

November 16, 1976

# The Lutheran Ambassador

**“He hath dealt bountifully  
with me.” Psalm 13:6**

**Roger C. Huebner, D. D. S.**



# MEDITATION MOMENTS

## A MISPLACED EMPHASIS

Luke 10:20

Again we have come to that season of the year when great emphasis is placed upon the traditional day designated by our President to set it aside as a day in which to give thanks to God for His mercy and His blessing upon us and our land. This we feel is good, and it is right to do so.

In this 10th chapter of Luke, we find the Lord sending out another group of 70 of His disciples to preach to the people that the Kingdom of God was come among them. And should not we also be mindful of this truth, for surely the Kingdom of God is still among us, is it not? Has He not promised that He would never leave us, nor forsake us, even unto the end of the age?

There are many in this great land of America who have suffered the loss of crops due to the great drought this summer, and many others who have suffered through the loss of a loved one, and others who have lost their health and lost property through fire and storms, etc., and they are prone to say: "What have I to be thankful for?" For the unregenerate and unbeliever to say this, is to be expected.

But for us, we who live not by bread alone, do we have the right to say thus? Have we lost sight of the fact that God has not yet dealt with America according to her sins (which are many and great)? We should be mindful of the Word of God found in Romans 8:28: "All things work together for good, to them that love God."

Let us always be mindful of the fact that He has the right to chastise His people betimes, and He does this out of Fatherly love, to remind us that we are dependent upon Him for all things, and without His hand of benediction upon us we would be as nothing! As Christians, we should always be mindful of what the Apostle Paul writes to the Colossians, in 3:15: "And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to the which also ye are called in one body; AND BE YE THANKFUL."

Now, as we think of the many blessings that we receive from the gracious hand of our God, who is there that can number them? We have the hymn "COUNT YOUR MANY BLESSINGS, NAME THEM ONE BY ONE..." Let us consider some

of the outstanding blessings that are ours in this day of trouble and strife and sorrow in this world.

Number one, I feel, is the blessing of having the Word of God still unfettered, as it is in many lands. Let us thank God for the Association of Free Lutheran Congregations, for our Bible School, for our Seminary, for the many students the Lord sends us, for the abundance of food there is in this land, for the faith God has given us!

Then, over and above all these blessings, let us be filled with praise and thanksgiving to Him for the comforting assurance that our names are written in the Book of Life!

Let us be thankful that we have a God who is mindful of such as we are, be thankful that we have One at the Throne of Grace interceding for us. Yes, the next time we sing the Doxology... "Praise God from Whom all blessings flow..." let us sing it, not only with our voices, but let us sing it from the depths of our hearts.

—John De Boer

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# Our Catechism

by Rev. Karl G. Berg,  
Spokane, Wash.

In the Book of Acts we meet a man by the name of Apollos, serving the Lord. He was eloquent, fervent in Spirit, and "mighty in Scripture." Seemingly, he had "what it takes." However, the "fruit" of his labor, his disciples, revealed a lack. Paul sensed it immediately. He not only set his disciples aright but seemingly arranged so that Apollos himself was further instructed. At least, we read that a man of God, Aquila, and his wife Priscilla took Apollos aside and lovingly "expounded unto him the way of God more completely" (Acts 18:26).

The Small Catechism grew out of a similar situation. It was written in 1529 in order to meet a definite need, a real spiritual need. Martin Luther had found **The Way** himself and he was concerned that others might do likewise. Not only that, but he was concerned about their walk as believers. When on one of his visitations of congregations, he became aware of the need, he was appalled. He was a deeply spiritual man and could not settle for superficiality in spiritual life. He sensed a definite lack of knowledge of Christian doctrine. In one of his letters to a pastor, he wrote: "They maintain that they have been baptized and that they received the Lord's Supper, yet they cannot recite the Lord's Prayer, or the ten Commandments. They live as though they were irrational creatures, and now that the Gospel has come to them, they grossly abuse their Christian Liberty" (**Book of Concord**).

In his letters to the clergy, he not only reveals his concern in connection with the ignorance and errors of the laity, but he takes **them** to task as well. He berates them for their failure to live up to their responsibility as spiritual leaders of men and women entrusted into their care. Many of them, too, were ignorant of the fundamentals of Christian doctrine.



Rev. Karl G. Berg

Dr. Luther was a realist. He saw the need but he also saw what he felt was the solution. Denunciation wouldn't solve the problem nor would an emotional appeal.

Instead, he realized the need of getting back on the solid foundation of the **written Word**. He brought this Word to them—the fundamentals that they must know—in his Catechism. Here, summarized, we find the essentials of the Christian faith.

It could be worth our while as a Church to pay attention to what he has to say in that connection as the need is maybe as urgent today as it was then. God says: "My people are destroyed for lack of Knowledge" (Hosea 4:6). Not only do they fail to find "The Way," but too often they are side-tracked through a wrong emphasis. An emphasis on **things** in place of Him—Jesus Christ. They may have life but fail to appropriate God's abundance. They settle for less than God's best and live in "the wilderness," whereas God intends them to walk in the land of Promise.

How shall we teach our Catechism? How does the present day approach harmonize with that of Dr. Luther? As we compare, we note that the emphases differ. Memorizing has become old-fashioned. Not only is this true in the church but in schools as well. The tendency is to settle for the

meanings rather than for the actual word or words. Dr. Luther is "old-fashioned" in that respect. He places the main emphasis on retaining the exact form **without change** or alterations and repeating them often enough so as to "retain them in the memory" (**Book of Concord**). The Psalmist appears to agree with that as he writes "Thy Word have I hid in my heart that I might not sin against Thee" (Ps. 119:11). The written Word or influence planted in the sub-conscious affects the life as expressed in the conscious, even though we may not be aware of its presence, psychiatrists tell us. Then, when that is accomplished and students are "familiar with the words of the text, it is time to teach them the meanings of those words" (**Book of Concord**).

The study of the Small Catechism was to be a prelude to the study of the Large Catechism or Explanation of the Catechism, as it is usually called. This was written somewhat later.

To Luther, the Commandments, conspicuously placed at the forefront in his Catechism, are not the **answer** to man's spiritual needs. Instead, they become a preparatory introduction to what follows, the entry-way to the Gospel as revealed in the Articles of the Creed and a Father-Son relationship as expressed in the Lord's Prayer and as experienced at the Lord's Table.

"The Law takes the unbeliever by the hand and gently leads him to Christ for Salvation" (**Satan Is Alive and Well on Planet Earth**, Lindsey). It is the "tutor" prepared by God to lead us to Christ. Luther discovered this fact through a personal experience of despair as he tried and tried and tried to meet the demands of God's holiness upon his conscience, and failed. In that way, the Commandments became an important part in bringing him then, and others since,

to a place of sensing their inadequacy and realizing the need of grace as revealed through the Gospel. As C. S. Lewis, a former atheist, so aptly stated: "No man knows how bad he is till he has tried very hard to be good" (Mere Christianity).

Luther tried and failed. In concluding his Explanation of the Ten Commandments, he asks: "Can any man then keep God's Commandments so perfectly that he is thereby justified and saved?" His answer is a resounding "NO." Then he points to "another way," the blessed Gospel, as incorporated in his Articles of Faith. Thus, the Law becomes our "schoolmaster to bring us unto Christ" (Gal. 3:24). There, through unmerited grace, he found the answer to his spiritual needs and became a member of "the family of God." There he received, not an "infused" grace, which (as some taught, and teach) enabled him to meet the demands of God in His law, but an "imputed" righteousness whereby God looks upon us IN CHRIST as though we had never sinned.

