

February 8, 1977

The Lutheran Ambassador



CHURCH IN STAINED
GLASS WINDOW
Roger C. Huether, D.D.S.

MEDITATION MOMENTS

OUR CHRISTIAN HERITAGE

This month we observe the birthdays of two past presidents, Washington and Lincoln. Both of these men have had a great deal to do with our nation. Not only do they stand out as very important in the history of our nation, but also as individuals.

As we observe their birthdays, we are reminded of their significance to our nation. We think of George Washington as our first president. It was he who led our nation in the early years of her history. This was a time of new beginnings and, no doubt, a time when much was expected. Washington led our nation in these years with a firm reliance upon God. History shows us he was a man of prayer. It was through this that he was able to lead our nation in these important years. Our nation was founded upon freedom of worship and upon God and His Word. It was only through the guidance of the Lord that Washington was able as first president to begin leading our country.

The other president whose birthday we observe this month is Abraham Lincoln. He, likewise, is remembered as one of the important leaders of our country. Lincoln led our nation through troublesome times such as the Civil War, a time that was by no

means easy. As seen in historical accounts, he also was a man whose reliance was upon God. He certainly needed God's strength and wisdom to guide our nation in those years.

Along with these leaders have been the people who make up a nation. It was godly men and women who founded our nation and prayed for it. We can be assured that these two men who led our nation in critical periods had people who supported them in prayer. Without it nothing effective could be accomplished.

As in past history, once again we face crisis days. These days may be somewhat different in nature, yet they are troublesome times. Again there needs to be reliance upon the Lord for the help and guidance which He alone can give us.

When we think of our leaders, we need to be reminded of I Timothy 2:1-3, where Paul says, "I exhort therefore, that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks, be made for all men; for **kings**, and for **all that are in authority**; that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty. For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Saviour."

Here we are reminded to make prayers for the leaders of our nation. It is our duty as Christians to pray for those in authority. This does not only mean the president, but every elected official, as they are the ones in authority. We are also told to make intercession. Each one of us needs to ask ourselves if we have been faithful in praying like we should for our country and her leaders.

As the past two presidents, whom we have mentioned, led our nation through very difficult times, the same is true now. It is perhaps the most difficult time to be in office with all the problems facing us. This is the reason we must be much in prayer and make intercession so the Lord can guide and lead. We must, likewise, pray that the leaders will indeed seek the Lord and look to Him for the answers for these problems. As we pray to the Lord, He can undertake in His own special way.

Finally, may each one of us give thanks to God for the nation we have and for the past leaders who have led us after His ways. May we find ourselves praying for the present leaders as well as those of the future. Truly we can give thanks to God for His goodness to our nation. —M. J. Haara

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"I Know Not How!"

Mark 4:26-29

by Pastor Dennis Gray
Spicer, Minn.

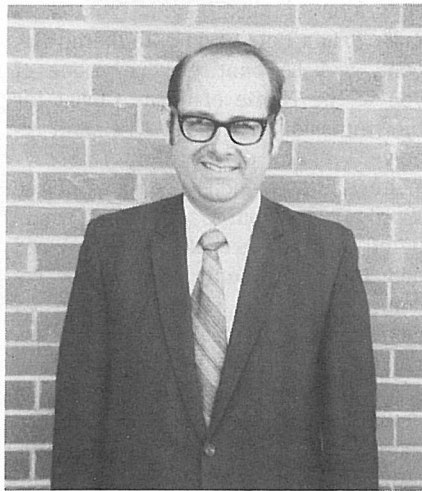
Can anyone really explain how a seed grows? There is a mystery involved when it comes to the growth of seeds. Even scientists have not been able to tell us why these little things grow. They can trace growth to a substance called DNA gas. Yet, there are many unanswered questions when it comes to DNA gas!

People can give us information on the conditions which make seeds grow the best, without telling us why they grow! And, because of experimentation, we can know which fertilizers will cause a greater growth; BUT, THUS FAR, no one can tell how seeds grow! It is a mystery. "I know not how—;" we just know these little things grow. And, when the conditions are right they sprout and begin to grow. And, from seemingly insignificant seeds come mature and even mighty plants. Some are small, some large like the giant Redwood trees in California and the small petunias or the blade of grass! "We know not how."

"So is the kingdom of God, as if a man should cast seed into the ground; and should sleep, and rise night and day, and the seed should spring and grow up, he knoweth not how."

The words, "he knoweth not how" stuck out for me in these verses. The man in this parable simply planted the seed and the seed sprouted and grew without his help. The activity of the seed could not be explained by the farmer, he just knew it happened.

Seeds simply contain life that must burst into growth. It is in the plan of God for things to be this way, just growing quietly, we know not how. Life springs forth quietly and in good order. God's plan for life and growth is not a plan of noisy



Rev. Dennis Gray

confusion, but a plan of quiet order. God is not the author of confusion, but demands that everything be done decently and in order. All of God's "seed life" bows to His wishes. God's order is seen very clearly in all of the universe. His laws are the means by which He keeps things in order.

"For the earth bringeth forth fruit of herself; first the blade, then the ear, after that the full corn in the ear. But when the fruit is brought forth, immediately he putteth in the sickle, because the harvest is come."

When the harvest comes, the farmer goes out to take in the crops. These plants have produced the fruit necessary, fruit that is wanted and desired, and the farmer does what he can to bring in the full crop. This is what it is all about, that seeds may grow up and produce fruit! And this order should be seen in the church. The seed is the Word of God. The sower is any Christian who seeks to reach precious souls for Jesus Christ. Christian people plant the seed of the Word of God when they speak to their fellow Christians and when they witness of the

saving power of Christ.

What is this fruit that the Lord wishes to produce? "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance: against such there is no law." God produces these things through the work of the Holy Spirit in the life of every yielded believer.

You see, "Faith cometh by hearing and hearing by the Word of God." We do not know how the seed of the Word of God produces faith; we just know that it does. And the church is to provide the atmosphere (soil) or the conditions which will cause faith and growth. Faith will sprout in the hearts of the listeners, producing the fruit of the Spirit; I know not how.

It happens, it is just like the farmer's seed; it simply grows quietly and in order, in accordance with God's plan. The Word of God does it, converting the soul from sin and death and maintaining life in Christ.

Sometimes people substitute other things for the presence of the Word of God. One such substitute is experience. Instead of basing their Christian walk upon the Word, they can base it more and more upon experiences of one kind or another. This leads to a confusion and distracts the person from concentration upon the Word of God and thereby takes his eyes away from Jesus, as if to say that there is more to the Christian walk than a walk with Jesus Christ where God's Holy Spirit leads and guides him through the Word.

