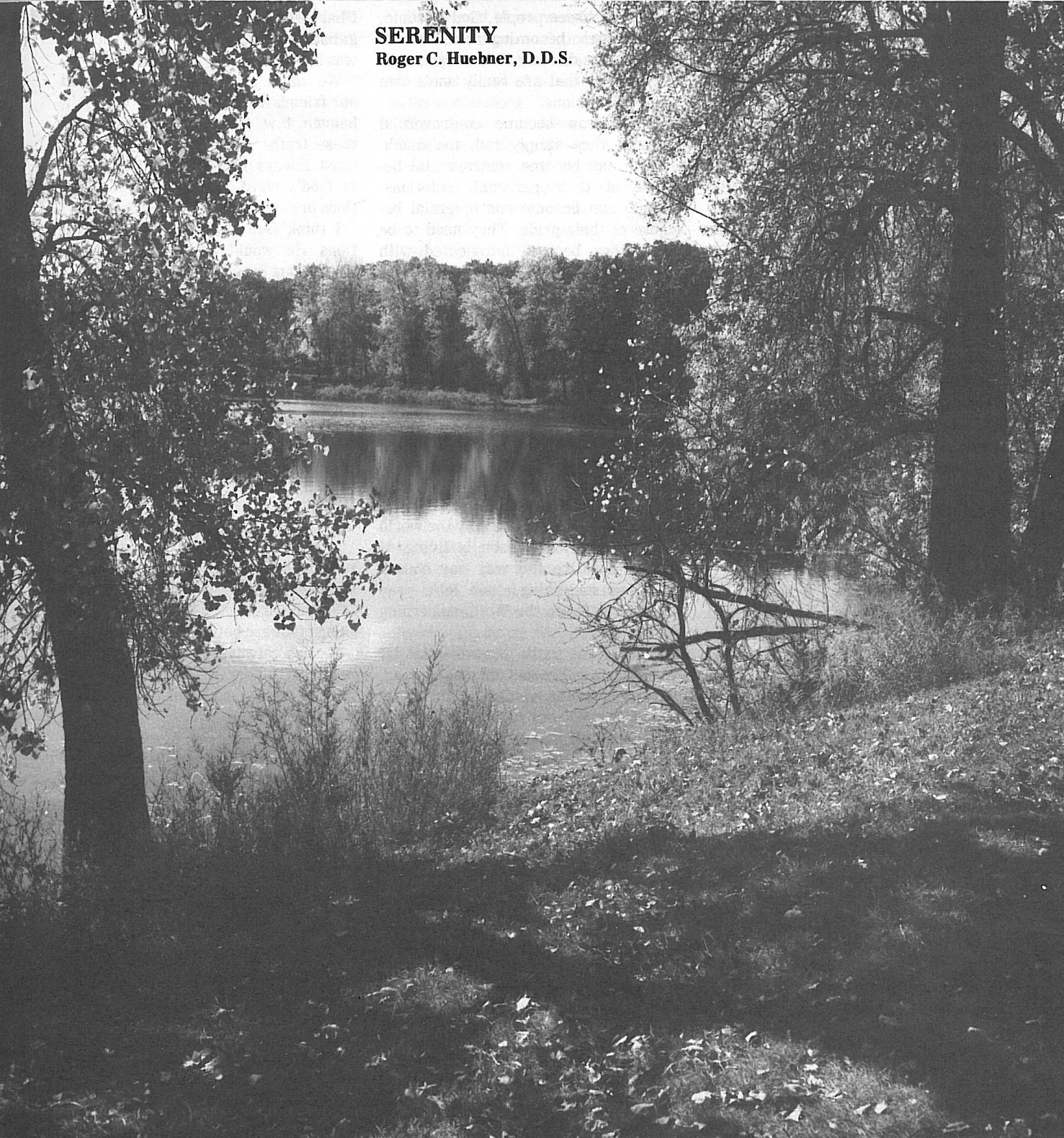


September 6, 1977

The Lutheran Ambassador

SERENITY

Roger C. Huebner, D.D.S.



MEDITATION MOMENTS

CONTROVERSY Nehemiah 6:3

Our world is in real trouble today, which is not something new. But the trouble is different and thus creating even greater controversy.

For instance, it is trouble that makes news today. We are a problem-conscious people. We look at the farm problem, the money problem, the oil problem, the inflation problem, the pollution problem, the crime problem, the moral problem, etc. Also there seems to be a different spirit today, a spirit of revolution. And all of this brings controversy. Controversy not only in the world but also in the church.

As we look at Scripture, we see that Nehemiah lived amidst controversy. When Jesus walked this world, He was controversial. When the Apostle Paul came into a town he many times ended up in jail or he was run out of town.

I think that it is important to talk about this subject because controversy is all around us, in our churches as well as in our communities.

Is controversy bad? I think it all depends on WHY one is controversial. In the case of Jesus, Paul, etc., we find that they did not seek to be controversial, **but controversy came to their lives as a result or by-product of the truth that they preached.** They were controversial in the major, eternal, things of life.

In our text, Nehemiah had a wall to build and he would not come down to get involved in something of lesser importance than the building of that wall.

It is sad to see people, God's people, many times, becoming controversial and causing discontent in minor, self-ish matters that are really one's own personal opinions.

People can become controversial because they simply talk too much. People can become controversial because of their personal ambitions. People can become controversial because of their pride. They need to be seen, they become intoxicated with themselves. People can become controversial over a worship service, over clothes, over a pastor, over the design of a church.

When I think about this, I am reminded in Matthew 13 of the sower and how we do not know his name, or how many souls he helped. What we do know is that he was a sower. For that is really all he could ever be.

God is the one who changes things and if we do not like the way the world is or the way a person is living, if we do not like the way our church is doing something, then let's pray about it or share the Word concerning it.

If we have to be controversial let it be as a by-product of our praying, our proclaiming of God's Word, our unselfish obedience to our Lord.

Because all of us are controversial to some extent and because controversy is all around us maybe these rules will help us in dealing with controversy.

1. Approach controversy with **honesty.** Jesus became violent with the

Pharisees because they were blind legalists. He tried to wake them up. He was honest.

We must approach the world and our friends with God's Word. Sin, hell, heaven, law, Gospel, judgment, all of these truths must be shared. But we must always remember that it must be God's Word, not our own imaginations or revelations.

I think God gets involved in situations He would never, by Himself, have a part in.

2. Approach controversy with **compassion.** Jesus was never brutal. He wept over Jerusalem.

We have people today who cannot be happy unless they can be in the middle of tearing someone down. There are Christian papers today that would go out of business if they couldn't stir up trouble.

Love is the greatest gift of the Spirit. Only God can give it, and how we need it today.