The fact of justification, apart from the Law, became such a thrilling experience in his life that he stresses this tremendous fact time and again. We are no longer under the Law. Even so, the Law is not shelved. It continues to be our "schoolmaster" to bring us back to Christ and His grace whenever we, as Paul said in Romans 7, try in the energy of the flesh to do God's will, and fail, as we always do.

Some have accused Dr. Martin Luther of failing to have as fully grasped Paul's emphasis on sanctification as also an unmerited gift of grace. God's program of grace, as they say, is complete. He has made Him "unto us wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption" (I Cor. 1:30). The same unmerited grace applied all the way.

As ye received Christ, so also walk in Him (Col. 2:6).

A cursory reading of Martin Luther's works hardly qualifies one as a judge in this matter, but his thought of an "incipient righteousness" that leads to a new obedience or good works, could easily lead to such a deduction, however unjustifiable.

We do owe Dr. Martin Luther a great deal for his efforts in producing, among his many works, our Catechism. Its concise and to-the-point Biblical teaching of both Law and Grace in their proper relationship has done much in guiding our Church in the true, Biblical direction.

#### BICENTENNIAL OBSERVANCES AT WALLACE

This year has been a time of much activity at Calvary Church in Wallace, S. Dak. The Bicentennial was observed with a service opening with the entrance of the American flag and the Christian flag, followed by the mens' group wearing the Stars and Stripes jackets and singing the hymn "Onward, Christian Soldiers."

Devotions were given by the local pastor, Larry Severson. Larry Wasland introduced the former Governor of South Dakota and Federal Judge Sigurd Anderson as speaker.

Judge Anderson commended the people for taking time out to remember the birth of our nation on July 4, 1776, lest we forget God's blessings and mercy He has shown to America.

He remarked that it is good for us to read the documents that our forefathers left for posterity: "When in course of human events—we hold these truths to be self-evident—Life, Liberty and the Pursuit of Happiness."

We must energize patriotism and respect the American flag, which is a sign of respect to the nation where we have freedom to worship as we see fit. Quote "America, let us be free, so

you can be you and I can be me." God Bless America! Let us not forget our obligation to our children.

The Ladies' Chorus, dressed in Bicentennial dresses, sang. Bicentennial reflections were given by Jacki Wibeto, based on the hymn, "Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah," reminding us that the people of Israel went forward as long as they looked to God for guidance.

We as a nation must not forget that God is still "strong Deliverer, strong Deliverer, be Thou still my strength and shield." This is the prayer as we enter the third century.

Preceding the service and during the social hour the youth group and Sunday School children sang. After the noon potluck meal the afternoon was spent participating in social activity.

On July 4th the congregation gathered at Telemarken Memorial Church for special Independence Day services led by Pastor Severson. Special music was given by Jacki Wibeto. This church was built in 1894 and is located 2½ miles northwest of Wallace. The church stands as a memorial and a reminder of the early pioneers, their rugged character and spiritual resources, which gave their simple lives a wealth of meaning.

A Heritage Day was sponsored by the WMF. Artifacts from the early pioneer days were displayed. We were reminded of the essential facts of life as they were then and what they had to teach. We are grateful for those who had a vision of the Kingdom of God and worked to the fullest extent in building this community and con-

[Continued on page 8]

#### ASSOCIATION OF FREE LUTHERAN CONGREGATIONS 3110 East Medicine Lake Boulevard Minneapolis, Minnesota 55441

#### BUDGET RECEIPTS February 1-October 31, 1976 (9 months)

	Total Budget	Current Budget	Received during October	Total Rec'd to 10/31	% of Current	% of Total
General Fund	\$ 82,600.00	\$ 61,949.97	\$ 5,881.61	\$ 36,435.59	58.8	44.
Schools	128,249.00	96,186.69	5,556.53	49,384.45	51.3	38.5
Home Missions	78,875.00	56,500.00	4,960.81	35,842.95	63.4	45.4
Foreign Missions	82,800.00	62,100.00	6,269.88	42,176.21	67.9	50.9
Praise Fund	30,000.00	22,500.00	1,147.50	19,610.09	87.0	65.3
	\$402,524.00	\$299,236.66	\$23,816.33	\$183,449.29	61.3	45.5
1975-76	\$304,090.00	\$228,267.38	\$22,648.42	\$153,977.17	67.5	50.6



# OUR TRIP TO ARIZONA AND MEXICO

## CHAPTER ONE— ROCK POINT

by Rev. Gerald F. Mundfrom

It all began last June at our annual conference in Hancock, Michigan, when Pastor Lawrence Dynneson invited me to come to Nogales, Arizona, and help him with the mission work there.

I was moved and challenged. I had always wanted to be a missionary from youth up and felt God's call in this. Could it be that God was now giving me an opportunity in the later part of my life?

After I got home, I told Margaret what Lawrence had said. We thought, talked, and prayed about it much. Plans were made to visit the mission at Nogales.

On Saturday, August 14, our family, including Ruth, Rachel, Priscilla and Stephen, were on our way. On Sunday I preached at my former parish at Pukwana, South Dakota. Then we spent a couple of days visiting two of my sisters in Denver and sightseeing in the Rockies.

It had been 17 years before that we had made a trip to Rock Point, Arizona. At that time the mission was under the auspices of the Global Gospel Fellowship, which I was serving in Minneapolis. Some time before, John Carlson, the director of the GGF, had founded the mission at Rock Point.

Many changes had taken place since our former visit. The Global Gospel Fellowship has dissolved, but the mission at Rock Point had made great progress and now has its own board.

Seventeen years ago the missionaries did most of the ministering, much of it through one interpreter. But now a congregation of Indians had been organized, and it was the Navajos who were doing most of the ministering. Several lay pastors take turns preaching on Sunday mornings. Pastor Wallace Cole, the director, meets periodically with these lay pastors for instruction. This congregation is a member of the Americal Lutheran Church.

The previous time we came to Rock

Point, we followed a trail through the desert and at one place got stuck in the sand. We had to gather sage brush to put under the back wheels of the car to give us traction until we got on more solid ground. Now there is a blacktop road coming in from the north which took us all the way to Rock Point.

The sun had gone down, but it was still light enough to see the landscape. It looked the same as it had 17 years earlier, with its red desert soil dotted with sage brush and huge mountain-like rock formations protruding out of the desert floor. As we came near Rock Point, some of these formations became familiar. They hadn't changed since we were there last, nor have they changed much in hundreds of years.

It was dark when we arrived. We could tell by the puddles of water that there had recently been a hard rain. Rain is not very common in this desert area.

It was all very quiet at the mission. We saw some lights, but no one seemed to be home. Then we noticed a light at the church, which had been built since we were there. This Navajo congregation was having its annual fall Bible camp meetings. All the missionaries and some of the Navajo people from the area were gathered at the chapel for an evening service.

As I approached the chapel, Elsie Dyrud saw me and came out to meet me. Immediately she made me feel welcome. She told me that they had been looking for us and that they had places for all of us to stay in the girls' dormitory. We were invited to come into the chapel. A Navajo guest speaker was speaking in Navajo, but out of respect for some who couldn't understand Navajo he did say something in English every now and then. His text was on the unknown god which Paul spoke of when preaching in Athens.

