

November 14, 1978

The Lutheran Ambassador

BETHEL LUTHERAN CHURCH, GRAFTON, N. DAK.

(See story in News of the Churches)



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(The first of a series)

MEDITATION MOMENTS

CONTENTEDLY THANKFUL

"I know how to get along with humble means, and I also know how to live in prosperity; in any and every circumstance I have learned the secret of being filled and going hungry, both of having abundance and suffering need" (Phil. 4:12).

Paul has learned to be content and to cope with all circumstances. The secret is Christ, as he expresses it in verse 13: "I can do all things through Him who strengthens me."

Paul is content. That is a virtue that could be practiced a little more today. It is unfortunate that the more we have the less content we are. On the other hand it is possible to be so content that we forget to be thankful. When we have achieved a certain standard of living, reached a certain goal, we are satisfied and forget from where it came.

Notice that Paul says he has "learned the secret" of having much and of having little. Apparently this was an attitude which he had not always known, but experience showed him otherwise. Like most other matters of the Christian life, this also is something that needs to be learned.

Learning to survive in humble means is not so hard for it's really not a matter of choice. It is simple survival. Many people can recall the lean years

of their life (if not at the present) which they recognize as being beneficial. Some mention the Depression years as being a great training period for learning to live with little—and being very satisfied with that. It is said that even a repeat of such a drastic event would be good for our materialistically-oriented society. It would indeed be an unusual experience for some to "learn" to get along with one car instead of three; or for an entire family to share one bicycle. But with no other choice, we learn. Such experiences can be to our benefit if we accept them in that spirit.

But Paul has learned something else also—how to live in prosperity. Many who have learned to manage well with little sometimes fail miserably when they begin to prosper. Fail, that is, in respect to godliness. God has always warned His people that when things are going good—watch out! Moses reminds the people that God is bringing them into a land of brooks, fountains, springs, wheat and barley, olive oil and honey, a land "in which you shall not lack anything. When you have eaten and are satisfied, you shall bless the Lord your God for the good land which He has given you" (Deut. 8:8, 9).

When fortunes are restored and blessings are multiplied our thinking

can change. When we have nothing we are thankful for anything. When we have plenty we want more. It produces the attitude that says "It's mine," and "I did it all myself." It may promote a clutching and miserly attitude which prohibits any enjoyment or God-fearing response.

It is unfortunate but a Christian often disgraces himself more in prosperity than in adversity. There is more to turn our attention away from the Lord and depend on something else. God made the world, and it was very good. He wants us to use it and to bless us through it, for the material produce of the land is very much a part of the total spiritual blessing of God. It is not wrong to be prosperous, but it can be dangerous. As in many other areas of the Christian experience, it takes a special grace to handle abundance.

We make it difficult for God when our attitude is wrong. He wants to bless us, yet when He does we tend to neglect Him, turn away, and find ourselves in a position where He can no longer bless us. Yet it need not be so. By God's grace we can learn to be content and ever more thankful. It is a divine lesson to know how to be full—and still praise God.

—Wesley Langaas

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The Measureless Mercies of God

By Lay Pastor Gustav Nordvall, Roseau, Minn.

"Oh that men would praise the Lord for His goodness, and for His wonderful works to the children of men!" (Ps. 107:21).

It was Thanksgiving Day 1959. A special one it was, I thought, as I made my way along the old familiar path between the house and the barn with two full pails of skim milk to feed the calves after having run it through the cream separator, after the evening milking. Having finished, I turned back at the door to see if everything was in order. The calves had their fill of milk, the cows were munching in a contented rhythm on a choice feeding of alfalfa and the cat was finishing a dish of warm milk. I turned off the lights and closed the door. The evening chores were done.

The air was crisp and cold on that November evening on this northern Minnesota farm, only one-half mile from the Canadian border. I could remember many a Thanksgiving Day spent here, as this was the homestead that my parents had settled when they immigrated from Sweden. Here I had spent my childhood days as well as my youth and early adult years.

This year it was different. My parents had moved to town during the summer and my wife and I had taken over the farm. This Thanksgiving we would entertain my side of the family, that is, the ones who lived near by.

I hurriedly removed my work clothes, washed away any remaining trace of barn-smell and changed to clean clothes just in time to see two cars full of people turn into our driveway.

Everything was in readiness. The old extension dining table had been lengthened to the limit. There were settings for 15, ready for the guests.

The aroma of delicious food filled



Pastor Gustav Nordvall

the house. My wife, a bride of five months, had accepted the challenge of hosting this company with joyful anticipation and high efficiency. She looked a pretty picture as she bustled about in the kitchen, her cheeks flushed from working over the wood-burning cookstove, the top filled with kettles and the oven loaded as well. The supply of wood in the woodbox was down somewhat, after keeping the stove going at full capacity for several hours. It served as a means of heating a good part of the house as well.

After the usual round of greetings, removing of overcoats, caps and gloves, we were seated at the table. My father and mother, my brother, his wife and children, my sister, her husband and children, my wife and I. Fifteen in all with king-sized appetites.

I remember reading from Deuteronomy 8. I recall especially verse 10: "When thou hast eaten and art full, then thou shalt bless the Lord thy God for the good land which He hath given thee."

Like any other American family, the table was laden with more variety of

good things to eat than I can remember. If there had been any secret doubts among the members of my family as to whether or not this girl I had married could prove capable of being an ingenious hostess, it was forever removed after this meal.

As I look back to that Thanksgiving, now almost 20 years ago, I am aware of the many changes since then. The old wood-burning cookstove has long since been retired and moved to the basement, ready to be used "just in case," but never has. It has been replaced by an electric servant. Other changes have been made about the house, for the better, I admit. The old barn stands silent now. The cream separator stands in one corner. There are no cows in the stalls. The barn serves as a woodshed and for storage for "miscellaneous things."

My parents have both been laid to rest years ago and the children of the two families have grown up and now have families of their own. We still meet here at the old farmstead each year, but there are fewer of us now.

"Whatever change comes about, nothing has been taken away from us really; we are that much richer in memories."

Soon again in a countless number of American homes these scenes will be re-enacted. There will be the tempting aroma of delicious food and appetites that will rise to the challenge. There will be laughter, music and fun. All this belongs to the festivities. Whatever change comes about, nothing has been taken away from us really; we are that much richer in memories.

We thank God for our homes and families. These have provided us with such a storehouse of joy. I had not realized this fully until our own daughter was born. For ten years she has added something each day to our lives and made our home complete.

I feel that it is not necessary for me to tell you that Thanksgiving does not consist of celebrations and platters of rich foods. We know that these things come to us from a heavenly Father who provides so abundantly.

