

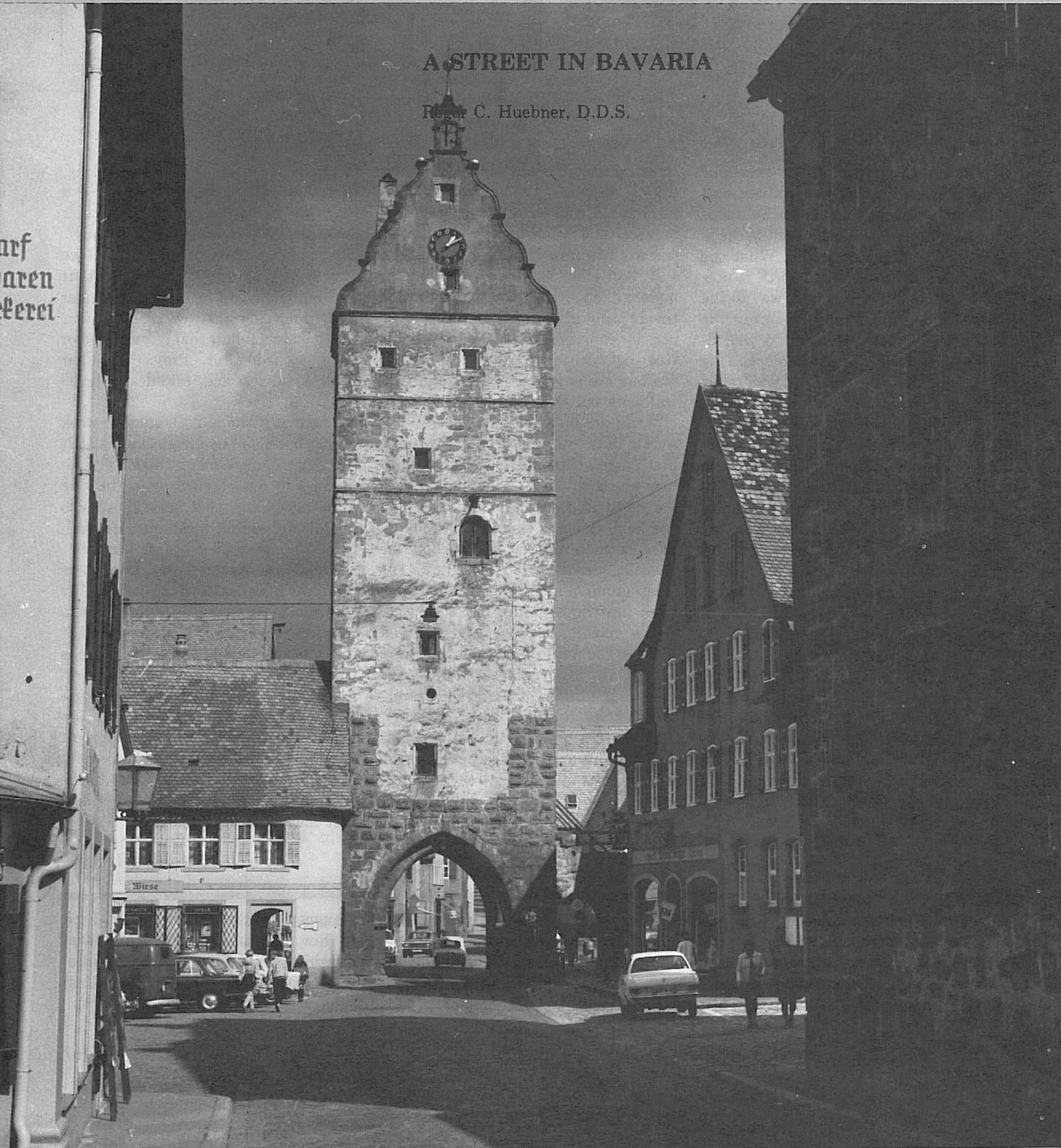
October 31, 1978

The Lutheran Ambassador

A STREET IN BAVARIA

Robert C. Huebner, D.D.S.

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MEDITATION MOMENTS

A FESTIVE HARVEST

During this time of the year our thoughts turn to harvest festivals and mission festivals. Sometimes held separately, sometimes together, perhaps the goal is often the same. What the Lord's earth has brought forth is now to be applied in a practical way to the ministry of the Word. We bring the tithes, gifts and offerings to the altar—and leave them there. Having done our duty for the Lord's work we can now get back to our own business.

Certainly this is not an accurate picture of the way things are, but it sometimes seems that way. The work of missions always has a distant ring to it, something done by dedicated people who somehow manage to sacrifice the good things in life and find happiness doing what no one else wants to do.

The secret power behind any kind of mission work, however, is constant prayer. And that is a part that every Christian can and must have. Not all are able to go into strange communities or lands with the ability to communicate God's love in the total medium of word and deed. God has given some the gift to do that. But all can engage in intercessory prayer for them, for prayer is the privilege of any child of God. It is the power of missions.

We must pray for more workers. Ever since Jesus walked the earth,

since missions began, there have been too few workers. "The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Therefore beseech the Lord of the harvest to send out workers into His harvest" (Matt. 9:37, 38). Have there ever really been more missionaries than places to put them? Only if we think in terms of financial shortages or some administrative or technical problem. When workers are prayed into the field, God will work out the details.

When we pray for more people, we should pray that they are the right people. There are people on mission fields now who should not be there; and there are many at home who should be on the field. Some of this exists probably because men get too involved in the choosing. Jesus prayed all night for His small group of men. They were not the most illustrious group, but they were God's choice. Because of that, and through the refining process, they were proved fit. Our choices would have been much different based on characteristics we thought were necessary. The church might be in better shape today in this and other areas of its ministry if men and women were prayed into service.

Also, we must pray for those already in the field. They need continual support. Pray that God will use them to

bring about a true spiritual awakening, that they will be always equipped for the work to be done. Pray that their own spiritual needs might be met. They have special temptations that we may never know, discouragements that we would not want to know. Remember also their physical well-being. Our prayers must follow that gift we send or bring to the altar. Pray that their health, homes and families will be cared for.

There is perhaps no Christian work on earth which is so neglected as that of intercession. We don't like to be reminded of our careless ways, but we are often guilty. God bless those who are faithful in that work; may He challenge the others to be more faithful.

There are mission fields closer to us than we may think sometimes. May God make us aware of them. No one may know how many souls are brought to Christ by your prayers, but there is One who knows. Someone in your family or close to you may need that prayer today. Maybe that is your mission field. If you pray for them or to support someone far away who is working for the same goal, continue to pray to the Lord of the harvest that the real harvest may be brought in.

—Wesley Langaas

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THE SIN OF ABORTION

by Rev. Ralph M. Rokke,
McIntosh, Minn.

(The following is a slightly revised version of a message preached by Pastor Rokke in his parish on February 2, 1978.)

During the 1930's and 1940's, things happened in the nation of Germany that horrified the world. Adolf Hitler came to power, and Hitler had the idea that people of a certain type which he called the Aryan race ought to rule the world. Those who were not the kind of people that Hitler liked, he persecuted and, in many cases, killed. Jews particularly suffered under Hitler, and it is believed that about six million Jews died in the concentration camps of Hitler.

Still today historians and ordinary people who read about or remember those days of Hitler wonder how the German people could have allowed such things to happen. Why did they not protest what was happening? Why did they not rise up and put a stop to the atrocities?

Especially people wonder why the churches of Germany were so silent about Hitler and about his mass murders. True, there were a few pastors and a few Christian leaders who outwardly opposed Hitler, and many of them were killed as a result. Yet, in general, the churches of Germany were silent. They failed to take a stand for what was right and against what was wrong, and they have been rightly criticized very greatly as a result.

