

December 27, 1977

# The Lutheran Ambassador



**FENCE POSTS IN THE SNOW**

Roger C. Huebner, D.D.S.

# MEDITATION MOMENTS

## ANOTHER NEW YEAR

As we begin this another New Year, I imagine we are looking at it with mixed emotions. Some of us are probably very apprehensive about it, others look upon it as a new challenge, a new opportunity for service.

I think that our attitude will be greatly affected by what we read, whom we listen to, and what we see. The newspapers, *Time* magazine, some TV programs, the general conversations we hear on the street can make us very apprehensive about the future, about life in general. On the other hand, God's Word, His people, and a close relationship with both can make life and the future a challenge, an opportunity, with the best as yet to come, namely heaven.

As we approach this year of 1978 I am reminded of what I saw in the back window of a car some years ago. It is amazing what combinations of things we can accumulate in the back windows of our cars. In this particular car window, I saw a road map of Minnesota, a children's funny book, and a copy of God's Word, all thrown together in the back window of that car.

Now while this appears to be an unusual mixture of things, when you

think about it, it represents three basic needs for 1978, for life.

**1. There was something to learn from.** In the back window of that car there was the Bible.

One of the most interesting things about Scripture is that the longer you read it the more you learn and the more interesting it becomes, and the more prepared you become for life.

I have been studying the Bible now for a number of years, yet I find that there are so many things about it to know and to learn that it will take the rest of my life for study and even then I will know only a few things.

How important in 1978 that we keep on learning, that we keep on growing, that we get us a heart of wisdom, and it is God's Word that gives us this.

The Bible gives to me the basic answers about myself, my purpose and my future. What more could I ask for?

**2. In that back window was also something to guide.** In my travels I have found the road map most helpful on many occasions. We need road maps, we need guidance.

We sing that song, "O that the Lord would guide my ways," and He does.

We have been given our parents,

we have been given our church, we have been given a conscience that speaks within us, we have been given examples of certain people whom we respect, and we have been given the traditions of our homes. But most importantly, we have been given God's Word and the Holy Spirit.

Please, as you begin this New year, never think that you can get along without these things for guidance. We are only pilgrims, very helpless, children at best in this world.

**3. There was also something in that window to give laughter.** There was the child's funny book.

It is good to laugh, to relax. We must do so in this tension-filled world. I believe that God likes to see His people laugh together, have fun together, to praise God together in all things.

In 1978, no matter what happens to us, we can enjoy our relationship with God and the mercy and goodness He does shower upon us. We can also look forward to heaven, where all things will be perfect.

**Learning, Guidance, Laughter** are important ingredients for 1978 and all are found most completely in our Heavenly Father.

—David C. Molstre

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## ABOUT NEXT CHRISTMAS

We invite our readers to submit original material for our Christmas issue next December. Poems, true experiences at Christmas and fiction are particularly desired.

Now while the Christmas festival is still with us, give some thought to what you might do. Write something now, if at all possible. Let all be done to honor the Lord Christ.

We would be happy to hear from you.

A sincere thank you to all the writers in our Christmas issue this year.

The Editor



## NOTE THESE IRREGULARITIES IN NUMBERING

Several errors were made this year in the numbering of *Ambassador* issues. We regret them.

For those of you who are keeping a permanent file of the 1977 *Ambassadors*, please note these facts.

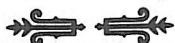
—There are no Numbers 5 and 16.

—Two issues bear the number 15. One is dated July 12 and one July 26. Differentiate between them in that way.

—The total number of issues for the year is 25, even though this final issue of the year bears the number 26.

Thank you for your patience with these irregularities.

The Editor



## PERSONALITIES

Winter address of **Pastor and Mrs. Karl Stendal** is P.O. Box 19621, Las Vegas, Nev. 89119.

**Rev. Herbert L. Franz**, Cloquet, Minn., was guest evangelist in services at Ortleby Lutheran Church, Ortleby, S. Dak., Nov. 13-16, and at Calvary, Lutheran Church, Wallace, S. Dak., Nov. 17-18. Both congregations are served by Pastor Einar Unseth, the latter on an interim basis.