The writer of the Psalms reminds us: "O give thanks unto the Lord; for He is good: for His mercy endureth for ever." In several places we are told that the giving of thanks is not only a duty. It is an expression of joy. I remember a proverb that says: "It's a poor heart that never rejoices." And another, a French proverb, puts it this way: "Gratitude is the heart's memory." Jesus said: "Out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh." So thanksgiving is a matter of what the heart is full of. A word of thanks comes easily from one whose heart is filled with the joy of His salvation.

"And let them sacrifice the sacrifices of thanksgiving, and declare His works with rejoicing" (Ps. 107:22).

Sacrifices were mandatory for the people of Israel. There were sin offerings, burnt offerings, peace offerings and the like. Leviticus lists a number of them, among them the thank offering (Lev. 7:12).

A sacrifice is an act of offering something to God, especially a victim on an altar, something that is given to destruction. It is the giving up of something for another. We can best understand this when we consider the sacrifice of our Lord Jesus Christ. "But now once in the end of the world hath He appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of Himself" (Heb. 9:26b). As for us, a sacrifice of thanksgiving is that which is given in gratitude unto the Lord for all that He has done for us. The psalmist declared: "Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all His benefits: Who forgiveth all thine iniquities; who healeth all thy diseases; Who redeemeth thy life from destruction; Who crowneth thee with loving-kindness and tender mercies" (Ps. 103:2-4).

Some years ago at a Bible Camp, I remember how young campers would

"It was not the abundance of wealth that moved these people to thankfulness."

sing this table grace; "For life and health, and every good, we give Thee thanks, O Lord." Short and to the point, this concise prayer brings us very near to the reason for thankfulness. We remember from our American history how the first Thanksgiving was celebrated less than a year after the Plymouth colonists had settled in the new land. The first dreadful winter in Massachusetts had killed nearly half of

the colony. The corn harvest in the summer of 1621 brought new hope. Governor William Bradford decreed that a three-day feast be held. It was not the abundance of wealth that moved these people to thankfulness.

Let us consider anew the measureless mercies of God, not only in a material way, but also in the way that He has opened to us the riches of His everlasting kingdom.

"By Him therefore let us offer the sacrifice of praise to God continually, that is, the fruit of our lips giving thanks to His name.

"But to do good and to communicate forget not: for with such sacrifices God is well pleased" (Heb. 13:15-16).



"ALL IS SAFELY GATHERED IN"

—Henry Alford

RNS Photo

LUTHER LEAGUE ACTIVITIES

"VINETASTIC BRANCHES"

"I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from Me you can do nothing."

As we stated in our first article, love for Jesus has to be the heart of our motivation in evangelism. To be an effective witness, this love must be deepened and refreshed on a daily basis. If a Christian young person charges out in zeal for Jesus without a daily plan of renewal, he soon cools off. Maybe some of you have had this experience? Coming home from Bible camp, a youth rally, or maybe a special service in your church, you have been excited to go and win your friends for Christ. Then within a few days your eagerness has turned into fear or compromise. I know this is very discouraging and Satan can cause you to doubt your own assurance of salvation. Take heart! Jesus has a wonderful plan of renewal for you. A plan that will draw you to Him and make evangelism a natural fruit of your life.

This daily plan of renewal is commonly called devotions. Devotions is just the right word for this quiet time for through its moments you become devoted and loyal to your Jesus. During devotions the Holy Spirit can carry forth a great life-changing process in you. Many different spiritual purposes will come forward, all developing you into an effective disciple of Christ. Old habits that lessened your witness and divided your loyalties will be cast away. New insights into the tremendous power and wisdom of God available to you will be claimed. Your love

for Jesus will be renewed daily and therefore your priorities will center in Him.

Devotions will firmly fix in your heart and mind the steps of repentance and believing faith that every soul must take. Because of this, you will no longer use short cuts in witnessing. Godly zeal that is enlightened by the Word will replace the former zeal of the flesh. During this time in the Word and prayer, spiritual cooling off and compromise will be dealt with by conviction, first of sin and then of grace to overcome. Yes! Your heart motivation of evangelism is sustained and deepened through daily devotions leading you to say, "Lord, lay some soul on my heart today that I might bring him to Thee!"

Now we are ready to talk of some practical methods we can employ in personal evangelism. With our hearts motivated by love for Jesus and groomed through His abiding presence in devotions, we can expect to bear fruit. Philippians 4:13: "I can do all things in Him who strengthens me."

Our next article will present Word-centered ideas for winning souls.

Pastor Michael Brandt
Amery, Wis.

NEWS, INFORMATION, TESTIMONIES

All would be welcome. This page is for Luther Leaguers. Feel free to make use of it. Write to me: Tad Spading, Devotional Life Secretary, LLF, 10447 N. E. 110th, Kirkland, Wash. 98033.

PERSONALITIES

Address of the (Pastor) *Trygve Dahles* until over the Christmas holidays will be c/o Mrs. M. M. Hilliard, 3685-74-unit 2, Vista Campana, North, Oceanside, Calif. 92054. They went west for the funeral of his brother-in-law, Mr. Hilliard, and are spending some time with her and other family members on the Coast.

PRAISE TO GOD, IMMORTAL PRAISE

Praise to God, immortal praise,
For the love that crowns our days!
Bounteous Source of every joy,
Let Thy praise our tongues employ!

For the blessings of the field,
For the stores the gardens yield;
Flocks that whiten all the plain;
Yellow sheaves of ripened grain:

All that spring, with bounteous hand,
Scatters o'er the smiling land;
All that liberal autumn pours
From her overflowing stores:

These to Thee, our God, we owe,
Source whence all our blessings flow,
And for these our souls shall raise
Grateful vows and solemn praise.

Anna Laetitia (Aiken) Barbauld
(from *The Hymnal*)

BACK TO GOD!

Back to God! should be the nation's cry. Back to Him, because we owe it all to Him, this wonderful prosperity of ours.

David Bruning

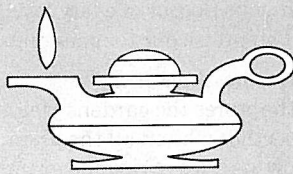
BATHE ME IN YOUR BRIGHTNESS

Bathe me in your brightness,
oh my God.
Caress me with sunrises of
warm exhilarating light.
Love me with creation
and I will remain forever Yours.

I kneel before the majesty
of the milkweed seed.
Even as You bring life
from a brown pod which splits
freeing seeds to sail to the
ground . . .
and die . . .
So blow Your Spirit on my life stem.

Sever me from my self
that I might find
the good earth and fruitfulness.

Dale Stone
Minneapolis, Minn.



SCHOOL NEWS

Chaplain—Mike McCarlson, Webster, S. Dak.

West Coast Vice-president—Lyle Forde, Lake Stevens, Wash.

Patricia Erickson
Secretary

NOTICE

All AFLBS alumni are encouraged to pay their annual dues of \$5.00 as soon as possible. Please make the checks payable to the AFLBS Alumni Association. Send your payment to our Alumni treasurer. Thank you.

