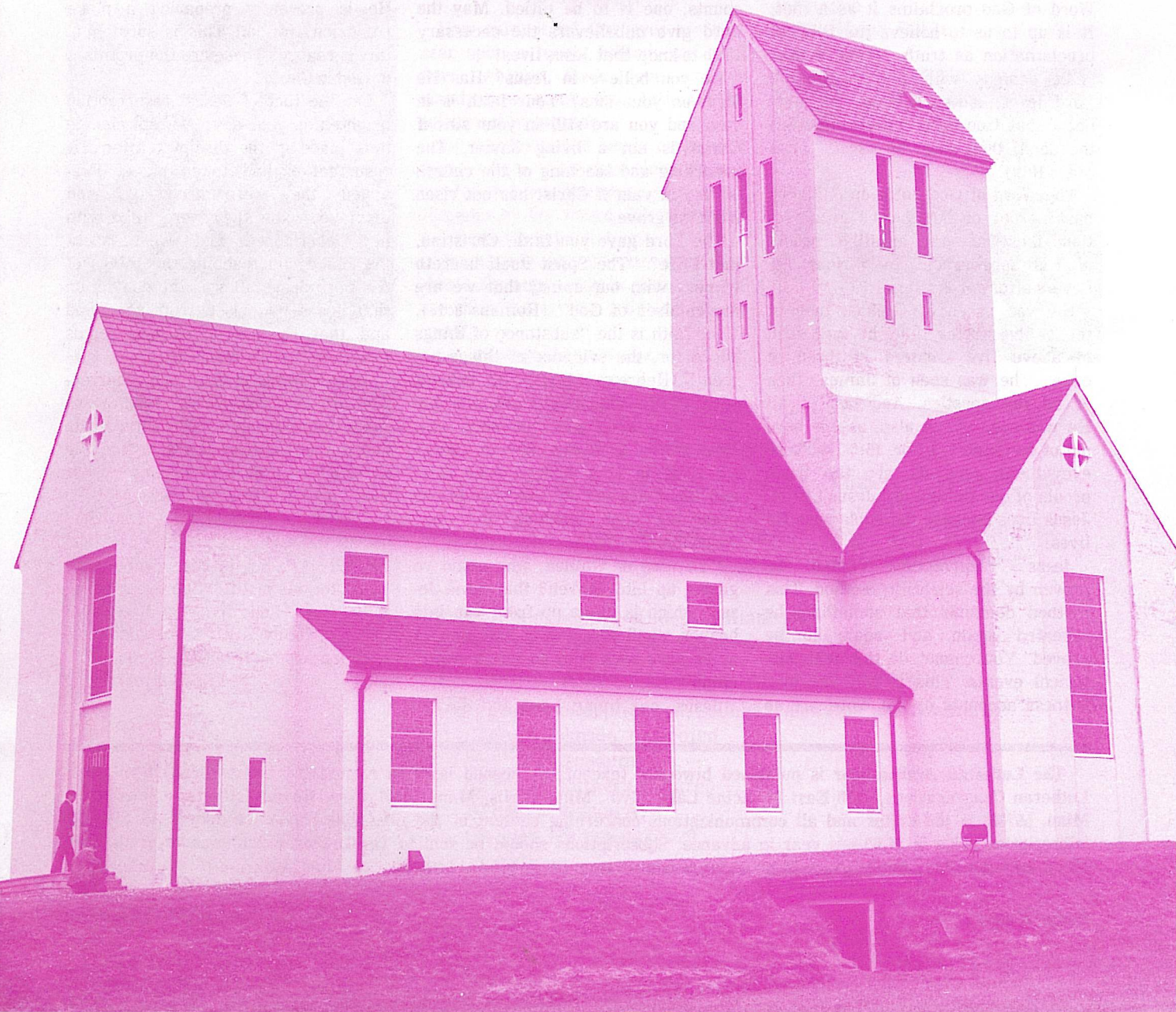


March 7, 1978

The Lutheran Ambassador

A LUTHERAN CHURCH IN ICELAND

Roger C. Huebner, D.D.S.



MEDITATION MOMENTS

JESUS LIVES!

The resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ is an established fact! The Word of God proclaims it as a fact. It is up to us to believe the Biblical proclamation as truth. "That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved" (Romans 10:9).

The Word of God holds up one very basic proof of our Lord's resurrection, these are the infallible proofs of His appearances to various believers afterwards (Acts 1:3).

He was "seen of Cephas, then of the twelve: after that, he was seen of above five hundred brethren at once... he was seen of James; then of all the apostles. And last of all He was seen of me also, as one born out of due time" (I Cor. 15:5-7). These eyewitness accounts are the basic proofs of our living Lord Jesus Christ. Jesus lives because the Bible says He lives!

Jesus' resurrection cannot be proven by the scientific method. This method demands that something be repeated again and again to be proved. You cannot do this with historical events. This is why the eyewitness accounts of the Word are so

very important and basic. If an individual cannot accept these accounts, one is to be pitied. May the Lord give unbelievers the necessary faith to know that Jesus lives!

Do you believe in Jesus? Has He forgiven your sins? Your faith is in vain and you are still in your sins if Christ is not a living Savior. The preaching and teaching of the church is also in vain if Christ has not risen from the grave.

The Lord gave you faith, Christian, didn't He? "The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God" (Romans 8:16). Your faith is the "substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen" (Hebrews 11:1). You haven't seen Christ physically, yet you believe. It is as if you have seen him. You serve a living Savior. Why? He lives in your heart! Your faith and labor are not in vain, nor is our preaching and teaching in vain! Jesus lives!

"Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven? this same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen Him go into heaven" (Acts 1:11).

Jesus, our living Lord and Savior,

is coming back again! Then He will take every believer to Heaven where He is presently preparing a place (mansion) for us! This is substance, this is reality! These are the promises of God in Christ!

Let the fact of Jesus' resurrection brighten up your day! A great change took place in the disciples after His resurrection had taken place. Previously they were discouraged and dismayed. Now they were filled with new confidence and went about preaching and teaching the things of the Lord Jesus! It was the conviction that Jesus had risen from the dead and that He now lives and reigns in heaven that spurred them on.

Joseph Stump states, "The resurrection proves the sacrifice which Jesus made for us on the cross satisfied in full the demands of God's justice. He suffered all that we deserved by our sins. If His sacrifice had not been sufficient, He would have remained in the power of death. He was delivered for our offences, and rose again for our justification. He has conquered sin and death and hell for us." We truly are "more than conquerors through Him that loved us."

—Dennis Gray

The Lutheran Ambassador is published biweekly (except the second issue in August) by the Association of Free Lutheran Congregations, 3110 East Medicine Lake Blvd., Minneapolis, Minn. 55441. Rev. Raynard Huglen, Newfolden, Minn. 56738, is the editor and all communications concerning content of the magazine should be addressed to him. Subscription price is \$4.00 per year, in advance. Subscriptions should be sent to The Lutheran Ambassador, 3110 East Medicine Lake Blvd., Minneapolis, Minn. 55441. Second-class postage paid at Minneapolis, Minn. Volume 16, Number 5

IF THERE IS NO RESURRECTION

I CORINTHIANS 15:12-20

by Pastor Einar Unseth,
Ortley, S. Dak.