This leaning on experiences rather than the Word can lead and does lead to doctrinal confusion as well. There are many, I am certain, who get mixed up in false religions like that of this so-called Rev. Moon and the

Unification Church. They are looking for more than Jesus Christ and they stray away from the truth of the Word of God. Or, they do not listen to the Word of God and are distracted from the church into false groups and false teachings. We could apply this to the so-called Charismatic movement as well.

I do not mean to preach against the experience of receiving Jesus Christ as personal Savior and Lord. This I do not speak out against. Nor do I speak out against any experiences which are part of the normal Christian life and walk. Experiences are important. I do speak out against depending on experiences and making them central to the Christian walk and life. God's Word is the power and causes new life in Christ and that very Word maintains that new life, not experiences. I know not how. The Word of God does its work quietly and effectively; I know not how.

The Word contains the life which God gives to each sinner who repents of sin and desires to come to Christ Jesus. And it is just like the farmer's seed in the parable—working quietly and in accord with God's ordered plan, according to His blueprint.

The Word of God never singles out experiences or anyone else to be central to our faith. People's experiences differ; for that matter, people's gifts as given them by God, differ.

"For My thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways My ways, saith the Lord. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways, and My thoughts than your thoughts. . . . So shall My Word be that goeth forth out of My mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it" (Isaiah 55:8-11).

We change every time we hear or read or study the Word of God. God's is the power that changes lives as it shows them the person of our Lord Jesus Christ. I know not how.

The Word of God remains God's chief way of reaching all people with the saving Gospel of Christ. The Word of God remains God's way of strengthening us in our faith and keeping us from falling into sin. The Holy Spirit's

main tool is the Scriptures. He aims to produce fruit in every yielded Christian and it is accomplished through the Word of God.

It is also the Word of God which makes the Sacraments of Baptism and the Lord's Supper effective. Without the promises of the Word of God, these precious Sacraments would be of no avail. Listen to the precious words of Christ in Matthew 26:28, "For this is My blood of the new testament, which is shed for many for the remission of sins." And, from Acts 2:38, "Then Peter said unto them, 'Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the Name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.'" Without the precious promises of the Word of God, our Sacraments would be of no avail. It is through the Word and the Sacraments that Jesus becomes more real to the believer. Of course, we must realize that the Sacraments in and of themselves do not save. In adult life, it is only as the sinner walks with Jesus as personal Saviour and Lord that there is salvation.

James urges his readers and each of us in James 1:21, "Wherefore lay apart all filthiness and superfluity of naughtiness, and receive with meekness the engrafted Word which is able to save your souls."

And Peter says in I Peter 1:23: "Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the Word of God, which liveth and abideth forever." John 15:3 declares, "Now ye are clean through the Word which I have spoken unto you." Psalm 119:9 states, "Wherewithal shall a young man cleanse his way? By taking heed thereto according to the Word." Psalm 119:11 says, "Thy Word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against Thee." The Word here is a preventative, causing spiritual growth.

Why is the Word of God to be so central? Because it proclaims salvation through Jesus Christ. So we need more than Jesus? Can one add or subtract from what Christ has done for us on the cross or from what He does for the Christian each day. There are gifts and experiences which we may have as we walk along in life. These

are different for each person, not all are alike. These, however, are not the basis for our salvation. The Word of God is the basis. We need nothing more than to be the fertile ground for the seed of the Word to do its work. It creates new life in Christ, day by day, moment by moment. The Word is the seed which works quietly and effectively; **I know not how.** God knows. He simply gives life through the Word. I don't know what makes the farmer's seed grow and I do not know what makes the Word of God grow in the hearts of sinful men. But I do know that the Word of God is the main way God speaks to us, it is the main basis for our salvation.

Christ stands at the door of every heart inviting us to come to Him for salvation. "Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me" (Revelation 3:20).

Do you know Christ? Have you received Him into your life? Now is the day of salvation! Simply believe Him as He speaks through the Word of God.

HE LEADS ME

The Lord led me down the deep valley,
When I had hoped to reach the heights;

His way led through pain and darkness,

When I had wanted to walk in the light.

My treasured possessions no longer
Are with me to be my delight—

I have left all those behind me;

They're but memories of things out of sight.

But I have instead a new treasure,

Which the Lord gave me at a great cost—

The joy of sharing my Savior's love

With those who are lonely and lost.

Do you have the Savior to guide you

In the way He wants you to go?

True joy can come only through Jesus—

And His peace makes the heart overflow.

(Read Philippians 3:7-14)

—Laura Norum

DR. SVERRE NORBORG HEADLINED ANNUAL CONFERENCE FOR PASTORS

Dr. Sverre Norborg, Dunedin, Fla., was the featured speaker at the annual pastors' conference of the Association of Free Lutheran Congregations held at the Seminary in Minneapolis, Minn., Jan. 18-20.

Dr. Norborg, born in Norway, is a former pastor of the Norwegian Lutheran Memorial Church in Chicago and once taught at Augsburg College and the University of Minnesota, both in Minneapolis. At the latter, he numbered J.A.O. Preus, president of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, and Oswald C. J. Hoffmann, speaker on *The Lutheran Hour*, among his students in philosophy.

Author of approximately 40 books, the now retired scholar is currently writing a biography of his late friend, O. Hallesby of Norway (see page 8).

In the first of his two lectures, on Wednesday afternoon, he charged the Lutheran Church in general with a drift away from the true Gospel of Christ. That change, he said, has come since World War II. "The theologians are experts at double-talk," he declared and went on to point out how some of them seek to eliminate the miraculous element of Scripture. But he reminded his audience that our Gospel is an "angel Gospel," for it was through angels that the news of Christ's birth and resurrection came and that the Second Coming will be heralded.

Dr. Norborg also reminded that the Pentecost sermon was a recitation of facts—the crucifixion, the resurrection—and this elicited the response from the multitude, "What shall we do?"

In his second lecture, on Thursday morning, Dr. Norborg used the topic "The Bible is God's Word" as the occasion to affirm that truth as over against the modern day substitution, "The Word of God is found in the Bible." If man judges Scripture, he

said, the standards will change because man changes. In Bible interpretation he warned his hearers to stop where the Bible says "stop," using as one illustration the question, "When is Jesus coming?" Jesus, Dr. Norborg pointed out, said that only the Father knows the hour.

After referring to the accuracy of the Scriptures, Dr. Norborg closed his lecture by citing the promises of God and testified that with his own dying eyes he wanted nothing more than to look at the cross of Jesus.

At the banquet on Wednesday evening at the Salvation Army camp by Silver Lake in St. Anthony, Dr. Norborg gave an informal and captivating talk on "Great Preachers I Have Heard." Among them were Toyohiko Kagawa, F. B. Meyer, Ludvig Hope and Skovgaard-Pettersen.