John Schlenk
1123 Trailwood North
Hopkins, Minn. 55343

BIBLE SCHOOL/SEMINARY CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Nov. 19—Ordination and commissioning of Charles Kvanvig and David Abel.

Nov. 20-22—Bible School fall quarter final exams

Nov. 23-26—Fall quarter break

Nov. 27—Begin winter quarter

(Continued on page 8)

AFLBS ALUMNI ASSOCIATION MET

The Alumni Association of Association Free Lutheran Bible School held its annual meeting on Oct. 7 during Homecoming on the campus. President Don Balmer presided at the meeting which resulted in the following discussion and decisions:

1) There will not be an alumni retreat next spring, but the executive committee will decide whether or not one will be held some time between Nov. 1, 1979, and Feb. 15, 1980.

2) The executive committee will meet on a quarterly basis from now on: at winter Bible conference, annual conference, Homecoming and one other time.

3) The Alumni Association will meet twice a year, at annual conference and Homecoming.

4) Alumni are to be informed of the \$5.00 annual dues. See the notice elsewhere in this issue.

5) For better information among alumni on the West Coast a vice-president will be selected from that region.

6) The executive will appoint alumni representatives in the various districts of the Association (AFLC), beginning with the 1979 Homecoming. They will be contact people in the areas.

7) The present committee on scholarships was retained: Orpha Flaten, Rev. James Fugleberg and Joel Rolf.

8) The decision will be made concerning the planning of next year's Homecoming, whose responsibility it will be.

9) The minutes of the annual meeting are to be submitted to the editor of the *Ambassador* for printing.

10) The district representatives to

be named are to make a report at the first annual conference after their selection "in reference to progress and validity of their positions."

11) Alumni are to urge more local support for AFLBS. They were reminded that the Bible School has \$15,000 outstanding in debts by former students.

The following were elected as new officers of the Association:

President—Jerome Stulen, Spicer, Minn.

Treasurer—John Schlenk, Minneapolis, Minn.



SEMINARY GOSPEL TEAM

Free Lutheran Theological Seminary has, for the first time, a Gospel team. At least four seminarians and a faculty member plan to make the weekend trips to proclaim God's Word through song and preaching.

Congregations wishing to have the seminary team visit their area may contact the dean's office. November 11-12 is scheduled as the team's inaugural trip to the Bagley, Minn., parish.

Pictured L. to R.: Paul Nash, Paul Abel, LeRoy Flickinger, Ted Kennedy, Jr., John Kjos. Seated: Frank Rutherford.



A PAGE FOR CHILDREN

Happy Acres



MELISSA'S FIND

Melissa's light steps scampered up the walk to the house. She met her mother on the back stoop, and cried, "Look, Mom—look what I have!"

"Oh, a cocoon! Is it an empty one?"

"Oh, I don't know."

"Here. Let me see it." Mom took the cocoon still fastened to a twig which Melissa had broken from a bush. She felt carefully of the soft spun case and then said, "This one is alive—inside! We'll put it in the bay window, and one of these days we'll have a real surprise. You'd better keep your eye on this cocoon—or the surprise may get away from you."

And Melissa did watch the cocoon carefully. She would run to inspect it every hour or so. When she left for school the next morning, she took a last look at the cocoon and hoped the surprise would wait until she got back.

The surprise waited. Not until Saturday when the Johnsons were about to sit down to eat did Melissa see any difference in the cocoon. Now she noticed a tiny hole in one end—a hole that little by little was getting bigger and bigger. Excitedly, she called the family to see.

Carefully, Dad took the twig and cocoon and set it on the table where all could watch while they ate.

The hole slowly grew larger. Mark was the first to spy the head of a butterfly coming out of that hole.

Not a word was said as all the Johnsons watched the butterfly crawl out, then cling to the outside of the cocoon.

"See its wings?" asked Dad. "They are still damp. Just a little while now, and they'll dry. Then the butterfly will

try its wings for the very first time."

Soon the wings began to flutter. Suddenly, the butterfly darted upward, then settled on a geranium in the bay window. Then it flew around and around while the children watched in glee. Soon after Mom opened the back door wide, the butterfly found its way outside.

"I once saw a butterfly carved on a gravestone," said Dad, "because centuries ago the butterfly was made a church symbol of the Resurrection. Hundreds of years ago when the first Christians would tell how Jesus rose from the dead, and how each of us who die in the Lord will likewise rise from the dead, they would sometimes explain this Resurrection by telling the story of the butterfly.

"First, you know, the beautiful butterfly is nothing but a plain little grub or larva. Then, when it has lived a short summer time, it spins its cocoon around itself and goes to sleep inside. If you were to open a cocoon in the winter time, you would find this little grub inside, and you would be sure it must be dead. But it isn't, even though it is frozen and doesn't move.

"Then, when spring comes, the sun warms the cocoon. The grub inside wakes up. It gnaws its way out of the cocoon—and comes out into the warm sunlight. Then it finds it isn't an ordinary grub any more, but it is a beautiful butterfly!

"That's the way with us people. We people are plain and ordinary. When we have lived our short while on earth, we die. Then we are put in our cocoon—that's the grave. But on the

great day of Resurrection, Christ will call us from the grave. We'll come out into the sunshine of His light, and we'll find that we don't have the plain, ordinary bodies we had before, but we have the glorious body of immortality.

"The body that will be ours in heaven will never get sick, or tired, or have any pain. And then we can see Jesus, our King and our Savior forever and ever."

MEMORY VERSE: I am the resurrection, and the life; he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live. John 11:25

FAMILY DISCUSSION

1. A butterfly lives only a summer season. Most people nowadays expect to live at least until they are seventy years old. In the sight of God, is seventy years a long time in which to live? (Psalm 103:15-16; Isaiah 40:6-7; I Peter 1:24)

2. Of what did God make the first man? (Genesis 2:7)

3. We say that our bodies are mortal because they do not last forever. What does the Bible have to say about our mortal bodies? (John 10:9; Psalm 89:48; Ecclesiastes 3:20; Hebrews 9:27)

4. We say our souls are immortal because they do not die. What does the Bible say about our souls? (Ecclesiastes 12:7; Matthew 10:28; John 5:25; 6:40; 11:25; I Corinthians 15:54)

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(Continued from page 6)

Dec. 9—Christmas youth rally
Dec. 10—Christmas choral concert
Dec. 22—End of first semester for seminary
Dec. 23—Jan 7—Christmas break
Jan. 3-16—Inter-Term Session A: "History of Christian Doctrine"
Guest lecturer—Dr. C. Sverre Norborg
Jan. 13—Youth rally with Pastor Laurel Udden
Jan. 16-18—Pastors' conference
Jan. 22-26—Inter-Term Session B: "Community Outreach through Writing." Guest lecturer—Pastor Raynard Huglen
Jan. 30—May 18—Second semester of Seminary
Feb. 6-11—Mission Week
Feb. 10—Youth rally—Mr. Theodore Manaen, associate director of World Mission Prayer League
Feb. 19-21—Bible School winter quarter final exams

NOW SING WE A SONG FOR THE HARVEST

Now sing we a song for the harvest,
Thanksgiving and honor and praise,
For all that the bountiful Giver
Hath given to gladden our days;

For grasses of upland and lowland,
For fruits of the garden and field,
For gold which the mine and the prairie

To deliver and husbandman yield.