Through Mrs. Myrtle Hove we learn that **Pastor Yeddo Gottel** and his wife **Loidi**, Campo Mourao, Brazil, are the parents of a baby son born on Oct.

24. **Pastor Gottel** attended Free Lutheran Seminary in Minneapolis.

Word has been received that **Rev. Richard Anderson** has resigned as pastor of Rosedale Lutheran Church, Minneapolis, Minn., where he has served since his ordination in 1974 and prior to that as a student pastor, to accept the call from Elim Lutheran Church, Lake Stevens, Wash.



## MATERIAL CROWDED OUT

We regret that some material which has been submitted for publication recently has been crowded out, first by the emphasis given to Christmas in the Dec. 13 issue, and, today, in this last issue of the year, which contains the Index for 1977.

Included in the left-out material is housing information for the 1978 Winter Bible Conference to be held in Fergus Falls, Minn., Feb. 1-4. That detailed information will be forthcoming next time. Watch for it.

Thank you for your patience, all of you.

The Editor



## ACROSS THE SKY THE SHADES OF NIGHT

Across the sky the shades of night  
This winter's eve are fleeting:  
We deck Thine altar, Lord, with light,  
In solemn worship meeting;  
And as the year's last hours go by,  
We lift to Thee our earnest cry,  
Once more Thy love entreating.

Before the cross subdued we bow,  
To Thee our prayers addressing;  
Recounting all Thy mercies now,  
And all our sins confessing;  
Beseeching Thee, this coming year,  
To hold us in Thy faith and fear,  
And crown us with Thy blessing.

Jas. Hamilton

(from *The Lutheran Hymnary*)

## BOOK REVIEW

*A Theology to Live By*. Herman A. Preus, (St. Louis: Concordia Publishing House, 1977).

In the many books that have been written about the theology of Martin Luther, there have been a wide variety of interpretations. Luther often has appeared as his "interpreter" would like to see him. He has, therefore, become "all things to all men," depending on the theological persuasion of his reviewer.

Herman Preus has allowed Luther to speak for himself. And Luther needs to be heard by our generation. As those who identify ourselves as Lutherans in a day when there is such a broad spectrum of what is considered "Lutheran," it is good to hear from our namesake. In *A Theology to Live By*, we are given a fresh picture of authentic Lutheranism.

The book is divided into three major sections: *Theologia Crucis* (The Theology of the Cross), *What is Man?*, and *The Christian Life—Its Dynamic and Destiny*. Under these headings is presented an outline of basic Christian theology from the creation to immortality and the resurrection. Unlike some texts dealing with Bible doctrine, *A Theology to Live By* is true to its name in that there is practical application to everyday Christian living. Luther's doctrines are applied to today's Christian. Truth begs application and herein is the particular value of Dr. Preus' book.

At the outset, Dr. Preus shows the desire of Luther to see doctrine experienced and applied. In the early days of the Reformation, Luther warned against mere talk of Bible truth. "Dear friends, the kingdom of God—and we are that kingdom—does not consist in talk or words (I Cor. 4:20), but in activity, in deeds, in works and exercises. God does not want hearers and repeaters of words (James 1:22), but followers and doers, and this occurs in faith through love. For a faith without love is not enough—rather it is not faith at all, but a counterfeit of faith..." (p. 15). Dr. Preus comments that Luther "never ceased preaching that theology—doctrine, faith—must show itself in a Christian life" (p. 15).

There will be no true spiritual life,

however, unless that "life" is produced by the Gospel of grace. Luther's theology of grace alone, says Preus, is this—"God reaching out to raise up the fallen and condemned sinner. . . . It is God who calls man through a Gospel which has the power in it to draw the man it calls" (p. 97).

For Luther the Gospel is to be found faithfully recorded in the Holy Scriptures. Dr. Preus notes Luther's implicit trust in the veracity and historicity of Scripture. "Luther, with an intellect great enough to debate with Erasmus, had a faith humble enough to accept the Biblical account of the Fall, apple and all, rather than lose the fact in vague words like myth, allegory, fable, saga, symbolism, and the like" (p. 71). For Luther, Scripture is the infallible Word of God. "You should so deal with Scripture that you believe God Himself is speaking," says Luther (p. 27).

