

September 20, 1977

The Lutheran Ambassador

NOT ALL WORK, SOME PLAY

Roger C. Huebner, D.D.S.



MEDITATION MOMENTS

“HIM THAT IS GODLY”

Psalm 4:3

In Psalm 4:3, David tells us that the Lord has set apart “him that is godly for Himself: the Lord will hear when I call unto Him.”

In I Peter 2:9, we read that Christians are “a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people.”

From these and other verses we see that Christians are different, they are holy, they are godly, they are peculiar, especially in comparison to the person who has no relationship with God.

How does one become godly? How is it that a Christian is different? It begins when we see our need for Jesus and His finished work on the cross and by faith and God’s grace make Jesus ours. As this relationship develops godliness begins to be seen in our life. It also seems to be that this godliness is progressive.

One who is godly is a person who is God-fearing. There are many who have not the fear of God. But a God-fearing man does not try to do anything that would grieve the Most High. A godly person does not wish to stand at the judgment bar of God without Jesus at his side. The name of God, the person of God, the character of God, these are matters of holy importance to him. Heaven is no trifle, and hell is no trifle to him; the book of God is no fable to him, the day of God is hallowed by him, and

the church of God is dear to him.

One who is godly is also a God-trusting man. He is a person who has learned to entrust his soul to the hands of God. He is one who has learned to leave his sins with God. He is one who trusts his eternity with God; he believes that he shall die the death of the righteous. A godly man also trusts God about the present and therefore commits each day to his heavenly Father.

In advancing further, a **godly person is a God-loving person.** He loves his family, but his God he loves more than anything else. This love that he has is a different kind of love than he has for his family. It is a love based on gratitude for the forgiveness and mercy he has enjoyed from God. It is a love based on respect and awe for the kind of God he has and he can call “Our Father,” “my Father.”

We can also say that a godly man, is a **God-knowing man.** He does not merely fear, and trust, and love God, but he has come into personal acquaintance with God. Some ask the question, “Is God knowable?” The answer is yes. How can you be a child of God if you do not know your father? How are you saved if you do not know the Savior?

We can say that a godly man is a God-like man. We reach this point by progressive steps: God-fearing, God-trusting, God-loving, God-knowing,

and then, God-like.

Can a man be like God? The answer is that by grace we can be like God to some degree in righteousness and holiness and love. Has the Holy Spirit taught you to love someone who is not easy to love? Then you are made to that extent like God. Do you desire that which is good? Do you delight in peace? Do you seek after that which is pure? Then you are like the Father to that extent.

We see then that godliness is something that we cannot produce ourselves; it reveals itself through our personal relationship and walk with our Father.

In closing, notice the privilege that comes to the godly. “The Lord will hear when I call unto him.”

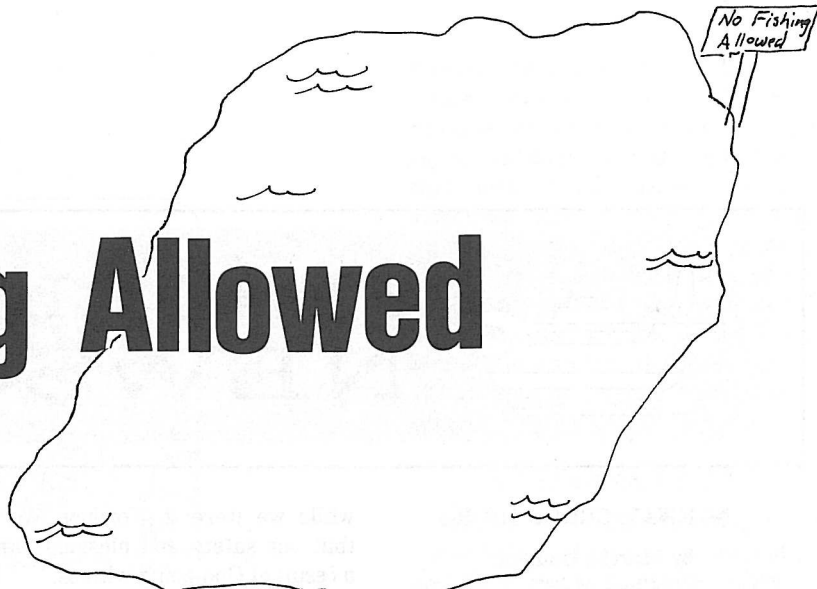
This means that God will grant me an audience, he will hear what I have to say. We don’t have to be properly introduced and go through all manner of forms and ceremonies. Through one Mediator, Jesus, we have the right at any moment of the day or night to have an audience with the King of Kings and Lord of Lords.

This text also means that the Lord will not only hear, but He will answer me. This is very important for us to know and believe.

I trust that you are experiencing godliness in your life because of your walk with God. That is the only way it can happen. —David C. Molstre

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No Fishing Allowed



by Pastor Karl G. Berg,
Salem, Oregon

"I go fishing," Peter said. Maybe he wanted to get away from it all—and be alone. Be alone to think, and to recall, and to weep. But he didn't have a chance to be alone. Others joined in with enthusiasm: "We go with you." Maybe they, too, felt the same need of getting away from it all.

Have you ever been there? I'm sure you have. I recall as a boy I would run down to the little creek during the noon hour. Dad would be getting his noon nap in his old favorite chair and brother and I would take off—on both cylinders—for the old swimming hole with our pole, line and a bent pin for a hook—to relax and fish. The few small minnows we caught—and released—wouldn't have fed a little boy let alone 5,000, but led to an inner peace which made the day just a little bit more meaningful.

Peter went fishing. It doesn't say what equipment he took along. As we look further into his experience that morning, we do find out he had nets along. We do find out that he "labored all night"—and caught nothing. Maybe he wasn't too concerned. There were other things on his mind. He had tried fishing that night—and failed. But he had also tried something else much more important. He had tried living the Christian life and had failed. Failed miserably. He had promised the Lord so much. He was so sure of himself. So sure he could

"deliver the goods" even though others would fail. Now it seemed like a bad dream. A real nightmare: Fishing might help him forget but it only led to another experience of failure.

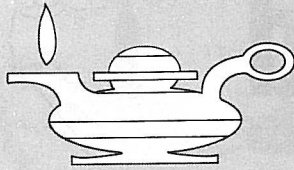
Have you been there? I am sure you have. I know I have—time and again. I started off the day with the best of intentions of serving the Lord. I was so sure of myself as He seemed so near. I was dedicated to a cause that must succeed. I just couldn't fail. But I did. At the end of the day, I went "fishing," too. Not in the sea of Galilee but in the Sea of Remembrance. I tell the Lord about it—and go on "Fishing." He has cast all our failures in the depths of the sea, He tells us. He has forgotten them. He says, "I will remember them no more." He has put up a sign "NO FISHING ALLOWED"—but we go on "fishing." In the end we have to confess with PETER, "I have labored all night and caught nothing." I tried and I tried and I tried. But it's no use. I give up. I tried to live the Christian life. Some seem to make it but I can't. It just isn't for me.