And thanks for the harvest of beauty,
For that which the hands cannot hold,
The harvest eyes only can gather,
And only our hearts can enfold:

We reap it on mountain and moorland,
We glean it from meadow and lea,
We garner it in from the cloud-land,
We bind it in sheaves from the sea.

But now we sing deeper and higher,
Of harvests that eye cannot see;
They ripen on mountains of duty
Are reaped by the brave and the free.

O Thou who art Lord of the harvest,
The Giver who gladdens our days,
Our hearts are forever repeating
Thanksgiving, and honor, and praise.

(from *Concordia*, 1917)

Perhaps I was DREAMING

THANKSGIVING DAY

Heavenly Father, here in the stillness of the night let me pause before Thee a little while, that my soul may commune with its Maker and know the healing calm of His presence. Blessed Lord, the calm is sorely needed, for the world is in turmoil. "Like the troubled sea, it cannot rest; and its waters cast up mire and dirt." Oh, grant us to know the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, that we may thank and praise Thee as we should.

For this is our Thanksgiving Day. Methinks I can see the multitudes gathering in the house of God, faces radiant, lips ready for praise, a heaven-born melody in each heart. Methinks I can hear the minister of the Gospel calling aloud, "Oh, that men would praise the Lord for His goodness, and for His wonderful works to the children of men!" and the multitudes responding, "Bless the Lord, O my soul: and all that is within me, bless His holy name!" —But I am dreaming, dreaming. The churches are not full this day. Men do not praise the Lord for His goodness. They feast, and fill their bellies, and forget God.

Into such a world Thou hast sent me to preach. Merciful God, why, why? In such a world, at such a time, Thy messenger should come with tongue of fire and lips of gold; my lips are clay and my tongue is cold. Who cares what such a one preaches? Attentive and courteous and kind the good people may be, but is not that all? Do they ever take to what we preach to them? Do they not go right on with their gossip and their politics and their exploiting one another? Does the preaching of Thy Word in any way affect them? O Thou of the all-seeing eye, tell me, tell me, for my heart fails me and my courage falters and falls.

The few? Yes, I remember them, Lord. Those dear, consecrated souls we meet here and there, now and then. Ignoring my unworthiness, Thou hast sent a few such to cross my path, and I thank Thee for it more than words can tell. I can be of little service to them, but oh, the blessings they have brought to me! I thank Thee for the privilege of dwelling for a season among these humble souls; but why should I preach to them? Some of them can preach far better than I, and Thou dost preach to them every day; why should I step in between Thee and them?

O Father in heaven, it bewilders me. I do not understand the world, nor myself, nor Thy guidance. Let me be still before Thee; let me sink my soul into the ocean of Thy wisdom and love; let me live in Thee, trusting where I cannot understand.

—C. A. Wendell

editorials

PRAISE AND PRAYER

It has been suggested that a page be set aside in the *Ambassador* for the listing of items for praise to God and requests to God. Starting with this issue, then, you will find a box giving such items for prayer. It can be expanded as required.

More definite guidelines will be set up later. But for now it can be said that two things should be kept in mind about the requests for prayer: they must be of church-wide interest and they must be named far enough in advance so that readers will have time to pray for them. And then when a prayer request has been answered it should be withdrawn so that all items which are listed are current.

As a church, we believe in prayer. In ways we don't understand, prayer influences events. Intercessory prayer, and that is the kind of prayer we're talking about at the moment, is never an overcoming of God's reluctance about a matter, but it is an attack on evil forces which seek to prevent the will of God from being done. So there is a real place for intercessory prayer and we would see more happening for good if more prayer were being offered up by God's people.

Surely there should also be thanksgiving and praise to the Lord for the good things that happen, for prayers answered, for blessings received. So our Praise and Prayer page will have a section in which to list answers to prayer.

Let us make good use of this new feature in the *Ambassador* so that it doesn't become only an outward sign without inner meaning.

THE VICTORS AND THE VANQUISHED

This is being written on October 31, one week before Election Day in the United States. It is too late to urge you to vote, but we hope you will, and too early to know who the winners will be.

In every election there are the sure winners and in every election there are a few upsets. This is what makes it all very exciting and uncertain.

Do the best people, the right people always win in elections? Not to us it doesn't seem that they do. But that's often a subjective judgment. It usually depends on where one is in the political spectrum.

After every election there are the victors and the vanquished. The elation of success, the depression of defeat. For the winners all the exertion has been worth the prize. For the losers all that effort must seem so wasted. We can sympathize with those who lose, especially if they really felt that they had a chance.

We often think of the losers as the ones with all the humility, but really the winners should have every bit as much. As the old sportscaster used to say, "If you lose say little; if you win say less." Great responsibilities now lie with them to serve the people well. May they seek divine help in shouldering their task. For those who come in second, let there be no bitterness, but new courage in going back to the job and doing well there. It is not alone in the political office that there is a place to serve. Far from it.

Today there are winners and losers. Both deserve our prayers. The Scriptures specifically urge prayer for those in public office (1 Timothy 2:1-2). So that is a responsibility for Christian people.



Praise and Prayer


Praise God for:


- two new missionary couples, the David Abels and the Charles Kvanvigs.
- the funds which have come in for AFLC benevolences through October.

Prayer Requests:

- that the Abels and Kvanvigs will be able to leave for Brazil in January; also for them in all the preparations which they must make as families.
- that Rev. Rao Dasari and family will be able to leave India so that he can get back to his work at our Schools.
- for our evangelist, David Molstre, in his meetings at Stacy, Minn., Nov. 18-22, and Radcliffe, Ia., Nov. 29-Dec. 3.
- for Pastor R. Snipstead, in getting acquainted with his new duties as president of the Church.

"Have no anxiety about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God" (Phil. 4:6).





NEWS

of the Churches

CHURCH ADDITION DEDICATED AT GRAFTON

A service of dedication was held at Bethel Lutheran Church, Grafton, N. Dak., for the fellowship hall and Sunday School addition on July 20 at 2:30 p.m. Groundbreaking for this addition had been held on Easter Sunday, 1977.

