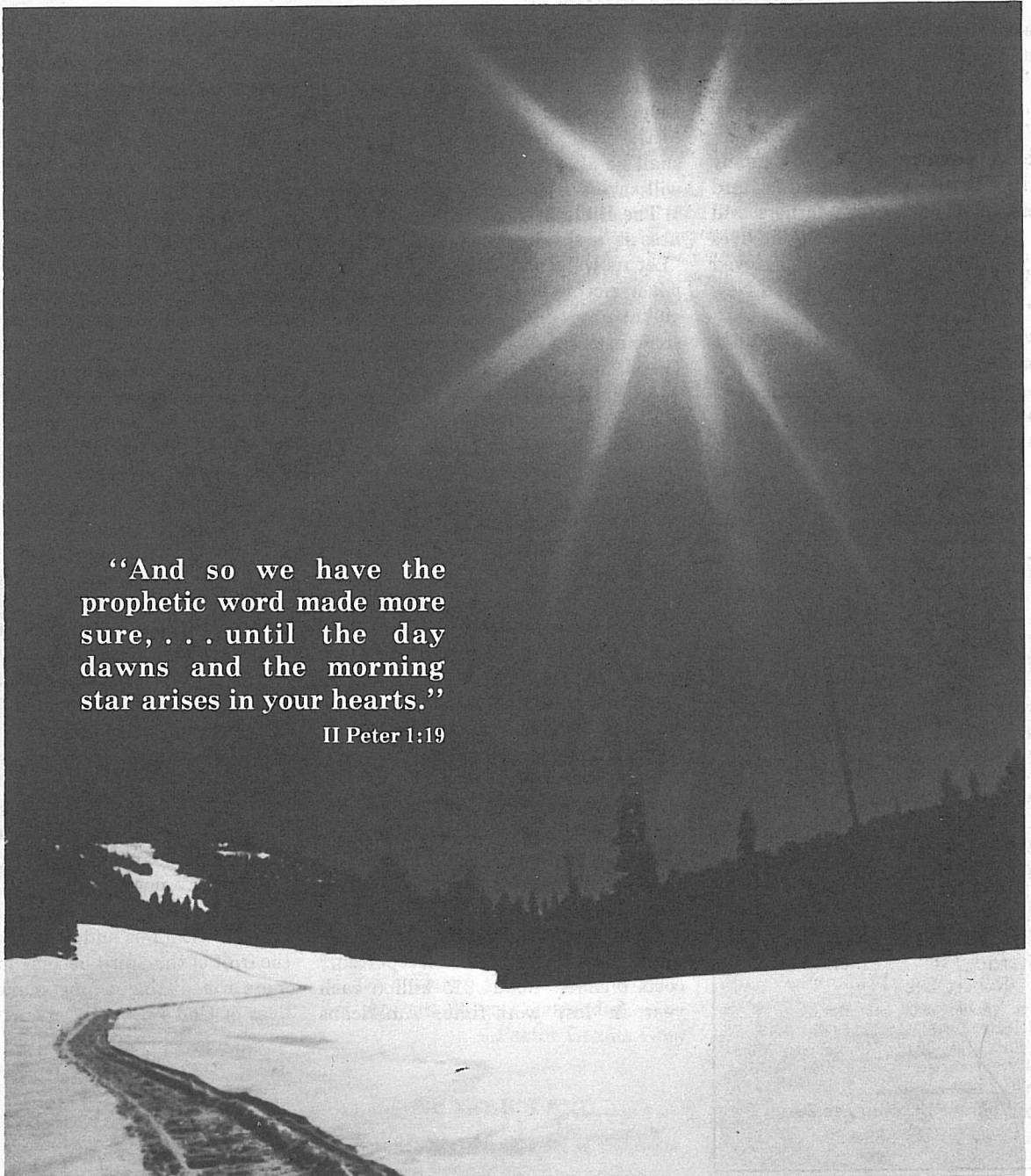


THE LUTHERAN AMBASSADOR

December 23, 1980

**"And so we have the
prophetic word made more
sure, . . . until the day
dawns and the morning
star arises in your hearts."**

II Peter 1:19



RELIGIOUS NEWS SERVICE PHOTO

AT THE MASTER'S FEET

Pastor Ralph M. Rokke



Temperance

It seems an appropriate time to write about temperance just before New Year's Eve. How many lives will come to an abrupt and tragic end this New Year's Eve and on New Year's Day because of intemperance? How many families will lose husbands and fathers, and how many fathers will have to live for the rest of their lives with regrets for the deaths of loved ones because of intemperance on New Year's Eve?

Lives will be ended, joys will vanish, dreams will be shattered in car accidents, in fights and even in murders. All because of intemperance!

During the last six months, it has been my privilege to write about the fruit of the Spirit described in Galatians 5:22-23. Although I have also

written occasionally about other subjects, each of the nine parts of the fruit of the Spirit has furnished me with a theme for one article, and today I come to the topic of temperance. Perhaps I shall be able to sound a warning that will save a life this New Year's Eve.

The Bible is so clear that drunkenness is a sin. Romans 13:13-14 says, "Let us walk honestly, as in the day; *not* in rioting and *drunkenness*, not in chambering and wantonness, not in strife and envying. But *put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ*..."

