

December 25, 1979

The Lutheran Ambassador



**"The old year now hath
passed away"**

Roger C. Huebner, D.D.S.

MEDITATION MOMENTS

Prayer for the New Year

"Teach us to number our days aright, that we may gain the heart of wisdom" (Psalm 90:12 NIV).

We are at the end of one decade and looking toward a new decade. It is an important time for reflection. We look back on this past year or decade and see some things accomplished. We have met some of the goals that we made. We have received many blessings. We have made new friends. We have gone to new places. We have had many experiences. There have been deaths in our families. There possibly has been the loss of health. There have been the afflictions.

Moses wrote the 90th Psalm. He knew God personally. He knew what it meant to put his trust in God. He prayed that God would teach him to number his days. He prayed that God would give him wisdom. I'm sure Moses learned from his experiences. We should learn something from every experience we have had during the past year or years.

Moses knew there was a living God. God needs to be our dwelling places. God is from everlasting to everlasting. He is not limited by time or space. He is changeless. He is "the same yesterday and today and forever." He is our source of strength. He is the Creator. He is the one who has control over all things. God allows sickness, afflictions and death for a reason. There

are benefits from all these things.

We need to realize how weak and frail we really are. Man is mortal while God is immortal. Our life is short. It is like a sleep. We lie down and it is soon time to rise again. Man's life is like grass which flourishes in the morning but soon withers in the sun and dies. Life may be cut short before we want it to be. We need to be ready at any time to meet our Lord.

Moses wanted to know God's forgiveness. It is good to know when we need help. It is good to know that help is available. God does not like sin. Moses felt God's wrath on Mt. Sinai when the tables of Law were thrown down in anger. Man needs the Fear of God in his heart. We need to recognize that we must answer to God. There is nothing hidden from God. God looks on the inside of man. God holds man responsible for what he does. God has mercy to offer. God can forgive our sins. Atonement has been made. It is the Lord who can bring satisfaction. His mercy comes freely, undeserved and unmerited but is never forced on man. We need to receive it by faith. God is the one who can give us joy and gladness. We have peace with God when we are forgiven. God's grace is sufficient to help us in our time of need. Hebrews 4:16 says, "Let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive

mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need" (NIV). God is the one who gives meaning and purpose to our life. God is the one who can give us hope. There is life beyond the life that we are now living. This life is not the end.

May our prayer be at the end of this year or decade and as we look to the New year, "Oh, Lord, teach us to number our days." If this would be the year that God should call you, would you be ready to meet Him? Pray the following prayer as a prayer of commitment. It is written by a Pastor Alvin D. Johnson.

"Lord, accept my time and strength; my limited range of skills, experience, desire and will:—come into my life today and make Your grand design known. Take the mundane and make it magnificent. Take my body, may its actions be woven into the doing of Your will. Take my mind and let me think Your thoughts. Take my heart and make it sensitive to the needs close about me and throughout the world. May Your desires and will burn in and through me like a white flame. Take my life today as a glad gift of gratitude and lead me to the greatest fulfillment and worthy endeavor of which I am capable. I would be a Christian in name and deed this day." Amen.

Leslie Galland

The Lutheran Ambassador is published biweekly (except the second issue in August) by the Association of Free Lutheran Congregations, 3110 East Medicine Lake Blvd., Minneapolis, Minn. 55441. Rev. Raynard Huglen, Newfolden, Minn. 56738, is the editor and all communications concerning content of the magazine should be addressed to him. Layout design: Solveig Larson. Editorial Board: Mr. Clarence Quanbeck, Rev. Francis Monseth and Rev. Robert L. Lee. Subscription price is \$4.00 per year in advance. Subscriptions should be sent to **The Lutheran Ambassador**, 3110 East Medicine Lake Blvd., Minneapolis, Minn. 55441. Second-class postage paid at Minneapolis, Minn. Volume 17, Number 25
Lutheran Ambassador USPS 588-620



by Pastor Gordon Grage
Brandon, Minn.

"This is the beginning of a new day. God has given me this day to use as I will. I can waste it or use it for good. What I do today is important because I'm exchanging a day of my life—for it. When tomorrow comes, this day will be gone forever, leaving in its place something I have traded for it. I want it to be gain, not loss; good not evil; success, not failure; in order that I should not regret the price I paid for it."