Rev. John P. Strand, president of the AFLC, preached the sermon at the service of Holy Communion on Tuesday night as the conference opened. Rev. Amos Dyrud of the Schools faculty assisted in the Sacrament. In his message on II Tim. 4:6, 7, Pastor Strand reviewed the ordination vow for pastors in a call for self-examination.

The Communion service was followed by a social hour in the church parlors.

"The Word and the Congregation, Central in Evangelism" was the subject of Pastor Francis Monseth's (Schools faculty) lecture on Wednesday morning. After tracing some of the Biblical bases for evangelism, he spoke of the congregation's role in this through Sacraments and spiritual gifts. Ultimately, he said, evangelism, the bringing of the message of Jesus, comes down to this, "my cup runneth over" (Psalm 23).

Pastor Robert L. Lee, Valley City, N. Dak., considered "Expository Preaching" in the second lecture of

the day. After briefly describing the three generally accepted types of preaching—topical, textual and expository—Pastor Lee went on to more fully discuss expository preaching, which is "declaring what the Word of God has to say." In preparing such sermons it is necessary to determine main and subordinate themes in a Bible text, he said.

At the joint chapel service of the Seminary and Bible School on Wednesday, Rev. Dale Mellgren, Abercrombie, N. Dak., brought the message. Using Eph. 4:1-3 as a text, Pastor Mellgren declared that we are to be "professional Christians," called by God to a worthy walk. We are in "God's vocational school" and graduation day will be the day of translation from this life.

The concert choir of the Bible School sang "Lead, Kindly Light" and "Wake, Awake" at the chapel service, directed by Mr. Don Rodvold.

"The Christian Being Salt and Light in Evangelism" was the topic of a presentation by Rev. Elden Nelson, St. Paul, Minn., Home Missions director, on Wednesday afternoon. He answered his own question, why do I have to be salt and light for Christ?, by saying that it is because the world is watching to see if my Christianity is more than words and God is also watching with expectation. Then Pastor Nelson continued by listing a number of areas in which a Christian is being watched, such as in the home, among family members, in speech and dress.

Out of the experience of his own congregation in Ferndale, Wash., Pastor R. Snipstead dealt with the subject "Organization and Content of Personal Evangelism through the Congregation" on Thursday morning. Because it had been difficult to maintain interest and enthusiasm in their own evangelism program, Triumph Lu-

theran Church entered into the Here's Life, America" crusade which was being conducted locally. Reluctant to begin making contacts at first, Pastor Snipstead said, once they did, church members took on new courage and boldness. This has made the biggest difference for the congregation. The ongoing program will also involve training new witnesses who will in turn help others, he advised.

Concluding lecture of the conference was by Rev. Einar Unseth of Ortle, S. Dak. He discussed the topic "The Minister Faces His Mission." In the face of great defections by U.S. clergymen today, Pastor Unseth quoted Leonard Ravenhill's declaration that there is only one Christian mission, that of saving souls. Referring to Paul's advice to Timothy in I Tim. 2:5ff, he considered these four aspects of a pastor's responsibility: a) prayer, b) preaching and teaching the Word, c) witnessing, and d) the necessity of managing one's own household well.

Rev. Harold Hosch of the Schools faculty led the devotions on Wednesday, using Joshua 3, and Rev. Karl Stendal, lecturer in the Seminary, did so on Thursday, using Amos 7:7, 8.

A session for pastors' wives was held on Wednesday morning. The talk by Mrs. Benjamin Coltvedt, a pastors' widow, given at that time will be printed in **The Lutheran Ambassador** at a later date.

Some pictures from the conference will be presented in our next issue.



In Memoriam

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

MICHIGAN

Ontonagon

Richard T. Moilanen, 53, Dec. 11, 1976, Redeemer

Hugo Arvison, 72, Jan. 1, Redeemer



CULLINGS FROM AFLBS

Rev. Dale Mellgren, Abercombie, N. Dak., was the speaker at joint chapel on Jan. 19, during the pastors' conference. The week before, Dr. Iver Olson brought the message. He was back on campus to teach in the inter-term in the Seminary. The inter-term ended on Feb. 4.

Rev. Richard Anderson of Rosedale Lutheran in Minneapolis spoke at Monday morning chapel on Jan. 24. He taught the Junior class in John's Gospel in the first quarter.

A dark room has been set up in the lower level of the boys' dorm. The room was provided at the time of construction but only recently has it been put in use. Miss Solveig Larson had her class in journalism taking pictures as a part of their work.

The concert choir sponsored a pancake supper at the church on Sunday, Jan. 23, to raise money for the trip to Norway in July. The batter was prepared by a local pancake house chain. A good turnout was experienced.

Some of the students attended the youth weekend, Jan. 21-22, of the Lutheran Evangelistic Movement Mid-Winter Conference held at Northrop Auditorium on the University of Minnesota campus. And some took in the services of the conference at Augustana Lutheran Church, Jan. 23-27. Pastor Herbert Franz of the AFLC, and Cloquet, Minn., was the speaker then, replacing Rev. Francis Muttoo. The concert choir sang at the service on Tuesday night that week.

Rev. Kenneth Pentti and Mrs. Paul Matero took a delegation from Bessemer and Ramsey, Mich., to the LEM youth weekend and lodged in the AFLBS dorms.

Promotion Days this year will be

April 22-24, following the concert choir tour. Church youth groups should begin making plans to attend.

BASKETBALL SCORES

Bible School Team

St. Thomas 51

AFLBS 41

Northwestern JV 104

AFLBS 75

Seminary Team

Salem Lutheran 48

AFLS 38

Redeemer Lutheran (Won)

AFLS (Lost)

SECOND SEMESTER OF SEMINARY COMMENCES TODAY

The second semester of the 1976-77 school year begins today, February 8, at Free Lutheran Theological Seminary in Minneapolis, Minn. It followed an "inter-term" of one month, the first in the school's history, in which courses were offered in American Church History, the Book of Acts and Media Ministries. The inter-term was conducted on a trial basis and the faculty and Board of Trustees will determine whether the "four-one-four" program should be carried on in the future or not.

Course offerings in the second semester and those who will teach them are as follows: Hebrew I, Greek II and Introduction to the Historical Books, Pastor Harold Hosch; I and II Thessalonians and the Pastoral Epistles and Homiletics I, Pastor Amos Dyrud; Theology and Anthropology, and Comparative Symbolics and Homiletics III, Pastor Francis Monseth; History of Missions, Pastor

Karl Stendal; Liturgics, Pastor John Strand; and Homiletics II, Pastor Kenneth Moland.

The Seminary Easter recess will run from April 6-11. Graduation will take place on Friday, May 27.

Introducing Our Seminarians GOD'S HAND LEADS ME

I come from a railroad family. Both my grandfather and my dad worked for different railroads. My dad's father worked for the Milwaukee Road and my dad for the Rock Island. I have one brother who is five years younger than I.

