

# THE LUTHERAN AMBASSADOR

January 22, 1980



Robert Dietsche, Director of AFLC Osceola property, in the dining hall.



Dormitory room ready to use.

View of 80-acre radar base.



Motor pool garages



Dining hall

More information  
on page six.

## Osceola, Wisconsin, Radar Base now AFLC property

# AT THE MASTER'S FEET

Pastor Gary Skramstad



## "Given to Hospitality"

In our first devotional we were directed to the admonition that where there is no vision the people perish, from Proverbs 29:18. We in the AFLC do gratefully see the remembrances of the yesterdays and God's being with us today. And we earnestly pray for His kingdom blessings for the days before us. As we truly expect God to use us in bringing the Gospel to others we must follow the Biblical exhortations that help our vision to become reality.

One of these exhortations is found in Romans 12:13, "Given to hospitality." During my years in the ministry I have found that when this particular verse is heeded, many warm and wonderful things happen. Those who practice hospitality are the blessed, even though weary at times. They know they are doing God's bidding and thus are in His will. It is a real joy to know

that you are being used by God. We don't necessarily need to see outward signs or spiritual growth from our guests after each visit. We need to concern ourselves more with what God asks us to do and leave the results with Him.

It is true that some have a special grace or gift in this area. We remember so well the "donut Queen of Kalispell." Pauline Thompson had an unusual eagerness to help new folks and members of the congregation feel welcome. Homemade doughnuts were her specialty. Countless doughnuts were consumed by those coming to worship at that new Free Lutheran Church in Kalispell. More than once packages of doughnuts, cookies, and even lefse were sent with the pastor as he called upon folks in the community. Pauline set the example for her daughters and others in the congregation, and it was God who brought the blessing. Pauline is now home with the Lord but her labor of love continues in the reality that many found a warm welcome and a gift of hospitality at Pauline's and Alfred's home.

In the November 29th *Ambassador*, our well loved Pastor Dahle shared his thoughts concerning dissension within the congregations. What a shame when this happens. Yet in most congregations this does happen. Could it be that the use of hospitality is directed to us so we will truly love and know one another. It is difficult to have an in-depth love for those we hardly know. So often we have found that people misunderstand one another's intentions. In 1 John 4:18 we are told that there is no fear in love. As we are so often commanded to love one another, let us consider how that love can be lived out.

The New Testament Church was known by their love for one another. We are also told in Acts 2:46 that they broke bread from house to house. We

in the AFLC stress that our congregations are to be free and living. Somehow it seems easier to stress the freedom than the living. It costs to be living. We must share ourselves. We must be open to the Holy Spirit's leading. We must be concerned about God's gain or loss as we obey or disobey the Spirit's promptings.

We have found that there have been many within the congregation in various places who have not received the warmth of a welcome to someone's home. There are lonely people in our parishes. This includes young and old, couples and singles, and even families. After we have reached into our congregations, let us press on to those about us with the same needs.

The following are some practical ways that we have seen used to help people relate to each other:

Seek assistance from your pastor in beginning a home Bible study.

Give a personal invitation, offering a ride, to the next WMF, youth, men's or Sunday School meetings.

As a family, plan definite times each month to have guests. Each member should assist in preparing, hosting, and cleaning up.

Be simple in your serving. Don't give occasion for others to feel that they can't reciprocate because of the fussy and fancy way you entertained.

Invite a couple to attend your congregation's annual banquet. If time permits invite them and another couple to your home afterwards.

Don't be afraid to invest time in playing together. Indoor games or fun outdoors or even an excursion to a nearby place of beauty are possibilities.

During special meetings invite a family for a light supper and the opportunity to attend the service with you. Dessert can be served at your home afterwards.

[Continued on page 4]

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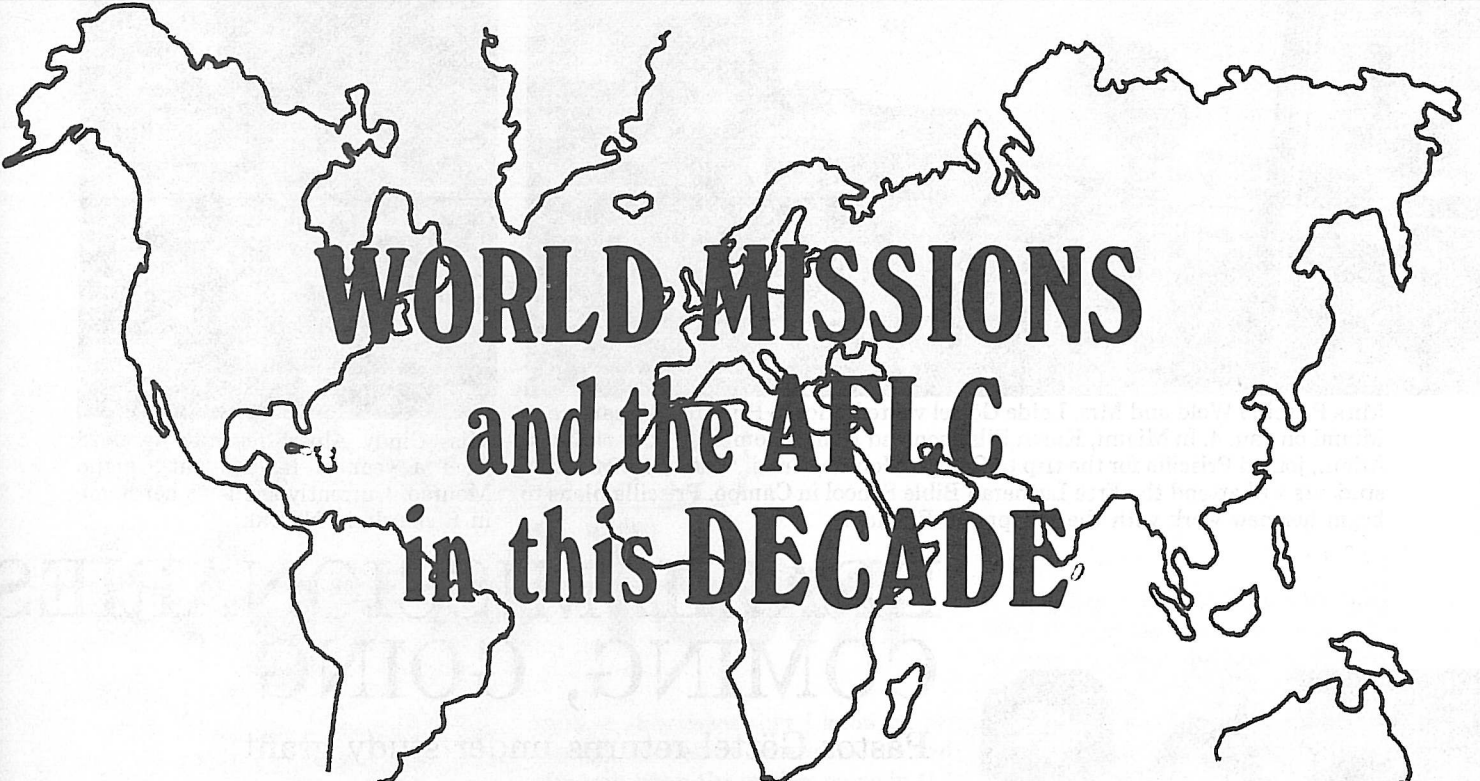
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# WORLD MISSIONS and the AFLC in this DECADE

