was altered. While on vacation we had the opportunity to hear a group of girls from the Newfolden, Minn., parish tell about the convention and they gave the impression of enthusiasm as they brought back the message and songs of the Minneapolis gathering.

Then it was good for us to have the youth of our church as our guests at Bible School those days of convention. They got to see our Bible School and we trust that a good many of them will come back some day as students here. Once again we were impressed with the fine group of young people in our church. Not all of them are living under a life commitment to Jesus Christ, but there are many who are and we pray for the rest that they will make that choice in the days of their youth.

May we make several observations in closing. First, there might be value in establishing a higher minimum age level for the convention, such as limiting attendance to those who will be in grade 10 and up. Many times when young people attend Bible camps or conventions at younger ages they no longer want to go when they get to the age where they could receive greater benefit.

Second, some of our districts are still loosely structured as to the Luther League Federation after all these years. Perhaps no district does much more than hold an annual convention. Some districts may have no district organization with officers. It seems that a real opportunity for fellowship and work beyond the borders of the local parish is being missed. Yes, distances in some districts are prohibitive of very much fellowship, but in others the possibility is very real. Also, the Federation Council, made up of the district officers and advisors, and the LLF officers, is functioning poorly because the district officers don't take their responsibilities toward the Federation seriously, if there are any district officers at all.

Finally, as we understand it, the recent convention

left the door open to the possibility of holding the 1975 LLF convention on the West Coast. Enthused by our own visit to the West Coast this summer, we urge the LLF officers and Youth Board to accept the invitation of the West Coast District to come there in 1975. It would be a good thing for the young people of the rest of the AFLC to visit their brothers and sisters of the West. There would be a mutual encouragement from such a visit.

WRAP-UP ON SUMMER

The past recess from school brought a variety of experiences and I'd like to run through them briefly now at summer's end.

To begin, there were two stretches with the Bible School Gospel Team. The first took us out to Washington and Oregon with two stops in South Dakota on the way. Everywhere the wonderful Christian hospitality. It was also a delight to see the wonders of God's creation as revealed in the mountain and prairie country. The views of the Pacific Ocean, first near Astoria, Ore., and then at other places to the south, will remain as one of the highlights of the summer.

The annual conference at Ferndale, Wash., remains etched in the memories of all of us who were there. What a fine spirit of Christian friendship! My return brought me to Vancouver, B.C., one of the beautiful cities of North America, and then by train across Canada to Winnipeg. There was a day's lay-over in Banff, Alta., with the chance to drink in the beauty of the surrounding mountain peaks—Rundle, Cascade, Norquay, Sulphur, etc. But for all their beauty, when the train sped across the plains of Alberta and Saskatchewan I realized that I was "home" again and it seemed natural and good.

Following the Luther League Convention I went out with the Gospel Team for a few days again. We went to Sedan, Sunburg, Spicer and Dalton in the heartland of Minnesota. I hadn't been in some of these churches before and enjoyed to see them. Here also we found friendly congregations and pastors and a warm welcome. There, too, was beautiful lake-dotted countryside and wooded hills. It must be a pleasant place in which to live and work.

But to go back in time, shortly after my return from the West Coast, it was time to leave for the convention of Lutherans Alert-National in Moorhead, Minn. In an editorial some time ago, I gave a report of that gathering held on the campus of Moorhead State College. With several days at hand before needing to be at Hope Lutheran Church, Sisseton, S. Dak., for a 75th anniversary, I took the opportunity to visit in three congregations which I served briefly in 1963—Zoar, Hatton; Valley, Portland; and Ny Stavanger, Buxton. It is always a pleasure to visit in congregations one has served. One night I attended the concert of the Bible School Ambassadors in the Hatton church.

On the way to Sisseton I stopped at New Effington, S. Dak., where I had served four congregations from 1958 to 1963. It was my good fortune to find an auction sale in progress in town and it provided the opportunity to meet so many former parishioners and other friends.

The anniversary at Hope Church on July 1 was a pleasant experience for all. The Lord favored us with a most delightful day weather-wise until after the festivities were over. A service that lasted over two hours in the afternoon was well accepted by everyone. Hearts were full and it was a time to treasure.

I must mention one more stop before I returned to the Cities. It was at Pickerel Lake Bible Camp, Grenville, S. Dak. It was the first day of camp and I shared the supper hour there. I attended that camp as a pastor for 14 consecutive seasons. In some ways it may be the most humble of the camps in which the AFLC participates but it holds many blessed memories for me.

