

November 28, 1978

The Lutheran Ambassador

FEATURING HOME MISSIONS IN THE AFLC



**Bethel Lutheran
Minot, N. Dak.**



**Calvary Lutheran
Fergus Fall, Minn.**



**Our Saviour's Lutheran
Dickinson, N. Dak.**

MEDITATION MOMENTS

ANTICIPATION

"Now as to the times and epochs, brethren, you have no need of anything to be written to you. For you yourselves know full well that the day of the Lord will come just like a thief in the night. . . . Therefore encourage one another, and build up one another, just as you also are doing" (I Thess. 5:1, 2, 11).

Anticipation. Expectation. Advent. Such words can stir the soul. The Advent season can be an exciting time of the year if rightly observed. For hundreds of years the people of God waited for the Messiah, the coming of their Lord. Then would come deliverance; then they would be set free; salvation would be complete. Our church year begins with that spirit of anticipation, remembering the first advent. It is a time when we are reminded that a second advent is also just around the corner. A lot of people were caught unaware and unprepared the first time. Will it be any better this time around?

We read of the hopes and dreams and preparation of the Word that have faithfully come true. God's timing was right, as always. "But when the fulness of the time came, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the Law" (Gal. 4:4). That we have known and experienced, and now as we live from day to day it should be with a note of expectation, wonder, wholesome anticipation. For one day the Son

will come again. The trumpet will sound and all the earth will know. There will then be no second chance.

Our waiting for the Lord's return is the Christian hope and motivation. It should spur us on to even more faithful work. Jesus says we are to be occupied until He comes. Like the master who left his slaves in charge, we are to "do business" till He returns (Lk. 19:13). We are not to be like the Thessalonians who just quit everything and waited. Nor are we to be totally oblivious to that event. How can a Christian do business until He comes?

Bible Study. We are to continue faithfully in the Word. It is by the Word of truth that we are kept and sanctified, that we are able to make a defense of the hope within us. It means establishing a good devotional life for proper Christian growth and also "not forsaking our own assembling together, as is the habit of some" (Heb. 10:25). It is that Word which will keep us on track, alert, and will help us to avoid the extremes. It will prevent us from becoming lax, or overly anxious. It will maintain a healthy level of anticipation.

Prayer. There is danger today of losing our prayer life. It is our life line. Many of the older generation speak of the powerful prayer meetings that used to exist in our parishes. Fortunately,

maybe some still exist, but too many do not. Where is our zeal for the Lord, concern for souls that will be left behind because we were careless in these last days? This time we must be ready. If there is a lack of spiritual life, it may be due to lack of prayer, among other things. There are many gimmicks available today for religious work. Special methods are offered to insure success in evangelism, congregational life and church growth. There are numerous helps for effective proclamation and teaching. Many of these genuinely fine helps can instead become easy substitutes for prayer and hard personal work.

Christian Living. In walking "worthy of our calling" we ought to be convincing the world that we have something more than what the world has to offer. The winds of false doctrine blow sweetly through the land today and love for the brethren and for the Lord grows cold. But the Christian life is the testimony that will reach many people, giving them the meaning of Advent and why Jesus came in the first place. Your life will testify visibly of your readiness for His return.

These factors will motivate us to a greater sense of duty, to a responsible and mature faith in anticipation of the dawning of a new day.

—Wesley Langaas

The Lutheran Ambassador is published biweekly (except the second issue in August) by the Association of Free Lutheran Congregations, 3110 East Medicine Lake Blvd., Minneapolis, Minn. 55441. Rev. Raynard Huglen, Newfolden, Minn. 56738, is the editor and all communications concerning content of the magazine should be addressed to him. Subscription price is \$4.00 per year in advance. Subscriptions should be sent to The Lutheran Ambassador, 3110 East Medicine Lake Blvd., Minneapolis, Minn. 55441. Second-class postage paid at Minneapolis, Minn. | Volume 16, Number 23

Sow Beside All Waters

by Rev. Herbert Franz,
Chairman, Board of Home Missions

How would you define missions? One man said, "Missions is nothing more than being there when people need you." He was referring, of course, to the fact of being available to share the Gospel of Jesus Christ with people who have a need. Notice Alice Andraesen's words in a Lutheran Colportage tract entitled "MISSION WORK."

"Go into the highways and hedges,"
That was our Lord's command,
For there sit many in darkness
Who long for a helping hand.
Remember the words of the Savior,
Spoken by blue Galilee,
"Whatsoever ye do to the least of
these,
Ye do it unto Me."

Go into the homes of the lonely,
And tell of the Friend who cares,
Who knows every burden and
heartache,
And every anxiety shares.
To those who are bent in their sorrow,
And weighed down with their load,
O tell them of One who is longing to be
Their Comforter on life's road.

Go to the aged and the weary,
Those in life's evening now,
Go to the sick and the dying,
Who lie with a fevered brow;
Tell of the Great Physician,
Who came their Savior to be,
Tell of the life He won for them
On cross-crowned Calvary.

Go out as a God-sent witness:
There is much work to be done,
The fields are white unto harvest,
And a soul through you may be won.

Remember the words of the Savior,
Spoken by blue Galilee,
"Whatsoever ye do to the least of
these,
Ye do it unto Me."

Did you notice that his poem took in all classes of people? Isn't that what missions is all about? We read in Isaiah 32:20: "Blessed are ye that sow beside all waters." Missions is nothing more than sowing the precious seed (the Word of God) into all kinds of ground (hearts) (Luke 8:4-15).

"Missions is nothing more than presenting the Gospel of Christ to all people in our day by day settings. . . ."

There are *UNINFORMED* hearts who have never heard the clear message of how they can be saved. This is true even in so-called "Christian America." Many are still struggling to earn salvation instead of trusting Jesus to save them. We must share the true Gospel with them. This is missions.

Then there are the *INDIFFERENT* hearts. We read about such people in Hebrews 10:29: "Who hath trodden underfoot the Son of God and hath counted the blood of the covenant, wherewith he was sanctified, an unholy thing and hath done despite unto the Spirit of Grace." Great will be the punishment of such unconcerned, uncom-

mitted people if they do not repent of their sin of indifference. We must sow the seed of God's Word into their hearts also. This is missions.

There are the *HARDENED* hearts who by continual practice of sin and rejection of the truth are hardened against the Lord. We cannot give up on such people because many of us had hardened hearts before Christ became precious to us. We need to pray that the Holy Spirit will melt these hearts through the power of His Word. He can and will do it if we are faithful in our task of sowing the seed. This is missions.

Then there are *PROCRASTINATING* hearts around us who have heard the Gospel of Christ and are convinced of its truth but are waiting for another day to respond to the grace of God. We need to impress upon them that we can only come to Christ when the Holy Spirit calls us (Isaiah 55:6), that there is no escape if we "neglect so great salvation" (Hebrews 2:3), and that they cannot be sure of another tomorrow to be saved (Proverbs 27:1).

How about the *SELF-RIGHTEOUS* hearts? Until these people are set free from their own righteousness, there is no salvation for them. We need to bring them the seed of God's Word to show them that our own righteousness is as filthy rags (Romans 3:10), so it is impossible for us to stand in the presence of a holy God with any less perfection than the righteousness of Jesus Christ (1 Corinthians 1:30).

We also have many *WORLDLY-WISE* people who think that they know it all. Paul describes such souls in I Corinthians 1:18-24. They need to

be reminded of what Jesus said in Matthew 18:3: "Except ye be converted, and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven."

Many people around us have *WORLDLY-MINDED* hearts and they love things more than they love God. We have many right in the church who are worshipping gods of this world. Unless these people hear that God condemns such idol worship, these people will never repent nor will they ever be saved. We must tell them the truth to set them free. This is missions.

