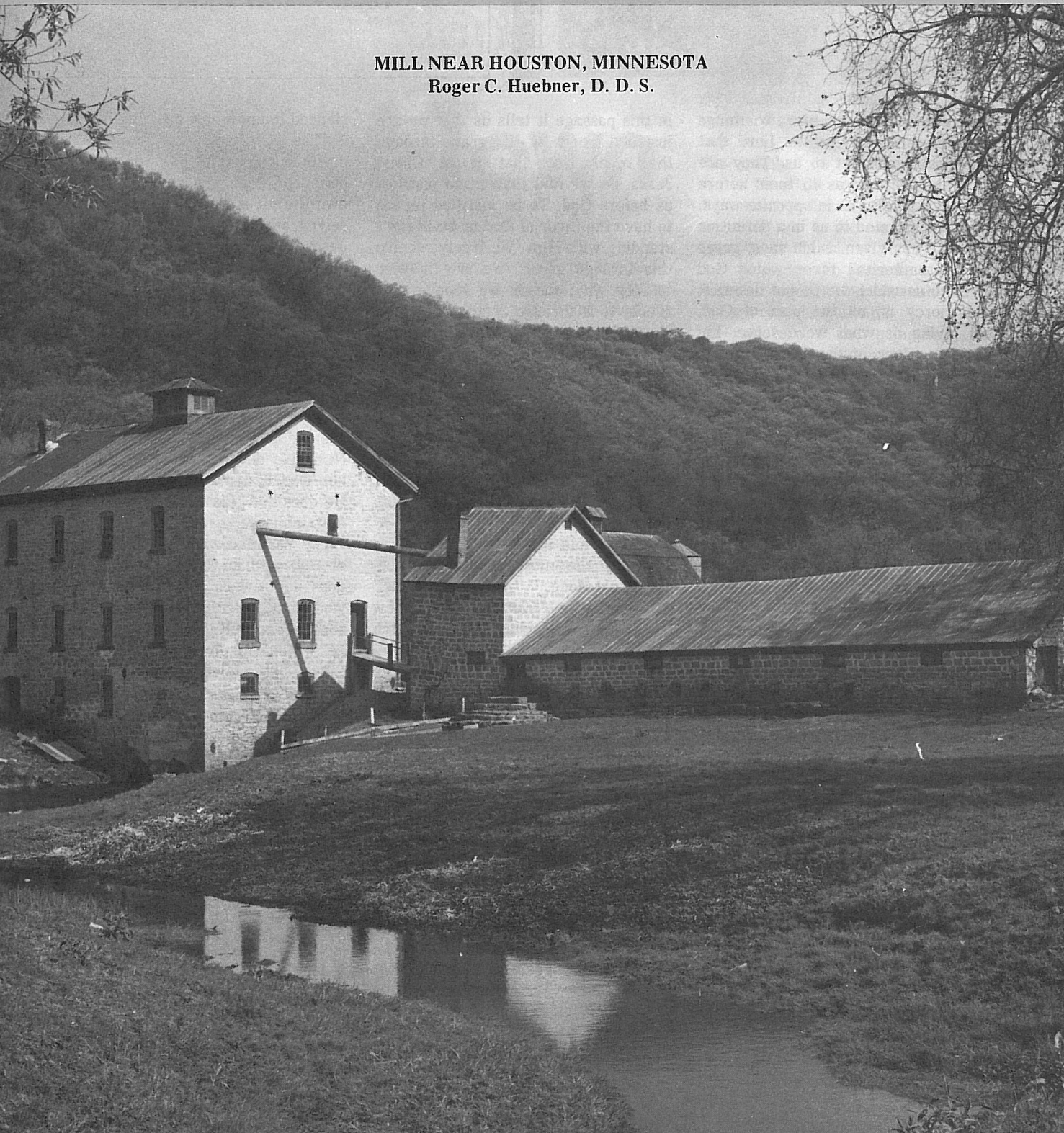


May 3, 1977

# The Lutheran Ambassador

MILL NEAR HOUSTON, MINNESOTA  
Roger C. Huebner, D. D. S.



# MEDITATION MOMENTS

## GRACE AND MERCY

Grace and mercy are two things that we receive from the Lord that are most important to us. They are somewhat related as to their nature and yet relate to us in opposite ways. This is illustrated to us in a definition someone has given which says, grace is that unmerited favor which God gives to us which we do not deserve; and mercy is, on the part of God, not giving us what we deserve. Let us take a look at these two ways in which God deals with each one of us.

**GRACE**—that unmerited favor that God gives to us which we do not deserve. God deals with us by giving us His grace which we find in our Lord Jesus Christ. It is through Jesus that we can obtain grace at all. If we are to have this wonderful grace of God, we must come to Jesus and receive Him as our Savior. If one does not receive Jesus, no grace will be granted.

In Romans 3:23-24, we read: "For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God; being justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus." Here we find that we all have fallen short of God's glory and therefore stand in need of His grace. Because of sin there is this separation from Him. It is only through Jesus that we can again find God's favor and the remedy for sin.

In this passage it tells us that we are justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus. So we find that grace justifies us before God. To be justified means to have the favor of God or be in right standing with Him. We freely receive this through grace. We are likewise told by what means we receive this grace. It is through Jesus Christ and His redemption. No person will receive God's grace apart from coming to Jesus and receiving Him as Savior, as found in John 1:12. Here we are told that, "As many as received Him, to them gave He power to become the sons of God." So not only do we receive grace by coming to Jesus, but we are made sons of God. God adopts us as His children.

We are told about grace in what is probably the most popular and beloved old song, "Amazing Grace." This song goes, "Amazing Grace, how sweet the sound; that saved a wretch like me. I once was lost but now am found; was blind but now I see." Here we find it referred to as "amazing grace." It truly is amazing when we think that it can save a wretch of a person because of sin and its condemnation. We must, as Luther says, being a "lost and condemned creature," experience that marvelous grace and be set free.

The grace of God must be experienced

to know how amazing it really is. The song goes on: "How precious did that grace appear the hour I first believed." Can you say this in your own life? It is when we first find ourselves as lost that we will come to Jesus. Then we can know ourselves how marvelous this grace is.

**MERCY**—God not giving us what we deserve. Another way God deals with us is by showing us His mercy. How many times we hear people say, "He got what he deserves," or, "He had it coming to him." If God gave us what we deserve, we would all perish and be eternally separated from Him. We deserve to suffer and die, but God had mercy on us in Jesus. He does not give us what we deserve for our sins.

The psalmist expresses the mercy of God well in Psalm 103:10-11. God does not reward us or give us what we should receive but does indeed show great mercy. However, we must be willing to come to God through Christ and receive Jesus to escape the wrath of God. If we do not come and receive Jesus, there will be no mercy.

Let me ask you this question—Have you personally experienced God's grace and mercy by receiving Jesus into your heart and life? If not, why not do so today before tomorrow becomes eternally too late!

