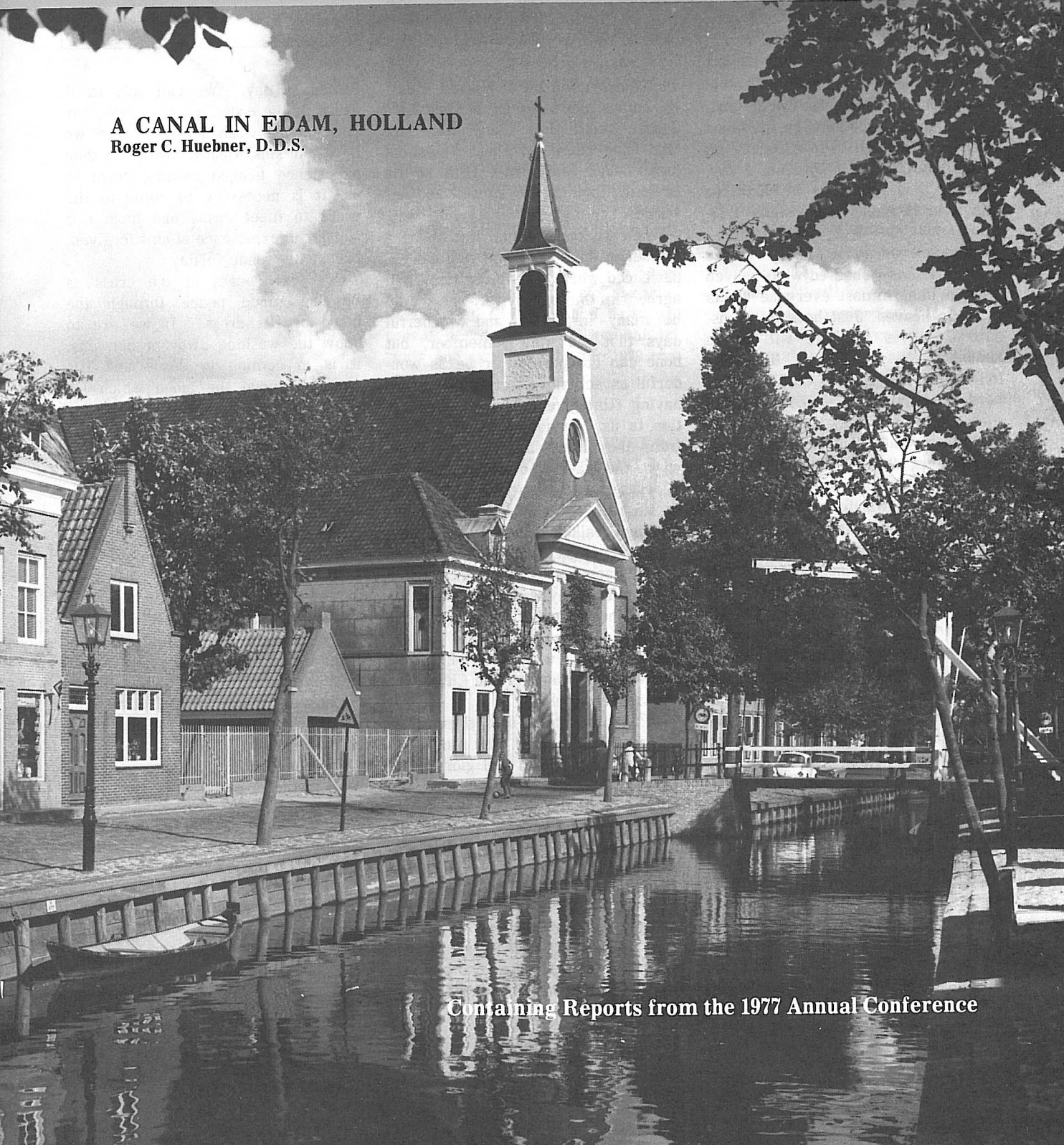


June 28, 1977

# The Lutheran Ambassador

A CANAL IN EDAM, HOLLAND  
Roger C. Huebner, D.D.S.



Containing Reports from the 1977 Annual Conference

# MEDITATION MOMENTS

## “HEAVEN CAME DOWN”

“For it pleased the Father that in Him should all fulness dwell; and, having made peace through the blood of His cross, by Him to reconcile all things unto Himself; by Him, I say, whether they be things in earth, or things in heaven” (Colossians 1:19-20).

No doubt at some time or other each of us has wondered what heaven will be like. Almost everyone wants to go to heaven. Just how do we assure ourselves that we will be in heaven? We find from the song “Heaven Came Down” that it begins here on earth. Let us consider the message of this song and what the Scriptures relate about it.

It begins, “Oh what a wonderful, wonderful day, day I will never forget. After I wandered in darkness away, Jesus my Saviour I met. Oh what a tender, compassionate Friend, He met the need of my heart. Shadows dispelling, with joy I am telling, He made all the darkness depart.” The chorus continues with, “Heaven came down and glory filled my soul. When at the Cross the Saviour made me whole. My sins were washed away and my night was turned to day. Heaven came down, and glory filled my soul.”

This song tells us when and where heaven begins. It begins when we meet Jesus in a personal way and He becomes a reality and more than a person we have heard about. Then

we experience a bit of heaven. Heaven comes down to us in our Lord Jesus Christ. How many there are who have heard all about Jesus but have never really met Him so He becomes their Savior as well as their friend.

When we meet Jesus, it truly is a wonderful day. Each one who has experienced what Jesus gives truly will agree with the song writer. There may be many important and wonderful days that we may remember, but none can compare to or be as wonderful as actually meeting Jesus and having Him give that blessed salvation to us. We have wandered away from the Lord and gone our own ways, the ways of darkness. In John 3, Jesus says that men love darkness or sin rather than Jesus, the Light. All have walked this way. But when we meet Jesus, we turn from this way of darkness to His way, the way of light. This day is so wonderful that we will never forget it. How can we forget it because it changes our entire lives and ways of living. The darkness truly departs and Christ and His Light enter in.

All that has been said thus far is reflected in the cross. The song says, “Heaven came down and glory filled my soul. When at the cross the Saviour made me whole.” It is as we meet Jesus at the cross that we are made whole. It continues, “My sins were washed away, and my night was

turned to day.” We can only meet Jesus at the cross. By the cross, our sins can be washed away. When we have our sins washed away, we then experience heaven coming down to us. It is necessary to come to the cross to meet Jesus and have this wonderful experience of sins forgiven. It is then a wonderful day.

Our text speaks of the cross as “having made peace through the blood of His cross.” If we are to know the washing away of our sins, it is in coming to Jesus and His cross. Through the blood which He shed there we can receive this forgiveness and cleansing from all sin. We also receive peace through the blood. In Romans 5:1, we read, “Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.”

When we are made whole through the cross we also want to tell about it. The song says, “He met the need of my heart. Shadows dispelling, with joy I am telling, He made all the darkness depart.” It is a joy to tell of that wonderful day when all the darkness of sin departed. Not only do we tell of that one day but also what Jesus does daily.

Has heaven truly come to you through the cross? Is it a joy to tell about it to others?

M. J. Haara

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# Pastor Strand Tells Delegates He Won't Accept Another Term

Rev. John P. Strand, president of the Association of Free Lutheran Congregations since its beginning in October of 1962, told delegates to the 1977 Annual Conference in Fargo, North Dakota, earlier this month that he does not intend to be president after his present term ends (September 30, 1978). Thus he removed himself from consideration as a candidate at next year's conference to be held at a location not yet announced.

Pastor Strand has been elected to five three-year terms. The last two times he has received over three-fourths of the votes cast because the Association Rules for Work declare that after an executive officer has served three consecutive terms he must receive a three-fourths majority to continue in office. That majority must be gained on the first ballot.



Pastor John P. Strand

In 1971, Pastor Strand resigned as president prior to the annual conference in Cloquet, Minn., with a year left in his term. But that conference, by a vote of 250 to 9 asked him to re-consider his decision, which he did, and he was subsequently re-elected twice.

Delegates at Fargo, where sessions were held on the campus of North Dakota State University, passed a resolution establishing a plan whereby individuals and congregations are encouraged to suggest possible nomi-

nees for a successor to Pastor Strand to the Co-ordinating Committee well in advance of next year's conference. The Co-ordinating Committee is to ask those men suggested to them whether they would be willing to serve if elected. If they are, their names will be made public through the pages of **The Lutheran Ambassador**. That, however, would not constitute nomination. Church law calls for nominations for executive officers to be made from the conference floor.