Dr. Preus reviews the clear, Biblical teaching of Luther on the doctrine of justification. At the same time, he notes the state of affairs in large segments of the Lutheran church today—"We theologians have made the doctrine so complex that even a world council of Lutheran scholars found it impossible to come up with a clear unified definition of the Reformation doctrine of justification" (p. 101). Preus is referring to the Lutheran World Federation meeting at Helsinki in 1963.

As mentioned, a chief aim of Dr. Preus' book is to show Luther's emphasis on application of theology to life. Yet, it is made clear that Luther cannot talk about sanctification without constant reference to justification. It is in the glorious truth of justification that both the power and the motivation to live a godly life are found (p. 121ff).

The Gospel comes to us in both Word and Sacrament according to Luther. "The Gospel of God's grace and love in Christ looms ever larger as Luther unfolds his doctrine of the sacraments" (p. 150). Dr. Preus observes Luther's explanation of Baptism. "Baptism is nothing else than the Word of God in the water, commanded by His institution, or, as Paul says, 'a washing in the Word'" (p. 152).

Among the several interesting

points brought out in Dr. Preus' delineation of the Lord's Supper as Luther understood it is the insistence on preparation for Communion. He based this on I Corinthians 11:28, "Let a man examine himself, and so eat of the bread and drink of the cup." Luther believed the pastor is responsible to see that preparation is made. Dr. Preus notes some of the suggestions Luther made to implement this preparation.

The last chapter deals with Luther's views on immortality and resurrection. Dr. Preus contrasts the unbelief of liberal theologians regarding these truths with the unquestioning acceptance by Luther of the Bible's teaching. "The hope of heaven becomes to Luther the crowning element of faith" (p. 181).

I earnestly commend this book to every reader. It is a book that will be picked up again and again for information and inspiration. Concordia Publishing House is to be commended for making this fine text available. I thank God for the courage and forthrightness of Herman Preus in identifying himself solidly with the Bible-believing, Christ-centered, cross-centered theology of Martin Luther.

Pastor Francis W. Monseth  
(Instructor, Systematic Theology,  
Association  
Free Lutheran Seminary)

#### LEM ANNOUNCES DETAILS OF MIDWINTER BIBLE CONFERENCE

"Outreach for Christ" will be the theme of the 42nd annual Midwinter Conference of the Lutheran Evangelistic Movement (L.E.M.), January 22-26. The conference will convene at Augustana Lutheran Church, 7th Street and 11th Avenue South, Minneapolis, Minnesota.

Rev. Donald Ronning of Park River, N. Dak., will be the evening speaker, with services beginning on Sunday at 7:45 o'clock and continuing each evening through Thursday.

Day sessions will begin Monday with a 9:30 Prayer Hour, followed by a 10 a.m. Bible study led by Rev. Francis Monseth of Association Free Lutheran Bible School and Seminary of Medicine Lake (Minneapolis). His topic will be "Outreach of a Model Church," based on I Thessalonians.

The 11 o'clock hour will be led by Dr. Paul Rees, Editor-at-Large with World Vision International. Former pastor of First Covenant Church of Minneapolis, author of 14 books and a frequent conference and missionary rally speaker, he will speak from his experiences on the topic "Outreach to the World."

Afternoon speaker, at 1:30, Monday through Wednesday, will be Dr. Duane Gish of the Institute of Creation Research, San Diego, Calif. He will use as his topic "Creation or Evolution?" The LEM Skyways chaplains and The Living Dimension singers will be in charge of the Thursday afternoon session.

The conference will be preceded by sessions for youth at Northrop Auditorium, on the University of Minnesota campus, Friday evening and all day Saturday, January 20 and 21.

Rev. Laurel M. Udden, a pastor in the Association of Free Lutheran Congregations, is the director of the LEM.

#### ENLIGHTENED BURDEN

In whose hands  
Could such a heavy burden lie?  
They must be stronger far  
Than yours or mine,  
Assuring love that never  
Need be borrowed,  
Securing peace within  
That stays through all tomorrows.  
Jesus died to set me free  
From heavy burdens.  
I need not suffer  
Under sinful grief.  
Knowing that He cared enough  
To offer me His grace,  
I can live a life enlightened by  
His love,  
Fulfilled in peace.