M. J. Haara

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# THE BIBLE CAMP MOVEMENT

## IN TWO PARTS—PART ONE

by the late A. W. Dickhart

We Lutherans have rejoiced in a child of the Church; namely, the Bible Camp Movement. Quite naturally, the Bible Camp idea and realization were born as a child of the Church, arising from the life of the Church, nourished by the Church, and with the fond hope on the part of the Church that the healthy and vigorous child would grow and thrive and prove a blessing to the Kingdom of God. Nor has the Church been disappointed in her hopes, for the Bible Camp Movement is not only with us as a strong and robust child and here to stay, but has contributed already in a very definite way to the life and welfare of the Kingdom of God. The Church is alive to the problems of this child of the Church, and is also concerned that under wise and loving guidance the Bible Camp movement grow to staunch and useful service throughout the Church's years.

### I. WHAT RESULTS HAVE BEEN REALIZED FROM THE BIBLE CAMP MOVEMENT?

Let us admit that variations in the methods of conducting the Bible Camps have resulted in criticism from those who do not believe in that particular way of conducting the Camp program. We are aware of some instances where Camp events have occurred which are not to our liking. We freely admit these mistakes. May we classify them according to criticisms most commonly offered concerning our Bible Camps.

1. The most common criticism is that of discipline. Young people come to camp sometimes without an appreciation of spiritual values to be received, and consequently do not fit into the general scheme of things. Thus arise such disciplinary problems as skipping classes, boisterous conduct, rowdiness, carelessness in matters of dress, staying out after hours, unseemly conduct, and lack of cooperation with pastors and camp leaders.

Yes, we know of incidents where there has been the breaking of rules, or the disregard of the Christian spirit of property, or lack of cooperation on the part of some young people. Sometimes these incidents have been painful, and a real problem for the Camp management. But I believe that on the whole the discipline of our Bible Camps has been remarkably fine, and with a splendid spirit prevailing at practically every Camp which I have visited.

2. A second criticism most commonly given is that a super-emotional type of Christian life and experience is fostered at some of our Camp sessions. There has been ground for this criticism in some instances, where teachers or evangelists or other leaders have forced an unnatural type of spirituality, insisting upon public confessions or public testimonies or public prayer on the part of young people who are not spiritually ready for such experiences, but who are led to feel that if a young person does not get up at a meeting and give some sort of account of his spiritual life that he is necessarily a non-Christian or a renegade. Sometimes, too, there has been an over-emphasis upon the necessity of each young person seeking spiritual counsel in an interview with a Camp teacher or leader with the thought in mind that the spiritual life of the young person must necessarily come to an issue right on the spot and forgetting that among our young people there are many Nicodemus souls who dread making themselves conspicuous. In regard to this criticism or super-emotionalism, may I say that it is my personal observation that this type of Camp spirit is not by any means the normal or average spirit of our Bible Camps, but is an aberration readily recognized by our pastors and quickly resented and corrected.

3. A third criticism is that at some Camps there is not enough sound and

wholesome spiritual emphasis. It sometimes happens that a Camp committee, in horror over the idea of the Camp program becoming too emotional, leans in the opposite direction and plans accordingly. So we find that sometimes a Camp program is top-heavy with a superabundance of recreation, and vacational aspects of Camp, "stunt nights," lectures on technical matters of Church life quite apart from the experience of the average young person, an overdose of humor on the part of the speakers, messages that do not get under the skin of the young people but merely tickle their superficial fancies, lots of pep and comradeship to cover over a fear that some young person will get too religious or concerned about his soul and may possibly have a "spiritual experience." My personal opinion is that our Bible Camps are far more in danger of shallowness than they are in danger of super-emotionalism. Ah, that we might accept grace from God to move along in the middle of the road as Lutherans should do, taking full cognizance of the recreational and lighter needs of our young people, but making full provision also for the heart-hunger and intense spiritual need which we can easily find in the great majority of our young people if we will only look a bit beneath their gay and whimsical surface.

4. A fourth criticism of our Bible Camps is that at them our youth do things and learn things which cannot or should not be carried over into their congregational life. Special criticism is often made that our young people at Bible Camps are drilled on a type of Camp song or Camp chorus to the neglect of the sound and treasured hymnody of the Church, rendering the young people critical of our Lutheran Hymnal and unwilling to sing that which they consider "heavy stuff" in contrast to the lighter choruses sung at Camp gatherings. Sometimes this emphasis on lighter choruses and

songs has gone to an extreme, but there is also the happy fact that wise song-leaders at our Camps have, through group singing and Camp choirs, given a real impetus to the singing of the grand chorales and hymns of the Church.

5. A fifth criticism is that the Christian life fostered at the Bible Camp is too subjective in its emphasis, making the inner experience of the young person the norm or standard of Christian life. In connection with this, too, is often the declaration that personalities are too much emphasized at Bible Camps, with emphasis upon the particular qualities of a speaker or leader, leading the young person to criticize his own pastor if his pastor does not quite measure up to the standard of excellence demonstrated by some personality at Camp. But again, it is our observation that this criticism, though sometimes justified, is not general, for our Bible Camps have been true to their calling as BIBLE Camps, where the Word alone is the norm and standard for our experiences and lives and likes and dislikes. How delightful is even the NAME of our Bible Camps; namely, **BIBLE CAMPS FOR LUTHERAN YOUNG PEOPLE!**

But enough of criticisms; let us see some of the good things which have accrued to the life of the Church through the Bible Camp movement. We believe the good things to be so outstanding and so numerous as to far over-shadow the possible mistakes which have crept in and have caused ground for criticism. Again we would like to do a little listing:

A. One great result of the Bible Camp movement within our Conference is to make our young people **Bible conscious**. With the avowed intention of the hundred or more young people coming to Camp that of studying the Bible, and with not only the

first and freshest hour of the morning invariably given over to direct study of the Word of God but with the entire program related to the study of the Word of God, the young person comes into a new relationship with and respect for the Bible as the sole foundation for our faith and life. It is an actual fact that many a young person who received a Bible from his Church at Confirmation actually did nothing with it or did not know how to use it until at some Bible Camp he was led into a happy knowledge of how to study the Word and what to get out of it. Any movement which can encourage the young of today to get down to the business of studying the Bible is a movement which we should encourage with all our might and for which we should thank God with all our heart!

B. Another great result of our Bible Camps has been the deepening of the Christian life of the individual young people. To learn more of Jesus, to know His Word better, to have a new appreciation of prayer and hymnody and worship and Christian fellowship: these are treasures of spiritual experience which have come to many of our Lutheran young people through the Bible Camp movement.

C. A third result of our Bible Camps has been the impetus to a lively interest in Luther League work within our congregations. Many a Luther League has been aroused from lethargy by the impact of the Bible Camp movement, and has risen to a new high in spiritual activity in relation to Bible Camp activities. Some Leagues practically build their year's program around the Bible Camp activities or theme, giving a fine all-year-round emphasis to the Bible work within the congregation.