Now I have mentioned these things concerning Nazi Germany because I believe that today in America murders very similar to those in Nazi Germany are being committed every day, and I believe that the churches of America have a responsibility to speak out against them. These murders are abortions, and I sincerely believe that if the American churches fail to protest



Rev. Ralph Rokke

against the sin of abortion they are as guilty in the eyes of God as the churches of Germany were in failing to protest against Hitler's mass murders.

In the 5th commandment, God tells us, "Thou shalt not kill." The commandment forbids murder. It forbids us for convenience, or advantage, or revenge to deliberately take the life of another human being. Yet that is precisely what is being done in most abortions today. Most abortions, I believe, are performed because a pregnancy causes social or financial problems and inconvenience and someone wants an easy way out. A lot of husbands and wives and neighbors are killed for similar reasons. Both abortion and the killing of an "already born" human being are murder. They are the breaking of the 5th commandment.

In 1973, in a court case entitled *Roe vs. Wade*, the United States Supreme Court liberalized tremendously the availability of legal abortions in this country. As a result, the number performed has sky-rocketed. Whereas there were perhaps 20,000 legal abortions performed in 1969, there were approximately one million performed in

1975. Abortion has become a leading cause of death in the United States.

The fact should concern us. Listen to what God says in Numbers 35:33: "So ye shall not pollute the land wherein ye are: for blood it defileth the land: and the land cannot be cleansed of the blood that is shed therein, but by the blood of him that shed it." Judgment will come to America for the sin of abortion. Unless there is a change and abortion is put out of our society and people turn to God in repentance, judgment is coming. No nation on earth can break God's moral law to the extent that America is today and escape judgment. America must repent or perish.

One argument of those who favor abortion is that an unborn child is not really a human being and therefore does not have the rights that belong to human beings who are already born. But what does the Bible say about this?

First, let's note that it is the Lord who is the one who is in charge of the formation of a baby inside of its mother. Psalm 139:16 says, "Thine eyes did see my substance, yet being unperfect; and in Thy book all my members were written, which in continuance were fashioned, when as yet there was none of them." God knows how a baby's body is formed. God knows what a baby is going to be before he is born and God is in charge of the process of development.

Then, secondly, note that God indicates in the Bible that, at least in some cases, he is present with unborn children and has a plan for them. God told Jeremiah, in Jeremiah 1:5, "Before I formed thee in the belly I knew thee; and before thou camest forth out of the womb I sanctified thee, and I ordained thee a prophet unto the nations." Be-

fore Jeremiah was ever born, God knew him, and before he even started growing inside his mother, God had a plan for Jeremiah's life. I believe that God has a good plan that he would like to work out in the life of every child that is ever conceived, a plan that does not include abortion.

Thirdly, note that the Bible says in Psalm 127:3, "Lo, children are an heritage of the LORD: and the fruit of the womb is his reward." How happy do you suppose God is when people destroy the heritage of the LORD? How happy do you suppose God is when the fruit of the womb, which he calls His reward, is hated and destroyed?

The claim that unborn children do not have the rights of other people is false. If anything, they have special rights. They are to be specially prized. We are to receive them as gifts from the Lord.

When a person deliberately causes a baby growing inside of its mother to die, it is a human life which he has deliberately stopped, a life which would have continued if he had not stopped it. His act is no different morally than if he were to take a gun and deliberately put an end to his next-door neighbor's life.

Probably most of us have never seen an abortion or a movie depicting one, and so it is hard for us to realize what an ugly thing it is. I read an article some time ago which was written by a doctor and which described his first experience of witnessing an abortion.

The doctor says in the article that he is not a squeamish man. He is a surgeon, and so every day he sees blood, phlegm, pus and tumors. He had never seen an abortion, however, and so one day he witnessed one as a spectator.

He tells how the woman was prepared, and the doctor told her what would happen. Then he describes how a needle was inserted into her womb and how he saw something that he had not expected to see. He saw the needle move. The unborn baby who was not supposed to be a person or understand danger was pushing and butting against the needle.

The abortion that he witnessed was being done on a baby about 24 weeks after its conception. He tells how a baby at that stage has hair on its head. It has eyebrows and eyelashes. It has nails on its fingers and toes. It can cry,

suck, make a fist, kick and punch.

And, the doctor says in his article, it can push against a needle. Let me quote just a little bit of what the doctor says: "... there is the flick of that needle. I saw it. I saw . . . I felt—in that room, a pace away, life prodded, life fending off. I saw life avulsed—swept by flood, blackening—then out" ("What I Saw at the Abortion" by Richard Selzer in *Christianity Today*, January 16, 1976).

Abortion is ugly. People have the idea that abortion, when it is done in a clean hospital by doctors and nurses, is OK, like having your tonsils removed. It's not. It is murder, and it is all the worse when people pretend to be civilized while doing it.

Abortion will, I believe, lead our society to other forms of legal murder if it is not rejected soon. Some are beginning already to call for the deaths of children that are born severely retarded or deformed. The May, 1976, issue of *Zero Population Growth National Reporter* says about severely retarded and deformed, "In dying they serve, for they leave their substance, a flow of nutriment to sustain their betters and provision the community of life." In the April 8, 1976 issue of the *New England Journal of Medicine*, there was a call to kill water-head babies. I quote, "... those humanely put to death would not be human beings, only human forms."

Do statements such as these scare you a little bit? I hope so. If the Lord tarries and we live long enough, even the youngest of us will eventually become old, and it is very possible that eventually old people who use up food and other resources and who do not contribute very much to society will also be legally put to death. When we start disrespecting any stage or condition of life, the doors are opened to an immoral and inhumane system which allows only the strongest to live.

God's people cannot be silent while this happens. We must take a stand against it.

I believe that abortion is the greatest moral blot on America today. Although we profess ourselves as a nation to be sophisticated and moral and good, we are behaving like a heathen society with regard to our unborn children.

Edith Schaeffer, the wife of Dr. Francis Schaeffer, was born to mission-

ary parents and grew up in China earlier in this century. Mrs. Schaeffer has written about how the Chinese people would get rid of unwanted babies, usually girl babies, during the years when Mrs. Schaeffer lived in China as a child.

She tells of a building called a pagoda near where she lived, and she says, "This pagoda was the special place for throwing away unwanted girl babies, who were left to die on the heap of bones of all the other unwanted girl babies." Mrs. Schaeffer tells how she believed as a child that in America a pagoda for throwing away unwanted babies would be unthinkable. Yet now, she says, "People can walk past hospitals that perform abortions without a quiver of an eyelash, with the kind of callous unconcern shown by the Chinese who walked past the faint cries of dying infants." "What," she asks, "has happened to people who have come from so-called Christian ancestry?" ("A Welcome Prepared" by Edith Schaeffer in *Christianity Today*, April 1, 1977).

Christians, we need to respond to the sin of abortion in our land, but what should we do? First, pray. Ask God that our laws shall be changed so that abortions can no longer be performed in this country simply because it is a convenient thing to do. Then pray also that God will have mercy on America and spare America from the judgment that she deserves because of this sin.

Secondly, support efforts that are being made to oppose abortion. The Minnesota Citizens Concerned for Life is one organization that is fighting it. Its address is 4803 Nicollet Avenue, Minneapolis, Minnesota 55409. Write to them for information. Become informed.

Finally, realize that children are God's gift. Treasure and train up for the Lord the children that he has given to you. Teach them and as many other parents as you can possibly influence to love their children.

We cannot remain silent concerning abortion. To do so is to become an accomplice and to share in guilt. As Dr. James Dobson said in his book, *The Strong-Willed Child* (page 230), "It is time that the Christian church found its tongue and spoke in defense of the unborn children who are unable to plead for their own lives."

