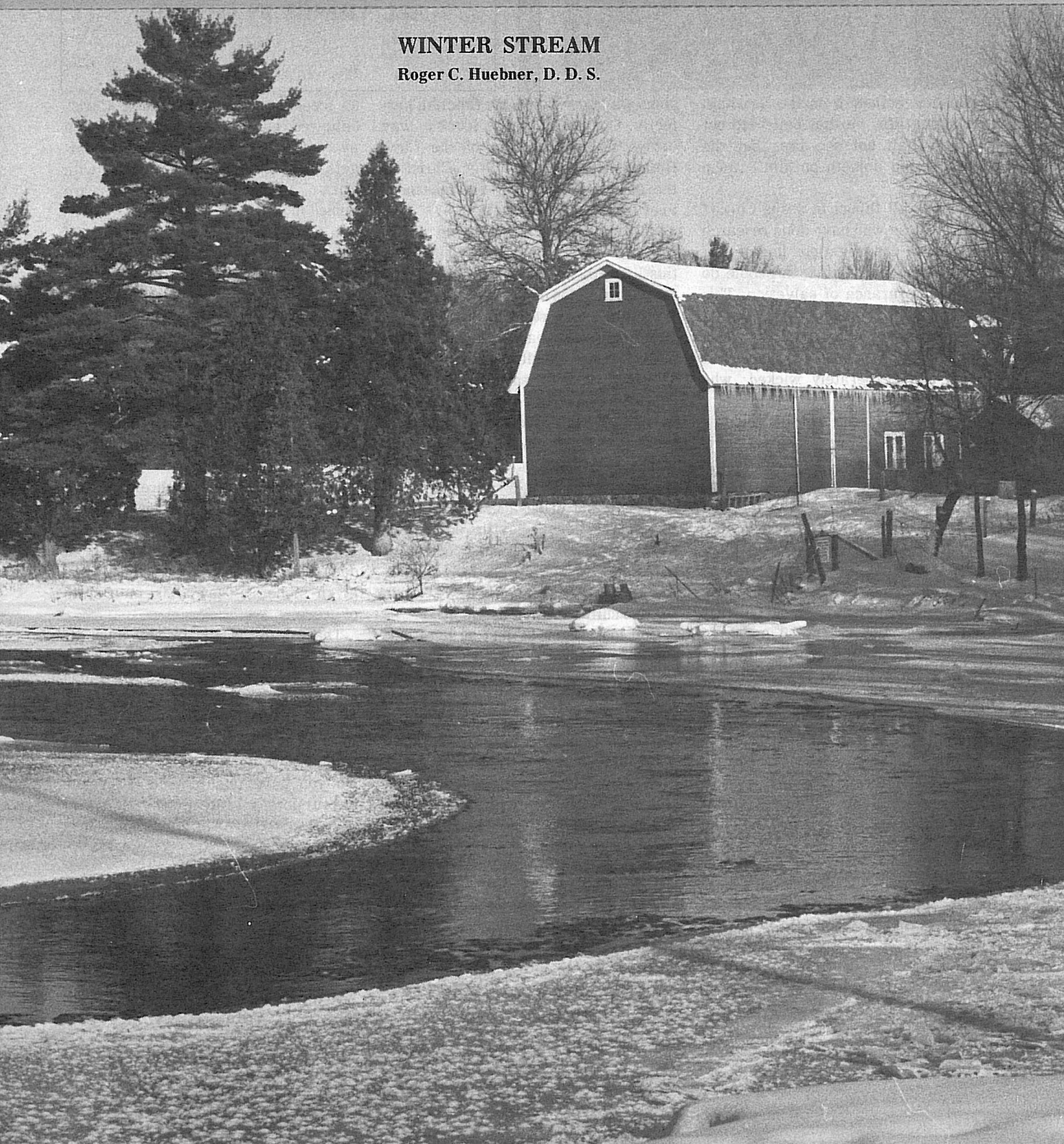


January 24, 1978

The Lutheran Ambassador

WINTER STREAM

Roger C. Huebner, D. D. S.



MEDITATION MOMENTS

ALL THINGS IN CHRIST

“He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him” (John 3:36).

We have all things in Jesus Christ! Some of those who have done research in Lutheran congregations have found a majority of our Lutheran people do not have assurance of salvation. This is a tragedy! It ought not to be so! Yet, we realize what the flesh does. “The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?” (Jeremiah 17:9).

Perhaps the basic reason for this lacking of assurance of salvation is a lack of clearness in preaching the Gospel. Some find it easier to preach the Law. Some are mixing the law and the Gospel, thereby confusing the listeners.

The Gospel centers around the person of Jesus Christ. Christ has done for us what the Law cannot do, that is, save us! Let us try to speak of how Jesus meets the qualifications of the Law on behalf of everyone who believes.

1. **Jesus Christ lived for us.** Jesus was “made under the Law” in order that we might be redeemed. The requirement of the Law is that we are to be perfect. James 2:10 states that this is impossible. We realize this, too,

since we know we do not function perfectly. Our performance level is way below the qualification of the Law. Romans 10:4 states, “For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to every one that believeth.”

In other words, Christ lived a perfect life on our behalf. We cannot live this life. So, we claim the Gospel fact that Christ gives us His perfection.

2. **Christ suffered and died for us.** It is impossible that the blood of bulls and of goats should take away sins. Through Christ’s suffering and His death, our sins are taken away. This was John the Baptist’s announcement, “Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sins of the world.”

Christ’s suffering and shed blood is the only sufficient way to receive forgiveness. If Christ had not died for us, if He had not suffered the punishment for sin for us, then we would have to suffer such punishment.

God looks upon us just as if we had never sinned because Christ both lived, suffered and died for us. We receive the righteousness of God through Christ. We will not have to be forsaken by God because Christ was forsaken by God on our behalf.

3. **Jesus Christ was buried for us.** Our sins are buried with Christ in His grave. This is comforting. God gives

us freedom from sin because Christ hallowed our graves and has taken away the horror involved. God forgets our sins. We are buried with Christ. Romans 6:1-7. Our sins are buried in His grave.

4. **Christ rose for us.** “Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new” (II Corinthians 5:17). We are raised with Him and in this way we walk in newness of life. The power of the resurrection gives us new life in Christ.

5. **He ascended for us and prays for us.** Christ makes intercession on behalf of every repentant sinner. Christ is able to save us, as Hebrews states, to the “uttermost,” because He intercedes with the Heavenly Father. We understand, that because Christ does this, all Christians walk as forgiven sinners. They walk in a state of grace.

These facts of the Gospel must be accepted by each of us. When Christ enters our hearts we have all things in Him. We know where we are going to spend eternity because we realize fully what Christ has done for us and what He is doing for us right now. Do you have this blessed assurance of your personal salvation?