The service became rather long.

Children and some adults freely came and went while the speaker was talking. This didn't seem to bother him.

After the worship service, we were introduced to Pastor Wallace Cole, the director of the mission, and his wife and sons and some of the other missionaries. The Navajos were very friendly and freely came to greet us, some speaking English and some with just a handshake. I told them that we had been there 17 years before and had come back for a visit. That we were interested enough to come back after having once been here seemed to give us good rapport with them.

We were invited to the kitchen for refreshments and fellowship. Here I had opportunity to meet the speaker and fellowship with Him. He was a man of about 65 and could speak English very well. I was impressed with his Christian maturity as well.

We all slept well that night. There is an elementary boarding school at the mission which was not in session during the summer. It was soon to begin and the teachers were making preparations.

On Friday we were invited to have breakfast with Pastor Cole and family, during which time we freely talked about the mission and the Navajo Indians. I was asked to give a ten-minute greeting that evening. I would speak through an interpreter and was told that it takes about three times as long that way. It seems that it takes many more words to translate into Navajo. On our previous visit, I had delivered the Sunday morning message through an interpreter.

After breakfast Mrs. Cole gave us a tour of the mission and we were introduced to still other missionaries and workers. We sensed that it was a busy place and that everyone had his job and was busy with it. Everything seemed well organized. However, they still had time to talk to us and answer the questions we asked. We were made to feel welcome.

I was impressed with the progress that had been made in printing literature in the Navajo language. Quite recently the complete Bible became available in Navajo. This was a real breakthrough in doing effective Christian mission work. There now are quite a large number of Christian tracts and small booklets both for

children and adults in the Navajo language. She gave us some samples all done up in an attractive way with art and color to complement the message. Tapes with a Christian message in Navajo are available for use in the Navajo homes.

Next we were taken to the clinic where Elsie Benson, a missionary nurse, explained the medical program to us. They have a good filing system on all whom they treat. There is no doctor at the mission, but because of a good main road and telephone they have quick access to one.

At mid-forenoon we were invited to the kitchen for a coffee break and had opportunity to fellowship with some of the missionaries. Our noon meal was at the home of Elsie Dyrud, a cousin of the Dyruds in our Association.

About the time we finished eating, Mrs. Eugene Natachez, a Navajo lady of about 70 years of age, came bringing her deaf grand-daughter Louise, in her early twenties. It was her husband who had been my interpreter when we were here 17 years earlier, and at that time our daughter Ruth had had a good time playing with Louise.

Now her grandmother brought Louise to get re-acquainted with Ruth. They carried on a correspondence by means of pencil, paper and motions, although Louise could read lips somewhat.

A little after 2 o'clock another meeting started. This time it was held in the summer shelter or meeting place which reminded me of a pole cattle shed. The roof was covered with green leafy branches. The sides were loosely enclosed with boards and some kind of bamboo weave, and so fastened to allow the breeze to blow through. The purpose of this shelter was to provide shade from the hot sun and to somewhat check the wind. The meeting had not been held in this shelter the night before because of the heavy rain. This summer shelter would not hold out the rain. The Navajos spend most of the summer in similar shelters near their homes.

The sun was quite hot that afternoon, but it was cool under the shelter. There were few Navajos present when the meeting started, but they kept coming. Again the speaker spoke in

Navajo, but recognizing those who couldn't understand by occasionally saying something in English.

Toward the beginning of his message, he said, "There are two kinds of time—Anglo time and Navajo time. Anglo time allows only 20 minutes for a sermon. You can't even get started in that time. I am going to preach by Navajo time." And he did. The theme of his message was, "Working Out Your Salvation," and emphasized the need of growing as a Christian.

After the meeting there was a supper with everyone invited. A buffet table was set up just in front of the summer shelter.

After we had eaten there was still about an hour before the evening meeting was to start. Stephen and I decided to climb to a place on the rock nearby called Rock Point.

We inquired of Floyd Johnson the best and quickest way to reach it. Floyd was the only missionary there now who had been there 17 years ago. At that time we had been together in a climbing expedition, exploring some old Indian ruins, believed to have been of another civilization. Floyd thought of me as quite a climber and concluded I would have no problem reaching Rock Point. But that was 17 years ago and I really didn't consider myself that good a climber.

Stephen and I walked to a point at the foot of Rock Point Mountain where years earlier, my boys and I, together with some of the missionaries, had picked up pieces of broken pottery not characteristic of the Navajos. We found a few more pieces in the same place.

We now began our climb toward Rock Point. Stephen went faster than I and waited to help me over a couple of steep places. I discovered that it didn't go as easy as it had years earlier and we didn't get all the way to Rock Point. It was farther than we had anticipated. I was afraid we had already gone too far in order to get back in time for the evening meeting. We tried to find a way back from high up on this mountain of rock that would be closer and not so steep. But we found none. What seemed to be the edge of the mountain and the beginning of the desert floor turned out to be an abrupt steep cliff still 50 feet or more up. I was reluctant to go back

down the way we had come, but we had no choice. I knew now that we would not be back by 7:00 p.m.

But we did make it back to the foot of the mountain without mishap. It was after 7 when we got to the mission and the meeting hadn't started yet. Nor is it unusual to come late to a Navajo meeting.

At about 7:20 p.m., the service started with the singing of hymns and a time for testimonies. One by one, in orderly fashion, both men and women made their way to the front and told about the Jesus they loved, each one speaking for five to ten minutes in his own tongue. Some, after speaking for a while, would call on one or two others (relatives or friends) to accompany them in singing a special number. Some played the guitar while others sang.

It was 8:45 p.m., when I was introduced by a young Navajo, who also served as my interpreter. He mentioned that we had visited Rock Point years ago and that his mother remembered it. We were amazed that these women remembered.

In my greeting I emphasized how the Gospel had been used by God to bridge the gap between the white and Navajo people, how it had put love in our hearts for each other, how thrilled I was to see the Navajos taking an active part in the ministry, and how this change had taken place within 17 years.

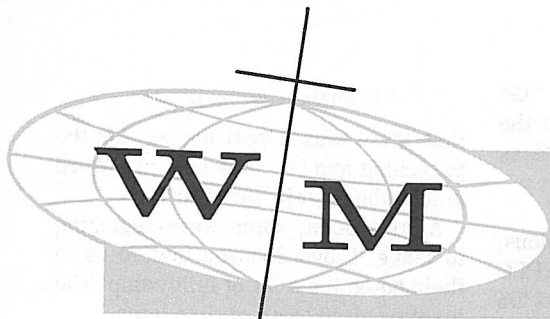
I felt a closeness to these people as I talked and they listened. Later I was told that they liked what I had said. It was truly a joy and privilege to have this part in their camp meeting.

It was after 9:00 p.m., when the evening speaker got up. His theme was "The Cost of Discipleship." As he spoke he made reference to the greeting I had given. He also stressed how it had cost the missionaries to bring the Gospel to the Navajo Indians, and how grateful he was. It was almost ten o'clock when he finished speaking.