“WHEN THE SON OF MAN COMES”

Luke 18:8

by Rev. Fritjof B. Monseth

Before our blessed Lord left this earth and ascended to heaven He told His disciples that one day He was going to return in power and in great glory. He did not give them information as to the specific hour and day, but He did give them several signs to watch for. In this article I wish to call your attention to three of them. These are of a spiritual nature.

1. **Spiritual Indifference.** Our Lord said that the period just preceding His second coming will be marked by general unconcern about His Coming. To illustrate what He meant, He compared this time to come to the days of Noah. “And as were the days of Noah, so shall be the coming of the Son of Man. For as in those days which were before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noah entered into the ark, and they knew not until the flood came, and took them all away; so shall be the coming of the Son of Man” (Matthew 24:37-39). That generation was concerned about everything else than the judgment that was coming. Don’t you think, friends, that our present generation is, generally speaking, quite unconcerned about the return of our Lord? We are concerned about economic conditions, we are concerned about politics, we are concerned about a place in the sun, we are concerned about pleasure and clothes and sickness and financial security. But how much do we really consider that fact that this earth is going to pass away and that we are all soon going to leave this world and give our accounting unto the Lord? Are we really concerned?

2. **Spiritual Apostasy.** A second sign that our Lord gave us whereby we might know that His coming would be

near relates to apostasy, that is, men falling away from the faith. “But the Spirit saith expressly,” Paul wrote, “that in later times some shall fall away from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits and doctrines of demons” (II Timothy 4:1). Paul also wrote to the Thessalonians about the “falling away” that will precede the time of His return to earth.

Now there have been many instances of falling away from the faith in other generations, but I wonder if there has ever been as bold and blatant a denial of teachings of the Bible by would-be teachers in the organized church as there is today. Do you realize, friends, that large segments of the organized church and big name theological seminaries that once were humbly faithful to the Bible in our great country flatly deny the Virgin Birth of Jesus? They ridicule the doctrine of the blood atonement; they scoff at the teaching of the verbal inspiration of the Bible; they reject the truth of the resurrection of Christ from the dead, and they spurn the teaching that the Lord Jesus will return visibly, as He has said, a second time. Friends, I believe God’s Word is true. I believe we can safely take our cues from the words spoken by our blessed Lord. We can observe professing Christians who once were spiritually awake and concerned about the salvation of souls who have lost the fire. They have lost their first love and have become lukewarm. They have time for everything except for the Lord. It’s a sign of the times, according to the Bible. “The love of many shall wax cold.”

3. **Spiritual Impotence.** A third sign is spiritual impotence or powerlessness on the part of professing Christians. Listen to the words of the Apostle Paul

on this subject. “But know this, that in the last days grievous times shall come. For men shall be lovers of self, lovers of money, boastful, haughty, railers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, without natural affection, implacable, slanderers, without self-control, fierce, no lovers of good, traitors, headstrong, puffed up, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God; holding a form of godliness, but having denied the power thereof” (II Timothy 3:1-5). Isn’t this prophetic picture a striking resemblance to life and conditions as they are developing in this our twentieth century? I think it is. What facilities, what programs, what money-power the organized church has today, but how woefully lacking in spiritual power. We give lip-service to the Holy Spirit, but scarcely reckon with His wisdom and power. It’s a sign of the times. Jesus said, “When the Son of Man cometh, will He find faith on the earth?” Will He find faith in His Word and faith in the Holy Spirit?

Friends, I am talking about these signs because I am deeply concerned about the spiritual conditions that prevail today. May the Spirit of God awaken us so that we become aware of the insidious danger that is threatening. I am saying this to you who are Christians. Let’s not permit ourselves to become so entangled in the affairs of this world that we lose out. The cares of this present life can keep us so occupied, so engrossed that the day may come upon us unawares. Our Lord warns us on that score (Luke 21:34-35). Let us rather watch at every season, as Jesus says, that we may prevail to “escape all these things that shall come to pass, and to stand before the Son of Man” (Luke 21:36). If you know you are not saved, I earnestly urge you to turn from sin to the Lord without delay. Now is the day of salvation. Now you can be reconciled to God through repentance and faith. The door is still open. Come now before it is forever closed. Amen.

The late Fritjof B. Monseth was the first vice-president of the Association of Free Lutheran Congregations and a beloved pastor and Bible teacher.



LUTHER LEAGUE ACTIVITIES

LOVING FOR JESUS

"But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you shall be My witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria and to the end of the earth" (Acts 1:8).

"Can it be that this word of Jesus is meant for me? I am only 15 years old. I have not taken any special training. I cannot talk very well, let alone tell someone how to be saved. Surely evangelism is not meant for me, at least not at this stage of my life."

These thoughts have probably entered your mind. Could it be that Jesus wants to use you in evangelism? Yes, indeed, and not only you, but all who are called by His name. In the next few issues we will look at evangelism and the role of the teenager. We will study the basic foundations of evangelism and practical approaches the teenager or Luther League can use in carrying them through.

"We love, because He first loved us" (I John 4:19). The motivation for evangelism must be the very heart of our concern. Evangelism out of duty is nothing more than works of legalism. It often becomes offensive and critical, not only to the unsaved but to others who love Jesus and are close to you. Evangelism to increase the size of your group or to "chalk up" a head count is based in pride. This type of evangelism can lead to self-centered power and short cuts in God's prescribed plan of salvation. Such tactics leave one open to depression when the going gets rough and it opens the new convert to disenchantment with Christ because of

incomplete conversion. God desires evangelism to flow from our devotion to Him. We need to focus our attention on God's unbounded love for us. Yes, methods of evangelism can be taught, but we need a generation of young people who will allow evangelism to be a natural outpouring of their relation to Jesus Christ. When a young person has a heart motivated by the love of Jesus he sees his fears cast away (I John 4:18). No longer does he worry about training, he seeks it! No longer does he fret over words, he has confidence that God will supply! Not duty, not pride, not fear . . . rather love for the Savior who loves the lost, this is the heart of Godly evangelism!

John 3:30 proclaims, "He must increase, but I must decrease." When our motivation is based in the love of God then we can seek an attitude molded by the Holy Spirit. If we love Him, we will abide by His commandments willingly. Our attitude will grow from obedience to confidence. Evangelism methods will be centered in the Word and we will be keenly aware of our utter dependence on the work of the Holy Spirit. Joy will well up within us and gratitude for the privilege of being a soul winner will create humility. We will become more like Jesus and He will lead others to Himself through us. Yes, God has intended evangelism to be a living fruit from your living relationship with Him.

—Pastor Michael Brandt
Amery, Wis.

A FRIENDLY REMINDER

The Luther League Federation would like to carry news on this page from our local leagues. Please send items to me at this address: Tad Spading, 10447 N. E. 110th, Kirkland, Wash. 98033.

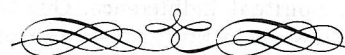
DIRECTIONS CORRECTION

The directions given to Faithhaven Youth Lodge, the site of our Luther League Leadership Retreat Nov. 24-26, should read "From Ashby, Minn. east 5 miles and north 5 miles on Trunk Hwy 78." The entire route is Hwy. 78 and paved.

THE LEADERSHIP RETREAT

The Luther League Leadership Retreat to be held Nov. 24-26 at Faithhaven Youth Lodge is an excellent opportunity for your entire League and congregation to benefit spiritually. If you are just forming a league, the retreat will assist you in carrying out responsibilities and activities more successfully. Your congregation or league may wish to encourage the attendance of your officers and advisors by paying all or part of their registration, which is \$15 per person.

Above all, we ask for your prayer support, that all which is accomplished at our retreat and in each undertaking of the AFLC might be the work of our eternal God.