Linda Brokke  
Excelsior, Minn.

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(Continued from page 16)

It was decided that our offering be divided equally between the General Fund and the Praise Program.

God gave us a most beautiful autumn day to fellowship with one another about His Word, for which we give Him our thanks.

Mrs. Earl Davidson  
Secretary



# The Best of Halesby

## ONE RADIANT MORN

“And He shall wipe away every tear from their eyes; and death shall be no more; neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain, any more: the first things are passed away” (Revelation 21:4).

Oh, what a day, when all that has defiled this world shall be no more!

Sin shall be no more.

Think of it: we shall never grieve our Savior any more!

The one and only real sorrow of the Christian is his sorrow because of sin. That sorrow never leaves him.

He is permitted to believe in a full forgiveness for all sin for Jesus' sake. Yes, all that he has thought, and said, and done is blotted out and cast into the sea of oblivion.

Nevertheless, his sorrow because of sin never subsides. On the contrary, it becomes ever deeper and more painful. The closer we live to the cross of Christ, the harder it becomes for us to endure the fact that we grieve our precious Savior.

“One radiant morn when sinless souls assemble,  
Where each desire is born in purity,  
No more the thought of wrong shall make us tremble,  
But, ransomed, I shall live forever free.”

On that morn sin will be no more in the lives of others either. Never another wicked person to meet. It is difficult to conceive of such a thing. But imagine if everybody about us were like Jesus. Yes, you say, if all men were like Jesus, heaven itself would be in our own very midst. And I agree.

All whom we shall meet on that day will be good, both men and angels. For that reason temptation will be no more. Danger will be no more. Forever within the portals which open in but never out.

All the consequences of sin will be forever gone. No tears, no weariness, no sickness, nor sorrow, no longing.

In brief: no disharmony any more. Our whole being, soul and body, will finally be in its rightful element—in God!

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(End of a Series)

## SCHOOL NEWS

### DATES TO REMEMBER

Jan. 3—Classes Resume  
Jan. 7—Youth Rally  
Feb. 7-12—Spiritual Emphasis Week  
Feb. 27—Spring Quarter  
Mar. 23-Apr. 2—Easter Recess  
April 14-15—Promotion Days  
May 19—Graduation

### LET'S KEEP IN TOUCH

It was just before Thanksgiving. AFLBS dorm lights burned into the morning hours. It was exam time.

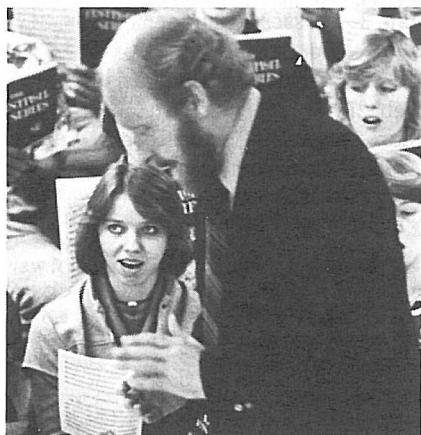
Students dug into their notes and textbooks while waiting their turn to use the phone. Many called home to learn how their northern families were digging out of the second fall blizzard.

In spite of feeling snowed under with exams, music students were kept busy preparing for their concerts. The Choir, Choral Club and Brass Ensemble performed Nov. 20 at Medicine Lake Lutheran Church's Thanksgiving and Mission Festival. The annual Christmas concert was held at Medicine Lake Lutheran Church on Dec. 11.

If you cannot enjoy AFLBS in Minneapolis, then AFLBS can come to you. Gospel teams are working on a repertoire of songs in order to be ready to bring His Word in music and speech to congregations. Itineraries are being established now. Contact the AFLBS Dean's Office for further information in securing a team for your church.

You may also enjoy Bible School with a permanent pictorial history of this school year. Student fees do not allow sufficient funds for a complete yearbook. Additional income is needed. Friends of the school are given the opportunity to share in this aspect of the ministry by donating ten or more dollars. By way of saying thanks, you will receive a '78 CONQUEROR. The books make excellent

additions to home or church libraries. Send your contributions to Joanne Hanson, Business Manager, AFLBS, 3110 E. Medicine Lake Blvd., Minneapolis, Minn. 55441.