Rev. Francis W. Monseth, Minneapolis, Minn., teacher at the Association Schools, was re-elected vice-president of the Association. It will be his second term.



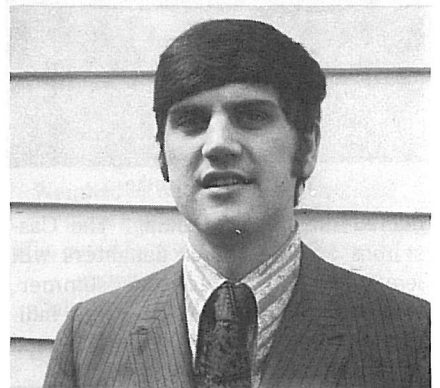
Pastor Francis Monseth

Rev. Dennis Gray, Spicer, Minn., secretary for three years, fell afoul of the three-fourths majority requirement referred to above, and in a subsequent balloting between Rev. Einar Unseth, Ortle, S. Dak., and Rev. David Molstre, McIntosh, Minn., Pastor Unseth was elected. Both the vice-president and secretary serve for one year.

Mr. Sheldon Mortrud and Mr. Eugene Nesland, both of Thief River Falls, Minn., were replaced on the Co-ordinating Committee after one term by Mr. Robert Dietsche, Sand Creek, Wis., and Mr. Ernest Miedema, Valley City, N. Dak. The later, mayor of his city and former member of the North Dakota State legislature, had

been turned back by AFLC voters a year ago in a bid for re-election to the Co-ordinating Committee. But this year they found him acceptable and gave him a five-year term on the committee.

One conference issue which provoked considerable discussion was a resolution from Committee No. 2 that all students at Association Free Lutheran Theological Seminary be charged tuition. Currently the policy has been that only students not planning to serve as pastors in the AFLC be charged. Rev. Robert Rieth, Kirkland, Wash., secretary of the Board of Trustees, explained that the Seminary had experienced a deficit of about \$20,000 in operation during the previous fiscal year and the Board felt that by charging tuition to all students a more responsible situation could be maintained. He did, however, express agreement with the opposing view that tuition would place a difficult financial burden on the students, who are expected to have college degrees before entering theological studies. In the end, that view prevailed and the resolution failed. No tuition will be charged.



Pastor Kenneth D. Moland

Rev. Kenneth Moland, who has served as acting dean of Association Free Lutheran Bible School since 1976, was elected dean at the conference and was installed as such at the closing service Sunday afternoon. Pastor Strand officiated, assisted by

three members of the Board of Trustees.

Pastor Moland becomes the first full dean since Rev. R. Snipstead, now at Ferndale, Wash., left the post in 1975. Rev. Amos O. Dyrud was acting dean in 1975-76.



Pastor Amos O. Dyrud

Commissioned as missionaries to Brazil on Sunday morning of conference were Rev. and Mrs. Dean Casselton. Rev. Alvin Grothe, Astoria, Ore., who has been chairman of the Board of Foreign Missions, but asked not to be nominated for a second term, con-



Pastor Alvin Grothe

ducted the commissioning. The Casseltons and their four daughters will leave for Brazil later this summer. Delays in securing their visas indicate a later departure than the end of June.

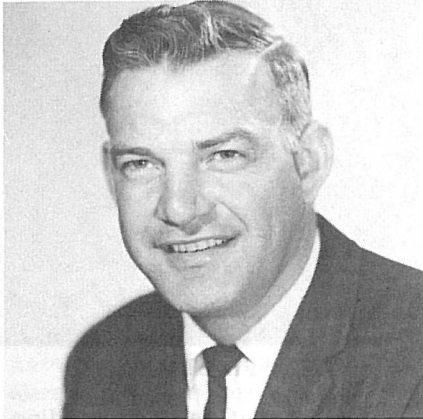
There was no ordination service at this year's conference as neither of the two eligible graduates of the Seminary had accepted a call prior to the conference.

The conference passed resolutions opposing abortion as a means of birth control, the "gay rights movement," while extending Christian love to ho-

mosexuals who desire deliverance from their sin, and the traffic in pornography. (These resolutions in their entirety are found elsewhere in this issue.)

A resolution extending "best wishes and prayer support" to Dr. J. A. O. Preus of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod in his position on the inerrancy of the Word of God was passed. The LC-MS will hold its biennial convention in Dallas, July 15-22. Dr. Preus will stand for re-election at that time and re-election is virtually conceded now.

Three congregations have joined the AFLC during the past year. They are Grace, Pelkie, Mich., Bethel, Minot, N. Dak., and Our Savior's, Dickinson, N. Dak. Rev. Wendell Johnson, Stacy, Minn., chairman of the Co-ordinating Committee, announced that two congregations have been dropped from the roster, namely, Bethlehem, Thief River Falls, Minn., and West Lake, Sunburg, Minn. The roster remains at approximately 130 congregations.



Pastor Wendell Johnson

A budget of \$445,332 for 1978-79 was adopted. This is \$12,700 more than the Budget Analysis Committee recommended and \$62,855 above the current 1977-78 budget. Foreign Missions and Schools were given the increases by floor action.

The Stewardship Board reported that a five-member committee has been set up to direct a debt retirement effort for the Schools between Sept. 15 and Nov. 23 of this year. This is the drive initiated at the conference in Hancock, Mich., last year. The members are Rev. Kenneth Moland, Minneapolis, Minn., Mr. Ernest Miedema, Mr. James Walker, Ken-

yon, Minn., Mrs. Robert Dietsche, Sand Creek, Wis., and Mr. Irvin Hodnefield, Radcliffe, Ia.

In other significant conference action:

—A measure to sidetrack the securing of a Stewardship Director was defeated.

—The Board of Foreign Missions was encouraged to plan for the calling of at least one missionary couple and one single lady for work in 1978 and at least one additional couple in 1979.

—A resolution was passed approving continuing education for faculty at the Schools, emphasizing that such education need not be only for the securing of additional degrees, but may be only for personal enrichment.

—The Co-ordinating Committee and Board of Publications and Parish Education were given the responsibility of preparing for the dissemination of the AFLC stand on such issues as abortion, pornography and homosexuality, with expanded comment, that Association people and others may have it for information and reference.

The 1977 conference passed the 400 mark in total delegates registered for the first time in AFLC history, reaching 403 on Saturday afternoon. They came from 11 states.

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#### HAMPDEN CONGREGATION TO NOTE ANNIVERSARY

Zoar Lutheran Church at Hampden, N. Dak., will observe its 75th anniversary July 17. Rev. John Strand, Minneapolis, Minn., AFLC president, will be the guest speaker. The forenoon service has been scheduled for 10:30 and the afternoon program for 1:30. Former pastors and their families and all friends are extended a welcome to join in the festivities.

A commemorative plate, picturing Zoar Church, will be on sale for \$6.00, plus postage.

A noon meal and afternoon coffee will be served by the Ladies Aid for all in attendance.

The parish is presently served by Pastor Wesley Langaas.

—Corr.

# The President's Message

## The Past Year

God blessed the AFLC this past year, too. There were no unusual developments and our needs were met. There was a modest growth in several areas of our work.

In the president's report to the conference in 1974, attention was directed to the need to add to the staff of the Association. Areas mentioned in need of further attention were evangelism, Home Missions, stewardship, and youth. There has been progress in filling these needs.

In September, 1975, Pastor David Molstre began his ministry as our Evangelist-Youth Worker. From all reports and observations, God has used him as a great blessing for our congregations. He has given of himself unstintingly to his ministry. We must continue to uphold him in our prayers.

At the annual conference in 1976, Pastor Elden Nelson was installed as our Home Mission Director. He, too, has been used to strengthen our work. We thank God for Pastor Nelson's quick understanding of his work and his wisdom and zeal. His ministry will expand to even greater usefulness from year to year. Home Missions must receive greater attention in our planning and future.

The Co-ordinating Committee, responding to a resolution from the Stewardship Committee, is in the process of seeking to fill a need of the Association in the area of sound business practice, promotion and foundation. This has been discussed for some time, and we trust the Lord to answer our prayers for help in these combined areas.

The budgets of the Association received fine support this year, too. While the overall budget was not reached, not even the budget suggestions of the Budget Analysis Committee, receipts were up over 6%. This is better than many churches realized, and we are most grateful to our

God and the faithful supporters of our work.