PREACHING MISSIONS



Ortley, S. Dak.

Ortley Lutheran Church

Wm. Moberg, pastor

Oct. (29-30) 31

Rev. Gerald Mundfrom, Nogales, Ariz., speaker

Valley City, N. Dak.

Zion Lutheran Church

Robert L. Lee, pastor

Nov. 2-5

Rev. Robert Rieth, Kirkland, Wash., and Rev. John Rieth, Kalispell, Mont., speakers

McVie, N. Dak.

New Luther Valley Lutheran Church

Kenneth L. Anderson, pastor

Nov. 12-15

Rev. Raynard Huglen, Newfolden, Minn., speaker



A PAGE FOR CHILDREN

Happy Acres



STEPHEN GETS THE JITTERS

The moment Stephen had dreaded now came. His Sunday School teacher, Mrs. Reynolds, turned to him and said, "Now, Steve, we want to have your report on Solomon's temple."

Stephen's knees wobbled as he stood up. His back was moist with perspiration. His throat felt dry. When he opened his mouth, the words he had planned to say just didn't come.

He glanced hastily at his notes. Then he tried again. He was careful not to look at the girls in the class, but talked instead in the direction of his best friend, Carl Storm.

Somehow, he managed, in a jumble of words, to tell something about Solomon's temple. Then, weakly, he sat down.

Later, he told his family as they drove homeward, "Say, was I all jitters! I'd rather do all the barn chores for a week than stand up in front of that class again!"

Dad chuckled. "Did anyone in your class bite you while you were giving the report?"

"Well, no."

"Anybody make faces at you? Pester you?"

"No."

"Well, Son, what should give you the jitters—just to stand and tell friends of yours what you learned from a Bible encyclopedia?"

"Well, they all look at you, for one thing."

"You wouldn't want them to be looking away from you, not paying attention to your report, would you?"

"No."

Dad laughed. So did Mom.

But Stephen could not understand why they should be amused. He had seen each of them stand up before people in church, at the schoolhouse, or other community gatherings—but neither of them ever got the jitters about talking to a crowd of people. Yet, even the mayor of Woodridge would stammer and get red in the face whenever he had to say something in front of many people.

"Dad," asked Stephen, "how come you're not nervous about getting up in front of people and speaking?"

"Hmmm. I used to get plenty of the jitters. That is, until Someone showed me what was the matter with me."

"What was the matter?"

"I got the jitters because all the time I was standing up there trying to say something I wasn't thinking as much about what I was trying to say as I was thinking about me. I'd stand there, getting redder in the face by the minute, wondering what people were thinking about that skinny farmer standing up in front of them."

"And then—what took it away—the getting jittery?"

"It was the Lord Jesus that took away my fear. I learned that I can 'do all things'—even public speaking—'through Christ which strengtheneth me' (Phil. 4:13). When we learn to do all things as unto the Lord (Col. 3:17), we forget about me, myself, and company. Then we lose fear, and don't get jittery. Fear, you know, doesn't come from the Lord. 'For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind' " (II Tim. 1:7).

"But," said Stephen, "you

couldn't—just learn to forget about yourself—all at once—could you."

"No, indeed," replied Dad. "We lose our fleshly pride only as we grow in grace (II Peter 3:18). And I learned that there wasn't anything that helped as much before I was to speak as to pray. God knows our every need—and if we ask His help—there just isn't any more powerful help that you can get."

Mom nodded her head. "Yes, Stevie, when you have to give another talk or report, remember, first of all, to do your part by preparing carefully what you are to say. Then, pray. And when you speak—keep in mind that it is your report, or your message, that is most important, not you."

MEMORY VERSE: I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me. Philippians 4:13

FAMILY DISCUSSION

1. Do you get nervous when you are going to take part in a church or school program? What is it that makes you nervous?

2. Does Jesus want us to be nervous when we speak in His honor at a Sunday school program? If we get nervous, are we thinking most about Jesus or most about ourselves?

3. What is the best thing for us to do before we speak for Jesus in front of people?

4. If we do not do all that we can in preparing our part in a program, do we have a right to expect the Lord to bless us in our part? (II Timothy 2:15)

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**CONGREGATIONS HELD
SPECIAL SERVICES RECENTLY**

Rev. Forrest Swenson, Fergus Falls, Minn., spoke at Christian Life and Growth Services in Roseau, Minn., Oct. 1-5. The week began with the parish's annual Fall Festival at Roseau Lutheran Church, Roseau. The addition to the church was dedicated at that time also. Rev. Jerome Nikunen serves the Roseau parish.

Rev. K. C. Grundahl, former faculty member of the Lutheran Bible Institute in Minneapolis, Minn., was guest speaker at Grace Lutheran Church, Bagley, Minn., Oct. 8-12, as part of an area Lutheran Evangelistic Movement conference. Mauritz Lundeen is pastor of the congregation.

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX
X In Memoriam X
XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

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

WASHINGTON

Everett

Erling Halverson, 70, Sept. 16, Calvary

John Johnson, 89, Oct. 6, Calvary

**HOLY LAND TOUR PLANNED
FOR FEBRUARY**

Pastor Wayne Hjermsstad will lead a tour to the Holy Land, leaving New York City on February 19, 1979. The group is expected to consist of 35-45 people. It will include stops in Jordan and Egypt as well as Israel. A stopover in Amsterdam will occur on the trip out.

If interested, please contact Pastor Hjermsstad at 16980 Duck Lake Trail, Eden Prairie, Minn. 55344. His telephone is (612) 934-1742. He serves King of Glory Lutheran Church, an independent congregation.

Perhaps I was DREAMING

THE HICKORY BUD

Once more we were on the banks of the Cardigan River, this time in the latter part of the winter. We were standing under a hickory tree, and I was examining one of the buds, noticing the little wooden scales which enclosed it.

"What a marvelous arrangement!" she exclaimed.

"What a foolish arrangement!" I retorted. "Within this rough exterior is a tender little life of the most exquisite delicacy, and then to encase it in a set of horny scales! I shall pick them away."

"If you do that, you will kill it," she said. "They are there to protect it. Let God have His way; He knows best."

I took her advice and let them alone.

Several weeks later we stood again under the hickory tree. The sky was blue and the sun was warm. Once more I examined the bud. The scales were spreading apart and ready to fall.

"This will not do," I said. "You told me that they are there to protect the life inside, and now they are falling off. I will tie a string around them and keep them together."

"If you do that, you will kill the bud," she replied. "They have served their purpose now and are ready to go. Let God have His way; He knows best."

And again I took her advice and let them alone.

A parable? Yes. The bud is a human soul, and the scales are childhood opinions—crude perhaps, but necessary. Let no man tear them away before their time. The winter of unbelief is a deadly danger.

But there comes a time when the opinions of childhood have served their purpose and begin to loosen. To "tie a string around them" is just as foolish and just as dangerous as to tear them off. Let God have His way; He knows best. Say to the troubled soul, Fear not. Opinions are intellectual and changeable, but faith abides. The universe is big, but it is His. Be not afraid. Keep yourself in the love of Christ, and in the warmth of His presence let your soul expand. Grow like the trees of the Lord, and the higher you reach, the wider will be the horizon, the nobler your vision of God.

—C. A. Wendell

editorials

THE ANNUAL JOINT SESSION

Annually, the boards, committees and commissions of the Association of Free Lutheran Congregations meet in joint session at church headquarters. The president gives an inspirational message to the assembly, there is a prayer session and each area of Association work is reported on by some representative(s) of it. Additionally, most of the boards use the opportunity to hold individual meetings before and/or after the general session.