—Dennis Gray

The Lutheran Ambassador is published biweekly (except the second issue in August) by the Association of Free Lutheran Congregations, 3110 East Medicine Lake Blvd., Minneapolis, Minn. 55441. Rev. Raynard Huglen, Newfolden, Minn. 56738, is the editor and all communications concerning content of the magazine should be addressed to him. Subscription price is \$4.00 per year in advance. Subscriptions should be sent to The Lutheran Ambassador, 3110 East Medicine Lake Blvd., Minneapolis, Minn. 55441. Second-class postage paid at Minneapolis, Minn. Volume 16, Number 2

EXPECT

SOMETHING GREAT

IN '78'

by Rev. Dale R. Battleson
Bradley, South Dakota

The Shepherds who heard the Good News that Christ was born, EXPECTED SOMETHING GREAT to happen in their lives. They were changed on the inside. They were challenged to proclaim the Christmas Gospel. They set the world in wonder. There is something good and gracious and great about that name—Jesus Christ. We have:

A Christmas Christ who can Cheer us!

A Christmas Christ who can Hear us!

A Christmas Christ who is Near us!

A Christmas Christ who can Cure us!

Christmas with Christ is the GATEWAY to the GREAT WAY! Therefore, Christians can and should EXPECT SOMETHING GREAT IN '78'.

St. Paul wrote: "If any one is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has passed away, behold, the new has come."

Again, the Apostle wrote: "One thing I do, forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal... I can do all things in Him who strengthens me."

The year ahead is full of hope,

Truth and love are in its scope.

Let's open wide our hearts to Him.

There are five things I believe can make your life great in '78.

I. Get God's Guidance to Go God's Way!

Once there was a mule standing exactly between two identical hay stacks. He was extremely hungry but the poor animal starved to death simply because it never could make up its mind from which stack to eat.

Often, we find ourselves pretty much in the position of that mule. There are two paths we might follow and we cannot decide which one to take. Or, more confusing, there might be several paths. One thing is certain: "God desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth." LIFE CAN BE GREAT IN '78' when we take Jesus Christ as our Savior and walk through the New Year seeking God's guidance in all things. Will you Go God's Way in the year ahead?

II. Forgive Yourself and be Yourself!

There are many people who are living a condemned life because they have never learned to accept the forgiveness of God, that is, to forgive themselves. Many people carry on their minds an accumulation of past mistakes, failures and sins. This becomes a burden that no person can bear. It produces great mental strain, nervousness, fear and worry. When we confess to God our sins and mistakes, let us bury the past and walk into tomorrow rejoicing in His mercy and love. Then, too, BE YOURSELF. One of the most thrilling and glorious facts of life is that you existed in the mind of God before you were born.

There is no one in the world quite like you. Be the person you are by the Grace of God! Don't measure and compare yourself with someone else. SOMETHING GREAT CAN HAPPEN IN '78' if you let God use your life and talents in serving others and to the glory of His Name.

III. Believe in Something Big!

Strong beliefs are to a life what roots are to a mighty oak tree. Fierce winds may blow, but the oak stands because it has roots to hold it firm and secure. The person who does not have strong Christian convictions and beliefs cannot expect to cope with the adversities of life. We must Believe in Something Big. Is God big enough for you? Is God strong enough for you? The great people of the Bible, and of history, are those who believed in something big. They had Big Dreams, Big Hopes, Big Plans, Big Ideas, because they had BIG FAITH IN A BIG GOD! "All things are possible to him that believes." The Christian believes that life is truly beautiful and worth living because our CHRIST IS THE GATEWAY TO THE GREAT WAY! Believe in Something Big!

IV. Have a Plan and Purpose!

Benjamin Franklin said that early in his life he decided that the reason so many people fail is because they have no plan. They muddle through life, hoping for the best and usually getting the worst.

(Continued on page 8)



PARISH ED

SUNDAY SCHOOL . . . THE WORSHIP SERVICE

Sunday morning—all dressed up and wearing clean and happy faces come little boys and big boys, little girls and big girls, plus adults and all other sizes in between to church and Sunday School. My, what a privilege and opportunity to sing together, pray together and listen to “God speak to me,” as Pastor or the Sunday school teacher shares a thought for the day. We come expecting as well as in a mood to share our spiritual realities, questions, problems and prayers together. What a delight!

Some schedules have Sunday School before the regular church service, others afterwards. No, there is no “one way.” Discover what’s best in your situation. The Sunday school session begins with a worship service. This is not always true. The worship service can come at the end of the class session. In that event a time can be given for sharing truths gleaned in the class discussion.

Large enrollments might divide into two sections for the worship service. One suggestion would be to have a worship area for the beginners through grades two or three and another for the grades and adults. What about the adults? Do they need a worship service? Why don’t they go directly into their Bible study?

Now for the worship service. Whom have we come to worship? How do we worship? Are we in a worshipful mood?

The worship atmosphere is created mainly by the session leader. This should not be a classroom teacher because this exercise takes much prayerful planning. No, it is not a hilarious- or a fun-time. Jesus is our audience and we have come to praise Him for all His goodness to us.

Sing! Do a lot of singing. When are children offered an opportunity to sing? As a result of this group singing, maybe they can sing in a Sunday morning church service. This is a good time to use boys and girls who are studying to play various musical instruments. Can one be used to accompany the singing? Can an instrumental number be used when the offering is received? We must use our children. Some of their little piano selections work very well at this time.

Choose songs with a message. Because little people are unable to read, it is necessary that they have a session presented on their level. Here songs—children oriented songs—are taught a line at a time. These songs must be memorized. Most children of this age group do not sing from a book unless it is an illustrated hymn or song held up before them. They can be trained to follow.

No, the worship service is not the time to preach a sermon. Let the classroom teacher do the Bible teaching. Make the worship service inspirational. If a child is to share in the devotions, let him be selected a week in advance so he comes prepared. The Bible reading should be read confidently and with enthusiasm. There might even be discussion with

the child who is to pray so he, too, can pray before a group without embarrassment.

The worship service leader might like to share missionary letters or stories. Stories are more captivating when told. Something visual is always good. Maybe someone in your church or community has done or experienced something special. He might be asked to share but set a time limit because children become restless.

Then there is the time for the offering. Don’t just take up the offering. Explain why we bring our money gifts and for what they are used. Maybe one Sunday a month can be designated as “Mission Sunday.” Talk about the mission for which you are to receive the offering well in advance of the day for the offering. The children must talk about this at home and then come prepared for such an experience. Again, use some child to play an instrument when this offering is received. There is no problem if he does miss a few notes. We must encourage the development of talents. We do not always need the piano.

Watch it! The worship service should not last over 15 minutes. That’s right! The classroom teacher should have her children for not less than 45 minutes. Even an hour would be better. The worship service before the class sessions should prepare the hearts of the children so they go to their classes in a worshipful mood. They have been primed and inspired for learning. Worship service at the end of the session dismisses the children with a collective awe. They have all praised the Lord together.

Judith B. Wold
Executive Secretary
ALFC Parish Education



(Continued from page 16)

LWF headquarters in Geneva, its commissions and departments and a description of the work of the various commissions and committees.