The receipts for the World Relief Commission were encouraging, but we ought respond more generously to meet human physical need around the world.

There was a very modest response to our debt reduction appeal. A committee is being proposed to this conference which would have definite responsibility to promote gifts to meet this need. The promotion concerning this appeal has been inadequate.

The Bible Camps continue to have a vital ministry for our people. We are most grateful for those who are giving of themselves so that our Bible Camps are Bible-centered. There is continuing discussion towards the development of a large camping facility to meet our family camp needs, in particular. This would be a long-range program, but a very beneficial one. No firm decisions have been made or should be made without conference or referendum approval.

The mid-winter Bible Conference, held in Willmar, Minnesota, was a great blessing to those who attended. More of our people should avail themselves of the opportunity to attend such conferences. The fellowship to be experienced is so encouraging, to say nothing of the knowledge of the Word to be acquired.

## Our Congregations

It is easy for a congregation to forget its importance. When it is reported that thousands and, at times, millions attend or hear, thousands of decisions are made, prominent people with great talents are employed, and millions of dollars are spent, how significant is the humble pastor and his little flock? Can the pastor use his talents in a better way? Is the congregation worthy of continuing support? Is the congregation really the right form of the Kingdom of God today?

The congregation is the right form

of the Kingdom of God today, too. Why? Because God's Word makes that abundantly clear.

Would the community or nationwide crusades and rallies be possible without the congregations in the first place? Normally, how lasting is a decision made without the hearer having some previous knowledge of God's Word, the result of some congregation's or Christian member's witness? Would there be any lasting spiritual fruit of any Christian work without the ongoing work of the congregations to nurture and mature the believer? The congregation is central.

We are living in a world of need. The world of nature seems to be running down. Energy is becoming in short supply. Millions are starving. Pollution is destroying the possibility for life. There is increased division between the races. There is great hatred in many areas of the world that can break out into open warfare any moment. Unrest and suspicion have become the normal. Human moral standards continue to decline, often becoming sub-animal. We ask, where is help found?

The answer is not the social gospel. While we must exert every effort to meet the physical needs of men, we recognize that those with the highest standard of living are often not better off than the poverty-stricken. Man is more than an animal and his needs are more than food, comfort and pleasure. Man is created in the image of God and is restless until he rests in God.

Man fell. He became a sinful being. This is often forgotten in confessions of sin today. Not only is man sinful, but he sins. He needs to become a new person. Everything has to become new for him.

Man becomes new through what God has provided, the Means of Grace, the Word and the Sacraments. Jesus said that disciples are made by baptizing and teaching. The Means of Grace are under the custodial care of the Christian congregation.

Crusades and rallies may preach a part of the Word of God in truth and purity. They hardly mention the Sacraments, however. Yet the Sacraments are essential if disciples are to be made! Only in the Christian congregation do we find all of the Means

of Grace. They are one identifying mark of the true church.

Only as people are born anew will the world be saved. People are born anew through that which you have in your congregation, the Word and Sacraments. Baptism, uniting us to Christ, is the entrance gate (we do not believe in eternal security, however). The Lord's Supper is the strengthening meal. They both get their efficacy from the Word of God, the primary means of Grace.

A mark of saving faith is love, love for God and love for man. It is a love that seeks to provide all the needs, spiritual and physical, of suffering humanity. This love can only come through the means of Grace God provides through the Christian congregation.

Dear discouraged pastors and congregations, yours is the greatest work on earth. Only as you are faithful can the world be saved. There is no greater task.

It is apparent that our congregations are faithfully using the Means of Grace. Fruit may not always be evident. It is not healthy when we boast of fruit. It is best when God sees it more than we do. He has promised that the Word will not return void and that "greater works than these shall ye do, because I go unto the Father." We believe these promises. We live by faith.

There are times when our congregations feel lonely. At times being out of fellowship with other Lutherans, they get their fellowship from Reformed brethren with an evangelistic concern for people. This warmth of concern is appreciated. There are some dangers, however. It is possible to lose our Lutheran distinctives of worship and become more program-centered. It is possible to lose an appreciation for the Sacraments so that they become a good work of men in obedience to God, instead of a work of God in which He gives us of His Grace. It is possible to lose appreciation for our priceless heritage of Lutheran hymnody. While we love our Reformed brethren, we believe our Lutheran heritage and teaching is closest to the Scriptures.

We continue to have a shortage of pastors. There are parishes that wish

to divide and call another pastor. There are congregations who have been served well by laymen and/or students and now desire a full-time pastor. There are some challenging mission opportunities. One of the prime responsibilities of living congregations is to pray out laborers into the harvest. We thank God for these prayers that have been answered. We must continue to pray for more laborers.

A survey has been conducted to seek information on pastors' salaries. The results showed that generally congregations have been aware of the need to make adjustments in the pastors' salaries. This concern to pay a fitting salary to the pastor should continue.

(At this point the message contained a section called "Events of Special Interest." That section has been deleted here in the interest of saving space. It will be found in the Annual Report to be published later.)

#### Appreciation

It has been my privilege to serve as the president of the Association since the Association was formed in 1962. My term ends in the fall of 1978. I do not believe that I am capable of being the kind of president the Association needs and desires. It is my desire and intention to cease being your president at the end of this term, if not sooner.

To the members of the Association, I express my thanks and appreciation for the fellowship of the past year. May God bless each one of you. I am most grateful to God for His grace and continued help, in spite of failures and shortcomings. We have a great God.

I close my report by asking you to sing with me one of the great hymns of the church,

"Glorious Things of Thee are Spoken"  
Glorious things of thee are spoken,  
Zion, city of our God;  
He whose words cannot be broken,  
Form'd thee for His own abode;  
On the Rock of Ages founded,  
What can shake thy sure repose?  
With salvation's walls surrounded,  
Thou may'st smile at all thy foes.

See, the streams of living waters  
Springing from eternal love,  
Well supply thy sons and daughters,  
And all fear of want remove.  
Who can faint, while such a river  
Ever flows their thirst t' assuage.  
Grace which, like the Lord, the giver,  
Never fails from age to age.

Round each habitation hov'ring  
See the cloud and fire appear  
For a glory and a cov'ring,  
Showing that the Lord is near;  
Thus they march, the pillar leading,  
Light by night and shade by day;  
Daily on the manna feeding  
Which He gives them when they pray.

Savior, if of Zion's city  
I, thro' grace, a member am,  
Let the world deride or pity,  
I will glory in Thy name.  
Fading is the worldling's pleasure,  
All his boasted pomp and show;  
Solid joys and lasting treasure  
None but Zion's children know.

Sincerely in Christ,  
Pastor John P. Strand

## ELECTIONS AT THE ANNUAL CONFERENCE CONSTITUTIONAL OFFICERS

### Vice-President of the AFLC

1-year term

Rev. Francis Monseth, Minneapolis,  
Minn.

### Secretary of the AFLC

1-year term

Rev. Einar Unseth, Ortleby, S. Dak.

## BOARD MEMBERS ELECTED BY CORPORATIONS

### Co-ordinating Committee

5-year terms

Ernest Miedema, Valley City, N. Dak.

Robert Dietsche, Sand Creek, Wis.

Other Committee members are:

Rev. Wendell Johnson, Stacy, Minn.

Rev. Ronald Knutson, Drummond,  
Wis.

Rev. Kenneth L. Anderson, McVille,  
N. Dak.

Dr. J. C. Gerdeen, Chassell, Mich.

Clarence Quanbeck, McVille, N. Dak.

### Board of Trustees (Schools)

5-year terms

Wayne Pederson, Roseville, Minn.

Kenneth Rolf, McIntosh, Minn.

Other Board members are:  
Stanley Holmaas, Newfolden, Minn.  
Rev. J. G. Erickson, Minneapolis,  
Minn.  
Rev. Robert Rieth, Kirkland, Wash.  
Rev. Dennis Gray, Spicer, Minn.  
Raymond Jacobson, Minneapolis,  
Minn.

#### **Board of Foreign Missions**

5-year term

Rev. Amos Dyrud, Minneapolis,  
Minn.

Other Board members are:

Eldor Sorkness, Sand Creek, Wis.  
Rev. Eugene Enderlein, Thief River  
Falls, Minn.

Vernon Russum, Grafton, N. Dak.  
Kenneth Williams, Ishpeming, Mich.

#### **Board of Home Missions**

5-year term

Joel Rogenes, Buxton, N. Dak.

Other Board members are:

Rev. Herbert L. Franz, Cloquet, Minn.  
Rev. Larry V. Severson, Wallace,  
S. Dak.

