

October 19, 1976

The Lutheran Ambassador



THE LAST LEAVES OF AUTUMN
Roger C. Huebner, D.D.S.

MEDITATION MOMENTS

RIGHT CONVICTION

Before the time of Martin Luther, the Word of God was virtually hidden from the people. Hardly anyone knew what God was like or the way to heaven.

Many people became involved in some religious work, continuous ritual, the paying of large sums of money, and taking on meaningless suffering, all in the hope of appeasing God and getting into heaven. But none of these people ever knew whether or not they were making any headway. They never heard from God in order to find out if He was pleased or displeased.

Martin Luther also got caught up in this. But it bothered him that he never knew how he stood with God as the result of the effort he had made. He longed for some recognition from God, but received none.

Finally, as Luther continued to read and study the Bible he discovered that he was going about it all wrong. He now saw that the way to heaven was through Christ and that Christ had done it all. His part was confession of sin, repentance and just accepting in faith what God had already done.

He also saw for the first time what God the Father, His Son Jesus, and the Holy Spirit were really like. Martin Luther became acquainted with the Triune God in a new way as he discovered them in the Holy

Scriptures. He believed what he read and felt God's presence and peace as never before.

Luther told others what he had discovered. He put new importance upon the reading and studying of God's Word. The Bible again became the Book of Life, giving life to many.

There is that in our day which can be compared to the time before Martin Luther. To a large extent the Bible has lost its place in the religious fervor of our day. We have much stress on accepting Jesus. There is much talk about the Holy Spirit. There is even a great emphasis on the need of prayer. But little emphasis is placed on searching the Scriptures or getting acquainted with the whole of God's Word.

How are we to know God as He truly is if we don't study the Bible? How are we to find our way to heaven through all the mazes of our day if we do not pay heed to the way God has outlined for us in His Word?

Whenever the Word of God is ignored, even though there be much religious zeal, all kinds of strange beliefs and practices in the name of God or religion spring forth. In the time before Martin Luther, Mary the mother of Jesus was idolized and worshiped, and often received more attention than Jesus. This was contrary to Scripture.

In our time we have much talk

about Jesus and the Holy Spirit, but we also have many strange ideas as to who they are and what they are like.

How can it be any different with so little emphasis on the need to search Scripture? So often when Scripture is quoted, it is done out of context. The listener or student is seldom challenged to search all of Scripture to find out for himself. He is only led by a limited hunt-and-pick, hit-and-miss system, through the Bible.

The Scriptural concept of God is overlooked or thought of minor importance. Some are even making a name for themselves by claiming to be Christ, or to be someone who has received some special revelation from God which no one else has received. With so few knowing the real Christ, these false prophets are able to gain a following.

Our greatest need today is not an emphasis on accepting Jesus, needful as that may be. The need is a back-to-the-Bible study movement, so that we might again know who Jesus is and what He is like. Then as people learn to know Him as the Bible presents Him, there will be decisions to accept Him and His finished work for man's salvation.

Gerald F. Mundfrom

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 Hugen is the editor. 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 14, Number 20

The Cult of Saints

by Rev. Kenneth D. Moland
Minneapolis, Minn.

Article XXI

"Of the worship of Saints they teach that the memory of saints may be set before us, that we may follow their faith and good works, according to our calling, as the Emperor may follow the example of David in making war to drive away the Turk from his country. For both are kings. But the Scripture teaches not the invocation of saints, or to ask help of saints, since it sets before us the one Christ as the Mediator, Propitiation, High Priest, and Intercessor. He is to be prayed to, and has promised that He will hear our prayer; and this worship He approves above all, to wit, that in all afflictions He be called upon. I John 2:1: 'If any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, etc.'" (Triglot Concordia, 1921).

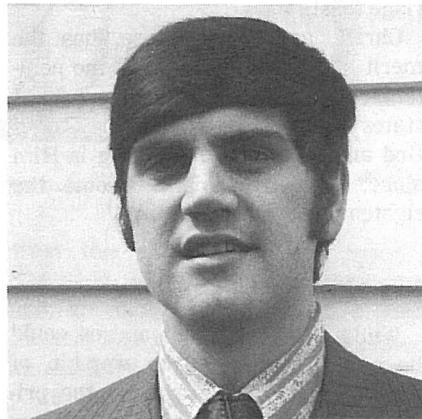
The Augsburg Confession did not seek to inflame, but rather sought to mediate an agreement in reform. Article XXI on the worship of the saints carries a conciliatory tone, allowing for discussion and eventual reconciliation. There were abuses, to be sure, and they were not to be overlooked, but the Confession did not seek to sever the two opposing groups from one another.

When The Augsburg Confession received the confutation from the Romanists, however, the Apology (or defense) of The Augsburg Confession went on to prove its point on the error of the worship of the Saints.

Saints Should Not Be Ignored

First of all, we should note that the Confession approves honors to the saints. The reaction of the Lutheran church toward the worship of saints did not call for removing them from our memories. The Apology states that a threefold honor is to be recognized.

a) The first is thanksgiving. We ought to give thanks to God because He has shown examples of mercy; be-



Rev. Kenneth D. Moland

cause he has shown that he wishes to save men; because He has given teachers or other gifts to the church. The saints who have faithfully used these gifts should also be praised, just as Christ praises faithful business men (Matthew 25:21, 23).

b) The second service is the strengthening of our faith; when we see the denial forgiven Peter, we also are encouraged to believe the more that grace truly superabounds our sin (Romans 5:20).

c) The third honor is the imitation, first of faith, then of the other virtues which everyone should imitate according to his calling. The believer will do well to learn how to live from those who have walked closely with Christ.

Perhaps a comparison could be made with our particular view of heritage and positive tradition. We profit from our respect and imitation of godly ancestors. The people who forget their roots and heritage tend to be easily blown about. So also, the communion of saints is on a time continuum. We are a part of the timeless body of Christ. As such, we do not ignore the saints of God who have lived before us.

The author of Hebrews also sees a positive influence upon the church from the consideration of the saints. In chapter 12, after the lengthy list of human examples of the faith in chapter 11, he writes, "Therefore,

since we have so great a cloud of witnesses surrounding us, let us also lay aside every encumbrance, and the sin which so easily entangles us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith . . ." (verses 1 and 2a).

The recognition of the saints, then, is not to be completely put aside. There is value for the believer in knowing of, and learning from, the people of God who have set good examples.

Saints Must Point to Jesus

The main concern of the Reformers was that the worship of saints detracted from the worship of Jesus. The text from Hebrews 12 quoted above gives the balanced picture for which the Reformers were looking. The worth of the "great cloud of witnesses" is acknowledged, but the end result is that the believer should be "fixing his eyes on Jesus." Insofar as the saints pointed him to the Savior, they were of help to the believer.

When a Christian begins to look at any aspect of his liturgy or worship as an end in itself, that object or form may become an idol for him. That was and is a problem with the whole concept of the veneration of the saints.

Abuses Detract from Christ Invocation of the Saints Confuted

The adversaries of the Reformers required the invocation of the saints. That is, they declared it necessary that the believer call upon the saints for aid. In time of trouble or when in need of extra strength, the saints were to be invoked for their good pleasure upon the faithful believer.

The Reformers pointed out, however, that Scripture does not teach the invocation of the saints, or that we are to ask the saints for aid. "Neither a command, nor a promise, nor an

example can be produced from the Scriptures concerning the invocation of saints."

This is the role of our great High Priest, Jesus Christ. It is to Him we are to come when in need of aid in our daily walk and struggle. The Psalmist of old is a good example to follow here, as he again and again demonstrated faith in God to deliver him from evil and harm. Also, from Hebrews 4:16, we are urged to appeal to our sympathetic High Priest, Jesus Christ, to receive "grace to help in time of need."