When Mrs. Ito was baptized in the church I was serving in Japan, she gave her testimony of how she had come to Christ. Her contact with Christianity began when her husband was converted. As soon as he became a Christian he began witnessing to his wife. He also brought her and his children to church with him. At first his wife came very reluctantly. In fact, my wife once saw Mr. Ito actually push his wife inside the church door in order to get her inside. He was literally doing what the host instructed the servant to do in Jesus' parable of the great banquet—"compelling" her to come in. At her baptism Mrs. Ito admitted her initial lack of interest in Christ. She said, "At first I wondered how anyone who lived almost 2,000 years ago could have any meaning for me today." She stated that in time she came to see herself as a sinner and her need of Christ as her Savior.

Undoubtedly there are many people who are still wondering if the Resurrection of Jesus has any meaning for them today. Just what is the meaning of Jesus' Resurrection for us today? Apparently there were some people asking this question in Paul's day also since this is the question which Paul is dealing with in the 15th chapter of I Corinthians.

The Importance of the Doctrine of the Resurrection

The doctrine of the Resurrection is of supreme importance in the Christian religion. This fact of the Resurrection makes the religion of Jesus Christ different from and superior to all other religions. It is certainly true that there are similarities be-

tween some of the teachings of the false religions and those of Christianity. For example, Taoism teaches, "Recompense injury with kindness." Confucius taught, "What you do not want done to yourself, do not do unto others." When some people compare these religious teachings with those of Jesus they conclude that all religions are alike. However, no other religion has a founder who rose again from the dead. Thus the Resurrection of Christ makes our religion unique. I remember hearing a Japanese pastor once say that the Resurrection of Christ is so important that we should include it in every sermon. During His earthly ministry Jesus taught the Resurrection when He said, in John 5:28-29: "Do not marvel at this; for an hour is coming, in which all that are in the tombs shall hear his voice, and shall come forth: those who did the good deeds, to a resurrection of life, those who committed the evil deeds to a resurrection of judgment." He also taught the Resurrection in Matthew 16:21, where we read, "from that time Jesus Christ began to show His disciples that He must go to Jerusalem, and suffer many things from the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and be raised up on the third day." And on the third day after Jesus "was crucified, dead, and buried," He came forth alive from the grave.

In the New Testament, many people bear witness to the fact that Jesus Christ rose from the dead, for they saw Him alive after His death and burial. In I Corinthians Paul says that if there is no resurrection of the dead, then all of these accounts by those who saw the Risen Lord are false stories. If there is no resurrec-

tion then the important beliefs and practices of our Christianity are in vain. What are some of these things that would thus be in vain?

If Christ Has Not Been Raised, Then Our Preaching Is in Vain

Then we have been misrepresenting God. In other words, the apostles and all other pastors have been false teachers. However, when a person bears false witness he usually has a motive for doing so. What motive did the early apostles have, and what did they gain by bearing false witness to Christ's resurrection? It was then all loss and no profit for them. For when men heard them declare the Resurrection of Jesus from the dead, they began to put them into prison and to persecute them. It was the doctrine of the Resurrection that antagonized the religious leaders so much. In Acts 4, we are told that "the priests and the captain of the temple and the Sadducees came upon them, being greatly disturbed because they were teaching the people and proclaiming in Jesus the resurrection from the dead." Some of the apostles were put to death for preaching the Resurrection.

If those men were preaching in vain, then the logical result would be to give up the entire New Testament. Then we must give up the Sermon on the Mount, the miracles, the parables, the birth of Jesus, and the crucifixion account. Then all pastors have trained and studied in vain. All sermons have been prepared and preached in vain. All missionaries have served in vain. All congregations have been organized in vain.

But there is a Resurrection. The

Apostle Paul is a convincing witness, for at first he was a bitter enemy of Christ. Then one day the resurrected Christ appeared to him and transformed him so completely that he began to love and serve that One whom he had formerly hated. There has to be a real honesty about such a man. If Paul had not really seen the Risen Christ, he would never have said so. **Thus the Resurrection of Jesus assures us that all Word-centered preaching is not in vain but is being used of God to accomplish that which He purposes.**

**If Christ Has Not Been Raised,
Then Our Faith Is in Vain**

Then faith is of no value at all, for we have believed a lie instead of a fact. If Jesus didn't rise, then our faith rests on something that never happened. Our faith is then an empty faith, for there is nothing for it to lay hold of. Our believing God's promises is of no avail. Then we have believed in vain when we claimed God's promise in Romans 10:9, "That if you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you shall be saved."

Then we are like a certain girl who grew up without a father. Her own mother never told her the facts about her father. As this fatherless girl heard her classmates talking about their fathers, she began to have thoughts of inferiority. So her imagination went to work. She invented a story to explain the mystery about her father. This story became so fixed in her mind that she began to believe it herself. If there is no Resurrection then our faith is no more realistic than that girl's belief about her father.

If our faith is vain then there is no comfort for us in trouble. When disappointment and failure and sorrow come to us, faith in Christ will bring no relief. When we labor and are heavy laden, we won't receive any rest even if we come unto Him. Neither is there any help against temptation. And though we had believed that He would go with us through the valley of the shadow of death, we were mistaken. We will have to cross Jordan alone.

However, there is a Resurrection. Jesus' Resurrection assures us that our faith is not in vain, but that our faith rests in an actual historical act and in a real Person, the Son of God.

**If Christ Has Not Been Raised,
Then We Are Still in Our Sins**

Then all of our guilt remains. Though we believed that Jesus' blood had cleansed us from all our sins, though we believed that our many sins were all nailed to the cross, though we believed that our condemnation was all gone, we have been mistaken. We are still carrying the heavy load of all of our sins. We will never be able to get release from our guilt.

No atonement has yet been made for our sins. For if Jesus remained in the grave, that must mean that His atonement was unsatisfactory with the Father. If Jesus has been dead and buried all of these 19 centuries, then our debts to God are still unpaid. And we must expect to receive the wages of sin because there is no Savior to save any of us from eternal punishment.

Thanks be to God, Jesus rose again from the dead, and His Resurrection assures us that there is forgiveness of sins for all who trust in Him as their Savior. Jesus was delivered for our offenses and was raised again for our justification. God punished our sins in Christ and raised Him from the dead to make this forgiveness possible for us.

**If Christ Has Not Been Raised, Then
Those Who Have Fallen Asleep
in Christ Have Perished**

Then our loved ones who have died are gone forever. This life is all that there is, be it long or short. That dear child who died in infancy will never be seen again. If there is no Resurrection, then as we stand at the grave of our loved one, we must say an eternal good-bye. Then we have no word of hope to offer to that person who is suffering from an incurable illness. Then we can never receive any comfort when our family circle is broken by death. Then for this life only we have hoped in Christ, and we are truly of all men most to be pitied.

**However, God assures us in His
Word that there is a Resurrection**

"But now Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who are asleep." This fact brings comfort and hope in the day of sorrow and death.