The directory also lists names and addresses of the LWF Executive Committee members, related offices and organizations and names and addresses of newly-appointed LWF commission members.

Edited by Ms. Rose Maria Suss, the directory is available from the LWF Office of Communication, 150 Route de Ferney, 1211, Geneva, Switzerland.

Other new LWF publications include "In Christ—A New Community," the official record of the proceedings of the Federation's Sixth Assembly at Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, last June. It also may be ordered through the Geneva offices.

Also, a double issue of the LWF quarterly journal, entitled "Lutheran Churches in the World" contains capsule sketches of Lutheran groupings in more than 100 countries. It is available through Augsburg Publishing House, 426 South Fifth Street, Minneapolis, Minnesota.

ANOTHER FAMINE HITS AFRICA

"We were there at harvest time and there was very little harvest," said Dr. Everett S. Graffam, Executive VP of World Relief Commission of Valley Forge, in reporting a recent visit to Upper Volta, West Africa. "Another famine as bad or worse than that caused by the recent six-years' drought is in the making." Rainfall shortage is again afflicting the Sahel (bordering the Sahara) which had not fully recovered from previous drought.

WRC personnel observed adults and children already begging for food, many suffering from dehydration and malnutrition. Children showed the inevitable signs of bloated tummies and reddish hair.

Christian & Missionary Alliance missionaries agreed to immediately canvass various areas for food to be stockpiled and distributed. WRC committed \$30,000 from the 1977 budget for this purpose, and necessary sums

will be allocated in 1978. Additional funds were contributed to purchase a second needed truck.

WRC personnel witnessed a successful food distribution via the network starting by truck from Tougon Circle, transferred to donkey carts at crossroads, then on the backs of bicycles on the trails reaching into isolated villages where 5 oz. of millet per day per person was distributed to the people.

Many of the Africans had worked from dawn to dusk on their gardens, planting them five times, and all they got were pencil-sized millet cobs which they will grind up and cook, though the cobs provide very little nourishment. The earliest harvest, if there is one, will be in October or November next year.

When asked: "What are you going to do?" they answered: "We will look for leaves and roots. We have no money to buy even if food is available." The younger men were migrating to the cities to hunt for work, but they will probably only end up in a miserable refugee camp.

There is also a water crisis. Fast-flowing rivers and lakes are now only mudholes. Some women walk many miles with their waterpots on their heads and babies on their backs just to get a supply of very dirty water.

WRC has dug, and will continue to dig, many wells, some with pumps, but the water table is dropping fast to precarious levels.

Dr. Paul Smith, pastor of Peoples Church of Toronto and chairman of WRC's Canadian board, will use some of the pictures obtained on this trip to feature the new famine on a nationwide telethon as part of the 50th anniversary celebration of the Church's outstanding missionary conference next spring. Monies received will be used by WRC for famine relief.

WRC, overseas relief arm of the National Association of Evangelicals, is serving the needy in many ways in various African countries and around the world with "Food for the body and food for the soul."

—WRC

APPROPRIATING CHRIST

Now, this matter of appropriating Christ is a mysterious religious reality, which is difficult to speak of in theory. None of us can explain how the food we eat is transformed into blood and nerve and muscle; but it is a process that goes on daily, and we do not give much thought to the way in which it is done. By the mysterious operation of the Holy Spirit, who works through the Word of Life, the blessed Gospel, faith in Christ is kindled. And by this faith we are united with Christ and He with us.

—W. F. Lichtsinn



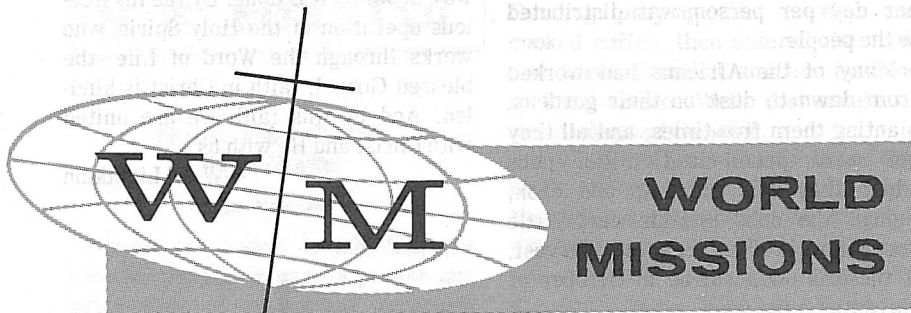
Evangelist's Schedule for March-May

Here is the schedule of services for Pastor David C. Molstre, AFLC evangelist, during the months of March, April and May:

Special meetings for March-May, 1978:

- | | |
|----------------|---|
| March 5-9 | —Sedan, Minnesota, Greven, pastor |
| March 12-16 | —DeKalb, Illinois, Ralph Tjelta, pastor |
| March 19-24 | —Ishpeming, Michigan, Ernest Langness, pastor |
| April 2-6 | —Stacy, Minnesota, Wendell Johnson, pastor |
| April 9-13 | —Thief River Falls, Minnesota, Eugene Enderlein, pastor |
| April 16-20 | —Thief River Falls, Minnesota, Eugene Enderlein, pastor |
| April 30-May 4 | —Culbertson, Montana, Verle Dean, lay pastor |
| May 7-10 | —Bagley, Minnesota, Mauritz Lundeen, pastor |

Pray for our evangelist and these services.



WORLD MISSIONS

THE FIELDS ARE WHITE UNTO HARVEST

THE 8TH ANNUAL LADIES RETREAT OF BRAZIL

"Our sufficiency is of God" (II Cor. 3:5) was the theme for our eighth annual Ladies retreat which was held Oct. 21-23.

We began Friday night at the home of Ruby Abel with devotions and a meditation by Carolyn Dyrud, after which there was time for fellowship over tea and doughnuts.

Saturday the ladies were up early and ready to start a full day of activities. There were two excellent Bible studies by Priscilla Wold and Ruby Abel on the women of the Bible. These studies we have translated from the WMF Bible studies from the 1976 Ambassador.

Craft hour was given by Anita Caselton. This year the ladies painted and varnished bread boards. The ladies here really enjoy this time, as they are able to make a remembrance of each year's retreats.

Pastor Connelly Dyrud gave a very interesting study on the different cults—those that are more prominent here in Brazil: Jehovah's Witnesses, Seventh-Day Adventism, Mormons, Astrology, and Spiritism. In this day and age, it is very good for us to know more about these different cults and how to handle them, if representatives should come to our door. The ladies found these two hours very good and they had many questions to ask.

Pastor John Abel gave a mes-

sage on the important role the wife and mother has in the home, also on the importance of having a time together as a family and having family devotions, training our children in the Word.

Sunday was our closing day and the Lord gave us a beautiful day. The ladies went to Sunday School at our two churches here, Central and Lar Parana.

After a delicious meal served by our Bible school girls, we were challenged once again as to the importance of our role as mothers. Pastor Yeddo gave this closing message.