The leader of the meeting now gave an invitation for all who wished to re-dedicate their lives to Christ to come forward. To my amazement, about 30 or 35 adults went forward and gathered around the altar. It was evident

[Continued on page 8]





# WORLD MISSIONS

THE FIELDS ARE WHITE UNTO HARVEST

## RETURNING FOR SHORT FURLOUGH

Three years have flown by and we are due for a short furlough. The children are anxiously counting the days now until they can see their Grandmas once again, Lord willing, November 23, 1976. We, too, are anxious to visit our loved ones and you all, if possible in three months. At the winter and pastors' conferences and some churches, but time will not permit us to visit all.

There are several reasons for the short furlough: 1) we feel that while we are still young and strong and the children's schooling is very adequate, in the lower grades here in Brazil, we should spend as much time here as the Lord permits. 2) The Knapps and Abels have visited churches and conferences these past two years and have proclaimed the mission message with desire and love. 3) We have grown to love Brazil like our own home. Two of our four children were born here, thus making them Brazilian. 4) No one knows how long the doors of this country will remain open to foreigners and the Gospel. We have had a very difficult time getting documents ready to leave the country this time. Therefore time is precious.

That is why we are returning with mixed feelings: to visit our loved ones, renew acquaintances again, share missions with you, but yet we feel and see the need of remaining here in the work.

These last three years have been glorious but yet painful. With more years on the field, we feel more comfortable in the language and culture and are able to witness more freely to the people. This has made the work much more rewarding. But also, my wife and I contracted hepatitis at the very same time and for a month were bedridden. Then while we were recuperating my father passed away. We

thank the Lord that I was able to return to the States to be at the funeral and be with Mother a couple of weeks before returning to Brazil. While all this occurred, my wife was pregnant. We had some fears that with the hepatitis there would be complications—there weren't, as the baby was carried full term and the Lord blessed us with a healthy boy, after three girls. But then the doctor noticed that the soft spot on the baby's head was nearly closed and recommended that we see a neurosurgeon who felt an operation on his head was inevitable and the sooner the better. We were grief-stricken, as the doctor said it was a serious operation and with a baby of a few days the chances were 50-50 that he'd make it, and if left he would probably develop mental problems. We prayed much about the matter and made our requests known to you in the States and God heard our prayers. Further exams were made with other doctors and they felt the operation could be stalled off for six months in hopes that the problem would take care of itself. But it was God who continued to bless and after the six-month period, we thanked Him because an operation was not needed. Today he is over a year old and is a strapping, healthy fellow. "God works in a miraculous way, His wonders to perform."

Through all this the Lord has been teaching us many things that could never be taught from books: just the very fact of being thankful for life and health and being able to be where God wants us to be. To help others find Christ is a lot more meaningful to us now. "Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice" (Phil. 4:4).

Joy in His Service,  
The Connely J. Dyruds

(Ed. Note: Mrs. Myrtle Hove, Carolyn's mother, informs us that the Dy-



Bottom row, left to right, Chester, Vicky and Christy; top row, Carolyn, Shannon and Connely.

rud family is due in Grand Forks, N. Dak., at 7 p.m. on the 24th. Their furlough address will be 1918 Greenwood St., Country Acres Apt., Thief River Falls, Minn. 56701.)

## WHAT IS A MISSIONARY RESPONSIBILITY UNIT?

As we have planned together and prayed about Foreign Missions in our AFLC we have sought ways to more faithfully carry out our Lord's Command to go and make disciples of all nations. We realize that an appeal to become personally involved or personally responsible for part of our Association Foreign Mission Program has a real challenge for many. With this in mind, several years ago the Foreign Mission Board and Annual Conference approved the Missionary Responsibility Unit Plan. Previously this Plan was mimeographed and sent out to the pastors and churches; however, since there is now renewed interest in it, and no present material available on it, we send forth this brief explanation. We hope it will serve as information for individuals, congregations or groups who are interested in directly sponsoring missionaries through our AFLC Budget.

What is meant by a Missionary Responsibility Unit? This, in other words, means taking a share of the support of a certain couple or single worker on the foreign mission field. These shares are broken down into units of \$500 (five hundred dollars) per year. A missionary's salary varies with the size of his family, and a single missionary, of course, receives less. But let us say that it takes eight Units of Responsibility to support a single missionary for a year. Some congregation might

say, we will make it our goal to supply two Units of Responsibility. This means that such a church has promised to send into our AFLC Foreign Mission Office \$1,000.00 during the year, and they have the privilege then of designating this for a certain missionary or family. The missionary family or individual whom they have designated to support is informed of this by the congregation or mission office and it is then possible for the missionary to consider that congregation as one of his supporting churches. There should develop a more personal relationship between the missionary and his supporting churches. They would exchange letters and pictures. This should provide a stimulus to foreign missions at home and on the field. Prayers should become more constant, personal and fervent as one realizes that he has taken on a definite Unit of Missionary Responsibility.

Perhaps it is good to emphasize that such giving to our AFLC Foreign Missions has at least two possible added blessings: the personal interest developed in your congregation through having its own missionary, and the help to the Foreign Mission Board in seeing how many congregations it will take to fully support a missionary or missionary couple on the field. If the Board sees that one-third of the congregations can support most of our Foreign Mission program, there is no reason for not putting forth new candidates for foreign missions. We need more workers to enable our Association to reach out into new frontier towns and cities, as well as new countries in South America.

Remember then, a Unit of Missionary Responsibility begins at \$500 per year. Challenge your group to take as many Units as possible by faith and increase the number of units year by year as you see your congregation being blessed, growing in faith and numbers. Choose the missionaries you wish to designate as the ones your congregation would like to sponsor. If such missionaries are already fully supported, the Mission Board will inform you and suggest other names to you.

We can expect great blessings from God as we identify with both the per-

son and purpose of Jesus Christ: "Go ye into all the world, and preach the Gospel to every creature" (Mark 16:15).

Address your inquiries to:  
Secretary, Board of Foreign Missions,  
AFLC  
PO Box 275  
Thief River Falls, Minn. 56701

#### BECAUSE HE LOVED ME

I could not see why Jesus had to suffer  
And die upon the cross of Calvary,  
But He died for all, for all are sinners,  
Each one unworthy, just like you  
and me.

He spoke so gently, as He looked at  
me;

Then He said, "Because I love you,  
Laura,

I gave my life that you may also live  
And help to spread the message of  
my love."

Oh, friends, there is not any other  
way,

Nor any work or goodness of your  
own

That is sufficient your soul to save—  
But Jesus Christ, and by His grace  
alone.

We live, we die, and yet we die to  
live

With our dear Savior in His Home  
above.

While we live on earth, may we praise  
our Lord,  
And reach out to touch others with  
His love.

—Mrs. Laura Norum  
Amery, Wis.

(Written in memory of her husband,  
Rev. Ingvald Norum, who was taken  
Home four years ago this fall.)

[Continued from page 4]

gregation. Gospel songs were presented by a group from Crocker, S. Dak.

A Songfest was held at Family Night. Scripture and prayer were given by Pastor Severson. Pastor Howard Stockman of Waubay, S. Dak., was song leader. The neighboring congregations were guests.

It was good to express praises of Christ and to inspire participants to give praise to Him with our daily lives and willing service.

—Emma Sakariason

[Continued from page 6]

that there was a real hunger for the preaching and teaching of God's Word among the Navajo Christians.

At this point, some were beginning to leave. Floyd Johnson invited us to their home for a bit of fellowship. The meeting closed a short time later.