There are also many *UNBELIEVING* hearts, people who need to hear what unbelief will do to their souls (John 8:21-24; Mark 6:5-6). Unbelief will send a person to hell (Revelation 21:8). We must not give up on them. If we have concern for men's souls, we must sow the seed beside all waters, even the waters of unbelief.

We must also sow the seed of the Word of God in the hearts of those who are *DEFIANT IN THEIR WICKEDNESS*. Romans 1:28-32 mentions the depths of sin found in wicked hearts (Jeremiah 17:9-10). These people are a mission field in themselves.

We frequently hear about the lack of conversions to Christ in many of our congregations. Is this God's fault? Can it be that we see so little accomplished in the church because we are satisfied with the status quo? Are we sowing beside all waters? We come into contact with people every day who have never been confronted on a one-to-one basis about receiving Christ as their Savior. Missions is nothing more than presenting the Gospel of Christ to all people in our day by day settings—home, factory, school, church, store, etc.

First we must prepare the soil. Even hard and unpromising soil can be made fruitful if enough work is done on it. The same is true in our mission and evangelism outreach. There is no substitute for repeated contacts with people and a consistent daily witness by word and life of what Christ has done in our lives. Through love and prayer and the Word, the hardest heart can be broken so that Christ can come in. We say that people's hearts are so hard, but I wonder, can it be that *our* hearts are hard?

Then we need to plant the seed of the Word of God. We must remember

that "they who sow sparingly shall also reap sparingly." This means we must not be discouraged if there is no fruit right away. Our task is to plant the seed of the Word, and it is God's task to bring about the fruit and the growth.

And we must expect a harvest, for no one plants oats without expecting to reap much more oats than he planted. When prepared soil and planted seed are watered by the prayers of faith, something happens. God promises that our labor will not be in vain in the Lord and this should convince us that we have the right to expect results from our sowing (I Corinthians 15:58).

What are you doing with this command of Scripture to "sow beside all waters"? One way to share God's Word is passing out Gospel tracts. This, too, is a form of missions. Years ago, Mark Goodger made a practice of distributing tracts from door to door. Once he stopped at a house in South Carolina and he rang the doorbell many times before a man finally appeared at the door, took the tract, and slammed the door in his face. A week later, Mr. Goodger made another call on that same house and this time the man immediately answered. He asked Mr. Goodger to follow him to the attic where a rope dangled from the rafters with a noose on the end and a box standing below it. The man said, "Friend, when you kept ringing my doorbell last week, my head was in that noose, and I was ready to take my life. Because you were so persistent, I decided to go downstairs and see who was there. By reading your leaflet, God spoke to me, and instead of jumping off that box, I knelt beside it and did what that tract told me to do. I asked God to forgive me of my sins and come into my heart and take over my life." God blessed Mr. Goodger's willing service and faithful witness. Truly this is missions.

What are we doing as an AFLC? Friend, our AFLC is only as strong in missions as each congregation and each member is. Friend, there are people in desperate need all around us. We who claim to know Jesus Christ as our Savior and Lord have the message that will turn tragedy into triumph and defeat into victory if we only "sow the seed beside all waters." Let us labor for the Master while it is day; "the night cometh when no man can work."

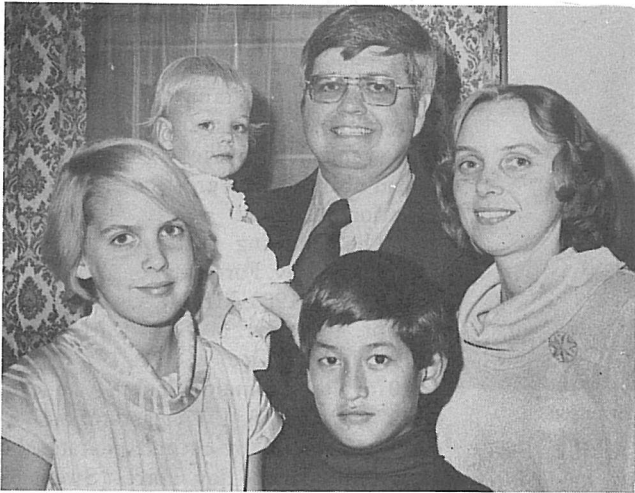
ST. PAUL, MINNESOTA

Victory In Christ Lutheran Church, located in the St. Paul suburb of Maplewood, held its first worship service on Easter Sunday, 1973, at the home of Russell Bergstrom. The congregation originated when Bruce Baran, Russell Bergstrom, Ernest Hammar and Victor Parsons met with Pastor Laurel Udden in January of that year to discuss the possibility of organizing a free and living congregation.

For a few months the congregation worshipped at the Sveden House Restaurant on Interstate 90 and then in December of 1973 secured the East Area Community Center for Sunday school and worship. The first service in the congregation's own building took place on February 5, 1978. The two and one-half acres on which the church is located at 1695 Gervais Avenue were purchased for \$16,000. Ground-breaking took place on Easter Sunday, 1976, and contracts were let for erection of the block walls, roof and trusses, part of the roof construction, plumbing and heating, and electrical work. Virtually all of the rest of the construction, from excavation to woodwork, was completed by members of the congregation. A loan from the AFLC Church Extension Fund of \$83,000 was granted to the congregation by the Home Mission Board. Another \$20,000 loan has been secured from a local bank. Dedication of the building was held on April 30, 1978.

The congregation had 38 charter baptized members and presently there are 55 members and an average worship attendance in the high 50's. Besides the normal activities of worship, Sunday school, Luther League, Bible study and prayer hour on Wednesday, the congregation ministers within the community by sharing services at various senior adult residences and nursing homes, monthly meetings at the St. Paul Union Gospel Mission and assistance to other evangelical outreaches such as the Crossroads Chapel at the Minnesota State Fair. The WMF meets each month and the men are organizing a weekly men's prayer breakfast.

Pastors who have served the congrega-



Pastor and Mrs. Gary Skramstad with their children, left to right, Sarah, Susanna and Steven.



Interior view of Victory in Christ Lutheran Church.

gation on a part-time basis are Pastors Francis Monseth, student Ralph Rokke, and Elden Nelson. Pastor Gary Skramstad became the first full-time pastor when he arrived in October, 1977, having accepted the call from the Home Mission Board and the congregation.

The congregation has a unified goal of presenting the saving Gospel to as many as possible in their community and through a mission outreach. The

congregation is grateful that some have responded to the call of Christ and have become assured of salvation through the shed blood of Christ. It has also been good to see the growth of His Word in the hearts of young and old. The congregation is likewise grateful to God for the loving concern of her sister congregations which not only supply monetary assistance but prayerfully follow the work of the congregation. The Stillwater Lutheran Church of

Kalispell, Montana, has chosen the congregation as praying friends in response to the Home Mission Director's appeal of established congregations assisting new churches.

Visitors to the St. Paul area are welcome to attend the Sunday school classes for all ages at 9:15 and worship services at 10:30. The telephone number for the church is 770-2509 and the pastor's residence is 426-5246.

Pastor Gary Skramstad

BISMARCK, NORTH DAKOTA

"How do you go about starting a new work?" Several people have asked me this question. Last May when I received a call from our Home Mission Board to begin a new work in Bismarck, I, too, asked myself this question, "How does one go about starting a new work?"

After accepting this call I began to pray that God would give me wisdom to know how to begin the work in this city. I also prayed that God would open people's hearts to come to our meetings. And I sought advice from some of our leaders in the AFLC.

Since Jesus said that we are to go out into the highways and byways and compel people to come in, I began to do that as soon as we were settled here. I first called on the one couple who had expressed a desire for a Free Lutheran congregation in the capital city of North Dakota. Then Charles Kvanvig assisted me for two days in visiting

people who had been suggested by members of AFLC congregations.

