

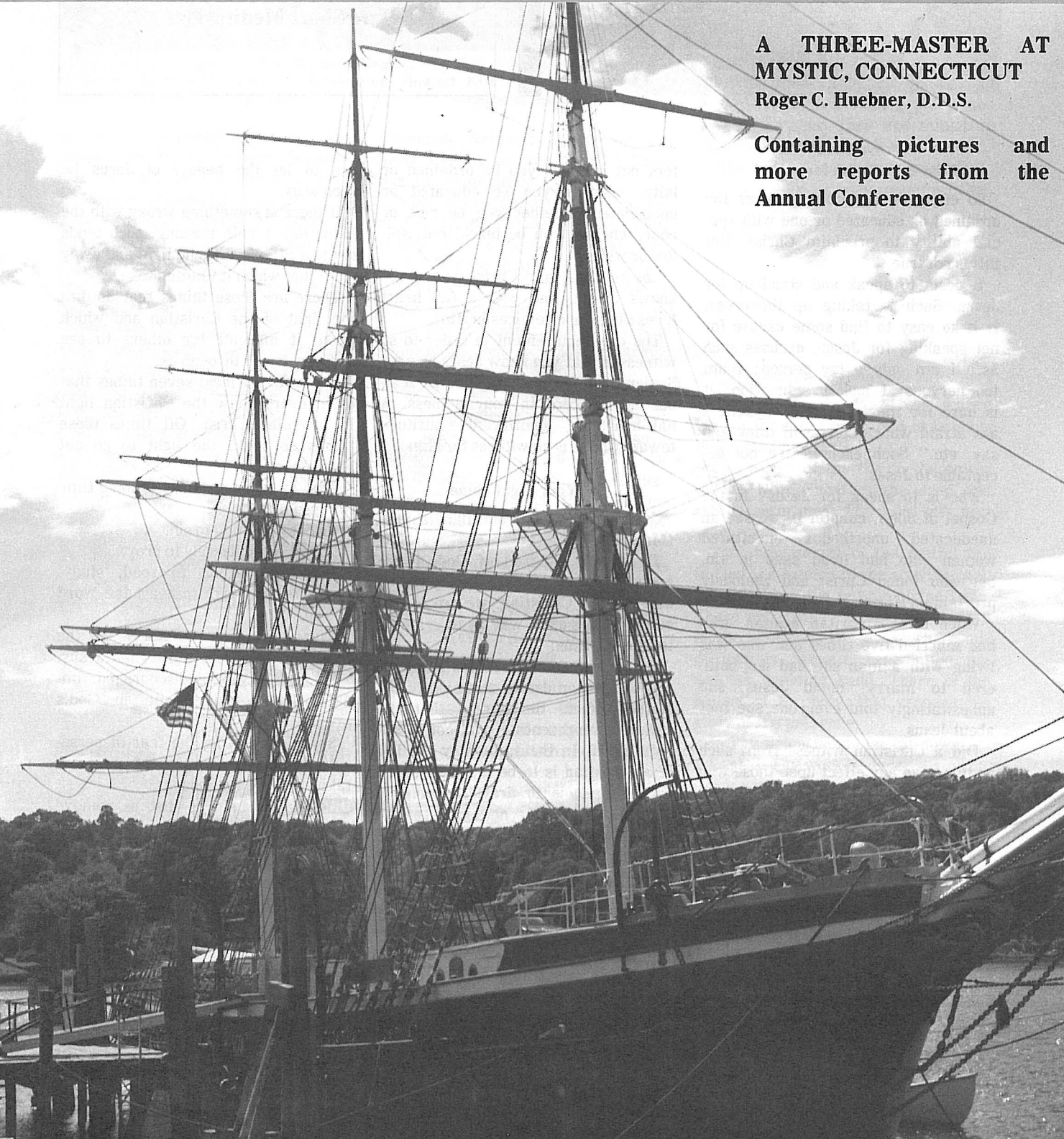
July 12, 1977

The Lutheran Ambassador

**A THREE-MASTER AT
MYSTIC, CONNECTICUT**

Roger C. Huebner, D.D.S.

**Containing pictures and
more reports from the
Annual Conference**



MEDITATION MOMENTS

Two Short Meditations

Who Is To Speak for Jesus?

So often we feel that it takes the ordained or educated or one with special ability to proclaim Christ. But this is not true.

It costs to speak and stand up for Jesus. Such is taking up the cross. It is so easy to find some excuse for not speaking for Jesus, excuses such as, "I am only a lay person; I am too nervous; I lack in education; it is hard for me to express myself; I am afraid what others will think and say, etc." Such excuses are not acceptable to Jesus.

Who is to speak for Jesus? In the Gospel of John, chapter 4, we see an uneducated, unorthodox, uncultured woman who had lived deep in sin, but who found Christ and zealously proclaimed Him to a whole city.

When this Samaritan woman, who had married five times and who was living with a man she had not bothered to marry, found Jesus, she unhesitatingly told everyone she met about Jesus.

Did a Christian witness from such as this have any effect upon those who heard? It tells us that the whole city of Sychar went out to see Jesus. For two days Jesus ministered to those who came out to Him.

Who is to speak for Jesus? It mat-

ters not whether you be ordained or laity, whether you be educated or uneducated, whether you be rich or poor, whether you be black, red, yellow or white.

Let him proclaim Christ who really knows Christ, and with a full heart loves Christ and rejoices in Him.

The one requirement in order to so witness is that you know Jesus as your Savior from sin, and that you be zealous and sincere in your witness. A half-hearted, indifferent attitude toward Christ is no witness for Him.

Let Your Light Shine

Jesus says, "Let your light shine" (Matt. 5:16).

If we are children of God, if we know Jesus, if we want God to recognize us as a Christian, we are to live our lives in such a way as to draw attention to Jesus.

A spotlight focused on the statue of a great person draws attention to the statue and to the person that the statue is representing, and not to the light itself. In the same way the life of a Christian is to be a light focused on Jesus. It is to draw the world's attention to Jesus.

As Christians we are not to exalt ourselves, but we are to exalt Christ in letting our light focus on Him. We

are to let the beauty of Jesus be seen in us.

If there is something wrong with the light, like a bulb missing, such tends to draw attention to the light and away from that which it illuminates.

There are those things that do dim the light of the Christian and which make it difficult for others to see Jesus in us and through us.

There are at least seven things that often overshadow the Christian light in revealing Christ. Oft times these things do cause the light to go out altogether.

One, by being too busy to have time for Jesus.

Two, by yielding to sin.

Three, by neglecting to pray.

Four, by failing to read, study, meditate, and take to heart the Word of God.

Five, by loving the world and the things of the world more than Jesus.