I have written before of my trip to New Orleans to cover the convention of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod in July. It was a pleasure to visit that great metropolis of the South and to have that name take on new meaning for me. The countryside of Tennessee, Mississippi and Louisiana (except for the bayou country of the latter) looked much like Minnesota. I was surprised by the amount of wooded area and the evidences of logging industry. No, I didn't see any cotton fields that I know of. The soil, as you have heard, is reddish in color.

In 1949, while a college student, I taught Vacation Bible School in the Reeder (N. Dak.) parish, ALC, and at Bowman, eight weeks in all. My brother-in-law was pastor there at that time. I had never been back to Reeder since but this summer afforded the opportunity. A sister who had also taught there was along. It was interesting to meet people in whose homes I had stayed then and to see the countryside again. They were building a new brick church in Reeder that summer of 1949 and I helped a little with the work. It was interesting to see the finished product now. In the basement of that structure and out at the Whetstone School, northeast of town,

where another congregation worshipped, I had preached some of my very first sermons. At New England we called on a man who had been one of my table mates aboard the Oslofjord on the trip to Norway in 1967. He and his wife, whom he had married since then, graciously invited us to noon dinner. On the return trip we stopped again in Bismarck, N. Dak., to pick up Mother, who had been visiting her brother and sister-in-law, the Olaf Lees. Uncle Olaf will be 90 in November and has been without sight for over 28 years, but hasn't spent those years feeling sorry for himself. He cheers other people up.

Then there were vacation days at home in Newfolden, Minn. There may not be scenic grandeur there, but it is a good place to live and relax. There are always things to do around our place on the very edge of town. During this time there was also a trip to Winnipeg for a weekend. We drove up by way of Walhalla, N. Dak., and had a picnic lunch in the city park. Perhaps nowhere in North Dakota are there such lovely large old trees as there in the valley of the Pembina River. From Winnipeg we took a drive to Lake Manitoba, a very large lake but almost completely undeveloped as to tourist trade. Most of the Winnipeg people go to Lake Winnipeg, or to Falcon Lake to the east. Not many Americans are to be found vacationing in Manitoba unless it be at Riding Mountain National Park or Falcon Lake. But Lake Manitoba remains a vast vacation area in reserve.

And so it is back to Minneapolis and our own Medicine Lake. What a beautiful spot the Lord has given us here. Here there is still the opportunity to commune with God in nature. We look forward to another good year at Seminary, Bible School and in the offices of our congregational fellowship. Summer has been good. We look for rich blessings in our work here and in the congregations scattered over the land. Let us pray for one another.

—Raynard Huglen

ASSOCIATION OF FREE LUTHERAN CONGREGATIONS

3110 East Medicine Lake Boulevard
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55441

BUDGET RECEIPTS

February 1, 1973-July 31, 1973
(Six months)

	Proposed Yearly Budget	Current Budget	Total Received	% of Current Budget
General Fund	\$ 48,316.00	\$ 24,157.98	\$ 15,720.95	65.0
Schools	81,886.00	40,942.98	19,200.24	46.8
Home Missions	44,000.00	22,000.02	14,984.75	68.0
Foreign Missions	44,000.00	22,000.02	14,038.92	63.8
Praise Fund	18,000.00	9,000.00	4,627.92	51.4
TOTAL	\$236,202.00	\$118,101.00	\$ 68,572.78	58.0

Budget 1972-73 \$251,563.00
*includes debt retirement special offering

Legacies—\$177.85

New Dorm Fund

Cash received to date— \$101,933.92
Unpaid pledges 29,550.35
Total \$131,484.27

The same message is as relevant for all hearers of the Gospel in this 20th century as it was in the first century. Paul availed himself of the opportunity to witness before the Jewish king. It is a great speech showing tact and courtesy; first addressing the ruler with a compliment, but closing with a claim for acquittal from Agrippa.

20. What question is put to the king? v. 27

21. What was the sad and ironic response from the king?

Oh! the tragedy of being **ALMOST** persuaded. The judges ruled that Paul was innocent of the charges brought against him, but because he had appealed to Caesar, the emperor, to Rome he must go. He had insisted that faith in a risen, divine Christ is the very heart of Christianity, that the resurrection was a proven fact, and that salvation in Christ is for all people of all time.