3. Controversy must be met with **responsibility.** We are accountable for what we say. Some make light of this fact, but we shouldn't. There are some things that are better not said.

It has always been much more pleasing to hear what people are for, than what they are against.

Controversy is all around us. It will come to our churches, our communities, maybe our homes. May God give us the wisdom to deal with it rightly. And may we remember that the question is not always, are you controversial? but WHY are you controversial?

David C. Molstre

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The Choir in Norway



The AFLBS Choir singing the Norwegian National Anthem at the Innermission house in Sandefjord. The director is Donald Rodvold.

Grimstad, Norway—

After its initial appearance at the Vestre Frikirke in Oslo on July 26, the Bible School Choir headed south on the east side of Oslo Fjord to the vicinity of Fredrikstad and Sarpsborg, about 70 miles away.

The immediate destination was Tomb Jordbrukskole, which was to be the headquarters until over the following Sunday. This school is in the nature of an experimental farm operated by the Indremisjonsselskap (Innermission Society), but receives financial support from the State. This may sound strange to Americans, that a mission society should operate a school of agriculture, and that financial support for such a venture should come from the State, but it seems to work well here.

The Church, through its voluntary mission societies, does not compete with the area of primary, secondary or higher education, though it is true that the Department of Church and Education is one department in the government and the Church has its influence here. But the mission societies endeavor to supply some kind of education to those who do not intend to become professionals in any field, but who would like to attain a higher degree of proficiency in their field.

In one sense, these are vocational schools and there are about 50 such youth schools, mostly maintained by the mission societies. All of these have some common courses of study such as Bible study, history, literature and music. Each has its specialty, such as domestic science, homemaking, secretarial studies, carpentry, welding, mechanics, agriculture, and the like. The Bible School at Medicine Lake would be classified as a youth high school here.

The facilities at Tomb were of the best. Here we were to stay for five days to participate in tent meetings and programs in the area prayer houses.

Since this was a school of agriculture to train people to become better farmers, the work has to go on the year around. Formal class work is discontinued for the summer, but the farm work has to go on. The farm is of about 300 acres in size and is said to be the eighth largest farm in Norway. They were currently milking about 90 cows. They also have beef cattle and are experimenting to produce better strains of cattle. They are also doing the same with pigs. They have about 7,000 hens. Forestry studies are also carried on.

The evangelistic meetings were be-

ing conducted in a large tent seating 500 people. Though it was July, they had three electric heaters to take the chill off before the evening sessions were started. The Choir held a full-orbed concert after 9 o'clock on the first evening we were there. The tent was packed for the concert; this was largely true for Thursday and Friday evenings, too. The audience was mainly composed of vacationing campers in nearby areas.

Since we were near the Swedish border, we decided to take a trip into Sweden as well. They had what amounted to a tent city here and offered all kinds of goods for sale to Norwegians who crossed over into their country.

The most exciting experience of the day was a visit to the birthplace and childhood home of Hans Nielsen Hauge. We were given the privilege of going all through the house and the students were asking which was Hans Nielsen Hauge's room. The undersigned had the privilege of telling about the activities and importance of this "Apostle of Norway." The students were exceptionally attentive; tears were detected in the eyes of some of them.

On the way back to the Tomb School

(Continued on page 4)

(Continued from page 3)

we visited Haugetun, a folk high school near Hauge's home, operated by mission people. Some of our girls were even considering transferring to this school when they learned that they offered courses in pre-nursing studies. One of the Haugetun students was seriously considering coming to Medicine Lake.

Tomb had many kinds of fruit growing, but labor costs were too high to make it pay to pick all of the fruit. So the AFLBS people volunteered to pick red currants. By noon they had picked the better part of a barrel; before evening these had been sugared and placed in deep freeze for winter use.

Sunday, July 31, was a great day; it was the annual "Tomb Day." Next morning the papers reported that eight thousand people had been present. They brought their own food for the day; most of them brought folding chairs, too; the rest sat in the grass. Services were held at 11, 2 and 4. The American Choir, as it is called here, sang at all of these. As they were singing, the undersigned sidled over to Lars Karevold, a former Prime Minister. He stood listening motionlessly. He spoke only one word, but he spoke it twice: "Katedralkor! Katedralkor!" (Cathedral Choir!). Incidentally, he is running for the Norwegian parliament again on September 12. He is a member of the Christian People's Party. The newspapers here write of him as the one who has the greatest chance of being elected. It was partly through his influence that our Choir was invited to Norway this time.

More later.

Dr. Iver Olson



What one newspaper in Norway reported about the Choir

Vibrant Bible School Choir from the USA

A person can marvel again and again over what Americans have in all categories of musical recruiting. Nearly every single year Larvik has a visit from one or another choir, band or orchestra, usually associated with an American college, and up to now we have rarely heard anything half-good. To say nothing of anything poor.

Of course, a person never sends anything poor or half-good out on tour to represent himself. But it is impressive just the same to be confronted so constantly with so many superb renditions by the talented ensemble or the equally talented choral group.

Music must have a very special place in every American high school in spite of what Gallup research has reported about the plunge into materialism and the "rat race" of the American youth.

Enough of that—a goodly number of people found their way to Larvik church yesterday (August 3) where a leading Bible School choir from the USA, the Association Free Lutheran Choir, filled the 300-year old church with choir music of seldom-experienced vitality and perfection. Much excellent music has been heard in the jubilee-celebrating church over the past couple years. We have, among others, the concerts of both the Johannes- and Olav-boy choirs, fresh in our memories. But the experience of yesterday was indeed not of any lesser caliber.

The choir is, however, only one of three at this particular American Bible school. And for all we know, there are perhaps 100 American Bible schools with choirs of the same caliber.

The only comfort for our own music world is that the USA is a great deal larger than Norway.

—Translated from *Østlands Posten*

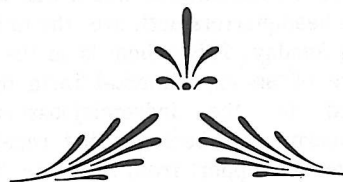
LUTHERAN CHURCH—CANADA ELECTS NEW PRESIDENT

Mississauga, Ontario (LC) — The Rev. Elroy Treit of Killarney Park Lutheran Church, Vancouver, B.C., was elected president of the Lutheran Church-Canada at its annual convention here.

The LC-C is the administrative unit of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod in Canada. It has 365 congregations and more than 95,000 baptized members.

As he accepted the presidency, Mr. Treit said his objectives will be to promote and strengthen the LC-C as an entity; to become an independent, indigenous sister of the Missouri Synod; to work for doctrinal unity with other church bodies, particularly Lutherans, and to speak on public affairs through the Lutheran Council in Canada.

The new president succeeds the Rev. Louis Scholl of Windsor, Ontario. Under his leadership the convention established a task force to learn from constituents of Missouri Synod congregations in Canada how high on their priority list is the matter of one Lutheran Church in the country.