Most of my visiting has been concentrated on new residents. Each month I receive a list of approximately a hundred new family units. As soon as I receive this list I proceed to call on those who list their religion as "Lutheran" or "none." This comprises from 50-60 families per month. I have also done door-to-door calling. One Satur-

day my wife, three of our sons, and I called at 150 homes.

One of the first questions asked by those whom I visit is "Where is your church?" I could sense a lack of interest from them when at first I had to reply that we weren't even holding any meetings yet. Thus, after praying about it, I felt led to begin a Bible study in our home. The two families that attended suggested that I com-



Group at table—The first Bible study group in Bismarck. Left to right, Mrs. Don Elliot, Joe Unseth, Mrs. Unseth, Mrs. Clarence Olson, Ben Unseth, Reuben Unseth and Pastor Unseth.

mence a worship service soon. So on September 17 we held our first service in the Y.M.C.A. The following Sunday we began our Sunday school.

A unique feature of our worship service is that we have no pianist yet. One of our men leads us in our hymn singing. For special music four boys alternate in playing their cornets for us. Though our limitations may keep some people away, yet God's Holy Spirit is calling and gathering people to our humble meetings in this new work for Him. We are teaching and preaching that Jesus Christ is the Way, the Truth, and the Life; and God is honoring our work in spite of our helplessness. I am encouraged by His promise in Proverbs 16:3: "Commit your work to the Lord, and your plans will be established." We appreciate your prayers and support. Please continue to pray for us that God will guide and strengthen us to carry on this new work for Him.

Pastor Einar Unseth

FERGUS FALLS, MINNESOTA

A group of individuals gathered December 14, 1967, to consider the possibility of organizing a new congregation in Fergus Falls. The meeting was well attended and the desire to begin a new congregation was clearly expressed. A second meeting took place January 11, 1968, with Rev. John P. Strand, president of the Association of Free Lutheran Congregations, invited to present information about the AFLC.

The first Bible study and prayer meeting took place January 16, 1968, at which time a decision was made to begin regular church services on Sunday, January 28. Mr. Forrest Swenson, a seminary student, was invited to be present for this first service to bring a message from God's Word. Mr. Swenson continued to serve as pastor in addition to his regular duties as student at the seminary.

A Sunday school was organized, the first session taking place Sunday, January 28, just before the first scheduled worship service. The Sunday school and worship service took place in the National Guard Armory. The Sunday school and worship services were held



Pastor Forrest Swenson

regularly there until April 1, 1968.

At a business meeting held March 4, 1968, the congregation was organized and the constitution and by-laws adopted. The name for the congregation was chosen: "Calvary Free Lutheran Church of Fergus Falls."

When the Evangelical United Brethren congregation moved into their new church the old EUB church was available for rental. Arrangements were made to rent the church and the first Sunday school and worship service took place in that church on Sunday, April 7, 1968, followed by the first communion service of the congregation on Maundy Thursday, April 11. All services and meetings were held regularly at the EUB Church after that time until the congregation moved into their own church building.

The following three months, September, October and November, 1968, Mr. Marvin Tungseth, served as pastor of the congregation. A call was extended Rev. Julius Hermunslie, who began serving December 1, 1968.

A special business meeting of the congregation on July 19, 1973, was called to act on the building plans submitted by the Curtis Construction Company of West Fargo, N. Dak. The congregation voted to approve the plans, including options, bringing the total cost of the new church to approximately \$100,000.00. The congregation also voted to engage the Curtis Construction Company to build the new church.

Groundbreaking services took place September 30, 1973, with Pastor Strand and Rev. Herbert Franz, chairman of the Home Mission Board, present to dedicate the grounds. The first service in the new church took place Sunday, July 7, 1974, followed by lay-

ing of the cornerstone and dedication of the new church on Sunday, October 20. Pastor Strand officiated at the dedication. Pastor Franz also participated by serving as guest speaker at a series of evangelistic services, October 16-20, and also shared a greeting at the dedication service.

The following pastors have served Calvary: Rev. Forrest Swenson, Jan. 28 to Sept. 1, 1968; Mr. Marvin Tungseth, Sept. 1 to Nov. 30, 1968; Rev. Julius Hermunslie, Dec. 1, 1968, to May 26, 1974; Rev. Ronald Hoehne, June 1, 1974, to Feb. 8, 1977; pastoral assignments shared by retired pastors and several laymen; Rev. Forrest Swenson, July 1, 1978 to the present.

—Pastor Julius Hermunslie

(See cover photo.)

MINOT, NORTH DAKOTA

Bethel congregation officially began, after preliminary meetings, on April 16, 1975. Rev. John Strand, past president of the AFLC, met with interested individuals at the Ward County Court House. This resulted in 15 people agreeing to become members of Bethel Lutheran Church. On May 22, 1975, Rev. Strand and Home Mission Board Chairman Rev. Herbert Franz came to Minot to look for a building which could serve as a place of worship. Temporarily, a room in the Bible Baptist School was made available. The first three services were held at the school. Then the Seventh Day Adventist Church was made available and was used for two years.

Pastor Rodger Olson was the first student pastor of Bethel to serve during the summer months of 1975. Pastor Bruce Dalager served as the first full-time pastor from August, 1975, to August, 1977. During his pastorate land was purchased by the Home Mission Board of the AFLC with plans to build a new church in the fall of 1976.

The first worship service was held in the new sanctuary of Bethel Lutheran Church on September 4, 1977. The new church was designed and constructed by Herbert Presteng of Grafton, North Dakota, father-in-law of Pastor Terry Olson. The \$150,000 structure seats 250 people with additional seating space available in the adjoining fellow-

ship hall. The church edifice was dedicated on Sunday, April 23, 1978, with Pastor Strand officiating.



Pastor and Mrs. Terry Olson and family

Pastor Olson is presently serving Bethel. He and his wife Jean, and their four children, Matthew, Nathaniel, David and Sarah, moved to Minot from Radcliffe, Iowa, on February 1, 1978.

Currently Bethel has 41 members. The Sunday school enrollment is 23 children and 15 adults. The average worship service attendance has increased to 75 a Sunday.

"You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hid" (Matthew 5:14). God has given us a work to do here at Bethel. We are ambassadors for Christ and it is our desire to share His redeeming message. Pray with us that God would cause the growth and bring the increase.

—Pastor Terry Olson

(See cover photo.)

PELKIE, MICHIGAN

Grace Lutheran actually was started in the spring of 1975. Dr. James Gerdeen, a college professor, came to see if there was a need for an Association church in the area. He came after several families visited Maranatha Lutheran Church in Chassell, which he served. Those visitors and others were very unhappy with the local Lutheran church. A problem with what was being taught in confirmation instruction caused several families to break away from that church.

A meeting of interested persons was set for June, 1975. Dr. Gerdeen and Pastor Ernest Langness of Ishpeming met with seven families in Pelkie. It was decided to start holding services in

the area and we had our first service on July 23 of that year in the Alston, Mich., town hall. We had services twice a month with the two pastors alternating.

We also had Bible studies every other week and were led by Walter Saaranen, a member of Maranatha, who had moved to the Pelkie area. He led us for a year and a half, even though he had moved away during that time. Then John Knuuttila took over in leading the studies. Sunday school



Grace Lutheran Church

was started that September and we had over 20 children coming. We met in the Pelkie Fair building.

On May 21, 1976, we organized as a congregation. We were eight families by that time. In June we chose Grace Lutheran as the name of our congregation. When the rent was raised for the Alston hall we moved our services to L'Anse (town hall). That was in the spring of 1976. We continued to meet in L'Anse until June, 1978. Pastor Hans J. Tollefson served us as pastor for two summers. Pastor Herbert L. Franz, Cloquet, Minn., has held special services for us over the years.