Paul Flaten, Newfolden, Minn.

Rev. Julius Hermunslie, Fergus  
Falls, Minn.

#### **BOARD MEMBERS ELECTED BY THE CONFERENCE**

##### **Stewardship Board**

5-year term

Harvey Dyrud, Newfolden, Minn.

Other Board members are:

Rev. Edwin Kjos, Faith, S. Dak.  
Rev. Stephen Odegaard, Eugene, Ore.  
Arlo Kneeland, Summit, S. Dak.  
Norman E. Olson, Willmar, Minn.

##### **Youth Board**

5-year term

Roger Strom, Minneapolis, Minn.

Other Board members are:

Rev. Rodger Olson, Grafton, N. Dak.  
Robert Bilden, Bagley, Minn.  
Rev. Francis Monseth, Minneapolis,  
Minn.  
Wayne Pederson, Roseville, Minn.

##### **Board of Publications and Parish Education**

3-year term

Rev. Ralph Rokke, McIntosh, Minn.

5-year term

Palmer Haugen, Portland, N. Dak.

Other Board members are:

Rev. Howard Kjos, Roslyn, S. Dak.  
Mrs. Melvin Walla, Fergus Falls,  
Minn.

Miss Eula Mae Swenson, Fargo,  
N. Dak.

#### **Board of Pensions**

5-year term

Clifford Holm, Minneapolis, Minn.

Other Board members are:

Rev. Jerome Nikunen, Roseau, Minn.  
Rev. Fred H. Carlson, Sebeka, Minn.  
Melvin Gravgaard, Tioga, N. Dak.  
Walter Lien, Minnewaukan, N. Dak.

#### **Commission on Evangelism**

5-year term

Ed Mathison, Bagley, Minn.

Other Commission members are:

Rev. Trygve F. Dahle, Spicer, Minn.  
Haldor Hegg, McIntosh, Minn.  
Rev. Terry Olson, Radcliffe, Ia.  
Rev. Kenneth Pentti, Bessemer,  
Mich.

#### **BUDGET ANALYSIS**

##### **COMMITTEE**

Arlo Kneeland, Summit, S. Dak.

Dr. Donald Priebe, Fargo, N. Dak.

Eugene Nesland, Thief River Falls,  
Minn.

Rev. T. K. Skramstad, Minnewaukan,  
N. Dak.

Ronald Miller, Minneapolis, Minn.

#### **COLLOQUY COMMITTEE**

Rev. Fred H. Carlson, Sebeka, Minn.

Rev. Julius Hermunslie, Fergus  
Falls, Minn.

Rev. Dennis O'Neil, Minneapolis,  
Minn.

Rev. Ernest Langness, Ishpeming,  
Mich.

Rev. Karl I. Stendal, Minneapolis,  
Minn.

#### **NOMINATING COMMITTEE FOR 1978**

Joel Rogenes, Buxton, N. Dak.

Arthur Olson, Tioga, N. Dak.

Dr. Wayne Sletten, Faith, S. Dak.

Sheldon Mortrud, Thief River Falls,  
Minn.

John Arlen Johnson, Sacred Heart,  
Minn.

Lyle Twite, Cloquet, Minn.

Rev. Amos Dyrud, Minneapolis,  
Minn.

Kenneth Williams, Ishpeming, Mich.

Rev. Gerald F. Mundfrom, Nogales,  
Ariz.

Rev. Michael Brandt, Lake Stevens,  
Wash.

#### **ELECTED TO THE MISSION CORPORATION**

The following persons were nomi-  
nated by the 1977 Annual Conference  
to membership on the Mission Cor-  
poration and were subsequently  
elected by the Corporation to mem-  
bership.

##### **5-year terms**

Martin Bjornson, Valley City, N. Dak.  
Mrs. Reuben Emberson, Esko, Minn.  
Rev. Eugene Enderlein, Thief River  
Falls, Minn.

Rev. Herbert L. Franz, Cloquet, Minn.  
Rev. Edwin Kjos, Faith, S. Dak.

Rev. Merle Knutson, Newfolden,  
Minn.

Kenneth Nash, Colfax, N. Dak.  
Vernon Russum, Grafton, N. Dak.

Mrs. Rodney Stueland, Buxton,  
N. Dak.

Miss Judith Wold, Thief River Falls,  
Minn.

#### **ELECTED TO THE SCHOOLS CORPORATION**

In accordance with a change in the  
Constitution of the Corporation, the  
membership was increased from 30  
to 50 members at the recent annual  
meeting of the Corporation. The fol-  
lowing persons were nominated by the  
1977 Annual Conference to member-  
ship on the Schools Corporation and  
were subsequently elected by the  
Corporation to membership. The  
three- and four-year terms are the  
additions to the membership, bring-  
ing it up to 50 members in all.

##### **3-year terms**

Rev. Michael Brandt, Lake Stevens,  
Wash.

Lawrence Dahlgren, Lake Park,  
Minn.

Irvin Hodnefield, Radcliffe, Ia.

Rev. Ragene Hodnefield, Dalton,  
Minn.

Arlo Kneeland, Summit, S. Dak.

Arthur Olson, Tioga, N. Dak.

Rev. Ralph Rokke, McIntosh, Minn.

Leonard Swanson, Nogales, Ariz.

Lyle Twite, Cloquet, Minn.

Kenneth Rolf, McIntosh, Minn.

##### **4-year terms**

Morris Borstad, Tioga, N. Dak.

Lester Davidson, Ortle, S. Dak.

Philip Dyrud, Middle River, Minn.

Richard Hinderaker, Radcliffe, Ia.

Allen Hjermstad, Kenyon, Minn.  
LeRoy Knutson, Newfolden, Minn.  
Sherman McCarlson, Webster, S. Dak.  
Rev. Terry Olson, Radcliffe, Ia.  
Roger Rasmussen, Pennock, Minn.  
Bruce Wolla, Minot, N. Dak.

#### 5-year terms

Gerald Anderson, Negaunee, Mich.  
Rev. J. G. Erickson, Minneapolis,  
Minn.  
Rev. Dennis Gray, Spicer, Minn.  
Howard Johnson, Astoria, Ore.  
Rev. Howard Kjos, Roslyn, S. Dak.  
Rev. Francis Monseth, Minneapolis,  
Minn.  
John Mundfrom, Fargo, N. Dak.  
Rev. Orville Olson, Hatton, N. Dak.  
Wayne Pederson, Roseville, Minn.  
Roger Strom, Minneapolis, Minn.

### THE RESOLUTIONS ON SOCIAL ISSUES

#### Pornography

Be it resolved that we of the AFLC protest the onslaught of pornography from all its sources within our society. Be it further resolved, that we encourage members of our congregations to make known their convictions to our legislators and other responsible people.

#### Homosexuality

Whereas, due to the increased moral decay of our society, specifically regarding the gay rights movement, we heartily support those who on the basis of the Bible oppose homosexuality.

Be it further resolved, that we offer the hand of Christian love to those homosexuals who wish to be helped by God's power (we love the sinner, but hate the sin).

#### Abortion

Inasmuch as the government of the beloved United States has allowed the use of abortion as a means of birth control, and whereas the indiscriminate taking of a human life, including that of a human fetus, is against our understanding of the Word of God,

Be it resolved, that the Annual Conference of the AFLC stands opposed to abortion as a means of birth control.

*(Continued on page 10)*

# The Best of Halesby

## GOD'S FRIENDS

**"Thou gavest me no water for my feet: but she hath wetted my feet with her tears, and wiped them with her hair" (Luke 7:44).**

The Lord looked upon the heart, both of the woman and of Simon.

He also looks at your heart.

What does He see? Would you like to know what Jesus thinks about your innermost attitude of heart?

We all have some friends and acquaintances.

We meet some people on the street, greet them, stop and talk. And think it very congenial. Then we say good-bye. And think no more about them until we chance to meet again on some other street corner. Thus it is with our acquaintances.

But our friends,—well, it is not certain that we meet them much oftener. But we do call them by telephone and write to them. And think of them every day.

God has many acquaintances. They appreciate the opportunity of visiting with Him on Sunday mornings in church and occasionally also in their homes, when they have time. But as soon as the visit is over they think no more of Him until they meet Him again the next Sunday in church.

With God's friends it is entirely different.