ONE MORE GRADUATE

Two men are expected to complete their seminary work on Dec. 21, not just one, as reported in the August 9th *Ambassador*, page 13. Paul Persson's name was inadvertently left out in that report. He and John Koski will be the mid-term graduates of Free Lutheran Theological Seminary, Minneapolis, Minn.

Women For Christ

THE 1977 PRAYER VIGIL

The WMF executive board voted to again encourage a 24-hour vigil of all AFLC congregations beginning Monday evening, October 3, at 6:00 p.m. Let us especially pray for "Spiritual Awakening and Growth in our Local Congregations."

Each congregation should have a Prayer Vigil chairman, pastor or layman. The chairman should see to it that someone is praying every hour during the 24-hour prayer vigil. Have a schedule made up and get the people to sign it. As people come into the church to pray and meditate, have prayer passages and requests either listed on a large blackboard or printed for them to use as references. If the church is open all night, make certain men are there during the hours from midnight to 6:00 a.m.

Passages for meditation: Is. 55:6, 51:9; Ps. 139:23, 24, 19:14; Acts 2:38; John 5:39; Col. 3:16; Lk. 24:53; Heb. 13:15, 16; I Pet. 2:9; Ps. 107:8; Phil. 4:4, 6, 7; Rom. 12:12; I Jn. 4:12, 13; I Cor. 15:34, 57, 58; Ps. 145.

Specific suggestions for prayer:

1. Give thanks and praise to our Lord God for the many blessings we have received in our AFLC, such as our leaders, the preaching and teaching of the true Word, the growth of our Association, the fellowship and unity among our members, growth of our schools, new missionaries, financial support and many more.

2. Pray for the Holy Spirit to work mightily in our midst and in our lives and for a Church reborn and re-awakened by the power of the Holy Spirit so that this may be our finest hour of Christian service and sharing.

3. Pray for penitent hearts—deep conviction of sin—sincere conviction of sin—full and complete surrender of hearts and lives to the Lordship of Jesus Christ—a personal faith in a personal God who comes to us in the Person of Jesus to meet every one of our personal needs.

4. Pray for our local congregation, our pastor, laymen, deacons, trustees, Sunday School superintendent, teachers, other leaders and officers.

5. Pray for the "arms" of our local congregation, such as the WMF group, Brotherhood group, Sunday School, Vacation Bible School, Luther League, Young Couples' Club, Choirs, and others.

6. Pray for your neighbors and your community, seeking God's guidance in finding His place of service for you individually and as a congregation.

7. Pray for our AFLC. Pray for our President, our Board members, our staff. Pray for the individual congregations and pastors throughout our nation. Pray for the homes and families.

8. Let us pray for the homes of our nation. Pray for Christian fathers and mothers. Pray for family altars in each home. Pray that parents who compromise and lead their children on the road to death and destruction may surrender to Jesus Christ before it is too late.

9. Pray that a mighty spiritual revival may begin in the Church of Jesus Christ, to spread to the ends of the earth. May it begin with our own individual churches and our whole AFLC.

10. Pray for a greater hunger and deeper sense of need for the Word of God.

11. Pray for a real burden for lost

people everywhere.

12. Pray the Lord of the harvest that He would send forth laborers into His harvest field. Pray that those called will obey the call of the Master and respond with "Here am I, send me."

13. Pray for Home Missions. Pray for Pastor Elden Nelson, our Home Missions Director, that God will give him wisdom and strength for each need. Pray for each Home Mission congregation. Pray that as fields open to us, we might move into them, and then as our financial obligations increase, that we, as the family of God, will also increase our giving so that the work of the Kingdom will not be curtailed or slowed down.

14. Pray for World Missions. Pray for our work in Brazil—our missionaries and their families, the national workers, our Bible School and Seminary there. Pray for those of the world who are hungry, homeless and forgotten. Pray that God will forgive us our sin of lack of concern for those in need. Let us be willing to share of our abundance with those near and far who suffer and endure for His sake and for the fulfillment of His plan and purpose.

15. Pray that as individuals and as a congregation our hearts will be burdened with the financial needs for both our Home and Foreign Missions.

16. Pray for our Seminary and Bible School. Pray for the teachers and workers, as well as the students, that the Word of Christ may dwell in them richly, equipping them for service wherever the Lord may lead them.

17. Pray for our Evangelist/Youth Worker, Pastor David Molstre, and his family. May our congregations and youth programs in each church be revived as well as souls saved as a result of our prayers and God's servant being found in God's will.

* * * * *

Remember there is enough to pray about not only for one hour, but for 24 hours for each one of us.

Prepared by Mrs. Laura Hegge and Mrs. Reuben Emberson, St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Cloquet, Minnesota.

LUTHER LEAGUE ACTIVITIES

1977 Luther League Convention Report

“COMPLETE IN CHRIST”

“To whom God would make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory; Whom we preach, warning every man, and teaching every man in all wisdom, THAT WE MAY PRESENT EVERY MAN PERFECT IN CHRIST JESUS” (Colossians 1:27-28).

We thank God for the victories that were won in His name at our 1977 AFLC Luther League Federation Convention held at Our Redeemer Lutheran Church in Kirkland, Washington, from Tuesday-Sunday, July 12-17. Over 300 youth were registered for the convention, and larger crowds filled the church for evening services. Approximately 85 from the east took the train and many came in cars and vans. This was an exciting trip for many of the midwest youth who had never been outside their own state.

But best of all were the changed lives and the many commitments to Christ. This is our greatest concern.

The days were full of activities. Mornings were divided up into several electives: Evangelism—Pastor Mike Brandt; Christian Education—Pastor Richard Anderson; Cults and Isms—Pastor Richard Snipstead; Home and Family—Pastor Al Monson; Doctrine—Pastor Terry Olson; Leadership—Pastor Ken Moland, and several speakers for Missions. Bible teachers were Pastor Phil Haugen and Pastor David Molstre. Afternoons were spent in sightseeing in Seattle, shopping and various recreational opportunities.

We greatly sensed the presence of the Lord during our evening services and afterglows. Young and old came forward each night to accept Christ or right their relationships with Him. Special music included John Grant, the convention choir, John Rieth, the Ambassadors from our AFLC Bible School, and the Crossroads Quartet. Our guest speaker was Rev. Ralph Bell of the Billy Graham Association. We thank God for his clear messages which pointed us to the need of total commitment to Christ, not on our own terms, but on His. In the final message which Pastor Bell shared on Sunday morning, he challenged us concerning the cost of discipleship. He said that discipleship (1) includes man's highest affections. This not only includes loving God above loved ones, self, and everything, but also hating anything in our lives that is unclean and robs us of the reality of the Lord and hinders our relationship with Christ. It means to conform my desires so that all I want is what He wants. Discipleship also (2) excludes hasty professions. Change must take place deeper than at the surface and this does not happen overnight. Life's race is not a quick sprint but a long-distance marathon and there is danger even on the last lap. The issue in counting the cost is willingness and determination, and being ready to sacrifice regardless of the cost. But is it worth it? Yes, beyond doubt, it's worth it!