In May, 1977, it was decided to call a pastor together with Maranatha congregation. After several unsuccessful attempts, we were able to secure Seminary graduate Jay Eberth. A five-acre strip of land on the main road in Pelkie was purchased in the spring of 1978. Ground-breaking for a church building was held on June 11 and we moved into the church, though not completed, on July 23. Work still continued on it.

Mr. Eberth arrived to take up his work on June 1 and was ordained on June 18 in Minneapolis, Minn. The first morning services were held after his arrival because we were then able to use the Pelkie Fair building. Installation services for Pastor Eberth were

held with Maranatha on Oct. 15, with Rev. Richard Snipstead, president of the AFLC, officiating.

Grace Lutheran adopted its final constitution and by-laws on Oct. 29. Five new people joined the congregation on Nov. 12. Maranatha Lutheran began Lutheran Meditations on Sept. 21 on WHDF, Houghton. It is a 15-minute devotional from God's Word, seeking to build Christians up and win the lost.

Something else new at Maranatha is a house church fellowship in three homes, begun on Nov. 5, led by three laymen, designed for fellowship and reaching the lost through prayer and love.

Our hope for both churches is to win souls for Christ and build them in the Word. Another goal is to make the parish self-supporting and eventually having pastors for each congregation. There is much work to do and it must be Spirit-led, backed by prayer, with a concern for souls.

DICKINSON, NORTH DAKOTA

On March 7, 1976, a small group of people in Dickinson met together for its first worship service. Pastor John Strand conducted that afternoon service in a rented building. This may sound like a very weak beginning, but such a beginning came about because of a common concern and need for a church where people could worship in Spirit and in truth, and where the Word of God would be clearly taught and preached. Those with this concern and need had earlier written to Pastor Strand, who was then serving as president of the AFLC, asking for help and direction in starting a church in Dickinson. Pastor Strand and the Home Mission Board sent Pastor David Molstre to meet with the group and help by answering questions and introducing them to the AFLC. There were about a dozen interested people who attended that meeting in December of 1976.

During the next year Pastor Forrest Swenson, who was then serving in Tioga, assisted by way of arranging for pastors and laymen of the AFLC to conduct worship services. The building

being used was also used by another church group, so services were held either very early in the morning or in the afternoon or evening. As the group continued to meet and to seek God's direction there were times when it seemed as though things were going very slowly, but sensing the direction and blessing of God a faithful few pressed forward to organize, seeking and help and advice of the Home Mission Board.

In March of 1977 the Home Mission Board offered the help of the Home Mission Director to serve the congregation as their pastor. This offer was gladly accepted and in June of that year Pastor Elden Nelson and his family moved to Dickinson to take up the work. Since that time the congregation has purchased the building they first rented and have realized a slow but very steady growth. In April of 1978, 28 adults signed the charter, agreeing together to be faithful to the Word, to be diligent in prayer and to have a willingness to serve according to their ability and means.

At the present time the congregation is preparing to call a pastor so that Pastor Nelson can devote full time to the work of Home Mission Director.

The congregation is thankful to the people of the AFLC who have prayed and contributed so that their concerns and needs are being met according to God's riches in glory in Christ Jesus.

—Pastor Elden Nelson

(See cover photo.)

NOGALES, ARIZONA

Triumph Evangelical Lutheran church of Nogales, Arizona, was organized in January, 1964, with 18 adults and 19 children. Pastor Lawrence Dynneson came to Arizona as a lay person in 1948 and purchased two acres of land near Nogales, some of which was donated to Triumph Church. In the 1950s Sunday School and worship services were begun in the Dynneson home and later held in many other locations. The work continued when Mr. Dynneson went to college and seminary to become an ordained minister, with Leonard and Olga Swanson in charge. In 1963 Pastor Dynneson re-



Triumph Lutheran Church

turned to organize the group and lead to affiliation with the AFLC. Triumph was the first Lutheran church in Santa Cruz County and south of Tucson. Some of us from Triumph began a work in Nogales, Mexico, in 1953. In 1965 Mrs. Leonard Swanson joined our fellowship and was placed as director. Two of these places are still prospering under the leadership of the World Mission Prayer League with Rev. Richard Gunderson of our AFLC directing it.

We have been very grateful for Home Mission funds to partially support the work on a monthly basis. Also, the Women's Missionary Federation and Lutheran League Federation helped us with generous gifts when we were building our church in 1966. Our building has been debt-free since 1971. But right now we have an increase in our Sunday School with nine classes and 100 who have attended. We are trying to complete a much needed addition of 28 by 42 feet. At present we have 50 members in the area. Our council



members pictured are, left to right, Ron Reiners, Pastor Ken Thompson, Ted Simpson, Pastor Dynneson, Ardin Lundin, and Leonard Swanson and Mrs. Ted Kennedy, in front.

Very few of our people are of Lutheran background and services have to be held in both English and Spanish to reach the different cultures.

—Pastor Lawrence Dynneson

CHASSELL, MICHIGAN

The congregation was originally begun by God in Calumet, Michigan. Due to encouragement from Home Missions Chairman Herbert L. Franz, prayer meetings were begun in the home of his sisters Eleanor Johnson and Evelyn Croze in Dollar Bay and in the home of Dr. and Mrs. James Gerdeen in Calumet, during early summer 1971. In mid-July of that year, the old Norwegian Lutheran Church (formerly Lutheran Free) which had been closed for several years, was reopened and Sunday evening services were initiated with Lay Pastor James Gerdeen preaching. The beginning was small. Attending one service were only the pastor and two elderly ladies, Miss Mollie Ulseth and Mrs. Andrew Blom, the two remaining officers, secretary and treasurer, of the former Norwegian congregation.

A special service was held by Pastor Franz and the Lutheran Ambassador Radio program was started on WHDF (and continues yet today) and the attendance began to grow. A Sunday School was started in the spring of 1972. At that time morning services were also initiated, but when this change was made, those who had attended evening services for sentimental reasons did not come to the morning services but remained in their own churches. Most of those who were attending regularly at this time came from some miles south. Because of this, and because the church building was beyond repair, the congregation

(Continued on page 10)

editorials

HOME MISSIONS

The concept of Home Missions is quite different today than what it was 50 years ago or more. Often then it dealt with small rural outlying parishes in need of support to maintain a program. And many times those parishes had little chance of numerical growth, due to the circumstances existing in their communities. Certainly this was the picture in many cases during the Great Depression.

Today, while Home Mission aid may still at times go to the smaller rural parish, the chief aim of the program is to establish congregations in population centers where there is a good chance of outreach beyond a core group. It is easy to see the validity in this type of thinking. While, as a church, we have never wanted to be concerned most of all about numbers, nevertheless it is our goal to reach out to as many people as possible.

The focus of Association Home Mission work lies at present in North Dakota. We say this because what has been said above is particularly true in that state where work has been started in the cities of Bismarck, Dickinson and Minot. It has been said that western North Dakota is the area of the state which will experience the greatest growth in the next decades due to the developments in coal and oil production there. Bismarck itself is expected to double in population in not too long a time.

But our church is in Home Mission work in other states, too. As men and money are available many new areas can be occupied. We think of a work that needs to be strengthened in Spokane, Wash., a vital and strategic part of Washington. Phoenix and Tucson, Arizona, have been mentioned. In our own Twin Cities there ought to be numerous sections in which to begin work.

We are glad to feature Home Missions in this issue of the *Ambassador*. A sincere thank you to the pastors, including Rev. Elden Nelson, executive director, for providing the material. Thank you to Pastor Herbert Franz, board chairman, for the inspirational message on Home Missions.