The invocation of the saints for aid causes a neglect of coming to our Savior for His almighty aid. Therefore, we would be breaking the first commandment, which tells us to "fear, love, and trust in God above all things," by invoking the aid of saints.

Doctrine of Surplus Merit Confuted

The second obvious abuse was the doctrine of surplus merit which made the saints not only intercessors, but also propitiators. That is, the Romanists said that a saint may give of his excess merit to those who request it. Here the honor belonging only to Christ is transferred to the saints. This obscures Christ's office and transfers the confidence of mercy due Christ to the saints.

The reformers stated that if there were others to whom a sinner could plead for merit, there would be little need for Christ. Furthermore, a sinner may prefer to go to a saint rather than Christ, for men imagine that Christ is more severe and the saints more easily appeased. So, the first problem with surplus merit is that it may lead the sinner to seek the saint rather than the Savior. The true knowledge of Christ is suppressed.

Secondly, the doctrine of surplus merit may and does give a false hope of becoming righteous apart from Christ. If a saint has an abundance of merit, one can be counted worthy of heaven by acquiring some of that goodness. The Apology quotes the following example of abuse, "According to the order instituted by God, we should betake ourselves to the aid of the saints, in order that we may be saved by their merits and vows."

The Reformers were accurate in

pointing out that there is no Scriptural command, promise or example which could be used to support such a doctrine. The parable of the ten virgins is used as an example of the impossibility of drawing on another's grace or merit to gain entrance into the marriage feast.

Christ, and Christ alone, has the merit and goodness to make the penitent righteous. II Corinthians 5:18-21 states the qualifications of the Son of God and the result of trusting in Him alone, "that we might become the righteousness of God in Him."

Conclusion

While many reported abuses could be cited concerning the worship of saints, we can thus far see the primary danger being that of displacing one's dependence, loyalty and allegiance to Christ.

While the saints can, and should, be honored and respected, there can be no place for worship of them in the believer's life, for they then begin to take the place of Christ, receiving honor and worship of which He alone is worthy.

The Reformation emphasis on "Grace Alone" requires all to trust only in the substitutionary atonement of Christ, calling upon Him in every time of need, depending upon Him for every spiritual and material aid.

Our churches are becoming so respectable that the probing of individual consciences with a view to bringing about repentance, such as Luther counsels, is likely to be regarded as impertinence and bad taste.

—T. A. Kantonen

It is the Word of God that does the work of God.

A man's action is but the picture book of his creed.

The Gospel is not a problem to be solved but a gift to be received.

THANK YOU TO ALL

We want to express our sincere thanks to all who helped to promote the sale of "HEAR HIM."

When the first and second printings were sold out, my wife and I planned on closing shop and putting a sign outside, "Sold Out." But all of a sudden we received a letter from the Lutheran Gospel Hour, Pastor R. Norheim writing, "This is no time to close shop now; call your publisher and tell him to start on the third printing, and put me down for an order of 500. That is just what happened. We hope it will be ready by the middle of October.

This book is being used in so many different ways. One of the ALC churches here uses it for Lutheran League Bible Study. One day I was there at one of their services and a senior high school student came running over to me. He grabbed my hand, and said, "Pastor Lars, I have read your book and I have seen the light. I am saved by grace through faith in Jesus alone!" I said, "Praise the Lord! His Gospel is still the power of God unto salvation to everyone that believes."

Hundreds have been bought and given to unsaved relatives and friends. They are being passed from house to house, from person to person, doing the work of an evangelist. Many pastors use it for house visitation. They leave it in the home to do following up work, etc.

Over half of the third printing has already been ordered, so if you want the book, you better step on the gas, for I doubt very much if there will be any fourth printing.

It can be ordered from:

Mrs. Esther Stalsbroten
86363 Greenbriar Drive
Eugene, Oregon 97402

\$1.00 postpaid

For larger quantities there is a discount.

Again we say thank you to all of you for your hearty support of this soul-winning ministry. We can only humbly bow our heads and say to the Lord, "This is surely Your doing and it is marvelous in our eyes."

With greetings and love in Christ,
Lars and Esther Stalsbroten

EUROPE REVISITED

by Raynard Huglen, Editor
Part IV

A Stop in Os

Last time I told about my visit on my father's home island of Huglo and my departure from there on August 13. Next I was to go to Bergen by way of Os where I have a cousin living. It was necessary to take a bus from Jektavik to Sandvikvaag, both on the eastern and northeastern coast of Stord. I mention place names because some of our readers know them. Incidentally, one of my relatives advised me of the difference between a *vik* and a *vaag*. A *vik* is an inlet and quite small, while a *vaag* is a bay and larger. The name Sandvikvaag contains both, I realize, but I assume the name "vaag" there is derived from a smaller location called Sandvik located in a larger bay.

At any rate, and all that being quite clear to you now, I boarded a ferry for the hour-long trip to Halhjem. The ferry was a larger one and I have nicknamed it "Jaws" because of the way the front lifted up to receive and disgorge the automobiles it carried. Aboard the craft I ate a piece of thick lefse, drank a cup of coffee and read a newspaper. Papers are expensive in Norway, costing at that time over 36 cents. There are many daily newspapers in the country and this may account for the higher prices, the smaller circulations.



The ruins of Lysekloster

Cousin Aslaug and her husband Hallgeir met me at Halhjem and drove me to their lovely home along the mountainside overlooking Os. Their three children were sitting all dressed up in the living room awaiting my arrival. The only one of them I had seen before was daughter Hanne (Hannah).

The Hagens showed me some of their countryside after dinner, including Lysekloster, an abbey which was begun in 1146, but has now all but disappeared, only the foundation and a few low walls remaining from a once large building. We also saw at one point, across the water, the home of Ole Bull, famous violinist.

That evening Aslaug and Hallgeir drove me into Bergen where I would visit for a couple days. My place of lodging was at the home of cousin Audun, who manages a branch bank. He had purchased a used Volkswagen earlier this year. It sounded like what we would call a "clunk," but the family was proud to now own a car. Buying and owning an auto is still a much bigger affair in Norway than it is here. Audun's three children, two girls and a boy, had grown much, too, since nine years ago.

Viewing Bergen

The next day, Saturday, we did some sightseeing in downtown Bergen, stopping at the outdoor markets by the docks and at Bryggen, where those old wooden stores are. The boy, Johan Gordon, and I went through what is called Haakon Halle. Then we walked through town to Johannes Church, where there is the same altar painting of Jesus standing in prayer (Mark 1:35) as hung in old Trinity Lutheran Church in Minneapolis. I took a couple of pictures of it, but they didn't turn out.

We were in the University Museum.

There are many interesting things to see there. Again I was fascinated to see the skeleton of the *blaaival* (blue whale). The creature was over 78 feet long and would have weighed close to 100 tons when living. Blue whales can attain a length of over 100 feet.

That same day we visited cousin Barbra at her apartment on Tartargaten. It was there I had seen my father's last living sister, Tante (Aunt) Bergine, on my previous visit, and her husband, Uncle Johan. They are both gone now, but I was very conscious of them during our stop there. Barbra had just returned from a holiday trip to the Tyrolean Alps in Austria.