Brother, sister, say "Thank you, Lord," if you find yourself there just now. It took three years to get Peter to this sacred place of a new beginning. He had relied on himself all along. He had relied on his sincerity. He had relied on his talents. He had relied on Peter. Now, at the end of a hopeless and fruitless effort, in the strength of that source of power, he switches over to HIM. Peter was at the end of himself. He was at the

end of his own resources. THERE—at the end of himself, he finds a NEW BEGINNING. Peter steps aside and lets Someone else take over. And the nets begin to fill and fill. "Upon your Word, I'll cast the nets."

In his heart, I believe he added, "The results are up to you now." Someone else was now in charge and the results followed. Peter let Him give the orders now and he followed. Religionists have tried to explain away the miracle but it can't be done. Everything seemed so irrational. The time for full nets was off. The time to fish is at night. The placing of the net was wrong. Peter knew where the fish "ought" to be but he was told to throw the net "on the other side." The fishermen were hopelessly discouraged and discouragement isn't conducive to good results. But—they were "re-enlisted." Humanly speaking, everything spelled out the word FAILURE. But, when Peter steps aside and let's the Lord take over, the boats are filled.

My, how patiently the Lord had waited and worked for that moment. It took three years in the life of Peter. Three years of failure and defeat as he followed the Lord. It took 40 years in the life of Moses before he could be used. How about us? We who confess to be His? Have we gotten that far? We have allowed Him to become our Savior; has He become our Lord? Is He completely in charge day by day? That's when boats get "filled." Not with dead statistics, but with living souls—won for Him.



SCHOOL NEWS

NORWAY CHOIR TOUR

by Martha Haugen,
Class of 1977

As we have now returned to America and think back to the trip which we have completed, all credit and glory must go to God for the wonderful times we experienced. We can say as the Psalmist does in Psalm 124, "If it had not been the Lord who was on our side . . . then . . ."

Firstly, if it had not been for the Lord, then Jesus Christ would not have died for our sins, then we would have no salvation, therefore no Gospel to bring, and no opportunity such as we have had to share. Secondly, if it had not been for the Lord, we could have encountered many hardships or even tragedies, but God protected us. Psalm 124:8: "Our help is in the name of the Lord."

We are grateful for the prayers of our concerned friends and families

while we were in Norway. We know that our safety and blessing came as a result of God being with us.

The trip in itself was a great opportunity for us. It enabled us to visit an overseas foreign country. But as we were there we began to appreciate the other opportunities that were before us. It was interesting for us to be with people from a slightly different culture and observe how they lived. Although they lived somewhat differently than us, when we met people who loved Jesus we had much in common and experienced wonderful Christian fellowship.

We found that a great percentage of the people in Norway were able to communicate in English, but at times we would be with people who could not. Although the language was a barrier, Christ brought unity between us and others in the Body of Christ.

We usually moved on to a different

location each day so we were not able to be with the same people for a very long length of time. Even so, we drew close to the people we met and stayed with. Many times before we boarded the bus there were good-bye hugs exchanged. The Norwegian people were very kind to us and treated us as their long-time friends rather than strangers and foreigners.

Our tour was concentrated in the southern part of Norway. We started and finished in Oslo, singing every evening (but two) and two or three times on Sundays.

We traveled along the coast and the towns we sang at were: Oslo, Raade, Moss, Sandefjord, Larvik, Skien, Arendal, Grimstad, Kristiansand, Venneslaa, Sogne, Lyngdal, Flekkefjord, Egersund, Sandnes, Stavanger, Aakra—on the island, Karmoy, Haugesund, Gol and Drammen.

In the area we traveled, we were in view of water most of the time. If it wasn't the North Sea we were seeing, it was a fjord, a river, a lake or a mountain stream. We were among steep, rocky mountains a lot of the time. Travel was quite slow, as the roads at times are narrow, winding and built right on the edge of the mountains.

We sang at various places and meetings. Tent meetings, outdoor services, a nursing home, a conference, prayer houses (bedehuses), churches and the Stavanger Cathedral.

From Stavanger, we traveled to the island, Karmøy. The only way we



The students at the Seminary Short Course, 1977. Bottom row, left to right, Burton Rygh and Robert Wodal; second row, Verle Dean and Allen Monson; third row, Walter Beaman and Bob Bergstrom; and fourth row, Lynn Haufchild, Merle Knutson, Cliff Forsette, Lyle Aadahl and Emerson Anderson. Not pictured: Theodore Manaen and Wayne Hanson.

Homecoming

October 7-9

a memorable weekend

Class of '72 reunion





The reception after the home concert. Mrs. Kenneth Moland, right, pours for Mrs. Amos Dyrud.

could get there was by boat, so we drove our bus aboard a ferry and were taken to Karmøy. Dr. and Mrs. Iver Olson traveled with the choir and this was a special stop for them. At Aakra, Karmøy, we viewed the burial place of Dr. Olson's grandfather.

To say a word about the Olsons—we, the choir, got acquainted with two wonderful people. Dr. Olson shared a message from the Word of God with the people each evening. In preparation for our concerts he would often have a timely thought to share with the choir before singing. Dr. Olson is also a fantastic historian on Norway. No matter where we would go, Dr. Olson was able to fill us in as to what happened, why it happened or when it happened.

Mrs. Olson, soon coined as "Mom," was our friend and nurse. When members of the choir were bothered with sore throats, Mrs. Olson was right there with the cough syrup bottle.

As we came to various towns, many of the choir members met relatives for the first time. Many times we would also meet acquaintances from the States who were also touring Norway.

The day before we left Oslo for Minneapolis, we had the opportunity to visit the American Embassy and meet our Ambassador, Louis Lerner.

We left Oslo at 2:00 p.m. (Norway time), on Saturday, August 20, on a

7-hour, 45-minute airplane ride. There is a 6-hour time difference between Norway and Minneapolis, so we arrived in Minneapolis at 3:45 p.m. (9:45 p.m. Norway time). It was quite a clear day on our trip back so we were able to view Iceland, Greenland and the Atlantic Ocean from our DC-8 plane.

We had a wonderful time in Norway, but of course it is always good to get home. When the airplane wheels touched the Minneapolis runway, most of us clapped in excitement. It was good to be back safely! Many of our families and friends met us at the airport and also attended our home concert at Medicine Lake Church on Sunday, August 21.

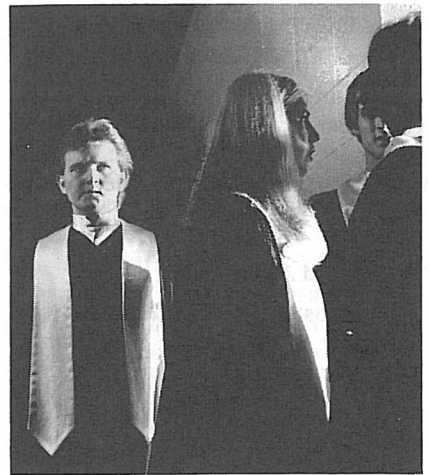
We thank you for your prayers and your concern for us. Thank you also to those who were able to be in Minneapolis and who so warmly welcomed us home.