The business meeting was held on Saturday afternoon. The following were elected to serve as LLF officers for the next two years: (President)

Pastor Dale Mellgren, Abercrombie, N. Dak.; (First Vice-Pres.) Mark Antal, Valley City, N. Dak.; (Second Vice-Pres.) Kevin Spading, Kirkland, Wash.; (Secretary) Karen Russum, Grafton, N. Dak.; (Treasurer) Arne Berge, Binford, N. Dak.; (Devotional Life Secretary) Tad Spading, Kirkland. Outgoing officers were: Rev. Richard Anderson, Gary Jorgenson, Don Olson, Stephen Lee, and Linda Moan. A motion was passed that the LLF assist in paying the salary of our Evangelist/Youth Worker, Pastor David Molstre.

We want to thank all who made the convention such a blessing and to all who made it possible for their young people to come, through gifts and prayers. We express special thanks to Pastor and Mrs. Robert Rieth and the congregation of Our Redeemer who so cheerfully and diligently planned and worked, as well as graciously opened up their homes for everyone for lodging. We thank God for the promise of I Corinthians 15:57-58!

* * * * *

Friend, how about you? Have you found your completeness in Christ, or are you dissatisfied with Him? Are you looking for something “extra” to make your spiritual life exciting? Are you still clinging to some old pleasure or to bad companions to fill the emptiness in your life? Or are you harboring an unforgiving spirit toward another person, which is draining you of joy and spiritual power? If you are feeling incomplete, don't blame Jesus! As Pastor Molstre said, “Christ is complete not only for our salvation but also for our sanctification.” Your completeness in Him is in direct proportion to the completeness of your surrender to Him. MAKE CHRIST YOUR LORD! When your commitment to Him is complete, you will find yourself joyfully and eternally complete in Him.

—Linda Moan
Secretary

IN THESE END TIMES

Men are filled with apprehension,
Yet there is no comprehension
As the prophecies in Scripture
Keep fulfilling every day.
No true leaders in the nation;
There's a specter of starvation;
Men have turned their face from God
And each has gone his own sad way.

As in the days of Noah,
Man is seeking worldly pleasures,
And he's storing up his treasures
Where moth and rust corrupt.
All mankind is turning inward,
There's distrust toward one another,
We're not seeking heavenly guidance
And the end will be abrupt.

No man can tell exactly
The hour the Lord's returning,
Yet the very fact He will
Is stated clearly in His Word.
So gather, all you Christians,
Be assured of YOUR salvation;
Let us be about our mission—
We must make our voices heard.

The proclamation of the Gospel
Is the duty of His servants;
Yet you serve another master
If your silence is not broken.
For the gift of life eternal
Is a promise to all people
From our Father up in heaven;
In a vision it was spoken.

Prepare your life as you would have
it,
For the Lord gave you the free will
To act upon His message,
And the choice will be your own.
As for me, the words of Joshua
Ring out clearly from God's history,
And for me and mine,
They truly set the tone.

"Choose ye this day whom ye will
serve.

... But as for me and my house,
We will serve the Lord."

Written by Sam Spading,
and shared at our Luther
League Convention



THE GATHERING

by Dr. Albin Hilding Fogelquist, Jr.

"And Abraham gave up the ghost,
and died in a good old age, an old
man, and full of years, and was
gathered to his people" (Genesis 25:8
ASV).

An old man and full of years like
Abraham the patriarch, the Reverend
Einar Peter Dreyer died in a good
old age in his beloved Spokane on
May 19. My last visit with him was
several months earlier and although
his mind was a bit clouded that day,
we had devotions together. Radiantly
he lavished his broad smile upon me
as he wished me in my continuing
ministry God's richest blessings for
a harvest of precious souls. In my
mind that day I could hear the
Swedish princess singing the words
of one of Pastor Dreyer's favorite
hymns:

"My heart is longing to praise my
Savior,
And glorify His name in song and
pray'r;
For He has shown me His wond'rous
favor
And offered me all heav'n with Him
to share."

(Hymn 26, *The Concordia Hymnal*)

In the waters of Holy Baptism the
Savior had offered heaven to the in-
fant born in northernmost Norway.
Throughout his life Einar Peter never
ceased to recall his conversion in
which the gracious Savior kept His
baptismal promise.

"I walked in blindness; my soul
was dying;
The prince of darkness held me in
his pow'r.
In pain I turned, to my Father
crying;
He broke my chains and saved me
in that hour."

The effect of the conversion was
gradual, as the Savior worked in the
young man's life first on the high seas
of the north Atlantic and later on the
farmlands of northern Minnesota. The
result was a malleable life so com-
pletely dedicated that the Lord of the
Church could use him in the ordained
ministry. At the heart of Einar Peter's
ministry of Word and Sacrament lay

the seriousness and the joy of prop-
erly applying the Law's condemna-
tion and the Gospel's salvation.

Within the framework of his evan-
gelical spirit Pastor Dreyer main-
tained an appreciative sense of the
churchly and the scholarly. As a
spiritual son of his, I had the oppor-
tunity of being guided by his wise
tutelage for two years during my col-
lege career and later for two sum-
mers during my seminary studies. He
was strict in his insistence that the
liturgy of *The Concordia Hymnal*,
pages 408-410, 414-418, be closely fol-
lowed, including the proper collect
and lessons from the *Altar Book*, the
regular reading of the Old Testament
lesson, the use of the appointed Gen-
eral Prayer, and the dignified obser-
vance of the proper amenities of lit-
urgical conduct. Citing Dr. Luther's
words, Pastor Dreyer cautioned his
young assistant against "long-winded
sermons." The venerable pastor de-
manded that hymns be selected so
as to adhere closely to the unified
theme of the day's collect and lessons.
For brevity and clarity he made it
a rule of thumb that no more than
three stanzas of any one hymn be
sung at a time. Such were some marks
of his churchly sense.

Pastor Dreyer's churchliness was
augmented by his scholarship. He
spent time translating into English
Hallesby's *De sidste Ting*, which I
in turn edited and abridged. His quest-
ing mind explored a breadth of topics
from the intricacies of ancient Nordic
mythology to the fascinations of the
modern Christian-Moslem rapproche-
ment. From his Augsburg days he
remained a devotee of his mentor,
the Reverend John Oluf Evjen, Ph.D.,
Th.D. (1874-1942), the brilliant and
controversial professor who later be-
came president of Carthage College.
Pastor Dreyer delighted in quoting
Evjen, Luther and Grundtvig, Sver-
drup and Oftedal, and Rudolph Sohm
(1841-1917), the German jurist and
theologian. Pastor Dreyer continually
urged me to seek new heights of theo-
logical scholarship and my recent re-
ceiving of the Doctor of Theology de-
gree was in keeping with his prompt-
ing.