We are of Swedish descent, so, naturally, we belonged to the Augustana Synod. The family moved around somewhat. We started out in Minneapolis and then moved to Duluth in 1945. We lived there for almost four years. Then Dad was transferred to Rock Island, Illinois. We lived there for one school year; then it was across the river to Davenport, Iowa, for another two years. It was there that I was confirmed by a great man of God, Rev. Constant Johnson, at Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church on May 27, 1951.

Dad was transferred back to Minneapolis where he stayed until three years after his retirement, which was in 1960. I finished high school at Minnehaha Academy. The family lived in Hopkins and I stayed with my grandmother in Minneapolis to be near school and, I suspect, to keep Grandma company as she was a widow. Grandma and I rode the bus home for weekends.

After high school, I joined the Navy and spent most of the next four years in the Far East (Japan, the Philippines, etc.). When I got out of the

Navy, I came home to Hopkins and worked a while for the railroad, but later went back into the gas station business. (I had worked for my uncle in his gas station while at the Academy.)

er at the Clark Station that I was then managing in Hopkins in the summer of '63. She had come to Minnesota from Rockford, Illinois. We were married that fall. I was the manager of the Clark gas station at the time but soon after our marriage I became the dealer. I served in that capacity for the next eight years.

In September of 1970, we attended a Labor Day Bible camp. One night the pastor spoke of the "living waters" that Jesus had to offer. The Holy Spirit convicted me of my sins and pointed me to Jesus Christ. From that night, my life has taken on a new meaning and purpose.

I started living a Christ-centered life and this proved to be my termination as a dealer. I had in a sense become "too religious." My district manager put it this way, "Business and religion do not mix." I praise God that I was able to share with him the message of Christ.

The Lord has richly blessed us in many ways. At the top of the list is our family. We have five beautiful children. Two were born to us. Jonathan is almost 12 and Sarah is nine. Three of our children the Lord sent by way of adoption. David (Black/Norwegian) was the first to come, at two and a half months. He is now nearly four years old. Rachel (Vietnamese/Filipino) came on "the baby lift" in April of '75, when Vietnam fell to the Communists. At that time she was almost six. Now she is seven and one-half years. Joseph, 8 years old, is our latest addition. He came from Korea on September 7, 1976.

Another blessing the Lord gave Bonnie and me was each a trip to the Holy Land in 1970. Among our fondest memories are the memories of these trips.

In January of 1975, I lost my job again. This time I was managing a Spur station. My employer lost his lease due to the fact that the self-service policy was, and is, in rapid progress. The Lord supplied abundantly all that we needed, food, money, and helpers to keep our home and cars running smoothly. Philippians 3:19 promises us this—we believe it!

At the same time I was in fervent prayer over what the Lord had in mind for me. For a reason that He alone knew, He led me to the Sunday morning service at Medicine Lake. That was January 12, 1975, the day after the "blizzard of the century." All the way from Minnetonka to Medicine Lake! Everyone asked me how I got there. After I left the main highways to the unplowed roads, I followed two tracks in the snow that led right to the driveway of the church! After the sermon, which was based on Luke 4:18, I knew why He had led me there.

This then started me out to run the race set before me, first to Bible School for the spring quarter of 1975. Then in September of that year, I started my junior year at the seminary. Now that I've looked back on all that has happened, I can see that it is God's hand that leads me all the way (Prov. 3:5-6). As I look forward to this second semester of my middler year, and then to my senior year, I praise and thank Almighty God for His riches in Christ Jesus. And I pray that He will help me to follow the instructions in II Timothy 2:15 and 4:1-3.

—Tom Peterson

GOING WEST IN '77

AFLC Luther League Federation Convention

July 12-17

Our Redeemer Lutheran Church, Kirkland, Washington

**SOUTHWEST CENTRAL DISTRICT
WMF RALLY SLATED**

The Spring Rally of the Women's Missionary Federation of the Southwest Central District of the Association of Free Lutheran Congregations will convene at Zion Lutheran Church, 604 So. Jefferson, Wadena, Minnesota, on Tuesday, May 3.

Registration will begin at 9:30 a.m. The morning session will open at 10 a.m.

The afternoon session will open at 1:15 with Pastor Kenneth Moland, acting dean of the AFLC Bible School, speaking.

Visitors are welcome.

Mrs. John Arlen Johnson,
Secretary

A MISSIONARY HYMN

Lord, open Thou our eyes,
Give us a vision clear,
That we beneath the skies
May see our mission here,
May see the multitude
Of Gentiles and of Jews,
That we by love endued
May spread the Gospel News!

Lord, open Thou our ears,
That we may hear the cry
From fellowmen in tears,
That soon unsaved must die,
Unless the Christian host
Will bring the saving Word;
Pour out Thy Holy Ghost,
That Christians may be stirred!

Lord, open Thou our hands
To generously give,
That Christ in heathen lands
May help the dead to live!
The missionaries cry
For means, and wait and pray;
May willing hands supply
The growing needs today!

Lord, open Thou our heart,
And fill it with Thy grace,
Thy love each day impart
And lead us in Thy ways;
Beneath Thy tender care
Keep us forever true
To serve Thee everywhere
In all we say and do!

C. K. Solberg

The Best of Hallelsey

FAITH IS TO COME

"Straightway the father of the child cried out, and said, 'I believe; help Thou mine unbelief'" (Mark 9:24).

Thus did this believing father cry out in his distress. And thus cries faith in every time of need.

The Scriptures speak of the mystery of faith. And faith is indeed a mysterious thing. Among other things, we find this mystery in connection with faith: Faith can never arise except where the old self dies. The death of self and the birth of faith are inseparable.

Since death is always painful, so is also the death of the old self. There will always be an aspect of faith which is painful. A sinner cannot come to faith in Christ without at the same time losing faith in himself.

Faith, therefore, is, to begin with, always a sorrowing, sighing, weeping, doubting faith. For the sinner does not see his faith; he sees only his unbelief. And therefore he prays incessantly, as did the unhappy father in our text: "Help Thou mine unbelief!"

But that faith is present the rest of us can see without difficulty. We see it in a number of things. First and foremost in this that the sinner suffers as a result of his unbelief and prays for faith.

At such a time faith is already fully active within him. For to believe is to come to Christ with your sins, as the Haugeans said.

He who keeps near the cross of Christ with all his sins believes, even though he as yet cannot see his faith, only his unbelief.

Faith lives only as long as it struggles, says Luther.

Hear that, dear child of God, you who are restless so much of the time and never can get your faith to be as good as you desire it.

Say as the man in our text did: "I believe; help Thou mine unbelief!"

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editorials

THOSE HARD CHOICES

Senior students, particularly, at Bible School are beginning to think about what comes after graduation for them. Some of them have been pondering this matter for a long time already, to be sure.