As our two days came to an end, the ladies were already asking about our ninth retreat!! And they were sad to see the two short days come to an end. But they were also rejoicing in the time spent in fellowship and studying God's Word.

A few days after our retreat, we heard that the husbands were really pleased with what their wives had learned during their time away from home. We Praise the Lord for this, as here the men don't much care for their wives being gone from home for more than a few hours. So, needless to say, for some ladies it is hard to attend these retreats, so this is a good sign if the husbands feel that the time was well spent. Then we pray that maybe next year more husbands will feel that way also and maybe more wives will be able to attend.

This year we had 25 registered. Praise the Lord.

Joy in His Service,
Mrs. Carolyn Dyrud



Three of the women during craft hour.



Most of the women at the retreat.



A PAGE FOR CHILDREN

Happy Acres



THE FOLKS AT HAPPY ACRES

The red arrow-shaped sign pointed up a little road which soon disappeared under the spreading branches of large trees. But above the tops of those trees peeped the red roofs of a house, a barn, and a silo.

The white letters on the sign read "Happy Acres Farm," and the name on the mail box close by was "Peter Johnson."

Each morning when Ed Nelson, the mail carrier, stopped at that mail box, one of the eight Johnsons would be there eagerly waiting. For there was always mail for the folks at Happy Acres.

Of course, there were newspapers and magazines and advertisements such as Ed delivered to other farmers on his route. But no other family received so many letters—friendly letters—as the Johnsons. There were letters for Mr. Peter Johnson. There were letters for Mrs. Peter Johnson. There were letters for the six young Johnsons—Stephen, Mark, and Paul, the three boys, and for Ann, Melissa, and little Beth, the three girls.

Many of the letters came from far-away lands, from people the Johnsons had never even seen. Melissa—who was in the Second Grade at the little white school house a mile down the gravel road—told Ed that on Thursday evening, all the Johnsons would sit around the big round dining table and write letters. Paul and little Beth were still too young to know how to read and write, so Dad and Mom or Stephen or Mark would write letters for them. Then Paul and Beth

would press their thumbs on the ink pad and sign their letters with thumb prints.

Writing letters—and getting them—was just a little of the fun at Happy Acres Farm. There were more than a hundred acres of fields and pasture, and a bit of woodland, on which the eight Johnsons could have fun.

Naturally, it wasn't all fun at Happy Acres because the Johnsons weren't a story-book family that lives happily ever after. They were real people, so they had to work together to earn a living, and they had troubles like everybody else. Some years the Johnsons didn't have good crops. One spring the baby chicks got the sniffles and only a few of them lived. Once Dad's prized cow stole into the dewy alfalfa early one morning and was dead from bloat before anyone found her. At Happy Acres, shoes and clothes and farm machinery would wear out, and nearly every day Dad would have to fix something—the tractor, the truck, or maybe just a broken hinge or a burned-out fuse or a coaster wagon wheel that had come off. So, if the Johnsons had kept counting their troubles instead of their blessings, they would have been a very grumpy, unhappy family.

Every day at Happy Acres, there was laughing and joking and joyful words and thank-yous, but every day, too, there was pretty sure to be some little Johnson squalling. When two little Johnsons had what Dad called a "misunderstanding," there were cross words, and maybe tears, and perhaps some pouting and slapping.

Sad to say, though this happened only once in a great while, one of the little Johnsons would do something he knew he wasn't supposed to do—and then Dad or Mom Johnson would take that naughty child to the basement or the barn and talk to him with one hand.

Every day at Happy Acres, the Johnsons would sit down together in the many-windowed living room. Each Johnson who could read would join with Dad as he read from his big Bible. Sometimes they would all read together; most times, they would each take turns, reading a verse. How proudly now did seven-year old Melissa, with Mark or Ann helping with the big words, read in her turn.

They would memorize a verse of Scripture together, and sometimes Dad would see how many verses they could remember. There could be a story from a Bible story book, or a chapter from some other book that taught the Christian way. After the eight Johnsons had prayed together, there was a deep and quiet together-happiness in their hearts.

Though one or more of the Johnsons might come to these family devotions with unkind thoughts, each one found, like Paul, that while they read and prayed together the "badness all snucked away." Any hard feelings there might be would melt away as each child and parents learned more about the sinless Son of God who was hurt so much and yet forgave.

Reprinted from *Happy Acres* by Erling Nicolai Rolfsrud, by permission of Augsburg Publishing House, copyright owner.

(Continued from page 3)

TO EXPECT SOMETHING GREAT IN '78, you must fix in your own mind a clear picture of exactly what you want. As with every plan, there must be some guidance and direction. In Hebrews 12:1-2, we read: "Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith. . . ."

Whatever your plans for 1978, LOOK TO JESUS and if your plan and purpose is God-guided and God-pleasing, your LIFE CAN BE GREAT IN '78.

V. Learn to Hope and Count Your Dreams!

Someone has said, "Life is full of glad surprises for those who hope." "The journey of a thousand miles begins with one step," said a philosopher of old.

The most profane word in the English language is the word "hopeless." We say a situation is hopeless, or a person is hopeless. And that is literally a denial of God because Scripture says, "Hope thou in God." With God nothing is hopeless. One of the greatest men who walked this earth was Abraham. In explaining his greatness, St. Paul says in Romans 4:18, "In hope he believed against hope." Nothing becomes a reality without hope. Christians live by hope. We dare to dream of what God has for those who love and trust Him. Sometimes not all of our dreams come true, yet that doesn't mean we should quit dreaming. Moses dreamed of reaching the Promised Land, but instead he reached the "Promised Land of Heaven."

I have in my office a poster with these words: "When you think everything is hopeless, a little ray of light comes from somewhere."

EXPECT SOMETHING GREAT IN '78. Go God's Way! Remember, JESUS CHRIST IS THE GATEWAY —TO THE GREAT WAY! GOD IS GREAT FOR '78. Walk with Him. Talk with Him. Remember, too, you "can DO ALL THINGS in Him who strengthens" you (Philippians 4:13).

Perhaps I was DREAMING

THE BOTTOMLESS DEEP

In my dream I met a man, and he asked me if I had ever seen the Grand Canyon.

"Only once," I replied.

"Would you like to see a greater canyon?" he asked.

"There is no greater," I replied.

He smiled. "Come with me."

Presently we stood on the brink of a deep, the like of which I had never seen, not even in my wildest dreams. If it had a bottom, I could not see it, neither could I see the walls on the opposite side.

"Listen," he said, and I heard weird noises come floating out of the darkness.

"Look," he said, and I saw fumes rising out of the limitless deep—strange, unearthly fumes.

Then I saw men approaching the brink, laden with various burdens. I saw a man bring huge laurels and fling them in; another brought a whole library of learned books; while others, of coarser grain, brought bags of gold—each man hoping to fill the pit.

Down they flung them, and I could hear them strike the walls and awaken awful echoes—tumbling down, down, down! Then, from immeasurable deeps, arose wild shrieks that made the blood run cold in my veins.