Mr. Don Rodvold rehearses with the Concert Choir.



Mr. and Mrs. Donald Hansen were honored on their silver wedding anniversary last fall.



Karen Gauger and Candi Weinkauff add to the Christmas spirit by putting up a manger scene in the girls' lobby.

## WINTER SPORTS

As winter weather curtails outdoor sports, AFLBS students are turning their attention indoors to basketball and volleyball. Time is passing fast for both teams, as each member diligently practices, hoping to fill a starting position on team.

Seminarian Steve Lee, an AFLBS graduate, coaches the men's basketball team. After practicing for a month, the list of team members is out. Suiing up for the 1977-78 Conquerors are: Jerry Blake, Nick Boyovich, Steve Gerholdt, Brad Haugen, Arden Jacobson, Dave Lee, Perry Nash, Steve Nordvik, Rick Pederson, Mike Prinzing, Jack Randall and Kevin Spading.

Though the team is organized under the YMCA league, games will also be played against some Bible Colleges' junior varsity teams. December 12 marked the season's official opening game. New uniforms will be worn this season.

Basketball takes endurance, key timing and team-work, but above all, for this team, Christ is their means of strength. This is evident by their motto: "And whatever you do in word or deed, do all things in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks through Him to God the Father" (Colossians 3:17).

Setting their goals high this year are the girls participating on the volleyball team. Hoping to break last year's second place finish, this team is aiming for No. 1.

Team members, Sandy Bergstrom

(captain), Tami Bjorgaard, Claudia Erickson, Linda Finstrom, Brenda Floan, Brenda Forth, Bev Jones (Captain), Gretchen Kooiman, Miriam Larson and Rachel Mundfrom, are ready to bump 'em, set 'em, and spike 'em against other YMCA teams they will be playing.

Miss Solveig Larson takes her position as coach and receives assistance from Cindy Forth, a former AFLBS student.

Anticipating good seasons, these teams should offer AFLBS players and fans an exciting year in basketball and volleyball.

## I CAN OVERCOME

by Steve Gerholdt

I thank and praise God for the opportunity to be called a child of His.

When I first came to Bible School in '76, I didn't have a relationship with Christ at all outside of the fact that I knew He was real and had been dealing quite strongly in my life.

I thank God for all my fellow students both last year and this year and all the great parents who know Christ and bring their children up to know Him, too. It was through you that I came to accept Christ, almost 14 months ago.

Since I gave my life to Him I have been blessed in ways that I didn't understand, but I couldn't see how He blessed and strengthened me until these last couple of weeks.

By letting Jesus take over my life,

*(Continued on page 8)*



Marge Nash relaxes by the tree as she figures her Christmas list while paging through a well-worn LaBelle's catalog.



# The Lutheran Ambassador Schedule for 1978

(Please save for reference)

1. The first date given is the date on which the **Ambassador** is published, every two weeks.
2. The second date is the deadline on which material for that issue must reach the **Editor** at Box 128, Newfolden, Minn. 56738. Please send all correspondence to him at that address.
3. Material which arrives late will not be included in the next issue unless it is of an emergency nature or there is room for it.
4. Unsolicited material is welcome, but it will be used at the discretion of the Editor and as space permits.
5. All material should be in double-spaced typing. Handwritten material will often be delayed.
6. The second issue in August is omitted.
7. In sending in notices of meetings, keep in mind that subscribers receive their copies up to a week or more following the date of publication.
8. Regular writers for the **Ambassador**, as well as other possible contributors, are asked to note the special issues given below so that they may write concerning those topics if they so desire.