Six, by becoming discouraged, impatient and losing faith in God's promises.

Seven, by letting the fear of persecution or ridicule prevent us from taking a stand for Jesus.

Jesus will help us. Let us remove these things from our lives and let the light come through.

Gerald F. Mundfrom

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 15, Number 15

The Conference Sermons

Here is a summary of most of the sermons preached at the Annual Conference of 1977, held in Fargo, North Dakota.

Wednesday Night

Rev. Dennis Gray, Spicer, Minn., secretary of the Association of Free Lutheran Congregations, preached the sermon at the opening service of the Annual Conference.

He spoke on the conference text, Eph. 2:1-10. Paul pictures the Christians at Ephesus as formerly under Satan's control, dead in sin. Pastor Gray said that they were "as dead men walking." Such is the condition of all of us by natural birth for we were "children of wrath."

Some people try self-improvement, but this is impossible. "Dead people" can do nothing, Pastor Gray asserted; they can only admit their helplessness. God has seen our deadness. In His mercy He provides for us.

The pastor from Spicer pointed out the strong link between Ephesians 2 and Baptism. Many people, he said, fail to see Baptism as God's actions and not man's acting. Baptism washes away sins. Paul said we are Christ's "workmanship." There is new birth in Baptism.

The voice of God calls the dead in sins and it is that voice which awakens the sinner and causes the response. I cannot explain how salvation happens, Pastor Gray declared, but it does take place. And if Jesus is in us, then the fulness of God dwells within us.

Rev. John P. Strand, AFLC president, opened the conference with a greeting from Psalm 121. He said that the Association's task is to look to the Lord from whom our help comes. He is the faithful One, the One alone adequate.

Thursday Night

This service was sponsored by the Women's Missionary Federation. The sermon by Rev. Kenneth Moland will be found in the report of the WMF convention in the next issue of the *Ambassador*.

Friday Night

The Friday night service is traditionally a layman's service. This year, Ernest Miedema, Valley City, N. Dak., led the meeting and Ralph Peterson, Portland, N. Dak., spoke.

His text was Rom. 12:1, 2 and he brought the challenge, "Are we totally yielded to Christ?" The title of his remarks was "Willing to be Willing." He said that we must pray daily for a willing spirit. Until we are totally yielded, how can we be His workmanship?

Mr. Peterson reminded the audience that the rich, young ruler had an opportunity to follow Jesus, but was unwilling to do so. He closed by urging the audience members to come to Jesus for salvation and for Christians to yield themselves totally to the Lord.

The senior choir of Tabor Lutheran Church, Webster, S. Dak., and the Lighthouse Quartette of the Valley City area provided the special music.

There was a testimony meeting after the sermon.

Saturday Night

On Saturday evening there was a youth service in charge of Rev. Rodger Olson, Grafton, N. Dak. Music was provided by the Ambassadors Gospel Team of Association Free Lutheran Bible School and the youth choir of Ortley Lutheran Church, Ortley, S. Dak.

Rev. Richard Anderson, Minneapolis, Minn., used Ezek. 36:22ff as his text. He pointed out three things which the text says about God. 1) The holiness of God. He is the standard of holiness. Isaiah saw it in his vision. 2) The grace of God. Someone has given this definition of grace: Grace is God's saving action. God is the Actor, man the receiver. 3) The centrality of God. Man still thinks that he is the center of life, but man is saved so that through him the world can see that God is first and greatest.

Pastor Anderson said the text also says something about man. Man has profaned God by holding Him in contempt. Even Christians may be guilty

of this by disregarding Him. The pastor asked his hearers if they were guilty of profaning God, of holding Him to be less than He is.

The Communion Service

Rev. Philip Featherstone, Colfax, Wis., delivered the meditation at the service of Holy Communion on Sunday morning at St. Paul's Lutheran Church. The church's pastor, Philip Haugen, led the service.

Sunday Morning

This was a commissioning service for Rev. and Mrs. Dean Casselton and was in charge of the Board of Foreign Missions. Rev. Eugene Enderlein led the service.

The sermon was preached by Rev. Alvin Grothe, Astoria, Ore., who has served most recently as chairman of the Board. He used John 6:1-15 as his text and challenged his audience to lift up their eyes and see the multitudes even as Jesus had done. But seeing the multitudes, we may feel overwhelmed by the task before us. Like the disciples who were with Jesus, we are helpless hosts. God has to put us up against the wall, so to speak, before He can use us.

The boy at the feeding of the multitude looked to Jesus, Pastor Grothe said. The Lord knew what He would do. The impossible becomes possible with Jesus. All we need to do is be willing servants. Then He can act.

Pastor Grothe told the Casseltons that they are an answer to prayer for the Association. He challenged them to give what they are and have to God and He will use them.

In his response, Pastor Casselton greeted the audience with Is. 61:1-3. He reminded the people that missions is taking the whole Gospel to the whole world by the whole church. He also said that "as we go, a part of you goes with us."

The Casseltons will be leaving for Brazil this summer.

Sunday Afternoon

On Sunday afternoon an installation service for Pastor Kenneth Moland as dean of AFLBS was conducted. Rev. Ronald Knutson, Drummond, Wis., a member of the Co-ordi-

(Continued on page 8)

Excerpts From Conference Reports

From the Report of the CO-ORDINATING COMMITTEE

As we meet together at this, the 15th Annual Conference, I am sure it brings back memories to many, as the first Annual Conference met here in 1963. The theme for this Conference, "We are His Workmanship," causes one to think back and thank God for bringing us thus far. Phil. 4:19: "My God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus"—has been a real part of the Association of Free Lutheran Congregations. May we thank God again for supplying funds this past year to do His work, for new congregations, for pastors, missionaries and laymen called to proclaim the message of salvation in Christ, for all the members of the congregations and all spiritual blessings in Christ. May God grant that His workmanship would not be temporary congregations, but building Godly generations.

From the Report of the DEAN OF THE SEMINARY

Admission to the Seminary is granted to men who have, by the grace of God, submitted to the Lordship of Jesus Christ and who are daily living in a vital relationship with Him, and who have aptitudes according to I Timothy 3:1-7, which qualify them for effective service in the Church of Christ. A normal entrance requirement is a Bachelor of Arts degree from an accredited college. The students are expected to live exemplary daily Christian lives both on and off campus.

Let us together intercede at the Throne of Grace that the Lord of the harvest will call forth men of His choice to prepare for the Gospel ministry.

It has been brought to our attention that in the long range planning for our campus, provision should be made for seminary student housing. Surely there is a need for this. May we suggest that the next building

project be an eight-family or larger apartment building? We believe it would be in order to begin to give serious consideration to such a project. With careful planning and the right kind of financing it might be that such a building would pay for itself within a reasonable number of years.