Pray for Home Missions. Give generously to Home Missions. Home Missions is the bringing of the Gospel of Jesus Christ to our country and Canada. Remember the Church Extension Fund. Preferably through outright gifts, but also through loans you can make it possible for Home Mission

congregations to borrow money to build churches and parsonages. Money given to CEF never quits working. It is used over and over again.

The Lord bless Home Mission work.

THE ADVENT SEASON

Advent, preparation for Christmas. Advent, reminder of the Lord's Second Coming.

Christmas is a joyous time. It is the birthday of our King. The season of Advent is to prepare our hearts for Christmas. The excitement builds. In our churches we sing the majestic hymns "O Come, O Come, Immanuel," and "O, How Shall I Receive Thee?" The Pastors' sermons are concerned with the purposes of the first Advent and the promise of the second Advent.

Jesus will come again. In the Lutheran Church, we think of that return especially in the months of November and December. As the calendar year draws to a close and we are aware of the passage of time, we know that the return of Christ is nearer than it was a year ago. We comfort one another with this thought. We encourage one another in work for Christ in this day of opportunity.

We make the perennial plea and we remind ourselves as we make it, let Christmas be the blessed season it should be. Put first things first. Above all, honor the Lord Christ through your celebration in home and congregation.



Praise and Prayer

We praise God for:

The permission granted Pastor Dasari and his family to leave India and come to the U. S., where he is on the faculty of our Schools.

Home Mission opportunities we have been able to enter as a church and for others which await us.

Our prayer requests:

That the Lord would bless Pastor David Molstre in his preaching mission at Radcliffe, Iowa, Nov. 29-Dec. 3.

That we as a church will rally to the support of our benevolence program in the fiscal year ending on January 31. That we will see that success will come only as every congregation, every individual joins in.

That Pastors David Abel and Charles Kvanvig will get quick clearance for entry into Brazil next year with their families.

That Missionary Priscilla Wold will be blessed and be a blessing as she comes home on furlough from Brazil in December.

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

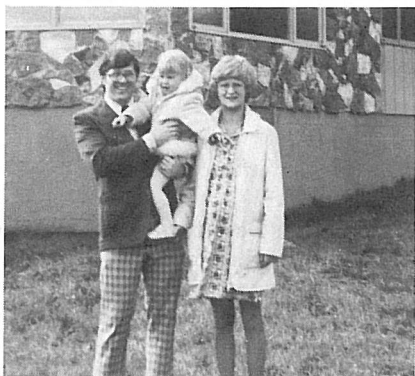


(Continued from page 8)

began looking for a different building and location further south.

In the fall of 1972, the former Decorator Shop on U.S. 41, south of Houghton, was purchased for about half price, \$18,000, and an additional lot for parking was purchased for \$8,000. A mortgage from the Houghton National Bank and an \$8,000 loan from the AFLC Church Extension Fund were obtained. Before this purchase could be consummated, the congregation had to become incorporated in the State of Michigan. Seven families were listed in the charter membership. James Gerdeen was president and lay pastor. Clayton Adams was vice president. Walter Saaranen, Sr., was secretary and Joyce Saaranen was treasurer. The other charter members were deacons and trustees. The church was also financially supported by other Christian friends.

A dedication service of Maranatha Lutheran Church was held on November 19, 1972, with Home Mission chairman Franz and President John P. Strand officiating.



Pastor and Mrs. Jay Eberth and Sarah with Maranatha Lutheran Church behind them.

In 1975 the Maranatha Church building was expanded by the addition of a basement to house Sunday school rooms and by the expansion of the sanctuary. By 1976 the congregation had grown to 58 members, but many other friends and Michigan Tech students were attending.

In 1977 James Gerdeen and family left to attend seminary. David Jahn served as lay pastor until June, 1978, when Jay I. Eberth became the full-time pastor of Maranatha. Current president of the congregation is Bernard Nelson.

—Dr. James C. Gerdeen

AMERY, WISCONSIN

"So if the Son makes you free, you will be free indeed" (John 8:36).

On November 10, 1976, four families of the Amery, Wisconsin, area were moved by God's Spirit to organize and establish a free and living Lutheran congregation. These men and women had been drawn together through Bible study and prayer. Pastors Norman Tenneboe and Albert Hautamaki of our AFLC served the congregation on a part-time basis, oftentimes making loving sacrifices as this new body of Christ was born.

Easter Sunday, 1977, marked the opening of the charter membership. The same spirit which drove them to seek Bible study and prayer welded the people together. Laymen continued to lead a weekly Bible study and God added to the number assembled. Together with the Home Mission Board they prayed for God's leading in seeking a full-time pastor. October, 1977, marked the answer of God's provision when God moved Pastor Brandt to accept the call. Pastor Michael Brandt, his wife Jeannie and their three girls moved to Amery on January 8, 1978. Pastor Brandt had previously served Elim Lutheran, Lake Stevens, Washington, which had begun as a Home Mission work. God provided a home for the Brandts, which they purchased.

Since its beginning, Amery Lutheran has shared its building with the Mustard Seed Faith Academy. MSFA is an Accelerated Christian Education school with a goal of raising Godly men and women through disciplined academics based on a Christ-centered way of life. The school includes ages ranging from kindergarten through high school with a staff of two teachers and three regular monitors. In October of 1978 the congregation voted unanimously to receive the school as an arm of its ministry. The enrollment of the school currently stands at 45 students.

God has richly blessed our congregation and its ministry. Everything we are or ever hope to be we owe to Him. As of this writing we meet in a split-level home which has no wall partitions in the upper level. It was built with the purpose of a school and

church in mind. Our Sunday School has an enrollment of 32 children and 15 adults. Currently 44 members are on the rolls with an average Sunday attendance of seventy. Because of these blessings we are looking at the possibility of adding a sanctuary this coming year.

Our mid-week Bible study times, Luther League (Amery FLYs) meetings, weekly men's prayer breakfasts, weekly ladies' Bible studies, WMF cooperation and Sunday evening services have provided countless blessings, knitting us into God's handiwork.

We as a congregation thank you for your support. If you are in the Amery area, please drop in. Amery is a beautiful place in which to live. We would love to have you come to stay and be a part of our free and living congregation.

Pastor Michael Brandt

THE SECOND COMING OF CHRIST

Behold the day is coming,
When Christ returns again,
His coming will be sudden,
The time, unknown to men,
He comes in power and glory
With angels at His side,
He comes as King and Bridegroom
To claim His blood-bought bride.

Awake! Arise! Be ready!
Be vigilant in prayer
And faithful in His service,
Surrendered to His care!
The signs today are many
That He will soon appear,
O, may He find you ready
To meet Him with good cheer!

Our day is full of danger,
So many fall asleep,
And while the Bridegroom tarries,
Their pledge they fail to keep.
Return and plead for mercy,
If you have gone astray;
Your Bridegroom soon is coming,
Repent without delay!

He comes, He comes in glory!
Be ready every day
To meet your King and Bridegroom,
To reign with Him for aye!
Be sure your lamp is burning,
While here you watch and wait;
If He should find you sleeping,
You would awake too late!

(Tune: Stand Up, Stand Up for Jesus!)

C. K. Solberg



A PAGE FOR CHILDREN

Happy Acres



NEWS ABOUT MR. HAGLUND

Dad looked up from reading the Woodbridge Gazette and told his family, "It says here that 'Mr. Hans Haglund left Tuesday for Minneapolis where he will seek medical treatment.'"

Mom nodded her head. "I didn't think that man was feeling well. I'm sure that's one reason for his grumpiness."

Stephen, Mark, and Ann looked at one another. Though they said nothing, each knew what the other was thinking. They were not glad that old Mr. Haglund was sick, but they couldn't help feeling relieved that he would not be coming to their house for supper the next Sunday as Dad and Mom had been planning.