Last November 39 people were killed by a flood at Toccoa Falls Bible College in Georgia. Surely there was the natural sorrow of bereavement pervading that campus as a result of that tragedy. Yet there was at the same time a note of triumph. One girl commented, "Sure, I'll miss my friends; but I know they're in Heaven, and I'll see them again someday." **Because of the Resurrection of Jesus those who have fallen asleep**

(Continued on page 6)

**Preparing Youth
for the Abundant Life**

Promotion Days Apr.14-15

Plan NOW to attend!

aflbs

School News

SPRING IS IN THE AIR

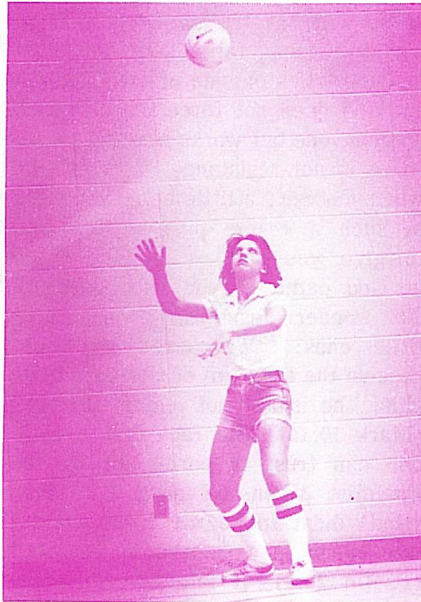
by Candi Weinkauf

Spring is in the air—and the class schedule, at AFLBS. Winter quarter is completed and the students are taking an anxious look into what a new quarter will bring. Seniors will concentrate their time in the book of Romans, the General Epistles, and Minor Prophets, along with studies in hymnology, missions, church history, and doctrine. The juniors foresee studies in Acts, Corinthians, ethics, and Christian education, with a continuation of study in Old Testament and doctrine.

Three new elective courses have taken their place in this spring's curriculum. God's will for your life and photography have been admitted in with the regular elective choices of Christian growth, homiletics, and the

various music areas. Pastor Phil Haugen began teaching Greek I in January. Five Bible school students accepted the challenge along with seminarians.

Not only does a new quarter inject new life, but anticipation and preparation of spring activities energize our winter-fatigued minds and bodies.



Tami Bjorgaard sends off her service. The team record thus far is 5 wins and 1 loss.

Easter vacation is just around the corner during which our choirs take to the road, singing and sharing the message of the Gospel. While the choirs are on tour, remaining students will be in preparation for the promotion days weekend of April 14-15.

Be much in prayer for the remaining months of school, through its many scheduled classes and various activities, until school concludes for the 1977-78 year at the graduation service May 19, 1978.



Nadine Solberg and Kathy Johnson prepare for the Valentine's Party on February 13.

TENTATIVE CHORAL CLUB TOUR

Thursday, March 16	Open
Friday, March 17	Lyle, Minn.
Saturday, March 18	Fergus Falls, Minn.
Sunday, March 19 AM	Fargo, N. Dak.
PM	Valley City, N. Dak.
Monday, March 20	Wallace, S. Dak.
Tuesday, March 21	Ortley, S. Dak.
Wednesday, March 22	Osakis, Minn.
Thursday, March 23	Upsala, Minn.
Friday, April 14	Home Concert AFLBS Chapel

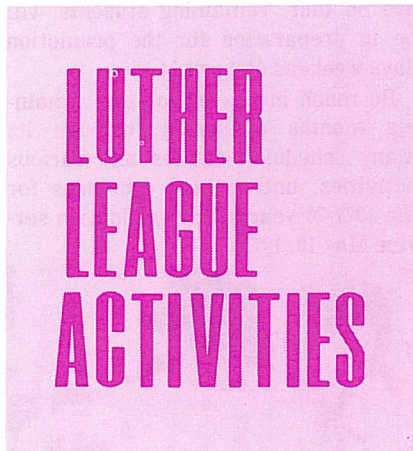
TENTATIVE CHOIR TOUR

Sunday, March 12	St. Paul, Minn.
Saturday, March 25	Buxton, N. Dak.
Sunday, March 26 AM	Grand Forks, N. Dak.
PM	Hatton, N. Dak.
PM	McVille, N. Dak.
Monday, March 27	Minot, N. Dak.
Tuesday, March 28	Tioga, N. Dak.
Wednesday, March 29	Kalispell, Mont.
Thursday, March 30	Travel to Everett
Friday, March 31	Everett, Wash.
Saturday, April 1	Bremerton, Wash.
Sunday, April 2 AM	Lake Stevens, Wash.
PM	Ferndale, Wash.

Monday, April 3	Astoria, Ore.
Tuesday, April 4	Eugene, Ore.
Wednesday, April 5	Kirkland, Wash.
Thursday, April 6	Travel
Friday, April 7	Culbertson, Mont.
Saturday, April 8	Hampden, N. Dak.
Sunday, April 9 AM	Grafton, N. Dak.
PM	Abercrombie, N. Dak.
Sunday, April 16	Home Concert AFLBS Chapel
Friday, April 21	Roslyn, S. Dak., parish
Saturday, April 22	Sacred Heart, Minn.
Sunday, April 23 AM	Spicer, Minn.
PM	Kenyon, Minn.

OTHER EVENTS

Youth Rally	March 11
"Shekinah" Gospel team Concordia College, Moorhead, Minn.	
Alumni basketball tournament	March 17-18
Volleyball tournament	March 28
Basketball tournament	End of March
Easter vacation	March 23-April 2
Promotion Days	April 15
Spring Banquet	April 29



BAPTISM—A WONDERFUL MEANS OF GRACE

In your Sunday School and confirmation classes, you have had opportunity to study together what the Bible says about baptism. Yet, there may be need for review and refreshment in the great Scriptural truths regarding this important subject. It is our purpose in this article to discover afresh with you what God's Word teaches. We want our faith based squarely on the Bible. Hearsay or second-hand information is insufficient.

Of interest to us at the outset is the power or effect of baptism. What good does it do? What happened when you were baptized? Did it make any difference? What does the Bible say? Let us notice together some of the promises regarding baptism.

The Teaching of Jesus

In the Gospel of Mark, the last chapter, our Lord Jesus gives the great commission to go into all the world and preach the Gospel to every creature. He shows that it isn't enough for people merely to hear the Gospel or message of salvation. He says, "he that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned" (Mark 16:16). Belief in Christ and receiving baptism results in salvation, He declares. Christ puts faith and baptism together in the plan of salvation.

Faith is a Gift

How does one receive faith to be saved? It is important to remember that faith, that is, personal trust in Jesus, is a gift of God. None of us can produce it of ourselves. The Apostle Paul writes, "For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God" (Ephesians 2:8). We can intellectually agree with the truths of God's Word but true saving faith, heart-felt trust in Christ, lies outside of our capability. God does not force his salvation upon anyone but works faith wherever there is non-resistance. That is why when you were a little baby, you were in such a prime position for God to give you faith when the Word of God came to you with baptism. No wonder Jesus says concerning little ones: "Whosoever shall not receive the kingdom of God as a little child, he shall not enter therein" (Mark 10:15). The fact that a little one can trust is borne out by the Psalmist when he says, "... thou (God) didst make me trust when I was upon my mother's breasts" (Psalm 22:9). If infants cannot believe, we shudder to think of their final state, for Jesus said, "... he that believeth not shall be damned" (Mark 16:16b).

Baptism is God's Work

Just as it is important for us to see that faith is a gift of God, so it is vital to realize that baptism is His work also. We misunderstand God's intentions if we think of baptism as something we do for God. This is to make baptism a good work that is done to merit salvation. Rather, baptism is a means of grace, a channel through which God bestows His wonderful forgiveness of our sins provided by Jesus when He died on the cross. That God has used such means, visible objects, to convey His blessing and deliverance, is seen throughout the Bible. In the next issue we want to speak of some of these means God has used and to see more of what He accomplishes through the means of grace, baptism.