Then I saw men and women gather on the brink for a dance. Merrily, dizzily they whirled, while the music laughed, trying to drown the sounds that came out of the deep.

"What is this?" I asked as I drew back in terror from the brink.

"I have seen the Lord Christ go down into this," he said, evading my question. "The universe is too small for it. Only God can fill it."

"What is this awful deep?" I persisted.

"It is the human heart," he replied.

—C. A. Wendell

editorials

THRESHOLD OF LENT

We are very close to the beginning of Lent now. February 8 is Ash Wednesday. Lent is an exciting time. It is a somber time, of course, but it is a time of opportunity in the church.

People come to midweek services during Lent in greater numbers than in any other season of the year. What an opportunity for the local pastor to explain the suffering and death of Jesus for us and for all mankind. He may do this under a variety of themes and approaches. Characters of the Passion or the Seven Words of Christ from the cross are the two themes most often used but there are a dozen other possible ones or more.

Midweek Lenten preaching need not be long to be effective, but it must be pointed and vivid. It must be easy to listen to. United with the great hymns of Lent, it will touch hearts and move wills.

Let the people of our churches resolve to be faithful in Lenten service attendance. And to have open ears and hearts to the message of the One who was obedient to death on the cross. For all who will, there are blessings to be received in abundance. They may not come, but if they do not it won't be because the Lord has withheld them. Think about that.

WHAT YOU CAN DO

C. S. Lewis, the late English apologist for Christianity, once wrote that a person cannot be certain of a good harvest in a particular field no matter what he does to that field. Then he went on to say that this one thing is sure, however; if you pull out one weed, that weed will no longer be there.

There is much truth and hope in the spiritual realm in that statement. In our own lives, even if we are in Christ, there is much to disappoint us. We see faults, weaknesses, weights, besetting sins. How can we overcome? What victories can be ours? The temptation is to try for instantaneous, complete sanctification. When that doesn't come, and it never will in this life, disillusionment and discouragement can set in. But it is good to remember the counsel of C. S. Lewis. Pull out one weed, gain one victory and you are that much to the good. Tomorrow you can do the same and the day after.

The same is true concerning other people and society in general. All problems aren't solved at once. But we can pull one weed, we can help solve one problem today and tomorrow we may be able to help in another place. Someone else put it this way, it is better to light one candle than to curse the darkness.

We can be overwhelmed by the totality of the world's need and become frozen into inaction or we can try to do the thing at hand, to alleviate some troublesome circumstance, and be a blessing for others and for the Lord.

Sure it is that we know what should be our course of action.

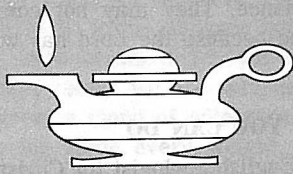
A PRAYER

O take my heart, dear Father,
And make it Thine;
Possess it with Thy presence,
Thy love divine,
That I may love Thee ever,
Thy will obey,
And be Thy faithful servant
From day to day!

O cleanse my heart, dear Jesus,
From sinful stain,
And make and keep me holy,
All else is vain,
Thy blood alone can cover
My sinfulness,
Thy righteousness and mercy
I must possess!

Dwell in my heart, dear Spirit,
Help me to claim
By faith a full forgiveness
In Jesus' name!
Give me the sweet assurance
That I am His,
Till I at last shall enter
Eternal bliss!

C. K. Solberg

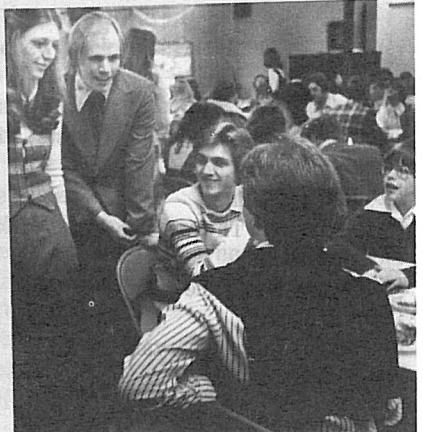
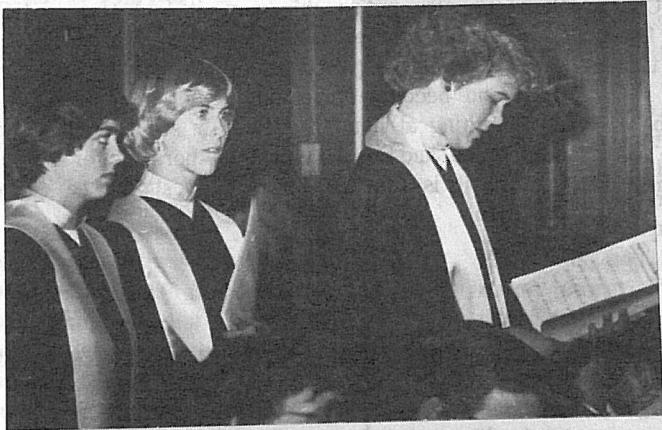
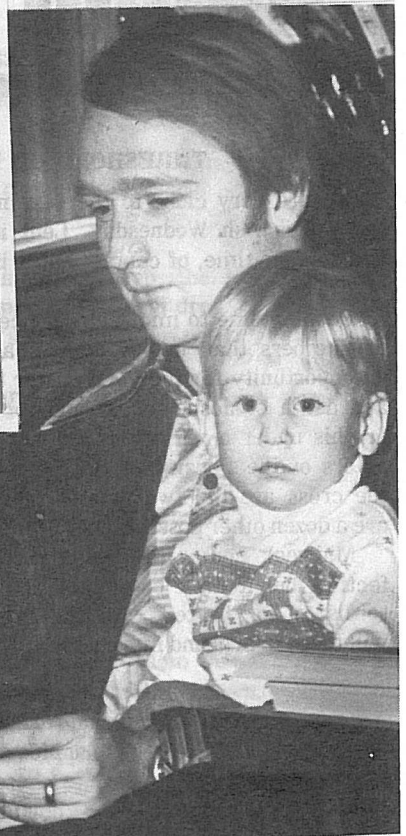
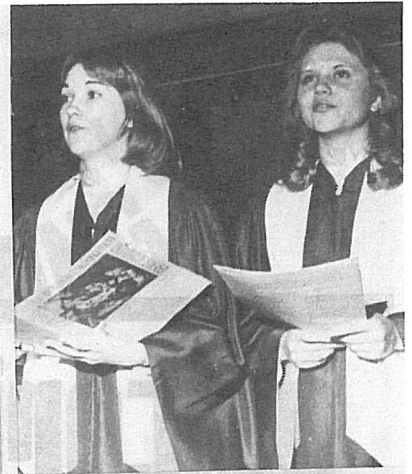


SCHOOL NEWS

'77 AFLBS

CHRISTMAS CONCERT

December 11 officially marked the beginning of Christmas at AFLBS. With the glorious sound of brass, Heidi Gruber, Gretchen Kooiman, and the combined choirs began the annual concert. Pastor Richard Anderson and son Jonathan listened to the message of Christmas proclaimed. Kathy Quanbeck and Becky Kylo shared the tense moment with Miriam Larson as she prepared to begin her solo. Mitch and Marilee Johnson enjoyed the fellowship in the cafeteria after the concert.