Einar Peter Dreyer, the scholarly

[Continued on page 14]

FALL SCHEDULE OF
EVANGELIST MOLSTRE
ANNOUNCED

Evangelist-Youth Worker David C. Molstre, McIntosh, Minn., has announced the following schedule of meetings for this fall. Please remember him in your prayers, that God will give strength and that the Spirit of God may be able to use this ministry for the glory of His kingdom.

Sept. 11-14 — Bethany Lutheran, Blue Grass, Sebeka, Minn., Fred Carlson, pastor

Sept. 18-22 — Rosedale Lutheran, Minneapolis, Minn., Richard Anderson, pastor

Oct. 2-6 — Bethany Lutheran, Bemidji, Minn., Ray S. Persson, pastor

Oct. 9-12 — United Lutheran, McLeod, N. Dak., Dale R. Mellgren, pastor

Oct. 16-20 — Our Savior's Lutheran (ALC), McIntosh, Minn., Area Conference of the LEM

Oct. 23-27 — United Lutheran, Greenbush, Minn., Burton Rygh, lay pastor

Oct. 30-Nov. 3 — Faith Lutheran, Brockton, Mont., Verle Dean, pastor

Nov. 6-10 — Trinity Lutheran, Minnewaukan, N. Dak., T. K. Stramstad, pastor

Nov. 13-17 — New Luther Valley Lutheran, McVile, N. Dak., Kenneth L. Anderson, pastor

Nov. 27-Dec. 1 — Badger Creek Lutheran, Badger, Minn., Gustav Nordvall, lay pastor

Dec. 4-8 — Bethany Lutheran, Binford, N. Dak., Kenneth L. Anderson, pastor

PREACHING MISSIONS

Strandquist, Minn.

Hegland Lutheran Church

Merle Knutson, pastor

Sept. 20-25

Rev. Gerald F. Mundfrom,
Nogales, Ariz., speaker

Minneapolis, Minn.

Medicine Lake Lutheran Church

J. G. Erickson, pastor

Oct. 9-16

Rev. Steve Lombardo, LEM
evangelist, speaker

The Best of Hallelujah

COME EVERY DAY

"Him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out" (John 6:37).

Here we have a description of God's children which is very clear and very profound.

You who doubt whether you are a child of God, examine yourself on this point, for here we have one of the most distinctive marks of a child of God. A child of God is a person who comes to Jesus. A person who not only has come, but who comes to Jesus. Every day, yes, every time he becomes convinced in his conscience that he has sinned.

Here is the real difference between a converted and an unconverted person. Both sin. And both are convinced of their sin by the Spirit of God. But the unconverted go away from God with their sins. The converted come to God with them.

It is not always easy for a child of God to come to God with his sins. It was not easy when he came to God the first time, but to come every day is more difficult. If he did not have the consolation of the Gospel, he would not dare to come, so disheartened is he oftentimes.

Therefore you shall hear the Gospel today also, my dear child of God. And today it reads like this: Those who come to God are never turned away. Never. As long as you come and confess your daily transgressions and your sins of omission, so long are you a child of God.

Do not be anxious if you find that sin cleaves to you.

You have not as yet been discharged from the great hospital of grace. If you suffer a relapse in your illness, simply call the great and good Physician. Remember His words: "They that are whole have no need of a physician, but they that are sick."

Be of good cheer! In a short time you will be discharged from the hospital. This service also death will render you. Not until then will your soul be fully made whole. From then on you shall never in all eternity grieve your Savior any more.

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editorials

LUTHER LEAGUE CONVENTION

It was our privilege to attend part of the recent biennial convention of the Luther League Federation in Kirkland, Washington. This included two evening services, part of Saturday morning's schedule and the Sunday morning service. This was not enough to really feel a part of the convention or get a complete feel of it, like those who attended all of it did.

And yet it was possible to accumulate these impressions from the rather brief exposure to the LLF Convention, 1977, the first one to be held on the West Coast. First, the young people present were serious about the big life issues and some made commitments to Jesus Christ at Kirkland and others reaffirmed earlier decisions or renewed their resolve to remain in their baptismal covenant. No doubt there were those who found God's leading for a place of service in fulltime work in God's kingdom. If so, we will hear more about that later.

Second, the preaching and teaching were good. Personally, we are impressed with the "style" of Ralph Bell, the black evangelist of the Billy Graham Association. He is a humble man. He doesn't try to be cute or clever, but preaches in a serious and earnest manner. The message is solid. In no sense, if one is brought to decision is it through what we call the "emotional" appeal, although no response to Christ can be made without the emotions being involved. Ralph Bell cannot fully appreci-

ate the Lutheran approach to the ways in which one comes into the faith and that is a drawback, but he is a very fine evangelical preacher.

Third, the attendance was excellent. While not every parish to the east found it possible to be represented, the overall attendance did not indicate that having the convention out west was a hindrance. That it was for some cannot be doubted, but there seemed to be as good attendance at Kirkland as at any other convention that has been held. Linda Moan, in her excellent report in this issue, has indicated the ways in which leaguers reached Kirkland.

Fourth, Pastor and Mrs. Robert Rieth and their congregation, Our Redeemer, had done such a good job in getting ready for the convention. Homes had been found for everyone who wanted a place to stay, even for this writer for two nights. Delicious meals at reasonable cost were served in the spacious dining hall of the church. Everything was just very well taken care of. We don't know if it was planned in advance or not, but the pastors were pressed into service as waiters for the banquet on Saturday evening. It was an infrequent experience for us, but we had a good time doing it and fortunately there was still food left for us to eat when we finally got to eat.

Just this word of gentle criticism and suggestion. Between our Annual Conference in June this year and the Luther League Convention in July there has not been a worship service on Sunday using the commonly-used liturgy of the Association. We think it is good and right that there be such worship services at least once at these official functions of the church.

Next time there will be some report from the Family Bible Camp held at Lake Bronson in August.

THE WECEF FUND

One of the news stories breaking this past summer was about the World Evangelism and Christian Education Fund (WECEF), an affiliate of the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association. The charge was made by the *Charlotte (N.C.) Observer* that the \$22.9 million fund was secret.

Billy Graham has himself denied that it is secret, stating that the Internal Revenue Service, for one, has been kept fully advised of it. The fund is earmarked to finance congresses on evangelism, to help with student scholarships, to assist financially needy Christian organizations, to build the Billy Graham Center at Wheaton (Ill.) College and to build a laymen's training center near Asheville, N. Car.