Floyd and his wife filled us in on what had taken place at the mission since we'd been there.

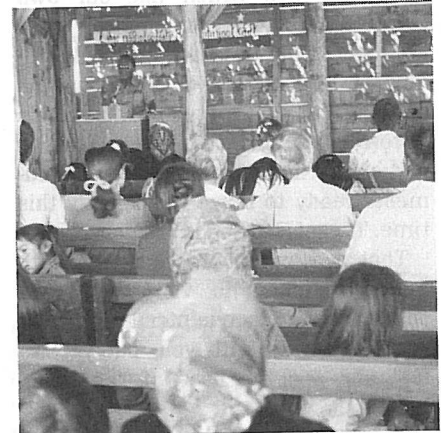
We said goodbye to all the missionaries that evening, as we planned to leave very early the next morning.

Our sleep was short as we were up at 4:00 a.m., and soon on our way again, our destination Nogales.

(To be continued)



Navajo women outside a summer shelter.



A Bible camp meeting at Rock Point.

#### PERSONALITIES

New address for Rev. Frank A. Miller in Boscobel, Wis. 53805, is 203 Center Street. Pastor Miller serves Hickory Grove Lutheran Church.



## A PAN-LUTHERAN CONFERENCE

The time may not be auspicious; time may already have run out for such an idea, but we raise the suggestion anyway: could there be a Pan-Lutheran Conference to seriously discuss the theology which unites us all?

What we have in mind is a plan whereby every separate Lutheran body in the U.S. would send her best theologians to a conference to frankly and honestly discuss some of the basic points of doctrine over a reasonable period of time, say, one month. (We know it would be possible to spend months or years at this.)

One of the items which would have to be dealt with head on is the doctrine of the Word. That wasn't an issue at the time of the writing of the Augsburg Confession, but it is today. Certain it is that there is debate going on concerning this doctrine today, but we'd like to see it carried on under circumstances different from what exist today. At the present time the debate is too much like one side lobbing a shell from its own trench into another.

Of course, the focus today is on the internal strife in the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod. A new church body, the Association of Evangelical Lutheran Churches, is coming forth from that struggle. But there are other tensions, too, such as the Lutherans Alert movement, chiefly within the American Lutheran Church. The ALC and the Lutheran Church in America have conservative elements within them, largely silent as far as church politics go, but vaguely dissatisfied.

The issue isn't raised because we're interested in church union. We're not. But we're part of the Lutheran family, all of us are—AFLC, ALC, LCA, ELS, WELS, CLB, LCMS, AELC, or whatever—and it would be good to try to take a look at our historical doctrine together for once, or once more.

But such an effort should be an official one, that is, the representatives should be sent by their churches. Perhaps even that would be impossible if some bodies would refuse to meet with those they already consider unorthodox or unfaithful. However, if it could be understood that the results of the conference are not binding upon the church bodies, that could make a difference.

It could be helpful, if there is disagreement concerning doctrine, to see wherein we disagree and do that in a clean-cut way. The present sniping within and at other Lutheran church bodies isn't helpful.

Finally, a Pan-Lutheran Conference on theology in America would have to recognize all participating bodies as equals. That is not to say that representation would have to be equal, but each church should have equal opportunity for input on every subject considered.

It may be an impossible dream, but it's what we'd like to see, Lutherans in America, every group represented, sitting down together to take a sincere, concerted look at the doctrines of our Church, at this point in time.



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# editorials

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## A GOOD FEELING

I've just come back from voting in the General Election today (Nov. 2). It gave me a good feeling to see the people coming to the polls and standing in line, waiting to vote. We've heard a lot about voter apathy, and maybe there is (or was), but it didn't look like it in our precinct. Armstrong High School was a busy place at 9 o'clock in the morning.

Of course, I have no idea who the winners will be, as I write, in my precinct, state-wide, or nationally. But it was good to see many people coming out to vote. We were from many walks of life, although being from suburbia may have limited us somewhat in that regard.

We had been through the campaigns, too. Through press, radio and TV coverage, and maybe through some personal contacts, we'd formed some judgments and were ready to cast our ballots. I couldn't tell by looking at my fellow citizens how each was going to vote. There at the polling place, we had our secrets, but we were ready to act.

A couple of times while I was over at Armstrong today I almost got a lump in my throat as I watched and took part in this little piece of democracy in action. It's good to be an American.

—Raynard Huglen

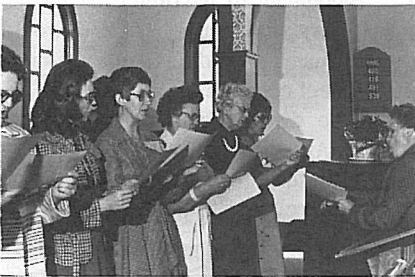
**MINNEAPOLIS DISTRICT WMF  
RALLY WAS AT KENYON**

The Minneapolis District WMF fall rally was held at Hauge Lutheran Church, Kenyon, Minn., on Oct. 9, 1976, Rev. Allen Monson, pastor. The theme was "Jesus Is Coming again—Praise His Name!" The theme song was "When Jesus Comes in Glory." District President Mrs. Irvin Hodnefield presided over the sessions. Morning music was provided by Mrs. Allen Hjernsted and Mrs. Joe Goplen, and afternoon music by the Ladies' Chorus, which had practiced during the noon hour under the direction of Mrs. Marlin Benrud.

Rev. Francis Monseth led the morning Bible study based on I Thess. 4:13-18. From this passage we received (1) Reassurance that Christ IS coming again, (2) Revelation of how this will take place, and (3) a Reminder that we should comfort each other with these thoughts. Rev. Monseth's afternoon message was based on I Thess. 5:1-11. The Day of the Lord will come unexpectedly. Living in the light of the last day, we must be spiritually alert. God's provision for us is that through Christ we can escape the wrath to come and obtain salvation and eternal life. Jesus IS coming again! Are you ready?

Offerings were received for Church Extension and Honorary Membership—In Memoriam. There were 118 WMF members attending, and 135 members and friends registered.

Mrs. Burton Boyum  
Secretary



Mrs. Marlin Benrud, right, directs the ladies' chorus at the rally.



Mrs. Arnold, Arneson, left, with Mrs. Irvin Hodnefield, president, and Mrs. Jacob Ullestad.

**LADY AT DRUMMOND GIVEN  
AN HONORARY MEMBERSHIP**

Mrs. Bernard Josephson was recently honored by the WMF of Drummond Lutheran Church, Drummond, Wis., by being presented with an Honorary membership in the Women's Missionary Federation. Marie remembers working with young children in the Sunday School when she was a young girl and she has been a faithful worker and supporter in various activities of the church in the many years she has been a part of our community and member of the church.



The picture, above, shows Marie, right, with a neighbor and WMF vice-president, Agnes Lee, who witnessed the presentation of the pin by Grace Christianson.

—Corr.

**EBEN JCT. WMF  
HONORS THREE**

Three ladies were honored at a Sunday evening family night service at Calvary Lutheran Church, Eben Jct., Mich., recently. The ladies of the congregation were in charge of the program for the evening, which included



Pictured above are Mmes. Maki, Benson and Posio, with Mrs. Irene Kangas, WMF president, who presented the pins.