Pastor Francis Monseth

MRS. J. O. REITAN

Mrs. J. O. Reitan (Anna), widow of Rev. J. O. Reitan, died on Nov. 21, 1977, in Minneapolis, Minn., at age 92. She had been mentioned in the Christmas 1977 issue of the *Ambassador* in connection with the article "Christmas on the West Coast of Norway."

Following her husband's graduation from Augsburg Seminary, Minneapolis, in 1916, he served parishes, first in the Lutheran Free Church and then the Evangelical Lutheran Church. The first one was in Elbow, Sask., Canada. The couple was married in 1916. Pastor Reitan died in 1947. She had lived in Ebenezer Homes, Minneapolis, for some years.

Among survivors are a son, Rev. J. R. Reitan, Boise, Ida. AFLC pastors Gray Skramstad, Maplewood, Minn., and Timothy Skramstad, Minnewaukan, N. Dak., were grand nephews of Mrs. Reitan. She was a native of Valley City, N. Dak.

Blessed be her memory.

(Ed. note: I had made the acquaintance of Mrs. Reitan at Ebenezer Homes in recent years.)

(Continued from page 4)

in Christ have not perished.

What meaning do Jesus and His Resurrection of nineteen hundred years ago have for us today? His Resurrection assures us that our preaching is not in vain, our faith is not in vain, we are no longer in our sins, and our loved ones who have died in Christ have not perished. If we know the crucified, risen Lord Jesus Christ as our Savior, then let us thank Him this Easter for having died for us. Let us thank the Father for having raised Him from the dead. If you yet lack this blessing of salvation, then won't you ask Jesus to make Himself known to you, and won't you respond by inviting Him into your life?



A PAGE FOR CHILDREN

Happy Acres



JOSEFA

There was no sleeping late Sunday mornings at Happy Acres. For at eight-thirty the Johnsons must be ready to start for the church three miles away.

Getting ready for church was something that started on Saturday evenings when Mark collected eight pairs of shoes and took them to the basement to clean and shine for Sunday wear. Polishing shoes had been Steve's job until a few months earlier when Dad assigned the job to the younger brother. Now Steve's part of getting ready for church was to quiz each of the children who had memory verses for Sunday school, and to stack the Sunday school books in order on the vestibule bench.

To Ann was given the duty of undressing Beth, putting the little sister in the tub and giving her knees the special scrubbing they needed before they were ready for Sunday. When the baby girl was dried and in her pajamas, Ann took her to Dad. Dad carried Beth to the old Grandpa rocker. Soon he was rocking her to sleep while he half-sang, half-mumbled a lullaby.

Melissa and Paul had no special Saturday evening duty except to get their own knees scrubbed clean enough for Sunday.

On Sunday mornings, Mark and Steve were out in the barns with Dad, helping with the chores. Done with this work, they dashed to the house, washed up and got into their best clothes—before Melissa, at 8:25 o'clock, would bong three times on the big brass dinner gong a missionary friend in India had sent to the Johnsons. When that dinner gong sounded,

every Johnson must be out of the house and into the car.

Then down the graveled road they drove to the whitespined church set among cedars and maple trees. Because Mom was organist, she entered through a rear door at the church, while Dad and the children joined other families greeting one another and filing into the church.

This particular Sunday was an extra special day for the Johnsons. For a missionary from Madagascar was preaching—and this missionary had come from the very mission station where Josefa lived.

Josefa was a young Malagasy—but the Johnsons felt that he belonged to their family. For three years, Dad had sent money—and clothes—to the mission station to take care of Josefa's needs while he was at the Bible School. Josefa was a Malagasy chief's son. He had run away from his father's village so that he could learn more about Jesus. When Josefa became a Christian, the chief and his whole family would have no more to do with him. So, when Dad learned about Josefa—in a letter from a missionary friend there—the Johnsons just decided they would adopt Josefa.

Only a month before, a missionary at the Bible school had told Josefa about the family in America that had been providing his needs. Just a week ago the Johnsons had received their first letter from Josefa and in it was a snapshot of Josefa. Everyone at Happy Acres excitedly looked at that picture of a wavy-haired, brown-skinned, husky young man. Steve had exclaimed, "Look at

those muscles, will you? He looks like he could bend a steel fence post!"

Now Dad led the family to the pew where the Johnsons liked best to sit—the pew closest to the organ. Mom had just begun to play softly as they sat down, and right after the steeple bell rang, she began the opening hymn, "From Greenland's Icy Mountains."

Then Pastor Dale and the missionary appeared. The missionary was old and gray-haired. When he stood in the pulpit to preach, Ann knew she had seen his picture in the missionary magazine at home. As he told about his work with the heathen people in Madagascar, she kept wondering about Josefa and whether she would ever see him. Well, maybe she could be a missionary nurse and go to Madagascar—then she could meet Josefa!

When the service was over, Pastor Dale brought the missionary directly to the Johnsons and said, "Reverend Peterson, these are the Peter Johnsons you want to meet."

The old missionary's eyes glowed happily. "So you are Josefa's family!"

"Oh," exclaimed Dad eagerly, "you know Josefa?"

"Of course, I know Josefa. I have had him in my classes at the Bible school. Ever since he learned about you Johnsons, he has been so very happy. When he heard that I was going to America on furlough, he told me over and over again how he wished he could sneak into my trunk and go with me so he could see his family. His own parents, you know, will not see him any more."

Then Missionary Peterson took Dad's hand, and said, "Mr. Johnson—Josefa told me there is something you could give him that he would greatly prize. His own people will not have him. They have disowned him. He would be grateful if you would give him your name. He would be proud to be Josefa Johnson."

Suddenly, there were tears in Dad's eyes. His children had never seen him weep before. The tears sparkled in Mom's eyes, too—and first thing the Johnson children knew, both their parents were dabbing at their eyes with handkerchiefs.

But Dad smiled, too, as he answered the missionary, "We shall be proud to have another son in the Johnson family! Josefa is a son I have prayed much for!"

Missionary Peterson's voice was very gentle when he said, "We are 'all one in Christ Jesus!' (Gal. 3:28). It doesn't matter whether we have white skin or black skin or brown skin when we love Jesus—then we are truly one family."

(Note: Generally, mission boards do not encourage a family or a church group to "adopt" a particular individual at a mission station. The adopted person may consider himself a little better than his fellows because of such special adoption. Also, when an adopted individual fails to meet expectations, the sponsor may feel his efforts wasted.)

MEMORY VERSE: He has made of one blood all nations of men for to dwell on the face of the earth, and hath determined the times before appointed, and the bounds of their habitation (Acts 17:26).

FAMILY DISCUSSION

1. In the sight of God, is there any difference between the black or the white man? Is the soul of one any more precious than the soul of the other? (Acts 17:26; Malachi 2:10; Galatians 3:28)

2. What, more than anything else, will make people of different races to be true friends? (The love of Christ. See John 13:35; I John 1:7)

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

Perhaps I was DREAMING

WHICH LEVEL?

Life has three levels, each one above the other.

I

The lowest of these is the realm of the "strong man," the man of brawn, the wrestler, the pugilist.

In this realm the man of feeble physique is of little account. He may be learned, cultured, wise; but what is that to brute force? The strong man may slay him with a swing of his fist; he is safer among his books.