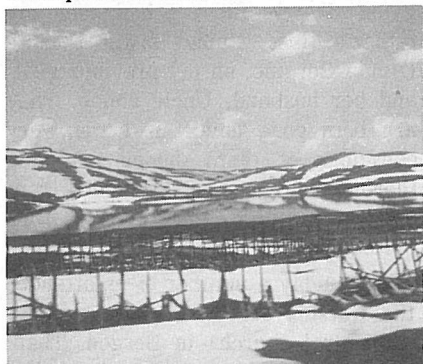
On Sunday a number of us attended the worship service in the *domkirke* (cathedral church) in Bergen. There were few people present and this had a depressing effect. But the pastor, Joh. Høivik, preached a good sermon on the day's text, Luke 16:10-17. It is there that Jesus mentions that we cannot serve God and mammon. He referred to Paul's testimony in Philippians 3, of counting all things as refuse in order to gain Christ and reminded us that what is unseen is eternal. I remember, too, that he spoke of the difficulty of getting people to work in the church and how the position of *klokker* (lay pastoral assistant) in the congregation was presently vacant and no one would take it.

After the service we went to Møllendal cemetery to see the graves of my aunt and uncle, another aunt, Sigrid, and cousin Aksel. We stopped at Fantoft Stave Church, although it wasn't open, and went on to Fana Mountain. Many people were there, simply enjoying themselves on a warm, late summer day. School would begin the next day or on Tuesday and there wouldn't be many days as fine in the remaining days of summer.

We returned to the house and ate our dinner. Perhaps by then it was 3 o'clock or so. Since the weather was warm we could eat outside on the patio, as we would call it. In addition to potatoes and vegetables, we had boiled beef and meatballs, a white gravy with onions, blueberry juice to drink and a thick blueberry pudding with cream for dessert.

A Train Ride

The following morning, Monday, it was time to begin the journey to Oslo, with a stop in Nesbyen. Even now I think in terms of Oslo lying much to the south of Bergen, but it is more nearly east of there than south. I made the trip by train and it was a most pleasant and beautiful ride.



August 16 in the high country

For a while the roadbed followed the fjords. The water was mirror-smooth, reflecting the blue of the heavens on a warm, sunny day. Gradually we ascended to the treeless, rock-strewn, high country plateau. There, even though it was the 16th of August, it was like stepping backward into springtime, for that is what it was there. Great snowbanks laced the hills. Lakes and streams were brimful with clear water. Waterfalls gushed and where it could grow, the grass was lush and green.

We went through stations such as Myrdal, where there are fine tourist accommodations and many using them. Further on we descended to tree vegetation again, first of all, very scrubby and low, and later, with the larger trees of Hallingdal. It was a most interesting and unforgettable trip.

Nesbyen

My second cousin Nils Hajem was

at the station in Nesbyen to meet me, as he had been there to bid me farewell nine years before. We went to his home where I saw his mother Kari again and his sister Kristi, home on a visit from Oslo. Kari, Mother's cousin, is 89 now and has to use a walker to get around, but she is very alert and it was easy to visit with her. Kristi had fixed a good dinner for us and I had a fine visit there. I was to be a house-guest of another cousin of Mother, Magda Sevre, and her daughter Gunbjør. Erik Sevre had been the klokker in the Nes Church, but had passed away since my previous visit.



Two cabins and an outbuilding on the seter.

The next morning Magda, Gunbjør and I visited several relatives in the rest home, two of whom I knew from before. That afternoon they took me up to their seter hytte (cabin). It is called Samfet and lies up over the edge of the valley. It is easy enough to get up there by car nowadays, but I am amazed when I think of how tedious it must have been to walk up in the older times. And at the beginning of summer it meant driving the herd of cattle ahead. Simply to walk took perhaps four hours.

We have romanticized seter life from a distance, but it was a hard life, with some compensations, of course. Magda told me of a couple summers she had spent up there as a young lady, accompanied by a young boy as a helper. That first summer she milked many cows alone because the boy was not able to help her. Someone would come from home about once a week to see how things were going and to take the milk products which had been made between milkings back to the valley.

We sat outside near the two family cabins and ate our afternoon lunch. It tasted better than ever in the re-

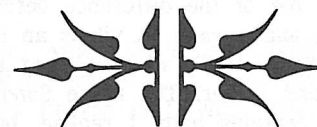
freshing air. In the valley it had been unusually hot, but on the seter much cooler. Not far away, only some rods distant, was the seter cabin my grandfather had known in his early days.

Seter life has changed. Now it is quite rare that the cattle are taken up in the mountains for the summer. The cabins are either new or remodelled and are very attractive. They have become vacation homes.

On the way down from the mountains we stopped to pick some lyng (heather). It grows in great profusion many places in Norway.

That evening I placed a telephone call to Mother and my sister Valborg in Newfolden, Minnesota. The call got through quite soon and it was quite an experience to talk from one continent to another.

(To be continued)



REV. GEORGE AMUNDSEN

Rev. George E. Amundsen, 64, passed away on September 24 at Bellingham, Wash., where he had lived the past several years. He assisted with pastoral supply in Triumph Lutheran Church, Ferndale, Wash., on occasion.

Ordained into the ministry of the Lutheran Free Church in 1938, George Amundsen was the son of Rev. Carl and Selma Amundsen and was born May 21, 1912, in Bemidji, Minn. He was a graduate of Augsburg College and Theological Seminary, Minneapolis, Minn., and received a second Bachelor of Arts degree from Western Washington College of Education in Bellingham in 1953.

Married to Esther Jackson in 1938, the Amundsens served parishes in Erickson, Man., Barton, N. Dak., Bellingham, Laporte, Minn., Winger, Minn., Hampden, N. Dak., and Zahl, N. Dak., as well as other parishes since the merger of 1963. Pastor Amundsen was a chaplain in the U.S. Army from 1944-46 and was active in the Army Reserves over the years.

Blessed be his memory.



W M

WORLD MISSIONS

THE | FIELDS ARE WHITE UNTO HARVEST

GOD WILL IT . . . WILL WE DO IT?

by Rev. John H. Abel,
Missionary to Brazil

At the time of the great Crusades in the Middle Ages, a strange man appeared on the scene. He was a hermit, but a powerful preacher and mover of men. The pope had somehow come in contact with him and commissioned him to help raise an army of knights and men to free the Holy Land. Peter the Hermit went about medieval Europe crying out, "Let us deliver the holy places of our Lord from the heathen Turk . . . GOD WILL IT!"

Now we can have serious doubts and even be convinced that Peter the Hermit was wrong, that God did not will it, and that the Scriptures do not teach adoration of relics or missionary work by the use of force. Yet there is a conquest that Christ is waiting for, that He has commanded us to make and concerning which the Scriptures teach: "GOD WILL IT."

I Tim. 2:3, 4 tell us: "For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Saviour; who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth."

II Pet. 3:9: "The Lord . . . is not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance."

Yes, King Jesus does have a will for His followers. He does have a plan for us to carry out until He returns. The Bible reveals this in the final chapters of the Gospels and the first chapter of Acts; five chapters of the New Testament contain the plainest information in the world about Christ's Missionary Command. In Matthew, he declared, "Disciple all nations." In Mark, Jesus told them, "Go ye into all the world and preach the Gospel to every creature." In Luke, He prophesied, "That repentance and

remission of sins should be preached in His name among all nations." In John, He instructed, "As the Father hath sent Me, even so send I you." And in Acts, He commanded, "Ye shall be witnesses unto Me . . . unto the uttermost part of the earth."

There can be no doubt but that the Bible views the Church as a militant army. Jesus Christ is called the Captain of our salvation. In the Book of Revelation He is seen as the Rider of a white horse followed by the heavenly armies. Every Christian is a soldier. "Thou therefore endure hardness, as a good soldier of Jesus Christ" (II Tim. 2:3). It boils down to this, our Captain has commanded us to evangelize the world. "The mission of the Church is missions." William Carey the founder of modern missions said: "These two admissions cannot be reconciled: 'I am a Christian'—'I am not interested in missions.'"

If then, it is revealed clearly to us through the Scriptures that "God wills it," then the question remaining to be answered by us in our Association of Free Lutheran Congregations is, "Will we do it?"