22. What is Paul's great wish? v. 29

Paul ended his great speech of defense, but it was also one of witnessing for his Lord. He left with manacled hands, a prisoner, ready to sail for Rome.

In the next and final lesson in this series, we shall follow Paul en route to Rome, the imperial city, there to stand before the emperor, Caesar. Again, we have followed Paul as he in turn has followed the directing of the Holy Spirit. Are we obedient to the heavenly vision—that Light which is given to each one of us? Are we following Jesus? Let us not procrastinate, as did Felix, and await a more convenient time, or become **ALMOST** persuaded, as King Agrippa, when we are prompted by the Holy Spirit to do His bidding.

"Almost persuaded," **now** to believe;

"Almost persuaded" Christ to receive;

Seems now some soul to say,

"Go Spirit, go Thy way,

Some more convenient day

On Thee I'll call."

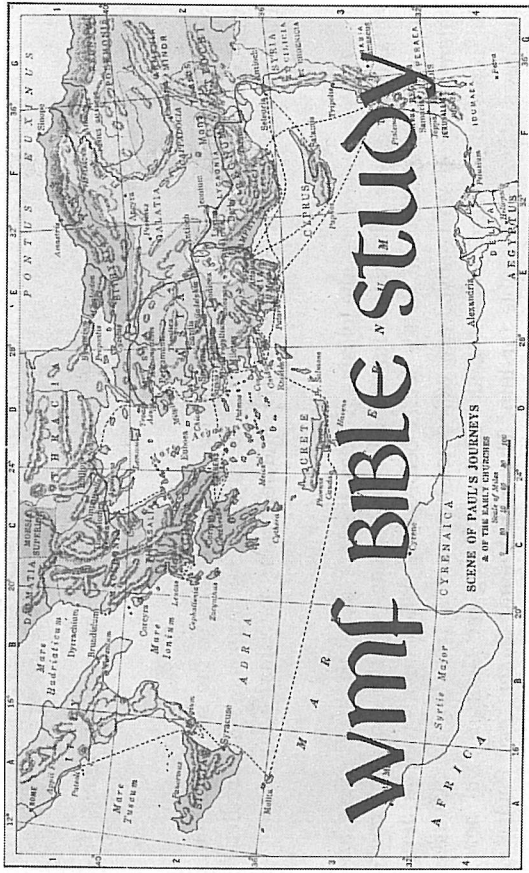
"Almost persuaded," harvest is past!

"Almost persuaded," doom comes at last.

"Almost" cannot await; "Almost" is but to fail!

Sad, sad, that bitter wail—"Almost—but lost."

Phillip P. Bliss



Lesson 10

October, 1973

THE THIRD MISSIONARY JOURNEY IS CONCLUDED

Chapters 20 and 21

As Paul traveled, he spoke words of encouragement. Because of a plot of the Jews, Paul could not make a rapid voyage back to Jerusalem. He came to Troas, where he remained a few days. There he met with the disciples to celebrate the Lord's Supper and to speak words of encouragement and cheer to them.

1. a. What happened at midnight? v. 9

b. What did Paul do? v. 10

2. Paul summoned some men from Ephesus to meet him. To them he gave a farewell address, revealing the true heart of this great apostle. His parting speech was filled with sympathy, tenderness, affection and tears. He gave practical advice for guidance and inspiration. Read his farewell from chapter 20:18-35.

3. What did the Holy Spirit reveal unto Paul? vs. 22, 23

4. a. What comfort was offered? v. 32

b. What is God's Word able to do for us?

5. Paul continued on toward Jerusalem. Along the way he found disciples. What did some of them say as a warning? 21:4

6. In Caesarea he went to the home of Philip, one of the seven deacons, who was an evangelist. While in this city he met Agabus, who predicted Paul's approaching imprisonment. How did he demonstrate this? v. 11

7. We are nearing the closing scenes in Acts and two great facts are notable. One, the admiration for Paul by his friends, and the other the courage with which Paul faces the trials before him. When he arrived in Jerusalem the brethren received and welcomed him and his traveling companions. He reported to them all that God had done among the Gentiles. But here, the Jews stirred up trouble for him. The mob became violent and Paul was arrested. The crowd yelled, "Kill him." Nevertheless, he was granted permission to speak. Read his defense, in Chapter 22:1-21. What question does Paul ask of the centurion? vs. 25