—Corr.

the presentation of Honorary Memberships to the following ladies: Mrs. Minnie Maki, Mrs. Sadie Posio and Mrs. Linnea Benson. They have been members of the King's Daughters WMF for many years and have been faithful in attendance and service for the Lord.

**KIRKLAND, WASHINGTON,  
CHOSEN FOR 1977 LUTHER  
LEAGUE CONVENTION**

Leagues of the Association of Free Lutheran Congregations are encouraged to make plans now for the 1977 Luther League Federation convention to be held in Our Redeemer Lutheran Church, Robert Rieth, pastor, Kirkland, Wash. The dates chosen are July 12-17.

Watch for later information about convention plans. Begin praying for this great assembly of youth.

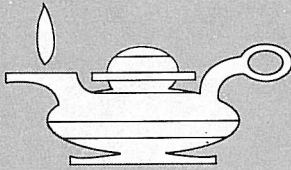


Key: The name of the town is the address of the deceased. Following that is listed the name of the deceased, age, date of death and the church in which he or she held membership.

**SOUTH DAKOTA  
Pierpont**

**Mrs. Joseph (Cathy) Bosmoe, 38, Oct. 14, Tabor, Webster**





## SCHOOL NEWS

### NOTATIONS FROM AFLBS

Kraig Lerud, Thief River Falls, Minn., has replaced Mark Kjos, Faith, S. Dak., on the Social Committee. Mark had to withdraw because his work schedule on Monday nights made it impossible for him to attend the committee meetings.

Rev. Herbert L. Franz, Cloquet, Minn., was the speaker at joint chapel on Oct. 13, when he was conducting the Life in Christ Crusade at Medicine Lake Lutheran Church.

The three vocal musical organizations at school participated in the Reformation service at Medicine Lake Lutheran on Oct. 31. Dr. Iver Olson, faculty member emeritus, preached the sermon on "The True Treasure of the Church."

Cindy Forth, North Tonawanda, N. Y., underwent knee surgery at Methodist Hospital on Nov. 1 to correct a problem resulting from an injury in

the previous school year.

Nadine Solberg, Aneta, N. Dak., won first prize for best costume at the fall party on Oct. 28. She was dressed as a raisin. Second place was taken by Anna Oliver, Astoria, Ore., dressed as a banana. Appearing as an elderly man, Dan Larson, Rolfe, Ia., was awarded third place. Jeff Burmester, Maumee, O., was master of ceremonies for the evening. Lunch was served.

Pastor Monseth will be in the Tioga, N. Dak., parish on Nov. 20-21, on a deputation visit and Pastor Moland will be at Trinity Lutheran in Grand Forks, N. Dak., on Nov. 21.

### Introducing Our Seminarists LET MY LIFE BE USED FOR HIS GLORY

Gal. 2:20: "I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I,

but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave Himself for me." After many years of living apart from Jesus, He forgave me and I accepted the atonement for my sins on the cross of Calvary. Jesus loved me and died for me. I now live to share the love I have for Him.

I would like to introduce myself and my family and share of the things God has done for us. I am in my first year of seminary. My wife Marian is a helper in the kitchen of AFLBS. We have three children, Mrs. Bruce Johnson (Debbie) of Jacksonville, Florida, Bruce, a junior in high school, and Diane in fifth grade.

Before moving to Minneapolis this past summer, we lived our entire lives in the Fergus Falls, Minn., area. We are members of Sarpsborg Lutheran Congregation of Dalton, Minn.

God used many people and events as I came to know Jesus as Lord and Savior. I thank God for His mercy and for the people who were instrumental in my salvation.

We often get so involved with our daily living, that we don't take time to be alone with God. God put me in the hospital, that I might have the time to be alone with Him. It was during my stay at the hospital that I felt God's call. My answer was, "I am only an auto mechanic; I don't have enough education; of what use am I?" God's answer was Phil. 4:13: "I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me." I was hospitalized for three weeks for only an infection in my arm. God and I knew why I was there so long. I could not say no to Phil. 4:13, by faith we can do all things through Christ. We cannot expect that Jesus will do everything and we just sit back. We must work. Because of my limited education, I attended AFLBS last year, commuting each weekend, in preparation for entering the seminary.

"The life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave Himself for me." I am not worthy of the love and mercy God has given me, but my prayer is that my life may be used to His honor and glory.

—Gordon L. Grage

### Now a Tradition

## THE ANNUAL CHRISTMAS CONCERT AT ASSOCIATION FREE LUTHERAN BIBLE SCHOOL

Sunday, December 12 at 4 o'clock  
Minneapolis, Minnesota

The Concert Choir, Choral Club and Chapel Singers,  
under the direction of Mr. Donald Rodvold

A light supper will be served following the program.

# NEWS

## of the Churches



### SPENCER CREEK CHURCH WELCOMES PASTOR

October 17th was a festive day at Spencer Creek Lutheran Church, Eugene, Oregon, as we welcomed our new pastor, Stephen Odegaard, his wife Linda and two children, Keven and little David, to our congregation. The church was filled even though 21 of our young people were attending the Luther League convention at Astoria. A note of thanksgiving rose to God for having sent us a new leader. A beautiful cake, ornate with a "Welcome to Oregon," greeted the pastor's family as we gathered in the annex for refreshments.

Pastor Lars Stalsbrotten brought a greeting from 1 Samuel 12:23-24 to both the pastor and the congregation. He said, remember this greeting is from the Lord. The 23rd v. is to us. "God forbid that I should sin against the Lord in ceasing to pray for you." To pray for our pastor is our special responsibility as a congregation. If we neglect to do that we sin against the Lord.

The 24th verse is for the pastor: "Only fear the Lord, and serve Him in truth with all your heart: for consider how great things He hath done for you."

We look forward with great anticipation to what the Lord will do as we work together to further His kingdom here in the Rainbow Valley. God has given us a great field. Eugene Register Guard reported recently that in the Spencer Creek area alone there are over 2000 people.

Pray for us.

—Corr.

### REV. JOHN DE BOER INSTALLED AT ZUMBROTA CHURCH

Rev. John DeBoer was installed as pastor of Our Saviour's Lutheran Church, Zumbrota, Minn., on Sept. 19, at the morning worship service. Rev. Francis Monseth, Minneapolis, Minn., teacher at the Association Schools, was the officiant. Council members assisted. The service was followed by a congregational dinner and fellowship hour.

Pastor DeBoer, who resides in Wamamingo, Minn., served Our Saviour's from July, 1975, to June, 1976, as interim pastor. After a summer vacation, he resumed duties as full-time pastor of the church.

Pastor DeBoer has served congregations previously at Shelton, Wash., Portland, Ore., Escanaba, Mich., and Chamberlain, S. Dak., as well as doing interim work at a number of places.

At Our Saviour's, the morning worship is at 9:30 on Sundays and the midweek Bible study is on Wednesday evenings at 7 o'clock.

### SUNDAY SCHOOL OUTING HELD NEAR PENNOCK

The Sunday School from Zion in Willmar, Minn., were guests of the Roger Rasmussens near Pennock, Minn., on October 3.

Mr. Rasmussen, Sunday School superintendent, led what is called a memory pool. The boys and girls who could recite a Bible verse could then fish for a prize in the pool. Also, everyone enjoyed a hayride and a potluck supper.