It is true that they are never wealthy. As a rule they are in poor and humble circumstances. Oftentimes they can only do what the woman in the house of Simon did: Weep. They weep because of their sins. They as she. But that they are friends of Jesus becomes clearly evident to God and to me. They cannot live without Jesus. And they creep to His feet with all their sins and all their needs.

Moreover, Jesus helped Simon also. He helped him to see himself in his true light. And to see Jesus.

This put him where he had to choose. Would he acknowledge that he was only an acquaintance of Jesus, and not His friend?

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# editorials

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## THANK YOU, PASTOR HAARA

With this issue of the *Ambassador* we bring you the final devotional article by Rev. Marvin Haara under the heading "Meditation Moments." We thank him for sharing his thoughts on various texts with us. They have been readable and helpful. Send him a personal word at Sacred Heart, Minn., as you feel led.

May the Lord bless you, Pastor Haara, in your continuing work for Him. Pastor Haara has served AFLC parishes at Virginia and Brooten, Minn., and Pukwana, S. Dak.

The new writer of the devotional series will be Rev. David Molstre, our evangelist-youth worker. Through his wide contact with Association congregations in his present capacity, and as a parish pastor before that, he is well known and his acquaintances will be interested in reading God's message which comes from his pen and again, from his heart.

Pastor Molstre has a busy schedule. We appreciate his willingness to take this assignment. Pray for him as he serves the church as evangelist-youth worker and now, for a time, as a writer of devotional messages.

His first article will not appear until the second issue of July.

## REV. E. P. DREYER

Pastor E. P. Dreyer, who passed away on May 19, lived on the West Coast even before the beginning of the Association. That fact, and his age, prevented him from taking an active part in conferences and leadership. He was present at the first regular conference, in Fargo in 1963, however. A look at the daily journal for that conference shows that he participated a number of times

in the discussions. Those who knew him know that he would have entered in at all conferences he could have attended. Whether he got to any other AFLC annual conferences I cannot say at this time.

He began our work in Spokane, Wash., serving and working as long as health permitted. The growth and prosperity of Olivet Lutheran in that city would be a fitting memorial to Pastor Dreyer.

I realize that his very name is unknown to some of our people and brings few memories of substance to many others. My own associations with him were not many, although I have known of him for many years.

A contemporary of my father, he was one of my predecessors in the Lutheran Free Church parish at New Effington, S. Dak. He had served there for 18 years and that included the Depression years. Certainly I heard his name mentioned often and with affection. It was a joy to me when one of my congregations, 20 years after the Depression ended, voted to send the Dreyers the back salary from the Thirties which they had not been able to pay then, but still remembered having not paid. One other recollection. I was told that Pastor Dreyer once travelled close to 18 miles on skis to conduct a funeral at the church near Veblen, S. Dak. We wouldn't think of doing those things now, but they were possibilities in the lives of pastors in another year.

Pastor Dreyer was an earnest and sincere preacher of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, beloved of the people he served. He will not be forgotten by those who were touched by his life.

—Raynard Huglen

## CONFERENCE MEMORIES

The 15th Annual Conference of the AFLC is history. As we write, it is the day after. There isn't sufficient time at the moment to digest all the conference actions nor time to write down our evaluations before the next deadline. So some of that will have to wait for future issues.

The Fargo conference was well attended. In fact, more people registered for it than for any past conference. Fargo always draws well. It is centrally located. Thursday continues to be the big day for individual and session attendance. There is a slackening off by Friday and a noticeable evacuation on Saturday, although the Saturday sessions this year fared better than many in the past, it seems to us. We continue to wish that AFLC people would come to take in a whole conference, but it may be too wild a dream.

The campus setting involved more walking than usual. This proved somewhat of a hardship for some. But the fine meals at reasonable cost made up for this. The University offered good facilities and the people of the staff there are to be commended for their fine work and hospitality.

Then, a word must be said about the excellent work of Pastor and Mrs. Haugen and the committees of St. Paul's Lutheran, the host congregation. All details had been taken care of and everyone could have a good feel-

ing about how the conference planning had been handled. All congregation members, too, joined in making us visitors welcome. Thank you sincerely, all you people of St. Paul's

### DON'T LET THEM DIE

Some expression was made at the conference concerning resolutions that are passed and that is the last that is heard of them. Delegates reminded one another to keep them living by implementing them.

It is true that many conference actions become almost meaningless because they are forgotten. We don't feel justified in printing all the resolutions in the *Ambassador*. This has never been done nor are we aware of other publications doing this. Some selected resolutions may be published, as we do also. Still others are reported on as conference news even though the resolution isn't given word for word.

When the Annual Report for 1977 comes out later this summer, all the resolutions will be printed there. But relatively few people ever buy a Report. However, pastor, council and delegates can seek to make the conference actions available to all. (By the way, does your congrega-

tion keep all Annual Reports on file in the church for reference?)

Much responsibility immediately after each conference falls on those who attended. They have the resolutions and can begin to make them known by their conference reports and in other ways. When a congregation has not been represented by lay delegates at a conference, perhaps not by a pastor either, naturally they are going to be at a disadvantage in knowing what has gone on. All the more reason to get copies of the Annual Report when available and to read the *Ambassador* for the coverage it gives.

Many AFLC resolutions are expressions of thanks to God and various individuals. Still others ask for prayer for different persons and aspects of the common work. In such instances a person's daily prayers will fulfill some of these resolutions unknowingly.

Someone at the conference suggested making a prayer list from the resolutions. A good idea. Don't let the resolutions die. Let them live by putting them into action, by doing what they urge: thanking God, interceding for the work, writing a congressman, giving greater contributions, or whatever.

Talk is cheap. Resolutions are easy to make and pass. But it is in doing something that good will come and evil will be defeated.

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### EINAR P. WESTBY

Einar P. Westby, 86, passed away at his home in Fairdale, North Dakota, on April 20. Funeral services were held at the Aadalen Lutheran Church, rural Fairdale, on Saturday, April 23. Mr. Roy Mohagen and Rev. Gordon Berntson officiated at the service, with Edna and Helny Ohnstad providing the music. Burial was in the churchyard cemetery, six grandsons serving as pallbearers.

Mr. Westby was born in Walsh County, North Dakota, on April 6, 1891. He served with the U.S. Army in France in World War I. On November 29, 1919, he married Rose Mathison, and they lived and farmed in the Fairdale area until moving into Fairdale in 1957. He was active in community affairs and a faithful and devoted member of his church, where he served as treasurer for 26 years and was a trustee at the time of his death. He leaves to survive him his wife Rose, one son, Raymond, of Fairdale; three daughters, Irene of Minneapolis, Minnesota, Norma (Mrs. Gordon Berntson) Carrington, North Dakota, Joyce (Mrs. Donald Weiss) Maurine, South Dakota; one

brother; three sisters; 17 grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren.

Many gifts were made to the AFLC Schools in his memory.

—Corr.

### PERSONALITIES

Rev. Karl G. Berg has resigned as pastor of Olivet Lutheran Church, Spokane, Wash., and he and his family moved to 1482 Justice St. South, Salem, Ore. 97302, on June 20. An earlier report had them moving in July. He hopes to spend more time in writing now after leaving the parish ministry.

Seminarian Paul Nash did not go to Brazil this summer as reported as a possibility in an earlier *Ambassador*. He is serving Trinity Lutheran Church in Boscobel, Wis., on an internship assignment.

### FREE LUTHERAN SEMINARY OFFERS SHORT COURSE

The annual Short Course at Free Lutheran Seminary will be held July 25-August 5 and is open to pastors, lay pastors and interested laymen.

The faculty will consist of Pastors

John Strand, Amos Dyrud, Kenneth Moland and Francis Monseth. Pastor Monseth will teach only during the second week, as he is presently studying at Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, Mo. Pastor Strand will also teach in only one week, the first one.

Meals can be obtained in area restaurants. Rooms are available in the dormitories at \$2.00 per day; pillows and blankets are not provided. The registration fee is \$5.00.

Classes being offered are Worship, I and II Peter, Hebrews and Means of Grace. For further information, please write to Rev. Amos Dyrud, Dean, Free Lutheran Seminary, 3110 E. Medicine Lake Blvd., Minneapolis, Minn. 55441.

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(Continued from page 8)

Be it further resolved, that each congregation and individual within the AFLC be encouraged to protest in writing to their respective legislative officials.

(Note: The above resolutions were passed by the AFLC Annual Conference assembled in Fargo, N. Dak., June 8-12, 1977.)

## GETTING INVOLVED

by Gerald F. Mundfrom

It is May as I again write an article pertaining to the developments of our move and the mission work here in Nogales, Arizona.