Then there are all those other decisions one faces in life, some of them common to everyone, others specialized in interest. People who do not take God through Christ as their center of reference arrive at decisions, too. They must. Things may work out quite well for them, even excellently, from all outward appearances and from the short view of life. But they are still out of touch with God and that will not work out in the long run.

People who are committed to God through Christ seek the will of God in all their decisions, even the minor ones. In those of some import three steps are followed, at the least. First, there is prayer. God is approached and the

matter talked out. Often there will be many seasons of prayer. In a unique way the matter is laid out before the Lord through prayer. Underlying and permeating prayer must be submission to God's will, the desire that in all situations His purposes must be accomplished. This is the essence of prayer.

We received as part of a Christmas gift from the Bible School boys a picture of Christ in Gethsemane. Hanging there on a wall, it is a daily reminder that even as Jesus submitted to the Father's will, so also must we.

Secondly, the way to right choices is found in the Scriptures. Oh yes, the Bible will likely not mention by name all the situations we can come up against, but there are principles to be found which will give direction. And if one is well acquainted with God's Word there will be, often, an unconscious guidance to what is right.

A third means of arriving at a right choice is through consultation with mature Christian friends. Perhaps there are several on whom we can count for enlightenment. Much depends on the individual, however. One Christian may by nature readily seek out others with whom to discuss a matter, while another may reluctantly share it with anyone, let alone several. But it is good to find out how someone else sees a situation, from a little distance.

Other means for determining God's will can be mentioned also, such as testing, honest evaluation of one's abilities, trial and error (finding out if doors are really open or not), and so on. Through the ways listed above and additional ones answers will come to the one who is earnestly seeking God's way. The path to certainty is sometimes much longer for some people than others. The search, the waiting are a kind of testing God uses, too. Something is learned from it.

"Commit your way to the Lord; trust in Him, and He will act" (Psalm 37:5).

ATTITUDE TOWARD BUSINESS

"What then," you ask, "must we go out of business?" I answer, No; but do not give your whole heart to it. Rule it, but never let it rule you. Transact it for God, and so consecrate it to God. Let God send you to your business, but beware of letting your business send you away from God.

—William M. Taylor

PROCRASTINATION

All the invitations and warnings of the Bible are in the present tense: "Choose ye this day whom ye will serve." "How long halt ye between two opinions?" "Seek ye the Lord while He may be found; call upon Him while He is near." "Now is the accepted time; now is the day of salvation." "Today if ye hear His voice, harden not your hearts." The fact is, there is not one word in the Bible to encourage the sinner to postpone the day of his return to God; there are hundreds of passages that urge him to accept the overtures of mercy now, this very day. I pray you, "flee to the mountains" (Matt. 24:16).

L. S. Keyser

There is only one sin that cannot be forgiven, that sin which we will not confess.

—O. Hallesby

Still the suffering caused by the lack of money is easier to bear than the worry which accompanies its possession.

—Kagawa



Bricks and Christianity!

by Rev. Howard A. Kuhnle,
Buffalo, N.Y.

Bricks are made of clay

You and I are made of clay. To be sure, we do not look like bricks, but Genesis 2:7 has a most interesting idea: "And the Lord God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul."

Your body is flesh, bones, muscle, tissue, etc. All these come from food which grows in the ground or from the meat of animals which eat that which grows in the ground. Then when a person dies, his body crumbles back into dust and clay.

The Maker stamped His trademark, name or initials on the bricks when they were soft clay before baking. God put His trade-mark on us when He made us out of clay: "So God created man in His own image, in the image of God created He him; male and female created He them." (Genesis 1:27). God's stamp is on us, just as the maker's stamp is on the bricks.

It cannot be put too strongly: God made you and me!

Bricks show the advantage of working together

What can be done with one brick?

It has only incidental uses: paper-weight, doorstop, bedwarmer, knife sharpener. It's easy to think of how large numbers of bricks can be used: fireplaces, roads, houses, buildings, bridges, etc.

People are like bricks. One person cannot make a good, strong nation, organization, scout troop, or spiritually-minded church, but many people can. To be sure, many things can be done by one person who is an outstanding leader, but many people working together can do great things that one person alone cannot possibly do; especially can they try to make this a good world in which God is

loved and the right is done, despite sin's presence.

Bricks come in many types, sizes and colors

The two classes are common and face bricks. You see, bricks have various uses.

So, also, people are of various races, nationalities and languages.

The Psalms have a solution for this diversity: "Let the people praise Thee, O God; let **all the people** praise Thee" (67:3); "Make a joyful noise unto the Lord, **all ye lands**" (100:1); "O praise the Lord, **all ye nations**: praise Him, **all ye people**" (117:1).

Consider St. Paul: "There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus" (Galatians 3:28).

When you think of bricks, what is the part and place of Jesus Christ?

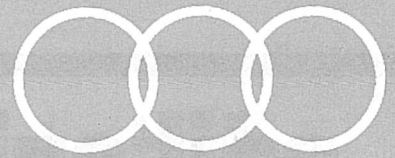
Christ is the one Person Who binds all people together. Christians call Him by a variety of meaningful names, such as Lord, Saviour, Redeemer, Prince of Peace. Reverently, we may also call Him the mortar Who holds people together. Slightly different is the Gospel hymn, "Thou art the Potter, I am the clay."

Consider some of the teachings of Jesus Himself in the Bible: "I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life" (John 14:6); "I am the Good Shepherd" (John 10:11); "I am the Bread of life." (John 6:35)

Your response, then, no matter what your individual situation, should be to believe in Him, give your allegiance to Him, follow Him and serve your fellowmen for His sake.

(Ed. Note: Pastor Kuhnle, a Lutheran, has had some 700 manuscripts published in 115 periodicals.)

Fellowship
Corner



THANKFUL FOR BLESSINGS

The other day I read Acts 26:18 and I Peter 1:4-8.

What a wonderful day when Jesus opened my eyes to see my sin and turned me from darkness to light and from the darkness to light, from the power of Satan to God. I received forgiveness from Christ when I asked Him to forgive my sins and was set free in Christ to experience light and life in Him. What a wonderful, precious day that was, to experience the peace and joy that He alone can give.

And in I Peter it speaks of the "inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you." Isn't that precious? Rich indeed, riches that money cannot buy. And to be kept by the power of God. Oh, what a glorious day to look forward to, to see Christ face to face and be forever with Him in heaven.

May we never lose sight of the goal but press on knowing Jesus will see us through. He will never leave us or forsake us if we remain faithful to Him in His Word, prayer and witness for Him.

And, oh, how we need Christian fellowship. That is so precious and strengthening. We are to occupy till He comes. Praying for you all.

Thank you to all who write in **The Lutheran Ambassador**. It is an inspiration and a challenge.