D. A fourth result of the Bible Camp movement has been the work of the Holy Spirit in bringing about awaken-

ings and quickenings and actual conversions at our Bible Camps. The sound instructions in the Word of God given to the children in Sunday School, taught the adolescents at Confirmation time, and encouraged through the work of the congregations among the young people, provide the foundation for the work of the Holy Spirit. It often happens that a young person with this Bible foundation from childhood still is not clear as to his relation to God even following his confirmation, and needs just such an emphasis as the Bible Camp affords to bring him out of the realm of uncertainty of salvation. So, too, we know that many young people have fallen from Baptismal grace and are deep in sin, and God has often used the messages from His Word brought at Bible Camps as the means of bringing the young sinner back to his covenant relation to Christ. The proper presentation of Law and Gospel at our Bible Camps has worked miracles of awakenings of the uncertain and careless and conversions of those who were in the darkness and death of sin. Again we thank God for these glorious results of the Bible Camp work.

E. A fifth result of the Bible Camps may be called the reflex blessings to the Church. The Church profits tremendously when through the Bible Camp programs the young people have learned more concerning better Luther League work, the Missions of the Church, the Institutions of the Church, Christian Stewardship, Doctrine, Hymnology, Liturgics, Discipline, Church organization, the Clergy and its problems, our Colleges, our Seminary, and the Christian life in its many and varied activities. In as much as the work of the Church is done best by an informed and trained membership, the Bible Camps have proved themselves a veritable nursery for the Kingdom of God.

(To be continued)

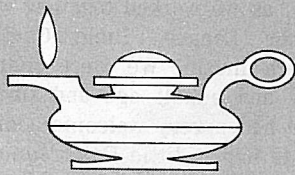
## GOING WEST IN '77

**AFLC Luther League Federation Convention**

**July 12-17**

**Our Redeemer Lutheran Church, Kirkland, Washington**





# SCHOOL NEWS

## CHORAL CLUB TOUR WENT WELL

From "God of Our Fathers" to "Thanks Be to Thee" and "Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee," each concert by the 1977 edition of the AFLBS Choral Club reached a fitting conclusion as the audience joined in singing the familiar and triumphant "Praise to the Lord, the Almighty."

Perhaps there was a little extra sense of emotion as the 26 members went through the last regular concert at United Lutheran, McLeod, N. Dak., in the little country church on a lovely evening. Before a full church, they moved through their repertoire of songs under the leadership of Don Rodvold, and shared in an informal selection of Biblical songs with four guitars accompanying.

The next night, Thursday, the tour ended as the Choral Club participated in the Holy Communion service at Gethsemane Lutheran (LCA), Upsala, Minn. They sang most of their concert at one time as a prelude to the service, and two songs later. It was a wonderful ending to the tour, sharing in that sacred moment with the congregation.

The tour had begun on Wed., March 30, as we travelled to Tordenskjold Lutheran, rural Underwood, Minn. "Opening night jitters" were at a minimum and the attendance was one of several full houses experienced during the tour.

We travelled on a fine tour bus, one of the split-level kind. Retired Greyhound driver Roy Wessbecker was our competent and congenial driver. On our way to Bradley, S. Dak., the next day, we stopped at Tekakwitha Home in Sisseton, S. Dak., where a selection of songs was sung to an appreciative audience of residents. The under-

signed had conducted many services in the Home in past years.

After a stop in Webster, we found a warm reception awaiting us at the American Lutheran Church in Bradley, Dale R. Battleson, pastor. Following supper in the church parlors, a man and woman entertained us with several songs on electric guitars.

Friday morning the Choral Club sang before an assembly of the students at the hall in Summit, S. Dak. Afterward we were guests of the school for dinner in their modern cafeteria. Mr. Loessin, the superintendent, extended every courtesy to us and the hall was put at our disposal for the afternoon. Don used the opportunity to get in some additional rehearsal, letters were written and basketball and volleyball played. Oh yes, there was even some indoor high jumping by some of the fellows. And the sidewalks of Summit were traversed.

That evening we had the opportunity to appear in Ortleigh Lutheran, Ortleigh, where the addition to the church had been dedicated only the Sunday previous (see the story elsewhere in this issue.). We ate our supper in the attractive dining room and, in all, rejoiced with the congregation in their fine church.

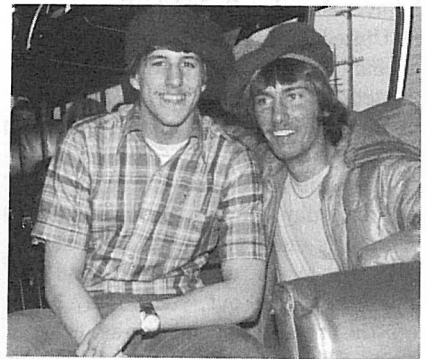
With time on our hands on Saturday, we drove to Aberdeen to spend much of the afternoon. Then it was on to Tabor Lutheran, rural Webster, a congregation I used to serve. The congregation will observe 75 years of work in God's kingdom in June and in preparation also for that had just laid an attractive carpet in the church parlors.

On Sunday morning we were at Calvary Lutheran, Wallace, for the morning worship. As we came into town

we saw the plot on Main Street where the two-story drug store had stood, birthplace of Senator Hubert Humphrey. After dinner we had about 200 miles to drive to our next stop, Pukwana.

Some of the members of Pukwana and St. Olaf Lutheran Churches joined us for the potluck supper. The parish is without a pastor at present and a neighboring Gideon acted in that capacity at the concert. Twenty-three of us were put up for the night at the Healy Hotel, one of the last of the small-town hotels in America. Don and I slept on the first floor and for a while had some anxious moments as we heard the noise emanating from the second floor. But almost as if by signal it quieted at about midnight.

After breakfast at the church the next day, we journeyed to Faith by way of Midland. At Midland, where my nephew Tim Strommen is the ALC pastor, the students took their mid-quarter tests in Bible Doctrine at the church and ate the noon lunch sent along from Pukwana while I visited at the parsonage and saw my newest grand niece, Siri Anna, and her sister Alexi.



The two "Frenchmen" on the tour, Tad La Spading, left, Kirkland, Wash., and Vic La Young, Lyle, Minn.



The bus standing by Tabor Church, Webster, S. Dak.

The driving from there to Faith was the most interesting, and trying, for Mr. Wessbecker. Blowing snow made visibility very poor at times and snow was building up on the roads. But we arrived safely at Faith in time to visit the fine new mall on the east side of the main street. At supper that evening we found gaily colored eggs with our names on them as place cards. Several young people presented a skit to us after the meal called "What Does Your Bible Mean to You?"

Our longest trips were on the next two days. On Tuesday we headed for Tioga, N. Dak., and made stops at Dickinson, Watford City (ice cream) and Williston. South of Watford City we saw the beautiful Badlands country by the Little Missouri River. Our Tioga concert was part of a community Protestant Holy Week service at our Zion Lutheran Church. One of the local pastors brought the message. Later that evening I had the chance to visit with the school's instrumental music director, Clifford Grubb. While teaching at Medicine Lake, Mont., he attended one of my congregations there in my first parish.