| Publication Date | Editor's Deadline | Special                           | WMF Bible Study |
|------------------|-------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------|
| January 10       | December 24       | New Year                          | Yes             |
| January 24       | January 7         |                                   |                 |
| February 7       | January 21        | Lent and Patriotic                | Yes             |
| February 21      | February 4        | Lent                              |                 |
| March 7          | February 18       | Easter                            | Yes             |
| March 21         | March 4           |                                   |                 |
| April 4          | March 18          |                                   | Yes             |
| April 18         | April 1           | Schools                           |                 |
| May 2            | April 15          | Pentecost and Mother's Day        |                 |
| May 16           | April 29          | Memorial Day and Pre-Conference   | Yes             |
| May 30           | May 13            | Father's Day and Pre-Conference   |                 |
| June 13          | May 27            |                                   | Yes             |
| June 27          | June 10           | Youth                             |                 |
| July 11          | June 24           | Conference Reports                | Yes             |
| July 25          | July 8            | Parish Education and Publications |                 |
| August 8         | July 22           |                                   | Yes             |
| September 5      | August 19         |                                   | Yes             |
| September 19     | September 2       | Stewardship                       |                 |
| October 3        | September 16      | Home Missions                     |                 |
| October 17       | September 30      | Reformation                       | Yes             |
| October 31       | October 14        | World Missions                    |                 |
| November 14      | October 28        | Thanksgiving and WMF              |                 |
| November 28      | November 11       | Advent                            |                 |
| December 12      | November 25       | Christmas                         | Yes             |
| December 26      | December 9        | New Year                          |                 |
| January 9, 1979  | December 23       |                                   | Yes             |

**PLEASE SAVE FOR REFERENCE!**



**THE WISE MAN**

"I do not feel that we as parents can throw stones at other children or other parents until we as parents have completed our job and been successful." These words came resentfully from a lady who reluctantly accepted advice from her pastor concerning parental responsibility. In another instance a pastor had become much concerned for a man who was working from 7:00 a.m. until 9:00 p.m., seven days a week, in his service station. "You ought to close your station on Sundays so that you can get some rest," advised the pastor. Upon hearing this advice, the man lost his temper and angrily replied, "It's always easy to tell another person how to run his business, isn't it?"

Both of these persons were unwilling to accept any advice, though in both cases they could have profited from it. How true are the words from the Bible, "Do not reprove a scoffer, or he will hate you; reprove a wise man, and he will love you." We show what sort of persons we are by the way we react to advice or reproof. All of us have heard it said of some individuals, "You can't tell him anything because he thinks he knows everything."

The person who accepts advice graciously is a wise man. Abraham Lincoln once said that he was willing to listen to anyone who could teach him anything. An employer remarked of a young man in his employ. "He is the most teachable man I've ever known." It is truly the mark of a wise man that he loves the reprover who tells him his fault. How can we love those who reprove us? By looking to

Jesus who, when He was reviled, did not revile in return. Are we wise men or scoffers? Do we love or hate those who reprove us?

—Einar Unseth

**LADIES, PLEASE NOTE  
WMF REMINDER FOR JANUARY**

As we enter into the brand new year of 1978, may our confidence be firm in our precious Lord, who has promised, "I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee."

A special Thank You to each local WMF group which sends in regular gifts to support our vital projects. This month your monies support the Church Extension Fund. Through this fund money is loaned to new congregations and to those who need to expand their facilities. As the loan is repaid, the money is re-loaned.

Ladies, plan to travel in carloads to Fergus Falls, Minn., in February for our Winter Bible Conference.

Mrs. Eugene Enderlein  
President

(Ed. note: This reminder should have appeared with the WMF Bible Study in our previous issue. Please place it now with your study for January.)

**HONORARY MEMBERSHIP  
GROUP AT MCVILLE**

Here is the entire Honorary Membership group at McVille now. Rev. Kenneth L. Anderson is pastor of the congregation.



Bottom row, left to right, Mrs. Ragna Hovde, Mrs. Gehart Solberg, Mrs. Olga Johnson and Mrs. Anna Anderson. Top row, Mrs. Agnes Nelson, Miss Esther Helgeland, Mrs. Harry Olson, Mrs. Wilma Quanbeck,

Mrs. Paul Ruud, Mrs. Anna Solberg and Mrs. Esther Carlson.

Not present for the picture: Mrs. M. E. Helland, Miss Hilda Knutson, Mrs. Irene Quanbeck, Mrs. Nettie Quanbeck, Miss Ida Ringdahl, Mrs. Thea Rorvig and Miss Rachel Quanbeck.



Pictured above are the two most recent honorees, Miss Esther Helgeland, left, and Mrs. Paul Ruud, right, with the local president, Mrs. Norman Johnson.