Rev. Rodger Olson, pastor of the congregation, led the service, the theme of which was "Unless the Lord builds the house, they labor in vain who build it; unless the Lord guards the city, the watchman awakes in vain" (Psalm 127:1).

Pastor John P. Strand, then president of the Association of Free Lutheran Congregations and a former pastor in Grafton, gave the dedication message which was based on Psalm 65.

Special music for the day was presented by the Bethel Senior Choir, Bethel Sunshine Choir, Pastor and Mrs. Olson, Mrs. John Presteng and Pastor and Mrs. Trygve Dahle.

The offering at the service went to the debt retirement of the building.

Guest pastors in attendance besides Pastors Strand and Dahle were former student pastor at Grafton Kenneth D. Moland and Terry Olson of Minot, N. Dak.

A fellowship supper was served after the service by the women of the congregation.

The prayer of dedication of the congregation is that: we re-dedicate ourselves and this building, our place of worship, fellowship and study to God and His service and that He grant unto us His Holy Spirit that our dedi-

cation and re-dedication of this church be complete.

Praise the Lord—Thanks be to God!
—Corr.

(Ed. note: See cover photo.)

BADGER PARISH HIGHLIGHTS

Celebrating the 82nd anniversary of the Badger Creek Congregation July 23rd, and having a dedication service of the new addition to the Oiland Church, Aug. 13, highlighted the year for the people of the Badger Lutheran Parish, Badger, Minn. Rev. John Strand was present for both occasions and spoke words of congratulations, challenge and inspiration.

Since the 75th anniversary of Badger Creek had never been observed, it was decided to observe the 80th and in digging through church history it was discovered the congregation had existed 82 years!

The festive anniversary began with a banquet for the congregation, served in the Badger Creek Church parlors by the sister congregation, Oiland.

The Sunday morning worship service was a most joyous occasion; the verse inside the bulletin, "Hitherto hath the Lord helped us," expressed the faith and the gratitude in the hearts of the participants.

Following the noon meal, the congregation once more assembled for a message by Lay Pastor Sidney Swenson and many various greetings. Miss Connie Grothe read the message sent by Rev. Alvin Grothe, a son of the congre-

gation. Every greeting in person or in letter was much appreciated by the friends and members gathered.

Participating in music for the event were the Badger Creek choir; Patty Hunter, soloist; Barb Johnson and Ruby Holm, duet; and Elva and Connie Grothe and Ethel Wellen, in a trio.

Anniversary plates and booklets were available and still are.

At the Oiland dedication Pastor Strand touched on the Christian being the "salt" and the "light" in this world. Both, he said, do not make any sound but thoroughly permeate everything around them. Being this essential salt and light calls for serious discipleship on the part of the Christian.

A spirit of thankfulness and praise to God prevailed in both the above celebrations.

—Corr.

FROM HITHER AND YON

Rev. Philip Featherstone, Pukwana, S. Dak., was the guest speaker at evangelistic services in Calvary Lutheran Church, Wallace, S. Dak., Oct. 29-Nov. 2. The Sunday night service was also the monthly Family Night for the congregation and lunch was served. Rev. Wallace Jackson is the local pastor.

In evangelistic services at Ny Stanger Lutheran Church, Buxton, N. Dak., Oct. 29-Nov. 1, Rev. Herbert L. Franz, Cloquet, Minn., was the preacher. The congregation is served by Lay Pastor Rodney Stueland.

At Faith and Stillwater Lutheran Churches, Kalispell, Mont., Lay Pastor Verle Dean, Spicer, Minn., was the speaker at a "Spiritual Life Series," Oct. 22-25. The churches are served by Rev. John Rieth.

The Sunday School at Medicine Lake Lutheran Church, Minneapolis, Minn., J. G. Erickson, pastor, sponsored a presentation by Mrs. J. Edwin Hartill on Bible memorization on Nov. 13 in an AFLBS classroom. Mrs. Hartill is the wife of the teacher on "Bible Nuggets" on KTIS radio and related stations.



Women For Christ

VALLEY CITY CHURCH SCENE OF WMF CONVENTION

The Eastern North Dakota Women's Missionary Federation fall rally was held at Grace Lutheran Church, Valley City, N. Dak., Robert L. Lee, pastor, on Tuesday, Oct. 10.

The theme was "Trust, Delight, Commit and Rest in the Lord," taken from the theme verses Psalm 37:3, 4, 5 and 7. The rally hymn was "Only One Life." Mrs. Rodger Olson, Grafton, was the song leader for the day. Mrs. Ernie Miedema, Valley City, was the organist.

Mrs. Ron Strand, Fargo, led in devotions from Psalm 147:1-6. Mrs. Olaf Solheim of Minnewaukan sang a solo. Mrs. Gerald Knudsvig led the Bible study on the text and told some of her experiences as a missionary in Madagascar. Mrs. Kent Quanbeck and Mrs. Noel Lofthus of McVile sang "I Touched the Heart of God in Prayer." Mrs. Robert Lee closed the morning session with prayer.

The afternoon session opened with a hymn sing led by Mrs. Olson. Devotions, from Psalm 97, were by Mrs. Gilman Miller of Binford. A vocal duet was sung by Mrs. Ralph Peterson and Mrs. Rodney Stueland from Portland. Rev. Wesley Langaas, Hampden, brought a challenging message from the text. Pastor Lee installed Mrs. Paul Bjornson of Valley City as the new president.

The registration committee reported

144 present. Mrs. Thor Sollin read the resolutions, which were accepted. Pastor Lee closed with prayer.

Mrs. Vernon Russum
Secretary

SEDAN CHURCH HOSTED GATHERING OF WOMEN

Scandia Lutheran Church of Sedan, Minnesota, hosted the Fall Rally for the Southwest Central District Women's Missionary Federation on Tuesday, October 3. Pastor Larry Haagen-son was the host pastor.

The theme for the day was from John 16b: "And they shall hear my voice; and there shall be one fold, and one shepherd." Mrs. Ted Aasness, district president, presided over the sessions. Mrs. Carl Hort, Brooten, led in devotions from John 10:14-16 and 27-30. Mrs. Gary Gravelly welcomed us on behalf of the Scandia Lutheran Church. Mrs. George Hartman, Dalton, led the singspiration and Mrs. Doug Johnson, Sacred Heart, sang for special music "Love Was When" and "I Thank You, Lord."

The morning offering was taken for "My Missionary For A Day" and the afternoon offering for the Schools. A delicious noon lunch was served by the Scandia WMF and the coffee breaks were served by Crow Lake and Our Savior's of Belgrade and Brooten, respectively. Mrs. Milton Erickson gave

a district Cradle Roll report.