We find ourselves in a vastly different environment than we were used to in Grafton, North Dakota. Sometimes I feel that I should pinch myself to see if I am really awake or only dreaming. But it is true. We are here, and both Margaret and I feel that God has led us to this place.

The calendar said that it was late fall or early winter when we arrived last November. We were used to snow and cold at that time of the year. But here the sun was bright and warm with a sky free of clouds most of the time. Quite often the temperature dropped to below freezing at night during mid-winter.

There is a sharp contrast between the rough, mountainous landscape here and the flat Red River Valley around Grafton. Instead of rich farm land, we see desert with rocks, sand, cactuses and mesquite trees. The small, spindly mesquite trees, with their crooked trunks and branches, sparsely dot the desert, hills and rocky bluff areas.

As we travel along the main high-

way which follows the valley, we see the mountains in the distance. From the mission grounds we can see mountains looming skyward across the border.

Ever since coming here, I had had a deep yearning to climb one of these mountains and to stand on the top of it. The opportunity has come, and we have made several climbs, the last to the top of Mount Wrightson (elevation 9453 ft.), the highest peak in the area. It involved over a ten-mile round-trip hike. We were told that we would use an altogether different set of muscles coming down than we used going up and that neither way was easy traveling. My trouble was that I used up all my muscle reserve going up and had nothing but tired, aching muscles to bring me back down. But we made it safely and it was fun.

The bulk of the people who live in this area are of Mexican descent. Spanish is spoken and some of the clerks cannot even speak English. We sometimes wonder if we are still in the United States. You sort of feel like you are some place between the United States and Mexico. When Mexico celebrated its independence holiday on May 5th with a parade in Nogales, Sonora, just across the border, they came across the line and also marched down the main streets of Nogales, Arizona. Our school band, including our Priscilla, marched in this parade on both sides of the border.

Getting back to the time immediately after our arrival. I was eager to be put to use and to get involved in the work here. I did not have to wait long. Our first task was to get unpacked and settled.

We had come to open a Christian bookstore here on the mission grounds, handling both English and Spanish materials. Lawrence (Pastor Dynneson) and I made some plans and began working and building to fulfill them.

For a number of years during his spare time, Lawrence had been building a house just up the hill a few yards from his home. This new house is a one-story house with no basement. And since it is on a hillside, it is being built on four levels. The plans are original. I am sure there is not

another house like it anywhere.

The plans we made were to finish this house, and upon completion we would move from our present house at the foot of the hill and near the road to this new house. Since the small house in which we are living is near the road, with parking space, this will make a good bookstore.

But this is a long range undertaking with just the two of us working at it during our spare time. The duties of this mission congregation would ever be our first responsibility.

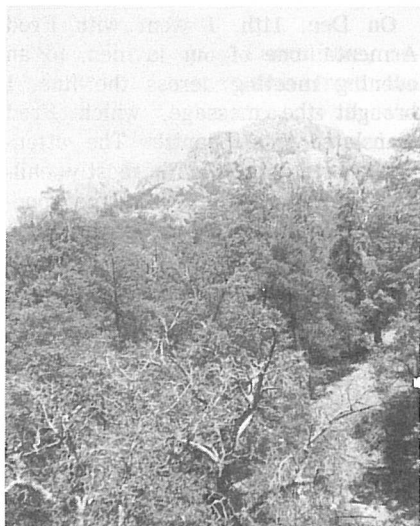
So we decided that when we completed a certain room, we would begin our bookstore ministry in that room.

At the time of this writing, now several months later, we have this room completed, but still have a ways to go before completing the house. We hesitate to say how soon it will be completed because there are many interruptions.

Our bookstore is open, but we have had very few customers so far. When we have the store where we eventually hope to have it, we believe it will be more noticeable to the public and more appealing to customers. We hope and pray it will bring more customers. However, it will take time and we are going to have to work at establishing a business and becoming known before we will realize any profit or support from the bookstore.

One of our first responsibilities here was to enroll our two children, Stephen and Priscilla, in the public school. Both of them had a fear of starting school in this strange new city where as yet they had no friends. They were in no hurry to get started. And it seemed that we put off the ordeal of getting them registered for school as long as possible. They wanted to help us get unpacked and somewhat settled first, so we let them help. We live about one and a half miles from school and they would be riding the school bus. This, too, was different from Grafton, where we lived only two blocks from the school. The school system is much bigger here than in Grafton and the facilities are crowded.

The office to which we were directed was buzzing with activity. It was the beginning of a new school



Mount Wrightson

period, with much changing and adjusting of schedules. It seemed that we had come at an inopportune time.

Many were waiting to be helped, but in spite of all this we were met with warmth and friendliness. Getting registered involved some red tape. It became necessary that we become established residents of the city so the school could draw tax support for educating our children. And then there were the decisions of choosing the courses and being placed in a class that still had room. It all got to be somewhat confusing for our children. In the process of this, the guidance counselor seemed to sense the stress, strain and fear they were going through and suggested they take the rest of the day off and start afresh the next day. Both Priscilla and Stephen jumped at this opportunity. So we all went home as we had come.

This first day was the worst. Then everything seemed to fall in place and both Priscilla and Stephen adjusted very well. They soon became acquainted with the system, the faculty and other students, and also made a few friends. The school nurse took a personal interest in them since she was from LeRoy, Minnesota, where we had once served. That was before Priscilla and Stephen were a part of our family, but it was good to have this small, rather indirect tie with the past.

We were not here long before getting involved in the ministry, and were asked to help with the teaching.

Sunday forenoon is a busy time here at the mission. The activities begin with Lawrence, Leonard and Kenneth picking up people for Sunday School and church. Sometimes the van given by the WMF is used for this.

At 9:45, we have "Moments in Prayer," when some come early to pray for the service and Sunday school.

At 10:00, Sunday School starts. It is a mixed group of both English- and Spanish-speaking people. The Sunday School superintendent, Molly Kennedy, repeats much of what is said in Spanish for the benefit of those who cannot understand English. The attendance is not large and consists mostly of adults. A number



The staff at the mission compound. Left to right, the Leonard Swansons, the Lawrence Dynnesons, the Gerald Mundfoms, and Kenneth Thompson.

of families moved from the area recently causing a great loss to the congregation. Some may have to work on Sunday. And then, like many other churches, there is the problem of laxity. Quite often there are visitors, tourists traveling through, and friends of the Association. It has been a joy and blessing to me to lead the adult class in Old Testament Bible History. The attendance has been good, considering this is a small congregation and a number of the Christians are teaching other classes. Class participation is good. The stress has been on preparing at home and sharing in class the blessings received. Some have taken this seriously and have found new joy and blessing in studying the Bible.

The worship service is at 11:00. We other pastors assist with the liturgy and Pastor Dynneson preaches the sermon.

The Spanish-speaking people meet in an adjacent room at the back of the church where an interpreter translates the message. All during the preaching this low mumbling can be heard and is a constant reminder that we are a mission congregation and have a responsibility to share the good news of the Gospel to the Spanish-speaking people of this area. We thank God for this opportunity.

Usually on Sunday evening Pastor Kenneth Thompson leads in a Bible study on one of the Psalms. Attendance has been small but it has been

encouraging to see some increase.

One Sunday evening a month is family night, with a potluck supper and program. Friends from one of our sister congregations across the border often come with their Mexican dishes. Communication is limited, but there is a warm spirit and much shaking of hands between the two groups. Almost all have learned to greet and say thank-you in both languages. Both groups take part in the program. The Mexicans like to sing and always provide some spiritual Spanish music. Some interpreting may also be done from Spanish to English now. It is a unique experience to be present at one of these gatherings.

I began leading the mid-week Bible studies on Dec. 8th. This has been one of my most encouraging experiences since coming here. We have had as many as 19 present. Quite a few different people have been present at one time or other, some being more faithful than others. Some who are not members of our congregation have taken an interest and have been present.

To begin with, we studied some of Jesus' parables. Then we completed my study on Jesus' seven letters to the churches in Revelation 2 and 3. At present we have begun the Bible study course which I have written on First Corinthians. This study is quite long and involved and will keep us going for some time. Nogales is a real proving grounds for me to test-teach the studies which I have written.

On Dec. 11th, I went with Fred Armenta, one of our laymen, to an evening meeting across the line. I brought the message, which Fred translated into Spanish. The attendance was small, with mostly children present. We met in a small one-room building with a gas lantern for light and a wood stove for heat. It was a cold night for Mexico and there was need for heat. The people sat on low wooden benches without back rests. The message was well received and everyone was friendly and in their Spanish tongue (which has to be translated) expressed their appreciation for my coming. It was a heartwarming experience.