Mange tusen takk! (Many thousand thanks!)

TWO SEMINARY FACULTY APPOINTMENTS

Two new men will join Pastors Dyrud, Monseth, and Moland to complete the faculty for the fall semester of the AFLC Seminary.

Rev. Bhushana Rao Dasari, a fourth-generation Lutheran Christian from India, will fill the Old Testament position. Pastor Dasari has studied



That tense moment before the last concert of the '77 Norway Choir. Shown left to right are Dean Rorvig, Christie Freeberg and Ivar Berge, partially hidden.

in America for over four and one-half years. He recently finished his course work for a Th.D. in Old Testament from Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, Mo.

Dr. Eldon Brue, Ph.D., is a confessing Christian psychologist. He will be the visiting lecturer for Pastoral Counseling this first semester. Dr. Brue practices from two clinics in Minneapolis.

HE CAME WITH THE GROUNDS

A Feature Story on Don Hansen

On any given day at AFLC headquarters and Bible School campus at Medicine Lake you can see a man working who was there before the AFLC was. If you happened to be there in 1960, you would have seen him laying the foundation of the church building.

You don't have to be around long before you will learn that if you need to fix your leaky faucet, ask Don. If you need advice on flowers or trees, ask Don. Maybe your car won't start, ask Don. If you are doing historical research on the AFLC, by all means, ask Don. Perhaps you just want to hear a good joke, ask Don. With his low, quiet, Scandinavian accent Don will answer, "Yeah, well you know. . ."

Don Hansen's official title is the

(Continued on page 12)

WHAT FAMILY BIBLE CAMP MEANT TO ME

Here are a few testimonies about what Family Bible Camp meant to the writers. The Camp was in session from August 8-14 at Galilee Bible Camp, Lake Bronson, Minnesota.

We Learned About Jesus

On August 8 I went with my brother and sister to the Galilee Bible Camp.

This was my first year of camp. I am nine years old and liked it very much.

During the week I went swimming and played with many new friends I made. In the mornings we had classes we went to where we learned about Jesus and heard about our missionaries. In the evenings I went to the evening services.

I liked camp very much and the people.

I'm going again.

Carol Ostrand
Wadena, Minn.

I Benefitted in a Personal Way

Family Bible Camp was a blessed experience. And this year, with the added ingredient of being a counselor, I found even a greater challenge, how might I be able to bring these young guys into a deeper relationship to Jesus? How can I more fully let the love of Christ shine through me and let Jesus have His way in my whole life? It was so good to see God's Word touching lives through the week.

Another blessing was being able to see these young and naturally energetic guys settle down for the evening devotions and share verses they had committed to memory and pray together. To work with them and talk with them and get to know them was a great experience.

Not only did I benefit from working with the young guys but I also benefitted in a personal spiritual way from the services and sessions and fellowship with other Christians. As I look back on the week I am given a further challenge by the theme verse of the week at camp: "Forgetting what lies behind and reaching forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of

the upward call of God in Christ Jesus" (Phil. 3:13b, 14).

Kraig Lerud
Thief River Falls, Minn.

A Week of So Many Blessings

We cannot put into words our true feelings and response to this week at Bible Camp.

It has been a week of so many blessings. From the Bible study to the choir to discussion to fellowship with old friends and the making of new friends, but most of all it has been the working of the Holy Spirit in camp, knitting us in closer relationship with our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

If you have ever wondered what Family Bible Camp is like, just plan your vacation at that time and you'll discover how wonderful it is to leave the world and all its distractions behind.

A personal thank-you to all the staff and especially the teachers of the children. They not only taught the children, but took them at noon and saw to it that they got their dinners.

May more of us take advantage of this opportunity of spending a week in the study of God's Word.

Mr. and Mrs. Roger Rasmussen
Pennock, Minn.

We Found Warmth 1000 Miles from Home

We had never attended a Bible Camp as a family before. We received information and an invitation with one of the brochures from Pastor (Einar) Unseth, who was once our pastor in Michigan. Looking at a map, we saw that it was about 1000 miles from home, but we thought the eight of us could make it in one car and with our newly purchased tent trailer for sleeping.

We thought this might be a time to grow spiritually as individuals and as a family, as well as a vacation. We did find those opportunities here at camp. The Bible classes for each of us had outstanding teachers as the pastors shared their knowledge of the Scriptures with us. We received many practical applications for what we learned both in classes and the discussion groups.

The warmth of the people and the fellowship we found at camp is hard to describe. We were made to feel so welcome. We wish to express our thanks to our Lord Jesus Christ and the Association that there is such a camp as this for growth and that we were able to attend.

In all, this was one experience we won't forget and, God willing, we will be able to repeat it again soon. Phil. 4:7.

Elwyn and Marvin Raffler Families
Woodland, Mich.

PERSONALITIES

New address of Rev. and Mrs. George Knapp and family is 78.950 Vilhena, Territorio de Rondonia, Brazil. The Knapps have been chosen to direct the opening of AFLC work in this newly developing area of Brazil.

LETTER FROM PASTOR SAMUEL FLORES

July 12th of 1977

Dear Brethren in Christ:

Afterward a month since that by the grace of God I was with you on the occasion of the Annual Conference that took place on Fargo, N.D.; I am pleased to send you my fraternal greeting in the name of Lord Jesus Christ.

I have enjoyed very much to remember my staying with you. I can't remember your faces; nevertheless on reminding your affection, I enjoy very much and give my gratitude to God.

My Church and I, pray to God for Him to bless His Work in your local Church, likewise to The Association Of Free Lutheran Congregations in this year. Thank you, thank you very much for your affection to me. I beg your prayers for the Church in Leon, Guanajuato, Mexico.

Your servant in Christ
Rev. Samuel Flores.

(Ed. note: While I received this note from Pastor Flores, I am sure his sentiments are for us all. It was good to have this brother at our Annual Conference.)

Women For Christ

PRAYER VIGIL IN AFLC TO BE HELD OCTOBER 3-4

The 1977 Prayer Vigil in the Association of Free Lutheran Congregations will be held October 3-4, and is to begin at 6 p.m. on the 3rd.

Meditation passages from the Bible and suggestions for prayer were listed in the previous *Ambassador*. Please refer to that article if you wish direction in your season of prayer.

Each local congregation is to have a Prayer Vigil chairman. Please consult the one in your church about further information.

Will you volunteer to spend one-half hour or an hour in this vigil in your congregation?

Non-affiliated friends who wish to share in this vigil may choose any hour or half hour they wish during the prescribed time to join in the season of prayer. Your fellowship in this way, known to God, will be much appreciated.

ELIM LUTHERAN WMF HONORS CHARTER MEMBER

Mrs. Gordon (Helen) Rux of Lake Stevens, Wash., was pleasantly surprised when she received an Honorary Membership pin from the WMF. She was instrumental in forming the local unit nine years ago when Elim Lutheran Congregation was started. Helen has been a faithful member ever since, always ready to serve her church willingly and cheerfully. She has been a WMF officer, served as



Helen Rux, right, receives the WMF pin from Sharon Mulligan.

a full-time organist for nine years (she has retired as an organist but fills in for one of the other two when needed), has served as a teacher in Vacation Bible School and is a good friend to anyone who knows her. We, at Elim, are blessed by her presence. Thank you, Helen!