The next day we stopped in Harvey and Jamestown en route to McLeod. I have already alluded to the concert at United Lutheran. There were some of our former and present students present, as was the case at a number of our stops. It was always good to see this (and them).

We spent some time in Fergus Falls on Thursday on our way to Upsala. A "tour's end" party was held at Upsala with some fun-time skits and mementoes passed out, yours truly being on the receiving end of several of them. We arrived back at school at about 11:30. Several members had not returned with us. Many who did left for their homes on Friday to spend the Easter weekend or more with their families.

There were many blessings in the tour and we all pray that we brought some where we went. People everywhere were so kind and generous to us.

The Choral Club will present its home concert this Sunday night, May 8, at Medicine Lake Lutheran Church, 8:00 o'clock.

—Raynard Huglen

## Introducing Our Seminararians

### GOD USED THESE WORDS

"Awake thou that sleepest, and arise from the dead, and Christ shall give thee light. See then that ye walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise, redeeming the time, because the days are evil. Wherefore be ye not unwise, but understanding what the will of the Lord is. And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit; speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord; Giving thanks always for all things unto God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ" (Eph. 5:14-20). These are the words by which God spoke to me one spring afternoon as I was reading from a battered New Testament in my fraternity room. The New Testament had been tucked into the bottom of my suitcase by my father, a Presbyterian minister, as I left to go to college. As I read those words I knew God was speaking directly to me. Then I experienced the power of Christ coming into my life as I asked Jesus to come and cleanse me from sin. I felt the blackness of sin leave me as a heavy burden from off my shoulders.

After that year I attended a Bible College in Eugene, Oregon. Then after serving in the Army, I graduated from the University of Oregon. For 12 years I taught in public schools at the junior high and high school levels, and I also coached several sports.

I did enjoy teaching for those years, but I began to wonder if that was where I could best serve the Lord and if God wanted me to spend the rest of my working years teaching school.

At about this same time I lost my father and mother and brother in quick succession, which caused me to reflect on how short a man's life really is. God uses experiences like these to draw one closer to Himself and to give us spiritual insights. After a period of two years, which I spent as a security guard at a large plywood wood mill, I felt that the Lord was definitely calling me to the ministry of the Gospel. This is according to the Great Commission: "Go ye therefore, and teach all nations..." In Astoria,

Oregon, I had been choir director and Sunday School teacher and director of a large youth rally. During this time I met my wife, Pauline (Persson), as we worked together with the Luther League, Bible Camp and church music. We were married a year and a half ago and since then have had a very welcome addition to our family in little Peter James. The Lord has truly blessed me with my little family.

Now that I am in seminary I feel a great joy in exploring the depths of God's Word in so many ways. It is a very busy time with my work here as a school bus driver and as a seminarian, which make me quite a part-time father, but it is also a very rewarding time. I especially enjoy the new tools of Greek and Hebrew for opening up God's Word on a new level of understanding.

It has been a special joy for me to share in word and music with those who are confined to rest homes in the Minneapolis area. The shut-ins are so appreciative of our efforts to share God's message of love with them.

I am looking forward to the future with great anticipation for whatever God has in store for me, knowing that His ways are higher than our ways and His thoughts than our thoughts.

—Bill Moberg

### FINANCIAL SUPPORT FROM AID ASSOCIATION FOR LUTHERANS

Our Seminary received a total of \$4,500.00 from the Aid Association For Lutherans (AAL), the fraternal life and health insurance society with headquarters at Appleton, Wisconsin, for the 1976-1977 school-year. This seminary support grant was allocated by the AAL into four categories, namely:

I. Student Support—\$1,000.00. This amount was equally divided and given to six seminary students. Our School's Scholarship and Grant-In-Aid Committee made the selection of recipients based on the needs evidenced by the information stated on the application forms filled out by the students.

II. Faculty Support—\$1,500.00, to be

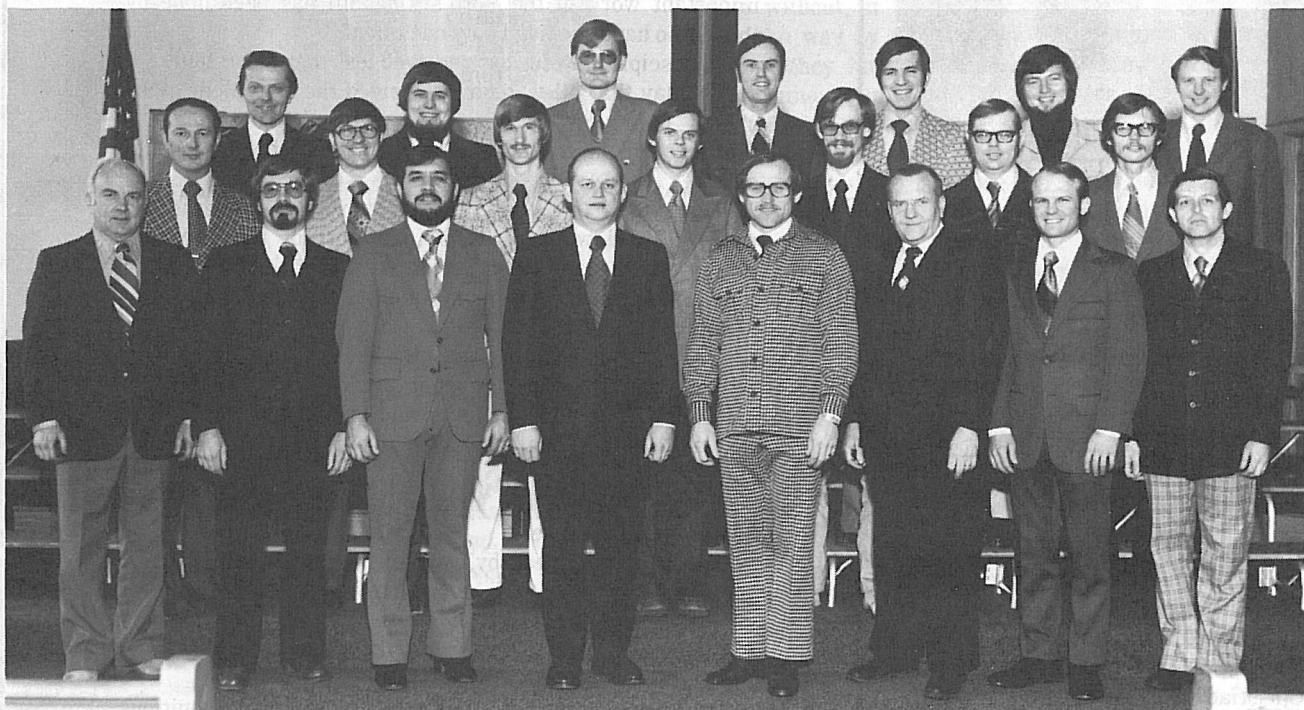
(Continued on page 13)





**AFLBS CHAPEL SINGERS, 1976-77**

Bottom row, left to right, Candi Weinkauf, Sue Thundercloud, Robbin Thompson, Robbie Lenning, Renee Oscarson and Joyce Abu; middle row, Kim Hansen, Rita Ward, Cathy Adrian, Faylin Tostrup and Sandy Katzenmeyer; and, top row, Terry Rudebusch, Shirley Oliver, Sandy Bergstrom, Dorothy Seaman, Anna Oliver and Terri Irwin. The Chapel Singers were on tour April 28 to May 1. Mr. Donald Rodvold is the director.