As these verses indicate, there are many other sins that go hand-in-hand with drunkenness. Disorderly conduct, immorality and fighting are among them, and all of these sins have no part in the life of any child of God. Indeed, if drunkenness and the other sins are left unrepented of in any person's life, even one who has been a child of God, they will condemn him. I Corinthians 6:9-10 tell us, "... Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters ... nor *drunkards* ... shall inherit the kingdom of God." These are not my words, nor the words of any man, but the words of God.

God's Word calls drunkenness sin, not merely illness, but sin. There are other reasons for rejecting the use of alcoholic beverages. It has been reported that alcohol is a factor in 25,000 deaths and in 200,000 injuries each year in car accidents. Misuse of alcohol reportedly costs business about \$15 billion each year in lost work-time. Americans

spend over \$32 billion each year on alcoholic beverages which could much better be spent meeting the physical and social needs of the world. Yet the main reason for saying that drunkenness is wrong is that God says so in His Word.

Drug abuse is another form of drunkenness that has become commonplace in our day. Those who use marijuana, angel dust, heroin and other drugs do so for the same reason that alcoholics drink, to achieve a "high" and to escape for a while from their problems and disappointments. The spiritual results are the same. Both groups have left God and His will far behind and seek only to gratify the lusts of the flesh.

Praise God that there is forgiveness and deliverance in Jesus Christ! Drunkenness is a sin, but it is not an unforgiveable sin. When it is brought under the blood of Jesus Christ for forgiveness, He cleanses it away. God looks upon the repentant drunkard just as he looks upon every repentant sinner, as if that person had never sinned at all. He is a new creature in Christ Jesus.

On this New Year's Eve and during this new year, may we "put on Christ." May we not be under the control of any drug or any power except that of the Lord Jesus. Rather may His Holy Spirit dwell within us and control us. May the fruit of the Spirit become more and more the distinguishing mark of the lives of God's people! Amen. ✝

THE LUTHERAN AMBASSADOR

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AFLC's New Missionaries

The Board of World Missions of the Association of Free Lutheran Congregations is pleased to announce that the Charles Knapps have answered the call to serve as our first missionaries to the nation of Paraguay.

Please place Charles, Joyce and little Rebekah Joyce on your prayer list. Your loving concern is vital to them as they take hold of this new challenge to serve the Lord in a foreign land.

The ordination and commissioning service is set for January 18, 1981, at 3:00 p.m., at Medicine Lake Lutheran Church of Plymouth, Minneapolis, Minnesota.

The Knapps' departure for Paraguay is tentatively scheduled for mid-February.

PARAGUAY - A VISION

After his vision of the Lord and the experience of forgiveness and cleansing, Isaiah heard the call from the Lord, "Who will go for us?", to which Isaiah answered, "Here am I, send me." Jeremiah received a vision test from the Lord and then was given a message to share with the people (Jeremiah 1).

Joyce and I have experienced the forgiveness and cleansing of the Lord by His blood shed on Calvary. Likewise, we have also received a call to "go and tell." To tell those lost in shades of darkness in Paraguay, South America, of the "Light of the World," Jesus Christ. The vision before us is one requiring much prayer and faithfulness in practicing, preaching and teaching the Word of God in all its fullness.

This will be worked out in many ways. Our daily contacts with the people will have to be seen as opportunities to share the joy of salvation by a smile and a word of encouragement. In more specific ways, we will begin with home-to-home visitation, home Bible studies, children's meetings, hospital visitation, and in various other ways contacting the people and presenting the Gospel to them.

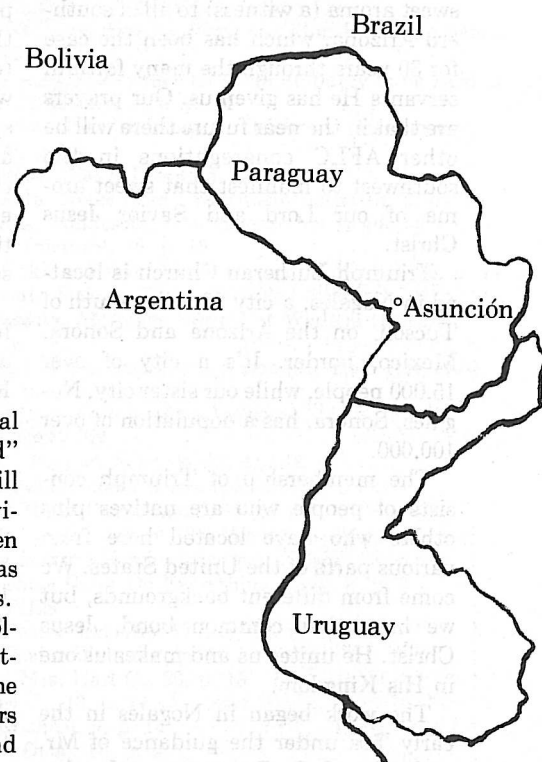
I also envision many of the initial contacts to be of a "helping hand" type, working alongside those who will be nearest to us—our neighbors. I envision a personal discipling of those men whom the Lord lays upon our hearts as possible leaders in the congregations.