Mrs. Pauline Pope
Wadena, Minnesota



11. What does John 13:35 tell us about the proof of discipleship? _____

12. **SINCERITY:** Guileless, Singleness of heart.
(a.) What did Jesus say about Nathanael? (John 1:47) _____

(b.) In Philippians 1:10, we are admonished to be "without offence till the day of Christ" KJV. Compare Colossians 1:10 with this verse.

13. **SPIRITUAL FRUIT:**
Galatians 5:22-23 _____
James 3:17-18 _____

Discussion: What should be the Christian's motive at all times and in every service rendered?

Memory Verse: Philippians 1:6

Closing Hymn: "O That the Lord Would Guide My Ways" (In Concordia Hymnal)

—Mrs. Kenneth Rolf

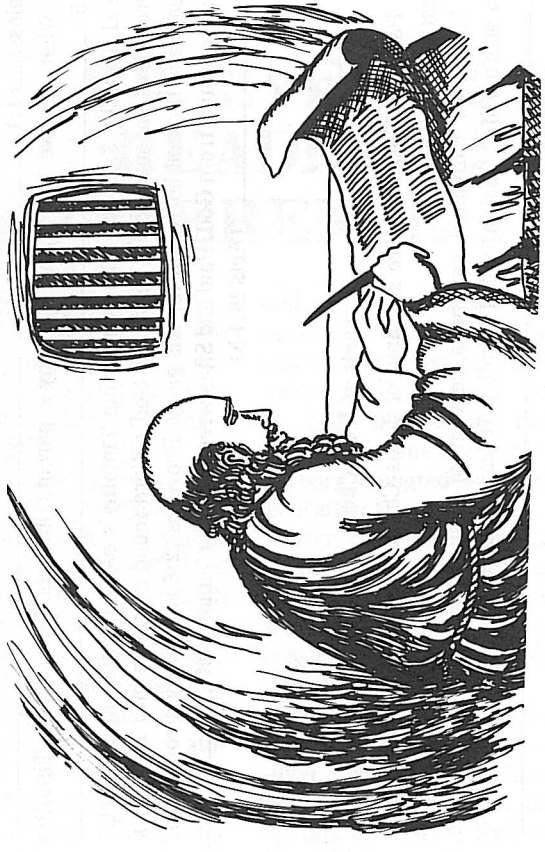
WMF REMINDERS

Our project for February was Praise Program. This project assists the Association of Free Lutheran Congregations in overall debt reduction as well as capital improvements on real estate held by the Association. As a WMF, let us do all we can to help reduce this indebtedness.

My Missionary For A Day is our project for March. This project supports Mrs. George Knapp, Mrs. Connely Dyrud and Mrs. John Abel in Brazil, and Mrs. Lawrence Dynneson and Mrs. Leonard Swanson in Arizona. Pray for strength and courage for these workers. Write to encourage them and give support to them through the WMF.

—Mrs. Robert Dietsche

W.M.F. BIBLE STUDY



LESSONS IN PHILIPPIANS

March, 1977

The Philippian Church, founded by Paul on his second missionary journey, was an ideal one in many ways, and Paul thanks God "upon every remembrance of them" (Philippians 1:3, KJV). This epistle was written while Paul was a prisoner under hard circumstances; yet joy, love and victory characterize the entire book. The central message of the book is Jesus Christ and He is exalted and lifted up throughout this Epistle.

Philippians 1:1-11

In verses 1-2 we have Paul's Salutation and in verses 3-11 his prayer for the church. Paul begins by mentioning Timothy, who was dearly loved,

and a close associate of the apostle Paul.

1. Notice the love and tenderness with which Paul refers to Timothy in the following references:

I Timothy 1:2 _____

Colossians 1:1 _____

2. What are we told about Timothy's parents in Acts 16:1 and II Timothy 1:5? _____

In II Timothy 3:15, we read concerning Timothy's early training in the Scriptures. It is encouraging to read how God's Word found entrance into Timothy's heart and life and bore fruit for His glory. Proverbs 22:6 is not only a command, but a promise from God. Paul and Silas were joined by Timothy at _____ (Acts 16:1-5).

Servants of Jesus Christ

Paul and Timothy were servants of Jesus Christ. What a wonderful identification!

3. Before an individual can be a servant of Jesus Christ, what must take place in his life? (Isaiah 6:1-8, I John 1:9, II Corinthians 5:17)

4. (a) What does the true servant of Jesus Christ delight in? (Psalm 40:8)

(b) A servant honors his _____ (Malachi 1:6)

(c) What is the right motive of the true servant of God? (Galatians 2:10)

(d) _____ is necessary in a true servant of Jesus Christ. (John 13:16)

(e) The true servant of Jesus Christ is constrained by _____ (II Corinthians 5:14)

(f) What admonition is given to servants in Ephesians 6:5-6 and Colossians 3:22?

(g) What wonderful joy awaits the true servant of God? (Revelation 22:3)

5. What men of God are referred to as His servants in the following Old Testament references?

I Chronicles 6:49 and Joshua 1:2 _____

Judges 2:8 _____ Daniel 6:20 _____

Psalms 78:70 and Psalm 89:3 _____

6. Notice to whom the letter is addressed. What is meant by saints? _____

Discussion: What areas of a person's life are changed when Jesus comes into the heart and controls the life?

Grace and Peace

When a sinner is convicted of his sin and comes to God in repentance and faith, confessing his sin, he experiences God's grace, mercy and forgiveness in Christ Jesus. "The blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanse us from all sin" (I John 1:7b, KJV). SALVATION IS THE GIFT OF GOD (Ephesians 2:8).

7. List references in other Epistles of Paul in which the benediction of grace and peace is found. _____

Discussion: Share together the Bible verses which helped you to find peace with God and assurance of salvation.