**STUDENT BODY, FREE LUTHERAN SEMINARY, 1976-77**

Bottom row, left to right, Gordon L. Grage, Larry Haagenon, Ted Kennedy, Jr., John Koski, LeRoy Flickinger, J. C. Hoialmen, John Kjos and Tom Bowers; middle row, Bill Moberg, Jay Eberth, James Fugleberg, David Abel, Philip Rokke, Arley Hartsoch and Marlin Olson; and, top row, Tom Peterson, Jerry Holmaas, Paul Persson, Mike Klenner, Charles Kvanvig, Richard Bartholomew and Marlyn Kruse. Not pictured: Paul Nash, Dean Casselton and Allen Monson.

## PASTOR DAHLE HONORED ON ORDINATION ANNIVERSARY

Green Lake Congregation of Spicer, Minn., honored Rev. Trygve F. Dahle, a member, on his 50th year as an ordained minister of the Gospel. It is also his 53rd year in the ministry. The event took place on Sunday, March 6.

Rev. Donald Greven, Sedan, Minn., and Rev. Dennis Gray of Green Lake were the speakers. Various musical numbers were shared. Mr. Arthur Arneson was the service leader.

A lunch was served by the wives of the congregation. A cake was baked by Mrs. Dean Kloster, WMF president. Isaiah 43:25 was placed on the cake: "I, even I, am He that blotteth out thy transgressions for Mine own sake, and will not remember thy sins."



Pastor and Mrs. Dahle and the anniversary cake

Pastors could hardly make a graver mistake or do their congregations a greater injustice than to take for granted that people are Christians because they have been instructed in Christian doctrine and led to participate in the round of congregational activities, without any such personal confrontation or decision (for Christ). Vital Christianity does not reside in unawakened consciences and unconverted hearts.

T. A. Kantonen

# The Best of Hallesby

## ONE-TALENT CHRISTIANS

**"And unto one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one; to each according to his several ability" (Matthew 25:15).**

It was the man with the single talent who buried it. Small gifts tempt most readily to unfaithfulness. Our text today would therefore speak in particular to those of us who have received only one talent.

They who have received two or five talents in the kingdom are the exceptions. We who have received only one talent constitute the great majority of the servants of Jesus.

As a matter of fact, I am inclined to think that we shall be surprised on the great day to find that the most important work in the Lord's kingdom has been done by those who have received only one talent.

No disciple of Jesus has received less than one talent.

The day that all who have received the one talent make use of their lesser gifts in humility and faithfulness—that day will be a great one in the history of the kingdom of God.

The reason that the great kingdom-work of Jesus has made such slow progress is that most of His servants, those with the one talent, have been inclined to look too much to those with the many talents, and have gone away and hidden their talent, either in a well-managed farm, a successful business, or a good trade.

Yes, you say, but I cannot preach, not even give a testimony. It is difficult for me to pray aloud at a prayer meeting or to speak with even my nearest of kin about God.

But listen now: The kingdom of God does not consist of words, but of power.

If you cannot speak by word of mouth, by admonitions, then speak by your silence and by your love. Desist from sin and from the ways of the world, even though you cannot say a word. Let your light shine in such a way that darkness becomes black indeed.

And you will see that not many words or admonitions are needed.

Be faithful in little things!

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# editorials

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## BIBLE CAMP ARTICLE

In looking over some memorabilia of Pickerel Lake Lutheran Bible Camp in South Dakota some time ago, we came across an article written by the late Rev. A. W. Dickhart, the first part of which is reprinted in this issue of the **Ambassador**.

While it comes from the early 1940's, therefore, from a relatively early period in the Bible Camp Movement in the Lutheran Church in America, its message is remarkably up-to-date. The same weaknesses and strengths, the same pitfalls and opportunities have apparently been present from the beginning until now in Bible Camp work.

At any rate, we are presenting Pastor Dickhart's article in two parts, beginning today. It should serve as a helpful stimulant to all who are involved in Bible Camp efforts and that means most of us. And now when camps for this summer are being planned, leaders of those camps, parents and youth themselves will do well to ask anew, what do we expect from our camps, what do we want? What does the Lord want?

A. W. Dickhart was a teacher at the Lutheran Bible Institute in Minneapolis and a parish pastor in the Augus-

tana Synod. There are those among our readers who remember him with gratitude and affection. It was our good fortune to renew acquaintance with his son Daniel last July at a church convention in Boston.

In speaking of Bible Camps, we invite our camps to publicize their plans for the summer of 1977 in the **Ambassador**. May we hear from you soon.

## ENERGY CRISIS

Our President is using his persuasive powers and the media to tell us that we must begin **now** to conserve our energy natural resources and throw more of the burden upon those forms which have the larger reserves, specifically coal. Other Presidents have warned us, too, but there is an increasing sense of urgency now.

Slowly but surely the truth is sinking in, the world's oil supply is not inexhaustible, not at the rate at which we have grown accustomed to using it. In the back of our minds lies the conviction that the development of solar energy will deliver us from our dilemma, before we have to really suffer from shortages. Only the future will tell.

Christians also feel that Jesus Christ may return soon and then what seem problems now will no longer be so. But Christians also know that the time of His return is unknown and they must be ready for the "long haul," too, and participate in conservation measures as fully as anyone.

And where there may have to be belt tightening, a doing without, it is the Christians who will be able to show the way by doing so with a minimum of complaint because they know that a person's life does not consist in the amount of things he possesses, but in that he is rich in God.

And for the present, there is time, if there is time, and we do well to examine our lifestyles and to voluntarily cut down now on the non-essentials that have accumulated in our lives. Let us ask, Lord, what would You have me to do, also in these matters?

Remember the words of the Apostle: "For we fix our attention, not on things that are seen, but on things that are unseen. What can be seen lasts only for a time, but what cannot be seen lasts forever" (II Corinthians 4:18, TEV).

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## JACKET TAKEN BY MISTAKE

An imitation leather jacket was taken along by mistake with other apparel and luggage from some church during the recent AFLBS Choral Club tour. Now we cannot be positive from which church it was taken. We desire to return it to the owner. Please contact us by giving size and color of the jacket and it will be returned. We are sorry about the inconvenience this has caused the owner.