It is not our purpose to judge whether the fund was secret or not. We can believe the explanations that have been given concerning it. We have known for some time, for instance, of the plans to build the Billy Graham Center at Wheaton.

Rather, we would point out that the money is there, \$22.9 millions of it in stocks, bonds and land. Other evangelistic ministries which have outlets on TV have funds counted in the millions through which they plan to build, or have built, colleges, churches or other centers for Christian work. It seems quite evident that any organization

which can build up a TV following has great potential for fund-raising.

Our plea is that our people, we cannot speak for any others, remember first the financial needs of our own work, which is always in need and has no promise of being fat or sleek. Nor do we want that to happen. But our work is struggling. We have a large debt at the Bible School which ought to be taken care of now and toward which an organized effort is being made at the present time.

In no way would we discourage contributions to non-AFLC causes (always be sure the cause is something you really believe in, however, and is honestly operated). But give your greatest offerings to your own congregation and to the larger work in which your congregation is involved (missions, schools, etc.). After that responsibility is discharged, aid other worthy causes the Lord lays upon your heart.

May we borrow an illustration our mission friends sometimes use? If ten men are carrying a long pole and nine of them are carrying one end of it, where would you offer your assistance? That's something to think about.

CONSIDER THESE ISSUES

The *Minneapolis Star*, long a respected daily newspaper in Minnesota and surrounding states, has for some time accepted paid ads for saunas and massage and rap parlors, which no one doubts are, almost without exception, fronts for prostitution and illicit sex.

The arguments which the *Star* has advanced for accepting such ads are the old ones. The businesses are licensed and therefore legitimate. Also, why should the newspaper decide the morals of the community.

The *Star* has been accused of being an unwitting, but hardly an unknowing, partner in prostitution by accepting the ads. We join in that accusation and are sorry that the paper has taken the position it has. Newspapers do have some freedom in what they will use or not use.

It is possible that the *Star* would listen to the voice of a significant number of subscribers expressing displeasure over the policy of accepting advertising which is patently pro-prostitution. To that end, we encourage sub-

scribers to the *Star* to write the following address and protest the policy of accepting ads for saunas, massage and rap parlors, and related "personal services." Address your letter to

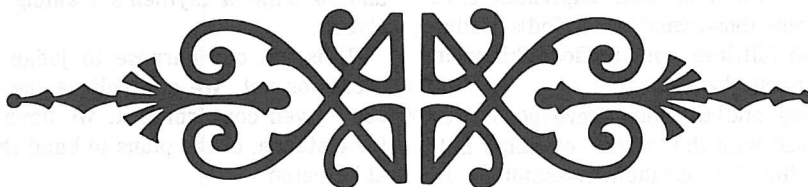
Donald R. Dwite, Publisher and Vice-President
The Minneapolis Star
425 Portland Avenue
Minneapolis, Minn. 55488

Association members who find similar policies in their daily newspapers, other than the *Star*, should address their protests to the appropriate persons.

The other issue we would comment on now concerns the embattled Judge Archie Simonson of Madison, Wisconsin. In May or June he brought down the wrath of the women's rights movement, civil libertarians and others when he refused to confine a 15-year-old boy for rape. His detractors aimed their anger at his belief that in rape cases women share at least as much guilt as men for their provocations. There are moves afoot in Madison to either remove him from office or deny him re-election to his judgeship.

We would make this defense of Judge Simonson and we are not aware of much else that has been spoken in his behalf (although we may have missed some things during the summer and being away from our desk). The defense is this that it is our understanding that it has always been the position of evangelical Christianity that women, certainly Christian women, bear a responsibility of modesty in dress. Such a position doubtless is based on Paul's word to Timothy (I Tim. 2:9a): "Also that women should adorn themselves modestly and sensibly in seemly apparel" and other passages which speak of humility and responsibility toward others.

It isn't right if Judge Simonson is left to stand alone, even if he overstated his case originally. He should be assured that earnest Christian practice has always advocated modesty in dress. To assert that women bear no responsibility in how they dress and comport themselves, that comfort and personal choice alone are determinative, is wrong.



- Isaiah 40: 31 _____
- Isaiah 41: 10 _____
- Daniel 11: 32b _____
- Ephesians 3: 16 _____
- II Corinthians 12: 9 _____

Paul experienced the power of God and His all-sufficient grace. He was able to "do all things through Christ," relying upon God's strength and His power. Each one of us is asked to surrender his whole life to the Lord Jesus Christ. We are responsible to God for the talents He has given to us. Are we using our talents for the Lord Jesus? "Moreover it is required in stewards, that a man be found faithful" (I Corinthians 4:2). God's power is available to us if we yield ourselves fully and completely to Him.

Discussion: Share your own testimony of how Philippians 4:13 became a reality in your Christian life.

Memorize: Philippians 4:13
 Closing Hymn: "O Master, Let Me Walk With Thee," No. 324 in The Concordia Hymnal.

WMF REMINDER

Our ladies of the WMF usually count it a joy to give to our October project, My Missionary for a Day, because this project is so very personal. Your gifts may be designated for a specific missionary and she will be informed of both your gift and the date on which you will be praying for her. This fund supports Mrs. John Abel, Mrs. Dean Casselton, Mrs. Connelly Dyrud and Mrs. George Knapp in Brazil, and Mrs. Lawrence Dymneson and Mrs. Leonard Swanson in Arizona. Make a special effort to write to these missionaries this month and tell them that you are upholding them in prayer.

Mrs. Eugene Enderlein

W.M.F. BIBLE STUDY



LESSONS IN PHILIPPIANS

Scripture: Philippians 4:8-13

October, 1977

Paul, in the opening verse of our Bible study, lists good things to think about. What an individual thinks about has a great effect upon what he is and what he does. The writer in Proverbs 23:7a expresses this same thought: "For as he thinketh in his heart, so is he" (KJV).

One of the characteristics of a spiritual Christian is that he meditates in his mind upon the things of God. We need to heed the admonition in Joshua 1:8: "This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success" (KJV).

1. After reading verse 8 of Philippians 4, make a list of the good things we should think about.

Luke 10:39

Psalm 1:2

3. Paul had set a good example which he could have them follow (4:9). Is the example of Christians important? Explain.

2. What do the following scriptures tell us about truth?

II Samuel 7:28

Proverbs 12:19

Deuteronomy 32:4

Ephesians 4:25

Honesty: Deuteronomy 25:15

Romans 12:17

Just: Deuteronomy 16:20

Psalm 82:3

Proverbs 21:3

Colossians 4:1

Pure: Psalm 24:3-4

Matthew 5:8

I Timothy 1:5

I Peter 1:22

Lovely and of good report: Luke 6:48

Ephesians 3:18-19

4. In Philippians 4:9, God is referred to as the God of peace. What other references to God are made in the following Scriptures?