8. What gives Paul great cause for thanksgiving to God? (Phil. 1:3-8)

9. Make a list of Paul's prayer requests for the Philippian Church as found in verses 9-11. 1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

10. Characteristics of ABUNDING LOVE:

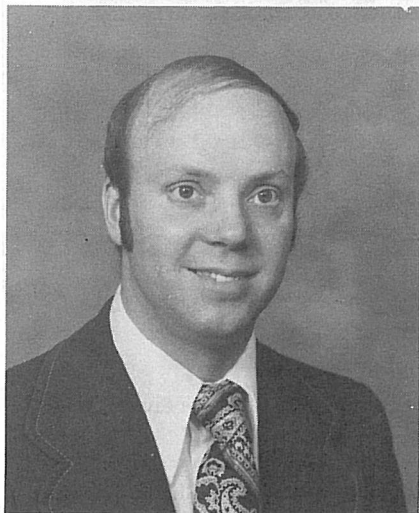
Matthew 22:39 _____

Romans 12:9 _____

I John 4:7-8 _____

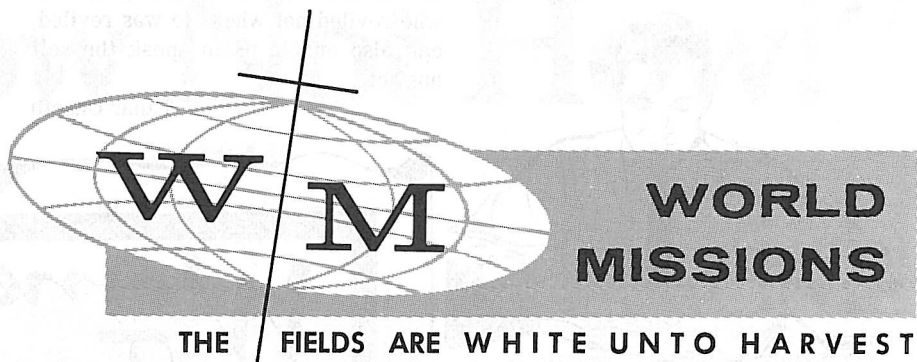
**LATE WINTER, SPRING
SCHEDULE ANNOUNCED
FOR PASTOR MOLSTRE**

These appointments for Evangelist Youth Worker David C. Molstre in the months of February-May are listed below. Please pray for this outreach through evangelism and for this servant as he travels from place to place in this ministry.



Rev. David C. Molstre

- Feb. 19—Parish Retreat in the Badger (Minn.)-Oiland parish, Gustav Nordvall, lay pastor.
- Feb. 20-24—Hampden, N. Dak., parish, Wesley Langaas, pastor.
- Feb. 27-Mar. 3—Valley City, N. Dak., parish, Robert L. Lee, pastor.
- Mar. 9-13—Kenyon, Minn., parish, Allen Monson, pastor.
- Mar. 20-24—Calvary Lutheran Church, Wallace, S. Dak., Larry V. Severson, pastor.
- Mar. 27-31—Salem Lutheran Church, Radcliffe, Ia., Terry Olson, pastor.
- Apr. 3-7—Our Savior's Lutheran Church, Bessemer, Mich., Kenneth Pentti, pastor.
- Apr. 17-21—Section Ten Lutheran Church, Cumberland, Wis., Norman Tenneboe, pastor.
- Apr. 24-28—Green Lake Lutheran Church, Spicer, Minn., Dennis Gray, pastor.
- May 1-4—Maranatha Lutheran Church, Chassell, Mich., Dr. James Gerdeen, lay pastor.
- May 15-19—St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Fargo, N. Dak., Philip Haugen, pastor.



**TESTIMONY OF A BIBLE
SCHOOL STUDENT**

It has been nine months since I started studying in the Bible Institute and Seminary. I am happy here because I am sure this is where God called me.

My life before I accepted Christ into my heart was full of the world's bitterness and without a future. But now I am happy and content to have Christ in my heart. I accepted Him in December of 1974.

That was when I was reborn, not of my mother, but of the Holy Spirit of God. I am a member of the Free Lutheran Church and am content there. I am working in a Free Lutheran Church in a small town not far from Campo Mourão. Each weekend I go there to preach the Gospel of Christ. My goal is to graduate as a pastor and work in the Free Lutheran Church.

I am happy here in my studies because my wisdom comes from above, from God's holy hands. I ask that my brothers in the U.S. pray for me.

Also I am content with my professors, Pastors George, Connely and Yeddo and Missionary Priscilla Wold. They bring us kindness and love, as from God. I am also thankful for the gifts you send through the missionaries that show your love for us, even as God loves you.

Here there are 17 of us studying in the Instituto Bíblico Mourãoense. I, Pedro Simão de Abreu, who is writing this testimony, am ready to preach the Gospel, even in Communist countries, if God should call me there. Let

the Lord's will be done. My life is in His hands and because of this I am happy and content in the joy of the Holy Spirit.

He is the only one who can help in our lives, as He is in Heaven to guide us with the Holy Spirit. It is He that sent His son Jesus into the world to suffer for our sins. Eph. 2:8 says: "For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God." This is my favorite Bible verse and the first one I memorized after my conversion.

It was through Christ I was saved and it is He that is renewing my life. The things of the world are abandoned and I am now happy in Christ. My desire is to preach His word in love, and willingly, that His kingdom may grow each day.

With Christ in my heart I can win the battle. Let us pray, as it says in Matthew 7:7: "Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you." Prayer is the key to God's blessings. Pray that we here in the Instituto Bíblico Mourãoense will be approved of God to work in His vineyard. God is great in His power to help us with our problems and our failings.

Brothers, some day we'll be able to talk face to face with each other in heaven. Here we may not learn each other's language, but in heaven we will be able to converse with one another. Praise the Lord!

With many wishes of happiness to each of you, my brothers in Christ, Amen!

Pedro Simão de Abreu

A MINISTER'S MUSINGS



A SOFT ANSWER

"That dog of yours should be shot!" shouted an extremely angry man to a pastor. During the night the pastor had been awakened by the loud blowing of a car horn. Getting up to investigate, he found a neighbor in his driveway. This neighbor claimed that the pastor's dog was chasing his cattle. Therefore he barked, "That dog of yours should be shot!" The pastor, who is a meek man with a loving heart, replied, "I think you are right. That dog should be shot if he has been chasing your cattle." The result was that this furious man suddenly calmed down. No doubt he had anticipated an argument, but he had received a soft answer instead. And the Bible says, "A soft answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger."

President Abraham Lincoln was frequently opposed by Secretary Stanton. Upon receiving a message from Lincoln one day, Stanton used violent language as he tore up the message and shouted, "President Lincoln is a fool." When Lincoln was informed of Stanton's unkind statement, he graciously replied, "Well, perhaps Secretary Stanton is right." By this wise answer Lincoln completely unarmed the man who opposed him. Again a soft answer turned away wrath.

A wise man said, "He that striveth with a man of tongue heaps wood upon his fire." If anybody speaks a rude or angry word to us, and we answer in the same way, we are adding fire to fire. But a soft answer is like water to fire; it helps to put the flame out. How can we accomplish this? By turn-

ing to God for help. By inviting Jesus to cleanse us from every evil word and by asking Him to occupy our hearts and control our tongues. He who reviled not when He was reviled, can also enable us to speak the soft answer.

—Einar Unseth

A FRIEND'S PRAYER

The Lord preserve thy going out,
The Lord preserve thy coming in;
God send His angels round about,
To keep thy soul from every sin.

Author Unknown
(from *Prayer Poems*)

Women For Christ

FREEDOM THEME USED AT RALLY LAST FALL

The Fall Rally of the Women's Missionary Federation, Lake Superior District, was hosted by Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Virginia, Minnesota, on Saturday, October 2, 1976. The theme for the rally was "Freedom: Uses and Abuses," based on I Peter 2:16.