I envision a possible newspaper column outreach after a better acquaintance with the language. I know the Lord will direct in all of these matters and will open doors of opportunity and ministry.

Eventually, as the Lord prospers His Word in the hearts and minds of those people, the nationals will take the Word to their own people, and together we will share this Word which is powerful unto the salvation of all who believe.

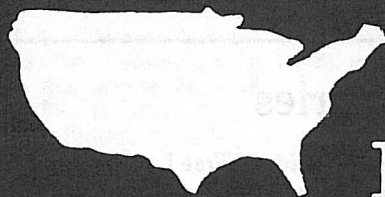
Therefore, supported by you and your prayers, we will carry out this vision in the country of Paraguay, reaching precious souls for Christ, until He comes again for His own.

Yours in His Service
Charles Leslie Knapp



"How then, shall they call on Him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher? And how shall they preach except they be sent? . . . Faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God."

Romans 10:14, 15, 17



Home Mission News

Our southernmost congregation

"But thanks be to God, who always leads us in His triumph in Christ, and manifests through us the sweet aroma of the knowledge of Him in every place (II Cor. 2:14).

Greetings from Triumph Lutheran in Nogales, Arizona. That verse is certainly our desire and because of our triumphs in Christ we want to be that sweet aroma (a witness) to all of southern Arizona, which has been the case for 30 years through the many faithful servants He has given us. Our prayers are that in the near future there will be other AFLC congregations in the southwest to manifest that sweet aroma of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Triumph Lutheran Church is located in Nogales, a city 65 miles south of Tucson, on the Arizona and Sonora, Mexico, border. It's a city of over 15,000 people, while our sister city, Nogales, Sonora, has a population of over 100,000.

The membership of Triumph consists of people who are natives plus others who have located here from various parts of the United States. We come from different backgrounds, but we have that common bond, Jesus Christ. He unites us and makes us one in His Kingdom.

The work began in Nogales in the early '50s under the guidance of Mr. and Mrs. L.C. Dynneson and other faithful workers with a Sunday School ministry in their home. The Lord blessed their efforts as more and more people became a part of their ministry. In the late '50s Pastor Dynneson sensed a call from God for the ministry so he left for college and seminary training. After seminary he could not return to Nogales and be ordained because it was not an organized church, so he accepted a call to Louisville, Mississippi, and served for three years.

A faithful brother and sister, Olga and Leonard Swanson, took over the work and we began to meet in the Boy

Scout building. The Lord continued to bless. Leonard was a Rawleigh dealer in Nogales so this gave him many opportunities to invite many children to Sunday School as he went from house to house. There was evidence of positive results. In 1963 Pastor Dynneson returned from Mississippi and organized the church.

There was a definite need to be a part of a church body to help us sustain the work. Several inquiries were made to different Lutheran church bodies with only the Association positively responding. We felt that the Lord's guidance was to be a part of the AFLC. In the early part of 1964, we were accepted into the fellowship of the Association. During this time Karla (Dynneson) and I were in high school.

This congregation was served faithfully for 16 years by Pastor Dynneson and now after his retirement I, Ted H. Kennedy, Jr., have been serving since the fall of 1979.

Our attendance averages about 40 to 45 regularly and between 60 to 70 during the tourist season. Our Sunday School averages between 50-60. Our Vacation Bible School program had 140 enrolled this summer. On Wednesday evenings 15-20 attend Bible study and prayer time. We have an adult choir and are just now starting a children's choir. In confirmation I have three students enrolled. We have a men's prayer breakfast on the second and fourth Saturdays of every month. Our WMF, the Mary and Martha society, is very active, meeting every other Thursday. The Luther League meets once a week.

In the middle of the 1970s, as we continued to grow in our Sunday School, the congregation prayed for guidance, as we needed more classrooms. In 1979 our new addition was started and completed with funds provided by the Home Mission fund. This provided four new classrooms and they have given many rich blessings to our Sunday School. We are currently working on a

[Continued on page 16]



Pastor and Mrs. Ralph Tjelta

Minneapolis suburb to have new ministry

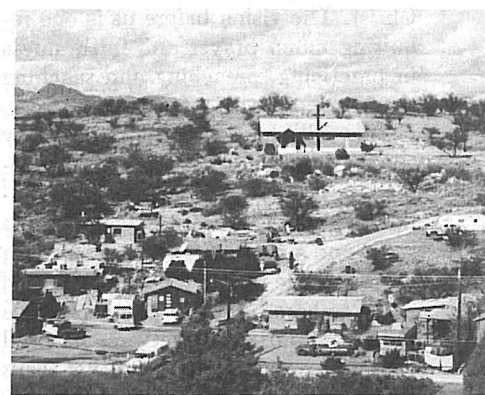
The Burnsville-Apple Valley area will be the new home for the Ralph Tjelta family beginning January 1. The first home mission service is scheduled for February 1, at an area motel. Any interested people living in that area should contact the Home Mission Director at the AFLC headquarters.

Pray for this new work!

Dickinson church self-supporting

Our Saviour's Lutheran Church, Dickinson, N. Dak., Rev. David Molstre, pastor, voted to go off Home Mission support at a congregational meeting on Nov. 12. The decision took effect immediately and it has been requested that the balance of the Lutheran Brotherhood subsidy being received be given to the new mission work in Williston, N. Dak.