LUTHER LEAGUE ACTIVITIES

TEMPTATION—THE DEVIL

Last time we talked about temptation in general. Temptation can come by means of the devil, the world and our own flesh. Today we will talk about how the devil tempts us.

It seems from Scripture that the devil attacks us differently than our flesh does because Scripture gives us a different method of dealing with this temptation. The Bible says: "Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you" (James 4:7).

Temptations from the devil are usually religious in nature. The devil is often pictured as an angel of light or a wolf in sheep's clothing. Satan knows that we are religious by nature, that we must worship or believe in something, and he uses this.

The devil tries to mix us up in our doctrines; he tempts us to be good in our own sight or to think that we do not need a Savior. Sin, the Blood of Christ, and Hell are the doctrines that Satan will try to water down. He will try to puff us up in our own thinking and knowledge so that our relationship with God is not based on our need and respect for a holy God. (Read Jeremiah 18:1-6.)

We have so many religions and cults today because Satan has succeeded in confusing men and women. Many people do not know what to believe; they are in darkness.

Satan confused Eve in the Garden of Eden and in her confused and selfish state she sinned against her God.

How do we fight against this temptation? We draw near to God in prayer and in the reading of His Word. Through prayer and the reading of the Word we become grounded, our foundation for faith becomes sure and we can stand up to the devil's confusion and false teachings.

That is why Sunday School, confirmation, vacation Bible school and our own devotional times are so very important, as well as regular worship in God's house.

Pastor David Molstre

ITEMS OF NEWS FROM THE PARISHES

The Roseau Youth met for a snowmobile party on Sunday, January 15, at the Marvin Pederson home. Rev. Jerome Nikunen is pastor of the congregation.

A Father-Son banquet for Sunnyside-Hope congregations was held at the Flare Broiler in Forest Lake, Minn., on Saturday, January 21. Those attending had a choice of roast beef, ham, fried chicken, pork chops, turkey or Swiss steak. There was a fine program presented and good fellowship. Pastor of the parish is Rev. Wendell Johnson.

The New Song, musical group from Cloquet, Minn., gave a concert at Medicine Lake Lutheran Church, Minneapolis, Minn., on January 15. On the 29th of this month an Evangelism Explosion banquet will be held. Rev. Jay G. Erickson serves the congregation.

Pastor Larry V. Severson of Bos-cobel, Wis. (Trinity), is conducting an adult confirmation class now after

New Year's. Laurie O'Kane, Terry Waters and Bryan Wellington are the officers of the Luther League at Trinity this year.

A prayer chain has been formed in Grace Lutheran congregation in Bagley, Minn. Prayer requests are given to the leader, who in turn calls the next person in the "chain," and so the request is brought before all members of the chain. Prior to the annual meeting of Grace tomorrow night (January 25), a potluck dinner will be held at 6:30 p.m. Rev. Mauritz Lundeen is pastor of Grace and Rice churches of the Bagley parish.

Mr. Hugh Sweeney directed a Christmas choir at Faith Lutheran Church, Kalispell, Mont. "Loving Jesus" was the theme for the Sunday School Christmas program at Stillwater Lutheran, Kalispell, on Dec. 26. The congregations are served by Rev. John Rieth.

Lay Pastor and Mrs. Gust Nordvall and Bonnie, David Vacura and Mrs. Beverly Holm and Jeremy were received into membership in Badger Creek Lutheran Church, Badger, Minn., on Sunday, Nov. 13. A fellowship dinner was served for them and in connection with the congregation's harvest festival. Young Adults of the parish sponsored the New Year's Eve wake night at Oiland Lutheran Church. A film for adults was shown and two for children.

The northern part of the Northern Minnesota District will take part in a round robin series of Lenten services again this year. The sermons will be about the characters of the Passion of our Lord. Speakers will be Gust Nordvall, Burton Rygh, Jerome Nikunen, Andy Lindgren, Joseph Jacobson, Merle Knutson and Raynard Huglen.



N. N. RØNNING

MORE ABOUT THE HAUGEANS

The Women

I must not forget to add that the women freely took part in prayer and testimonies at devotional meetings and joined in the discussions of religious and even theological topics. More than once the pointed and pertinent question of a woman caused confusion among the men who had drifted into the realm of speculation and now were brought down on solid ground again. There may be times and places where the women should ask the men at home, but there were not a few men even in the Hauge's Synod who might profitably ask their wives questions pertaining to religion. It is interesting to notice that the woman, Priscilla, is twice mentioned ahead of her husband, Aquila.

Johan Gunning

Johan Gunning was very tall and slim. He had bushy hair and bushy eyebrows but with a very gentle face. When he warmed up in a conversation, his face fairly shone. "Det er saare kostelig" (It is very precious,) This was a favorite expression of his when contemplating the grace of God.

My brother says that he learned more pastoral theology from Gunning than from any theological professor. Once when a member of the congregation—it was the only case of that kind I heard of—had fallen back into the habit of drinking, two deacons were sent to see him, but he showed them the door. Then Johan Gunning went to see the man. (Gunning was a layman—Ed.) He found him splitting wood outside the house. They

talked about the weather for a while. Then the man asked Gunning if he would not step inside. Well, he might do that. The wife of the man was a confessing Christian and she left the two alone, going into the kitchen. She probably left the door slightly ajar. For a while she heard the even voices of the two men. Then she heard her husband weeping and later heard Gunning praying. She hurried and cooked coffee, then entered the room and asked Gunning and her husband to have coffee. Well, that would be fine, remarked Gunning.

A couple of years ago I heard this story. When black diphtheria raged through the community, Gunning volunteered to care for three children, not his own, who had caught the dreaded disease. The parents warned him that his own children might be exposed. No, he didn't think so. One child after another died. Gunning went to town and bought a casket and alone at night went to the cemetery and took care of the burial. When I heard the story my eyes became wet with tears. I could see that tall, kindly, Lincoln-like man stand at the small grave, lifting his eyes to the starry sky and commit the soul of the child to the heavenly Father. Oh yes, there were giants in those days, but the giants I refer to are not considered worthy of being committed into the realm of literature.

Singing

Mentioning singing, it occurred to me that the Haugeans certainly made a joyful noise unto the Lord and to one another. Oh, for the good old days when people sang in the homes, out in the field, on the way to church and while driving along country roads at night. Sang without notes and instruments and hymn books!

Time and again it happened that when the minister was late for service, some man or some woman would start to sing and the whole audience would join in till the rafters rang.

But did not the Haugeans have serious faults and weaknesses? Sure they had. I could write a book about their faults and weaknesses, but I am not going to write such a book before I have less faults and weaknesses than they had.

Many, very many, of the Haugeans I learned to know were the finest people I ever met. They were kind, gentle, humble. They were facing the realities of sin and grace. They were good to me, very good. I owe them a debt of gratitude. I would have no fear for our church and for our nation if all church members and all citizens were like them.