### PASTOR AND MRS. HELLAND HONORED



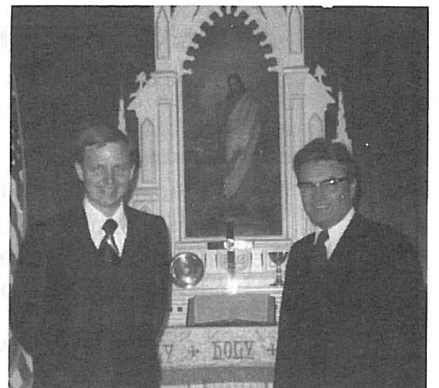
Pastor and Mrs. Jonas Helland, Willmar, Minn., celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary recently. There was a fine turnout of friends from far and near. The WMF from Zion in Willmar served the luncheon for this special occasion and a service was held honoring the Hellands.

### MCINTOSH-FOSSTON PARISH INSTALLS PASTOR

Rev. Ralph Rokke was installed as pastor of Calvary, Mount Carmel and Trinity Lutheran Churches of the McIntosh-Fosston, Minn., parish on Sunday, August 29. Pastor John P. Strand, president of the Association of Free Lutheran Congregations, officiated. A reception was held at Trinity, McIntosh, with dinner being served, following the 11 o'clock service.

Pastor Rokke was ordained at the annual conference in June in Hancock, Mich., and began serving the parish on June 20.

The new pastor, together with his wife Kathi and little daughter Jennifer, are living in the parsonage in McIntosh.



Pastor Rokke, left, and Pastor Strand.

# Women For Christ

## CONTENT AND THANKFUL

by Mrs. Carl Rasmussen,  
Chetek, Wis.

"Not that I speak in respect of want: for I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content" (Philippians 4:11).

"Godliness with contentment is great gain" (1 Timothy 6:6).

In my daily life as a wife, mother and homemaker, I think often on these verses on contentment. Jesus tells us in Matthew 6:33, "Seek ye first the kingdom of God, and His righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you."

I was more fortunate than many, as I had the privilege of Christian training when I grew up. I had that needful Christian discipline.

I wasn't asked if I wanted to attend Sunday School and church. It was expected. I'm glad that this was the way it was. I was happy. In my own heart I wanted to serve Jesus. The fruit of the Spirit had shown in the lives of my parents, as well as in Christians in our church and community. There was no difference in their lives on Sunday, Wednesday or Saturday. It wasn't a Sunday religion. They served Jesus every day of the week.

I'm not saying there weren't ups and downs or times of testing; however, through family devotions, training in the Sunday School and guidance in the church, I found peace in Christ Jesus. At a young age, I saw myself as a sinner and asked Jesus to be my Savior. He was my best Friend.

As a child, I attended prayer meetings with my parents. There wasn't any such thing as staying home with

a baby-sitter. We lived on a dairy farm, but my dad and mom could always get ready to attend the mid-week service as well as Sunday morning and Sunday evening services. We did things as a family unit. We were content. We were brought up with that attitude.

I wasn't really aware of the Depression times because my mother sewed all my clothes, she had a big garden and did a lot of canning and we were never hungry. Our home was given to hospitality—almost anyone who drove in the yard was welcomed to a fresh cup of coffee with a taste of homemade bread, plus either a cookie, a piece of cake or a doughnut.

I even remember a tramp named Sam who came about once a year. Mother always fixed "rømmegrøt" for him as that was his favorite dish. Every year we wondered if Sam would come. Was he still living?

I can appreciate these things more now that I have a home of my own and realize the power and strength of Christian training and heritage.

An example of a Christian home and its effects on young lives was brought to reality when I met the Peterson brothers who won the gold and silver medals for wrestling in the Olympic games of 1976. John and Ben came from a home background with Christian training. Both John and Ben accepted Christ personally at a young age. However, John's wife never had any Bible training until she was invited to attend a Bible Club in high school at age 17. She told how her parents had been divorced when she was two years old. Her mother remarried. Somehow Nancy could never love her step-dad, but when she in-

vited Christ into her life, Christ's love in her enabled her to love him, too. Christ changes hearts.

Christ creates contentment whenever we receive Him, but the important thing is to let Him in, feed on His Word daily and let Him be Lord in our life.

Hebrews 13:5: "Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee."

Teaching in elementary schools and various age levels of Sunday School has given me insight to the importance of the training of children to become content adults.

I am convinced more and more of the truth of Proverbs 22:6: "Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it."

When we send our children off to university, we can commit them to Jesus and claim His promises for them. There are fine Christian groups on the campuses and many students are finding blessed fellowship. They find it when they have been prayerfully trained to seek it.

Mrs. Carl Rasmussen

## FARGO CHURCH SITE OF WMF RALLY

St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Fargo, N. Dak., Philip Haugen, pastor, was the host for the Fall Rally of the Eastern North Dakota District Women's Missionary Federation on Tuesday, Oct. 5. The theme for the day was "What is First in My Life?", based on Matthew 6:33. The theme song for the rally was the chorus "Seek Ye First."

Our district president presided at both sessions. Music was provided by women from United Lutheran, McLeod, Bethany, Binford, and by Mrs. Don Schroeder, Fargo. Rev. Orville Olson, Hatton, presented the morning Bible study, basing his presentation on our theme. We must seek Christ first, he said, and then all other things will be added. We must be ready to receive. We have a limitless God.

Rev. John P. Strand, president of the Association of Free Lutheran Congregations, brought the afternoon message based on the Christian's pri-



orities. Do we seek Christ first? We who are Christians must be loyal to God and His kingdom, he said. The kingdom of God is in you if you are a child of God. Our congregations are the fundamental aspect of the kingdom of God on earth, he reminded us.

An offering was received for My Missionary for a Day program. Miss Pearl Aanstad, Hampden, and Mrs. Don Olson, Fargo, were re-elected president and cradle roll secretary, respectively, and Mrs. Robert Lofthus, McVillage, was elected treasurer. Mrs. John Mundfrom, Fargo, was song leader for the day and Mrs. Joe Solberg, Fargo, was our organist. There were 133 ladies in attendance.

Mrs. Russell Duncan  
Secretary

### SPICER CHURCH HOST TO WMF RALLY

Green Lake Lutheran Church of Spicer, Minnesota, hosted the Fall Rally for the Southwest Central District Women's Missionary Federation on Tuesday, October 5, Dennis Grey, pastor. The theme for the day was "Be not deceived... the time draweth near..." (Luke 21:8). "Jesus Is Coming Again" was the theme song for the rally. The district president, Mrs. Norman Haugen, presided over the sessions. Mrs. Fritjof Monseth led in devotions from John 4:1-10 and Mrs. Art Hegreberg welcomed us to Green Lake Church. A flip-chart presentation was given by Mrs. Melvin Walla on the Projects of the Month. Mrs. Milton Erickson gave a report of the District Cradle Roll enrollment. Mrs. Richard Black led the singspiration and music for the day was furnished by a group of ladies from Abercrombie, N. Dak., and by Mrs. Harold Erickson and Mrs. Steve Jacobson. The morning offering was taken for "My Missionary For A Day" and the afternoon offering for the General Fund. A delicious noon lunch was served by the Green Lake WMF and the morning and afternoon coffee breaks were served by Zion WMF, Willmar, and Faith Lutheran WMF, Granite Falls. Pastor Mundfrom had a book display for us.