Such was the case again this year on October 13. This year Pastor Richard Snipstead gave his first message as president of the church. He based his remarks on Hebrews 12:1, 2, and referred to Abraham as one of the "witnesses" surrounding today's Christians as they run the race of which Jesus is both the inspiration and the goal.

In the agency reports there were some items of news, some references to previously mentioned concerns, and some very general areas, albeit important.

As examples of the first, we can mention these: a seminary outreach team (of students) has been formed and will make its first parish visit this fall; some money has been released for work in India and Rev. Rao Dasari is assisting in work there while being detained; and an extension class is being conducted by the Bible School (AFLBS) at Stacy, Minn., this fall.

In the second area, these matters are representative: some inquiries continue to come to the Board of Home Missions concerning the establishment of new AFLC congregations; a worker in the area of stewardship counselling, wills and annuities is still being sought; and the building of an Association Bible camp on Lake Ida (Minn.) is still under consideration.

Regarding the third category, the general areas, note these: the plea that our people take care of our own common work or benevolences before supporting other appeals which come; the call for loyalty to Association educational materials, as it was eloquently stated, "How can we hold on to our 'unique position' among churches if we don't use the

materials which are unique to us?"; and the challenge to give our young people a new challenge in involvement in the work of the local congregation.

In all, a great many items were mentioned. Not all are being listed here. We hope that the various agencies will use the *Ambassador* to present these matters to the church in the expanded form that will be most helpful in informing our people.

We are glad to report that in the next several months, three more areas of our work will be featured in special issues of the *Ambassador*. They are Home Missions, World Missions and the Women's Missionary Federation, not necessarily in that order. We trust that these concentrations will be appreciated by our readers. Previously this year, there have been emphases on our Schools and Publications and Parish Education.

It was good to be in session together at the above-mentioned meeting. Not all involved were able to be present. Those of us who were must do our part to carry the challenge and the inspiration to others. Time for interaction in the whole group at these joint sessions would be good. Where can the time be found? That is the problem.

In the meantime and in the present time, pay close attention to the Budget Receipts report in this issue. It doesn't reveal much cause for optimism, but the final report three months hence will tell the tale and show how much we want to succeed for the cause of our Lord Jesus Christ.

THE WISLØFF LECTURES

Dr. Carl Fredrik Wisløff of Oslo, Norway, gave lectures at Association Free Lutheran Seminary Oct. 9-13. His topic was "The Theology of Martin Luther: Still a Lodestar."

It was no doubt a disappointment to the seminary that not more pastors and laymen from outside the Twin Cities area took the opportunity to attend the lectures. Attendance was better by Thursday and Friday as some had arrived to take in the joint boards session on Friday. But there are reasons why not all can get away at a given time and some foresaw the chance to hear Dr. Wisløff in his appearances later in Fergus Falls, Minn., and in the Pacific Northwest.

Dr. Wisløff's lectures were clear and helpful. His stand on Baptism, according to Luther, was strong and he pointed out that if the covenant of Baptism is broken by man then he must return to the promise of his baptism for salvation.

During 1978 our pastors and seminarians have had the opportunity to hear two excellent lecturers on the theology of Martin Luther, namely Dr. Herman Preus of St. Paul, Minn., and Dr. Wisløff. Both are of the conservative school. No matter how much we may know about Luther, it is good to hear it again and always there are new insights.

Dr. Wisløff preached in the evenings for the Life in Christ Crusade of Medicine Lake Lutheran Church. The privilege of being a part of God's household and assurance of salvation were the topics of the two sermons we heard. They were very simple, quiet expositions of the Word of God by a really learned man. No doubt such preaching would not satisfy every person or reach every person, but no one is apt to

come across God's truth more plainly spoken.

The visit of Dr. and Mrs. Wisløff among us was a real blessing and we trust there may be more visits of this kind and interchange between us and like-minded friends in Europe or wherever they may be in the world.

SPOTLIGHT ON ROME

The unexpected death of Pope John Paul I and the accession to the papacy of John Paul II, with the burial of the one and the investiture of the second, have again placed the Church of Rome in the world's spotlight.

How many hours of television and radio time have been given to these events? How many thousands or millions of dollars have been spent on covering them? The Roman Catholic Church is one religious group in the world and a large one, but does it deserve *all* this? Can you imagine any other religious group getting even a tenth of this or any occurrence or closely related series of occurrences? One hun-

dreth? It's something to think about.

The coverage, although unnecessarily heavy, is interesting, to be sure. And we may be permitted a couple of observations about the surprise selection of the new pope, John Paul II. First, his non-Italian-ness may make it difficult for him because his ethnic roots (Polish) may stand in the way at times, whereas an Italian pope immediately has the sense of universality in the Church and in the world.

Secondly, we foresee difficult problems for the Roman Church in relationships with Communist countries because the new pope himself comes from one. Unless international communism is now ready for an open-door policy, it will have to tighten control on religious freedom in countries it governs or else face a diminishing political dominance.

An interesting sidelight. Protestants in Poland, before the selection of Karol Wojtyla as pope, complained, on the occasion of Billy Graham's recent visit, of lack of freedom in the shadow of the strong Roman Catholic Church. It will be interesting to see what develops next for them.

Women For Christ

OREGON CHURCH SCENE OF WOMEN'S RALLY

The West Coast District Women's Missionary Federation fall rally was held on Sept. 19 in Bethany Lutheran Church, Astoria, Ore., Rev. Alvin Grothe, pastor. The theme was "We Are More than Conquerors" (Romans 8:37-38). The theme song was "Because He Lives."

The morning prayer session was led by Marilyn Pederson of Ferndale, Wash. Peggy Olson of Astoria gave the welcome greeting on behalf of the Bethany ladies. Our district president, Ann Mayer of Lake Stevens, Wash., gave the response. The district officers were presented with lovely carnation corsages.

The forenoon devotions were led by Marion Dixon of Kirkland, Wash. Pas-

tor and Mrs. Richard Anderson of Lake Stevens rendered two musical numbers. Jan Galland of Calvary, Everett, Wash., led the Bible study, using the theme text. She pointed out that the keynote in the theme was victory and that 1) Christ was more than conqueror in His death, rising, ascension and exaltation; and 2) the believer is more than conqueror also. He is to be anxious for nothing, to pray about everything and to have gratitude in all things.

Linda Odegaard of Eugene, Ore., led in the singing of "When We All Get to Heaven." Ruth Tollefson of Astoria conducted the memorial service. Among those whose memory was honored were Hilda Tomlinson of Astoria and Clara Adams of Spokane, Wash. Clara Thompson of Vancouver, Wash.,

gave a greeting in regard to Connie Quanbeck, who had passed away last June in Madagascar. She was the wife of the retired missionary, Caleb Quanbeck.

The business meeting was called to order. Cheri Eiseman of Lake Stevens read reports from various WMF groups. An invitation was extended to us to have our spring rally in 1979 in Kirkland (Redeemer). Permanent dates were set for our fall and spring rallies: the fourth Tuesday in September and the first Tuesday in May.

A nominating committee was chosen for the spring rally consisting of Bev Eikenberry, Harriet Norgaard and Lauretta Grothe. The decision was made to give half of the day's offering to Free Lutheran Seminary and the other half to My Missionary for a Day project.

A delightful lunch was served by the Bethany ladies.

The afternoon session began with a singspiration led by Pastor Leslie Galland of Everett, after which a roll call revealed the following present: Kirkland, 6; Everett, 6; Lake Stevens, 4; Kalispell, Mont., 5; Astoria, 30; Ferndale, 4; Vancouver, 1; and Eugene, 5. The figures include four pastors.