During the Christmas season and

continuing into March, we had a number of visitors from our Association. Our first visitors were our daughter Rachel, who came from Bible School for the holidays, and Margaret's sister, Mary Lindquist.

Other visitors were Irene Torgerson, Fergus Falls, Minn.; Fred Adrian, Binford, N. Dak., Vince Larson, Buffalo, N. Dak., Russell Duncan, Fargo, N. Dak., LaVern Thompson, Fergus Falls, Minn., the Bjarne Hoves, White Earth, N. Dak., Harold Ostlund, Redman, Wash., Rev. and Mrs. Elden Nelson, St. Paul, Minn., and Elmer Miller, Finley, N. Dak.

Since Jan. 23rd, Lawrence and I have been going about every other Sunday afternoon to Tucson, where we started a Christian fellowship in the home of Mrs. Elva Seidel, who recently lost her husband. The Seidels were from our AFLC church in Badger, Minn. Our meeting place has been in two different homes and we have had seven such fellowship meetings on Sunday afternoons.

Besides all this, I have been doing some writing. After getting more organized, I am hoping to do still more. I have completed my Bible study on First Corinthians, which I started several years ago. I have all the lessons mimeographed. There have been some mail orders for these lessons as well as my other Bible studies.

I have planted a garden which is doing very well. It is exciting to garden here, because the early spring enables us to get an early start.

Will write again in several months.

## In Memoriam

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

### MINNESOTA

McIntosh

Helga Carlson, May 4, Mt. Carmel

### MICHIGAN

Ontonagon

J. Walter Myrblom, 74, April 1, Redeemer

# Women For Christ

## OUR CHANGING WORLD

The world is changing so fast. There are so many new ways of doing things. New ways of cooking, of keeping house, of entertainment, of travel, of talking, new ways of living in every facet of life. The thing about it is that it all keeps changing so fast we just can't keep up with it. What is new today is old tomorrow. It just seems that we can't keep anything with us long enough to feel comfortable with it.

We're living in a world of having to continually adjust ourselves to the new way. It seems that the ball of progress that once rolled comfortably on is now going at top speed. How far or how fast can it keep going? When will it stop? We don't know. But one thing that we can be certain of is that God never changes. Isn't it wonderful to know that He is the same yesterday, today, and for all of our tomorrows He will be the same. Isn't it wonderful that we can look forward to Him and that He is always with us? That is a comforting thought. What would we do if we did not have that assurance?

Life is often cruel. It has given us much unfairness. I know that the women who have lived many years have experienced that. There were times that seemed so dark and you just could not see ahead. There were times of joy, too. There were times of heartbreak when you were weary and tired. There were times of disappointment in friends in whom you trusted, but then, too, there were Christian friends who brought light and hope into your life. Wasn't it wonderful that through it all God was there and that He was only a prayer away and that you could leave your

burdens, your heartaches, your worries with Him? I've tried to sum this all up in a poem. I asked myself, "What would I have done if, many times in my life, I hadn't known that I could turn to God?" So, the more people we can reach with this message of God's love and blessings and grace, the richer many lives will be. The changes to which we all are subjected won't be as disrupting and discouraging and we won't worry how fast or how far the world moves because we know we have God and He never changes.

### What Would I Have Done?

What would I have done if I hadn't known You

When my world was so dark and I just couldn't see through  
The turmoil, the struggle, the heartache, the grief,

If I couldn't have come to You,  
Lord, for relief;  
Just what would I have done?

What would I have done, when my burdens and cares

Weighed so heavily on my soul and there was no one anywhere  
Who could feel what I felt; who could understand?

Only You, Lord; if You hadn't held me by the hand,  
Just what would I have done?

But in the darkness I knew that You were there!

And I poured out my heartaches and troubles in prayer  
And I asked that You take my worries away!

Supposing I hadn't known that I could pray,  
Just what would I have done?

(Continued from page 13)

Thank You for being my very best Friend.  
Thank You for showing me there just is no end  
To the blessings, the peace, the comfort You give;  
Thank You for showing me the better way to live  
When You gave me a Savior,  
Your Son.

Ellen Seeke Mattson  
Bessemer, Mich.

**SOUTHWEST CENTRAL  
WOMEN GATHERED  
AT WADENA**

Zion Lutheran Church of Wadena, Minnesota, hosted the spring rally for the Southwest Central District Women's Missionary Federation on Tuesday, May 3, Fred Carlson, host pastor. The theme for the day was II Timothy 2:15: "Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth." "Thy Word Is Like A Garden, Lord" was the theme song for the rally. The district president, Mrs. Norma Haugen, presided over the sessions.

Mrs. Dennis Gray, Spicer, led in devotions from Proverbs 1:1-7 and Psalm 111:10. Mrs. Steve Pierson welcomed us in behalf of Bethany of Blue Grass and Zion of Wadena from I John 1:3. A flip-chart presentation was given by Mrs. Milton Erickson, district Cradle Roll secretary. Mrs. Rodrick Stave, Wadena, led us in singspiration and music for the day was furnished by the Green Lake Ladies'

Chorus and the Bethany and Zion Lutheran ladies. The morning offering was taken for the AFLC schools and the afternoon offering for Life Membership and In Memoriam. A delicious noon luncheon and morning and afternoon coffee were served by the Zion and Bethany Lutheran church women. Mr. Moe of Grafton, North Dakota, had a Christian book display for us.

Pastor Ragene Hodnefield, Dalton parish, brought the morning Bible study to us from II Timothy 2:15. We need to rely on God's Spirit to teach us, to instruct us and give us a Godly zeal. We need to encourage one another as we see the day of Jesus Christ drawing near. A workman does not accomplish much unless he serves. Service is providing fellowship for your brothers and sisters in Jesus Christ. Colossians 3:23: "Whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men." Let us continue to serve God in building His Kingdom.

Pastor Kenneth Moland, dean of the AFLBS Bible School, brought the afternoon message, sharing with us about the work of the Schools and the part the WMF shares with the Schools. He challenged us that we are called to study. May it never be said that God sought one to be His servant but that he didn't want to be used. Set the goal before you to be a student of the Scriptures, he said.

A time of prayer fellowship was led by Mrs. Don Greven of Scandia Lutheran, using Hebrews 4:12-16.

At our business meeting, Mrs. Ted Aasness, Doran, Minnesota, was elected our new president and Mrs. Floyd Johnson, Sebeka, as treasurer.

A blessed day was enjoyed by all.

Mrs. John Arlen Johnson  
Secretary

**A MINISTER'S MUSINGS**



**CHANGED BY CHRIST**

"I never thought a girl could change me that much." A young man who recently married paid tribute to his new bride in this way. Prior to going with this girl, he had been a heavy drinker. However, due to her influence he had completely quit his enslaving habit.

A Japanese girl said that her life was greatly changed by a young man whom she admired. She was impressed by the kind look in his face and eyes. His kindness led the girl to question why he was that way. When she learned that it was because he had Christ in his life she became so interested in Christianity that she, too, became a Christian. Her life was completely changed through the positive Christian witness of that man.

A Japanese mother approached the lady in charge of a Christian Girls' High School. She said, "All the girls in your school are so beautiful." The teacher assured the woman that they didn't do anything to change these girls. All that they did was to teach about Christ; and then the girls were changed by Him.

The Bible tells us, "Therefore, if anyone is IN Christ, he is a new creation; the old has passed away, behold, the new has come." When we believe in Christ as our Savior, He changes us by making us into new people with a new spirit and a new heart. This newness results in a new way of life. And as we are changed by Christ, He will use us in the changing of other people. Have you experienced what a great change Christ can make in your life?

Einar Unseth

**BUDGET FOR 1978-79, ADOPTED BY ANNUAL CONFERENCE**

	1978-79	1977-78	Received in 1976-77
General Fund	\$78,630.00	\$72,680.00	\$64,156.03
Schools	143,190.00	119,452.00	100,110.31
Home Missions	75,000.00	75,000.00	59,900.31
Foreign Missions	113,512.00	85,345.00	82,851.26
Praise Program	35,000.00	30,000.00	27,621.53
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$445,332.00</b>	<b>\$382,477.00</b>	<b>\$334,639.44</b>

## LCMS CANDIDATES GIVE VIEWS ON THE ISSUES

St. Louis—(LC)—Continued participation in the Lutheran Council in the USA was supported by four of the five candidates for president of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod in interviews here. The fifth candidate suggested the high cost of participation may eventually make it necessary for the church to withdraw.