Write:

AFLBS Choral Club  
3110 E. Medicine Lake Blvd.  
Minneapolis, Minn. 55441

# NEWS of the Churches

## DEDICATION OF ORTLEY CHURCH ADDITION

Ortley Lutheran Church of Ortley, S. Dak., held the dedication service for its new church addition on March 27, at 2:00 p.m. Pastor John Strand, president of the Association of Free Lutheran Congregations, brought a challenging message on Hebrews 12:1-4, after which he dedicated this addition to the glory of God. He also preached at the morning service.

Both the sanctuary and the addition were filled for the dedication service. The Lord gave summer-like weather for the day, which enabled many visitors from neighboring churches to come, too. Several pastors were present and brought greetings. Devotions were brought by Duane Dahl. Special music was provided by the Senior Choir, with the anthems "O Come, Let Us Sing" and "The Spacious Firmament." Other special music consisted of solos by Mrs. James Swanson, who sang "The Family of God," and by Arlo Kneeland, who sang "Bless This Church." Following the service a delicious lunch was served during a fellowship hour. The ladies of the church also served a potluck dinner at noon, using their fine new kitchen for the first time.

The church addition consists of a multi-purpose room that serves as overflow space, or fellowship hall, or Sunday School rooms (by closing the divider walls), a kitchen, an entrance, and rest rooms.



Ortley Lutheran Church, as seen from the northwest.

A memorial gift of \$12,000 from Agnes Utne in memory of her husband Roy and her niece Patty Skatvold enabled the Ortley congregation to commence this building project during the driest year on record. An anonymous donor gave \$5,000. A total of over \$20,000 has been given so far. Much volunteer labor by many of the members helped keep the total actual cost down to approximately \$23,000. Thus, only about \$3,000.00 remains unpaid. The members and pastor of the Ortley congregation are indeed grateful to God for His abundant mercy in permitting them to have this much needed addition to their church.

The dedication was followed up with a series of special services called "Word of Life" services. Pastor Jay Erickson, who serves at Medicine Lake Lutheran Church, Minneapolis, Minn., was the guest preacher. From Sunday through Wednesday evening, he preached on the theme "We Would See Jesus." These services were indeed a good follow-up to our dedica-

tion, for as we had just dedicated our church addition to God, so we were also again challenged to dedicate ourselves to Christ.

Pastor Einar Unseth

## ANNIVERSARY NOTED IN THIEF RIVER CHURCH

Our Saviour's Lutheran Congregation recently celebrated its 25th Anniversary of ministering the Gospel of Jesus Christ to the Thief River Falls, Minnesota, area.

Our Saviour's Congregation began in 1951 as a city church in the Satersdal Parish. In 1958 the congregation purchased the facilities of the former St. John's Lutheran Church. Through the years an educational unit has been added, the sanctuary has been enlarged, new enclosed steps constructed, a parking lot obtained next door, and extensive remodeling has been done. The parsonage, located two blocks from the church, has also been enlarged and remodeled.

Our Saviour's Congregation has sent three members to the foreign field and numerous young people to Bible schools. Its activities include Sunday School, mid-week Bible study, Women's Missionary Society, Luther League, Youth Night activities, adult, youth and children's choirs, release time classes, Couples' Club, and numerous Bible study and fellowship groups.



Our Saviour's Lutheran Church

At the anniversary service last fall (Sept. 12), the guest speaker was Rev. David Molstre, former pastor of the congregation and present AFLC evangelist. The theme chosen for the day was "For This Cause Also Thank We

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14. What is the command and the promise in Joshua 1:9?

Command: \_\_\_\_\_  
Promise: \_\_\_\_\_

Paul, in prison, is content and rejoicing in the Lord.

Make a list of all the references to JOY in the first two chapters.

Make a list of all the references to REJOICE and REJOICING in the first two chapters which we have now studied.

Memory Verse: Philippians 2:16

Sing together Hymn No. 406 in **The Concordia Hymnal**: "Take My Life and Let It Be Consecrated, Lord, To Thee." This is the prayer of each one of us, I trust.

#### WMF REMINDERS

Our project for May is General Fund. This fund helps WMF projects which do not reach their projected goals and is used for promotional literature and administrative expense.

June is Convention Offering time. Wednesday our offering is for Home Missions and Thursday evening our offering goes to the Praise Program. If you are not going to be able to attend, we encourage you to send your individual offering for these convention offerings.

We invite each one of you to attend our 15th Annual Women's Missionary Federation Convention, June 8th and 9th, to be held at the North Dakota State University, Fargo, North Dakota. We encourage you to come and have a share in the business, the fellowship and the spiritual blessings.

We are again asking our women of the WMF to provide cookies for the coffee breaks at the convention and Annual Conference of the AFLC, June 8-12.

# W.M.F.

## BIBLE STUDY



June, 1977

### Lessons in Philippians

Philippians 2:12-30

In the beginning verse of our study, we notice the loving and tender way in which Paul addresses the Philippians. He says, "My beloved." He commends them for their obedience, not only in his presence, but also in his absence. A consecrated Christian always lives in fellowship with God and seeks to walk pleasing in His sight. "Thou God seest me" (Genesis 16:13, KJV).

Let us ask ourselves: Do I live and act differently when pastors and other Christians do not see me? "As ye have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk ye in him" (Colossians 2:6). Salvation and sanctification are the gifts of God. Read Ephesians 2:8-10 together. Each one of us has a free will in which we choose whom we will obey. May we all permit the Holy Spirit to let the fruits of the Spirit come forth from our lives.

Should we fear God on account of punishment only? Discussion: Use the Explanation of the Catechism and discuss the meaning of a slavish and a childlike fear of God.

### SHINE AS LIGHTS IN THE WORLD

Christians are often referred to as lights in the world. The radiance and influence of Christians dispel darkness and should cause us to give glory to our Father in heaven.

1. Read together and discuss Matthew 5:14-16. (a portion from Jesus' Sermon on the Mount.) What are some of the characteristics of light? \_\_\_\_\_

2. What must be done while we have the light (John 12:35-36)? \_\_\_\_\_

3. What did Jesus say of Himself in John 12:46? \_\_\_\_\_

4. As lights in this world we have the privilege to "Hold forth the Word of Life." Discuss together how we may do this. \_\_\_\_\_

5. What are some of the joys that personal workers and witnesses for Jesus experience? Psalm 126:6 \_\_\_\_\_

John 4:36 \_\_\_\_\_

Acts 15:3 \_\_\_\_\_

Luke 15:6-7 \_\_\_\_\_

Discussion: In what way have certain individuals helped you in your Christian life? You may wish to share how the influence of parents, teachers or other faithful people who have been "Holding Forth the Word of Life" have been used to help you in your decision to "walk in the light."

Paul not only rejoices in his own salvation, but he rejoices in the salvation of others.