Our Saviour's Lutheran received 12 additional families into membership on Nov. 23.



Triumph Lutheran Church, with the compound shown below.

what can a woman do in the church?

by Mrs. Gerald Knudsvig
Buxton, North Dakota

She can be a channel of blessing when she acknowledges who has enabled her to be God's child. "But as many as received Him, to them gave the power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on His Name" (John 1:12).

She can be a channel of blessing by being a "Living Epistle." "Ye are our epistle written in our hearts, known and read of all men . . . written not with ink, but with the Spirit of the living God; not in tables of stone, but in fleshly tables of the heart" (II Cor. 3:2-3).

It has been said: "What you do speaks so loudly, I cannot hear what you say." Oh how closely people watch our lives!

Paul compares our lives to letters that are read. ["No, you] yourselves are our letters of recommendation (our credentials) written in your hearts, to be (perceived, recognized), *known* and *read* by *everybody*. You show and make obvious that *you are a letter from Christ* delivered by us, not written with ink but with (the) Spirit of (the) Living God, not on tablets of stone but on tablets of human hearts" (II Cor. 3:2-3, Amplified).

We are His letters of recommendation known and read by people. Someone said there are five Gospels: Matthew, Mark, Luke, John and the Gospel according to *you*. We may be the only Bible some people will ever read.

She can be a channel of blessing by being willing to be used of God—to truly "Let go and let God!" Yes, let's just make a list of things we can do. We can be a prayer warrior (for our church at large, our pastor, our

THE WOMEN'S PAGE

families, our local congregation and all its activities, etc.); sing in the choir; teach Sunday School; be an officer in the WMF; give the Bible study; share a verbal testimony; be an earnest listener; volunteer to care of someone's little one so that the parent can share her talents; go out and invite friends to church, Sunday School and WMF; make banners for the church year; serve on various committees; visit the sick and lonely (not only those who belong to our church) but others in the community; visit our pastor and wife

"But a woman that feareth the Lord, she shall be praised. Give her of the fruit of her hands; and let her own works praise her in the gates"—(Prov. 31:30b-31).

and pray with them and for them; drop in at the parsonage with a little something for the kitchen cupboards; invite our pastor and family into our home on special occasions such as Thanksgiving, Christmas, Easter and birthdays; make use of the telephone and call that person for whom we have a concern and wish them a good day! We could go on and on with this list.

I am sure that as you read this above list you were inwardly responding (just as I have) "Oh, how I would like to do this or that . . . but . . . what would so and so say or think? They'll say I'm doing too much, etc."

Dear sister in Christ . . . if we are truly willing to "Let go and let God" and be used of Him we must obey Him—not man. We must be willing to be criticized for the sake of Jesus Christ!

When we send a letter in the mail we must put a postage stamp on it in order for it to reach its destination. So it is for you and me as His "Living Epistles." We must be like a postage stamp:

"Always be ready to serve"
(Acts 10:38)

"Do what you can today, you may not be here tomorrow."

"Go wherever you are sent" (Acts 8:26-27).

"If you want to walk with God you must go God's way."

"Don't mind a licking" (Gal. 6:17).

"Trust God without terms."

"Storms make a strong tree, testings make a strong Christian."

"Stick to it until you get here" (Rev. 2:10).

"The man who walks with God Always gets to His destination."

"Represent your country" (Acts 21:39).

"What we weave in this world we shall wear in heaven."

"Little things can be important."

"Little is much if God is in it."

We made a list of many things that women can do in the church. As we "Let go and let God" use us, we can ***be a channel of blessing*** unto others by being His "*living epistles*." Let us use the talents that He has given to each of us and be an obedient "postage stamp!" Let us be thankful in everything in being a citizen of His Kingdom representing our eternal destination which is *heaven*!

(All quotations have been taken from *Uncle Ben's Quote Book* by Benjamin R. DeJong. Some statements taken from *Be Still and Know* by Millie Stamm.)

Send all WOMEN'S PAGE news to Miss Solveig Larson, 3110 E. Medicine Lake Blvd., Mpls., Minn. 55441.



L to R—Back row: Brandon Cardella, Peter Balmer, Marybeth Enderlein, April

Cardella and Miss Flores; front row, Maren and Lars Dyrud.

Banners given to Mexican church

A gift of Scripture banners in Spanish was presented to Miss Leticia Flores during her recent visit to the United States. Pictured are children from Our Saviour's Lutheran Church in Thief River Falls, Minnesota, with Miss Flores. The banners will decorate the walls of the Flores apartment during Sunday School hours. The congregation of Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, Leon, Mexico, meets in the Flores home while they work and pray toward building their own church dwelling.

Miss Flores, the daughter of Pastor and Mrs. Samuel Flores, visited with friends within the AFLC during the month of August in order to enrich the relationship between these sister churches and to further

her understanding of the English language. She is a high school teacher in Leon, Mexico, and benefitted much from fellowship here in homes, churches and at Bible Camps. Her genuine love for the Lord Jesus Christ made a lasting impression upon all of her new friends. Miss Flores also authors and illustrates Bible Study workbooks for all the students who come to Vacation Bible School. One of the new projects of the World Mission outreach of the AFLC will be to electronically duplicate her beautiful workbooks for all the Spanish students there. Gifts for this purpose can be sent to the Board of World Missions at the AFLC Headquarters in Minneapolis.