There are great open doors in the world. Not long ago I read in a missions' publication that never have there been so many people on this planet and never have there been so many open doors; that of all the nations in the United Nations only about 30 are completely closed to the Gospel. In 1971, we had the opportunity of driving to Brazil and passing through 12 countries on the way, all of which have much missionary activity going on inside their borders, although the laborers are relatively few and the need great. It has been our expressed official vision, through various conferences of the Associa-

tion, that we should press on toward a tri-nation mission, reaching a few hours from our field in Campo Mourao into the countries of Paraguay and Argentina. Both these countries have pioneer jungle areas that are now being opened up and settled. Small villages spring up in the jungle on all sides. This was the situation we encountered in our corner of Brazil back in the 1950's and early 1960's.

I remember when the bulldozers pushed away large jungle trees to make a road to where our house was designated to be, according to the town map, and how men with axes and saws worked several days to clear three lots of trees and stumps so we could lay the foundation of our first home and future school in that town. Ten good steps from our back door would bring you to our high picket fence and beyond that was virgin jungle, where you could cut yourself a palm tree top for salads or hear monkeys sing. Once I saw a deer as I drove out of our yard and a visiting friend claims he went for a walk in the jungle back of our house and saw a large jungle leopard, whereupon he retreated hastily.

But all of this still brings us back to the question: "Will we as Free Lutheran Congregations DO IT? Will we obey the explicit command of the Captain of our Salvation, the Lord of the church? Someone has said, "Evangelize the world or fossilize the church." One of the first things we have observed in the large liberal church bodies is that they all but stop doing foreign mission work.

The body to which I formerly belonged some years ago had an inspiring foreign mission magazine, a good three-year course on missions in the seminary, and almost 400 missionaries overseas. From our class 12 of us were volunteers for foreign missions. Today there is no longer a mission magazine, the missionary force has been drastically reduced and revival blessings have left the church at home and abroad. The Gospels still tell us plainly that "the supreme task of the Church is the evangelization of the world."

We are blessed at this time in our Association to have three young qualified seminary couples who have been

accepted as candidates for foreign missions by our AFLC Foreign Mission Board. One of these couples, husband and wife, have passed their last physical exam, he is due to graduate in December of this year, and, barring unforeseen circumstances, they will be called and commissioned near the end of this year. They will be going out to enlist prayer support from many congregations during the winter and then go to Brazil and language school by early summer. But will they? And what about the two seminary couples already accepted as candidates, who will shortly follow them? Will they be sent into our place in the world's harvest field? Will they come out to enable us to enlarge our outreach for Christ? The "will" in this case seems to lie not with God and not with these volunteers. They have clearly expressed themselves. The "will" lies with us. At this writing, our foreign mission budget receipts are down by about 15,000 dollars. In other years we have responded to the various needs of our entire AFLC program during the last few months of the fiscal year. We pray that you will earnestly pray about this matter, and also be, in your giving, "good soldiers of Jesus Christ."

Sometimes, as we travel around to our many churches, we are deeply concerned as we see how many projects, people and relief agencies our AFLC people are supporting outside of our association. It is true that these things may be good, but the good may oftentimes become the enemy of the "best." It seems to me that if we are going to be faithful to the Lord of the Harvest in the field that He has given to us, we must now close ranks as good soldiers, and unite together to get out our own youth, our own candidates. Other foreign mission groups and relief efforts have large constituencies, and often government or United Nations groups are doing similar things. We cannot be sure of doctrines taught or what the end results are. Someone has said, "So often in the world, the U.S. provides the food and relief and the Communists give them the books and the missionaries." These things we cannot control, but as we carry out the clear command of our Savior, "Go ye

therefore, and teach all nations..." (Matt. 28:19), with our own seminary graduates, under our own foreign mission board, we shall see our free Lutheran congregations multiplied and working through free and living national congregations overseas.

Let us plant the church that we believe in in the countries God has called us to overseas. The two fastest growing mission fields in the world today are South Korea and Brazil. And the most unevangelized country in South America today, we are told, is Paraguay. This country lies only six hours from our center. We have large families and members of our congregations in Parana that are moving into new homesteading areas of Brazil. We need workers to follow them. We have voted to help our new Brazilian pastors and evangelists go into new areas where the church is small or non-existent. This also is an open door. So, brethren, will you take a part of the RESPONSIBILITY for this your foreign mission program. God wills it, but will we do it?

PRAYER AND PRAISE FROM BRAZIL

Pray for—

—Dona Eva, for whom we have asked for prayer before, that the Lord would continue to uphold her, as her physical health is still poor.

—Terazinha, that she might continue to grow in the Lord. And that her husband, John, who had a car accident, may through this realize his lost spiritual condition.

—Three national workers; Ribas, Antonio and John, who are feeling discouraged.

—Sr. Vincint, who left our Sta. Rei church and moved to the territory of Rondonia. Word from him is that they are settled and requesting help in starting an AFLC church there.

Praise the Lord for—

—All our students who are recovering from that flu and that Karen Knapp and Mrs. Hove were here and able to help with giving shots and medicine.

—The mission Jeep that takes our missionaries out to the interior churches and also takes out our evangelistic team twice a month.

—The leadership of our evangelist, Sr. Raimundo, who takes with him three students to go out on these evangelistic campaigns. Pray that their witness may be true and many souls won for the Kingdom.

—Missionaries' continued good health and safety in traveling.

—The opportunity for the Dyrud family and Mrs. Hove to attend a Missionary Information Bureau conference. It was a week of blessings and fine fellowship.

—The day of fasting and prayer that was held at the Bible institute. It was a day of real soul searching and rich blessings for those who took part. The day closed with a communion service at our Lar Parana church.

EVANGELIST-YOUTH WORKER ANNOUNCES SCHEDULE FOR COMING WEEKS

Evangelist-Youth Worker David C. Molstre announces the following appointments for the coming weeks this fall. All who pray are urged to support this ministry at the throne of Grace. If you live in the area where meetings are being held, you are invited to participate in them and to bring others along with you.

Oct. 24-28—Fergus Falls, Minn., Calvary Lutheran Church

Nov. 7-11—Everett, Wash., Calvary Lutheran Church

Nov. 12-16—Lake Stevens, Wash., Elim Lutheran Church

Nov. 17-21—Astoria, Ore., Bethany Lutheran Church

Nov. 28-Dec. 2—Vang, N. Dak., Aspelund Lutheran Church

Please contact local newspapers for more detailed information.



Pastor David C. Molstre, right, with Pastor Hubert DeBoer.

editorials

THE LEGACY OF LUTHER

Our pastors preach the three-fold foundation of the Protestant Reformation throughout the year. It consists of these truths: The Word Alone—Faith Alone—Grace Alone. We must always insist that they do this and as long as they do this God's blessing can rest upon our church. The same holds true of our teachers in Seminary and Bible School.

There is no feature article on the Reformation in this issue of the *Ambassador*, even though it is the one just preceding the anniversary date of October 31. But in this editorial we do want to remind our readers that we haven't forgotten what time of the year it is, nor should you.

God used a particular man in Germany, in His wisdom, to lead a movement of reform. It was a movement back to the authority of Scripture and, concomitantly, or together with that, a movement to point out that man is justified by faith alone, by God's grace alone.

Martin Luther, that German monk, found spiritual release himself, indeed, life itself, through the grasping of the truth of Romans 1:17. There it is again, the authority of the Word, what the Word said.

Romans 1:17 is stated thusly by the translators: "For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, 'The just shall live by faith'" (King James Version). "For in it the righteousness of God is revealed through faith for faith; as it is written, 'He who through faith is righteous shall live'" (Revised Standard Version).

"For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, 'But the righteous Man shall live by faith'" (New American Standard Bible).