From the Report of the ACTING DEAN OF THE BIBLE SCHOOL

We have been provided with excellent facilities. I am sure that few schools our size have comparable grounds or buildings. It is a delight to work in such fine surroundings. The AFLC has so generously supplied the needs of AFLBS in regard to facilities.

The blessings of our campus are great; unfortunately, the debt is also great. The progress of AFLBS and the AFLC as a whole may sometimes be impeded by the hovering financial liability. None of us regret the building of our campus. It has been a good investment; the boys' dormitory was filled to overflowing this past winter quarter, in only its third year of use. Still, it remains for us to aggressively deal with this financial concern. Much has been done. Many have given sacrificially. Let us do even more, with the goal of having our campus debt-free in the foreseeable future.

From the Report of the BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF SEMINARY AND BIBLE SCHOOL

Our Bible School dorms were well filled this past year and some students were living off campus. Praise the Lord! We trust and believe that the young people who attend our school will be better equipped to serve their Lord and to face the world after attending some or all of the two year program at our Bible-believing school. As a board, we are very thankful to the instructors, deans, and also all other members of the staff for their sincere and earnest efforts.

We are also happy for the men of our theological seminary who are pre-

paring for their life work. For some, this will be a parish ministry; others will serve on the mission field, either home or abroad; and others will go on for further training to meet the higher academic requirements needed for teaching in Christian schools or other areas of Christian service. Our chief purpose is to prepare men to serve as equipped men with the unchanging Word of God, as parish shepherds. We thank God for providing the means and instructors for this place of higher learning. A highlight of this past year was the inter-term session between semesters which offered several intensive courses for students. At this time of writing, we are in need of more instructors, but we are firmly trusting that God will provide the men of the caliber He chooses before the coming school year.

From the Report of the FOREIGN MISSION BOARD

I found Brazil changing. There has been much progress. The land is opening up to mechanized farming. Asphalt roads are being pushed farther and farther into remote areas. Dams are being built and transmission lines being built across the land so that many more villages have electric power. In the past ten years Campo Mourao has grown approximately one thousand people per year to a present population of about 40,000. Certainly it is a strategic center. It is good our Mission Center is there. . . .

As I visited the school and all of our churches there, I sensed a good solid growth that has taken place, not only in a physical sense, in buildings, but spiritually, in people. Through the problems and pains and sorrows that normally come along, many precious souls have been added to the family of God. The churches for the most part have been strengthened. They struggle, yes, but good spiritual growth comes through struggles. One thing that seems problematic, especially to the smaller churches, is that of losing

key men, pillars in the church who have moved on to new frontiers such as Rondonia. This we will touch on later. What is a loss to some is a gain to others. God has His purpose.

From the Report of the HOME MISSION BOARD CHAIRMAN

Not only do we need a revival of first love, but we also need a revival of earnest prayer in our AFLC. We need to pray for conviction of sins—sins of prayerlessness and lovelessness—and then repent of these sins and plead the blood of Calvary to wash these sins away. We need to pray for our beloved AFLC, that God will pour out His Spirit upon every congregation. But we should not only pray, but we must also obey the Lord of the harvest when He says to us: "Go out into the highways and byways and compel them to come in." We need to put feet under our prayers. Did you know that God has no other feet but ours; no other hands but ours; no other mouths but ours; no other hearts to love men's souls but ours? Are we as an AFLC doing our part in answering the prayer of the Lord of the harvest?

From the Report of the HOME MISSION DIRECTOR

As we consider the Great Commission of our Lord, "Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations," we realize there is much that needs to be done in our homeland. In years past we have received inquiries from small groups of people that have felt the need for a fundamental Lutheran church, and I believe we will continue to receive such inquiries and requests for help. However, we as an AFLC must be exploring new areas where people are not requesting help, but definitely need the message of the Gospel. This I believe is Home Mission work in the truest sense of the word. Of course, this type of work will require us as individuals to strengthen our prayer and financial support for Home Missions. Also, it is going to require the commitment of pastors who sense the call to Home Mission work and are willing to sacrifice some of the comforts of the established congregation.

In visiting the southwest part of our

United States this past winter and in correspondence from other areas, I know that we are facing the challenge of this kind of Home Mission work right now. Please pray with me that the Lord will give clear direction and that He will provide through us the finances and dedicated pastors to meet the challenge of the Great Commission right here and now in our United States.

From the Report of the COMMISSION ON EVANGELISM

Now that we have elected an Evangelist (half time, the other half to be used in youth work), Pastor David Molstre, who, by the way, is doing a very good work, it does not mean that the rest of us can sit back and leave all the evangelistic work to him. Even if he were working full time in evangelistic work, we all know that he would be unable to reach around to every place where he would be invited. He is booked ahead two years.

Our Commission in times past has repeatedly urged our congregations to invite neighboring pastors, laymen, and/or LEM evangelists for meetings. We have a wealth of good speakers in our many young pastors, who are doing a very good job of it. I have personally heard almost a dozen different young pastors at various places, and although they are all different, every one that I have heard is exceptionally good, each in his own way. Taking texts from the Old Testament, and the New, their messages have been outstanding. Their messages have been Biblical, Lutheran, deep and rich in content, original, very challenging to both Christians and unsaved, positive and well presented.

From the Report of the BOARD OF PUBLICATIONS AND PARISH EDUCATION

An important part of the ministry of our church is through the printed word. Therefore Parish Education and Publications is an all-important arm of the church. Planting and watering must come before reaping or harvesting. This is the reason for parish or Christian education work. This is of great importance among our young people.

Many parents spend a tremendous amount of money and effort on their children, seeking to improve their minds through education, but many neglect the spiritual growth which is of far greater importance. Therefore, let us instruct our children in the Word of God and heed what we read from Ephesians, "See then that ye walk circumspectly." By so doing we will not only teach our boys and girls HOW to walk but also WHERE to walk.

From the Report of the EXECUTIVE SECRETARY OF PARISH EDUCATION

We continue to make available the Ambassador Sunday School Series for grades two through the adult classes. There are three quarters of teaching materials on each of these levels. There is sufficient material presented so that this could continue into the fourth quarter as well. Revisions have been made for grades two and three. More activities are made available and some of the stories have been revised. There are about 83 Sunday Schools or congregations using part or all of this series in their Sunday School curriculum. Some congregations use these materials in their release time classes. Others use them in a Bible Study setting.

From the Report of the YOUTH BOARD

The AFLC has always been concerned about youth work. This has been shown by the provision of a Bible School in Minneapolis and by the good emphasis upon summer Bible Camps. However, let us not forget that the greatest youth work is done in the home. The most effective youth workers are "Mom and Dad." The danger lies in the fact that in this very materialistic and fast-paced society in which we live, parents get occupied with so many things. They get caught up in working, recreation, community affairs, even church involvement, to the detriment of their families. Too many families have meetings, games, etc., scheduled every night of the week, leaving them no time to tend

to the very important responsibilities of raising their children.