(From *Fifty Years in America*, 1938)



WANTED: PARISH WORK OPPORTUNITY

I am 24 years old and single. I'm a graduate of Association Free Lutheran Bible School and received a Bachelor of Science degree in social work from the University of Wisconsin-Superior last spring. I was a parish worker (doing some secretarial work, i.e. bulletins and newsletters, working with youth, etc.) in the Drummond-Faith-Moland parish in the summers of 1976 and 1977, and am still helping Pastor Ronald Knutson at this time.

I would like to get a full-time job in parish work and serve the Lord in this way.

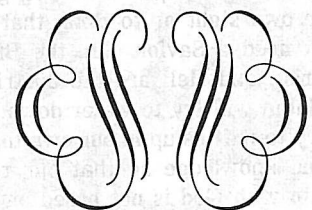
My address is:

Miss Chris Hanson

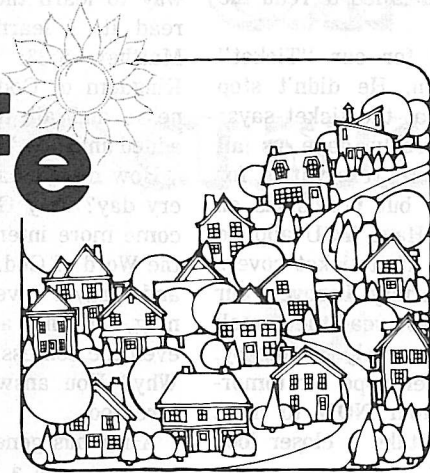
Route 1, Box 232

Mason, Wis. 54856

Telephone: (715) 765-4664



Life on the Edge of Town



The Dead of Winter

January 9. The temperature was 26 below zero on one thermometer this morning and 30 below on the other. Outdoors it felt cold. The ground is snow-covered. Drifts are deep. Man-made piles of snow are visible here and there, often at street corners and highway intersections.

This must be what is called the "dead of winter." And northern Minnesota is great winter country. Snow depths do not rival those of northern Wisconsin and Upper Michigan, but for a combination of snow and cold temperatures it is hard to beat our area and northeastern North Dakota. We don't have more blizzards than other northern tier areas, but usually by the middle of March we have put in a good, honest winter.

People to the south and west, and maybe to the east, must think that much of life comes to a standstill here at this time of year. But it really doesn't. Businesses and schools stay open. In a thousand winter-belt small towns and cities fans follow their high school basketball, hockey and wrestling teams, sometimes braving uncertain weather. And how about the church activities? They are supported very well, too. A pastor can feel extra appreciation for the folks who come out for Bible study and prayer on a night when it is 20

below zero and it would be pleasant to stay at home. On cold Sunday mornings church attendance doesn't suffer much. People learn to live in what some have called an "inhospitable climate." Improved automobiles and road-clearing equipment, insulated houses and good fuel distribution have made life on the upper plains in winter much more bearable, thank you.

Cross Country

I have been a cross country skier for many years and didn't know it until the term "cross country" became popular in recent years.

I mean, when I'd come home to Newfolden in the winter on vacation or for a couple days, I'd put on the old boyhood skis and make a tour around the property or somewhere nearby. I don't use poles, but I go where I want to on skis. That must be a sort of cross country skiing.

Some people prefer snowmobiling. They are exhilarated by the speed and power of their craft, riding over frozen wastes like skippers of high-powered boats over waves of a lake. It is possible to cover great distances and to do so in a hurry.

But there is something to be said for taking a walk on skis, too. The pace is slow, but one stops to look at the tracks of wild animals and

birds, to admire the tracery of trees against the evening sky. There is some expenditure of energy, too, and with skis it is possible to go places very difficult by ordinary walking. If one enjoys the quietness of winter outdoors and time to think, cross country skiing should be considered.

Speaking of animal tracks, twice during Christmas moose tracks were found on the east edge of our yard, two to three rods from our house at the nearest point. On one of those occasions the moose came through in the daytime while Mother was home alone, but she didn't happen to see it. I think we are going to spot a moose around here one of these days.

Car Problems

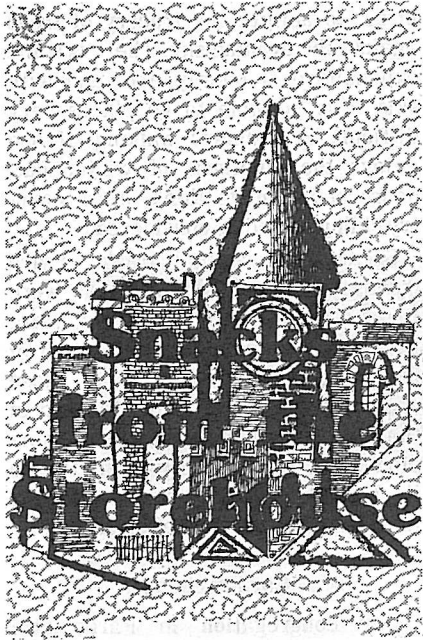
Our congregation in Fargo still being without regular pastoral service, I am still helping it out and may be doing so through Easter or so. It has been a blessing for me to help St. Paul's Church and to be back in a regular preaching schedule. But it is difficult for a congregation to be without a pastor and we must pray that the man of God's choosing will soon be found for this pastorate.

It has been said that weaknesses in cars often show up in cold weather (one of the disadvantages of our kind of winter). That has proven so this winter for me. I usually stay over Saturday nights in Fargo and on a couple Sunday mornings before Christmas I was unable to start my car. Without boring you with details, before my problems were completely solved this month, I had had new spark plugs, points and a carburetor kit put in in separate operations, even though the car had received a fall tune-up in November. My sister has had even more costly problems with her car this winter.

I don't know what all this proves but these situations do test one's patience, too.

—Raynard Huglen





THE SMALL PRINT

"He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him freely give us all things" (Rom. 8:32).

A Norwegian farmer and his wife were on their way to "the Land of Promise"—America. A friend had paid for the ticket and now they were on the way. As could be expected, they were all excited at the prospects lying ahead. Since such a journey involved many days at that time, they had made ample preparation, as they thought. An extra trunk was filled with good things to eat, lefse, fattigman, homemade bread, etc. The trip was exciting to begin with. They thoroughly enjoyed their provisions and time. But as the days went by, they began to grumble just a little. The menu got rather tiring as the days dragged along. The aroma of the delicious meals served the other guests made it even harder. As they neared their destination, they decided to "splurge" and invest in one really good meal before the trip was over. Timidly they approached the chef, inquiring as to the cost. "Cost?" he blurted out. "There is no cost. It's all included in the fare." Now, when it was too late, they realized how foolish they had really been. Here they could have lived in luxury as kings and instead they lived

on crumbs. They had checked the ticket but they had failed to read the "small print."