Irene Enger of Kalispell led the afternoon devotions. Pastor and Mrs. Stephen Odegaard, Eugene, sang, after which Pastor Odegaard brought the message on the rally theme. He

stressed the importance of having a living relationship with Christ. The enemy, Satan, is powerful and unscrupulous, but he is a defeated ruler. We need to put on the whole armor of God in order to be conquerors. Christ is our Champion. He will fight our battles and win. We are conquerors *in* Jesus, he declared.

Pastor Grothe closed the rally with prayer. Following a coffee hour and more fellowship, we departed for our homes.

Solveig Hays
Secretary

MISS WOLD SPEAKS AT DISTRICT WMF SESSION

Miss Judith Wold of Thief River Falls, Minnesota, was featured speaker as the Zion WMF of Tioga, North Dakota, hosted the fall rally of the Western North Dakota-Eastern Montana District Women's Missionary Federation on September 30, with 73 women registered. Miss Wold is the executive secretary of the WMF.

Our theme was "To Know Him Is To Love Him; To Love Him Is to Serve Him" and our theme hymn was "To Know Christ."

Mrs. Cleo Lee, president of the Tioga WMF, welcomed us and Mrs. Edwin Kjos of Culbertson, Mont., led in devotions, reading all the third chapter of Philippians.

A beautiful day outside and several beautifully illustrated posters created a sacred atmosphere as Judith challenged us to establish an earthly walk with the Lord. She compared our love affair with Christ to a love affair between a husband and wife. Ditching water when the snow melts in the spring spoke to her of the work of the Holy Spirit in a Christian's life. As the stones along the ditch must be removed to allow the water to run freely, so the Holy Spirit must remove the things in our lives which block our communion with the Lord. The Holy Spirit convicts and we must remove the stones.

Miss Hildur Nordin of Minot, N. Dak., was elected president, as Mrs. Lavern Johnson had served her limit of four years.

Mrs. Gary Qualley, Brockton, Mont., was re-elected as treasurer.

Mrs. Virgil Hartsoch gave a reading,

"You and The Lord's Prayer."

A delicious meal was served by the host congregation with the offerings for the day going to the AFLC Schools.

In the afternoon Judith took us on a trip by airplane to Israel with slides and lecture. The very good slides and Judith's vivid description of the area and its history made us feel as if we were there with her walking on this hallowed ground.

Mrs. Ara Hartsoch, district vice-president, presented the retiring president with a gift of appreciation.

Mrs. Sundhagen of St. Olaf, Tioga, extended an invitation for the Spring Rally and it was accepted.

Culbertson WMF won the travelling trophy.

Mrs. Robert Malzer sang a solo, "So Send I You" and Pastor Karl Stendal, Tioga, closed with prayer.

Coffee and goodies were enjoyed before going home.

Mrs. Orville Qualley
Secretary

COLFAX CHURCH HONORS TWO WOMEN

WMF Honorary Membership pins were presented to Mrs. Opal Winget and Mrs. Leona Gilberts at the August, 1978, aid meeting of Faith Lutheran of Running Valley at Colfax,



Wis. Mrs. Sylvan Meinen, left, presented her mother, Mrs. Opal Winget, with a pin and Mrs. Philip Peterson, right, presented her sister, Mrs. Leona Gilberts, with a pin.

Margaret Anderson led in devotions. Mrs. Gerald Madison read about the significance of the pin and a poem "Only a Little" was read by Mrs. Charles Freeberg. The Bible study was given by Pastor Hubert DeBoer.

FIVE BABIES ENROLLED AT MCINTOSH

Trinity Lutheran Church, rural McIntosh, Minn., recently enrolled five babies in the Cradle Roll.



Pictured above is Mrs. Jerome Voxland, Cradle Roll secretary, lighting candles as she enrolled Shannon Quam and Corey Hanson, held by their mothers. Also enrolled were Audrey Rolf, Lynae Tofstad and Brandon Bugge. Gifts were given to the one and two-year olds and promotion certificates to Sunday School were presented to the three-year olds. Ralph Rokke is the pastor of Trinity Church.

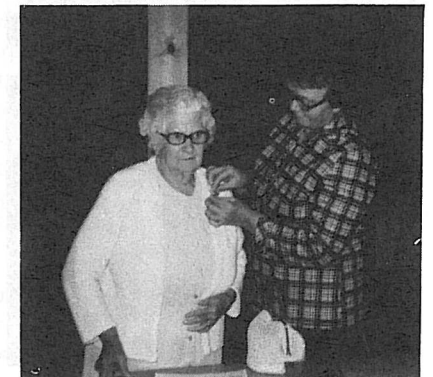
PAST PRESIDENTS HONORED AT VALLEY CITY

Seven past presidents of Grace Lutheran WMF, Valley City, N. Dak., were honored recently at an organization meeting. Six of them are pictured

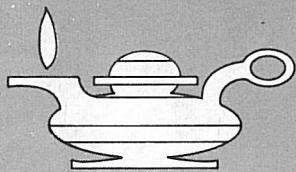


above, left to right, Mrs. Bruce Skramstad, Mrs. Wm. Hass, Jr., Mrs. Allan Olson, Mrs. Toby Larson, Mrs. Paul Bjornson and Mrs. G. A. Forthun. Not pictured is Mrs. Marcus Faust. The pastor of Grace Lutheran is Robert L. Lee.

DRUMMOND LADY GIVEN WMF RECOGNITION



Mrs. Lillian Benson, left, was honored by the Drummond (Wis.) WMF
(Continued on page 13)



SCHOOL NEWS

HOMECOMING 1978

October 6-8 found many familiar faces around a warm, colorful AFLBS campus. On Friday afternoon students hustled to their rooms to do last minute clean-up. Mr. Cliff Holm mixed "scrumpdillyishus" ice cream toppings. Russ Holmaas watched the time fly as he finished lettering the theme verses from Prov. 3:1-3.

At 8:30 p.m., alumni gathered in the chapel to hear testimonies from '68 and '73 class members. Meanwhile, the church entrance and basement began to show off the students' brown and gold decorations.

At 12 a.m., the crowded basement was quiet. Only the empty ice cream bowls, hot cider and coffee cups, and happy, excited thoughts remained as alumni began to find places to unroll their sleeping bags.

After the Saturday morning devotions and business meeting, the attention turned to the football field and rope-pulling contest.

As three-piece suits and long dresses were pressed, talk turned to the student body upset win over the alumni in football and the third place trophy won by a women's pulling team.

At 6:30 p.m., Mitch and Marilee



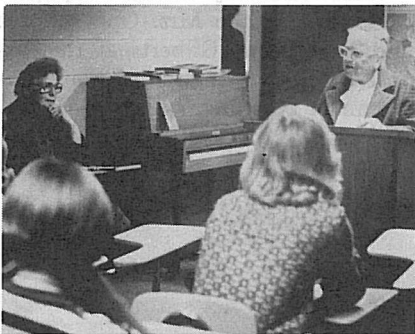
Left to right, Jerry Blake, Jack Randall and Don Grothe helped prepare for the homecoming banquet.

Johnson began serving the lime punch. Mr. Sidhom made certain the Hungarian chicken remained hot. By 7 o'clock the beautifully-decorated cafeteria held about 240 alumni, students, friends and faculty.

Alumni homecoming coordinators, John and Cindy Schlenk and Lou and Becky Valdez, began to relax as they saw their many hours of planning finally climax.

Mr. Dick Grorud, an airlines pilot, was the featured banquet speaker. The first-ever AFLBS Gospel Team, 1973, returned to sing for the banquet. The evening concluded with the first public singing of the AFLBS Hymn.

—Corr.



Marie Sandvik, founder of Marie Sandvik Center on Franklin Avenue, Minneapolis, spoke to the 22-member Children's Ministries class on October 2. Her assistant, Doris Nye, is seated to the left.