From the Report of the STEWARDSHIP BOARD

The AFLC received 83% of its budget for 1976-77. Though we fell considerably short of meeting our goal, the total received was \$20,456.73 over the previous year. For this we thank God. However, this barely keeps pace with the inflation rate. Perhaps we should ask ourselves, "Was our budget for 1976-77 overzealous, or did we fall short in our calling to pray, give and step out in faith as we should?" With great needs mushrooming in all our fields of endeavor, we urge our people to pray earnestly that we may be faithful stewards of God's blessings to us. Under the Law, the Old Testament people were commanded to bring their tithe to the Lord. Certainly we, who have been commissioned to spread the Gospel of God's Grace to all nations, should not do less.

Much work of our Association has been possible because many have made loans to the AFLC. For this we are very grateful. Some of these loans have been made with the condition that should the lender die before the loan is repaid, the AFLC is not obligated to repay the loan. We thank the Lord for the generosity of these individuals and encourage others to consider such loans.

From the Report of the PENSION BOARD

The group life-hospitalization-income protection insurance is underwritten by Ministers Life and Casualty Union of Minneapolis, Minnesota. We feel that the coverage afforded is very good and the premiums for this coverage are very competitive. All AFLC employees and pastors on the clergy roster are eligible to apply for this coverage, subject to normal underwriting by Ministers Life. We have heard from many who are very satisfied with the coverage afforded and that claims were handled quickly and satisfactorily.

THE CONFERENCE PRAYER HOURS

Rev. Einar Unseth, Ortley, S. Dak., led the prayer hours at the Annual Conference in Fargo, N. Dak., last month. Here is a brief report on the three sessions.

Thursday

Rev. and Mrs. Trygve F. Dahle, Spicer, Minn., sang the duet "Dying for Me." Pastor Unseth used Acts 9:31 for his text. He said that congregations and pastors today admit to having troubles. We read that the ancient church had peace and was being built up. Unfortunately, Pastor Unseth declared, Christians have the potential for not getting along with one another. What is the cure? Being of the same mind. While we must be unyielding on fundamentals, it is possible to bend on issues, thus preserving peace in the congregation.

Friday

The hymn "What a Friend We Have in Jesus" was sung. A mixed quartette consisting of Mr. and Mrs. Paul Persson and Mr. and Mrs. Bill Moberg, all of Minneapolis, Minn., sang "Beautiful Savior." Pastor Unseth's text was James 4:2b. There are only seven words in the text, the pastor asserted, but they carry great meaning. Neglect of prayer means no power in life. The Early Church prayed and had power. Today the Church is organized as never before, but prayer is neglected, Pastor Unseth said. We depend on man and not on God, but no enemy can stand against the person who really prays. He urged his listeners to set a definite prayer hour each day and to use a prayer list. All Christians can pray, the South Dakota pastor declared. It is one thing they can do.

Saturday

The hymn "My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less" was sung. Arlo Kneeland, Ortley, S. Dak., sang "Take Time to Be Holy." John 14:13, 14 was Pastor Unseth's text for the last prayer hour of the conference. Some people wonder why God hasn't answered prayer, when they feel they have prayed in Jesus' name. But the

promise of Jesus, Pastor Unseth reminded his hearers, is made to certain people, to those who believe on Him, accepting Him as Savior. And those who love Him keep His commandments and the promise about prayer comes to them. We must ask in Jesus' name, on the ground of some claim He has made. We have no funds in our names in the Bank of Heaven, Pastor Unseth said, but we can make our claim on God's promises as given through the Son, Jesus.

Prayer sessions followed the meditations each day. The prayer hours were at 11:30 a.m.



ONE SMALL TEAR

The joy You long to give us here
Is just as close as one small tear
That falls for someone You hold dear.
For when our quest for human balm
Reaches to Your heavenly calm,
You cause our hearts to overflow
With Your love on others to bestow.

**Mrs. Kent Quanbeck
McVille, N. Dak.**

Even the rankest evolutionist is compelled to declare that the origin of man lies in great obscurity. When we turn aside from the Bible there is nothing left but speculation.

H. E. Dana

Scenes From the Annual Conference



Rev. Howard Kjos, left, Roslyn, S. Dak., and Robert Bursheim, Winger, Minn., enjoy a moment of leisure.



Dale Finstrom, left, Francis Hodnefield and Rev. Donald Greven of Committee No. 2.



Miss Eula Mae Swenson, left, and Mrs. Amos Dyrud, who ran the overhead projector.



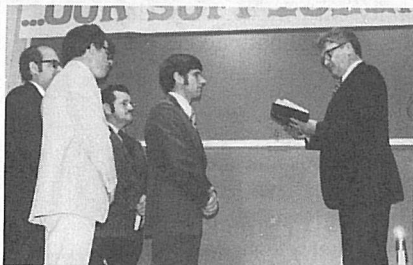
Rev. Michael Brandt, Lake Stevens, Wash., left, and Bob Dietsche, Sand Creek, Wis.



Left to right, Stanley Holmaas, Newfolden, Minn., Rev. Leslie Galland, Everett, Wash., and Russel Duncan, Fargo, N. Dak.



Rev. John Strand, left, AFLC president, and Rev. Francis Monseth, vice-president.



Pastor Kenneth Moland was installed as dean of the Bible School.



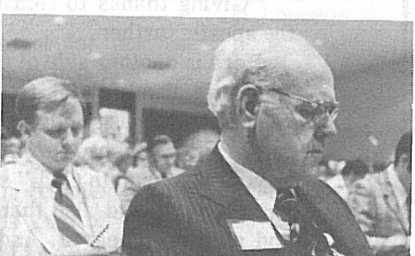
Committee No. 1 in session



Rev. Alvin Grothe, Astoria, Ore., who preached at the Sunday morning commissioning service.



The Lawrence Dahlgrens and Vernon Nelsons visit at mealtime.



Rev. Amos Dyrud, Minneapolis, Minn., with Rev. Ralph Rokke, McIntosh, Minn., shown in the background at left.



The delegation from the Chassell-Pelkie, Mich. parish.



Rev. Trygve F. Dahle



(Continued on page 16)



The Nominating Committee at work.

(Continued from page 3)

nating Committee, led the service and Mr. Donald Rodvold, Minneapolis, was the soloist.

Rev. John P. Strand, Association president, preached the sermon on Heb. 12:1-8. He declared that service which is truly given is motivated by gratitude. And we are to make a deeper commitment to our service because of those who surround us as witnesses.