What is it that reveals the righteousness of God? It is (verse 16) the Gospel, which is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes. When Luther so believed, that his salvation depended on what Jesus had done for him, he was delivered and set free. Prior to that he had found only misery in his own efforts to that end.

The legacy of Luther is his re-discovery of the truth that all depends on Christ in regard to salvation. All man can do is be open to God's love and grace. But salvation is God's doing.

It is hundreds of years since Luther's hammer blows in Wittenberg ushered in a movement which, thank God, all the powers of Rome could not abort. The truths he called to the world's attention have not been forgotten and, please God, may they be preserved among us and

be passed on to the generations to follow, if the Lord tarries.

We must so preach and teach, in church and home, The Word Alone—Faith Alone—Grace Alone. Then God can work. Then the Holy Spirit can work. And we will be faithful to those truths which have been handed to us by our fathers and forefathers. And then people will come into the true and living faith through which the very doors of heaven are opened to all who lay hold of God's grace, revealed in the suffering and death of Jesus Christ and His resurrection from the dead.

This is what it means to be faithful to the legacy of Luther.

A PLEA FOR YOUR VOTE

Of necessity this must be written four weeks before Election Day, 1976. At this particular point in time there are still uncertainties about the outcome of the presidential race, to say nothing of the other contests on state and local levels. Perhaps when you read this, the trends will be much clearer than they are now. And yet, nothing should be taken for granted. There have been enough examples of close races decided by few votes in recent years to dispel the old idea that "my vote doesn't make any difference anyway."

It is unsettling to read the reports that Americans may stay away from the polls this year in record numbers. Many of the stay-at-homes may complain the loudest about the threats to our democratic way of life. But if they don't take the privilege of voting seriously, they mustn't be surprised if liberty gradually erodes. It is only natural if deterioration takes place in that which we hold dear if we don't make the effort to express ourselves in the area that really counts, the ballot box.

There have been some events in the campaign thus far upon which it would have been easy to comment here. Doubtless others will surface before Nov. 2 comes around. Some religious publications have taken the opportunity to editorialize on some of the matters. But we have refrained because even though we can find fault with both sides at times in the presidential race, our readers would probably sense bias one way or the other and it isn't for us to take sides here even though we have our personal preference in the contest.

It is our hope that *Ambassador* readers will try to be as informed as possible in advance of casting their ballots. Often it isn't easy to make those choices, but we must try. In some races little may be known about any of the candidates. Sometimes a voter, in the absence of knowledge, will vote for a Scandinavian name or a German name or whatever and hope for the best. Obviously, that isn't the way we ought to go about our responsibility of voting.

Seek to be informed. Do the best you can. And pray about your decisions and for the working out of God's purposes in all things. Pray for people in office now that they will be open to divine guidance.

We do hope you will choose to vote on Nov. 2. None of us would like it if the opportunity was not there for us, would we?

STEWARDSHIP

**Dear Members of the Stewardship Committee:
Grace and Peace:**

I have just read in the *Ambassador* regarding the last Annual Meeting, about the decision to ask the Stewardship Committee to submit a plan for the liquidation of \$100,000.00 of our debt in the next two years. This is indeed good news because this large debt has disturbed me and others considerably and I am glad the CHURCH has decided to do something about it. I would like to have a part in it, so I am enclosing herewith a check for \$100.00, trusting that many others will follow suit and do likewise.

If you as a Committee would submit a plan such as I have in mind, I am praying that the people of our Asso-

ciation would respond so that the thought of the Convention could be realized, possibly to the extent that the entire debt could be wiped out in the next few years.

I would also suggest that we try for the \$100,000.00 in one year instead of two. I do think it can be done. Then after an interim of a year, we could do it again and so on until the whole debt is paid. Think of the interest money we would save by sacrificing now. We have wonderful people in our Association and I think they will respond because nobody likes to be in debt. The Word says, "Owe no man anything but to love one another" (Romans 13:8). Herewith are four suggestions of possibilities, all susceptible to change as you may wish:

| Contributors | Amount | Total |
|--------------|-----------------|------------------|
| 1000 | \$1000.00 | \$100,000.00 |
| | OR | |
| 500 | \$100.00 | \$ 50,000.00 |
| 500 | \$ 50.00 | 25,000.00 |
| <u>1000</u> | <u>\$ 25.00</u> | <u>25,000.00</u> |
| 2000 | | \$100,000.00 |
| | OR | |
| 500 | \$100.00 | \$ 50,000.00 |
| 300 | 50.00 | 15,000.00 |
| 600 | 25.00 | 15,000.00 |
| 1000 | 10.00 | 10,000.00 |
| 2000 | <u>5.00</u> | <u>10,000.00</u> |
| | | \$100,000.00 |
| | OR | |
| 300 | \$100.00 | \$30,000.00 |
| 500 | 50.00 | 25,000.00 |
| 600 | 25.00 | 15,000.00 |
| 1000 | 15.00 | 15,000.00 |
| 3000 | <u>5.00</u> | <u>15,000.00</u> |
| | | \$100,000.00 |

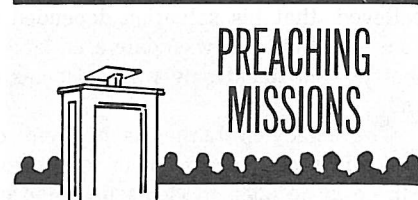
A CONCERNED MEMBER

(Note: The Stewardship Board thinks the above-mentioned ideas are very good and presents them for your consideration and response.)

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

BUDGET RECEIPTS
February 1-September 30, 1976

| | Total Budget | Current Budget | Received during Sept. | Total Budget Rec'd to 9/30 | % of Current | % of Total |
|------------------|---------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|----------------------------|--------------|-------------|
| General Fund | \$ 82,600.00 | \$ 55,066.64 | \$ 2,160.77 | \$ 30,553.98 | 55.4 | 37. |
| Schools | 128,249.00 | 85,499.28 | 5,985.97 | 43,827.92 | 51.2 | 34. |
| Home Missions | 78,875.00 | 49,250.00 | 3,829.61 | 30,882.14 | 62.7 | 39. |
| Foreign Missions | 82,800.00 | 55,200.00 | 5,149.60 | 35,906.33 | 65. | 43.4 |
| Praise Fund | 30,000.00 | 20,000.00 | 442.90 | 18,462.59 | 92.3 | 61.5 |
| TOTAL | \$402,524.00 | \$265,015.92 | \$17,568.85 | \$159,692.96 | 60.2 | 39.6 |
| 1974-75 | \$304,090.00 | \$202,726.64 | \$14,641.28 | \$131,328.75 | 64. | 43. |



Blue Grass, Minn.
Bethany Lutheran Church
Fred Carlson, pastor
Oct. 24-26
Rev. Harvey Carlson, Grand Forks,
N. Dak., speaker



SCHOOL NEWS

LARGE TURNOUT FOR 1976 HOMECOMING

Many former students of AFLBS were present for the 1976 Homecoming on the campus, Oct. 1-3. No exact registration figures are available, however. From all appearances it was the largest ever in the ten-year history of the school.

Activities began on Friday evening with an informal service led by Paul Nash. Several alumni shared their experiences since leaving AFLBS: John Mundfrom, Pauline Persson Moberg, Jim Erickson, Tony Pollestad, Tony Stockman and Becky Haugen. Mrs. Mundfrom (Lorilee Torgerson) sang a solo. The rest of the evening was spent in visiting. Many games of ping pong "round robin" were played.

On Saturday morning former instructor at AFLBS Rev. Laurel Udden led a Bible study. Present acting dean Rev. Kenneth Moland talked with the alumni about the school's progress and hopes. He called for prayer warriors to uphold the work that is being done. Also on Saturday morning was the Alumni Association's annual meeting, reported elsewhere in this issue.