—Sharon Mulligan
Secretary

NINE LADIES GIVEN WMF PINS AT BADGER SERVICE

July 24th was Honorary Membership day at Badger Creek Lutheran Church, Badger, Minn. At an 11 o'clock special program the following ladies received their certificates and pins from the Women's Missionary Federation: Mrs. Pearl Vacura, Mrs. Chester Rude, Marie Carlson, Mrs. Eunice Johnson, Mrs. Mabel Trang-

srud, Mrs. Albert Fleck, Mrs. Arvid Peterson, Mrs. Hilda Johnson and Mrs. Anton Johnson.

The program opened with a welcome by Mrs. Martin Johnson, president of the Mission Endeavor. Mrs. George Wellen favored us with a song, accompanied by Mrs. Martin Johnson at the piano. Mrs. Dwight Lange and Mrs. Albert Kammen read selections on missions and the poem "Your Mother's Prayer," respectively.

Miss Judith Wold, executive director of the Department of Parish Education of the Association of Free Lutheran Congregations, gave a very challenging and delightful sermonette, followed by a song by Mrs. Gustav Nordvall, "There's Room at the Cross for You."

Pastor Gustav Nordvall, who had just returned with his wife from the Luther League Convention at Kirkland, Wash., spoke a few words of recognition to the honored ladies, commending them for their faithful service in the work of God's kingdom.

A fellowship dinner was served in the basement of the church following a very enjoyable day for everyone present.

—Corr.

The poem follows which was read at the program. It was written by Mrs. Kammen.

YOUR MOTHER'S PRAYER

For my beloved children, I'll pray this earnest prayer,
That when I get to heaven I'll see your faces there.
When Jesus takes me Home, to some I'll say "Good-bye;"
To some I'll say "So long," I expect you'll ask me why.
From the time that you were little I sincerely tried to show
You how to live for Jesus, though I made mistakes, I know.
I think that you all loved Him as long as you were young;
You said, "Come, Lord, into my heart," and joyful songs were sung.
But then as you grew older, you had to try your wings.
You slipped away from Jesus and fell for worldly things.
The ones I say "So Long" to I know I'll see again
When at His second coming Christ

shall come to judge all men,
For you've repented of your sin and
now you live for Him.
But you who are rejecting Him, I
wonder "Where?" or "When?"
And so my heart is burdened for you
who still are lost,
For you believe the devil's lies and
never stop to count the cost.

You build your house on sinking
sand instead of solid ground;
You live for fleeting sin on earth when
you could be heaven-bound.
Beloved children, come to Christ;
admit to Him your sin;
Then with your heart, your mind,
your soul, you could be serving Him.
As much as I would like to, I cannot
spare you pain,
Nor sickness, trial or sorrow, these
things on earth remain.
But a better place awaits you if you
choose to meet me there,
So I'll go on believing God will
answer Mother's prayer.

But then my burden lightens for
Christ has promised me,
That if I taught you His Word it
would not depart from you.
So I will look to Jesus and trust Him
day by day
And believe Him when He says He
hears the contrite sinners pray.
So if I go Home before you, how happy
I would be
If I could hear you say to Jesus,
"Please save a place for me."
As Jesus wept for Jerusalem, He
weeps for souls today;
He's knocking now at your heart's
door; please don't turn Him away.

PASTOR AVAILABLE FOR CALL

Rev. Hubert F. DeBoer, 527 Spruce
Ave. So., Thief River Falls, Minn.
56701, has sold the grocery store which
he operated for a few years and is
available to begin serving a parish on
a full-time basis again. His telephone
number is 218-681-1833.

Pastor DeBoer has also been en-
gaged in interim pastoral work and,
in the past couple years, a radio min-
istry while in Thief River Falls.

The Best of Halesby

GROWING OLD

"Now lettest thou thy servant depart, Lord, according
to thy word, in peace; for mine eyes have seen thy sal-
vation" (Luke 2:29-30).

It is not easy to grow old.

Then one has reached the days of which it is written:
"I have no pleasure in them." Old age is without a doubt
the hardest class of all in the school of God. The trials
of old age are both numerous and great.

My believing old friend, you who have reached this
class, may I extend my good wishes to you? You have
almost finished the course and kept the faith. What a
victory!

Your life is moving in a small circle now, and your
labors are not of far-reaching consequence. You are
fortunate, you who have employed your powers unto the
glory of God.

You are doubly fortunate, you who submit graciously
to God now also, when He permits old age to deprive
you of your physical and mental powers.

It is grace from God to be permitted to use one's
power unto the glory of God. But it is twofold grace from
God to be able to relinquish one's powers in faith and
to say gratefully: "The Lord gave, and the Lord hath
taken away; blessed be the name of the Lord!"

There is a sacred halo of glorious beauty about those
old folk who have gained the victory in the battle with
old age and can pass their declining years in happiness.
They have conquered! Not merely given in, resigned, to
old age.

They are no longer offended when reminded of their
age. Nor do they continually find fault with the times
and with the young people. They realize that they cannot
follow along with the times.

And still there is not the atmosphere of hopelessness
about them.

They have been saved by the grace of God, and by
the faithfulness of God they have been led from childhood
to the gray hairs of old age. With courageous hearts
they are prepared to meet the final enemy in His name.

And pass through death into life!

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editorials

TIMELY WORDS

In the previous *Ambassador* there was a news report which contained a resume of a speech given by Dr. Herman W. Preus at an observance marking the 400th anniversary of the Formula of Concord, a Lutheran confessional document. The speech was significant because it pointed up some real concerns in the three large Lutheran church bodies and because it was delivered by a respected theologian in one of those bodies. Dr. Preus is retired, but he taught a great many men who are now pastors in the American Lutheran Church and they will certainly pay attention to what he has to say.

That is not to say that either pastors or leadership in the synods will heed his warnings. Before the Evangelical Lutheran Church joined the World Council of Churches, Dr. Preus advised against such membership, but his counsel did not prevail. Nonetheless, it is good that he has spoken out also at this time. Perhaps what he has said will prod some in the churches to call for a re-examination of progress and trends in the churches.

In this connection we think of the movement called Lutherans Alert which operates a theological seminary in Tacoma, Wash. It is an organization attempting to appeal to the ALC, to call it to a more conservative stance. Its hope has been that the ALC would approve the seminary graduates for calls to ALC parishes. Thus far this has not been done. But why can't this be allowed? Faith Lutheran Seminary has an able faculty. Those men are mostly, if not all, from the ALC. They are teaching in the tradition of theology which existed for decades within the antecedent bodies of the ALC. Many parishes in the church would welcome graduates of Faith with open arms if given the opportunity.