He deplored the stress today on individual action and said that some lose sight of the "church," the fellowship. Unless we understand the Church, our commitment will be fractional.

From the Hebrews passage, Pastor Strand pointed out that encumbrances are to be dealt with. The Word of God must illumine so that we see our sins and deal with them. And there must be discipline. This is an undisciplined generation. Pastor Moland must deal with personal discipline on the campus, Pastor Strand said.

Jesus had to learn obedience, we are told. Then surely we must also. What difference does it make, Pastor Strand asked, if we are slovenly in Christian living? Faith is to believe that God can do something through me and not through somebody else. And so I must be ready. We are to learn discipline if we are to run life's race successfully.

In his response, Pastor Moland asserted that our load of work and responsibility becomes His load. Our sufficiency is from God. As Pastor Casselton had asked for prayers as they go out for missions, Pastor Moland asked for prayer for his work at AFLBS.

Pastors' Dinner

The pastors' dinner was held on Friday evening at the Student Union. Rev. Everald Strom, president of the Church of the Lutheran Brethren, spoke to the group of pastors and wives. He spoke on the subject of courage. It was a very helpful message to those who on the one hand must point out God's promises to others and yet face all the problems common to all people and those unique to their profession, too.

The Best of Halesby

EVERYDAY CHRISTIANITY

"And whatsoever ye do, in word or in deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him" (Colossians 3:17).

Here is a word to those of us who desire earnestly to practice everyday Christianity.

Most of us have a tendency to live a double life, a worldly and a religious. To make matters worse, we cannot really reconcile the two either; they come in conflict with each other. Those who see us on Sunday at church services have difficulty in recognizing us on Monday morning when they meet us at work or at our place of business.

Ours is not everyday Christianity until we do everything in the name of Jesus, until we desire to do nothing but that which can stand the test of the light of God, until we will do nothing except the Lord go with us.

What a joy to know that He will go with us in all that we do, even in the smallest and most routine tasks. If we do these things in the consciousness that it is His will that we should perform these little, ordinary tasks, our whole life will become a worship of God. Then every day will be a holy day, and there will be something of a halo about our most commonplace duties.

"Giving thanks to God the Father through Him," says the apostle further.

Here is another side of everyday Christianity. In all that we do we should thank God. That is, our whole life should be one continuous giving of thanks to God.

We should thank Him in our hearts. "Singing with grace in your hearts unto God," says the apostle in the preceding verse. We should also thank Him in words, that both God and men may hear it. And we should thank Him in deed. Everything that we do should be like a quiet clasping of the hand of God in gratitude, as though we were saying: "Wilt Thou accept that which I now do? It is a little thank-offering in appreciation of Christ who has saved me and in so doing has brought me all this unmerited joy!"

—Reprinted from **GOD'S WORD FOR TODAY** by permission of Augsburg Publishing House, copyright owner.

editorials

CHOOSING A NEW PRESIDENT

The idea of having a different president for the Association of Free Lutheran Congregations is one that will take some getting used to. Pastor John Strand has guided our church's history from her beginning. He is the only president we have known.

There will be time later on to pay our tributes to this man as he lays aside the burdens of this kind of leadership a year from coming September 30. (We sincerely hope that he will not step aside any earlier than the expiration of his term.) But for now let us look at the procedure adopted by the recent Annual Conference for handling the impending changing of leadership.

The plan, simply, is this: 1) that individuals and congregations turn in recommendations for president to the Co-ordinating Committee; 2) the Co-ordinating Committee is to inquire of these men whether they would be willing to serve if elected; 3) the names of those willing to serve are to be published in **The Lutheran Ambassador** and read at the next annual conference; and 4) actual nomina-

tions are to be made from the conference floor.

Notice these additional points. The Conference gave no timetable; therefore, the Coordinating Committee will have to arrange for the suggestions and recommendations to come in early enough so that the names of those who agree can be made public in advance of the 1978 annual conference. Second, the only direction the Association documents give pertinent to the selection of a new president is that at least two nominations must be made and election is by ballot, in addition to the fact that the nominations are to be made from the floor (Order of Business for the Annual Conference of the AFLC).

Our first reaction to the Conference resolution on procedure was negative. Later the reaction turned more positive, but let us look at its strengths and weaknesses.

The strengths are that it will cause us to think about the choosing of a president in advance and to pray about this weighty decision. It will give the delegates some choices ahead of time and hopefully the Co-ordinating Committee will release some biographical information about the candidates, not only their names. All the while, it must be kept in mind that no one can be hindered from making any nomination from the floor which he or she wishes.

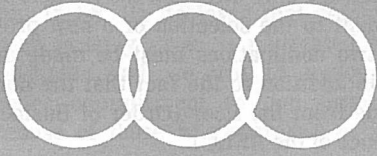
Among the weaknesses of the plan are these. First, a man who is a legitimate candidate, or possibility, for president, may out of modesty refuse to have his name announced beforehand, or, out of conviction, not permit himself to be an announced candidate whereas he might accept the call to serve which comes through election. At least, he would face that call earnestly and prayerfully if confronted with it, much as a pastor faces a "call" from a parish. We believe this is substantially the position Dr. Oswald C. J. Hoffmann has taken vis a vis the presidency of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod.

What could happen is that legitimate candidates, as we call them, may refuse to let their names go before the Church prior to the conference. And shouldn't those who refuse to be publicly mentioned be so announced to the conference as well as those who agree to be available? It happens in congregational meetings, for instance, that persons who say no to a nominating committee do accept nomination from the floor and resultant election to an office. That leaves the committee in an awkward position and not a little puzzled.

We are afraid we are beginning to go in circles. It would be good if out of the plan before the Association at least six candidates could emerge. Secret balloting could continue until one man has a majority of the votes cast in a single balloting. That man should be the clear choice of the people. If he has committed himself to being willing to serve as president, barring unforeseen intermediate events, he would be ready to assume office the following October 1.

These are some thoughts less than two weeks after the Annual Conference ended. They are presented for your discussion. Write a Letter to the Editor if you wish to air your views for our readers. And we shall all await further direction from the Co-ordinating Committee on how they plan to implement the Conference resolution.

Fellowship Corner



INTRODUCING A FRIEND FROM INDIA

Dear friends in Christ:

We are enclosing the testimony of our brother in Christ, Kamal Tiwari. Perhaps a part of it might be printed in the Ambassador for God's glory and for our mutual encouragement.



Kamal Tiwari

Kamal was born in north-central India (he is 25) to Hindu parents. His grandfather is a practicing Hindu priest.

After graduating from college, Kamal applied for, and was granted a special scholarship at Case Western Reserve University here in Cleveland where he received a Master's degree in Engineering, and is presently studying medicine.