Mrs. Charles Kvanvig, Minneapolis, Minnesota, brought the morning Bible study to us from Ephesians on the Christian's "sit, walk and stand" with the Lord. God raised us up with Him to sit with Him in heavenly places in Christ Jesus. He freely bestowed redemption through His blood and the riches of His grace. Walk worthy of the calling—He is the power that worketh in us. God can ask anything of us and we can do it through Christ's power. Christ is already the victor. We stand in Him. He's looking for fruit in our lives, she said. "Of Him are ye in Christ Jesus, who of God is made unto us wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption."

Charles Kvanvig, dean of men at Association Free Lutheran Bible School, brought the afternoon message from John 10:14-16. He shared with us about their call to the mission field in Brazil. The main thrust of missions is Jesus. Until we see Jesus and what He is and what He's done, we cannot have a mission program. He told of how mission work was started in other countries and how they had to be re-evangelized because other things crowded Jesus out. When Jesus is at the center of our lives, God will give us a concern for souls. We must deal squarely with sin in our lives and have no mercy. God cannot bless where there is sin in a life that has to be dealt with. We must pray for the love of the Word and prayer. Missions need the prayers of those who are in a right relationship with Christ, Mr. Kvanvig stated.

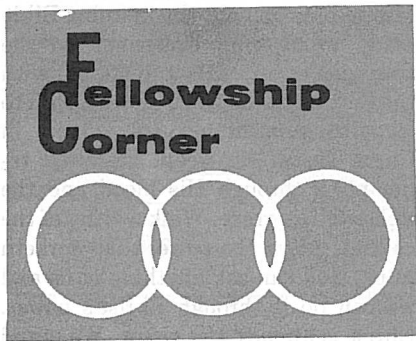
A very blessed day was enjoyed by all.

Mrs. John Arlen Johnson
Secretary



STILL IN THE POCKET

"We believe that God has given to our church all the money that it needs—but that too much of it is still firmly in the pockets of its members." (National Evangelical Anglican Congress.—from *National Courier*, May 27, 1977)



LAY MINISTRY

Luke 10:21: "In that hour Jesus rejoiced in spirit, and said, I thank Thee, O Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that Thou hast hid these things from the wise and prudent, and hast revealed them unto babes: even so, Father; for so it seemed good in Thy sight."

When I think of the laity in the world I am reminded of someone's words that go something like this: "God must have loved the common man because he made so many of them." I hasten to say, God must love the laity because He made so many of them, and because He desired that all men be saved and come to the knowledge of the truth, He certainly is using more than the converted clergy to further His cause on this earth.

Some years ago the Laymen's Society was very active in Southwestern Minnesota where I come from. The laymen would gather for a Sunday afternoon service monthly and then once a year they would have a three-day meeting, if I remember correctly. These meetings were well attended as the laymen would come from as far as 40 to 60 miles away. Attending these meetings as a young man with my father and mother, I will never forget the warm spirit of these gatherings.

I can still remember the sincerity of the many testimonies given either in song or a personal testimony. The Spirit of God certainly spoke through these laymen and laywomen as they testified of the greatness, goodness and grace of God in Christ in their unique and simple way. They certainly put into practice the verse of Scripture that says, "Let the redeemed of the Lord say so" (Ps. 107:2). I recall a young man from

Iowa with a very beautiful voice singing songs like "Careless Soul, What Then?" and "Steal Away to Jesus." I can truthfully say that I sensed the Holy Spirit calling me to repentance through their message and the spirit in which they were sung. Another older man I recall played an accordion and he often played and sang the song "He the Pearly Gates Will Open."

I for one certainly believe that meetings or gatherings like these are still much needed in our churches today. As they served in the past to encourage the Christians in their faith, helping them to grow in the Lord and challenged the wayward to repentance, so they will serve in the same way today. I am happy that the Northern Minnesota Laymen's Society is active and let us pray that those that once existed and have died out will be revived again by God's Spirit and new ones begun throughout our nation also by the leading of God's Spirit.

One of the great themes of the Reformation was "the universal priesthood of all believers." Luther believed that the Word of God clearly taught that any person by reading the Word of God or hearing it could come to a saving faith and grow therein by the work and inspiration of the Holy Spirit alone, without any human aid. This does not mean that God does not use human vessels to minister to one another. The reason for the Reformation was the many abuses practiced by the church in Luther's Day contrary to the Word of God. One of these abuses was the false teaching that a priest was needed to interpret the Scripture correctly to the laity. This Luther did not accept and therefore included in his Ninety-five Theses this point: "the universal priesthood of all believers."

I am truly thankful to God for the many converted and thus faithful laymen in the AFLC. I am even more thankful to God that the laity far outnumber the clergy at our church conventions for this is as it should be. The Christian laity are not only the backbone of the church spiritually but also financially. They are the main source of the financial support. Thus the voice of the many Christian lay people must be heard and listened to so that the Church of God here on earth—of the people, by the people and for the people shall not perish from this earth.

Brethren, lay and clergy, let us love one another and stir up the gift of God which is in us. Amen!

Pastor Merle T. Knutson
Newfolden, Minn.

WMF RALLY A BLESSING

For a long time I never considered attending the district WMF rallies, mostly because I don't drive the car. And my husband wasn't always able to go when I wanted to. But one time some years ago I went to a rally and I have been sold on them ever since. We have wonderful turnouts but so many never have gone to a rally.

I want to tell about this fall's rally in Valley City (N. Dak.) because it may help someone to start attending them.

Arnold and I had a wonderful, busy summer on the farm. But as the leaves began to fall and I saw winter coming on I think it helped me get discouraged. I just went off medication and was struggling with the fear I wouldn't be able to stay off. I prayed about it, but I was fearful. Then I gradually went backwards in my relationship with my precious Lord. It was a gradual thing but soon I felt I was just playing at my Christianity.

Then it came time for our fall rally. I wasn't sure I wanted to go at first, but as the time grew closer I felt I just had to go. Then we got bad colds and they hung on and on. There was also the question of transportation, but the Lord wonderfully worked it all out and I went to the rally.

The Lord really started His work in my life a week or so before the rally, but I was so under pressure I felt I couldn't trust myself to not burst out and say something I shouldn't on the way to it. I asked a sweet Christian friend of mine to pray for me and she did. Well, that rally was such a rich blessing to us all, I think. I heard the same Scripture of Psalm 37, but it struck home to me and revived my whole life.

Now the Lord is so precious to me and I have real freedom in witnessing for Him. Even Arnold got the message through me. When I start to fret, He reminds me to "fret not." I wanted to share this with all you women.

Mrs. Arnold (Dorothy) Jodock
Hatton, N. Dak.

THE IDEAL CONGREGATION

The ideal congregation shouldn't be hard to find. It is filled with friendly, outgoing people who are always happy. They have time to welcome you to church, to invite you over for coffee and are interested in you. They are kind, considerate, gentle, vivacious and outgoing. They call weekly to say hello but are never imposing, critical or vindictive. They never complain about the neighborhood, the weather, the congregation, the program, the Sunday school, the pastor or each other.