Romans 15:5 God of

Romans 15:33 God of

II Corinthians 13:11 God of

II Corinthians 3:5 Our _____ is of God.

Truly from our hearts we can say, "How Great Thou Art!"

5. Paul is thankful for the gift which the Philippians had given him. What a testimony he is to us as he gives his testimony in verse 11 of Philippians

4. What is his testimony?

Discussion: Share together blessings you may have received through contacts with fellow Christians who have shown forth from their lives that "godliness with contentment is great gain" (I Timothy 6:6).

6. What are some of the patient sufferings of the apostles which were endured for Christ? (I Corinthians 4:8-16)

7. To whom is Paul thankful (I Timothy 1:12-15)?

8. Compare Philippians 4:13 with II Corinthians 9:8

9. Power for service is promised through Christ. Read again Philippians 4:13. What is promised in the following Scriptures?

Acts 1:8

Acts 4:33

Life on the Edge of Town



A TRIP WEST

It was my privilege to make a trip to the West Coast this summer, going out on the U.S. side and returning through Canada. I won't be reporting on the trip as fully as I've sometimes done for other trips. But for the next several issues there will be some references to it.

On the way out I went through such places as Mohall, N. Dak.; Scobey, Circle, Lewistown and Missoula, Mont.; Kamiah and Lewiston, Ida.; and Pomeroy, Connell and Ellensburg, Wash. I was overnight with friends at Westby, Mont, and Ellensburg and ate noon meals with old friends at Helena, Mont., and new ones out from Kendrick, Ida. I was amazed at the 90 miles or more of winding, townless road on Highway 12 in Idaho; the "ridges" of farming country after climbing from the valley floor near Kendrick; the barren desert of eastern Washington and the serpentine, narrow roads crossing the naked land. And one expected that after he reached the top of a canyon after a long ascent on the switchbacks that he would be able to see forever.

God has created a marvelous world for us to enjoy. Seattle has a beautiful natural setting. It has the ocean, the hills, the lakes, the trees. I felt a twinge of sadness in leaving the ocean behind in Vancouver and the moun-

tains in Alberta. A person should see the ocean and mountains every so often if he is not privileged to always have them near. I wondered as I have before, would I be satisfied with the plains and woodlands again after seeing such grand sights. But I am and that is good. Every area has its enchantment.

THE RETURN TRIP

In Seattle I visited two aunts, sisters of my mother, and a cousin, among others, and in addition to attending some of the Luther League Federation Convention in Kirkland. In Everett, I was an overnight guest of Pastor and Mrs. O. J. Haukeness, known to some of our readers. He will be 90 next year but may make a trip to Norway with his wife this month.

Made an unexpected side trip to Victoria, B.C., on Vancouver Island to visit a neighbor of ours from Saskatchewan. Victoria was nice, but I think Vancouver more fascinating, but both visits were short, only a matter of hours. I looked forward to crossing the Rockies by car and in daylight. The road along the Fraser and Thompson Rivers canyons was exciting and nerve-wracking. I am glad to have not driven it 20 years ago. The road is constantly being widened and improved.

Past magnificent Shuswap Lake

and great glacier-bedecked mountains near Revelstoke, Golden and Field. And before that a night in Kamloops. Lake Louise, Banff, the prairie and parkland country of Alberta and Saskatchewan. I visited Camrose and the area southeast of there where the Lutheran Free Church once had work.

I visited in Saskatchewan—at Lucky Lake, Central Butte, Elbow (Kaspar Knutson, the David Hundebys and Jasper Swensons, the latter visiting from South Dakota), Outlook (the Gene Sundbys, Oscar Olsons, the Ed Johnsons of Campbell River, B.C., she being a sister of our Dr. Iverr Olson, and Mrs. Art Solheim), relatives at Quill Lake, Govan, where I lived as a boy. Well those are some of the places. And Regina and Carlyle, then back to the States at Sherwood. An overnight stop at Rugby and back to Newfolden via Park River and Graf-ton, N.Dak.

Will such trips as that be possible in private cars in the future? I don't know. They won't be any easier than now from the looks of things.

A GOOD PRAYER

Before going on the above trip, I attended the funeral for Maynard Garve in Newfolden. Our pastor here, Merle Knutson, conducted it and Rev. Hubert DeBoer preached the sermon.

Maynard was a neighbor boy when we were growing up. There is something special about those we have known as neighbors in early life. We may travel far and meet many people but those early acquaintances hold special place. I know this, too, from the way Mother speaks of her neighbor people southeast of Newfolden.

Maynard had been home for the weekend, the long weekend of the 4th, but was back in Wahpeton, N. Dak., for his construction job when he didn't show up for work the next day. His fellow workers found him. He had passed away in his sleep.

I thought of the childhood prayer, "Now I Lay Me Down to Sleep." We think of it as a child's prayer. But it is a prayer for all ages. He is rightly prepared for life and death who closes each day with the prayer of commitment to God.

—Raynard Huglen



ACCOUNTABLE

“America is a wasteful nation. If we see mass starvation in this country, it won't be because of the weather.” These words were spoken by a thrifty Amish farmer in Iowa. In the book *What Do You Say to a Hungry World?* the author tells of a cafeteria in Kentucky that fills two 30-gallon garbage containers with wasted food every day! The vice-president of the National Association of Recycling Industries warns, “In view of the facts, our throw-away attitudes increasingly threaten our nation's survival.”

Nevertheless, the use of recycled materials of all kinds plunged greatly in our nation last year. The Amish farmer who calls us a wasteful nation states, “You can always find enough to live on if you are careful not to waste.” Proof that he does not waste is the fact that he is now dismantling an old grain elevator. The elevator's owner had intended to pay the local fire department to burn the structure. This waste was prevented when the Amish farmer offered to take down the elevator for the lumber. In the removal process he was rewarded by finding several hundred bushels of usable oats beneath the floor.

Thriftiness was also taught by Jesus when He told His disciples, “Gather up the fragments left over, that nothing may be lost.” God owns all things; and we are to use them according to His purpose. In using things of this earth let us remember that one day we will give account to God as to how we used them.

—Einar Unseth

**NORTH CENTRAL DISTRICT
SPRING WMF RALLY HELD
AT BAGLEY**

Grace Lutheran Church of Bagley, Minnesota, was host to the North Central District spring rally of the Women's Missionary Federation, May 7. The theme for the day was “The Power of the Cross” (1 Cor. 1:18: “For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God.”)

Mrs. Ed Mathison, Bagley, district vice-president, presided over the sessions. Devotions were given by Mrs. Chester Broden, Maple Bay, reading Titus 2:1-8, 11, 12, and 13. Mrs. Al Amodt gave the welcome, and music was by Mrs. William Goodman of Bemidji.