Chapters 23 and 24

8. In his continued self-defense, Paul makes a significant statement. v. 1. What is it? Can we do the same?

9. About 25 years had gone by since Paul had witnessed the same council's persecution of Stephen, which he had endorsed. Who had also stood there when Caiaphas pronounced a similar death sentence? (Matt. 26:57)

10. a. What was Paul's attitude while persecuting the Christians? (26:9-11)

b. What was his attitude before he became a follower of the Way? (Phil. 3:6)

11. What did Paul call the High Priest, and what apology did he later make? (23:3-5)

12. What message did the Lord send to His servant? v. 11

13. A plot was formed against Paul's life. How did God overrule this plan? v. 16

This quick-witted, level-headed, heroic youth took a minor part in God's program, yet how important it was! "God can use a humble Christian to upset great calculations of the devil!"—K. L. Brooks

14. How did Paul make his escape to Caesarea? (23:22-24)

"The minute details are picturesque and full of interest and also emphasize the point of the narrative which is to show how much more secure life and justice were in the hands of a heathen government than under the degenerate rulers of the people of God"—E. R. Erdman.

The high priest Ananias informed governor Felix against Paul. Some days later Felix sent for Paul and permitted him to talk about faith in Jesus Christ.

15. What personal application of the Gospel did Paul make? 24:25

16. What was the response of Felix? v. 25

Chapter 25

17. Paul was left in bonds and Felix was succeeded by Festus. In the testings and trials that followed, Paul made one last appeal. What was it and was it granted? vs. 11, 12

Chapter 26

18. Paul also appears before King Agrippa, and is permitted to defend himself. He considered himself fortunate to enter his plea (v. 2). Read his speech before the king. His statement, giving the reason for the accusations brought against him, is recorded in vs. 6, 7. What is it? (See also Gen. 22:18.)

19. a. What did Paul say? (It is most thrilling.) v. 19

b. What was his vision?

c. What was Paul's message? v. 20



NEWS

of the Churches

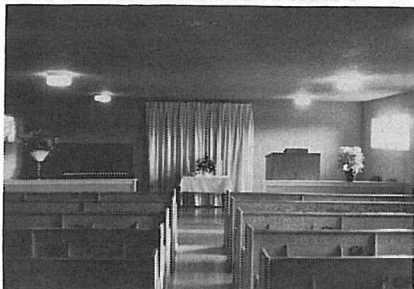
PASTOR INSTALLED, BUILDINGS DEDICATED FOR OREGON CONGREGATION

Two special events have taken place at Spencer Creek Lutheran Church during this year.

On January 28, 1973, Elden Nelson was installed as pastor of our church. Pastor John Strand was present, preaching at the morning worship service, and also presiding at the installation in the afternoon. Pastor Ray Persson, Astoria, Ore., brought greetings from the West Coast District. Lars Stalsbrotten brought greetings as the retiring pastor. A reception for Pastor and Mrs. Nelson and new members of the congregation followed the installation.

On June 10, 1973, a dedication service and open house were held. Buildings dedicated were a parsonage (mobile home) and a youth chapel, which are situated on approximately one and one-half acres and up the road from the church.

The dedication was at the morning worship service which was held in the



The interior of the youth chapel.

youth chapel. During the service the youth participated by reading Scripture, ushering and singing. Pastor Nelson's sermon was from the text, Psalm 127:1:

"Unless the Lord builds the house, They labor in vain who build it; Unless the Lord guards the city, The watchman keeps awake in vain."

Pastor Stalsbrotten challenged the youth to bring their friends to Jesus, just as men brought the paralytic to Jesus (Mark 2:1-12).

A pot-luck dinner was served in the annex of the church following the morning worship. Neighboring congregations were invited to the open house in the afternoon. They were given a tour of the buildings and served refreshments in the parsonage.

We thank and praise the Lord for



The parsonage mobile home and youth chapel beneath the Douglas firs.

providing our congregation with a pastor to carry on His work at Spencer Creek Lutheran Church.

—Corr.