God directed a misdialed phone call to bring Kamal into our fellowship. Kamal was seeking peace, and as time went on, he became more and more interested in knowing more about the Gospel message. As our congregation shared with him at home and in church, his heart was warmed and drawn to Christ. He accepted the Lord on November 29, 1976,

and began the difficult struggle of putting away his old Hindu life.

He was deeply inspired by the John Abel family during their New Year's visit to our church, and has since visited the children up in Minneapolis during Easter vacation.

In late March Kamal asked to be baptized. The enclosed testimony was given at his baptismal service on April 17th.

We praise God for His unsearchable ways! It has been a great encouragement to all of us to see how God brought all of this to pass, and to see Kamal growing steadily in the Lord. We would ask for your prayers for him. He could have a brilliant medical career before him, and we pray that he will always be in the very center of God's plan for his life.

Al Fricke, Secretary
for Word of Life Church,
Cleveland, Ohio

FROM HINDUISM TO CHRIST

Today is a very special and ceremonial day for me when I take the pledge to be baptized. I thank the Lord for saving me, guiding me and inspiring me so that my sinful existence in the lost world would be renounced today and I would be given a new life. I pray the Lord to give me the strength and the vision to live up to the baptismal vow that I take today in a world filled with so many unsaved, sinful people.

I pray God to bless us with wisdom and strength to carry His message and mission to all the nations in the world. Today I pray and take the pledge to live according to the Word of God and to let His will lead me in my life's goals.

Over a period of time in the recent past, a feeling with definite desire and direction has grown within me. By the blessing of the Lord my goals in life have changed. I guess blessings from the Lord have been greater and stronger than the sinful forces of the demon. Recently I have been constantly saved from making wrong decisions; some of you who are more acquainted with me know about this.

It was not easy for me to move away from Hinduism and accept and adhere to Christianity. I had logical dis-

cussions and confrontations with my Hindu friends and family. One thing that marked the beginning of this whole filling experience was the ever present vacuum within me for a true religion. I always believed Hinduism as a philosophy and not a religion. It is a philosophy not even accessible to the common man because of its complexity of thought and language. The more I read about it, the more it sounded like a syntactically and semantic fancy documentation of the basic philosophy of life. For instance, there is no limit to human passions and desires. There is no limit to human intellect and logic. The limitless, but imperfect documentation could never satisfy the need for an ideal as perfect as God. Being limitless is a start from below and perfection is an end from above. Right here was a need for God to be believed in by faith and not logic alone.

God arranged the plan for this blissful experience through a Christian family and I shall always be indebted to them for bringing the message of God to a needy man like me.

My Christian growth was slow and there were ups and downs. But the Lord brought me to a point where He knew His forces are stronger and then asked me to make a decision. I did think for a while, but I was not left with much choice.

Though it is too soon to tell you what wonderful things He is doing for me, I am confident that He has a wonderful plan for me. I can say this for sure, that my basic attitudes in life have changed. I have a better and greater purpose in life. I always wanted to do things in life that I could take pleasure and pride in, and I still do, but now only to the glory of God.

We all know that the path of truth, God, is full of suffering and sacrifice. Today I open myself to these sacrifices. I am open to the will of God. He will guide me and His will will plan my future, whatever and wherever.

I thank those of you who have acted as instruments of God to encourage me towards the growth and the maturity in my life with Christ. Above all, I thank the Lord for the wonderful, wonderful plans He has for me. Let us pray and rejoice.

Kamal Tiwari

The Lutheran Ambassador

I John 3:2 _____

John 14:3 _____

I Corinthians 15:44 _____

I Corinthians 15:49 _____

11. What do the following Scriptures tell us about heaven?

Revelation 22:5 _____

Revelation 22:14 _____

Revelation 7:9 _____

Hebrews 11:10 _____

II Corinthians 5:1 _____

John 14:2 _____

Discussion: Why should Christians live each day in the anticipation of Jesus coming again? What effect will this have upon our priorities?

Memory Verse: Philippians 3:14

Closing Hymn: "In Heaven Above, In Heaven Above," No. 433 in **The Concordia Hymnal**

W.M.F.

BIBLE STUDY



August, 1977

LESSONS IN PHILIPPIANS Scripture: Philippians 3:13-21

In this portion of Scripture Paul is giving EXHORTATIONS TO THE CHURCH. He begins by referring to his own example in verses 13-17. Christians should be willing to share their own testimonies whenever the Holy Spirit prompts them to do so. Many a soul has been helped in his Christian life by the testimony of a fellow Christian.

The Holy Spirit convicts us of our sins of omission as well as commission. The Christian is sorry for his sins, evil thoughts, desires and human imperfections of his daily life. When we confess our sins to God and ask for forgiveness for Jesus' sake, we experience cleansing in His holy and precious blood (I John 1:9, Isaiah 1:18, Isaiah 43:25).

Satan is "the accuser of the brethren." He delights to cause the Christian to be filled with remorse and guilt over sins which have been confessed to Jesus and blotted out by His blood. Looking back and dwelling upon past failures and sins hinders a Christian from going forward in his Christian

life and from being a joyful witness for Jesus Christ. When God forgives, He forgets. We also must be willing to forgive ourselves. "Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you" (James 4:7 KJV).

1. Compare Philippians 3:13-14 with Hebrews 12:1-2. What exhortations are given? _____

2. How can we experience victory over sin, defeat and the devil? (Revelation 12:10-11, James 4:7-8) _____

3. Discussion: Christian Maturity

I Corinthians 13:11-12 _____

I Corinthians 14:20 _____

Ephesians 4:13 _____

I John 2:14 _____

4. What is the high calling of God in Christ Jesus (Philippians 3:14)?

I Thessalonians 2:12 _____

Ephesians 4:1 _____

II Thessalonians 2:14 _____

II Timothy 1:9 _____

I Peter 5:10 _____

5. The Christian's walk is by faith and it should be consistent. We need to ask ourselves: "Am I the right kind of testimony and example for Jesus?" Characteristics of the believer's walk:

I John 2:6 _____ Ephesians 5:15 _____

Ephesians 5:2 _____ Ephesians 4:1 _____

Romans 6:1 _____

6. Paul mentions with tears that many are enemies of the cross of Christ. (Philippians 3:18) What are some of the sins mentioned in 3:19? _____

7. A true servant of Jesus will speak out against sin (Galatians 1:10). What warnings against worldliness and wickedness are given in the following Scriptures? I John 2:15 _____

Romans 12:2 _____

James 4:4 _____

Matthew 16:26 _____

Exodus 23:2a _____

8. There is joy in knowing that our citizenship is in heaven. Read Luke 10:20. Where do the saved and citizens of heaven have their names recorded? (Revelation 21:27) _____

9. What does Peter say about our inheritance? (I Peter 1:4) _____

10. What awaits the Christian when Jesus comes again?

I Peter 5:4 _____

WMF REMINDERS

One of our projects for July is Mission Scholarship. This fund makes it possible for seminarians to receive help with their education. Scholarships for seminarians preparing for work on our foreign mission field are also available through this project.