*(Continued from page 6)*

I can see changes within my own heart. I am able to look upon people with a more patient and loving heart, like I never could before. Also God is teaching me to overcome my temper by accepting things and people the way they are. All I need to do is pray and trust God to make the necessary changes.

Even though I'm living for Christ here at Bible School, I can see the power of Satan through everyday temptations in my mind. Never before have they been so devastating to my mind and spiritual walk. Satan is everywhere and his force increases to overcome the young Christian.

Through the ups and downs in the Christian walk, it's really comforting to know that I have the power to overcome Satan soundly and completely. Jesus Christ, my Savior, died for my sins on Calvary, where He overcame death and the power of Satan. Now I, through Him, though I'm weak and puny, will also overcome. Thanks be to Him, my Lord and Savior.



# editorials

## THANK YOU, PASTOR MOLSTRE

While Pastor David Molstre will no longer be writing for our devotional feature "Meditation Moments" after this issue, we are not bidding him a complete farewell for he will be writing some articles for the Luther League Activities page in the next two or three months. One has already appeared; watch for the others.

Thank you, Pastor Molstre, for your timely articles over the past six months. Through your wide travelling throughout the church, you know the needs and the strengths of our congregations as few men do. No doubt what you wrote came out of your observations and experiences as the church's official evangelist, as well as your own experiences as a parish pastor. And it has spoken to many hearts.

God bless your messages in print and your continuing ministry as an evangelist. God use you in bringing souls into the kingdom and building up Christian life.

Our devotional writer for the first half of 1978 will be Rev. Dennis Gray of Spicer, Minn. He serves congregations at Willmar and Spicer and is a busy parish pastor.

He came into the ministry with considerable experience as a lay youth worker in the church. He recently served as secretary of our church and is currently a member of the Board of Trustees of the Association Schools.

We appreciate his willingness to write "Meditation Moments" for our wide circle of readers. We look forward to his first article in the next issue.

A sincere thank you also to Rev. Einar Unseth, Ortle, S. Dak., present AFLC secretary, for his series of short meditations under the heading "A Minister's Musings." We will introduce a new series of that type next time.

## YEAR END THOUGHT

When Meshach, Shadrach and Abednego were in the fiery furnace (Daniel 3), King Nebuchadnezzar looked in and saw four men untouched by the flames heated seven times beyond their normal intensity. The fourth had the appearance of "a son of the gods." We recognize him, then, as an angel of the Lord.

And so it is that ministering angels have been with God's people in the year that is past. Many have not been called to go through fiery trials of affliction, although some have. But either way, the Lord has been near, through angels or simply in His presence, as in the promise, "Lo, I am with you always."

And the future lies ahead, unknown to all of us. We must take it a day at a time, all that we can, indeed, do. The Christian proceeds, not in a spirit of fatalism, that "what will be, will be," but in a spirit of confident faith because he knows the One who holds the future and he knows that He makes no mistakes.

Thank you for another year in which to serve and in which to fellowship. Whether you are in the particular fellowship we call the Association or beyond it, God's blessings in the new year of 1978.

**ASSOCIATION OF FREE LUTHERAN CONGREGATIONS**  
3110 East Medicine Lake Boulevard  
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55441

**BUDGET RECEIPTS**  
(February 1 - November 30, 1977)

| Fund  | Total Budget<br>1977-78 | Current Budget<br>(Am't that should<br>have been rec'd<br>for 10 months) | Rec'd During<br>November | Total Rec'd<br>to Date | % of<br>Current | % of<br>Total |
|---|-------------------------|--|--------------------------|------------------------|-----------------|---------------|
| GENERAL FUND  | \$ 72,680.00            | \$ 60,566.60   | \$ 4,198.76              | \$ 46,310.19           | 76.5%           | 63.7%         |
| SCHOOLS   | 119,452.00              | 99,545.10  | 9,279.85                 | 66,301.65              | 66.6            | 55.5          |
| HOME MISSIONS   | 75,000.00               | 62,500.00  | 10,515.09                | 50,623.25              | 81.             | 67.5          |
| FOREIGN MISSIONS  | 85,345.00               | 71,120.80  | 13,361.71                | 68,468.26              | 96.             | 80.           |
| PRAISE FUND   | 30,000.00               | 25,000.00  | 1,727.85                 | 15,711.47              | 62.8            | 52.3          |
| <b>TOTAL</b>  | <b>\$382,477.00</b>     | <b>\$318,732.50</b>  | <b>\$39,083.26</b>       | <b>\$247,414.82</b>    | <b>77.6%</b>    | <b>64.7%</b>  |
|   |                         |  |                          |                        | (Ideal          | 83.3%)        |
| 1976-77   | \$402,524.00            | \$334,457.40   | \$40,806.29              | \$224,255.58           | 67. %           | 55.7%         |
| PRAISE IN PROGRESS RECEIPTS November 30, 1977 — \$53,317.97 |                         |  |                          |                        |                 |               |
| LEGACIES — \$37,700.51                                      |                         |  |                          |                        |                 |               |