It was interesting that Dr. Preus, a man out of the Norwegian Synod heritage, indicated that maybe it will be the laity of the church who will take the leadership in "the battle to maintain the truth." Perhaps if they call for greater freedom and choice, in selection of seminary graduates, something will happen.

We don't make it a practice to enter into the affairs of other church bodies, but there is some precedent, some recent precedent. We refer to those in the ALC and the Lutheran Church in America (LCA) who have been free with their advice to the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod (LCMS) in her internal theological struggles. So, heartened by that "interference" we write what we do today.

Thank God for the clarion call of another Dr. Preus at this particular time.

CHURCH PRESERVATION

While in Alberta, Canada, last July we became aware of something which is being done to preserve some no-longer-used country churches. It is this that the provincial government in some cases is giving financial assistance to restore these churches in order that they may be preserved as historical sites.

For instance, Zion Lutheran Church of Pleasington, rural Killam, an old Lutheran Free Church congregation, has now received a grant of money to aid in restoring and preserving the church as a landmark. The grant will have to be matched and more by friends of the church to do the work that needs to be done, but there apparently is the will to get the project done.

In this particular case, Zion congregation still exists as an entity even though services haven't been held in the church for some years. This will certainly make the task easier.

Another former LFC church in Alberta has also been the recipient of provincial assistance for restoration. We refer to Bethlehem of Ferry Point and also saw that church.

We can have a great deal of sympathy for these efforts to maintain no-longer-used but standing country churches. But each ownership organization will have to do what seems best. In the U.S., many empty churches are now owned by cemetery societies.

If churches cannot be kept up, what then? We have seen churches in complete disrepair, windows gone, doors open, the homes of rodents and birds. This is a sad sight. Equally sad is to see a church turned in to a granary right where the last service was held, as at Syre, Minn., or into a machine shed, as near Newfolden, Minn.

Much better then that a church is torn down and the lumber used to construct something else. And if a church has been moved away from the churchyard where it once stood as a landmark, then let the former members and friends raise up a monument, a granite one or a cairn with plaque, to indicate to passersby that there there once stood a house of God.

And when the restoration of Zion Lutheran Church in Alberta has been completed, with provincial help, we would like few things better than to be present at the day of festivities marking the conclusion of the project.

**THE MISSION COMPOUND AT
NOGALES, ARIZONA**

Sketched by

Stephen and Gerald Mundfrom

Note: This sketch was to have appeared in the March 22, 1977, issue of this magazine with the article, "Here We Come, Nogales," on pages 12 and 13.

The highway(s) in front of this acreage is highway 82 also called the Patagonia Road, extending from Patagonia to the northeast of us and going southwest into Nogales. Our mission is just outside the city limits and two miles from the U.S.-Mexican customs gate, in downtown Nogales.

The terrain of the mission grounds slopes up-hill from the highway with the church (a) in the back and on the highest end of the compound. Notice the winding road (e) going through the grounds up to the church.

The total area of this sketch represents about two acres. The back part, including the church (a) and parking lot (4) belongs to Triumph Lutheran Church. The right side of the grounds as you face the road (e) belongs to the Leonard Swansons. The left side belongs to the Dynnesons.

The developing of this mission has been done on six levels. Each number in the sketch indicates a different level. There are stone retaining walls between each level (d). The highest level (6) is a little three cornered piece of land above the church which is still undeveloped. Number five is the area on which the church is built. Number four is the parking lot. At present, number three is a chicken yard. The plans are that some day this should be a fruit orchard and park. Numbers one and two are for housing.

The following key will briefly explains what each letter on the map represents

a — The church.

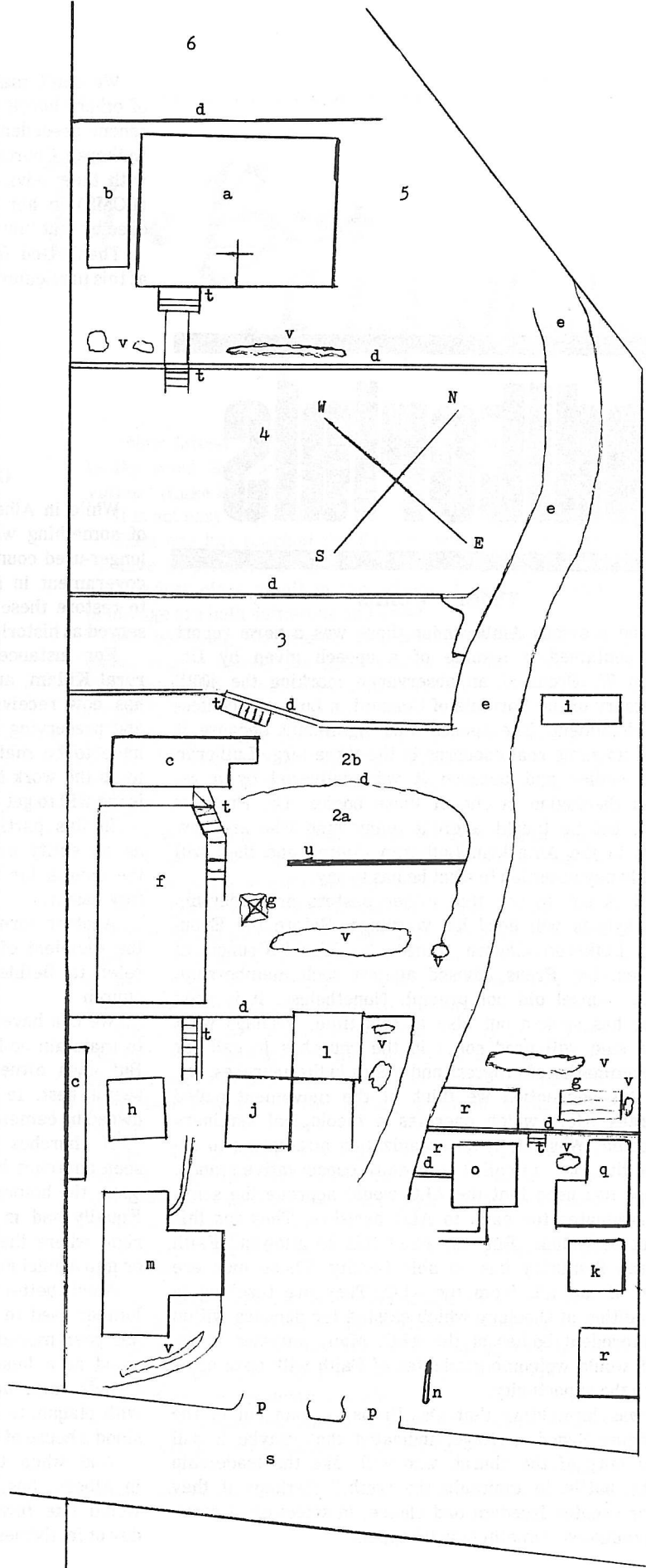
b — A trailer home belonging to Joe Wallace, a disabled war veteran who helps maintain the church and church grounds.

c — Storage houses

d — Retaining walls

e — Road

f — A home being built. The downhill side of this building houses my office and the bookstore at the pres-



ent. The upper part is in the process of being built. When finished the house will be our home.