### PAUL IS THANKFUL FOR TIMOTHY

6. Review what we have studied about Timothy in previous studies. Why did Paul plan to send Timothy to them (2:19)? \_\_\_\_\_

7. List some of the character traits of Timothy. \_\_\_\_\_

(verses 19-23)

### EPAPHRODITUS

Epaphroditus was sent to Paul in prison with a gift from the church at Philippi. No doubt this was very touching for Paul and he was very appreciative of their self-sacrifice, love, kindness and concern.

Epaphroditus became sick. We do not know the details of his illness, but we do know that he was very sick. Verse 27 refers to him as "being nigh unto death."

8. Who healed Epaphroditus (v. 27)? \_\_\_\_\_

9. What do we learn about Epaphroditus from v. 25? \_\_\_\_\_

10. Why is Paul sending Epaphroditus to them (25-28)? \_\_\_\_\_

11. What reference is made to Epaphroditus in 4:18? \_\_\_\_\_

12. How does Paul ask the Philippian church to receive Epaphroditus (v. 29)? \_\_\_\_\_

1 Thessalonians 5:13 \_\_\_\_\_

13. Verse 30 shows the courage and self-sacrifice that Epaphroditus had. What was it? \_\_\_\_\_



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God Without Ceasing" (I Thess. 2:13a). Greetings and spiritual challenges were brought by former members and former pastor, Melvin Walla. It was a day of rejoicing during the morning worship service, noon parish dinner, and afternoon anniversary service. After refreshments at the church the congregation was invited to "open house" at the parsonage.

These pastors have served the Lord in Our Saviour's Congregation: Rev. Jonas Helland (1951-58), Rev. Lynn Luthard (1958-61), Rev. Marius Haakenstad (1961-66), Pastor Melvin Walla (1966-70), Rev. David Molstre (1971-75), and the congregation is presently served by Rev. Eugene Enderlein.

The congregation is thankful to the Lord for the many opportunities and blessings that He has bestowed upon us.

—Corr.

#### NEW PARISH ALIGNMENT CREATED AT PASTOR'S RETIREMENT

Rev. R. P. Haakonson, Moorhead, Minn., retired as pastor of United Lutheran Church, McLeod, N. Dak., recently and terminated his ministry there on Easter Sunday, April 10. He had served at United for about 14 years. He will continue producing a program carried on three radio outlets and entitled The Christian Fellowship Hour.

United Lutheran has joined the parish centered at Abercrombie and served by Rev. Dale R. Mellgren. It has consisted previously of Stiklestad Lutheran, Doran, Minn., and Bethany Lutheran, Abercrombie, N. Dak.

Pastor Mellgren will conduct services at all three churches each Sunday morning. He held his first service at United on April 17.

The parish will continue to be affiliated with the Southwest Central Minnesota District of the Association of Free Lutheran Congregations.



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used toward paying the costs of graduate studies in the field of systematic theology at Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, Missouri, by Rev. Francis Monseth for the STM and STD Degrees.

III. Institution Support—\$1,000.00. This amount was used toward the extra costs of conducting the Inter-Term Courses at our Seminary from January 5 to February 4, 1977, between the two regular semesters. The courses offered were: The Lutheran Church in America, The Book of Acts, and Media Ministries. These three courses were taught by guest lecturers.

IV. In-Service Continuing Education Support—\$1,000.00. This grant was given to our pastors as scholarships for the cost of registration at our Pastors' Conference held on our campus, January 18-20, 1977. The balance of the grant was used for an honorarium and travel expenses for the guest lecturer.

AAL has notified our Seminary of their continued support for the 1977-1978 school-year. They are again allocating a total of \$4,500.00, to be disbursed to the same four categories as mentioned above.

Our sincere thanks to Aid Association for Lutherans.

Rev. Amos Dyrud, Dean

#### SEMINARY SHORT COURSE DATES GIVEN

The annual summer Short Course

at Free Lutheran Theological Seminary will be held July 25 to August 5, ten school days.

Course offerings and faculty will be announced later. Housing will be available on the campus of the Bible School and meals may be secured at nearby restaurants.

Prospective students—pastors and laymen—may write to Rev. Amos Dyrud, Dean, Free Lutheran Theological Seminary, 3110 East Medicine Lake Blvd., Minneapolis, Minn. 55441.

#### REV. PHILIP HAUGEN WILL TEACH AT THE SCHOOLS

Rev. Philip Haugen, pastor of St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Fargo, N. Dak., has resigned his pastorate there to accept the call to become a teacher in the Association Schools, primarily in the Bible School.

He will begin his duties the first of September.

A native of Mayville, N. Dak., and raised at nearby Portland, Pastor Haugen is a graduate of Mayville State College and Association Free Lutheran Seminary. Married, he has been at St. Paul's since his ordination in 1973.

He has been in wide demand as a speaker and teacher at Bible camps, rallies and other gatherings.

#### ASSOCIATION OF FREE LUTHERAN CONGREGATIONS

3110 East Medicine Lake Boulevard  
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55441

#### BUDGET RECEIPTS

(February 1-March 31, 1977)

	Total Budget 1977-78	Current Budget	Received during March	Total Received	% of Current
General Fund	\$ 72,680.00	\$13,113.32	\$ 4,535.23	\$ 6,825.89	52.
Schools	119,452.00	19,908.66	5,283.91	10,269.73	51.6
Home Missions	75,000.00	12,500.00	4,777.90	6,715.13	53.7
Foreign Missions	85,345.00	14,224.16	7,455.68	10,856.63	76.3
Praise	30,000.00	3,000.00	853.33	1,477.17	49.
TOTAL	\$382,477.00	\$63,746.14	\$22,906.05	\$36,144.55	56.7%
1976-1977	\$395,649.00	\$65,941.50	\$15,892.78	\$24,370.41	36.9%



### BRING THEM TO JESUS

"To talk with him you wouldn't think he has a care in the world." A very troubled man was thus described by his friend. Though this man's heart was filled with strife, yet he smiled and laughed as though he didn't know what trouble was. His happy expression was a cover-up to pretend to other people that he was free from cares.

In calling at a home one time I heard a bitter argument transpiring between a young couple. The wife was loudly accusing her husband of reckless driving, but he was emphatically denying it. My ringing of their door bell brought their argument to an abrupt halt. A smiling wife appeared at the door and invited me inside. This couple acted so happy together that I wondered how it could be the same couple I had heard bickering just a minute earlier. They, too, were wearing masks.

Sometimes a person may feel forced into covering up his real self. Mr. Opie Read, an American humorist, told of such an experience. While his baby was dying he was writing humorous articles for a magazine. He wrote, "During that awful time I would frequently rock the cradle of my dying baby for hours at the time. With one hand I rocked the cradle of death, and with the other I was writing stuff to make people laugh."

One of the most interesting Bible verses says, "Even in laughter the heart is sad, and the end of joy is grief." A person who is laughing on the outside can be crying on the inside. But attempting to hide all our

# Women For Christ

## NORMAN CHURCH SITE OF WMF RALLY

"We are Ambassadors for Christ" was the theme chosen for the Spring Rally of the Western North Dakota and Eastern Montana District Women's Missionary Federation held at Norman Church, northeast of Tioga, N. Dak., March 26.