Our second project for July is AFLC Schools. Our Schools are vital to the overall work of the AFLC and deserve our full support.

Honorary Membership and In Memoriam is our project for August. This project provides the opportunity for honoring our women for their faithful service and it also provides the opportunity for honoring with memorials those who have passed away. The funds from this project help with missionary furlough housing.

NEW WMF OFFICERS ELECTED

At the Women's Missionary Federation convention in Fargo, N. Dak., last month, these officers for the next biennium were elected: President-Mrs. Eugene Enderlein, Thief River Falls, Minn.; Treasurer-Mrs. Emil Hass, Jr., Valley City, N. Dak.; and Second Vice-President-Mrs. Ronald Knutson, Drummond, Wis. The latter was a re-election.

A full report on the convention will be found in the July 26 issue of *The Lutheran Ambassador*.

1977 PRAYER VIGIL IN PLANNING

The Women's Missionary Federation will be sponsoring a 24-hour prayer vigil for the Association of Free Lutheran Congregations on October 3 and 4. It will begin at 6 p.m. and run to the following 6 p.m. The theme this year will be "Spiritual Awakening and Growth in our Local Congregations." Guidelines for the vigil will be published in the first issue of the *Ambassador* in September.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS FOR EDITOR

Beginning now, please send all communications concerning content of *The Lutheran Ambassador* to the Editor at his new address:

Rev. Raynard Huglen
Newfolden, Minnesota 56738

Please remember that there is no second issue in August, but we resume publication on September 6.

As before, all matters having to do

with subscriptions should be sent to our office in Minneapolis. That address remains:

The Lutheran Ambassador
3110 E. Medicine Lake Blvd.
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55441

Letter TO THE EDITOR

WANTS TO FOLLOW MR. RAAEN'S SUGGESTION

Again I'd like to compliment on the many good articles written in the *Ambassador* through another year. There is always something to fit into all situations of life, which indeed is needful.

Both (Pastor) M. J. Haara and (Dr.) Hallesby articles in the May 17 issue gave the importance of using all of God's Word in order to get the meaning of how the Spirit can guide and rule our everyday lives.

Was also impressed by Trygve Dahle's article of March 8 dealing with our sacrifice and giving practices to worthy causes. So I wish to join in with Mr. (Oscar) Raaen's idea (May 17) and enclose a check of \$100.00 to the General Fund, knowing it will be used to the furtherance of Christ's Kingdom on earth.

Martin Gilberg
Dassel, Minn.

BURIED, RISEN WITH CHRIST

A Christian is not only buried with Christ; he is also risen with Christ. Faith built on resurrection sings in exaltation:

Jesus lives! thy terrors now
Can no longer, Death, appall me;
Jesus lives! by this I know,
From the grave He will recall me.
Brighter scenes will then commence:

This shall be my confidence.

We rejoice in the assurance that full salvation in Christ is the possession of a living faith: that is, that in Jesus Christ and His work there is not only pardon for the guilt of sin, but the power of sin is also broken. It is completely broken in Christ.

Therefore, if we let Christ in, sin will take note that we have a new Master, not our own will-power. When sin observes that you struggle against it in your own power, it knows that in you dwells no power. But if you appropriate Christ, you do the very thing we spoke of. You let Christ conquer sin in you, just as He once conquered sin, the world, and Satan.

Though you learn nothing else this night, I pray you to learn the secret of victory. That you go with Christ and bury your sin, and there place above that grave the cross of gratitude: "Thy sins are forgiven thee." Then let the devils come, as many as will; let them see that cross; then they are silenced. Lay hold on the forgiveness of sins. What is forgiven, does not exist. That is the perfect gift.

Move out into Christ Street and remain there throughout life. It is in Christ that the power of sin is broken. Abide there! He condemned sin. He despoiled sin of its power and introduced a new law into the world, called the law of the spirit of life, in order that we should walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit, thus bringing about a resurrection and new life also in us.

To be filled with the Spirit is a wonderful life. It means to be dead and buried with Christ. "Thy sins are forgiven thee." It means to be risen with Christ and to walk with Him in the glory and peace of a new life. Thanks be to God that Christianity does not mean only to be buried, but also to

(Continued on page 15)



TOO BUSY?

"I don't have time;" "I'm too busy." This was the most common excuse I heard from the Japanese people when I invited them to our church. While in college I heard a fellow inviting another student to attend a program that evening. The reply was, "I don't have time to go." Immediately, he responded, "But don't we all have the same amount of time in each day?" A wise farmer made this forthright statement to me, "Actually we all take time for the things that we really want to do."

Yes, this matter of how we use our time is extremely interesting. A banker commented that though some people are always in such haste they accomplish less than many who seem less hurried. He cited the example of a young man who had just had a heart attack. He said that this man never even took time to come to the bank himself, but always sent his wife instead. Then he mentioned two other men who always took time to visit. Their farming operations are among the largest in that area. They also devote much time to the church. Thus there must be a difference in the way we utilize our time.

A Christian counselor writes, "I am inclined to feel that many people have developed a 'Busyness Complex.' It would be difficult to prove that we are more busy than our parents or grandparents. The marvels of modern transportation and the conveniences in our homes have given us many extra hours in which to do our regular work. Yet we are more rushed than ever before."

Jesus Christ set the perfect example in the right use of time. He busily

went about doing good, yet He always had time to help His fellow men. The Bible says we are to "redeem the time," that is, to redeem it in the

sense of buying up every opportunity it offers. For every moment must be accounted for to the great Giver of time.
—Einar Unseth

NEWS of the Churches



Tabor Lutheran Church

**TABOR CHURCH HOLDS 75TH
OBSERVANCE LAST MONTH**

Tabor Lutheran Church, Webster, S. Dak., observed her 75th anniversary in services on June 4-5. Many former members and friends attended.

The church was decorated with bouquets of flowers and plants given in memory and honor of loved ones. The altar bouquets, floral arrangements, corsages and boutonnieres were gifts of a former member, Hans Dalager, Encinitas, Calif.

Theme song for the anniversary

was "Our Hope Is Built on Nothing Less." Karen Tvinnereim was narrator for the Music Festival on Saturday evening. Mrs. E. S. Vik of Wauabay, S. Dak., widow of a former pastor, sang a solo and reminisced about their 35-year ministry at Tabor.