We are about to begin a New Year. As we look at this quote I copied from the bulletin board at the New Hope Center in Minneapolis, what did we trade this past year for? Some of us can maybe look back at many years and wonder what we really traded them for. The important thing today is, if God grants us another year, what are we going to do with it? Are we going to use it for good in God's Kingdom? We don't have to worry about the success or the failure. God only requires us to be faithful and obedient and as we are; He takes the failures with the success.

In the world today we have a great danger, the indifference to God's Word. It is the most destructive danger there is for the souls of individuals, for our nation and the world. Christianity is but one generation from extinction. We must always remember that neglect of divine instruction and opposition to sacred Scripture can in one generation ruin all the work of those who have labored before us. Ours is a great responsibility. Individuals, homes, churches, our nation and the world must "Bring back the Bible."

In II Chronicles 7:14, God is speaking to His chosen people Israel.

"If my people, which are called by My name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek My face, and turn from

their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land."

"If my people." We are all children of God by creation, but because of the Fall, because of sin entering the world in the Garden of Eden, there came with it suffering, death and separation from God. Because of sin we are alienated from God.

"Which are called by my name." This warning and promise given in this verse were given to God's chosen people Israel. But God is living and His Word is living, so it applies just as much today as it did at the time it was written. As we look at this today, "Which are called by my name," Christians, people who call themselves Christians are the ones God is addressing. Calling themselves Christians while they reject Christ as the only and complete Savior. They teach the fatherhood of God and brotherhood of man, yet with these fancy words it simply means that all religions must finally be regarded as the same. That Jews, Mohammedans, Christians, Buddhists, "Moonies" and all the others are traveling toward the same

goal, only along different roads. We have Jesus' own statement, "I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by Me" (John 14:6). His Word also teaches without compromise, "Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved" (Acts 4:12). With these statements of truth, many today put the God of the Bible on the same low level with the gods of the heathen, being no better than the ancient Israelites who bowed before Baal and other idols of their heathen neighbors.

"Shall humble themselves." It is humbling when we come to the point where we realize that we cannot make it on our own. That all our efforts are in vain. They are nothing but filthy rags in the sight of God. It is humbling when we are driven to our knees in prayer. Most generally it is the last resort, no other place to turn, to call on the Name of God. It is human nature; we try everything else first. And when that fails, then we try God.

"And seek my face." This is only possible through our Lord Jesus

at year's end

BRING BACK THE BIBLE

Christ; He has bridged the gap between God and man. His completed work on the Cross at Calvary makes it possible for us to come before Almighty God. "And he is the propitiation for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world" (I John 2:2).

"And turn from their wicked ways." Whenever worship of God declines, morality sinks with it. Oh, we can say that our children aren't offered to heathen gods. They aren't sacrificed to Moloch. Yet look at the pagan practices in our country that prevent multitudes of children from being born. Then, too, the ones who are born, are poisoned with unbelief. Sins of the flesh increase in number and boldness as young people give way to passion. The Christian ideal of keeping clean and chaste before marriage, true and faithful after, is laughed away.

The number one transgression is despising God's Word. Learned men attack, belittle, ridicule and tear apart God's divinely inspired Word. In some churches today Scripture is practically a closed and sealed book. Sermon texts are best sellers or current events. People coming to hear the promises of God with the assurance of "Thus saith the Lord" must listen instead to messages which feature statements of men.

We like to look at corruption as

originating in big business or government, but it starts with individuals. The same is true with turning from our wicked ways, it has to start with individuals. Salvation is personal, a personal relationship with our Lord Jesus Christ.

Scripture must be brought back, but not merely as "the Good Book," a collection of pious, helpful thoughts, a volume that contains God's Word, but as the Book that is God's Word, in at Genesis and out at Revelation, the divinely inspired and errorless record which

us from all unrighteousness" (I John 1:9). Another wonderful promise from God. He is able and willing to cleanse all who humble themselves and pray.

Then God promises, "He will heal our land." How long can God continue to bless our nation? We have a great responsibility. We are the stewards of God's Word and His land. Four hundred and fifty years ago God raised up Martin Luther and other men to bring His Word to the people. Today it is our responsibility to proclaim His mes-

"Scripture must be brought back, but not merely as . . . a volume that contains God's Word, but as the Book that is God's Word. . . ."

has never made a mistake and which will never be rightfully charged with error, the only source for Christian teaching, and the only infallible guide for Christian living.