"I wonder what hospital Mr. Haglund will be going to. Does the paper say, Peter?" asked Mom.

Dad shook his head. "No. But I'm sure we can find out from the Lunds. You could call them."

"Poor man," said Mom. "I'm sure he's all alone. He must feel pretty lonely and blue. He could do with some cheerful words from someone."

She went to the telephone. In a few minutes she had the name and the address of Mr. Haglund's hospital. "I'm going to get a letter off to him in the morning mail," she promised.

"Do you really like Mr. Haglund?"

asked Melissa. "He was so grumpy—it's hard to like him."

"Yes, he's a grumpy man," admitted Mom, "and it isn't easy to like a person who is cross. I don't pretend that I'm writing to Mr. Haglund because I like him. Rather, I'm writing because I know that's what Jesus wants me to do. Jesus wants us to visit the sick (Matt. 25:36). Right now, the only way I can visit Mr. Haglund is by writing him a letter. He is sick in his body. But he is also sick in his heart and soul. There's no better medicine for him than to find Jesus. We must each of us pray for Mr. Haglund."

Pray for Mr. Haglund! The Johnson youngsters looked at one another. They could think of many other nice people for whom they would rather pray!

Yet each one knew, from a heart that loved Jesus, that praying for Mr. Haglund was just what Jesus wanted them to do.

That evening as they sat together with their Bibles, and prayed, it seemed so very easy for Mom and Dad to remember the grumpy old man in their prayers. But the most that each of the young Johnsons could pray was, "Please, Lord, help Mr. Haglund."

As Ann crept into her comfortable bed that night, thoughts of the old man kept nagging at her. She shuddered at the memory of his saying to her,

"You—Girlie—you get me a spittoon. Don't see none 'round here. I need something to spit in!"

Yet, Mom and Dad—and Jesus—would want her to pray for him.

Suddenly, the thought came over her that Jesus had loved Mr. Haglund, grumpy and bad mannered as he was. Jesus had loved Mr. Haglund enough to die for him on the cross!

Meekly, then, Ann folded her hands and prayed for the cross old man. And each day, somehow, the more she prayed for him, the less grumpy she remembered him to be.

MEMORY VERSE: I was naked and ye clothed me, I was sick and ye visited me, I was in prison and ye came to me. Matthew 25:36

FAMILY DISCUSSION

1. Mr. Haglund has never done anything for the Johnsons. The kindnesses have all been on their side. Why should they now pray for this man who has not even thanked them for their interest in him? (Matthew 5:44-48)

2. In the sight of God, are you and I any better than Mr. Haglund even though we may have better manners? (Romans 3:23)

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

Women For Christ

LUTHER LEAGUE ACTIVITIES

WISCONSIN CHURCH SITE OF RALLY

The Minneapolis District Women's Missionary Federation met for the 1978 Fall Rally on October 14 at Faith Lutheran Church of rural Colfax, Wis. The rally theme was VICTORY IN JESUS with the theme verses being from I John 5:4, 5: "For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith. Who is he that overcometh the world, but he that believeth that Jesus is the Son of God?"

Mrs. Marlin Benrud, district president, began the morning session by leading the singing of the theme song, "Victory in Jesus." Mrs. Edna Sivula of Morgan Avenue Lutheran Church of Minneapolis had devotions from Romans 7:15-25. The local WMF president, Mrs. Judy Horn, welcomed everyone. Mrs. Hubert DeBoer, Colfax, had a solo part in a hymn sing.

Our speaker for the day was Pastor Francis Monseth of our Association Schools and Vice-President of our Association of Free Lutheran Congregations. He chose as a text John 17:9-17 and titled his message "The Closer Walk." He discussed the wrong paths and then God's way to a goal of Christlikeness. He challenged us to become real Bible students for a victorious life.

The business meeting included various reports. Roll call found 14 churches out of 20 represented, with 122 people registered. Mrs. David Abel brought a plea for prayer for the Charles Kvanvigs and her family as

they prepare for the mission fields. The day's offering was voted to be sent to two projects, Junior Missions/Cradle Roll and My-Missionary-For-A-Day. The offering was \$442.90. An additional \$176.00 of the balance on hand was also voted to be sent to the My-Missionary-For-A-Day project. Mrs. Emil Hass, national WMF treasurer, was introduced and brought greetings. Mrs. Richard Snipstead, wife of our newly elected AFLC president, was also introduced. Mrs. Dean Casselton gave a report on the need of craft items on the mission fields in Brazil.

The afternoon session saw the business meeting concluded. Mrs. Abel had a solo part in a hymn sing. Mrs. Helen Lunde, Our Savior's Lutheran of Zumbrota, Minn., led in devotions from I John 5:4,5, John 14:6, Psalm 121 and Romans 8:28.

Pastor Francis Monseth sang the hymn, "I Have Heard thy Voice, Lord Jesus," before the offering. For his afternoon message Pastor Monseth used Romans 7 and Paul's question, "Who can deliver me?", to introduce and discuss temperaments. He also used information from Hallesby's *Temperament and the Christian Faith* and from Dr. LaHaye's *Spirit-Controlled Temperament*.

We thank the WMF of Faith Lutheran for the delicious noon lunch and also for the coffee hour before and after the sessions. Thanks also to Pastor Hubert DeBoer for being our host pastor.

Mrs. Clifford Nelson
Secretary

HOME AND FAMILY

In the book, *My Family—How Shall I Live With It*, the author begins with these words, "Do you sometimes wish you could get right away from your family? Do the frictions and problems of everyday family life leave you feeling helpless and baffled? Everyone has such feelings at times." No doubt most youth feel at times that the home and family are a hindrance instead of a help to them. Therefore, it is important that we think about the home and family in the light of God's Word. Just what is God's plan for us in this area of our lives?

First of all, how shall we define the home and the family? Oftentimes we give different meanings to the word "family" by the various ways that we use it. For example, we may say, "A new family has just moved into our community." In this case the word "family" refers to all of the people living in a home regardless of age. At other times we remark, "That couple doesn't have any family." In this instance we are suggesting that family refers only to the children. However, the dictionary defines "family" thus: "the body of persons who live in one house, and under one head, a household." In the Bible a "family" is composed of those who are of one flesh. The head of the family is the man, then comes the wife who helps him to maintain the house, and from this union God gives the children. The word "home" differs somewhat in meaning from "family." According to the dictionary, home is "one's dwelling; the abode of one's family."

(Continued on page 13)

THE PASTOR'S WORK

You have undoubtedly heard the comment made to your pastor, "You only work one hour on Sunday morning and it takes four men to carry in all the money." While this comment is made in friendly jest, it highlights the question, what does a pastor's work involve?

What do you expect of your pastor in regard to his work and schedule? Often, each of the members or families of the congregation has a different expectation of what his pastor should be and how he should spend his time.

The pastor's work can be broadly divided into the following areas: 1) preaching and teaching, 2) counseling, and 3) visitation and administration, which includes both planning and coordination.

Preaching and teaching both involve study, study on the text and the service or study where the material is presented. The best teachers say that it will take up to 20 hours of study and planning for one well-prepared message. Obviously, very few men can allow themselves the luxury of that much time. Most pastors will spend 4-6 hours on an individual sermon, with perhaps a little less time for a Bible study. They will study the text, make an outline and prepare their basic message. They will then read what two or three commentaries have to say, read related material in other books or magazines and use information gleaned from these sources to deepen their knowledge or broaden their understanding. If a pastor has a Sunday morning service, a Sunday evening service, a mid-week Bible study, a Sunday morning study and a confirmation class, he should allow at least 20 hours a week for study and preparation in these areas. This is without any extra services or studies.