II

Yet the man of thought inhabits a higher realm, and his intellect may call into play forces that make the physical giant seem like a gnat in a November gale. Here brawn is valued only as a basic support for brain.

On this higher level the hero is the man who can think, reason, argue, disrobe superstition, baffle bigotry, and build up impregnable conclusions. And here, as a rule, the merely good man is of no more account than is the man of learning among prize fighters.

III

But beyond this lies the third realm, brightest and best of them all. Here dwell the true nobles of mankind, the saints and seers of the ages, they who love and help men. Seldom have they been honored, seldom recognized. Despised and rejected most of them were, and some of them were persecuted. Yet there, on the sun-kissed heights of the highest level they dwell, where life attains its full fruition.

Entrance? Ah, passage from kingdom to kingdom is not by individual effort. No amount of trying will enable the turnip to become a bird, or the bird a man, or the man a Christian. "Ye must be born anew," for "flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God," and "the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God." "Ye must be born anew."

—C. A. Wendell

editorials

THE LIVING GOD

In a sermon we heard once in a series of special meetings, the speaker emphasized the living God. He used it in the sense that it is with the living God that we have to deal.

For the Christian Church, Easter season is a great opportunity to speak about the truth of the living God, for Easter is the season of resurrection, of victory over death.

Some years ago a cult of "the death of God" theologians grew up. They gave comfort to none but the atheists. Some observers wisely pointed out that the heresy wasn't new for even immediately after the resurrection of Jesus took place there were those who said it wasn't so. Spread the story that His disciples stole the body and thus explain the empty tomb, they said. And so began the attack upon the physical resurrection of Jesus which continues to this day.

But equally convinced are those of us who believe that Jesus rose bodily on the third day. Cited as proof are the testimonies of those who saw the risen Christ, the other witness of Scripture and the development and growth of the Christian Church in the world. There is no other way to explain the presence of the latter than belief in a living God.

And what message does the fact of a living God, a risen Christ, bring above all others? Surely we would agree that it is hope.

Ever since Cain killed Abel survivors have asked one another, themselves and God, "Is this all?" Or, "if a man dies, will he live again?" The Old Testament idea of a shadowy existence beyond the grave wasn't particularly comforting.

The resurrection of Jesus opened a whole new ground for hope for He came back from the dead. Death and the grave were conquered. His disciples remembered how he had spoken of His own being with Him forever. When

they saw Him on this side of Calvary they knew that it was so.

Today we have to live by faith. This world remains this world. Not until life ends for any of us here will we see the Christ over there. So we live by faith and hope.

One more thing, never let the reader forget that there is a resurrection which can take place in this life. It is the resurrection from spiritual death. To be spiritually dead is to be dead in sin, dead unto God. It is possible to rise from such a state to new life. This may be done by throwing oneself on God's mercy and believing in what Jesus has done.

Such miracles of resurrection are taking place with regularity in this day of grace. But let no one delay decisions that ought to be made today. It would be a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God in judgment.

These days are not especially encouraging, as we look at the world. One could easily become pessimistic. But the fact of the resurrection is a certainty. God lives. We have a living God. Nothing can destroy the believer then, even though this earthly tabernacle be destroyed.

May you have a joyous and blessed Easter!

THAT FINAL REPORT

By now you have had a chance to study the final report for the Association's fiscal year 1977-78. It appeared in the previous issue.

We had our second straight year of receipts at the third of a million dollars mark. And, of course, the only way to go is up. We close the books on one budget and immediately begin on the new one. And because of the needs, first of all, and because of inflation, the budgets will rise.

Notice these facts about the recently completed ingathering:

Increase in receipts over previous year: \$23,723.82

Percent of increase: 7%

Percent of goal reached: 93.7%

Note further that the goal was about \$20,000 lower than the previous year, when only 83% of the goal was reached.

We can rejoice that the goal for World Missions was exceeded by almost 11 percent and that the goals for General Fund and Home Missions were met, for all practical purposes, the shortfalls being very small.

Disappointing are the deficits for Schools (\$19,643.81) and Praise Program (\$8,871.21). The deficits can only detract from the effectiveness of Praise Program and Debt Retirement funds presently on hand.

It would be interesting to learn why these two items consistently fall behind in percentage of goals reached.

Pastor John Strand has already addressed words of thanks to the congregations through letters to the pastors for the good support of our people and other friends of the work. We join in that expression of gratitude. The Lord is providing and we can only be very thankful.

Let us pray that He will be able to make us more and more the instruments of His purposes in this world.

16TH ANNUAL WINTER BIBLE CONFERENCE HELD LAST MONTH

The 1978 Winter Bible Conference of the Association of Free Lutheran Congregations was held Feb. 1-4, at Calvary Lutheran Church, Fergus Falls, Minn. It was the 16th such conference conducted. Host congregations were Stiklestad Lutheran Church, Doran, Minn., and Calvary.

Evening speaker for the conference was Rev. Dennis Gray, Spicer, Minn. On Wednesday evening he used Isaiah 40:1-10 and James 1:17 as his texts for the message. He pointed out that God gives comfort to every repentant sinner and this is one of the "good and perfect" gifts of God of which James spoke. Man is wretchedly sinful, Pastor Gray declared, but no matter how grievous his sins are, God will forgive the repentant sinner. Only unbelief damns him. We can hold the Lord to His promise of forgiveness, the Spicer pastor told his audience, for His Word is reliable.

He then went on to point out two things Jesus has done for us: He lived a perfect life for us, fulfilling the Law, and He suffered and died for us; and one thing he is doing for us now: He prays for us in the ministry of intercession.

In his second sermon, on Thursday night, Pastor Gray, former secretary of the AFLC, used Romans 10:1-10 as his text. He spoke on assurance of salvation, asserting that it is possible to know one is saved, in spite of the contention of some that it is presumptuous to claim such assurance. He discussed seven reasons why people do not have assurance: 1) conflicting denominational approaches to Scripture; 2) pastors and churches emphasize "wrong" doctrines or unessential ones, thereby confusing people when they hear a truly evangelical message; 3) unconfessed sin; 4) inability to distinguish between Law and Gospel; 5) Satan causes sins to be brought up again and again, even when they are forgiven; 6) people depend on their feelings, which vary; and 7) they've never made the step to come to Christ, which is an act of the will.

In conclusion, Pastor Gray went

over a ten-question quiz on salvation which had been handed out to audience members earlier.

Mark 12:32-34a was Pastor Gray's text for Friday evening. He said that many church members are like the scribe in the text, almost persuaded. Another such was King Agrippa, Acts 26:28.

Pastor Gray listed six reasons why people remain thus far in an "almost persuaded" state: 1) they are afraid of what others will say if they turn to Christ; 2) friends keep them away; 3) fear of what their spouse will think or do; 4) the judgmental attitude of some Christians chills them; 5) the fear of displaying "weakness," a problem especially for men; and 6) an unwillingness to let go and to let God have His way in their lives.

The pastor, who also serves Zion Congregation in Willmar, said that anyone outside the kingdom of God ought to know the excuse which keeps him out and pray that God would make him willing to be willing to pay whatever price there is in taking the decisive step. He reminded his audience to "believe on the Lord Jesus Christ" and "he who believes and is baptized will be saved."



Calvary Lutheran Church, scene of the Winter Bible Conference.