SISSETON CHURCH NOTES 75TH ANNIVERSARY

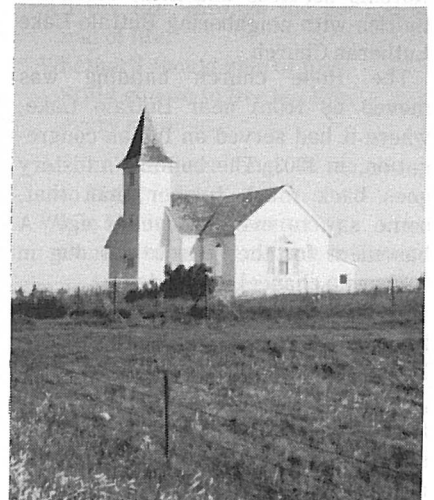
A large crowd gathered at Hope Lutheran Church, rural Sisseton, S. Dak., on Sunday, July 1, to mark the 75th anniversary of the congregation's founding.

Rev. Howard Kjos, the present pastor, was the liturgist at the morning worship service. Rev. Raynard Huglen, Minneapolis, Minn., his immediate predecessor, preached the sermon on the text for the day, Luke 9:51-62. Mrs. Wesley Brooks, wife of a pastor in Brookings, S. Dak., and a daughter of the congregation, sang a solo.

Dinner was served to the congregation and visiting friends at noon.

Pastor Kjos also presided at the festival service in the afternoon. A special tribute to Hope's oldest living member, Mrs. Ovedie Week, was given by Ellen Nielsen, who also read one of her original poems. Greetings were brought by Mrs. G. G. (Petra) Lee, Everett, Wash., widow of one of the former pastors; by Mrs. Milton (Ruth) Erickson, Dalton, Minn., daughter of former pastor Mons Gjerde; and by Rev. Trygve F. Dahle, Spicer, Minn., a former pastor in the Waubay District of the Lutheran Free Church.

Mrs. Lee also sang a solo. Other special music was presented by Miss Nielsen and Mrs. Elmer Bakke; a



Hope Lutheran Church

male quartette consisting of Ronald Hills, Thorleif and Melvin Hovland and Martin Hovland, accompanied by Mrs. Hills; and an instrumental group made up of Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd Bakke and Mark and Elmer Bakke. Sheila Almos was the pianist for the day.

Pastor Huglen brought the afternoon message, based on Hebrews 13:8-16. A history of the congregation written by Alfred Overberg and Miss Nielsen was read by Randy Almos. Written greetings were read by the pastor.

A most pleasant day closed with a fellowship lunch in the church parlors.

Hope Lutheran Church was organized in the LFC in January, 1898. Rev. L. E. Kjelaas, pioneer pastor of northeastern South Dakota, first served the congregation, until 1907, a total on nine years. He was succeeded by Elliot A. Aandahl, 1908-10; C. J. Nestvold, 1910-14; B. P. Farness, 1914-21; Mons Gjerde, 1921-37; G. G. Lee, 1938-41; C. E. Dyrud, Almira, Wash., and after October, Silverton, Ore., 1941-46; R. H. Hofstad, 1946-59; Kenneth L. Anderson, McVile, N. Dak., 1959-60; Raynard Huglen, 1963-72; and Howard Kjos, 1972—. Various students, laymen and neighboring pastors have given interim service, particularly in the years 1960-63 when the congregation faced a great deal of uncertainty about its future. Two of the pastors, G. G. Lee and Mons Gjerde, passed away while serving the Grenville Parish, of which Hope was a member. Today it is a part of the Lake Region Lutheran Parish served out of Roslyn. Since 1971 Hope has shared worship services and most other activities with neighboring Buffalo Lake Lutheran Church.

The Hope church building was moved up from near Buffalo Lake, where it had served an Indian congregation, in 1903. The building's history goes back much further than that, some say to over 100 years ago. A basement for the church was dug in 1929 and a chancel was added.

Hope congregation is not large, but its members carry on faithfully. A ladies aid meets regularly and a youth program, Sunday School and confirmation classes, as well as the worship services, as mentioned before, are carried on in conjunction with Buffalo Lake Church.