Visitation and counseling are an important part of the pastor's work. All of the pastors I have known want the peo-

ple of their congregations and communities to know that they are concerned for them and are available. The pastor wants and needs the people to have the freedom to call him when they have a need or desire to see him. Ideally, a pastor should spend one half of his visitation time divided between present members and new visitors or those outside of the present congregation. In order for a congregation to grow spiritually within as well as in outreach, the pastor should spend at least one half of his time in outreach-related planning, visitation and teaching.

Fifteen is a reasonable number of calls for a pastor to make in a normal week. This will include counseling, sick calls and home visitation. That would take a minimum of 20 hours per week.

Administration includes every area of planning and coordination for the congregation. It involves contact with every organization within the congregation. The pastor must foresee the needs of his congregation for one year ahead. As the congregation is celebrating Easter 1979, he should already be making general plans for Lent and Easter of 1980. He is involved in planning the calendar and arranging for special events and speakers as well as meeting monthly with the organizations and more often with some leaders or groups with special needs. He needs to be aware of the needs in every area from the finances to the Sunday school.

He will need 20 hours a week to adequately do his own planning and to be aware of the needs of his congregation. This makes a total of 60 hours a week for a balanced workload in order to have a well-balanced ministry.

Whatever help the congregation can give to help him will give him more time to invest both with his family and within the congregation.

—Pastor Robert Rieth

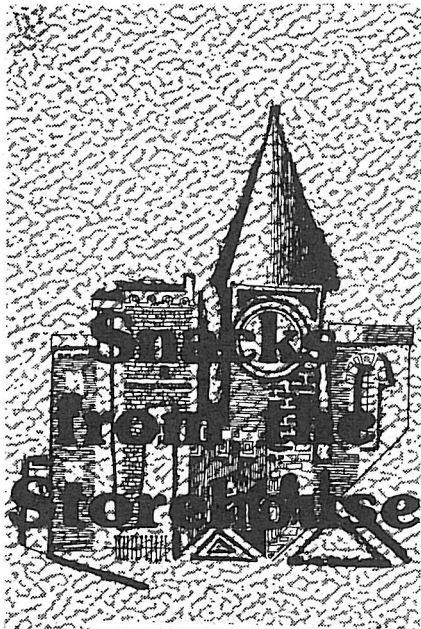
Since the foundations of the home and family are being attacked from many points today, we may well ask, "How important is this institution?" Dr. Theodore Huggenvik, who was for many years a college professor, stated, "The home is in some ways the most important institution on earth. The home was meant to be a vestibule of Heaven, the church in miniature, the preserver of all that is good." Yes, the home and family are God's plan for society.

In order for any home to have happiness and fulfillment it must have Christ as the center. My mother often quoted to me the words of Psalm 127:1: "Except the Lord build the house, they labor in vain that build it." If God is not with us in our home we will fail in our plans. A Christ-centered home comes about only when each member of that home is personally committed to Christ. The child who has been baptized must come to a personal awareness of his relationship to God, a conscious decision to follow Christ.

Recently a mother told me a touching story of how her son came to a personal relationship to Christ at only five years of age. She had been talking to her boy about having Christ in one's life. Then she asked him if he would like to invite Christ into his life. He replied, "Yes." So the mother asked him if he wanted to pray with her. This time he surprised her as he responded, "No, I want to pray alone in my closet." He had heard and was now taking literally the words of Jesus in Matthew 6:6, "But thou, when thou prayest, enter into thy closet, and when thou hast shut thy door, pray to thy Father which is in secret; and thy Father which seeth in secret shall reward thee openly." After that boy had prayed in secret his mother asked him if he believed he had Jesus in his heart now. He answered that he did. According to his mother, he has lived for Christ ever since that day. Today he is the head of his own Christian home and is a witnessing Christian.

The happiness and stability of each home and family will be determined mainly by whether we have Christ as the center of our home. I hope that each of you readers lives in a truly Christian home where every member

(Continued on page 14)



EXCUSES OR A SONG

"And they all with one consent began to make excuse" (Luke 14:18).

I had "flubbed." I knew that and the fact really got to me. I had been asked to make an announcement about a coming event and I did. But—I used so many words and said so little. The announcement was so important and I felt I had failed to put it across. I should have said this and I should have said that, but I didn't and now it was too late. Have you ever been there? I have, so many times, and the first thing I seem inclined to do is to make an excuse. It seems so natural to do that, and so easy. Excuses always seem available or one can so easily make up one and they make such a good cover up for *the real reason*.

I had felt so bad because, as I thought, I had flunked my assignment, but the real reason for feeling so frustrated and down was that my pride had suffered. As I began to see the real reason for the hurt and brought that to the Lord, I could agree with Paul that "all things work together for good," even this experience of defeat. It became just another step in the direction of becoming more and more conformed to the image of His Son. As I again brought this sin to God, He forgave and put my feet just a little bit more firmly on *The Rock*.

The Word speaks about besetting sins and weights which hinder us in winning the race of life. We may be on the Way and still be losing out on God's abundance. Remember God's

people out there in the wilderness? They were under the Blood but came short of God's tremendous plans for them. Short because of weights hindering them from winning. The weight of fear, and unbelief, and rebellion. Because of these they lived and died in the wilderness. There was no Harvest Festival for 40 years because there was no harvest.

There was a lot of grumbling and there was no song. They lived on God's survival diet instead of feasting at God's banquet table. The problems could have become steppingstones to greater heights but they never did. Instead they led to complaints and excuses. They hopefully made heaven but lost the race of living day by day victoriously for God.

The banquet table was all set and ready but they all made excuses. How about you and me? Problems do come into our lives, too. What can they do for us? They can lead to complaints and excuses or they can become steppingstones to a richer, fuller life with God. It isn't the problems that get us down. It's our reaction to them that counts. Looking at them as "tutors" that will help us into a closer walk with God, they will lead to growth and a song of victory in Him. Behind every problem there is a loving God Who cares.

Karl G. Berg

(Continued from page 13)

knows Christ personally. Then home becomes a foretaste of Heaven. And instead of desiring to get away from the family, youth also find fulfillment and joy there.

(To be continued)
Pastor Einar Unseth
Bismarck, N. Dak.

TESTIMONIES, ANYONE?

We would like to share brief testimonies from you leaguers on our youth page from time to time. Testimonies about the Lord's working in our lives. Send them to me: Tad Spading, Devotional Life Secretary, LLF, 10447 N.E. 110th, Kirkland, Wash. 98033.

PERSONALITIES

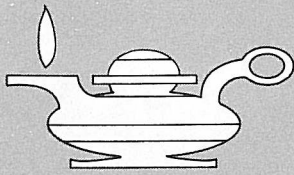
Rev. Dennis O'Neil has resigned as pastor of Faith Lutheran Church in Minneapolis to accept the call to the Shevlin, Minn., parish (Landstad, Sell Lake and Trinity). He served at Faith as a seminary student and since his ordination in 1974.

Rev. Allen Monson, who has been pastor of the Kenyon, Minn., parish (Emmanuel and Hauge) for the past several years, will be going to the Tioga, N. Dak., parish where he has accepted a call. The congregations at Tioga are Beaver Creek, Scandia, Zion, Norman and St. Olaf.