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## SOUTH DAKOTA WOMEN CONVENE AT ORTLEY

The 1977 Fall Rally of the South Dakota District Women's Missionary Federation was held Oct. 13, at Ortley Lutheran Church, Ortley. Pastor Einar Unseth was the host pastor.

Registration began at 10 a.m. with 84 guests registered.

The theme was "Our Sufficiency Is of God" and the theme verse: II Cor. 3:5—"Not that we are sufficient of ourselves to claim anything as coming from us; our sufficiency is from God."

The morning session was called to order by district president Mrs. Reuben Tvinnereim, Tabor WMF, Webster. The theme song, "Praise To The Lord, the Almighty," was sung by the audience.

A welcome was extended by the Ortley WMF president, Mrs. Henry Dingsor, Summit. Mrs. Reuben Tvinnereim read the Ps. 100 for devotions, followed by prayer. The ladies from Calvary WMF, Wallace, gave a selection in song. Our Bible study was conducted by Pastor Howard Kjos of the Lake Region Parish, Roslyn. He spoke of Jehovah, (Jesus) the personal name of God. Jehovah is the God of righteousness, holiness and love. He does not forsake fallen man. **Jehovah**—"The Lord will provide" that is, He will provide a substitutionary sacrifice (Gen. 22:8-14. **Jesus**—"The Lamb of God" (John 1:29).

The ladies from the Pukwana WMF gave a number in song. Pastor Unseth closed the morning session with prayer and the benediction. A delicious noon luncheon was served in the remodeled church dining room by the Ortley WMF.

The afternoon session began with an inspiring singspiration led by Mrs.

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James Swanson of Ortley. Mrs. Laverne Storley of Saron WMF, Roslyn, led our devotions. Mrs. Howard Kjos introduced our speaker, Mrs. Larry Fagerland of Rose Hill Church, Langford, S. Dak.

She based her talk on Ps. 50:10:

"Create in me a clean heart,  
O God, and renew a right spirit  
within me."

She used as illustrations some of her paintings. She said painting is her talent from God and this is one way she makes use of it. She said, "We must pray to God to use us where He wants us."

As a young wife and mother, she shared with us some of the problems that had crept into her life and, by taking these troubles to Jesus, what peace and joy had come into their family life.

Mrs. Charles Almos, Hope WMF, Eden, sang a solo, accompanying herself on the guitar. Mrs. Arlo Kneeland gave the project report. A musical number was given by the Tabor WMF, Webster.

Mrs. Tvinnereim conducted our business meeting. The Cradle Roll report was given by Mrs. Sherman McCarlson. A motion was made that we go on record as being opposed to the E.R.A.—**Equal Rights Amendment**, and encouraging us to write our congressmen, voicing our opinions. Also that the secretary write to Mr. Barnett, Aberdeen, S. Dak., stating our views to rescind the bill that South Dakota had passed, the Equal Rights Amendment.

The 1977-78 slate of officers is as follows:

Pres.—Mrs. L. M. Dorsett, Ortley.

Vice-Pres.—Mrs. Vilas Richardt, Ortley.

Sec.-Treas.—Mrs. Dale Miller, Summit, and

Cradle Roll Sec.—Mrs. Sherman McCarlson, Webster.

We closed our session with the singing of the first verse of our theme song "Praise to the Lord, the Almighty," followed by praying the Lord's Prayer.

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