The five men expressed their opinions in interviews given at the end of April for a cassette tape summary which has been sent to the 1,100 delegates to the Synod's 52nd Regular Convention in Dallas, July 15-22.

Each nominee answered five questions in ten-minute segments on issues also including fellowship with the American Lutheran Church, dual membership in the Synod and the breakaway Association of Evangelical Lutheran Churches, the new inter-Lutheran hymnal and worship book, and goals he would pursue if elected to the top post.

Dr. August Bernthal of Winter Haven, Fla., fifth vice-president of the Synod, suggested that participation in the Lutheran Council should continue fully, since theological discussions are becoming more beneficial and practical inter-Lutheran efforts such as refugee resettlement have been "a real instrument in the hands of God."

Dr. Carl Heckmann, Texas District president, said work in the Lutheran Council should be "as much as possible." He cited council efforts in mission planting in Texas and in the area of theological discussion.

The Rev. Charles Mueller, president of the Southeastern District said, "I sure don't think we should be any less involved in the council and pan-Lutheran activities than we presently are."

Dr. J. A. O. Preus, Synod president for eight years, said present membership should continue "since the Lutheran Council is a service organization, not a church body . . . but a forum for discussion of doctrinal differences and accomplishing the tasks that we ask it to do for us."

The one cautionary note was voiced by Dr. Walter A. Maier, Jr., seminary professor and synodical fourth vice-president, who said that participation

in the council should be "to the extent that real, clearly demonstrable benefits accrue." He noted, however, that the high cost of participation compared with higher priorities "might preclude" continuing membership.

Dr. Maier also parted company with his fellow nominees in responses to the other questions.

With variations and some reservations the four other candidates generally supported continuing fellowship with the American Lutheran Church, keeping lines of communication open with the Association of Evangelical Lutheran Churches, and the new inter-Lutheran worship book.

Dr. Maier would cease fellowship with ALC members "who promote and/or condone the errors in the ALC," retaining fellowship only with those "... who clearly reject and oppose the errors (if) this can be done without the giving of offense." He would also end dual affiliation in the Synod and the new Association of Evangelical Lutheran Churches and delay approval of the proposed hymnal for study and evaluation by the 1979 convention of the church.

### SPECIAL EVENTS AT LUTHER LEAGUE CONVENTION LISTED

Here is some information about special events at the Luther League Federation Convention at Our Redeemer Lutheran Church, Kirkland, Wash., July 12-17.

Recreation— The afternoon schedule for the convention will be:

Wednesday— Roller skating; additional cost will be \$1.00 per person, including skates.

Thursday— Picnic at Marymoor Park; the afternoon will be spent in various activities at the park.

Friday— Sight-seeing trip to Seattle; this will include the Seattle Center (where the 1962 World's Fair was held) and the waterfront.

Saturday— Business meeting; the remainder of the afternoon will be free time

for people to visit places of interest on the east side of Lake Washington.

Special Events—The Saturday's Banquet is tentatively scheduled to feature pit-barbecued salmon. This is a specialty of the Northwest and is sure to be of interest and enjoyment to all attending.

Adult Breakfast—We would like to have a special time for the pastors and advisors to visit with each other and with Ralph Bell, evening speaker, as well as to have an opportunity of inviting others in the community to meet with Mr. Bell. To accomplish this we have arranged a breakfast at the Washington Athletic Club in downtown Seattle. The breakfast will be held at 7:00 a.m., Thursday, July 14. The cost will be \$6.50 per person.

The breakfast will include an excellent meal, special music, a message by Mr. Bell and a time for fellowship. It will be a part of our outreach in the greater Seattle area.

Please send your confirmation for the breakfast when you send your pre-registration. Remember this is a special opportunity for the adults only.

Side Trips—Some have asked for suggestions for a side trip while in the Seattle area. Following are a few suggestions: a day trip to Mt. Rainier; salmon fishing at Westport on the Washington coast; a several-day excursion to the Olympic Peninsula, including the Rain Forest.

For further and additional information you may write to the Seattle Chamber of Commerce, 215 Columbia, Seattle, Washington 98118.

Once again, thank you for your interest and your efforts to make this convention the most interesting and memorable ever held in the Association. The real reason that we are coming together is that we might see the Lord and that He might have the first place in our hearts and lives. May we always remember that and keep it as our first priority. We ask for your continued prayers.

P.S. Some are planning on staying the week following the convention to attend the Basic Youth Conflicts Institute which will be held in Seattle at that time.

## BAPTISM BOOKLET PRINTED

The Board of Publications and Parish Education announces the publishing and sale of the booklet "Biblical Baptism" by J. S. (Si Melby) at a cost of 50 cents each or 20 or more for 40 cents each.

These can be obtained from Miss Judith Wold, AFLC Parish Ed Dept., 324 N. Arnold, Thief River Falls, Minn. 56701, or AFLC, 3110 E. Medicine Lake Blvd., Minneapolis, Minn. 55441.

Board of Publications and  
Parish Education, AFLC

## SOUVENIR PLATES FOR SALE

Zion Ladies Aid of Alsen, N. Dak., has souvenir plates with a picture of the church on them for sale. A history of the congregation is on the back. These sell for \$5 apiece and there is a charge of \$1.50 for having them mailed out. If interested, please contact Mrs. Norton Skjerva, Alsen, N. Dak. 58311.

Rev. Wesley Langaas is pastor of the congregation.

## THE CHURCH AROUND THE WORLD

The kind of missionary needed in Africa today, according to a report by two mission executives, is the general evangelist who can preach, begin new churches, train leaders, and advise Christian groups. Medical personnel are also in demand.

An inspirational cover for cereal boxes has been developed by a Minnesota pastor for members of his congregation. The four-color cardboard "Jesus Jacket" contains Bible verses and a quiz for those given to breakfast box-watching.

The German Tent Mission, an indigenous group, was 75 years old in April. Founded in 1902, it is the oldest of 20 such groups in West Germany and assists churches in their evangelism outreaches.

**THE LUTHERAN AMBASSADOR**  
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Second-class postage  
paid at Minneapolis, Minn.

Tithing by credit card has been discontinued in an experimental program conducted by the National Council of Churches. Another part of the program, in which tithes are paid directly from the parishoner's bank account, is working well.

More Americans went to church in 1976 than at any time since 1958, reversing an 18-year decline. Forty-two percent of the population attended church or synagogue regularly. The 1958 figure was 49 percent.

—Tyndale House Publishers

## YOUTH BIBLE CAMP PLANNED

The youth Bible Camp of the Southwest Central Minnesota District of the Association of Free Lutheran Congregations will be held July 17-22 at Faith Haven Youth Lodge, Battle Lake, Minn.

The evening speaker will be Rev. Kenneth Pentti, Bessemer, Mich. The services will begin at 7:45. The Bible studies will be at 9 o'clock each morning with the district pastors sharing in them. The camp meetings are open to anyone who is interested in attending.

Faith Haven Youth Lodge is located on the north shore of Eagle Lake, approximately ten miles northeast of

Ashby, Minn., on Hwy. 78. Watch for a sign on the right side of the road. Camp phone is 218-864-5303.

The camp cost is \$20.00. An offering will be taken at each evening service.

## EASTERN NORTH DAKOTA DISTRICT WOMEN HAD RALLY

The Eastern North Dakota District Women's Missionary Federation rally was held on Saturday, May 1, at Trinity Lutheran Church, Minnewaukan, with Antiochia, Churchs Ferry, and Lebanon, Leeds, assisting. Rev. T. K. Skramstad is the pastor. The theme verse for the day was "For we are well able to overcome it" (Numbers 13:30b), and the theme song was "Nothing Is Impossible." The district president, Miss Pearl Aanstad, presided over the sessions. Song leader for the day was Mrs. Donald Olson, Fargo. Mrs. Warren Jensen, Valley City, presented the morning Bible study based on our theme verse.

An offering was received for My Missionary for a Day and Junior Missions. The afternoon message was given by Rev. Robert L. Lee, Valley City. His message was also based on our theme, Numbers 13:30b.

149 persons were in attendance.

Mrs. Russell Duncan, Secretary

## GOING WEST IN '77

AFLC Luther League Federation Convention

July 12-17

Our Redeemer Lutheran Church, Kirkland, Washington