The Bible, unlike all other writings, repeatedly claims to come from Almighty God. More than 3,100 times in the Old and New Testaments writers claim that their utterances are God's utterances.

If there is to be a return to the Bible, if there is to be a revival, it has to begin with you and me. Humbling ourselves and praying, seeking God and turning from our wicked ways. Then He "will forgive us our sins." "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse

sage of salvation and to pray that God will continue to bless our nation. "Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labor is not in vain in the Lord" (I Cor. 15:58).

As we look "unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith," we can remain steadfast, faithful and obedient claiming the promise of God, "Now unto Him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us, unto Him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end. Amen" (Eph. 3:20, 21).

===== Winter Conferences Scheduled =====

Pastors' Conference to be at Osceola

The annual pastors' conference of the Association of Free Lutheran Congregations will be held at the Osceola Air Base property in western Wisconsin, January 15-17, 1980.

Featured speaker will be Dr. N. S. Tjernagel of the Wisconsin Synod. He will give three lectures: Background and Content of the Catechism, Background and Content of the Augsburg Confession and the Application of Each to Present-Day Lutheranism.

Some time in the program will also be given to follow-up on the Colloquium on the Church in Future Society held in Houston, Texas, last January-February.

Winer Bible Conference dates set

The 18th Annual Winter Bible Conference of the Association of

Free Lutheran Congregations will be held at Sunnyside Lutheran Church, rural Stacy, Minn., Feb. 13-16. Rev. Wendell Johnson will be the host pastor.

The conference will begin with a service on Wednesday evening at 8 o'clock and will conclude on Saturday noon. Program details will be announced later, as well as housing and travel information. Begin now to pray for the conference.

*As our church leaders
looked forward
in 1970*

What They Said Then

THE PRESIDENT

—We must live as though Christ is at the gate. We must plan as though He is tarrying, lest we be guilty of the error of the Thessalonians.

—If the Association should depart from her principles and purposes, her life will be short indeed. We do not foresee this.

—When those most active in the formation of the Association are no longer on the scene, will those who must carry on have the genius of the free church movement clearly in heart and mind? It is not enough have an intellectual knowledge of it. There must be a clear conviction, wrought, I am convinced, by the Spirit of God. This conviction must not be of convenience, but of compulsion by the Spirit. I believe God's Spirit will create it in those who must continue the work.

—There will be temptations to over-organize and over-promote. This is more dangerous than the under-sell. The Association will continue basically on the middle ground, with reliance on God's Spirit to work through the means of Grace motivating loyalties and convictions.

—Because of shifts in population, many rural congregations will have a new lease on life, while others, by their own choice, will merge with other congregations.

—Because many public schools, instead of being neutral to religion, will become more irreligious, some congregations, in cooperation with Christian people of other denominations, will be forced to establish schools of their own.

—To assist in the cause of evangelism, the Association will have

a full-time evangelist. The enrollment in the Bible School will increase to the point where a limitation on admittance must be made.

—Rev. John P. Strand

WORLD MISSIONS

—To truly operate on a smooth and efficient basis will require four or five missionary families, perhaps one home on leave and four on the field. This is only a minimum figure. There is a need for double or triple that number, with a great need also for medical and agricultural missionaries. But as we look at our own size here at home, we must be realistic, and we must only send out a missionary when we are able to support and keep him there.

—It can only be the prayer of all of us that our Association will grow so numerically and spiritually, that we will be able in the 70s to help in the establishment of a work in Mexico itself, so that there might be a real outreach to those people as well.

—Mr. Robert Knutson

SCHOOLS

—Being located in Minneapolis (the Bible School) there are opportunities for student employment.

The afternoons and evenings are open so they can find good jobs and we know our students will leave a good reputation because of their Christian principles.

—As I look ahead into the next decade (realizing my own limitation), but looking back upon God's blessing on our schools, I feel quite confident we have to erect another building on our campus, perhaps a boys' dormitory or an administration building. This may seem like a big undertaking but we have a great God who has blessed us so abundantly and we realize the urgency of the hour.

—Rev. Ernest J. Langness

HOME MISSIONS

—... it's in the answering of the Home Mission call at 'Jerusalem' (Acts 1:8), that the way is made possible to go to 'Judea and Samaria and to the uttermost part of the earth.' It's at the 'home base' where the first impetus of men and money and message must begin!