When God paid for our "Ticket" by giving His Son, He didn't stop there. Here is what the ticket says: "With Him He freely gave us all things." Not a mere reservation for a room up there, but provisions on the way as well. Have YOU applied for a free ticket? That ticket covers time as well as eternity. It covers our every need. Have you read the "small print" or are you merely getting by, looking for a better hope for tomorrow? God is in your NOW to meet your needs. Let's take a closer look at the "small print."

Karl G. Berg

"NO BIBLE, NO BREAKFAST"

Leland Wang, a saved Chinaman, says about himself; "I am a Chinese by birth, and a Christian by rebirth. I am a Chinese by race, and a Christian by Grace.

"We Chinese are known as persevering people, but the Spirit of God overshadows even our Oriental persistence. There was a time when I used a copy of the Bible as a postage stamp album, but over the years the Spirit of God probed at the door of my heart, and the Bible is now my most precious possession.

"My day always begins with a reading of God's Word. If it doesn't, I go hungry, for my motto is, 'No Bible, No Breakfast.'"

How this Chinese Christian puts us Christians to shame. He reads ten chapters in the Bible every day, two in the Old Testament and two in the New Testament, plus five in the Book of Psalms and one chapter in Proverbs. He says, "The Psalms teach me to pray and praise, in my dealings with God, and the Proverbs teaches me how to live and deal with men. I have read these books over four hundred times and they have never lost their freshness. There are 31 chapters in Proverbs, and I use Proverbs as my calendar and have no

trouble remembering dates. The best way to learn the Word of God is to read it. I learned my motto from Matthew 6:33: "Seek ye first the Kingdom of God, and His righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you."

How many chapters do we read every day? May God help us all to become more interested in the study of the Word of God. We have Bible study and prayer every Wednesday evening, but only a small percentage of even the confessing Christians attend. Why? You answer that honestly before God.

A famous general in the U.S. army was home on a furlough and some of his friends arranged a banquet in his honor. When everything was ready, they called the General and told him about it. The general replied, "Gentlemen, I cannot be there; that is the prayer meeting night of my church and I let nothing interfere with that."

How about us? What flimsy excuses are not often used in keeping us from the House of God? God help us.

Pastor Trygve F. Dahle
Spicer, Minn.



PERSONALITIES

Rev. Terry Olson has resigned as pastor of Salem Lutheran Church, Radcliffe, Ia., where he has served for the past few years, to accept the call to become pastor of Bethel Lutheran Church, Minot, N. Dak. He and his family will be moving to Minot shortly.

Rev. Karl Stendal will serve Salem Lutheran until about June 1 when a new pastor will arrive. Pastor and Mrs. Stendal will be living in Radcliffe 50230 after February 1.

The writer of the moving story "John's First Christmas in America," which appeared in our recent Christmas issue, is Mrs. Ordella Walker Arneson, not Arveson. We regret the mistake.



CHURCH-WORLD NEWS

THE CHURCH AROUND THE WORLD

**Production of a film on the life and works of C. S. Lewis, author of *Mere Christianity*, will begin early this year. Lewis, an English writer, Christian apologist, and Anglican layman, died in 1963. Lord and King Associates of West Chicago, Illinois, will produce the feature-length film.

**The Muslim population of the United States and Canada has quadrupled in the past ten years, and now stands at one million. There are 84 mosques in North America, and 133 chapters of the Muslim Student's Associations. In western Europe there are 8,700,000 Muslims, with 538 million worldwide. A \$6 million mosque seating 2,800 worshipers is nearing completion in London, and a \$20 million mosque is being built in Rome.

**Construction has begun on the \$15.5 million Billy Graham Center on the campus of Wheaton College in Wheaton, Illinois. The center, scheduled to open in 1979, will house an evangelism library, short-term training center, and school of evangelism, as well as the college's graduate school. The evangelist graduated from Wheaton in 1943.

—Tyndale House Publishers

WORLD LUTHERAN MEMBERSHIP TOTAL NOW AT 70.4 MILLION

Geneva (LC)—Approximately 70.4 million people in the world belong to Lutheran churches, according to a survey just completed by the Information Bureau of the Lutheran World Federation and based upon data supplied by the churches.

The LWF has determined, following extensive queries to individual

churches and groups representing the churches, that there are about 70,467,759 Lutherans in the world.

The total represents a slight drop from the figure reported a year ago—70,508,327.

(There are about 970,000,000 Christians in the world, with about 552,000,000 in the Roman Catholic Church, the largest church body.)

The count of Lutherans includes 54,301,508 Lutherans in the 93 churches with membership in the LWF; 15,349 members in the 16 small groupings "recognized" by the LWF and a Lutheran constituency of 16,825,355 in churches not formally related to the international organization.

Comparisons of the totals with previous years cannot be precise because of a wide discrepancy in the statistical methods used by the different churches, but the survey indicated membership decreases in Europe, minor changes in Africa, Asia and North America; and for the first time more than one million members in Latin America. Increases were also noted in Australasia.

The continental totals are: Europe—54,301,508; North America—8,997,022; Asia and adjacent islands—2,726,722; Africa—2,686,797; Latin America—1,027,764; Australasia—727,946. In some cases, recent totals were not submitted to the LWF survey.

In the Federal Republic of Germany, for instance, which has by far the largest Lutheran constituency, the total presented is the latest available (December 1975) as gathered by the statistical office of the Evangelical Church in Germany (EKD). The figures for the churches in the German Democratic Republic are estimates from the Federation of

Evangelical Churches in the German Democratic Republic.

PROVISIONAL APPOINTMENTS MADE FOR NEW CONSOLIDATED SEMINARY

Columbus, Ohio (LC)—Provisional faculty and administrative staff appointments have been made for the new institution being created through consolidation of the American Lutheran Church's Lutheran Theological Seminary here and the Lutheran Church in America's Hamma School of Theology at Springfield, Ohio.

A consolidation committee made up of representatives of the two churches announced the appointments. The consolidated seminary—as yet unnamed—will be located on the site of the ALC seminary here, adjacent to Capital University.

Dr. Fred W. Meuser, president and professor of historical theology at Lutheran Theological Seminary and vice-president of the ALC, was named provisional president of the new seminary.

Dr. Frank H. Seilhamer, Hamma president since 1974 and professor of Old Testament there, was named provisional provost; and Dr. James A. Bergquist, academic dean at Lutheran Theological, was appointed provisional dean.

A board of directors for the new institution, expected to be formed by next summer, will review and act on the provisional appointments.

At present, Lutheran Theological Seminary has about 200 students and Hamma's enrollment is a little over 50.

NEW LUTHERAN DIRECTORY NOW AVAILABLE FROM LWF

Geneva (LC)—A new "Lutheran

Directory" has been published here by the Lutheran World Federation communication office.

The directory contains names and addresses of Lutheran churches in the world, names of church presidents, telephone and telex numbers of church offices and notations indicating whether or not the church is a member of the LWF or other international ecumenical organizations.

Also included is a historical sketch of the LWF, the organization's constitution and information about the

(Continued on page 5)

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