The Bible study was led by Mrs. Ray Persson, Bemidji, on “The Power of the Cross.” UNSAVED because of foolishness. SAVED by the power of God. There is life for the one who takes a look at the Crucified One: a) Admit you are a sinner; b) Believe; c) Confess. As we look at the cross we shall live. Gal. 2:20: “I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave Himself for me.”

Sue Oien, Bagley, had a book display from her bookstore.

The afternoon began with a prayer session led by Mrs. Roy Quam, Trinity, McIntosh. Music was furnished by a group of ladies from Bagley and Mrs. Gordon Johnson.

The message, “The Power of the Cross,” was given by Mr. William Goodman, Bemidji. We are either in darkness or light. We can't look in the past. We must look to the future by the power of the cross. There is no SALVATION outside of Christ. Some are ashamed of Him, because of what others say and think. Some stumble over the cross because of pride. What is the power of the cross in our families? Do we only pray in a squeeze? Do we have a family altar? Pray to seek and have God enter our souls. Seek to be praying mothers and families. We must be growing Christians and tell others

about the power of the cross.

The offering was received for “My Missionary For A Day.” Mrs. Joe Bestad closed the meeting by reading from John 14:12, 13, and 14 and with prayer.

Rev. Mauritz Lundeen was the host pastor.

Mrs. Jerome Voxland,
Secretary



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In Memoriam
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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.

- NORTH DAKOTA
- Fairdale
- Clarence A. Kveseth, 84, May 18,
Aadalen
- Herman Ljunggren, 81, July 18,
Aadalen



(Continued from page 7)

churchman of evangelical zeal, knew what it meant to be a member of Christ's one holy catholic and apostolic Church. I left him that day late in February, an old man cherishing the sure hope of heaven. And when he was gathered to his people, he indeed found them to be the saints of God from every time and place.

“What blessed joy overflows my spirit,
Because Thy wondrous grace was granted me.
Thy work complete, that I may inherit
At last eternal life in heaven with Thee!”

THEOLOGIAN WARNS OF 'CRITICAL THREAT' FACING LUTHERANS

Lutheran laymen have been challenged by a Lutheran theologian to rise up and claim the authority and responsibility they have for maintaining "true doctrine and loyalty to the Scriptures and confessions."

The Rev. Herman W. Preus, retired professor at Luther Theological Seminary, St. Paul, and the uncle of two Lutheran church presidents, warned about "aberrations" in Lutheranism. Preus addressed an observance here marking the 400th anniversary of the Formula of Concord, a Lutheran confessional document.

"The Lutheran Church today faces a critical threat," Preus said. He cited "ecumenical pressures, merger fever, secularizing tendencies, new morality, gradual disappearance of parochial schools, deemphasis on confirmation and Christian education, (and) waning emphasis on biblical and confessional studies at Lutheran colleges and seminaries."

All this, he said, is "threatening to wash out the solid doctrinal and confessional core of Lutheran Christian education."

Preus said that "history records that errors against the church's confession have usually occurred in the clerical or theological leadership of the church."

In some cases, he added, "the leaders themselves have corrected their colleagues and kept the church faithful to its confession. But this does not always happen, and there may be a time when the laity is the last ditch in the battle to maintain the truth."

Suggesting that such a time may have arrived, Preus observed:

"The very fact that the three big Lutheran bodies in America are popularly dubbed left-wing, right-wing and middle of the road, or if you like: liberal, conservative and you name it, makes it reasonable to suggest that there are things to be corrected on all three sides.

Up to now, he said, laymen have in all humility remained silent. But there is a growing groundswell of criticism of the theological, ecclesias-

tical, homiletical, moral and social trends in the church."

He said it is not rare to hear people grumble and ask questions such as: "Doesn't our minister know the difference between the law and the Gospel?"

"What's going on at the seminaries?"

"Why doesn't the bishop do something?"

"What business has a divorced pastor teaching my children how to build a Christian home?"

Preus said there were signs "in the midst of ecumenical pressures" of a "resurgence of Lutheran confession-alism, at least of a renewed interest in the confessions."

He spoke at Central Lutheran Church here at a session of the Fifth Concordia Academy, which marked the quadricentennial of the Formula of Concord, whose framing in 1577 constituted the final phase of the Lutheran Reformation.

Herman Preus, a clergyman of the American Lutheran Church, is uncle of the Rev. David W. Preus, president of the American Lutheran Church (ALC), and of the Rev. J. A. O. Preus, president of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod (LCMS). Relations between the two large bodies have become strained, with the LCMS voting last week in Dallas to declare a state of "fellowship in protest" with the ALC.

The Rev. Norman E. Nagel, an LCMS clergyman, spoke at a festival service of the quadricentennial Sunday night. Nagel described the dispute as a "family row" and alluded to references made at the Dallas convention about each of the two bodies suffering from the "fleas" of the other.

"We can usually do a better job with somebody else's fleas than our own," said Nagel, who is dean of the chapel at Valparaiso (Ind.) University.

"They had worse than fleas in the 16th century," Nagel added.

After Luther's death, when theological and political dissension threatened his work, theologians worked 30 years before producing the Formula of Concord, Nagel said.

"Through much pain they helped one another through to this confession, to which our pastors pledge

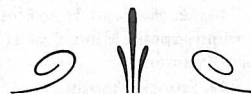
themselves at their ordination, and which we all would do well to study for we are all responsible for what our pastors preach and teach, and for what we each confess," he said.

—The Minneapolis Star
Sat., July 30

PERSONALITIES

New address for **Pastor and Mrs. Lars Stalsbrot** is 729 S. Columbia Drive, Woodburn, Oregon 97071. Telephone: 503-981-8268.

The address of **Pastor and Mrs. Bruce Dalager** is Route 1, Winger, Minn. 56736. Pastor Dalager is now serving the Winger parish, having recently moved from Minot, N. Dak.



SONGBOOKS WANTED

Trinity WMF of Grand Forks, N. Dak., would like to buy approximately 40 copies of **Songs for Worship** (Zondervan, 1958). The songbooks desired would likely have a red cover.

Any congregation being willing to sell such a book should contact the WMF president, Mrs. Sylvia Hastad, 1703 S. 20th St., Gand Forks, N. Dak. 58201. Please indicate the price you are asking.



EASTERN NORTH DAKOTA WOMEN SLATE RALLY

The Eastern North Dakota District Women's Missionary Federation fall rally will be held on Tuesday, Oct. 4, in New Luther Valley Lutheran Church, McVile, N. Dak. Registration is at 9:30 a.m. and the morning session begins at 10.

Mrs. Russell Duncan
Secretary

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