The main attraction of the afternoon was the flag football game in which the present students, the Conquerors, did conquer the Alumni 22-16. That, too, is described in more detail in a separate story.

Approximately 275 persons attended the banquet, held this year in the school dining hall. It was an overflow crowd and, with an expanding alumni body, may have been the last homecoming banquet that can be held on campus in the foreseeable future. Mr. Don Rodvold, music director, is particularly responsible for the arrangements which had been made for the occasion.

The speaker was Mr. Bruce Hanks of the Twin Cities, look-alike and distant relative of Abraham Lincoln. He captivated his audience with his presentation of the life and struggles and spiritual development of the great president. Paul Persson was master of ceremonies. Ten of the school's original 13 students sang, as did a male quartette of the 1970-71 school year. Joel Rolf, student body president, gave a greeting and Pastor Moland led the devotions and gave the closing prayer. Rev. Richard Anderson, a

member of the first group of students, presented a painting by Mrs. Esther Farrier, first choir director, to the school. It depicts the visit of the angel to the Bethlehem shepherds. Members of the original faculty at AFLBS present were Dr. Iver Olson and Mrs. Raymond (Olive) Jacobson and they were recognized.

Later that evening an informal sing was held in the recreation room, led by Mark (Mickey) Antal. Popcorn was served.

At the worship service at Medicine Lake Lutheran Church on Sunday morning, the 1971 choir which toured Norway sang a group of songs from its repertoire of that year. Mr. Rodvold directed them then and now.

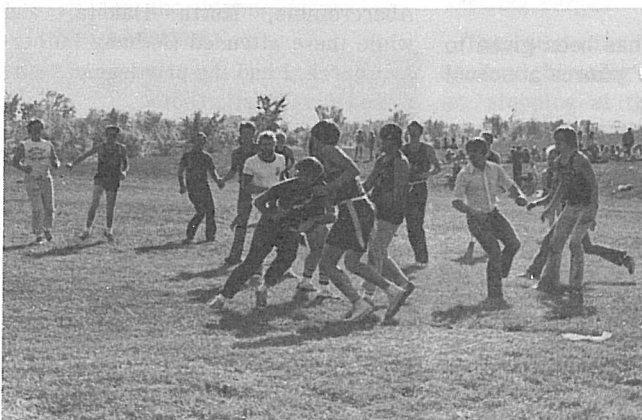
Homecoming ended with an open-house in the dormitories on Sunday afternoon.

ALUMNI CONDUCT BUSINESS

The annual meeting of the Alumni Association of AFLBS was held on Saturday morning during homecoming. President Steve Lee presided.

The main item of business was the adoption of a constitution, the first one the organization has had. This was done after a number of changes were made in the proposed one by floor action.

No new officers were elected this year, but in 1977, according to the constitution, a vice-president and a secretary will be elected. Terms will be for two years and no one can serve



An Alum ball carrier comes to the end of the road.



Becky Lenning Erickson and Linda Moan of the "Norway Choir" take part in a rehearsal.

more than two consecutive terms in an office.

The third annual alumni basketball tournament will be held in March and Dave Russum will head up arrangements.

Mr. and Mrs. Ron Strand and Mr. and Mrs. John Mundfrom were named to plan the annual alumni retreat at Faith Haven Lodge next spring.

It is estimated that there are now about 470 alumni and former students comprising the Association. Approximately 600 persons have now been enrolled at AFLBS.

CONQUERORS DEFEAT ALUMS IN HOMECOMING TILT

In the two previous homecoming football games at AFLBS defense had ruled the day as each contest ended at 6-0. But this year there was a dramatic reversal in styles and fortune as the Conquerors built up a 22-8 lead early in the fourth quarter and held on to win 22-16.

The first score came at the end of the first quarter. Alum Dave Russum of Grafton, N. Dak., was thrown for a loss to his own 24-yard line by Bill Cornish of Lake Stevens, Wash., on third down. The snap on the attempted punt was fumbled on the next play and Glen Hodnefield, Radcliffe, Ia., fell on it in the end zone for six points. A Dave Siekmann, Marshall, Minn., pass to Jim Nielsen, Kimballton, Ia., was good and the score was 8-0, Conquerors.

The Alums rebounded to tie the score in the second quarter. With a first down on the Conqueror 9-yard line, Don Nash, Colfax, N. Dak., passed to Gary Jorgenson, Minneapolis, Minn., on the 1-yard line. The following passes fell incomplete but on fourth down Don Nash connected with Dave Gothe, Minneapolis, for the TD. After a penalty on the first conversion attempt, Nash ran the ball over to even the score at 8-8.

In the third quarter the Conquerors controlled the kick-off until they scored on a two-yard plunge by Nick Boyovich, Kirkland, Wash. Dave Grothe, Thief River Falls, Minn., ran the conversion try in and it was 16-8.

There was no more scoring in the third quarter but in the final canto

the Conquerors notched their final TD. Dave Lee, Arvilla, N. Dak., had intercepted a pass by Don Balmer, Thief River Falls. Two plays later Nick Boyovich got his second touchdown when he caught Dave Grothe's pass. It was a 14-yard effort. On the conversion attempt, Jim Johnson's (Upsala, Minn.) interception of Dave Siekmann's pass nullified the endeavor and the score stood at 22-8.

The second touchdown by the Alums came near the end of the contest. Dave Gothe intercepted Dave Siekmann's pass on his own 30-yard line, but in returning the ball upfield fumbled it. Wayne Floan, Fertile, Minn., eventually recovered the errant pigskin on the 46-yard line for the Alums. Don Balmer threw long to Paul Nash, Minneapolis, who caught it on the 4-yard line and went into the end zone. Balmer ran the conversion in and the score was 22-16, the final.

The game was played on a sunny, warm afternoon with a large crowd in attendance.

ODDS AND ENDS FROM AFLBS

The Social Committee is planning an interesting schedule of social events for the school year. Events planned are: fall festival in October, roller skating in November, Christmas party in December, winter sports day in January, Valentine party in February, an arts and crafts day in March, and possibly, a rummage sale in May. Then there will be the Junior-Senior banquet in May, sponsored by the Junior Class. Two Juniors have been added to the Social Committee. They are Sandy Bergstrom, St. Paul, Minn., and Tad Spading, Kirkland, Wash.

The name which has been given to the 24-member girls' chorus at school is the Chapel Singers.

The officers of the Mission Club this year are Wayne Walker, Kenyon, Minn., president; Heidi Gruber, Everett, Wash., vice-president; Rita Ward, Sedan, Minn., secretary; and Terry Rudebusch, Summit, S. Dak., treasurer. Rev. Amos Dyrud, is the pastoral advisor for the club.

Team captains have been named for the visitation groups to rest homes. They are: Dale Kjos, DeLamere, N. Dak., Trevilla, Robbinsdale; Ivar

Berge, Binford, N. Dak., Trevilla, Golden Valley; Rodney Johnson, McIntosh, Minn., and Loren Julin, Shevlin, Minn., both to Mission Farms; Jim Hjelden, Minnewaukan, N. Dak., Texatonka; Jeff Burmester, Maumee, O., Colonial Acres; and Dave Grothe, Thief River Falls, Minn. and Dave Siekmann, Marshall, Minn., co-captains, Ambassador. The teams will make visits once a month to the homes.

Becky Johnson, Mentor, Minn., senior, has been chosen editor of the 1977 yearbook, *The Conqueror*. Last year she served as a tri-editor. Assistant editors this year are two junior girls, Kathy Quanbeck, McVile, N. Dak., and Sandy Katzenmeyer, Lake Itasca, Minn., and senior Dorothy Seaman, Kirkland, Wash. Senior Juli Benson, Kenyon, Minn. is the business manager for the 1977 annual. Faculty advisor is Miss Solveig Larson.