WELL-KNOWN NORWEGIAN THEOLOGIAN VISITED FREE LUTHERAN SEMINARY

Dr. Carl Fredrik Wisløff, former professor at Menighetsfakultet (Independent Seminary) in Oslo, Norway, spent the week of October 9-13 on the campus of Free Lutheran Theological Seminary in Minneapolis, Minn. He presented five lectures on "The Theology of Martin Luther: Still a Lodestar."

Each evening he was the speaker at

Life in Christ Crusade services for Medicine Lake Lutheran Church, Jay G. Erickson, pastor. A number of visitors, both pastors and laity, attended the lectures and evening services.



Dr. Carl Fredrik Wisløff

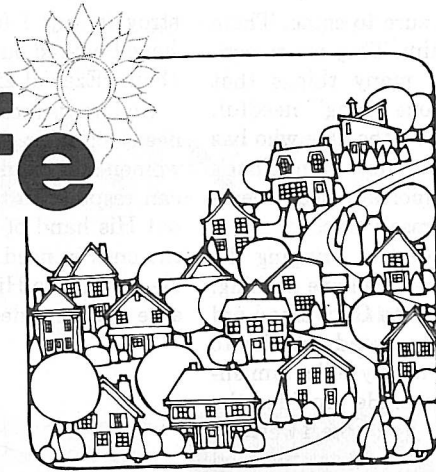
Among visitors on the campus during the week were Dr. Herman Preus, retired faculty member of Luther Theological Seminary in St. Paul, Minn., and Dr. Uuras Saarnivaara, former member of the AFLC seminary faculty, both of them Luther scholars in their own right.

Dr. Wisløff was a member of the Independent Seminary's faculty for 28 years, from 1947-60, the chairman of the division of Practical Theology and from 1960-75, a professor of Church History. Dr. Wisløff is a cousin of Fredrik and H. E. Wisløff, both of whom are known in America through their devotional books.

Carl Fredrik Wisløff is himself an author of many books and pamphlets. He has been an associate editor of an organ for pastors, *Luthersk Kirketidende*, and since 1962 has been connected with the periodical *Fast Grunn*. Recently he spent a year in Japan lecturing at a Lutheran theological seminary there.

Mrs. Wisløff spoke to women's groups on the Medicine Lake campus during the week also. The couple spent the next week in Fergus Falls, Minn., where they were guests of the Church of the Lutheran Brethren, and then went on to the West Coast, where they were to visit congregations of that church body in Washington and Oregon. Before coming to Minneapolis they had spent some time in Brooklyn, N. Y.

Life on the Edge of Town



Home Community

Living in one's home community brings involvement in life in a different way than being a pastor in another community.

This is very noticeable, for instance, in regard to funerals. I find myself attending a number of funerals as a member of an audience. They are funerals of people with whom we had some connection—a neighbor, someone who did something for us or from whom we got something. This wasn't the main reason for attending one funeral, but it was interesting that it was from the farm of the deceased and her husband that we got the spruce trees which I planted in our yard over 30 years ago. The lady had lived to be almost 100 years.

Each funeral brings a different group of people together. Some of the audiences are larger than others. Much depends on the size of the relationship, much on the circle of friends and associates.

Recently I was asked to preach the sermon for a bachelor from east of town, my mother's home area. He was the last of his family, one of the homesteading families. I said something about that and then went into the sermon on John 11:25-27. The idea of it was that the life to come will be very beautiful, but that it is reserved for those who "live and believe" in Jesus, for that is what He said. It was a special experience to be with a group

largely from the "home" area and walk in the Folden cemetery out on the sand ridge and see our "home farm" off to the west a mile.

Sorting, Etc.

People fall into two categories, those who save things and those who don't. I fall into the first and inherited the trait from my parents.

The idea is that some paper, magazine or note may come in handy later on. The magazine is saved because of an article one hopes to read. A newspaper contains historic information and must be kept. A service folder, a jotted note have sentimental value or worth as sermon material. A clipping, some scrap of memorabilia may work into a future scrapbook. Letters and paid bills accumulate and wait a looking over some other time.

I've used some spare time to look over some of this material where it is stored at my grandparents' house next door. The house has been empty for some months. Some things have been thrown and there is a resultant satisfaction. Sitting there, sometimes using the house for an office, and outside mowing the lawn, I've had a strong sense of the presence of Grandpa and Grandma, thinking of the years they lived there in the twilight of their lives.

Between that house and ours lies the garden. I decided to spade it up this fall. That seemed to be the best way to get it in shape for its second season. If I had intended to do it all in a couple of

days it would have been impossible. But by taking a manageable patch at a time it could be done. By the time you read this that work should be finished.

Old Friends

On my way home from the Wisløff lectures and the Joint Boards meeting earlier this month I stopped in Cokato, Minn., to check at the auto agency from which I bought my first car, a used 1951 Pontiac Chieftan. I didn't make any deal now, but hope to somewhere before publication date.

That night I stayed at the Fred Tinseth's in Cyrus, Minn. Hadn't seen them for some years, but in 1951 I stayed at their home while teaching Vacation Bible School in Cyrus. That year we had school in Cyrus in the morning and in Morris in the afternoon.

Fred reminded me that he had gone to Augsburg with my dad in the years 1912-14. He recalled that Dad and the late Rev. M. E. Helland were great pals.

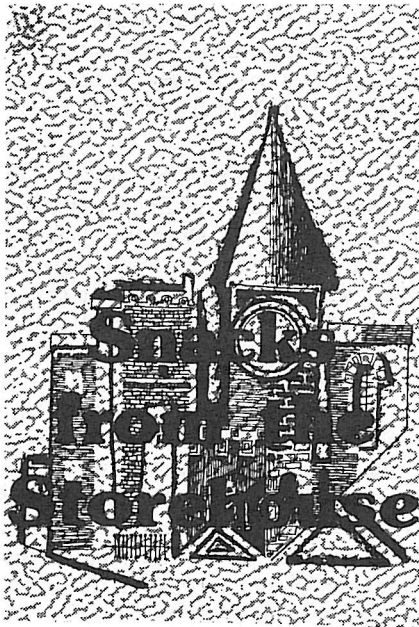
North of Donnelly I stopped to see Mrs. Laura Jergenson at her farm home which she still maintains for herself and her son Ruben. I had been student pastor in her congregation, Kongsvinger, also in 1951. The amazing thing is that she is 95 (96 in November). Bowed down by the years now, she is one of the world's remarkable people for her age. I shared some verses from Psalm 27 with her before we had prayer.

Mrs. Jergenson sent an apple pie home with me which she had made for the winter. My mother, sister and I all concluded that it was delicious.

—Raynard Huglen

(Continued from page 11)

recently. Mrs. Rosamond Lee, president, presented Mrs. Benson with an Honorary Membership pin and certificate. Mrs. Benson has been a Sunday School teacher, leader of the Dorcas Society, forerunner of the Luther League, and a member of the church ladies aid, holding offices in each organization for years. Ronald Knutson is pastor of the church.



HELP ANSWER PRAYER

"A friend of mine in his journey is come to me, and I have *nothing* to set before him" (Luke 11:6). The situation doesn't look good, does it? Here are two friends and both are in need. There is just one little difference between the two but that difference is enough to bring hope to an otherwise hopeless situation. And the man with "nothing to set before him" was used to bring about this wonderful transformation. He brought the need to a friend of his with plenty and the need was met. He didn't meet the need himself. After all, he had nothing to meet it with, but even so he was so very important for he was the channel through whom abundance was poured to him who was in need.

The Twelve had just prayed, "Teach us to pray" and they were taught the Lord's Prayer. I'm so glad that they asked. He answered their prayer, but He gave them more than what they asked. He followed the answer to their prayer with a "post-graduate" course on prayer, prayer as applied to life. Two persons were involved in the answer. There was God with the answer and the disciples in their need asking. Three persons are involved in the story that follows.