—Many of the Macedonian calls are coming to us from the larger urban areas, and this is where the congregations could first be 'planted.'

—What are our thoughts for prospects in 1970 and on? Wonderful! Large! Tremendous! The number of men in our Seminary is increasing. Now we need funds!

—It's very possible that our Lord will come during the decade before us. May He find His Church working Full Speed Ahead, not only in preaching and teaching, but in *giving* and *working* (James 2:26).

—Rev. Hubert DeBoer



Reflecting . . . EVANGELISM

—Our greatest need in our AFLC, at present, as well as for the years ahead, is a sweeping revival of the Christians and a real conviction of sin and an awakening of the unsaved.

—Unless America turns to God in dead earnest and in deep confession of sin, and in wholehearted commitment to Him, judgment is sure to come, and it is not far away.

—Rev. Trygve F. Dahle

PARISH EDUCATION

—As the decade of the 1960s ended, the Association of Free Lutheran Congregations was in the process of completing work on Sunday School material for five grades and one year for post-confirmation high school Bible classes.

—It is the aim of the Board to not only complete the curriculum for all grades, one through nine, but to prepare at least nine quarterly courses for high school Bible classes. Thus, over a three-year period, a student would have covered nine different topics.

—The decade we have now entered upon should also see some new materials available for confirmation instruction.

—Still another area in which much can be done in the next ten years in parish education is teacher training. It is always a question as to how best to accomplish this.

—Rev. Raynard Huglen

THE WMF

—As we think of our schools, missionaries, and the church extension work, we see where we should be doing much more. There are so many open doors if we could only go in and work. There is more to it than giving. How we need prayer warriors among our women.

—I would like to see that sometime in the future she (Mrs. Leonard Swanson, Nogales, Ariz.) could receive some support from us for the work that she carries on and would be able to do much more that way (among Mexicans across the border).

—Mrs. Melvin Walla

THE LLF

—One minister and college professor told me that young people are no longer interested in the Bible or the things of God. I don't believe this is true. If young people are challenged with the Word, many will take up the cross and follow Him.

—We would like to send out a Gospel team this summer, not only to share the Word at our various churches but also to serve as counsellors at the various Bible camps. We are hoping to work this out with the Bible School and its dean, Pastor Snipstead.

—Then, too, there should be a youth project that all of our leagues could be working on. One suggestion is that we send one or two of our AFLC youth who are

planning on the mission field to Nogales to work there for a summer and then report their experiences to the local Luther Leagues.

—Rev. David C. Molstre

Coming Next Time—

In our first issue of 1980, present day leaders of the Association and her agencies, a parish pastor and a layman will all take a look at the 1980s. They will make their projections about what the decade will bring for our church, expressing some of their hopes and dreams, and concerns. Watch for that special issue.

With our Evangelist

Cloquet, Minn.

St. Paul's Lutheran Church
Jan. 23-27

Herbert L. Franz, pastor
Ev. Kenneth Pentti, speaker

Kalispell, Mont.

Faith and Stillwater Lutheran
Churches

Feb. 18-25

John Rieth and Dale Mellgren,
pastors
Ev. Kenneth Pentti, speaker

BUDGET RECEIPTS

Feb. 1 - Nov. 30, 1979

ASSOCIATION OF FREE LUTHERAN CONGREGATIONS

3110 East Medicine Lake Boulevard

Minneapolis, Minnesota 55441

Fund	Total Budget	Current Budget	Received in November	Received to Date	% of Current	% of Total
General Fund	\$ 90,775.00	\$ 75,645.80	\$10,235.94	\$ 55,819.20	74%	61%
Schools	150,105.00	125,087.50	10,337.56	81,502.02	65	54
Home Missions	85,000.00	70,833.30	15,421.01	57,019.84	80	67
World Missions	128,755.00	107,295.90	22,522.42	89,474.85	83	69
Praise Fund	27,000.00	22,500.00	4,549.26	21,502.12	96	80
TOTAL	\$481,635.00	\$401,362.50	\$63,066.19	\$305,318.03	76%	63%
October			\$32,170.04	\$242,251.84	67%	50%
1977-78	\$445,332.00	\$371,110.00	\$42,812.76	\$261,472.30	71%	59%

The Lutheran Ambassador's 1980 Schedule

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 the next 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.
9. This year, for the first time, the WMF Bible Studies will appear in the first issue of each month exclusively.