- g — Clothes lines
- h — Pastor Dynneson's office
- i — A trailer house owned by the Will Lindquists, World Mission Prayer League missionaries.
- j — Car port and tool shed
- k — Car port and storage shed
- l — A guest house
- m — The Dynneson home
- n — Bookstore and church sign which can be seen from the highway.
- o — This is where we (the Mundforns) are now living. Eventually this building will house the bookstore.
- p — Driveways from the highway
- q — The Swanson home
- r — Garden spots
- s — Highway 82 or Patagonia road
- t — Steps
- u — Back wall of a proposed cottage unit for guests
- v — Trees and shrubbery



MY PRAYER

Lord, give us grace to be patient
And help us to be strong;
Give new hope for each tomorrow,
In our heart today, a song.
Let Your Word guide us in the right
way,
Though time often may seem long;
Give faith in our loving Savior,
To whom thanks and praise belong.
May God's love shine through to
others
As a witness clear and true,
With God's presence ever near us,
Show us clearly what to do.
"You are not so far away that the
Lord cannot reach you."
(Quote from the radio.)

Mrs. Laura Norum
Amery, Wis.

A service of music in Madagascar

WHEN GOD'S CHILDREN SING by Roger Ose

It was 7 p.m. Saturday evening, July 9. The sun had set more than an hour before, so I used my flashlight in order to find an empty pew in the big Antanimora Lutheran Church. The pastor had not yet lit the Petromax kerosene pressure lamps, so those who came early used flashlights to find their way. There were only half a dozen of us in the church.

Shortly after 7:15, the pastor brought in two big Petromax lamps. More than 300 young people and adults who had been waiting on the church lawn then came in to find their seats. Each pew was reserved for young people from a specific town, but this night it was first-come, first-served. And maybe 50 delegates found their seats taken by town people who came early. The problem was solved when more than thirty children were moved from the front pews to straw mats around the altar. And late comers, more than 50 of them, stood in the outside aisles of the church for the whole program.

Ten different singing groups participated in the program, each one singing three or more numbers. What did they sing? Psalms and portions of the New Testament sung to the beautiful old rural Malagasy folk melodies were popular. Some groups sang hymns from the Lutheran hymnal. Others sang anthems they had composed specifically for this convention. The Echoes of Heaven Choir that toured in America in 1973 sang F. Melius Christiansen's arrangement of "Beautiful Saviour," the "Hallelujah Chorus" from Handel's "Messiah," Luther's "A Mighty Fortress," and a couple other songs (all in Malagasy). As one group left the church later on I heard them singing "How Great Thou Art," the famous old Swedish melody with words translated into Malagasy.

Who were the singers? They were Luther League young people representing more than half of the districts

of the South-East Synod of the Malagasy Lutheran Church. Nearly all of them came from farm families and live in little one-room mud homes with straw roofs. A few of them were children born and raised in the city and you could usually spot them because they wore store-bought clothes and shoes that fit. But they had one thing in common. They loved to sing.

What did they wear? Nearly every one of the 15 or so choral groups wore robes or special outfits that they had sewn for the convention. Usually they chose bright green, gold, orange, red or white for their choir robes. It is not often they go to a convention like this, so nearly every young person from the country villages had a new dress, or new pants and shirt, that their mothers had sewn. Nearly all of the singers from the country were barefoot. But a few of the girls had bought sandals or shoes for the occasion. You could tell they weren't used to shoes, as they kicked them off almost as soon as they sat down in the pew. Some of the girls who are the style-setters wore skirts almost to the floor. That's quite a contrast from the mini-mini skirts that have been popular here for half a dozen years.

Who came to listen? Nearly all of the 253 delegates were there, plus another 80 or 90 folks from the town. That Saturday night it was wall-to-wall people. I smiled as I thought of how a sardine must feel. They packed more than ten people into those pews that were made to comfortably seat seven. But they didn't mind. They were thoroughly enjoying the concert.

True to style, one of the Petromax lamps gave out shortly after the program started. This pastor showed more foresight than I have usually seen here. He had a third Petromax in the sacristy ready to go in case one of the two gave out. He also had 20 candles on hand in case all lamps gave out. The night before they used an Onan 750-watt generator for light and it gave out before the program was over. So now they had candles as a back-up.

When the pastor closed the meeting around 10 p.m., nearly everybody wanted more. What a delightful evening to be in Antanimora, Madagascar.

THE LUTHERAN CHURCH - MISSOURI SYNOD

500 NORTH BROADWAY · SAINT LOUIS, MISSOURI 63102

OFFICE OF THE
PRESIDENT



231-6969
AREA CODE 314

August 9, 1977

The Reverend Dennis D. Gray
Secretary, Association of
Free Lutheran Congregations
3110 East Medicine Lake Boulevard
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55427

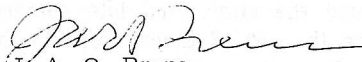
Dear Reverend Gray:

This is to acknowledge receipt of your letter dated August 2,
in which you express special greetings from the Annual
Conference of the Association of Free Lutheran Congregations.

We had a fine convention at Dallas and it appears that the
members of The Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod are
determined to maintain their traditional position on the inspira-
tion, inerrancy, and authority of the Holy Scriptures.

May the blessings of the Lord rest upon those who were
prompted to send me this fine letter of support.

Cordially


J. A. O. Preus
President

JAOP:ek

NEW MEMBERS TAKEN IN AT ZUMBROTA CHURCH

Five families, including nine adults and nine children, were received into membership in Our Savior's Lutheran Church, Zumbrota, Minn., on Sunday, May 8. Pastor John DeBoer was in charge of the service in which they were admitted.

Rev. Hubert F. DeBoer, Thief River Falls, Minn., a son of Pastor John DeBoer, spoke at special services at Our Savior's, April 20-22. He also preached at the worship service on April 24. Special music was provided at each service.

CHANGE MADE IN SPEAKERS AT WILLMAR MEETING

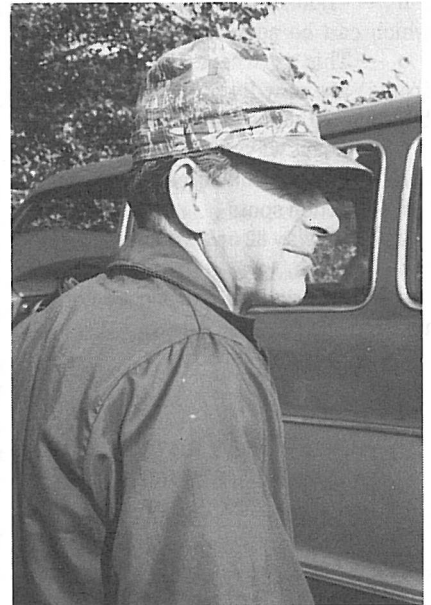
Due to a change in plans, Rev. Dale R. Mellgren, Abercrombie, N. Dak., will be unable to speak at the Women's Missionary Federation rally at Zion Lutheran Church, Willmar, Minn., Oct. 4.