Fellowship dinners at Hatton, N. Dak., Reva, S. Dak

Zoar Lutheran Church at Hatton, N. Dak., recently had its fall fellowship supper with the Sunday School pupils, their parents and teachers as honored guests. Included in the program was singing by the students and the film, "Somebody Special." Only two of the pupils and their parents missed this festive event.

Rev. Orville T. Olson has served as pastor of Zoar for the past five years.

—Corr.

A Fellowship Banquet—a first at Slim Buttes near Reva, S. Dak.—was hosted by Mr. and Mrs. Gary LaDue, Mr. and Mrs. Arlie Peck and Pastor and Mrs. Philip Rokke the evening of October 30.

Roast duck in rice dressing along with all the trimmings was served to the 30 guests. Tables were decorated with arrangements of tiny ears of corn, fall leaves and flowers.

Pastor Rokke, master of ceremonies, kept all of us entertained with his lively humor. The fun-filled games challenged partners to think fast as there was a time element involved.

The evening ended with singsgiving and prayer. It is good to come to the house of the Lord where we can enjoy the fellowship and love of other Christians.

Amy Olson
Publicity

Newfolden
Mrs. Ida Julin, 90, Nov. 29, Westaker

NEWS OF THE CHURCHES

Winter Conference in Tioga, N. Dak.

The 19th annual Winter Bible Conference of the Association of Free Lutheran Congregations will be held at Zion Lutheran Church, Tioga, N. Dak., Feb. 25-28. Rev. Allen Monson is the host pastor.

Further conference details will be announced later.

Church joins AFLC

Faith Evangelical Lutheran Church, Burlington, N. Dak., was recently added to the congregational roster of the Association of Free Lutheran Congregations. It has been served for some time by Rev. Terry Olson, who also serves Bethel Lutheran Church in Minot, where he resides.

Faith was previously affiliated with Faith Lutheran Seminary, Tacoma, Wash., the seminary of Lutherans Alert-National. Burlington, six miles up valley from Minot, has become a "bedroom community" of the Magic City in recent years.

Personalities

New address for *Pastor and Mrs. Howard Kjos* and family is Rt. 1, Pierpont, S. Dak. 57468.

Rev. Ralph Tjelta, DeKalb, Ill., has accepted a call to begin a Home Mission congregation in Burnsville, a suburb of Minneapolis, Minn. He and his family will be moving to the Twin Cities shortly.

Rev. G. A. Schroeder, recent graduate of Free Lutheran Seminary, has accepted a call to serve the Tioga, N. Dak., rural parish (Norman, Beaver Creek and Scandia).

New address of *Rev. and Mrs. Merle T. Knutson*, formerly of Newfolden, Minn., is Lakefield, Minn. 56150. The Knutsons are spending several months with family as Pastor Knutson recovers from a voice problem.

In Memoriam

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.

MINNESOTA

Greenbush

Mrs. Cecilia A. Gustafson, 70, Nov. 2, Bethlehem

Mr. Torger Dalager, 73, Nov. 23, Bethlehem

My Hymn of Praise

Many years have rolled by;
I have reached old age.
My Lord has guided my way;
Thanks be to Him!

When I look back over those years,
I can see His works of grace
Which I have encountered on my way;
He has blessed my path.

Now my hair is turning gray.
It is a reminder to me
That my end is now near,
Since I am weak and weary.

My Lord lifted me from a deep pit,
Placed my feet on the Rock.
He also directs my paths
And for that my hymn of praise now
rises.

As I have walked the path of life,
I have made many mis-steps.
But my Lord has raised me again,
Given grace and strength on my
journey.

When the day of my dying arrives,
I will lean on Your breast, dear
Jesus.
You will take me to Paradise,
Even as You took the thief from the
cross.

There will ring out my song of thanks-
giving
For washing me clean from sin.
There in the company of the holy an-
gels
My hymn of praise will resound to
eternity. Amen.

—by Maria Peterson

(The author, a former member of Hope Lutheran Church, Ishpeming, Mich., went to be with the Lord on May 28 at the age of 94. Her pastor translated the poem from Finnish to English and it was forwarded to us by her son Walter, with whom she lived.)

1981 LUTHERAN AMBASSADOR SCHEDULE

(Please save for reference)

1. The first date given is the date on which the *Ambassador* is published, every two weeks.
2. The second date is the deadline on which material for that issue must reach the Editor at Box 128, Newfolden, Minn. 56738. Please send all correspondence to him at that address.
3. Material which arrives late will not be included in that issue unless it is of an emergency nature or there is room for it.
4. Unsolicited material is certainly welcome, but it will be used at the discretion of the Editor and as space permits.
5. All material should be in double-spaced typing. Handwritten material will often be delayed.
6. The second issue in August is omitted.
7. In sending in notices of meetings, keep in mind that subscribers receive their copies up to a week or more following the date of publication. *Think ahead!*
8. Regular writers for the *Ambassador*, as well as other possible contributors, are asked to note the special issues given below so that they may write concerning those topics if they so desire.