Our district president, Mrs. Lavern Johnson, conducted the meeting. Mrs. Jerome Rice welcomed us on behalf of the host congregation.

Mrs. Forest Swenson led in devotions, reading John 20:21-22. She stressed our duties and responsibilities as Ambassadors for Christ.

Mrs. Verle Dean of Culbertson, Mont., gave a flannelgraph meditation on the suffering, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ for us.

Missionary Dean Casselton and family sang "There's Something About That Name" and Pastor Casselton shared some of the exciting things happening in our mission field, our Bible School and seminary and our churches at home.

A short business meeting was followed by a special number by Mrs. Art Haakenson, Mrs. Clifford Iverson and Mrs. Lester Lalim: "The Old

troubles will never help us. God desires that we open our hearts to Him so that He can help us. The Bible says of Jesus, "Surely He has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows." Since Jesus has already borne our griefs, let us no longer hide them but bring them to Him instead.

—Einar Unseth

Rugged Cross Made The Difference."

A poster parade showing the seven projects we support concluded the morning session. A delicious meal was served by the Norman ladies.

The afternoon service began with a hymn sing led by Mrs. LaVern Jorgenson.

Mrs. Gary Qualley was installed as district treasurer by Mrs. Grace Syverson, a past district president.

Missionary Casselton was our guest speaker. He used the text, Acts 4:4-13, and told how Peter and John faced trial before the same people who had crucified Jesus and were given power to witness to them of Jesus as Savior. This same power is available to us. Do we use it?

The only training needed to be ambassadors for Christ is to know Jesus Christ as personal Savior and be in constant prayer, he said.

Several very interesting book reports were given—

**Born Again**, by Chuck Colson

**The Man in Black**—the Johnny Cash story

**What Do I Have To Do—Break My Neck?**

**Thanks for the Mountain**

**How Much Prayer Should a Hamburger Get?**

**Bird Life In Wington**

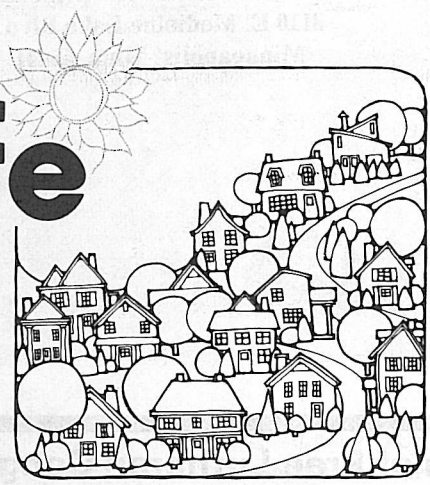
The noon offering was divided between My Missionary For A Day and the Casselton family. The afternoon offering went to Church Extension.

Mrs. Gary Qualley extended an invitation to host the fall rally at Faith Lutheran Church, north of Brockton, Mont. We closed with the Lord's Prayer and the Benediction by Pastor Forrest Swenson, host pastor.

—Mrs. Orville Qualley  
Secretary



# Life on the Edge of Town



## RANDOM THOUGHTS FROM THE CHORAL CLUB TOUR

As my stay at Association Free Lutheran Bible School draws to a close, I realize that one of my fond memories will be of the tours I have taken with the Choral Club and various Gospel teams.

We have always gone out to present Christ first and the School second. The young people have given of themselves in a heart-warming way and it has been a privilege to share with them in the anticipation of the concerts, to hear every program even though I may have heard it quite a few times before and to share in the general fellowship of travelling together.

Don Rodvold, our music director, does such a good job in drawing the music from his singers. He insists on a high level of music for the churches and in general just makes friends for the School wherever he brings his choral groups.

There are just many fine memories from these trips and it would be easy to do a lot of reminiscing, but I must forbear.

—Another really enjoyable part of travelling to the various churches is experiencing the great hospitality of the people. It will be hard to miss that. There isn't any advance planning among the various churches

about menus, but it is almost as though they try to outdo one another. Didn't Paul say something about outdoing one another in showing honor? We have experienced that.

It is encouraging to see the fine way in which our churches are being kept up, the additions that have been added to some, the little things that have been done to make them more attractive. Reference has already been made, in another story, to the addition to the church at Ortle, S. Dak. How the congregation there will enjoy the added room in their already fine church.

Of course, we all should realize that beautiful and functional structures are of little value if there isn't a spiritual program in the church, but we have confidence that our congregations are endeavoring to offer such.

—Quickly now, how many small towns in the U.S. of 250 population or less do you know of which still offer hotel accommodations, much less one that can put up 23 people in addition to other paying guests? (In Canada, yes; in the U.S., not very many.) Yet that is what we found in Pukwana, S. Dak. In my other report I called it "one of the last of the small town hotels in America." You might want to stop and see it and maybe spend the night, if you are travelling out that way.

Another interesting point about Pukwana. At one time it was the smallest town in the U.S. with a first-class Post Office. That's what they say. Check it out.

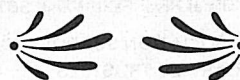
—Beautiful sights. Standing on Tabor Church hill, northwest of Webster, S. Dak., where I stood many times when I served the congregation, and looking out for miles in most all direction over the South Dakota countryside.

Watching a freight train move off into the sunset at the railroad crossing in Tioga, North Dakota. One of those magnificent prairie sunsets.

As we were nearing United Lutheran, McLeod, N. Dak., we became aware of great numbers of geese flying from west to east ahead of us. We watched in fascination as they came from the western horizon, the formations extending almost as far as we could see to the east. There were literally thousands of them. Perhaps for someone who lives by these flyways it was nothing unusual, but I'd not seen anything like it.

—And now it is springtime. Our campus is green again after the long winter. How pretty green looks. The tree leaves will be out early this year. With graduation later this year, all who come for that will find our campus at its prettiest. God's handiwork is everywhere.

—Raynard Huglen



## PERMIT ME

Permit me in some little way  
Turn others' darkness into day;  
Their troubled thoughts upon me  
place,  
That I might for them seek Your  
face.  
For darkness clouds their every step  
And they can't seem to find You  
yet.  
Oh, let me be that helping hand  
To lead them to Your promised  
land.

Mrs. Kent Quanbeck  
McVile, N. Dak.

## COOK WANTED

A head cook is wanted at Association Free Lutheran Bible School to begin work about Sept. 1. Please send inquiries and/or applications to AFLBS, Attention: Mr. Harbo, 3110 East Medicine Lake Blvd., Minneapolis, Minnesota 55441.

## OMISSION

The name of Pastor Dennis Gray, Secretary, AFLC, should also have appeared in connection with the invitation to the 15th Annual Conference of the AFLC, found on page 14 of the April 19 Ambassador.

## THE LUTHERAN AMBASSADOR

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Minneapolis, Minn. 55441

Second-class postage  
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