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

BUDGET RECEIPTS (9 months) February 1 to October 31, 1978

Fund	Total Budget	Current Budget	Rec'd During October	Total Rec'd to Date	% of Current	% of Total
General Fund	\$ 78,630.00	\$ 58,972.50	\$ 6,244.27	\$ 40,497.65	68.6%	51.5%
Schools	143,190.00	107,392.50	12,549.79	69,205.80	64.4	48.3
Home Missions	75,000.00	56,250.00	7,409.49	34,774.47	61.8	46.3
World Missions	113,512.00	85,133.97	8,552.52	59,027.42	69.3	52.
Praise Fund	35,000.00	26,249.94	1,429.47	15,154.20	57.7	43.2
	\$445,332.00	\$333,998.91	\$36,185.54	\$218,659.54	65.4%	49.1%
1977-78	\$382,477.00	\$286,857.72	\$24,343.43	\$208,391.56	72.6%	54.5%



SCHOOL NEWS

BASIC YOUTH CONFLICTS SEMINAR

by Ruth Nelson

"The success and harmony of each of our lives is determined by how well we understand and apply the basic principles of life that God has established." This, according to Bill Gothard, is the key to a Christ-honoring life. Success is knowing God's will and then doing it.

During the week of Nov. 6-11, AFLBS students again had the privilege of attending the 37-hour Institute in Basic Youth Conflicts at Metropolitan Center, Bloomington. Seminar lecturer Bill Gothard describes the course as "research in the principles of life."

Several students were asked how the Institute affected their lives.

"Basic Youth was a turning point in my life. Through it the Lord showed me specific problem areas in my life, their causes, and His answers. When I began appropriating Scriptural princi-

ples to my daily life, God changed my total attitude toward life."

—Mary Ann Dalager

"We are to apply God's Word. He is willing to show us how as we diligently

search His Word. I was challenged to begin."

—Gene Vukonich

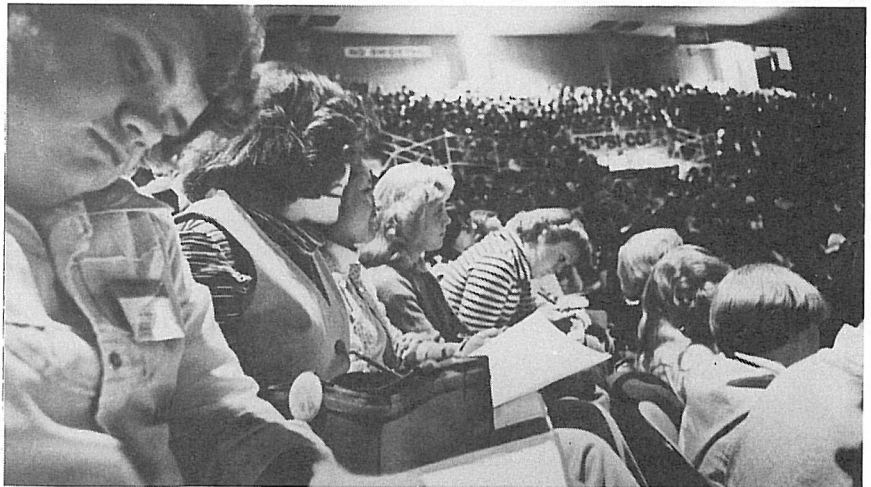
"I first attended BYC at age 14, and this was my fifth time. Each time I attend, the 'principles of life' become clearer to me. There's always something new to learn."

—Chris Dietsche

"Bill Gothard deals with salvation, conscience, authority, dating, marriage, finances, etc. The greatest blessing I have received from the seminar is the greater realization that I need the guidance of Scripture to daily lead me."

—Lynn Kinneberg

"One thing I really learned is how God is always guiding one's life through every situation. It brings joy



AFLBS students at the Institute in Basic Youth Conflicts in Metropolitan Center.



Debbie Mortrud, left, one of Snow White's seven dwarfs, tried unsuccessfully to figure out Jerry Blake's unusual looks at the Oct. 30 evening of fun planned by the student social committee.



Despite students cheering, "Swallow faster!", Julie Rudebusch concentrated on not choking on the "saltines" at the annual fall costume party.

and peace to rest assured knowing that God is in control so that He can mold me to be what He wants me to be.”

—Marsha Jacobson

“Gothard’s explanation of the Biblical chain-of-command came as a confirmation for me. Having recently followed through, I discovered the truth of the ‘blessing in obedience.’”

—Naomi Stenberg

“This is the third time I’ve attended. It is like looking into Scripture. There is always something new. I thank God for bringing me to AFLBS and again to BYC.”

—Karen Ellertson

Directory of the Association of Free Lutheran Congregations

OFFICERS

President

Rev. R. Snipstead
3110 E. Medicine Lake Blvd.
Minneapolis, Minn. 55441

Vice-President

Rev. Francis Monseth
2640 Nathan Lane N.
Minneapolis, Minn. 55441

Secretary

Rev. Einar Unseth
1308 2nd St. No.
Bismarck, N. Dak. 58501

CO-ORDINATING COMMITTEE

Chairman

Rev. Wendell Johnson
6633 227th Ave. NE.
Stacy, Minn. 55079

Secretary

Mr. Robert Dietsche
Sand Creek, Wis. 54765

ASSOCIATION SCHOOLS BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Chairman

Rev. J. G. Erickson
3110 E. Medicine Lake Blvd.
Minneapolis, Minn. 55441

Secretary

Rev. Dennis Gray
129 Lake Street North, Box 325
Spicer, Minn. 56288

Dean of Free Lutheran Seminary

Rev. Amos Dyrud
3110 E. Medicine Lake Blvd.
Minneapolis, Minn. 55441

Dean of the Bible School

Rev. Kenneth Moland
3110 E. Medicine Lake Blvd.
Minneapolis, Minn. 55441

WORLD MISSIONS

Chairman

Rev. Eugene Enderlein
P.O. Box 275
Thief River Falls, Minn. 56701

Secretary

Mr. Vernon Russum
Route 3
Grafton, N. Dak. 58237

HOME MISSIONS

Chairman

Rev. Herbert L. Franz
1301 Wilson Avenue
Cloquet, Minn. 55720

Secretary

Rev. Larry V. Severson
1203 Park St.
Boscobel, Wis. 53805

Executive Director

Rev. Elden K. Nelson
848 Senior Ave.
Dickinson, N. Dak. 58601

PUBLICATIONS AND PARISH EDUCATION

Chairman

Rev. Howard M. Kjos
Roslyn, S. Dak. 57261

Secretary

Mrs. Melvin Walla
Lot 78, Oak Ridge Estates
Fergus Falls, Minn. 56537

Executive Secretary

Miss Judith Wold
324 N. Arnold
Thief River Falls, Minn. 56701

YOUTH BOARD

Chairman

Rev. Bruce Dalager
Route 1
Mentor, Minn. 56736

Secretary

Mr. David Russum
Bergquam Trailer Court
Grafton, N. Dak. 58237

STEWARDSHIP BOARD

Chairman

Rev. Edwin Kjos
Culbertson, Mont. 59218

Secretary

Mr. Arlo Kneeland
Summit, S. Dak. 57266

BOARD OF PENSIONS

Chairman

Mr. Clifford Holm
3100 East Medicine Lake Blvd.
Minneapolis, Minn. 55441

Secretary

Rev. Jerome Nikunen
805 2nd St. NE.
Roseau, Minn. 56751

WOMEN'S MISSIONARY FEDERATION

President

Mrs. Eugene Enderlein
404 Kendall Avenue So.
Thief River Falls, Minn. 56701

Secretary

Mrs. Reuben Wee
960 9th Avenue
Granite Falls, Minn. 56241

Treasurer

Mrs. Emil Hass, Jr.
Route 1
Valley City, N. Dak. 58072

Executive Secretary

Miss Judith Wold
324 N. Arnold
Thief River Falls, Minn. 56701

LUTHER LEAGUE FEDERATION

President

Rev. Dale R. Mellgren
Box 8
Abercrombie, N. Dak. 58001

Secretary

Miss Karen Russum
Tioga, N. Dak. 58852

Treasurer

Mr. Arne Berge
Binford, N. Dak. 58416