SUNNYSIDE CHURCH TO DEDICATE NEW CHURCH

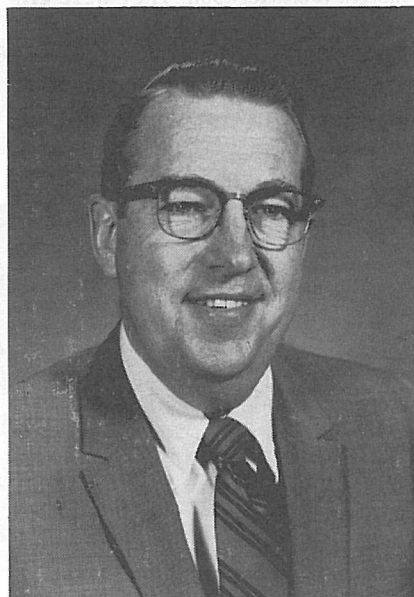
Dedication of the new sanctuary which has been built by Sunnyside Lutheran Church, Route 2, Martin Lake, Stacy, Minn., Alvin Grothe, pastor, will take place on Sunday, Sept. 23, at 3:00 p.m. Guest speaker for the occasion will be Rev. John P. Strand, president of the Association of Free Lutheran Congregations. Rev. Herbert Franz, Cloquet, Minn., chairman of the Home Mission Board of the AFLC, will also be present to bring a greeting.

At the morning worship that day, at 11 o'clock, Rev. Leslie Galland, Spicer, Minn., a former pastor of Sunnyside, will deliver the sermon.

All interested friends are invited to share in this happy occasion.

INTRODUCING OUR EVANGELIST

The Commission on Evangelism is pleased to present Pastor Laurel M. Udden of Minneapolis, Minnesota, who has been called as our official evangelist in the AFLC for this Fall period. A member of our Seminary and Bible School faculty since 1969, he is well known to most of our congregations and pastors. He will be available for evangelistic services and Bible conferences during the next three months.



Rev. Laurel M. Udden

Upon request from this Commission, Pastor Udden has been granted a leave of absence from our Schools for the Fall Quarter in order that he may travel among the congregations of the Association in the work of evangelism. We are indeed grateful to the Seminary Board for their cooperation in granting his release for this purpose. Prior to his teaching ministry at our Schools, Pastor Udden served in the pastoral ministry since his ordination in 1953. As parish pastor he was actively engaged in evangelism, especially Bible Camp and Bible Conference work. He served on the national boards of the World Mission Prayer League and the Lutheran Evangelistic Movement for many years. Thus, he comes to this phase of his ministry with a deep and genuine interest in evangelistic activity. We are truly grateful for this spiritual gift God has given to our Church and we heartily recommend him as a true ambassador for Jesus Christ.

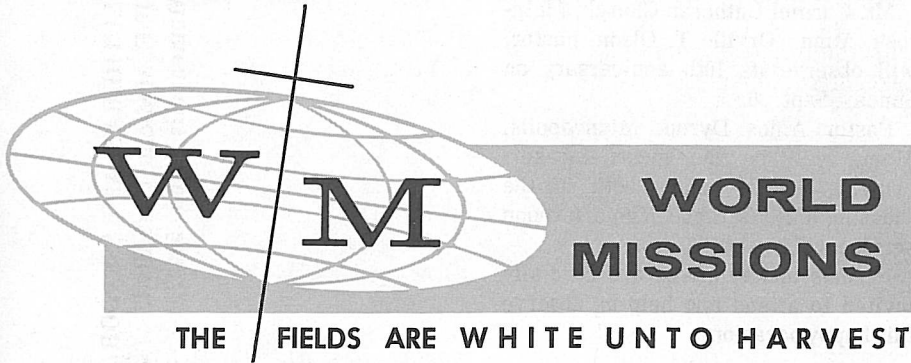
We would remind pastors and congregations desirous of his services that he will be available in this capacity only during the first Quarter of the school year. His schedule requires him to resume teaching duties beginning with the second Quarter. Those wishing to contact Pastor Udden about meetings may write to him directly by addressing your letter to the School's address at 3110 E. Medicine Lake Blvd., in Minneapolis.

We covet your prayers for this servant of the Lord as he takes up this urgent ministry. The fields everywhere are indeed "white unto harvest." The hour is late, and we hear the echo of Jeremiah's lamenting cry, "The harvest is past, the summer is ended, and we are not saved," (Jeremiah 8:20).

THE COMMISSION ON EVANGELISM

Pastor J. G. Erickson, Chairman
(Ed. Note: Pastor Udden's tentative schedule for this Fall is as follows: Sept. 20-23—Garden City, Ia.; Sept. 30-Oct. 4—Fergus Falls, Minn.; Oct. 7-11—Roseau, Minn.; Oct. 14-18—Houghton, Mich.; Oct. 23-28—Portland, N. Dak.; Nov. 4-8—Gulbertson, Mont. It is possible that he may still have time for more services in November, but contact him directly about this.)