What is the purpose of the supplement? The story of the wanderer who came to his friend at midnight for help? He had been so busy all day that he had neglected to prepare for the

night that was so sure to come. There are so many like him. They are so concerned about the many things that they forget the "one thing" needful. And they don't know the One who has the answer, but *you* know Him. That's why you are so important. God seems to have made Himself dependent on

you to a large extent in bringing the answer. Even though we have nothing, we are so important to God. The Lord didn't distribute the bread and fish to the thousands of hungry folks famishing in the wilderness. He provided the supplies but it was up to the Twelve to hand them out. He provided the food that was required by the wanderer but the focus is on the friend of the one in need. If *he* had failed his part the need wouldn't have been met. He was so needed.

Is this the lesson He wanted to leave with them and with us? We have an important part to play in answered prayer. This man had "nothing to set before him" and still he was important. He became a channel through whom this friend of his poured of his abundance to a weary traveler. This is often the way God answers prayer. Without that connecting link, He often is helpless. The prophet Ezekiel tells us about such a case but it's really God speaking. The need was so great, and He tells us, I sought for a man to make up a hedge and stand in the gap before Me for the land, that I should not de-

stroy it, but I found none. *Therefore* have I poured out my indignation upon them (Ezekiel 22:30, 31).

God needs intercessors who bring the needs of their friends to Him. Men, women and children through whom He can respond to that need by reaching out His hand of love through them to the ones in need. Clean channels that He can use to His glory. Are we available when needed?

—Karl G. Berg



PERSONALITIES

Pastor and Mrs. A. L. Hokonson celebrated their 40th wedding anniversary and his ordination into the ministry in festivities at Calvary Lutheran Church, Everett, Wash., on Sunday, Oct. 22. The event took place at the church's Friendly Hour at 5:00 p.m. Son Steve and his family were present for the occasion and he brought a meditation at the service. Pastor Hokonson was ordained on June 12, 1938, in Thief River Falls, Minn., at the annual conference of the Lutheran Free Church. Mrs. Hokonson now resides in Bethany Lutheran Home, Everett, and Pastor Hokonson is at the couple's home at 414 South Third St., Silverton, Ore. 97381.

ASSOCIATION OF FREE LUTHERAN CONGREGATIONS

3110 East Medicine Lake Boulevard

Minneapolis, Minnesota 55441

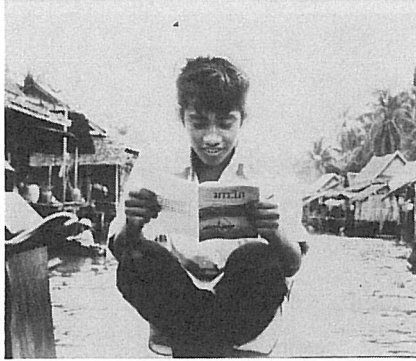
BUDGET RECEIPTS (8 months)

February 1 to September 30

FUND	Total Budget	Current Budget	Rec'd during September	Total Rec'd to date	% of Current	% of Total
General Fund	\$ 78,630.00	\$ 52,420.00	\$ 2,917.23	\$ 34,253.38	65.3	43.6
Schools	143,190.00	95,460.00	7,366.30	56,656.01	59.3	39.6
Home Missions	75,000.00	50,000.00	2,694.47	27,364.98	54.7	36.5
World Missions	113,512.00	75,675.64	3,875.15	50,474.90	66.7	44.5
Praise Fund	35,000.00	23,333.36	615.06	13,724.73	58.8	39.2
Total	\$445,332.00	\$296,888.00	\$17,468.21	\$182,474.00	61.5	41
1977-78	\$382,477.00	\$254,984.56	\$27,150.71	\$184,048.13	72	48



CHURCH-WORLD NEWS



BIBLE SUNDAY

This cheerful Thai boy reads the Scriptures as he sits alongside one of the colorful canals which dot Bangkok, Thailand's capital. This November 19, the Sunday before Thanksgiving, millions of Americans will be celebrating Bible Sunday under the auspices of the American Bible Society and their denominations, so that people all over the world, like this young man, may receive the blessing of God's Word.—ABS Photo

DR. GRAFFAM TO NEW POST

Waldron Scott, general secretary of the World Evangelical Fellowship, confirmed the appointment of Dr. Everett S. Graffam as a member of his staff at the recent Chicago meeting of WEF's USA Board.

Dr. Graffam, formerly executive vice-president of World Relief Commission for more than 11 years, will serve as director of development, being responsible for public relations, promotion and fund raising. The Graffams will continue to live and work in the Valley Forge area.

WEF serves fellowships of evangelical nationals in 55 countries from its center for international ministries based in Colorado Springs, Colo. Dr. Hudson Armerding, president of Wheaton College, is international president of WEF.

REVISED MANUAL EARNS POSITIVE COMMENTS

ST. LOUIS—The revised edition of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod's manual on "Witnessing to Jewish People" has been described as a "sensitive formulation" by Rabbi Paul Jacobs, executive vice-president of the Rabbinical Association of St. Louis.

In addition, Jacobs, during a recent panel discussion with students at Concordia Seminary here, said the revision is "well edited."

The original version of the manual and its flip chart had received negative comments from Jewish leaders. The new version, released in early October, was rewritten in consideration of those criticisms. The flip chart and the appendix were removed.

Before publishing, the revised manual's manuscript was shared with a number of leaders in the Synod, the Anti-Defamation League, The Synagogue Council, and the American Jewish Committee (AJC).

The AJC responded with several pages of suggestions. Suggestions were incorporated if they agreed with the basic Scriptural commitment of the Synod that Jesus is the Messiah for all people and that there is no other way to God but through Jesus Christ.

The Synod's committee on witnessing to Jewish people says that the manual, even in its "sensitive formulation," is still not acceptable to the Jewish community, since it does take the New Testament position that salvation comes by faith in Jesus Christ alone. The Jewish leaders who have been in conversation with the committee have indicated they are eager to pursue dialog at various levels of mutual understanding.

The revised manual is now available to congregations (fifty cents a copy on request from the LCMS Board for Evangelism, 500 North Broadway, St.

Louis, Mo. 63102) for use in study groups or by parish evangelism committees. It also will be used in workshops held in the Synod Districts for pastors and lay leaders.

NEWS BRIEFS

LCC ACTS ON AUTONOMY: The directors of Lutheran Church-Canada, the organization of LCMS parishes in Canada, have appointed a committee to propose a possible timetable and procedures for independence. Approved in principle by the three Canadian LCMS districts, the details would also be subject to approval by the districts, LCC as a whole and the LCMS as a whole before the LCC could become a self-governing Canadian denomination. The committee's work is expected to take at least all of 1979. Most other Canadian Lutherans belong to the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Canada or the LCA-Canada Section, which are moving toward merger.

NEW SWEDISH WOMEN'S ORDINATION COMMITTEE: [Lutheran] Church of Sweden Primate Olof Sundby has appointed himself, two other bishops and 11 other representatives to a working group "designed to solve once and for all the problems associated with the ordination of women," which has been permitted for two decades but which has encountered increasing opposition. According to a church report, there is increasing pressure for the group to propose a plan before the Church of Sweden constituted assembly next January. One point at issue is the "conscience clause," by which opponents of women's ordination are permitted to object in word and action to women's ordination.

**GREENBUSH CHURCH TO HOST
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The monthly meeting of the Northern Lutheran Laymen will be held on Sunday, November 26, at United Lutheran Church, Greenbush, Minn., 2:30 p.m.

The text will be Revelation 3:1-6.
Art Joppru, Chm.
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