Rev. Amos Dyrud conducted the worship service at St. Stephen's Lutheran Church in Duluth, Minn., on Oct. 3.

Introducing Our Seminarians

HE GAVE ME A NEW SONG

"I waited patiently for the Lord; and He inclined to me, and heard my cry. He brought me up out of the pit of destruction, out of the miry clay; and He set my feet upon a rock making my footsteps firm. And He put a new song in my mouth, a song of praise to our God; many will see and fear, and will trust in the Lord" (Psalm 40:1-3).

I am presently a first-year seminarian. I was raised on a farm near Abercrombie, North Dakota, and while there attended Bethany Lutheran Church. I had the privilege of being raised in a Christian home.

It was during my confirmation instruction under Mr. Francis Monseth that Jesus brought me to the realization of my need for Him. I committed my life to Him and although I have failed Him many times, He has always been faithful to me.

It was during Bible School (AFLBS) in 1971 that my faith was rooted and grounded in the Word. In my studies I realized how much I still had to learn

[Continued on page 15]

Women For Christ

UNLIMITED RICHES IN JESUS

by Mary Rolf,
Dean of Women, AFLBS

During this past summer of our Bicentennial year, I was privileged to travel in ten different states with the Ambassadors (AFLBS Gospel team). It was a real joy and blessing to share with so many special people and meet others who love Jesus. As we viewed the majestic mountains, observed the vastness of the Pacific Ocean, enjoyed the beauty of Mid-western countryside with its golden fields of grain, and visited in the homes of people from many walks of life, we were constantly amazed at the abundance of wealth we Americans possess. Certainly the Lord has blessed us as a nation and "the blessing of the Lord, it maketh rich!" (Prov. 10:22).

What does it mean to be rich? So often our minds tend only to think of material wealth; of money and possessions. But do we as Christians really understand and realize the riches that are freely available to us as believers in Christ Jesus?

The Apostle Paul, in his letter to the Ephesians, prays that the believers might know and understand "the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints" (Eph. 1:18). The word glory denotes the highest condition of manifested excellence. What a privilege is ours to be part-takers of this glorious inheritance which is prepared for all those who love the Savior and are God's children. "And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ..." (Rom. 8:17).

Pause for a moment to consider

what this promise actually means. The God Who created the universe and all that therein exists is our Father, and we as His children have unrestricted access to the unlimited power of God and the "unsearchable riches of Christ" (Eph. 3:8).

We must remember that we can only become children of God because of His Son, Jesus Christ, "in Whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace" (Eph. 1:7). Continuing in Ephesians, chapter 2, verse 4, Paul refers to "God, Who is rich in mercy," and in verses 7 and 8, we read of "the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward us through Christ Jesus. For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God."

How thankful we can be that God's gifts to us are always good and perfect. I Timothy 6:17 states: He "giveth us richly all things to enjoy." How special to note that He desires that we find joy in all the things He gives us. Truly, we can never thank the Lord enough for His great love that caused Him to give us His very best. May we with grateful hearts continue to look to Him and trust Him for the future as He provides for our every need "according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus" (Phil. 4:19).

"His love has no limit;
His grace has no measure;
His power has no boundary
known unto men.

For out of His infinite riches in
Jesus

He giveth, and giveth, and giveth
again!"

Annie Johnson Flint

VALLEY CITY CHURCH HONORS TWO AID MEMBERS

Grace Lutheran Ladies Aid, Valley City, N. Dak., Grace Lutheran Ladies Aid, recognized two of her older members at a meeting on September 17.



Mrs. Minnie Hamstad, left, and Mrs. Carla Christianson received honorary membership pins from the Women's Missionary Federation.

The president of the Aid is Mrs. Tobias Larson. Rev. Robert L. Lee is pastor of the congregation.

NORMAN LADIES AID HONORS FOUR

The Norman Ladies Aid, Tioga, N. Dak., observed Honorary Membership and In Memoriam projects for 1976 with a short program after Sunday services on August 29.



Four ladies were eligible for Honorary Memberships this year. They are Mrs. Hilmer Rice, Mrs. Chester Hulberg and Mrs. Gerald Germundson, pictured above, left to right, and Mrs. Anton Bokn, who, we regret, was unable to be present.

The program was led by the Aid secretary, Mrs. Palmer Skaar, and included a duet by Mrs. Vernon Zunic and Mrs. Lyle Fox, Scripture and prayer by Mrs. Forrest Swenson and

short readings by three of the ladies being honored.

Mrs. Hulberg is president of the Norman Ladies Aid and the church is served by Rev. Forrest Swenson.

A coffee hour was held following the service.

TABOR CHURCH HAD CRADLE ROLL PROGRAM

The Women's Missionary Federation of Tabor Lutheran Church, Webster, S. Dak., held its annual cradle roll program in May. Five little people who graduated from the cradle roll entered our Sunday School nursery class and one infant, Matthew Charles Johnson, was enrolled in the cradle roll department.

The program involving the children centered around the story of the Good Shepherd.



In the picture, the children standing are, left to right, Stacy, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Paul McCarlson, Amy, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Johnson, Cole, son of Mr. and Mrs. Edward Davidson, Jennifer, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Darrel Waddle, and Kristina, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Joe Bosmoe. In the back row are Mrs. Johnson and Matthew, Mrs. Davidson, Mrs. McCarlson, Mrs. Waddle and Mrs. Bosmoe.

Rev. Howard Kjos is pastor of the church.

—Mrs. Earl Davidson
Cradle Roll Secretary

PERSONALITIES

Rev. Frank A. Miller has resigned as pastor of Trinity Lutheran Church in Boscobel, Wis., but continues to serve the rural church, Hickory Grove Lutheran Church, rural Boscobel.

OUR SAVIOR'S SPONSORS FAIR BOOTH

The youth of Our Savior's Lutheran Church sponsored a booth at the Pennington County Fair in Thief River Falls, Minnesota, held July 28 through August 1.

The fair project was overseen by Our Savior's summer intern, Mr. Jay Eberth.

Many different individuals worked together both before and during the fair to make this a very successful venture in sharing a positive testimony for the Lord Jesus Christ in the community.

The booth was staffed by both the



young people and interested adults from Our Savior's.

During the four days of the fair, over 1000 pieces of Christian literature were distributed and many opportunities to share a personal word of testimony and challenge were afforded those who manned the booth. Hanging over the booth in the Public Auditorium to challenge all who passed by was a large drawing of the earth set against the sky filled with stars and the verse from Mark 8:36: "For what shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world and lose his own soul?"

The sign was made by the youth under the direction of Mr. Don Lerud, art instructor at Lincoln High School.

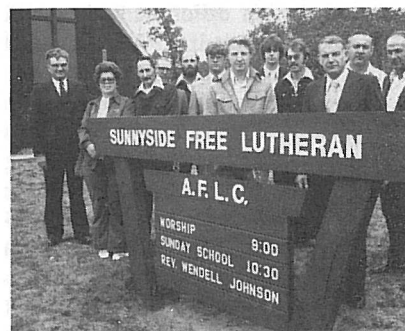
Pictured manning the booth are Mr. and Mrs. Sheldon Mortrud. Sheldon is holding the infant daughter (Sara Joy) of summer intern Jay Eberth.

BATTLE LAKE SITE OF LUTHER LEAGUE BIBLE CAMP

The Southwest Central District Lutheran League Bible Camp was held July 11-16 at Faith Haven Youth

Lodge near Battle Lake, Minnesota. Pastor Ronald Hoehne led the Bible Hour and Pastor John Abel led the Mission Hour. The Ambassadors from AFLBS were the counselors and provided special music for the services. Pastor Ken Moland challenged the youth in an inspiring message each evening. Special thanks to Pastor Don Greven for helping to put this camp together, the three cooks for the excellent meals prepared, and also to the lifeguard, the nurse, and all the rest of the staff members.