Publication Date	Editor's Deadline	Special	WMF Bible Study
January 6	December 13	New Year	Yes
January 20	December 27		
February 3	January 10	Patriotic	Yes
February 17	January 24		
March 3	February 7	Lent	Yes
March 17	February 21	Lent	
March 31	March 7	Easter	Yes
April 14	March 21		
April 28	April 4	Mother's Day	
May 12	April 18	Pre-Conference and Memorial Day	
May 26	May 2	Pentecost and Pre-Conference	
June 9	May 16		Yes
June 23	May 30		
July 7	June 13		Yes
July 21	June 27	Conference Reports	
August 4	July 11	Parish Education	Yes
September 1	August 8		Yes
September 15	August 22		
September 29	September 5		
October 13	September 19	Reformation	Yes
October 27	October 3	Stewardship	
November 10	October 17	Thanksgiving	Yes
November 24	October 31	Advent	
December 8	November 14	Christmas	Yes
December 22	November 28	End of Year	
January 5, 1982	December 12	New Year's	Yes

Note: The following Calendar of Emphases will be used in the AFLC during the coming year. Issues listed for the months below may contain special promotional and informational material related to these concerns.

January: General Fund	August: Bible School
February: Praise Program	September: Home Missions
March: World Missions	October: Pensions
April: Seminary	November: General Fund
May: Church Extension	December: World Missions
June: Youth Work	January, 1982: Seminary
July: <i>The Lutheran Ambassador</i>	

SAVE FOR REFERENCE



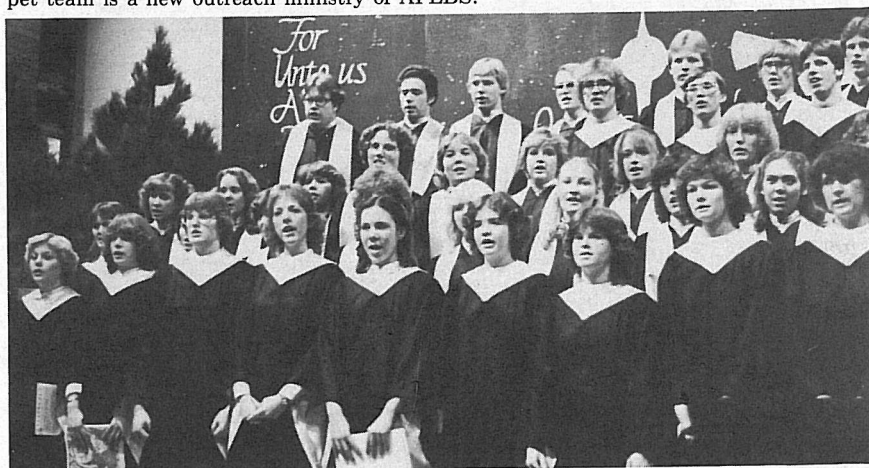
CAMPUS NEWS

OUTREACH MINISTRIES

by Mark Stave
Wadena, Minn.
and Stephanie Krueger,
Granite Falls, Minn.



Jean Kjorstad, Williston, N. Dak., talks to the puppets during a practice session. A puppet team is a new outreach ministry of AFLBS.



December 14 found the Choral Club and Choir leading a concert of worship and praise. Photo by Judy Oscarson

AFLC MISSIONS WEEK
February 4-8

JOIN US

Parents' Day
February 7

Seminary announces Inter-Term

Association Free Lutheran Seminary, through its dean, Rev. Amos O. Dyrud, has announced the schedule for the January, 1981, Inter-Term program.

There will be three sections. In the first, Jan. 5-9, Miss Judith Wold, executive secretary of Parish Education in the AFLC, will teach a course in Christian Education in the Local Congregation. In the second session, Jan. 12-16, Youth Work in the Local Congregation will be taught by Rev. Dennis Gray, Spicer, Minn. Dr. Iver Olson, professor emeritus of the Seminary, will teach Scandinavian Church History, Jan. 26-30.

Fifteen class periods a week or the equivalent are planned for each session. There is a registration fee of \$15.00 for all students. AFLC students will not be charged the per

credit hour fee. Special Seminary students (non-AFLC) will be charged the per credit hour fee. Special Seminary students (non-AFLC) will be charged the regular catalog hourly tuition, which is currently \$35.00 per credit hour (all courses are one credit hour). General tuition costs are \$35.00 per credit hour for non-Seminary students. A charge of \$25.00 per course hour will be made of those who audit the classes. Books will cost approximately \$20.00. If available, room may be obtained in the dormitories at \$3.00 per day. Please make your request in advance at the Bible School. Meals can be purchased at the school cafeteria.

Please contact Pastor Amos O. Dyrud at 3110 E. Medicine Lake Blvd., Minneapolis, Minn. 55441.

Reaching out to others is an important part of the Christian life. AFLBS students reach out to many area nursing homes and an inner city mission called the Marie Sandvik Center.

Visiting the nursing homes is a pleasure to residents and students alike. Each of the seven different groups of students, usually led by a senior, visit a nursing home once a month. While there, they conduct a short service. Afterwards, students and residents get acquainted and encourage each other in their Christian life.