Mrs. Art Arneson of Green Lake Lutheran Church, Spicer, Minn., will lead the morning Bible study. At the afternoon session, Rev. Dennis Gray, pastor of Zion Church, will bring the message.

The rally is sponsored by the Southwest Central District WMF.

(Continued from page 5)

Maintenance Superintendent of Buildings and Grounds. The Clearbrook, Minnesota, native has been the husband of McIntosh's Ione Brekke for over twenty-five years. God blessed their marriage with five children. He is a charter member of the re-organized Rosedale Lutheran Church where he has served as the congregation's chairman and is currently a deacon.

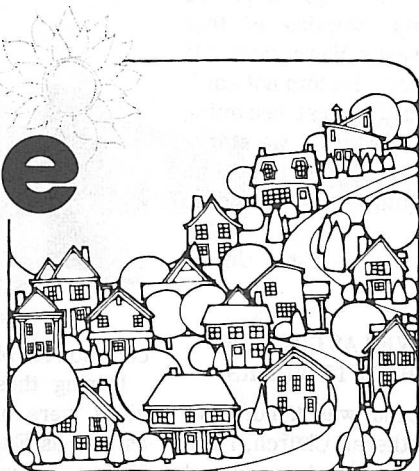


H. Donald Hansen

Don wasn't always working on the grounds. He served the Lord as the AFLC bookkeeper from January, 1965, until the fall of 1967. He then was Business Manager until 1972. Did he do more than just books? According to Don, "We did some work here—grounds grubbing and stuff. Whatever had to be done."

In the late 1960's, Don developed back trouble. Exercise relieved the pain so in 1972, he was grateful to join Cliff Holm in his current position. "Sometimes," he said, "you may do so much walking that your feet may fall off. But, nevertheless, it's good for you."

Life on the Edge of Town



WHAT'S IN A NAME?

Why is this feature called "Life on the Edge of Town"? I'm glad you asked. It was begun at Medicine Lake and that is situated on the edge of metropolitan Minneapolis. Here at Newfolden (since August 16) I am living on the extreme edge of town. But beyond that, every home in my life has been on the edge of town. Someone else will have to figure out what that means. The only exception was the years I spent at Augsburg College and Seminary in Minneapolis and even then we were not all that far from the east edge of the city.

I'll have to set the scene for you about our home in Newfolden. After all, I'll be telling you about it from time to time. My grandparents Lee bought 21 acres on the east side of Newfolden and built a retirement home, moving in in 1919. In 1940 our family moved to a plot about in the center of the acreage and today it is an acre in size. A few years ago I bought seven or eight acres out of the larger piece, all of it fronting on the south on Middle River, the usually docile stream that caused us so much trouble two years ago in July. Yes, I'm a landowner, but most of it is river bottom and all is wooded.

My Uncle George Lee, now deceased, sold some lots along the west side of the larger piece for trailer house lots, although one has a permanent dwelling on it now. The rest of the acreage is owned by his estate.

In addition to my woods, there is a patch of trees on the north side. It is a great place for wild cranberries and we took what we wanted there this summer, too. In all, the trees, exclusive of a great variety of bushes, are mostly poplar, balm of Gilead, oak, box elder, ash and elm. Along the east side of the whole property is a drainage ditch. Before that was put in there was only a barbed wire fence, for Grandpa and others, including us, used the land as pasture for cows.

A HOUSE ADDITION

We're building a two-room addition to our house. The work started in late June and when you read this, it will be very close to completion. It's taken longer than we thought it would, but that seems to be par for the course.

Part of the addition will be an extension of our living room and the other part will provide me with an office, as well as some closet space. It will

be nice when I can move into that.

Our home is one-story. Maybe it could be called a bungalow or ranch-style, although it was built before that term really became popular. Here we live, Mother, my sister Valborg, who teaches third grade in school, and I. I'm back here to live for a while after being away for 31 years. It's a place I love and I look forward to watching the seasons come and go here as I did as a boy, a teenager.

A CANADIAN GRAVE

Norman and Blanche Hagen of Forestburg, Alberta, took me out to see their country church, Zion of Pleasington, after we had had our noon lunch at their farm home last July. The church was in a lovely spot, standing to the north of the cemetery. The church has great windows and an attractive altar. I knew my father had been there for circuit or district meetings back in the '30s. I thought of the church in its active and busy days, of a congregation seated there for worship.

I asked them to show me the grave of Pastor Merle Erickson. Some of you remember him, you people around Bagley, Minn., Binford, N. Dak., and other places. I remember when I first met him, at an outdoor service at Julius Anderson's near Hamar, N. Dak. That fall we were at Augsburg together, although he was much older than I. Merle was a roommate and friend of our Pastor Amos Dyrud.

He wore his hair close-cropped. He looked the student and was a student. How would I describe him? Bespectacled, quiet, serious-minded. He served at Bagley for a couple years and then went up to Canada, as I remember it. He had married and raised a family. Then he became one of the victims of cancer.

There on the flat gravestone I read his name and the dates 1914-1962. That would make 48 years. So that was his workday. To some is given more, to some less. The important thing is what we put into the years we have. And blessed are those who give them to Jesus Christ.

—Raynard Huglen



WORK AND OVERWORK

"In Tanzania the people work to live; in America we live to work." A visitor to Tanzania compared these two nations in this way. It's true that most of us Americans pride ourselves in working hard. It is considered to be an extremely high compliment when someone says of us, "He surely is a hard worker" or "There isn't a lazy bone in his body."

Not only the young, but many older people as well, become slaves of work. Colonel Sanders, father of Kentucky Fried Chicken, remarked that in the Garden of Eden God didn't tell Adam that he should work just until retirement age. God said, "In the sweat of your face you shall eat bread till you return to the ground." Mr. Sanders interprets this to mean that God intends for us to work until we die.

This strong emphasis upon work is certainly commendable. The Bible commends industry and it warns against laziness. However, the Bible also warns against the danger of overwork. In Psalm 127:2, we read, "It is in vain that you rise up early and go late to rest, eating the bread of anxious toil." No matter how much material wealth we gain by overwork, it can yet be unprofitable.

One reason that God warns against overwork is that it can harm our physical health. In regard to overwork, Dr. Paul Tournier said, "Every day doctors have to deal with people who are worn out and unable to stand up to the life they lead." Another reason for God warning us against overwork is that it is injurious to our spiritual health.

In Jesus' parable of the wedding feast, those who refused the invitation were those who considered themselves too busy. Thus they deprived themselves of the blessing of that feast. Although God's Word says, "If anyone will not work, let him not eat," God also warns us against becoming so busy with our work that we starve our immortal souls. Let us take time to come apart from our work and go to Jesus for rest.

—Einar Unseth



Mrs. Myrtle Lund

WOMAN SERVES AS CHURCH PIANIST FOR FIFTY YEARS

Mrs. Myrtle Lund was honored at Beaver Creek Lutheran Church, rural Ray, N. Dak., on Sunday, August 21, for being the church's pianist for about 50 years. A dinner was served following the service.