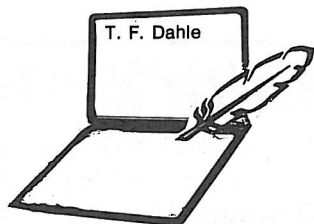
<i>Publication Date</i>	<i>Editor's Deadline</i>	<i>Special</i>	<i>WMF Bible Study</i>
January 8	December 15	A Look Ahead	Yes
January 22	December 29		
February 5	January 12	Patriotic	Yes
February 19	January 26		
March 4	February 9	Lent and Seminary	Yes
March 18	February 23	Easter	
April 1	March 8		Yes
April 15	March 22		
April 29	April 5	Mother's Day	
May 13	April 19	Pentecost and Pre-Conference	Yes
May 27	May 3	Pre-Conference	
June 10	May 17		Yes
June 24	May 31	Patriotic	
July 8	June 14	Conference Reports	Yes
July 22	June 28	Conference Reports	
August 5	July 12		Yes
September 2	August 9		Yes
September 16	August 23		
September 30	September 6		
October 14	September 20	Reformation	Yes
October 28	October 4		
November 11	October 18	Thanksgiving	
November 25	November 1	Advent	
December 9	November 15	Christmas	Yes
December 23	November 29	End of Year	
January 6, 1981	December 13	New Year's	Yes
January 20, 1981	December 27		

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
February: World Missions
March: Free Lutheran Seminary
April: Church Extension
May: Youth

September: Bible School
October: Pensions
November: Home Missions
December: Praise Program

PLEASE SAVE FOR REFERENCE!



Thoughts from Tryg

ARE YOU LOST?

We were hunting deer in the deep woods of northern Minnesota. We had walked all day and had not seen a deer. Now it was getting dusk and snowing heavily and we were heading for our car when two deer bounced out of the brush. My partners immediately took up the chase, but I went to our car. Then I met a hunter walking fast, in the other direction. I asked him where he was going. He said, to his car. I told him he was going in the wrong direction and pointed out a hay stack to him and that his car was by that stack. He said, "I won't leave you; take me to my car." He was lost and he knew it. He was on the right road, but going in the wrong direction. This was an old logging road that ended about ten miles further on and no one lived within 15 miles from there. I had to bring him to his car and then go to our car, while waiting for my partners. Had he not met me, he would have perished that night.

There are many souls all around us who are lost and they don't know it. They may be on the right road, but going in the wrong direction. "There is a way which seemeth right unto a man; but the end thereof are the ways of death" (Prov. 14:12). We are living in a day of "Do it yourself" in so many things and many people believe they can get to heaven going their own way. They are sincere but wrong, like the Jews Paul talks about in Romans 10: "I bear them witness that they have a zeal for God, but

not according to knowledge."

Paul had tried that way himself, until he met Jesus on the Damascus road. Paul was sincere, but sincerely wrong. He didn't believe in Jesus, until he met Him and was asked, "Why persecutest thou Me?" "Christ is the end of the Law unto righteousness to everyone that believeth." Jesus says of Himself, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life: no one cometh unto the Father, but by Me." We also read in Acts 4:12: "For neither is there any other name under heaven, that is given among men, wherein we must be saved."

Friend, are you saved? It is "either-or." If you do not have assurance of salvation, don't be satisfied; go to your pastor, or some other Christian who knows the way, and he can guide you till you are safe. Jesus so tenderly invites us all, "Come unto Me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest" (Matt. 11:28).

There are thousands of people inside of the church and outside of the church who are lost. They may be on the right road, but going in the wrong direction. Doing the best they know how, but unsaved. Heading for a lost eternity. Remember what Jesus told us about the rich man and Lazarus. They both died and the angels came for the soul of Lazarus and laid him in Abraham's bosom. He was saved. The rich man did not wake up until he was in hell. He could see across to where Lazarus was, could talk across, but not go across. Why not get on the right road *now*.

Trygve F. Dahle

Arne Aanestad

Funeral services for Arne Aanestad, 71, were held in St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Fargo, N. Dak., on Oct. 20, with Rev. John P. Strand officiating. Mrs. Ida Solberg was the organist and George Vigessaa was soloist at the service. Pallbearers were Art Ringquist, Herman Hermansli, Fred Henning, Melvin Walla, Walter Gill and Alvin Engness. Interment was in Fort Snelling National Cemetery, St. Paul, Minn.