The Bible studies for the conference, all five of them, were led by Rev. John Strand, president of the AFLC. At the last minute he replaced Rev. B. Rao Dasari, teacher at the Association Schools, who had become ill. Pastor Strand chose to guide a study through the Book of Philippians, a letter of Paul, which he called a very warm letter and in which the writer's pastoral concern is clearly evident. (It is impossible to summar-

ize a Bible study of this length in the space available and readers should read through Philippians to refresh their memories of the spirit of the Letter.)

Lectures were given on four great Bible words by pastors of the church. They were Repentance, Marvin Haara, Sacred Heart, Minn.; Faith, Ralph Rokke, McIntosh, Minn.; Justification, Albert Hautamaki, Minneapolis, Minn.; and Sanctification, Francis Monseth, Minneapolis. Abridged versions of these lectures supplied by those who delivered them will be carried in four future issues of the **Ambassador**, beginning next time.

The other major presentation of the



Rev. Wendell Johnson, left, and Rev. Elden Nelson chat before the presentation on Home Missions.

conference was one on Home Missions by Rev. Elden Nelson, Dickinson, N. Dak., director of Home Missions in the AFLC. It included the showing of slides. Pastor Nelson reviewed the structure of the mission endeavor and explained the distinction between the Church Extension Fund and the Home Mission fund. The former is a loan fund, the latter for the purpose of making outright grants and subsidies. The goal of Home Missions, he reminded the audience, is to establish and aid free, living, Lutheran congregations.

On Friday night a Gospel team from Association Free Lutheran Bible School in Minneapolis, The Living Hope, provided the special music for the service. The team was en route to the Abercrombie, N. Dak., parish for the weekend.

(Continued on page 15)

THY WILL by Oswald J. Smith

O Lord, I long to do Thy will, to walk with Thee each day,
Yet I have often missed the path, and turned to my own way.

But now I want to follow Thee, my Savior crucified,
And never wander from the Way, but keep close by Thy side.

Thy way is best, though dark or fair, and I need never fear.
I'll leave my future in Thy hands, for Thou art ever near.

Tho' floods of sorrow overwhelm my soul from day to day,
Yet will I put my trust in Thee, and let Thee have Thy way.

So many things would claim my time, but they are not for me;
Thy will alone must be my goal—I yield, dear Lord, to Thee.

WMF REMINDER

Dear Ladies:

April brings many signs of new life all around us. Let us work together prayerfully and financially for "new life": bringing new souls into God's kingdom.

At your WMF meeting in April you will have the opportunity to give to Cradle Roll and Junior Missions. Make your Cradle Roll ministry a labor of love. Reach out in welcoming friendship to families with new babies or pre-schoolers. Let us each look for ways to show forth the love of Christ to others.

"By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another" (John 13:35).

Mrs. Eugene Enderlein

W.M.F. BIBLE STUDY



April, 1978

PERSEVERANCE

Read Proverbs 31:10-31.

Someone has said that the secret of happiness is not to do what you like to do, but to learn to like what you have to do. It cannot be found by searching. Jesus said to the disciples: "Seek ye first the kingdom of God, and His righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you." The "things" He speaks of here give us security and happiness and supply our needs. The chief goal must be to "seek His kingdom." Therein lies the secret of happiness. In Him we find higher levels of living to which we can never attain by ourselves. There is peace, satisfaction and joy in walking with the Lord. The heavens call, He speaks, let us hear!



1. Where does our greatest joy find its origin? Psalm 1:2 _____
2. What did Jesus tell His disciples, in Luke 9:62? _____
3. What did Paul and Barnabas in Antioch urge upon the believers? Acts 13:42, 43 _____
4. What are we admonished to be, in I Corinthians 15:58? _____
5. List the four instructions given to us in I Corinthians 16:13. _____

Read Ephesians 2:10. This is God's intent for us as Christians. It is not just for us to be made happy, that is a by-product. It is, in fact, inescapable. The same is true of our finding peace. Jesus purchased and won this by His anguish on the cross. "The chastisement of our peace was upon Him." We are saved to good deeds and to take up the fight against sin. They are God's own works, worked in us by His own Spirit and very valuable to us as weapons against sin. We do not need to strive hopelessly against our sinful desires. We do not have to do something out of the ordinary. Have you ever thought how important friendliness is? There is no greater service to those with whom we associate day by day. Good will is great lubrication.

6. We read in Ephesians 1:15-23 of the greatness of God's power toward us. What is our need, in Ephesians 1:18? _____
7. As God's children, what is our ever present resource, as stated in Ephesians 6:18? _____
8. Read Colossians 1:20-23. What does Paul urge upon us in verse 23? _____

9. How did Paul conduct himself as he went from place to place? II Thessalonians 3:7-13 _____

10. What was his admonition, in verse 13? _____

11. Read I Timothy 6:6-14. What is our great need, in verse 6? _____

12. There are six qualities of a child of God mentioned in verse 11. List them. _____

13. How are we directed to keep His commandments, in I Timothy 6:14? _____

Victory over sin is the victory of faith in Jesus. We must daily turn to Him and acknowledge our great need for His guidance and grace. The fight of faith which the believer wages is a struggle to get away from self and to grow in Christ. When we have certainty about our salvation, our lives are more effective. God wants us to labor for Him in the confidence of His undegrudging love. Being fully justified, we know that if we fall, He will restore us to a place of usefulness through confession and repentance. This takes perseverance! There must be growth in our faith and vision. This comes by prayer, a diligent study of the Word of God, and through Christian fellowship. Read Psalm 138:3. His quiet and mighty presence gives us peace and security in the difficulties of life. His mercy is in the midst of adversity, poverty, sorrow and even death. This courage is included in God's atonement for us. Christ came to give the answers to the three enduring problems of sin, sorrow and death. It is Jesus Christ alone who is enduring and unchanging. Read Hebrews 13:8. In the restless sea of human passions, Christ stands steadfast and calm, ready to welcome all who will turn to Him and accept His blessings of safety and peace.

14. What is the exhortation in Hebrews 3:6-13? _____

15. The Book of Revelation speaks of the results of Christian perseverance. What is said in one of these crowning verses? Revelation 2:10b. _____

W M WORLD MISSIONS

THE FIELDS ARE WHITE UNTO HARVEST

ALVORADA BOUND

by Pastor John H. Abel

It happened several months ago, but I recall the experience as if it were just last week. I was scheduled to have five days of evangelism outreach in our congregation furthest out, Alvorada. The day was beautiful and being that I was going alone on this trip I got a relatively early start. I hoped to be in the little town by 4 o'clock, but was a little concerned as I remembered how much it had been raining for the last two weeks. How high would the river be? Should I go the long way around? Taking the river route meant that I could arrive an hour earlier and there would be much less rocky road for the Jeep.

I stopped at a country store near the fork in the road where the decision had to be made. Questions: "How's the river crossing? Any Jeeps and trucks passing that way? Has the river gone down yet?" The answers seemed reassuring, but somewhat vague. Well, there would be one more store at which to check, a few miles before the crossing.

Arriving at the second store I could see that a little community was gradually building up around it. I saw a rice hulling machine, a bar, a school, etc. Again the inquiries about the river. "Well, a couple of trucks came through this afternoon." So I headed down and at the bottom of a long incline, behold, the river.