BOOK REVIEWS



MISSIONARIES ON FURLOUGH

One of the real joys a congregation has is to invite a Missionary on furlough to visit and through the Word, song, and pictures, see the work of Foreign Missions as it is being done by the Missionary and his co-workers. Each congregation is encouraged to write either the Foreign Mission Board or the Missionary directly and a personal visit will be made to your church. This will result in not only the congregations getting to know their missionaries and the Foreign Mission work better but also the Missionary will be better able to know what concern or desires the congregation may have in regard to Missions.

As perhaps you all know, each Missionary home on furlough is on salary and also receives mileage for his travel, from the Board. It is therefore asked that offerings and other monies go directly to the AFLC treasurer and placed directly in the Foreign Mission fund.

Nevertheless, we know that at times there are those individuals who desire a close and personal contact with their missionaries. To that end, personal gifts are occasionally given to our missionaries. There is a limit on personal gifts that each missionary can receive in a given year, and when this is reached the personal gifts received go into the Foreign Mission fund. For those who desire a personal or closer touch with a missionary, it is suggested they consider the mission unit responsibility plan. This has the approval of the AFLC and simply makes it possible to make a regular contribution, monthly or annually, for the

pledged support of a specific missionary, for the duration of a term. These forms will shortly be available from your pastor or by writing the Foreign Mission Board. This personal touch is possible for individuals, church organizations, or even entire congregations. While personal gifts are appreciated, each missionary will appreciate even more this pledged support for his term on the field. It will also enrich and bring blessings to individuals and congregations alike, as they regularly give and pray for their missionaries.

Foreign Mission Board

RESOLVED

Jonathan Edwards, who was a great and useful man, made five resolutions for himself in his youth, and lived by them faithfully. They are worth studying. Anyone who will adopt and follow them will greatly increase his usefulness.

1. Resolved: To live with all my might while I do live.

2. Resolved: Never to lose one moment of time, but to improve it in the most profitable way I possibly can.

3. Resolved: Never to do anything which I should despise or think meanly of in another.

4. Resolved: Never to do anything out of revenge.

5. Resolved: Never to do anything which I should be afraid to do if it were the last hour of my life.

—Newsletter,
Dalton (Minn.) Parish

Sound of the Bugle

by Daniel B. Burow

Reviewed by Gerald F. Mundfrom
price \$2.95

A novel taking place in Georgia during the Civil War days. The story is told in the first person as the hero reveals experiences of living in a war-torn land. The story comes to a climax when this young man, after struggling with the call to go into the holy ministry, finally says "yes" to his Lord and begins preparing for the same.

The respect the hero had toward his Godly parents and the influence they had on his life is clearly brought out.

The Gospel Blimp

by Joseph Bayly

Reviewed by Gerald F. Mundfrom
price .50

This is a parable of how not to do mission work or attempt to lead a soul to Christ.

A lot of machinery, organization and expense is of little avail if there isn't a personal touch in which the one burdened reveals his love and soul concern for the one he is trying to reach for Christ.

This book is written in a humorous way, but reveals a great lesson that the Christian and the Christian Church needs to realize and practice.

Mover of Men and Mountains

by R. G. LeTourneau

Reviewed by Gerald F. Mundfrom
price \$1.35

Mr. Letourneau gives his life story, telling how God led him and greatly blessed him in a financial way.

Early in life he gave his heart to the Lord, but it wasn't until many years later that he really took God seriously regarding stewardship and what God had to say about financial matters and material blessings.

Once he made a promise to God as to what percent he would give God

from his profits, but he put God off and used the money for something else. He nearly went bankrupt. He again made a promise to God. This time he took his promise seriously and experienced great success and blessing from God.

I am impressed at how much stumbling around this man did and how often he failed before getting in step with God so that God could bless him as He did.

(These books may be purchased from the Bible Book-Mission, Inc., 809 McHugh Avenue, Grafton, N. Dak. 58237. Please include something for postage.)

MT. CARMEL CHURCH TO OBSERVE ANNIVERSARY

Mt. Carmel Lutheran Church, McIntosh, Minn., Orville T. Olson, pastor, will observe its 10th anniversary on Sunday, Sept. 30.

Pastor Amos Dyrud, Minneapolis, Minn., will be the guest speaker, bringing the messages both in the morning and afternoon. The afternoon service will be at 2:30.

Friends and relatives are cordially invited to attend and help us observe this happy occasion.

Mrs. Haldor Hegg, Chrm.

THE LUTHERAN AMBASSADOR
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