The following history was given by Mrs. Doris Vance: Today we honor Myrtle Johnson Lund for her years of service as pianist of Beaver Creek Church. When in the grades at school she took instruction from Miss Emily Lever, who was organist in the church at that time.

Later, while Rev. Art Johnson was pastor here, his wife was expecting a baby and was unable to play for services. Then he said, "Myrtle, you must play for church today." She was only 12 years old but she picked her own hymns and went to the church to practise. From that time on it was

common for Myrtle to be helping out.

During those early years the services were often held in Norwegian as well as English. Someone who read Norwegian would tell her how many verses to play. For about ten years she played on an old-fashioned organ, until 1929 when a piano was purchased for the church. It is at that piano that we hear her these days.

Except for a few times that others helped out or when she was unable to be here, Myrtle has faithfully served the church. Roughly speaking, we think this adds up to 50 or more years.

We thank you, Myrtle, and may the Lord bless you.

Beaver Creek Church is one of the rural congregations of the Tioga, N. Dak., parish, which is served by Rev. Forrest Swenson and lay assistant Clifford Dyrud.

—Corr.

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

BUDGET RECEIPTS
February 1 - August 31, 1977

<u>Fund</u>	<u>Total Budget 1977-78</u>	<u>Current Budget</u>	<u>Received during August</u>	<u>Total Rec'd to date</u>	<u>% of Current</u>	<u>% of Total</u>
General Fund	\$ 72,680.00	\$ 42,396.62	\$ 4,033.71	\$ 29,775.74	70.	41.
Schools	119,452.00	69,678.23	5,947.45	43,024.44	61.7	36.
Home Missions	75,000.00	43,750.00	3,511.43	30,331.87	69.3	40.4
Foreign Missions	85,345.00	49,784.56	3,620.90	42,743.92	85.8	50.
Praise Fund	30,000.00	17,500.00	465.96	11,021.37	63.	36.7
TOTAL	\$382,477.00	\$222,481.56	\$18,045.41	\$156,897.24	70.5	41.
1976-77	\$395,649.00	\$197,824.50	\$19,671.71	\$142,124.11	61.4	35.3
Legacies: \$32,295.55						

**SPECIAL ISSUE OF LWF
JOURNAL: LUTHERAN
CHURCHES IN THE WORLD**

Geneva (LC) — "Lutheran Churches in the World," a double issue of the Lutheran World Federation quarterly journal, is now in circulation.

The 237-page journal, *Lutheran World*, with capsule sketches and statistics on Lutheran churches around the world, was edited by Dr. E. Theodore Bachmann of the LWF Office of Communication.

An English-language edition of the journal is available through Augsburg Publishing House, 426 South Fifth Street, Minneapolis, Minn., and a German edition is expected to be ready this month.

Lutheran churches in more than 100 countries are presented in the double issue of the journal, in sketches that give their history, membership and addresses. The journal also explains the sometimes complicated structure of synods, dioceses and regional associations which make up the various LWF member churches.

Also included is a history of each country where Lutherans are or have been active, noting governmental, historical, religious and social developments.

Dr. Bachmann notes in the preface to the volume that "in virtually all cases descriptions of respective churches have been checked by the heads or knowledgeable members of these churches." Help in completing the material was also received from the area secretaries of the LWF Department of Church Cooperation.

**PASTOR AND MRS. UNSETH
HONORED ON 25TH
WEDDING ANNIVERSARY**

Pastor and Mrs. Einar Unseth, Ortley, S. Dak., were honored on their 25th wedding anniversary recently at Ortley Lutheran Church. Pastor Unseth is the writer of the feature "A Minister's Musings" found in each issue of the *Ambassador* this year. The event was hosted by their sons, Nathan, Peter, Andrew, Reuben, Ben and Joe.

The program opened with singing and remarks by Nathan, who was master of ceremonies. A humorous song was sung by the Unseths' sons, accompanied by their daughter-in-law, Mrs. Nathan Unseth. Mr. Arlo Kneeland presented the couple with a gift from the congregation. Slides were shown by son Andrew who had arranged and prepared them, with Nathan narrating, which depicted various stages of the couple's 25 years of marriage.

Pastor and Mrs. Unseth were Married Aug. 23, 1952 in Bethany Lutheran Church on Franklin Avenue, Minneapolis, Minn. They have served as missionaries to Japan under the Evangelical Lutheran Church, and in parishes at Fertile, Ia., Woodland, Mich., and Mona, Ia., in addition to Ortley.

—Based on the report from the
Webster (S. Dak.) Reporter and
Farmer.

GOLDEN AGE BANQUET

On Sunday evening, August 21st, the Pairs and Spares Couples Club of Trinity Lutheran, Minnewaukan, N. Dak., served a Golden Age Banquet for many residents of the Minnewaukan, Leeds, Churches Ferry and Oberon communities. The theme of the banquet was "The Promises of God," with the program being hosted by the president of Pairs and Spares, Carlyle Johnson. "Blessed Assurance" was sung by the members of the Couples Club, followed by everyone joining in the singing of old favorite choruses. Door prizes were awarded to the guests by Mrs.



A scene from the Golden Age Banquet

Richard Foss. After the main course was served, various poems and readings were shared. A trio consisting of Mrs. Dwayne Herman, Mrs. Boyd Haagenson and Mrs. Ron Carlson favored the group with several selections. Many promises from the Bible were shared as the guests opened their "promise" cookies. LeRoy Flickenger, student pastor, brought a brief message. The evening concluded with the singing of "God Be With You 'Till We Meet Again" and closing prayer by Rev. Timothy Skramstad, pastor of Trinity.

—Corr.

CHURCH PEW COURTESY

"If I'm sitting at the end of a rather empty pew and others come to sit in the pew, what should I do?"

Courtesy holds that you don't remain there and make the new arrivals crawl over you. If you want to retain your place at the end of the pew, step out into the aisle, let the new arrivals come into the pew, then resume your sitting at the end of the pew.

If you aren't particular about where in the pew you sit, then, when your pew is chosen by those arriving after you, move toward the center, or toward the opposite end of the pew, thus giving the newcomers free access to the pew. (From the bulletin of St. John's Lutheran, Daykin)

Do we welcome visitors, newcomers, new members and others who may worship with us? This is especially an appropriate question now that St. John's is receiving new members

In communities like ours, we have known each other so well for so many years that it's easy to forget that not everyone has always been here and/or knows everyone else in church. We don't mean to be cold or unfriendly, but it adds up to this if we let newcomers stand around uncertainly, without a friend, then go home to say: "No one there except the pastor spoke to me." (And—Pastor isn't in a posi-

tion to make sure that our members greet our visitors.)

If you brought the newcomer—a relative from a distance, a college roommate, or the like, it's up to you to do the introducing. Otherwise, why not take it upon yourself to speak to that individual and let him/her know you're glad he/she came and hope will return? Often, they will, and you'll both feel better.

—Parish Paper, St. John's
and Grace Lutheran Churches,
Ohioa, Nebr.

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

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