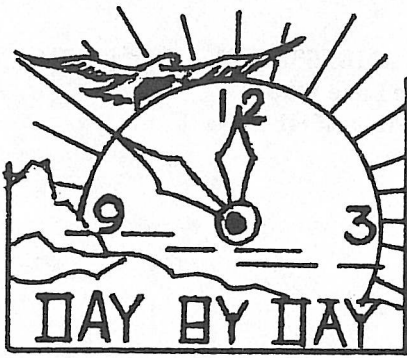
Pam Johnson
Southwest Central District
Luther League Secretary



PASTOR STRAND INSTALLS PASTOR FOR TWO CONGREGATIONS

Rev. John Strand, left, president of the Association of Free Lutheran Congregations, brought the message and conducted the installation service for Rev. Wendell Johnson, third from the right, as he became pastor of Sunnyside and Hope congregations (Stacy and Wyoming, Minn.) on September 19. The service was held at Sunnyside Church. Mr. Marlyn Kruse, just right of center, seminarian, provided interim supply for the churches in the vacancy. Others pictured are church officers.





**THE NEED FOR
SPIRITUAL RENEWAL**
by Lars Stalsbroten

"For which cause we faint not; but though our outward man perish, yet the inward man is renewed day by day" (II Cor. 4:16).

Paul recognized his deep need of renewal. All life has this in common, that it must be renewed if it shall continue to live and grow.

Our physical body must be renewed regularly if it shall function rightly. The blood stream must be built up. The lungs must get fresh supplies of oxygen. Our tissues must be renewed with fluids, food and rest; otherwise we become tired and weak and at last we get sick and die.

It is a fundamental, unchangeable law that all life needs renewal.

Do you realize how important spiritual renewal is? Not just a spasmodic renewal, but regular, daily renewal. If you discontinue the use of the means of grace: prayer, the Word and the Sacraments, and if you give up fellowshiping with God's people and witnessing for Christ, you will soon find yourself a weak, sickly and dying Christian.

We need to experience renewal so that we do not become like the world. Paul speaks about that in Romans 12:2: "And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind." Transformed means that we become more and more like Christ instead of like the world.

And David says, in Psalm 103:5: "Who satisfieth thy mouth with good things; so that thy youth is renewed like the eagle's."

You find these good things in the blessed Word of God and when you eat the Word your hunger is satisfied. You feel like a youth even if you are 70 or 80. Your heart will be singing

and you will have a ringing testimony to the glory of God.

How long is it since you experienced a real renewal?

Remember, it is a **day by day** experience if you are to be a wide-awake fruitbearing Christian.



**MADAGASCAR
LUTHERANS
CONFER ON
DEVELOPMENT**

Geneva—(LC)—A recent seminar on the church and development sponsored by the Malagasy Lutheran Church in Madagascar "went far beyond technical questions" and studied the whole role of the church in development, according to a Lutheran World Federation staff executive who attended the seminar in Antsirabe on behalf of the LWF Community Development Service.

Miss Christa Held, assistant director of CDS, said that the Malagasy Lutheran Church is "seeking self-reliance and developing its resources, but is concerned about development for the whole society, not just the church."

Among the 70 participants in the eight-day seminar were the president of the church, bishops of the church's seven synods, two guests from the church in Cameroun and a representative of Madagascar's government. Mr. Jan Jearnas, CDS agricultural and Asia secretary, was also at the meeting.

Participants discussed the relationship between cultural traditions and technical development, the problems of urbanization and the need for education and leadership training in the nation of nearly eight million people.

"For this church of 485,000 persons, the concerns for proclamation of the gospel and social development have always been combined," said Miss Held in an address to the meeting.

[Continued from page 12]

about Jesus and His promises to me. As I grew closer to Him, I began to see the need for change in some areas of my life. As I committed these areas to Him, He gave me a new song.

After graduation from Bible School, I pursued my studies in college. In 1974 I married Laurie Dietsche, a Wisconsin girl I had dated in Bible School.

In my final year of college at Moorhead State University, Moorhead, Minnesota, my wife and I felt the call to the ministry. After a period of indecision and prayer, we trusted our future to him and He gave us a real peace and joy about entering seminary.

Our hope and prayer is that God will use our ministry in such a way that "many will see and fear, and will trust in the Lord."

—Paul Nash

THE NAME WAS WRONG

Memo to our typesetter: The name should have been **Merica Joy Knutson**, not **Mercia Joy**. She is the little daughter of Rev. and Mrs. Ronald Knutson, Drummond, Wis., born on August 31 and reported in the Sept. 21 **Ambassador**. A Bicentennial baby, no doubt.

And congratulations to Pastor and Mrs. Timothy Skramstad, Minnewaukan, N. Dak., who announce the birth of their first child, **Katie Elizabeth**, who arrived on July 23.

THE WEAVER

Not always in the way we think,

God works life's pattern that is best;
We see in part, and know in part,

He knows the whole, in this let us rest.

God has our future days all planned,

In Him alone our faith must be;
While He is weaving, but by bit—
Until the perfect whole we see.

If we should try in our own way,

All surely would imperfect be—
To weave the pattern of my life,
O Master, undertake for me.

Laura Norum
Amery, Wis.

Directory of the Association of Free Lutheran Congregations

OFFICERS

President

Rev. John P. Strand
3110 E. Medicine Lake Blvd.
Minneapolis, Minn. 55441

Vice-President

Rev. Francis Monseth
2640 Nathan Lane No. 397
Minneapolis, Minn. 55441

Secretary

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

CO-ORDINATING COMMITTEE

Chairman

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

Secretary

Mr. Sheldon Mortrud
715 S. Tindolph Ave.
Thief River Falls, Minn. 56701

ASSOCIATION SCHOOLS

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Chairman

Mr. Stanley Holmaas
Newfolden, Minn. 56738

Secretary

Rev. Robert Rieth
11611 N.E. 140 St.
Kirkland, Wash. 98033

Dean of Free Lutheran

Seminary

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

Acting Dean of the Bible

School

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

WORLD MISSIONS

Chairman

Rev. Alvin Grothe
575 34th St.
Astoria, Ore. 97103

Secretary

Rev. Eugene W. Enderlein
404 Kendall Avenue South
Thief River Falls, Minn. 56701

HOME MISSIONS

Chairman

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

Secretary

Rev. Larry V. Severson
Wallace, S. Dak. 57272

PUBLICATIONS AND PARISH EDUCATION

Chairman

Mr. Palmer Haugen
Portland, N. Dak. 58274

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. Rodger Olson
1586 Hill Avenue So.
Grafton, N. Dak. 58237

Secretary

STEWARDSHIP BOARD

Chairman

Secretary

Rev. Stephen Odegaard
86286 Pine Grove Road
Eugene, Ore. 97402

BOARD OF PENSIONS

Chairman

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

Secretary

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

WOMEN'S MISSIONARY FEDERATION

President

Mrs. Robert Dietsche
Sand Creek, Wis. 54765

Secretary

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

Treasurer

Mrs. Reuben Emberson
Esko, Minn. 55733

Executive Secretary

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

LUTHER LEAGUE FEDERATION

President

Rev. Richard Anderson
140 West 44th Street
Minneapolis, Minn. 55409

Secretary

Miss Karen Russum
3110 E. Medicine Lake Blvd.
Minneapolis, Minn. 55441

Treasurer

Mr. Steve Lee
3110 E. Medicine Lake Blvd.
Minneapolis, Minn. 55441