A warm welcome was extended by Pastor Henry Johansen, followed by devotions and prayer by Gladys Younggren of St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Cloquet, Minnesota. We were most fortunate to have Pastor and Mrs. John Abel with us for the day. Mrs. Abel brought us a very interesting Bible study, using our theme as her topic. It was interesting to learn of the things we are free from and the things we are not free from, as written in the Bible.

Hymns which were sung by the group throughout the day were: "My Country, 'Tis of Thee," "O Zion, Haste, Thy Mission High Fulfilling," "The Woman's Hymn," "I Love to Tell the Story" and "Now Thank We All Our God."

Janice Stevens of Good Shepherd Lutheran favored us with two solos, "In Christ There Is No East or West" and "Who Will Tell Them?" Evelyn Emberson presented Mrs. Abel with a WMF Honorary Membership pin.

An offering was received for "My Missionary for a Day."

Each lady attending the Fall Rally brought a book she had read for a book exchange.

Violet Berweiger and Verona Krohn were elected to the offices of vice-president and secretary, respectively.

We were favored with a duet by Pastor and Mrs. Abel, the missionary's version of "Open My Eyes That I May See," and two solos, "Over the Ocean Millions I See" and "Lord, Send Me There," by Mrs. Abel.

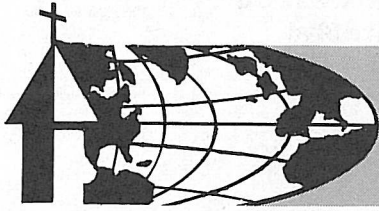
Pastor Abel chose "God's Fishing Enterprise" as the title of the afternoon message. A few of the highlights of his message were: 1.) We are all missionaries, 2.) We must not only be hearers of the Word but we must be doers, and 3.) We must repent, follow, and be fishers of men.

The Spring Rally will be hosted by St. Paul's Lutheran, Cloquet.

Evelyn Emberson shared a prayer reading and Rosamond Lee brought us a reading on freedom.

After a time of sharing, Pastor Abel brought us to the Lord in prayer and dismissed us with the benediction. All members present signed a get-well card for Mrs. Eletson of St. Stephen's Lutheran Church, Duluth, Minnesota, to be delivered to her by her two daughters who attended the rally.

Verona Krohn, Secretary



CHURCH-WORLD NEWS

THE CHURCH AROUND THE WORLD

The largest religious groups in the U.S. are (numbers in parentheses indicate denominations in each group):

Roman Catholics (1)	49 million
Baptists (30)	29 million
Methodists (19)	13 million
Lutherans (9)	9 million
Presbyterians (8)	4 million
Eastern Orthodox (23)	4 million

Catholics captured six more congressional seats in the recent election to push their total to 129, their highest number in history. Of these, 13 are senators. United Methodists are the second most numerous with 80, then Episcopal, Presbyterian, Baptist, Jewish, United Church of Christ, and Lutheran.

The number of abortions in Washington, D.C., last year exceeded the number of live births. 85 per cent of these abortions were performed at government expense. Of the babies born, 51 per cent were to unwed mothers. Nationwide, illegitimate births total 13 per cent.

1.8 million American school children come home to an empty house every day after school, until their parents return from work.

East Germany has relaxed its restriction on church building, and is allowing construction to start on 40 new Protestant churches. The sudden change in policy came as a complete surprise.

WRC'S FAITH BUDGET

"We trust God to bring in the dollars when we need them in order to help suffering people," says Dr. Paul Toms, president of the World Relief Commission (Valley Forge). On the basis of faith and in spite of unemployment and inflation, WRC's Executive Board budgeted \$2 million for

1977. Ten years ago the annual budget was \$138,000.

Toms says: "We start every year just about broke, except for exigency funds held in escrow for disasters. That keeps us depending on God and His people." As the money comes in, it is quickly allocated to a needy spot overseas where it will do the most immediate good, with 85 cents of every dollar going overseas as funds, food, equipment and personnel.

WRC, overseas relief and social concern arm of the National Association of Evangelicals, is supported by NAE churches and denominations, non-NAE churches and denominations, student groups, service organizations and individuals, both in the United States and Canada.

IRS 'AUXILIARY' DEFINITION SEEN UNACCEPTABLE TO CHURCH

New York—(LC)—A court test ultimately may be necessary to change a new Internal Revenue Service definition of "integrated auxiliaries" of churches, a Lutheran Council in the USA official here said—but he held hope that negotiation through the administrative processes still could find a remedy.

According to Walter Jensen, the council's director of business and finance, an IRS regulation published January 4 which states that activities of church auxiliaries must be "exclusively religious" will meet strong objection among churches.

While the regulation involves the filing of returns and has tax exemption implications, Mr. Jensen maintained that the "real issue is much deeper, touching directly on constitutional First Amendment provisions for separation of church and state."

"The setting of standards by government as to the scope of the mission

and ministry of the church is quite presumptuous," he said.

The LC/USA official noted that last June representatives of several churches and church-related groups argued at a Washington hearing against proposed amendments to the regulations. Under changes suggested at that time, an "integrated auxiliary" of the church would have been defined as one with a primary purpose which would "directly promote religious activity. . . ."

Examples which have been given by the IRS as qualified integrated auxiliaries would include men's and women's clubs, mission societies and religious schools. Unqualified activities would include church-related hospitals, elementary schools, orphanages and homes for the aged.

Mr. Jensen, in his comments on the recently-published regulations, maintained that the "exclusively religious" description for integrated auxiliaries still does not meet the desires of the churches.

The LC/USA executive commented that the government seems to be attempting "to reduce profound theological concepts into neat little boxes with precise legal labels."

"It is not true," he said, "that the exclusive business of the church is that of caring for souls without regard for bodies. Institutional care facilities throughout the world exist because of the church's pioneering role.

"When the church operates a hospital or a home or whatever, its concern transcends giving more than physical care. It is not right for government to dictate that certain of our institutions are no longer an integrated part of the church because they fail to meet certain political and secular standards developed by humans not sensitive to the historical mission of the church."

**BIBLE WORK IN BEIRUT
RESUMES**

NEW YORK, Jan. 21 — Bible Society activities in Lebanon are recovering vigorously. Though central Beirut is still a mass of rubble, which some say may have to be bull-dozed into the sea, the Bible Society plans to relocate its offices in the city again.

This information comes from the Rev. Russell Self, regional secretary of the United Bible Societies' Asia-Pacific Region, who visited Beirut the weekend of January 8-9. "It's really exciting," he reported in an interview in New York. "We're almost the first people back in there, even before things have returned to normal."

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