Pastor Don Greven, Sedan, brought to us an inspiring message on what

God has to say in His Word regarding the Return of Christ. I Thessalonians 5 shows us signs that will take place in the world, in the church, and in Israel. Christ will come as a "thief in the night" to those who are not ready to meet Him, but for those who have Christ as their Savior, it will be a glorious event.

A time of prayer fellowship was led by Mrs. Lois Oscarson. She read Psalm 139:22-24, reminding us that if we are to be truly vessels for God's use we need to ask God to search and cleanse our hearts daily, to feed on His Word and ask the Lord to give us hearts filled with love.

Pastor Greven brought the afternoon message, challenging us to hold fast to the profession of our faith, to stir up one another in the faith, to redeem the time and to be diligent in prayer. We, as a WMF, really need to be concerned and pray that God would give us a vision to be more mission-minded, to give of ourselves and our sons and daughters to share the Gospel of the Lord's salvation to the world.

Mrs. John Arlen Johnson  
Secretary

### INFORMATION ABOUT SUMMER INTERSHIPS

Part of the requirement for success-

fully completing the work at Association Free Lutheran Theological Seminary is that each student spend two summers (six months) in the internship program, serving in a congregation or multiple parish. The service is to be under the guidance of a pastor, if at all possible.

The intership program can only be conducted with the good-will and cooperation of the pastors and parishes of the Association. With an enlarged enrollment and approximately 19 men to place for the summer of 1977, it is especially urgent that every opening possible is made known to the Dean the Seminary.

The Seminary has suggested guidelines as to remuneration for the student interns and re-imburement of their expenses during internship. These guidelines are available upon request.

Please contact the Seminary very soon if your parish could use the services of a student intern in 1977. In the past, both the parishes and the interns have been blessed through this program.

Pray for the seminarians God has given to the church.

Write:  
Dean, Free Lutheran Seminary  
3110 East Medicine Lake Blvd.  
Minneapolis, Minn. 55441



### A Christmas Gift Suggestion

The Association's Own Book of Daily Devotions

### WATERS IN THE WILDERNESS

Edited by Dr. Iver Olson

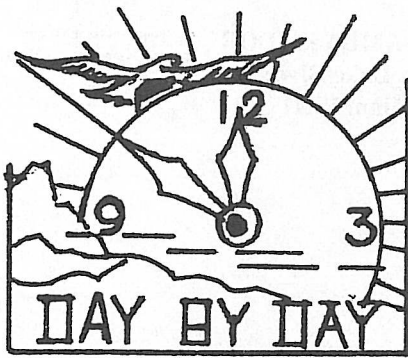
Price per copy—\$3.50

(we pay the postage)

Order from: Devotional Book

3110 East Medicine Lake Blvd.

Minneapolis, Minnesota 55441



## HAPPY THANKSGIVING

by Lars Stalsbroten

Luke 17:15-19

You feel grouchy this morning? That's just why I want to have a little chat with you. Since it is soon Thanksgiving Day I want to talk to you about **THANKFULNESS**.

I don't know of a better medicine than thankfulness. It is like a tonic for your heart and even for your nerves.

Can you find a happier or more beautiful home than one which is filled with thankfulness?

Can you find a more wonderful church than one which is filled with people who are praising and thanking God? It is like a foretaste of heaven.

In Ephesians 5:20, Paul is describing a person full of thanks: "Giving thanks always for all things unto God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ."

If you are so full of thanks that you give thanks always for all things, then there will be no place for griping, grumbling and complaining.

How can a person get thankfulness like that?

We can be thankful for temporal blessings, but they may sooner or later fade away. But this perpetual thanksgiving that lasts through this life and reaches clear into eternity is a different kind.

The story about the Samaritan will give us some light.

How did his thankfulness begin?

Verse 13 tells us. It began with a cry for mercy. It always does. Jesus heard this man's cry for mercy and cleansed him from his dreadful leprosy. Then he began and continued to praise, thank and glorify God. If you have experienced the cleansing from the awful leprosy of sin, you also have the same song in your heart and the

same praise and thankfulness on your lips.

This Scripture lesson tells us about the great blessings that come to us from being thankful.

**1. Our thankfulness brings us closer to God, verse 15.**

"And one of them, when he saw that he was healed, turned back, and with a loud voice glorified God." Two things really happened: first, He turned back; thankfulness always brings us back to God. Second, God was glorified.

**2. Thankfulness puts us in the right place, verse 16.**

"And fell down on his face at His feet, giving Him thanks." All those who are really thankful are found at His feet. We do not thank ourselves up, but we thank ourselves down, down at His feet in humble adoration and worship, because we have received mercy.

**3. Our thanksgiving gives us a clearer and stronger assurance of salvation, verse 19.**

The Samaritan came back to give thanks and this gave Christ an opportunity to give him a word. "And He said unto him, Arise, go thy way: thy faith hath made thee whole." Now he was cleansed from his leprosy not only because he felt it, but because of Christ's Word. Jesus said once to His disciples: "Now ye are clean through the word which I have spoken unto you." I love that word **NOW**. I am clean right **now**.

**4. This man became a living witness to the glory of God, verse 18.**

Jesus asked, and there is a note of sadness in His question: "Were there not ten cleansed? but where are the nine?" Why is this stranger the only one who came to give thanks to God?

How unthankful people are. In this case, only one out of ten to whom Christ had shown mercy came back to say thank-you. I guess it is the same way today.

But this one man stands as a living witness on the pages of Holy Writ, crying with a loud voice, "Let us glorify God with a thankful heart!"

For almost 2000 years, he has encouraged people who have received mercy to praise and thank God continually.

Who are you like, the nine or the one?

## NINETY-EIGHTH PSALM

Our song of praise we sing  
Unto the Lord, our Savior,  
Our grateful thanks we bring  
For every gracious favor;  
His hand of might hath won,  
He hath made many free,  
His holy arm leads on  
To lasting victory.

The Lord hath now made known  
His glorious salvation,  
His righteousness is shown  
To every land and nation;  
His grace hath been revealed  
Before the unsaved world,  
And on the battlefield  
His banner is unfurled.

His grace and faithfulness  
To Israel He showeth,  
He faileth not to bless,  
His mercy He bestoweth;  
Salvation from our Lord  
Has come to one and all,  
Throughout the world is heard  
His earnest mercy-call.

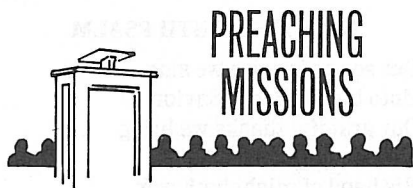
Now make a joyful noise  
Unto the Lord of glory;  
Let all the earth rejoice  
To tell this wondrous story!  
Sing with the harp and voice  
A melody of praise,  
Sing forth your heartfelt joys  
In these victorious days!

Before our Lord and King  
With music and with singing  
Let blasts of trumpets bring  
Him praises loud and ringing!  
Let music fill the air,  
Blow cornet clear and strong,  
Sing praises everywhere  
In sweet, triumphant song!

Let waters of the sea  
Roll high in mighty roaring!  
Let people now made free  
Give God their heart's adoring!  
Let floods and hills unite,  
Together clap their hands!  
Let God be chief delight  
To people of all lands!

—C K. Solberg  
(May be sung to the tune "Now Thank We all Our God.")





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