They call it the "mucky leo," lots of white water in various places, not too wide at the crossing, perhaps 150 feet, and supposedly quite shallow. It didn't look so shallow that day so the first precaution was to remove the fan belt and so prevent water from being picked up by the spinning fan and thrown all over the motor. That didn't

take over five minutes and then I reduced into the lower gear range and with the four-wheel drive in gear I headed into the fast moving waters.

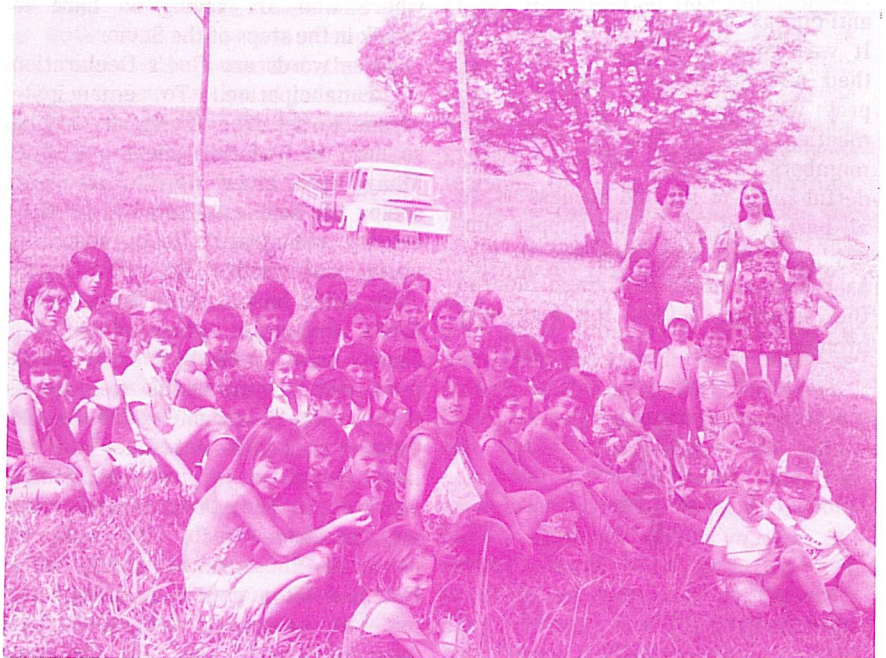
You don't see any trails in the river, so the worry is, am I following the shallow path? Will I stray off into some hole? Is the river really fordable today? I thought that I was getting a negative on a couple of these questions as I saw the water being pushed up by the front of the Jeep, felt my feet getting wet and saw the strong current going by me. A sort of spontaneous prayer went up, "Lord, keep this engine running. Lord, if I can only make it below the little island where the current dies away." The little island came up on my right; we were still bouncing and slowly moving, just another 30 feet to the shore. Hey! we're going to make it! Oops! there's a cough and

a sputter and a dead engine, but we had just pulled out of the water.

The trick now was to dry out the spark plugs, distributor coil and, of course, replace the fan belt. In about ten minutes this was done, but after repeated tries, no engine fire.

Well, about three miles to Alvorada, plenty of time to walk and arrive in time for the evening service. The only problem, it's almost all up hill and what hills! Some seem to go a quarter of a mile straight up. So locking up the Jeep, the hike began. It was still plenty warm out and all along the way I passed farmers threshing their bean crop with a method as old as that used by Abraham: cut, pile, beat and throw into the wind for cleaning. I could tell that I'm still a little overweight and out of shape on a climb like this. An hour later, sweaty and out of breath, I walked down the main street of the little town. Alvorada is about six years old now, but recently got electric lights. It looks like a real cowboy town with wide streets and horses tied out in front of stores and bars all over the place.

When I got to the deacon's home, Oscar and his wife Esther were getting ready for supper. Since supper would delay us a little, Oscar felt we should get a Jeep taxi and go back



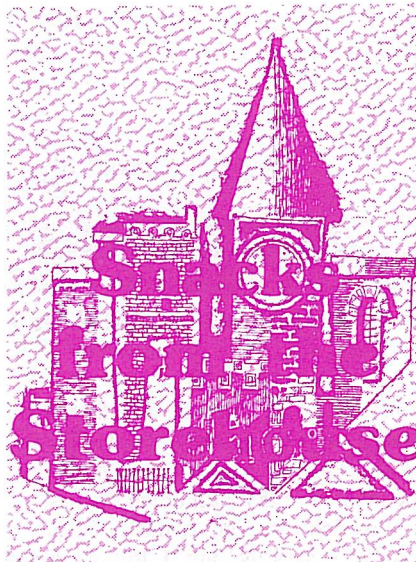
A church school picnic. Note the two teachers in the background.

to the river and get the projector equipment and other valuables from the car. In another 20 minutes or so we were back at the river trying to start the Jeep, even pulling it, but it was to no avail. So we transferred the baggage to the taxi and hurried back to town for a quick supper and then the evening service.



The Jeep after the river crossing. It is being dried out.

In retrospect, I remember with joy those few days in Alvorada. Of course, all other visitation trips and happenings of the week seemed like an anti-climax after the river crossing. It was good to help the men paint their new parsonage. It was good to pray with several souls during the meetings and to receive three new members on Sunday. We felt a wonderful spirit of joy and oneness as we all partook of the Lord's Supper Sunday afternoon and, needless to say, as I headed home to Campo Mourao that evening, I took the long way around.



GOD'S EMANCIPATION

"It is Finished." What tremendous words from the King's Table! And the table was set "in the midst of" His enemies. The words come from a blood-spattered cross—to struggling, burdened, laboring folks all over the world. Folks who like Nicodemus are trying so hard to reach up to God. Religious folks who somehow haven't seen Him as He is, reaching down to them. They come to down-and-out folks like Zacchaeus who are trying so hard to climb their particular sycamore trees to see what their needy heart demands. They come to church folks everywhere who are trying so hard to "walk in the steps of the Savior."

These words are God's Declaration of Emancipation. To emancipate means to set free. Folks are trying so hard to find fulfillment and rest. Many have given up the struggle, seeing the hopelessness of it all. Others try and struggle on in despair—crying out for help.

We were looking into the Land of God's abundance, going along with Joshua on a "guided" tour. A young man, with longing in his eyes, asked if there wasn't some Word that could become a key to entrance into the land. Somehow we want something we can do. Something tangible that we can hang on to. God's answer comes in these three words: It is Finished. Stop your struggling, trying—yes, even your begging God to do something to help. He has done all there is to do. He has done all that

can be done. A while back I read a book: **The Emancipation of Robert Sadler**. It tells the sordid horrors of slavery—and he was one of the slaves. The Emancipation Declaration came as a Christmas gift to millions of slaves in the year 1865. Robert was born in 1911. Born to be free, he became a slave and lived most of his life under horrible conditions.

God's Declaration of Emancipation was made 2000 years ago and it is for all who will listen. What you are trying so hard to do—is done. Why continue as a slave when God invites you to become a son? Lay aside your "Prayer Book" for a while and pick up a Hymn of Praise—and come. Then the "New Song" will begin, even praise unto Him.

Karl G. Berg

O SING WITH EXULTATION

O sing with exultation,
Sing to the Lord, rejoice!
And in His congregation
Shout with triumphant voice!
For, lo, at God's right hand
Is Christ in glory seated;
With death and hell defeated
As Victor He doth stand.