The building is a small, white traditional country church on a hill away from the hustle and bustle of daily living but is right near the shopping center. It is small and personal but has room for the worship services, Sunday school, church school, counseling, community outreach programs, individual rooms for fellowship and youth groups, a prayer room and a small chapel.

The pastor is tall, dark and handsome; short, plain and unobtrusive; a highly educated, simple-minded man. He spends 20 hours a week on his messages, 40 hours a week in counseling, 20 hours a week in planning, administration and meetings. He is a man who spends six nights and seven days a week at his work while having two days and three evenings for his family. He is 30 years old with 25 years of experience; he lives at a \$20,000 a year level on an \$8,000 income. He has the training of a psychologist for counseling, of a bank president for finances, of a corporation president for planning, a college professor for teaching while having time to sweep the floors, put the hymn books in place and keep the building in repair.

The program in this ideal congregation is small and personalized with two Sunday services, Sunday school, children's church, a daily pre-school program, mid-week groups for all at the elementary, junior high, senior high, young adult and adult levels, a mid-

week Bible study, a prayer meeting, small group home Bible studies, three choirs, a women's missionary group, teacher training programs and other special programs from time to time. The ideal congregation serves everyone, but no one has to be involved. It offers a program and services for which a business would need a \$50,000 budget but is to accomplish this on \$20,000.

Does all this seem possible? Are the expectations of most people for their congregation unrealistic? Most important of all, is this God's ideal for His church?

Of course, it is impossible to meet the preceding standards. God has never emphasized numbers, what others do or don't do, the size of a building or the variety of the program or the size of the budget.

There are things which He does emphasize. First, we are to be gathered together in His name (Matthew 18:20). The Word of God is to be preached and taught with the Sacraments being administered properly. Second, it is the goal of the congregation to present the message of salvation to every man possible for the express purpose of giving each person the opportunity of accepting Jesus Christ as his Savior (John 3:1-7). Third, the congregation is to be based upon the principles of need for regular worship, personal and group study of the Word, Christian fellowship and personal involvement through service. Fourth, the program must be developed upon the principle of presenting Christ to each person, to lead him to a personal faith, to ground each person in his faith and to enlist each person in serving Christ.

The local congregation is the visible body of Christ. Its existence is to honor the Lord Jesus Christ. The purpose is to establish the believers. The underlying goal is evangelism and its vision is for missions around the world.

Pastor Robert Rieth

THANKSGIVING DAY, an annual festival in acknowledgment of divine favor.

One day is set aside by our nation in which God's favor is acknowledged. Even then God's providence is not recognized in many homes. Let us give God the credit and thanks due Him every day we live.

I Thessalonians 5:18: "In everything give thanks; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus."

When we practice thanking God for all things, every experience, even those which are not particularly enjoyable, becomes an adventure. Perhaps a personal experience can illustrate.

A late-night arrival home . . . bits of broken glass scattered around the living room . . . a large jagged hole in a window . . . "Did someone break in?" "No." "Thank You, Lord!" "Thank You I wasn't sitting here when whatever it was came through the window." "What was . . . ?" . . . interrupting, a large bird explodes from behind the couch. The excited dog barks, stalks, catches, finally surrenders . . . the partridge has little meat, but "Thank You, Lord!"

Two days later my son helps me pull the neighbor's tree off our roof . . . what next? "Well, Dad, we have some more firewood now!" "Thank You, Lord!"

—Pastor Bruce Dalager
Parish Newsletter
Winger, Minn.

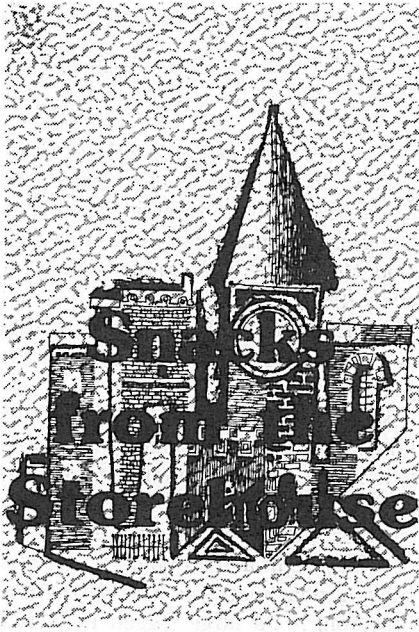
ARE WE THANKFUL?

To many people Thanksgiving Day seems to have lost its meaning as a day for giving thanks. Everyone celebrates it as a holiday, but how many observe it as a holy day—a day on which they lift their hearts to God in humble and grateful acknowledgment of His kindness?

Felix Kretzschmar

The most Christly life is one which is always keyed to the note of praise and thanksgiving.

Doran's Ministers Manual



FROM UNCERTAINTY TO PEACE

"Ye shall seek Me, and find Me, when ye shall search for Me with all your heart" (Jer. 29:13).

May I reminisce a little as I am getting toward the close of this series of devotionals? I was a seeker at one time, too, and my experience could be of help to some who may still be at that point. With me, you may have cried, "What is the way out?" You are confused and you look for a formula to follow. Something *you* can do.

Yes, I, too, asked that question as I faced the tremendous barrier between God and myself. How could I cross over from uncertainty to certainty? From unrest to peace and assurance? Theoretically it was so clear. The need of repentance and faith seemed so simple. Still, I seemed so helpless. The more I tried to produce these two essentials, the less I seemed to possess them. The struggle went on and on. I listened to testimonials by pastor theologians, but somehow they didn't ring a bell. I searched in Christian books but became more confused than ever. I recall promising God that if I ever got it clear for myself, I wouldn't throw away The Formula as others seemed to have done. I would make it so clear to others that it could be grasped by anyone.

One evening as I listened to an old retired pastor speak, I did discover The Formula. I did step across to peace and certainty. Did I keep my promise?

Yes—and no. I knew something had happened. I had lived in the land of uncertainty. Now I was placed in a position of rest, peace, and assurance. But how? I couldn't tell. The years of struggle had a part. They didn't bring peace but they brought me to a point of desperation. I had tried so long and so hard to repent and to believe, but nothing happened. Nothing, until that night when in despair I turned my mess over to Him who had so lovingly invited me to COME. As a drowning man, I gave up finding The Way and found Him instead, Who is The Way.

I hadn't any formula to give since I hadn't found any. Instead, at the end of my own resources, I found Him who isn't a formula to live or work out but is Life itself. Then, as now, when I raise the flag of SELF-surrender, He takes over and leads the way. I discovered the depth of His "Amazing Grace" that eventful night when I surrendered to Him and I find that same grace moment by moment as I walk with Him. How about the walk? Is there a formula for that: Yes, there is, but only those who have begun to walk with Him will understand. The pace doesn't change at all. "As ye received Christ Jesus our Lord, so walk in Him."