At the Marie Sandvik Center, one of a variety of their valuable programs is to arrange a program on Saturday afternoons for inner city children. AFLBS volunteers donate some Saturday afternoons to help with the program.

Becky Wall, a senior, felt a burden in her heart for the Marie Sandvik Center. After much prayer she began teaching the Wednesday girls' club.

"It's been encouraging," she said, "to see how open and eager the kids are to learn." Yet, as they learn Bible verses and soak in Scriptural truths from Bible stories, Becky has recognized their inability to apply these truths to their lives. Often coming from broken homes and other incredible situations, it's that much harder for the children to live out the Word. However, it is a joy to rest in God's powerful Word.

It's not always easy to get out and help meet the needs of a crying world but as Becky has met this challenge she has found that it's been good, not only for the children, but also for her.

"It's made me appreciate so much more my home, family and the Christian atmosphere I was raised in." She concluded, "It's shown me again how God's grace is sufficient to meet all our needs. So often we feel inadequate but as we give ourselves to God He can and will use us."

These opportunities in serving others encourage AFLBS students to share their faith and to make practical use of what they learn here at school.

editorials

THANK YOU, PASTOR ROKKE

This has been an excellent series on the Fruit of the Spirit which Pastor Ralph Rokke has written for our devotional meditations in the last half of 1980. The meaning of each individual fruit has been set forth in a very practical way for us. Then there have been three meditations on other subjects for there are nine fruits mentioned in Galatians 5:22-23 and he has written 12 times. And in all of his articles Pastor Rokke has been very clear and helpful. Those are good gifts for any pastor to have.

Thank you, Pastor Rokke, for writing for us. Now we pray the Lord's blessing upon you as you continue work in Faith and Rosedale Congregations in Minneapolis and also serve as chairman of the Board of Publications and Parish Education in our church.

At this time we are glad to announce the writer for the series "At the Master's Feet" in the first half of 1981. He is Pastor Kenneth Pentti of Ishpeming, Mich. But more than that he is the evangelist-youth worker in the Association. Because of that he is well-known already in many of our churches and will become more so. We think it is fitting that he can keep in touch with the church also in this way. The Lord bless him as he undertakes this service to us.

It is also very much in order to say thank you to Pastor Einar Unseth, Bismarck, N. Dak., for concluding a second year of writing a series of brief articles with devotional content. This year he called them "A Minister's Musings." He has a knack for drawing upon incidents from home and congregational experiences, and from those on the mission field in Japan, and showing some practical Christian application from them. Thank you, Pastor Unseth, for sharing with us again in this way.

To replace "A Ministers Musings" next year, we shall be using devotional meditations from Ludvig Hope's classic

book *Thy Kingdom Come*. We trust you will find these a real blessing, too.

JANUARY'S CHALLENGE

In a letter to the church's pastors in late November, Rev. Richard Snipstead, president of the Association of Free Lutheran Congregations, called attention to the crucial challenge facing the Association in the time remaining before January 31, the end of the fiscal year. By the end of October 49% of the budget had been met in contributions from congregations, other friends and Lutheran Brotherhood IMPACT matching funds (for Schools). Ideally 75% of the budget should have been reached by that time.

So whatever came in in November and comes in now this month, we can be sure that a sizeable task remains for January if the minimum goals are to be met. Each year the job becomes a little more difficult as the goals go up and up (this year we have our first half-million dollar budget and next year we will take a giant stride toward our first million dollar one) and that is the only way they can go. The church is growing, too, but perhaps largely through the addition of new congregations. Local needs keep on increasing, too, and many of our parishes are small and support a local program in keeping with churches much larger both in the AFLC and other Lutheran synods.

But that doesn't detract from the need to support the outreach of the Association: the Schools, missions and administrative program. These are the Lord's work, too, and they must be carried out. Each year is vital. These are serious times. The working day may end soon; at least opportunities may be diminished.

Therefore the challenge of January lies before us. We must do everything we can to meet it. In the past, we have been surprised, happily, at the way the people of the church have come through in the face of great challenge. May it be so again.

"So we built the wall; and all the wall was joined together to half its height. *For the people had a mind to work*" (Nehemiah 4:6).

With Our Evangelist-Youth Worker

Nogales, Ariz.

Triumph Lutheran Church

Jan. 4-8

Ted H. Kennedy, pastor

Spicer, Minn.

Green Lake Lutheran Church

(Evangelism Seminar)

Jan. 23-25

Dennis D. Gray, pastor

Minneapolis, Minn.

Morgan Avenue Lutheran Church

Feb. 1-5

Frank Rutherford, student pastor

Granite Falls, Minn.

Faith Lutheran Church

Feb. 8-10

Roger Krueger, lay pastor

Brodhead, Wis.

Bethany Lutheran Church

Feb. 22-26

Kenneth Thoreson, lay pastor

Sedan, Minn.

Scandia Lutheran Church

Mar. 1-5

Larry Haagenon, pastor

Valley City, N. Dak.

Grace Lutheran Church

Mar. 15-19

Curtis Emerson, pastor

Binford, N. Dak.