Born on May 14, 1909, in Varhaug, Jaederen, Stavanger, Norway, Mr. Aanestad came to the U.S. in 1927. He graduated from Oak Grove Lutheran High School (then Seminary) and was a long-time friend of the school. He attended Concordia College in Moorhead, Minn., and served in the U.S. Army in World War II. He worked for the Railway Express Company for many years, retiring in 1973. He lived in Fergus Falls, Minn., for two years before returning to Fargo four years ago. He passed away on October 16 in Fargo.

Survivors include a brother, Sigvard, Fergus Falls, and a sister and four brothers in Norway.

Blessed be his memory.

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.

WISCONSIN

Woodman

Lester M. Gilbertson, 61, Nov. 2,
Trinity, Boscobel

Dues due in March

The annual dues for the North Dakota District Women's Missionary Federation are due by March. Please send them in so that they can be included in the treasurer's report at our rally in Grand Forks in April. All 1979 dues are now paid!

The checks should be made out to Eastern North Dakota District WMF. Mail them to the undersigned.

Mrs. Robert Lofthus, Treas.
McVille, N. Dak. 58254

Lutheran Ambassador

COME, ENJOY THE AFLC SCHOOLS' MISSIONS WEEK. January 18-23

Theme: *Occupy till I come*

Make reservations now for on-campus housing.

Write: AFLBS, 3110 E. Medicine Lk. Blvd., Mpls. Minn. 55441

editorials

THANK YOU, PASTOR GALLAND

Pastor Leslie Galland of Everett, Washington, has had the distinction of being the last writer of the Moments of Meditation regular feature in the 1970s. Furthermore, when next you look at page 2 of an Ambassador there will be a new title to the series, so he is also the final writer under the present title.

We thank Pastor Galland for his good and consecrated work as our devotional writer for these past six months. First in a series of articles on the prophet Jonah and then on an assortment of topics he has presented God's message earnestly and forcefully, as he also does as he preaches the Word.

May the Lord bless you, Pastor Galland, in your ongoing ministry at Calvary Lutheran Church in beautiful Everett. We are glad for the progress being made spiritually and materially in your congregation.

Our new writer, for the first half of next year, and for the beginning of the new decade, will be Pastor Gary Skramstad of Bessemer, Michigan. He, too, comes from a scenic area and from the great skiing country of Upper Michigan, in its glory now that winter has come. He is serving our congregation there, Our Savior Lutheran.

Pastor Skramstad, still a young man, was along with the Association from the beginning and while attending college and seminary served in our parishes, and now is in his fourth parish since ordination. So he comes to us with pastoral experience beyond his years and in widely scattered areas of our fellowship. We welcome him as our new writer and shall hear from him next time.

Thank you also to Pastor Trygve Dahle, who was 88 years old last month, for writing "Thoughts from Tryg" this past year. His many friends have appreciated that column very much. We know that we can count on his active interest in all aspects of our church work in days ahead.

Replacing him in 1980 will be a man who wrote such a series for us two or three years ago. He is Rev. Einar Unseth, now of Bismarck, N. Dak. We are glad to have him repeat and his first offering for us will appear next time.

GOODBYE TO DECADE

What shall we say of the Seventies, how characterize the decade? The Seventies lacked the turbulence of the Sixties. The Vietnam war ended during it and the race riots were over even before. There was more a sense of reasonableness prevailing even though the final two months of 1979 were marred by the irresponsible seizure of the U.S. embassy in Teheran and the forceful detention of the hostages. Pray God, they have all been safely returned home by the time this is read.

What were the notable events of the Seventies apart from the ending of the war and the emotional return of the POWs? Let us note a few: the resignation of a President and the peaceful transition to a new government, the Camp David accord and other steps toward normalcy in the Middle East, the Jonestown tragedy of mass suicides, the opening of relations with Red China, three Roman Catholic popes in a short time in 1978 and the triumphant tours of John Paul II; in the U.S., uncontrolled inflation as the decade ended and gasoline prices rising well above the dollar-a-gallon mark. Add to these the accidents which took lives and natural disasters which are those continuing signs of the return of the Lord.

What knows what the Eighties will bring? Politically? Economically? Morally? In regard to the latter, each year of the Seventies brought frightening new erosion of the moral bulwarks of our land. And in spite of the greatest coverage for the Gospel in the U.S., at least since Colonial days, there was no revival sweeping the land. One wonders, what will it take to bring America to her knees?