As I stepped aside that eventful night so long ago and let Him take over, so now I can rest in the assurance, as I keep close to Him, that He will live His life in me and through me, leading to moment-by-moment victory, as I allow Him *full* control. "Greater is He that is in you than he that is in the world."

Karl G. Berg

MARK OF PERFECTION

The mark of a Christian is not perfection, but the mark of a Christian is the daily struggle against sin.

Arthur Brunn

CALENDAR LEAVES

A man may grow old turning over new leaves on his calendar and yet never turn one over in his personal life. A man may die of old age who has not yet begun to live.

Herman W. Gockel

(Continued from page 16)

25th anniversary in his position as head of the 400,000-member denomination, based here.

WELS has about 1,110 congregations in 47 states.

In an interview, Naumann spoke of persons joining WELS congregations who appreciate "our conservative, confessional Lutheran ministry. We noted the swing of people from liberal to conservative religion long before the sociometricians were picking it up on their measuring instruments."

The 69-year-old WELS leader was previously president of the WELS Minnesota District, a parish pastor and a faculty member at WELS colleges in Watertown, Wis., and New Ulm, Minn. He has recently been advised by doctors to adopt a somewhat less strenuous schedule.

President Naumann's election to 13 consecutive two-year terms has meant a WELS record for continuous service in the president's position. A 19th century WELS president served 26 years, but his terms were not consecutive.

* * * * *

UNMARRIED PARENTS' BAPTISM ROLE AT ISSUE IN CHURCH OF NORWAY

Oslo—(LC)—With more couples living together without being married, the question whether one or both such parents should be forbidden to take an active role in the baptism of their children has surfaced in Norway.

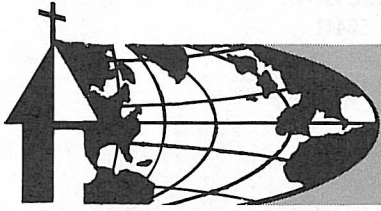
Recently, a parish pastor in the small town of Skien told such a father he could not be at the font with the mother and godparents.

Some bishops have recommended such a policy.

On the other hand, Bishop Kristen Kyrre Bremer of the (Lutheran) Church of Norway Diocese of Nord-Halogaland, says such a policy "will lead to a misunderstanding of the Christian teaching."

He adds that the mother at such a time "needs all the support she can get. She could have had an abortion, but she didn't. To have the child's father at her side when the child is baptized is a help for her."

* * * * *



CHURCH-WORLD NEWS

SYNOD PROTESTS IRS PROPOSAL ON RACIAL NON-DISCRIMINATION

ST LOUIS—The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, whose congregations operate the largest system of Protestant schools in the country, has objected to portions of a proposed Internal Revenue Service Procedure on Racial Non-discrimination in Private Schools.

In addition, administrators of the 1455 LCMS schools have been urged to express their objections.

The IRS proposal could result in penalization of private schools that do not meet criteria requiring minority enrollment and hiring in proportion to minority population in the community. Schools not complying to those standards would be classed "reviewable," possibly leading to revocation of tax-exempt status for sponsoring congregations.

In fourteen pages of comments to the IRS Commissioner, LCMS Secretary for Elementary and Secondary Schools Dr. Al H. Senske rebuts the proposal as "fundamentally defective," and suggests its withdrawal and a return to present rules requiring a case by case determination as to whether a school has a policy of non-discrimination.

Senske has stressed that Lutheran schools "have conscientiously followed the non-discriminatory policies and procedures according to guidelines established by a previous IRS Revenue Procedure. Lutheran schools are not closed to anyone because of race, color or ethnic origin," he emphasized.

His comments to the IRS call a provision of the new guidelines questioning the policy of schools formed at or about the time of public school desegregation a "blunderbuss approach which achieves simplicity at the expense of logic and fairness." He notes

that this provision would apply to "many schools which, by mere coincidence were formed or expanded around the time of a public school desegregation order for reasons wholly unrelated to racial discrimination."

To another rule regarding student body makeup reflecting the minority percentage of a community, Senske explains that most Synod schools draw their student bodies exclusively from the congregations which operate and pay for them. "The racial composition of the school will generally reflect the racial composition of the congregation, not that of the neighborhood, much less that of the entire city," he explains. "Any rule which compares the racial composition of even the non-Lutheran part of the student body to the racial composition of a community broader than the neighborhood from which the school attracts its student body is arbitrary," he points out.

The Synod's statement also objects to criteria for determining reviewable schools based on availability of financial aid on a significant basis to minority students, an increasing percentage of minority student enrollment, and employment of minority teachers.

In summary, it is stated that the new IRS proposal "raises coincidence and then imposes . . . standards of proof which are inherently unattainable by Synod schools and probably most other schools of other churches."

FREE TO ANY CHRISTIAN CONGREGATION—BIBLE SCHOOL AIDS FOR THE RETARDED

ST. LOUIS—Special Vacation Bible School (VBS) material will be offered free in 1979 to any Christian congregation in North America initiating a class for the mentally retarded.

The offer is a joint project of The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod's Commission on Services to the Mentally Retarded, the LCMS Board of Parish Education and of Concordia Publishing House. This is the first time VBS studies have been offered free by the sponsoring units, and is believed to be the only such offer among all Christians.

This new service is in addition to the program of some years standing from the Lutheran Library for the Blind, which offers free on request, Braille and sight-saving kits of Concordia Vacation Bible School curricula to Christian churches.

Concordia VBS material specially prepared for the mentally retarded has been available for purchase for a number of years. However, according to R. Marshall Nelson, executive secretary for the Commission on Services to the Mentally Retarded, the offer of free material is being made "so that as many churches as possible starting such classes can have access to high-quality lessons."

Each parish starting a class for the mentally retarded in 1979 may receive a free teacher's manual and four project boxes of the 1979 Concordia VBS material, with the title "I Love to Tell the Story." Cardboard project boxes will contain craft projects correlated to Bible lessons in suggested ten-session format.

The materials for new mentally retarded classes may be ordered from—LCMS Commission on Services to the Mentally Retarded, 500 North Broadway, St. Louis, Mo. 63102. Orders for the lessons for the blind and visually impaired should be sent to Lutheran Library for the Blind, 3558 South Jefferson Ave., St. Louis, Mo. 63118.

Orders for both types of material will be filled beginning Jan. 1, 1979. However, since preparation of the Braille

and sight-saving kits begins as each order is received, one month's time should be allowed for delivery of the materials.

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

Second-class postage
paid at Minneapolis, Minn.

NAUMANN CELEBRATES 25 YEARS AS WISCONSIN SYNOD PRESIDENT

Milwaukee (LC) — President Oscar Naumann of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod has celebrated his

(Continued on page 14)

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