A duet was sung by Mr. and Mrs. Bernhard Dalager, Roseau, Minn., and a solo by Roger Bosmoe of St. Paul, Minn. Mr. Dalager and Mrs. Bosmoe are former members. Mrs. Earl Luchterhand, Neilsville, Wis., sang a duet with her twin sister, Mrs. Earl Davidson. Special music by the youth choir, senior choir and male



Pictured, left to right, are Rev. Raynard Huglen, Mrs. E. S. Vik, widow of a former pastor at Tabor, Rev. Trygve F. Dahle, Rev. Howard Kjos, present pastor, and Rev. John P. Strand, AFLC president.
—Reporter and Farmer Photo

chorus were enjoyed. A greeting was brought by Pastor Hobart Skilbred, Lily, S. Dak., former pastor at near-by Skudesnes Lutheran Church.

Rev. Raynard Huglen, Minneapolis, Minn., former pastor, gave the Sunday sermon, speaking on the day's text, John 3:1-15. A reunion senior choir sang at the morning service. Pastor Howard Kjos, Roslyn, of the local congregation, read greetings from former members unable to attend and also a greeting from Fron Lutheran Church, rural Roslyn.

With Joseph Bosmoe as leader, the afternoon service opened with a sing-spiration led by Mrs. Vik, who also sang a Norwegian solo. The Hovland-Hills quartette represented Saron Lutheran Church of Lake Region Parish with two songs. Pastor and Mrs. Trygve F. Dahle, Spicer, Minn., sang a duet. Pastor Dahle is a former pastor at Tabor. Rev. John P. Strand, Minneapolis, president of the Association of Free Lutheran Congregations, brought the message.

Greetings were brought from Pastors Dale R. Battleson, Bradley, S. Dak., and Larry V. Severson, Wallace, S. Dak., both former student pastors in the congregation, and Einar Unseth, Ortle, S. Dak. There were greetings from others, including Miss Esther Chilson, teacher at Bethany Fellowship, Minneapolis, who spoke about her grandmother, Betsy Dalager, a charter member. Mrs. Clara Madden, Holmquist, S. Dak., oldest living confirmand, told about the first confirmation class.

People attended from California,

Wisconsin, Nebraska, Minnesota and North Dakota, as well as from South Dakota communities.

Tabor congregation was organized on Jan. 12, 1902, under the leadership of Rev. J. U. Pedersen. Earlier, Rev. L. E. Kjelaas had preached in the community as he served groups of people and congregations in a wide area. His daughter, Marie, lives in Minneapolis, but is unable to travel now.

Pastors who have served Tabor are: J. U. Pedersen, 1902-05; K. Knutson, 1905-15; H. M. Hemmingson, 1916-17; H. O. Lee, 1918-19; O. C. Olson, 1919-23; Trygve F. Dahle, 1923-28; E. S. Vik, 1928-63; Raynard Huglen, 1963-72; and Howard Kjos, 1972—.

—Based largely on news accounts in the Webster Reporter and Farmer.

FATHER-SON BANQUET HELD AT MAPLE BAY CHURCH, MENTOR

A Father-Son banquet was held at Maple Bay Lutheran Church, rural Mentor, Minn., recently with the women of the church serving the meal.

Main speaker for the evening was Wayne Pederson, Roseville, Minn., formerly of the congregation. He spoke on Fishers of Men, the theme for the evening.

Wayne Floan gave devotions, followed by vocal and instrumental music by Parnell Holm and Louis Tweitbakk of Clearbrook, Minn. A skit, "Landing the Big Fish," was presented by Dan Skanson, Darren and

Brant. A "Senior Fisherman's Tale" was given by Harold Moland and "Junior Fisherman's Tale" by Carl Moland of Alexandria, Minn.

Maze Thompson, David and Brent sang and there was more music by Mr. Holm and Mr. Tweitbakk. Tim Johnson spoke briefly, thanking the women for their efforts and presenting prizes to several of the men and boys in various categories; the father with the most sons, the one coming the furthest distance, tallest, shortest, largest waistline, etc. Tim closed with a poem.

Decorations consisted of a large net trimmed with hand-made pictures of a fish, driftwood, fishing poles, sea shells of various sizes and miniature fisherman's hats at each place.

The banquet was a great success.

—From a newspaper account.

(Continued from page 13)

be raised from the dead. It is to have liberty through Christ, and to be glorified with Christ.

The secret of the life in the power of the Holy Spirit is the deep and steady assurance: The Lord will provide.

That holy secret of the restful life in God is revealed to the striving soul, put to rest in the temple of the Lord. There our worries pass away, hidden in the promises He gives. There our difficulties become benediction under His building hand. There is the holiest of the holy, that unspeakable glory of His presence.

In Thy strong hand I lay me down,
So shall Thy work be done;
For who can work so wondrously
As the Almighty One?

—from *What Is Christianity?*
by Sverre Norborg

One (Bible) passage of dubious interpretation can not safely be used to contradict other passages whose teaching is unmistakable.

John P. Milton

(Continued from page 7)

THE LUTHERAN AMBASSADOR
3110 E. Medicine Lake Blvd.
Minneapolis, Minn. 55441

Second-class postage
paid at Minneapolis, Minn.



Mrs. Leonard (May) Swanson of Nogales, Ariz.



Mrs. Joseph Solberg, Fargo, N. Dak., one of the conference organists.



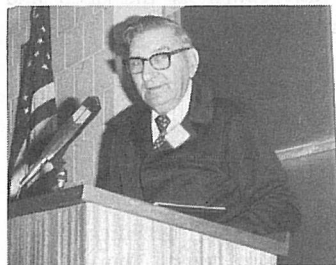
People leaving St. Paul's Church following the Communion service.



Pastor and Mrs. Philip Haugen



Rev. Richard Anderson, center, enjoys a coffee break with his parents, the Gilbert Andersons of East Grand Forks, Minn.



Ed Mathison, Bagley, Minn., who led one of the conference devotional sessions.



Part of the audience at a conference business session.



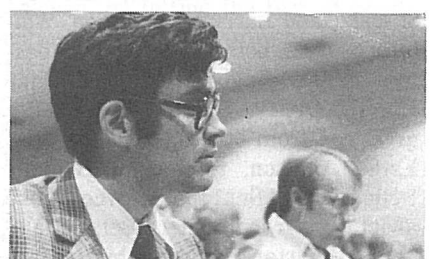
Rev. R. Snipstead, Ferndale, Wash., at the rostrum.



Mrs. Gordon Grage, Fergus Falls, Minn., left, and Mrs. Einar Unseth, Ortle, S. Dak., of the registration committee.



Pastor and Mrs. Karl Stendal



Rev. Dennis O'Neil, left, and Rev. Richard Anderson, both of Minneapolis, Minn.

—Photos by Don Rodvold