Since Christ, our Lord, is living
We never more shall die;
To God the glory giving
We rise to Him on high;
Though chastened we may be,
And to our graves be taken,
We unto life shall waken
And live eternally.

Christ is the sure foundation
The builders did reject,
But He for our salvation
Is precious and elect,
And made the cornerstone,
On which the Church is founded,
This marvel now is sounded
The work of God alone.

To Thee, O Christ, be glory,
Who camest in His name!
Thy people sing the story
Thy praises to proclaim;
We thank Thee and adore,
O Christ, our Lord and Savior,
Thy grace and boundless favor
Stand fast forevermore.

A. C. Arrebo

(from **The Lutheran Hymnary**)

(Continued from page 10)

Morning devotions were led by the following laymen: Thursday—Bob Dietsche, Sand Creek, Wis. (Heb. 4:9-16); Friday—George Hartmann, Dalton, Minn. (Ps. 37); and Saturday—Arlo Kneeland, Summit, S. Dak. (Acts 23:11 and 1:8).

Various persons provided special music during the conference. Mrs. Harry Molstre of the local church was the conference pianist. Session leaders were Rev. Julius Hermunslie, Fergus Falls, Rev. Wendell Johnson, Stacy, Minn., Rev. Kenneth L. Anderson, McVille, N. Dak., and Rev. Ronald Knutson, Drummond, Wis., the latter three being members of the AFLC's Co-ordinating Committee.

Catered noon meals were served at the church. Coffee breaks were served by the women of the host congregations.



Rev. Marvin Haara, who gave one of the conference lectures.



Mr. Joe Breden, Wyndmere, N. Dak., left, and Mr. Morris Borstad, Tioga, N. Dak., visit during one of the breaks.

THE RESURRECTION

If there is one fact in the history of antiquity for which we have corroborative evidence and the conclusive proof of an abundance of eyewitnesses,

it is the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

It is the resurrection of Jesus Christ which gives us the incontestable evidence and the blessed assurance that the Word of God and the promises of our Lord are truth.

All who live in Christ and who fall asleep in Christ open their eyes on a fuller life. And so we move on from a life that is severely and painfully limited by reason of sin and all its evil consequences to a life that is full and complete and join the company of the angels and sainted ones to be reunited forever and ever with our loved ones who have gone on before. That is the meaning of Easter-time.

(Selections from O. A. Geiseman)

"HE IS RISEN"

How calm it is! Our eyes are cast afar upon a lonely hilltop, wet with dew, whence three lone crosses stand, now quiet, too, beneath the solitary morning star.

We wander to the lonely crypt once more, where three days since we laid our fallen Lord. We hoped to gain His kingdom by the sword. His body took our hopes behind that door.

But what is this? The stone is rolled away. An angel, clad in white, stands guardian there, and tells us "He is risen!"

Let us sing and make joyful in this

glorious day! A golden sun is dawning bright and fair. 'Tis Easter morn! All hail our risen Lord and King!

Author Unknown

(The Glory of Easter, Ideals, 1971)

CRADLE ROLL PROGRAM HELD

The Calvary Ladies Aid, Fosston, Minn., held a special Cradle Roll program on December 21, 1977, at 3:00 p.m., at the church. Enrolled into Cradle Roll in a special program were: Katrina Lea Schmidt and Katrin Marie Winkelmann. Following the program a lunch was served with all the Cradle Roll children as guests of honor. Pictured are: Kathi Rokke with Jennifer; JoAnn Foster with Jason and Erica; and Nancy Schmidt with Katrina. Missing from the picture are Naomi Winkelmann and Katrin.

Rev. Ralph Rokke is pastor of the congregation.



JOB OPENINGS

Two teachers—one elementary major (Kindergarten certificate helpful)
one secondary major (any area acceptable—some administrative duties also)

St. Paul's Academy—Cloquet, Minnesota
(an outreach of St. Paul's Lutheran Church)

B.S. degree, Minnesota teaching certificate necessary

Send a letter of application, college transcript, and resume to:

Clifford Johnson, chairman
St. Paul's Academy
St. Paul's Lutheran Church
18th St. & Wilson Ave.
Cloquet, Minnesota 55720

The College Age Group of Bethany Lutheran Church in Bemidji, Minn., meets on Friday evening for Bible study in the homes of the group. They also hold breakfast meetings. We would appreciate and encourage the pastors of the Association to send us names of youth attending Bemidji State University or the Vocational School.

The Mission Circle of Bethany Lutheran Church has a prayer chain which has been in effect for two years. The members have seen many answers to prayer.

The men of Bethany will put on an Easter breakfast following the Easter sunrise service at the Beltrami Nursing Home. The men have a prayer breakfast each Friday at 6:30 a.m.

Grace Lake Bible Camp will be held June 22-29 at Grace Lake of Bemidji. Scheduled speakers are Bible study teacher, Mr. Charles Kvanvig, and Pastor Wendell Johnson as the evening evangelist. Pastor Ray Persson will serve as dean.

PASTOR INSTALLED, NEW CHURCH ENTRY DEDICATED AT MAPLE BAY

On Sunday morning, Oct. 23, 1977, the sun opened his eyes, looked down on a fog-shrouded community, blinked again, threw off the blanket of clouds and gave us a beautiful sunny day for the installation of Pastor Bruce Dalager and the dedication of our new entrance at Maple Bay Lutheran Church of the Winger, Minn., parish.

Special music was furnished by a group of young married couples who call themselves "The Voices of Praise." Pastor and Mrs. Dalager are members of this group. The sermon

was preached and the installation conducted by Rev. John P. Strand, president of the Association of Free Lutheran Congregations. Pastor Dalager gave a response.

A fellowship dinner followed the service, served by the Ladies Aid.

In the afternoon at 2:30, the dedication service was held with this program. The audience sang "Built on the Rock." Scripture lessons were read by Harold Moland, Byron Ness, Robert Broden and Wayne Floan. The kindergartment of the Sunday School sang "I Love Sunday Best." Pastor and Mrs. Dalager sang a duet and The Voices of Praise sang "Bless His Holy Name" and "On Christ the Solid Rock I Stand." The audience sang "I Love Thy Kingdom, Lord," followed by the service of dedication, led by Pastor Strand. He said that the entrance is a new entrance to a house of worship, to acceptable worship, acceptable service. It isn't what we do, but what God does through us that

builds. He likened the beautiful rock work on the exterior to the "Rock of Ages." He went on to say that the entrance was like a light showing us a way into a pasture for nourishment of our souls. In closing, the audience sang "Now Thank We All Our God."

In charge of construction were: Gus Haugen, general construction; Ted Nordheim, electrical; Tom Kronschabel, bricklaying; and Ove Moen, stonework.

The building committee consisted of Robert Broden, Kenneth Oien and Rueben Iverson. Those on the finance committee were Harold Moland, Wayne Floan and Ivan Nordheim.

The Lord has blessed us in so many ways, but I think that as we all sat listening that Sunday afternoon, in our hearts, we were the most grateful that the Lord had answered our prayers and sent us the pastor we had asked Him for, to fill the vacancy we'd had for some time.

Mrs. Ivan Nordheim



The new entrance to Maple Bay Lutheran Church



Left to right, Pastor Bruce Dalager, Ivan Nordheim, Harold Moland, Wayne Floan, Rueben Iverson, Kenneth Oien, Pastor John Strand and Robert Broden. The laymen were members of the building and finance committees.