The Seventies was the first full decade for the Association. They were years of consolidation and steady, if unspectacular growth. And there were events of note: a change in the presidency; the opening of a second World Mission field, this one in Mexico, and the possibility of a third, in India; the starting of a number of Home Mission congregations, especially in the latter half of the decade; the construction of a boys' dormitory at the Bible School; the development of summer Gospel Team outreach from the Bible School. Those are some of them.

The AFLC is a stronger church now than it was ten years ago. The Lord has been good to us. We trust that the Association has made a difference wherever her influence has been felt, wherever she can make an impact.

Next time, God willing, we'd like to take a forward look as we face the 1980s, to venture some predictions about what is likely to happen in our church in the next ten years and what we'd like to see happen. Others will be taking forward looks also in these pages. We think you'll find it all interesting.

Certain it is that the Lord who has been faithful abides faithful. We thank Him for blessings; we trust Him for the future.

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UPPER PENNINSULA LEAGUERS HOLD RALLY

Leaguers of the Upper Peninsula churches of the Association of Free Lutheran Congregations held a fall rally at Maranatha Lutheran Church, Chassell, Michigan, on Oct. 26 and 27. Jay Eberth was host pastor.

On Friday night there was a Hal-lowe'en party with the dunking of apples and games, food, songs and sharing. Pastor Norman Tenenboe of Eben Jct, had the best costume among the pastors.

At a worship service on Saturday morning, Pastor Nash spoke. Afterward a district organization was set up and officers were elected. They are: Phil Johnson, Eben Jct., president; Becky Pentti, Ishpeming, vice-president; Barb Maki, Ishpeming, secretary; Ione Nelson, Chassell, devotional life secretary; and Brian Pentti, Ishpeming, treasurer.

In the afternoon a hayride was planned and everyone enjoyed it.

—Corr.

WEST CENTRAL DISTRICT LUTHER LEAGUE MET AT BATTLE LAKE

The West Central District Lutheran League Federation met at Faith Haven Youth Lodge, Battle Lake, Minn., on Nov. 3. Marlowe Nash, Colfax, N. Dak., led the meeting.

Various reports were shared. It was decided to continue with the one-day rally for senior high youth. Pastor Gordon Grage, Brandon, Minn., was put in charge of planning the next rally, together with his congregation, Chippewa Lutheran.

The following were elected officers for 1979-80: Terry Claus, Wahpeton, N. Dak., president; Matt Kinneberg, Abercrombie, N. Dak., vice-president; Lynelle Hartman, Dalton, Minn., secretary; and

Sonja Johnson, Sacred Heart, Minn., treasurer. A planning meeting of all the Luther League officers of the district will be held in January to plan the summer camp.

—Pastor Dennis Gray

FORMER BAGLEY PASTOR. SEMINARY PROFESSOR DIE

Rev. David M. Dale, 79, former Lutheran Free Church pastor at Bagley and Shevlin, Minn., (five congregations) died in November in the Twin Cities. The funeral service was held at North Heights Lutheran Church, St. Paul, Minn., and burial was at Sacred Heart, Minn. Survivors include his wife Olga, three sons and one daughter, ten grandchildren, and two brothers in Norway. He was a graduate of Augsburg Seminary in Minneapolis and was ordained in 1927.

The seminary professor was Dr. Warren Quanbeck of Luther

Seminary, St. Paul, Minn., who also passed away in November. He was 62. An internationally-known Lutheran theologian and ecumenical leader, he, too, was a graduate of Augsburg Seminary, as well as the college. He had been at Luther since 1948. Funeral services were held at St. Anthony Park Lutheran Church in St. Paul and burial was in Crystal Lake Cemetery. He is survived by his wife Dagny, a sister, Ruth, and a brother, Lawrence.

THE LUTHERAN AMBASSADOR

3110 E. Medicine Lake Blvd.

Minneapolis, Minn. 55441

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Directory of the Association of Free Lutheran Congregations

OFFICERS

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Rev. R. Snipstead
3110 E. Medicine Lake Blvd.
Minneapolis, Minn. 55441

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Route 4, Box 29H
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3110 E. Medicine Lake Blvd.
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960 9th Avenue
Granite Falls, Minn. 56241

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EVANGELIST-YOUTH WORKER

Rev. Kenneth Pentti
513 Cleveland Ave.
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