Bethany Lutheran Church

Mar. 22-26

Wesley Langaas, pastor

Minnewaukan, N. Dak.

Trinity Lutheran Church

Mar. 29-Apr. 2

Timothy K. Skramstad, pastor

There is a great need for the ministry of intercession for this work being carried on by Rev. Kenneth Pentti. Will you be one who bears up this task in prayer?

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NEW OFFICERS FOR THE SOUTHWEST CENTRAL MINNESOTA LEAGUE

At a recent high school retreat, the Southwest Central Minnesota Luther League voted the following into office: Brad Nash, Wahpeton, N. Dak., president; Alan Arneson, Spicer, Minn., vice-president; Sonja Johnson, Sacred Heart, Minn., secretary; and Lisa Arvidson, Wadena, Minn., treasurer.

Rev. Francis Monseth of the Association Schools and Rev. Gordon Grage, Brandon, Minn., were speakers at Faith Haven the weekend of Nov. 7-9. At least 50 youth attended.

—Pastor Dennis Gray

AT YEAR'S END

As every thread of gold is valuable, so is every minute of time.—Mason

One always has time enough, if one will apply it well.—Goethe

As if you could kill time without injuring eternity.—Thoreau

The flood of time is setting on; we stand upon its brink.—Shelley

Ignatius, when he heard a clock strike, was accustomed to say, "Now I have one more hour to answer for."

—Doran's Ministers Manual

LEM Midwinter Conference planned

The 45th Annual Midwinter Conference, sponsored by the Lutheran Evangelistic Movement (LEM), will be held January 25-29, at Augustana Lutheran Church, 7th Street and 11th Avenue So., Minneapolis, Minnesota.

Pastor David Barnhart of Trinity Lutheran Church of Minnehaha Falls, Minneapolis, will be the evening speaker, beginning Sunday at 7:15 and at services through Thursday evening.

Days sessions, Monday - Thursday, will feature Bible studies entitled "God's Law and God's Gospel" by Jonathan Lindell, new General Director of World Mission Prayer League, at 10 a.m.; and the LEM evangelists, Sterling Johnson, Philip Hanson and W. E. Klawitter, and Skyways Chaplain Paul Gunderson will lead the 11 o'clock sessions, using the topic of "Our Calling Today."

The 1:30 afternoon sessions will be under the direction of Mrs. Loree Kiel of United Prayer Ministries. She will conduct a seminar on prayer.

Youth Days will follow the conference and will be held at Central Lutheran Church, East Grant and Fourth Avenue, in downtown Minneapolis. Beginning on Friday evening, it will continue all day Saturday, January 31. Speaking both evenings will be the Rev. Don Williams of LaJolla, Calif., well-known conference speaker at Inter-Varsity, Young Life and Lutheran Youth Encounter gatherings. Bible studies, music and electives on vital youth topics of today will be featured at the day sessions on Saturday.

All sessions are open to the public.

[Continued from page 4]

PA system which will provide Spanish translation through earphones to our Spanish-speaking members and friends.

We at Triumph would like to express our thanks for your gifts and loans which are being used to reach people and advancing the Lord's Kingdom. Thank you, too, for your prayer support and we would ask you to please continue to remember us in your prayers.

We at Triumph Lutheran would like to pray that you may continue to grow in the grace and knowledge of Him in the New Year.

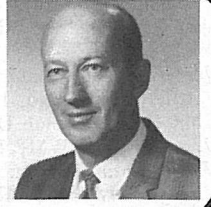
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A Minister's Musings

Pastor Einar Unseth



WINNING ONE'S HUSBAND

I Peter 3:1-2

"My husband isn't interested in Christianity. He is stubborn." A Japanese lady, who had recently trusted Christ as her Savior, spoke these words scornfully about her spouse. Her tone of voice clearly revealed a spirit of non-subjection to him. Therefore I read and explained to her I Peter 3:1-2, "Likewise you wives, be submissive to your husbands, so that some, though they do not obey the word, may be won without a word by the behavior of their wives, when they see your reverent and chaste behavior." I pointed out to her that it is in God's order that wives be subject to their husbands. When a Christian wife has an unsaved husband, that wife is to seek to win him for Christ by her Christlike behavior. Her reverent behavior will convince her husband that her spirit is in harmony with the profession she makes.

A distraught lady in this country once lamented to me, "I don't know what to do. My husband and I don't have anything in common." She proceeded to relate that though she and

her husband had been married 26 years, they had never had any happy days in their marriage. Her husband so strongly opposed her for being a Christian that he became extremely angry even when she left a Bible lying out in their home. In response to this lady's problem, I read and explained to her God's method for winning one's husband.

Some months later when I talked to this lady, she joyfully stated, "My husband has really changed. He had remarked to her, 'If I live the average life span, I'll live another 19 years. That gives me 19 years to be good to you.'" Now he was communicating with her and was doing kind things for her. Though he had not yet given his heart to Christ, he had become open and was giving honor unto his wife. That lady also was winning her husband by her reverent and chaste behavior.

Dear reader, if you have an unsaved partner, take heart and accept God's method. Ask God to help you show forth Christ by your life. And He who saved you will, by His Holy Spirit, work a blessed change in your partner's life.