**Missions!** The mention of that word should inspire Christians to action. Why? Because "missions" sums up our "purpose for living." I am convinced that every Christian ought to be an active missionary. Every Christian ought to be studying God's Word and making himself or herself available to God's Holy Spirit for the exciting task of sharing that precious life-giving Word with others . . . near and far.

by Pastor Eugene Enderlein,  
Chairman,  
Board of World Missions

As we consider AFLC World Missions, various "far away" places come to mind. We are so thankful to our Lord for the faithful laborers whom He has provided in the huge country of Brazil. We can look back over the past 17 years and thank God for the John Abel family, the Alvin Grothe family, the George Knapp family, the Connely Dyrud family, Priscilla Wold, the David Abel family, Cindy Alpert and the Brazilian national leaders, such as Rev. Yeddo Göttel and his family, AFLC of Brazil national president Mr. Luiz Gonzaga Romais, and the six very fine seminarians who are presently serving Brazilian AFLC churches. God has been working in hearts, and we praise His Name! As I look to the 1980s, it is my sincere hope that our AFLC ministry will expand in Brazil. I pray that our national Brazilian believers will grow in Christ and take on

the leadership of their congregations.

When we traveled to Brazil last spring I met many wonderful believers, and I know that God is at work in these congregations. I am thrilled that six seminarians are now pastoring churches and we pray that others will follow. I am excited about the possibility of initiating seminary extension courses so that interested men may receive Bible teaching and pastoral training right in their "home towns." We praise the Lord for the open door of opportunity in Amazonia, where thousands of Brazilians have moved in order to "homestead" free land and start new cities. George and Helen Knapp are faithfully proclaiming the riches of Christ there in the state of Rondonia. We are very hopeful that believers will gather to study the Word of God and then to form a Free Lutheran congregation in the capital city of Parana, Curitiba by name, where John and Ruby Abel have now moved. If God wills, we trust that soon in the 1980s our AFLC

ministry may advance into the country of Paraguay.

Our AFLC outreach in Mexico is led very capably by Pastor Samuel Flores. Pastor Flores, Mr. Milton Flores, other family members and concerned lay people of Prince of Peace Lutheran Church in León, Mexico (state of Guanajuato) are laboring faithfully to build their own congregation and also are conducting weekly Bible studies in homes in the cities of Celaya and Irapuato. I am confident in our wonderful Lord that He will bless these labors as we pray.

Before this article goes to press, Pastor Richard Snipstead, AFLC president, and I will have flown to the great nation of India, where Pastor Bhushana Rao Dasari went on ahead of us to arrange contacts with Christians there. We are praying for God's wisdom as we travel and meet these friends in Christ, so that we obey the Lord's leading for our AFLC in this country. So many nations are closing their doors to "foreign influences," and we Christians must enable *national* Christians of these lands to win their own people to Christ. We who love the Lord in the U.S.A. often have the means and tools to accomplish this task because of our standard of income and technological tools. We are trusting God for His direction!

It is thrilling to be laborers for our precious Savior. The fields are white unto harvest, and we must pray the



Miss Priscilla Wold and Mrs. Loide Göttel visited prior to Priscilla's departure to Miami on Jan. 4. In Miami, Karen Ellertson and Holly Thompson, both of Stacy, Minn., joined Priscilla for the trip to Campo Mourao, Brazil. The two '79 AFLBS students will attend the Free Lutheran Bible School in Campo. Priscilla plans to begin her new work with the Knapps in Rondonia.



Miss Cindy Alpert returned Dec. 28 from a year of teaching at Campo Mourao. Currently she is at her home in Richardton, N. Dak.

## BRAZIL MISSIONARIES COMING, GOING

### Pastor Göttel returns under study grant



Rev. Yeddo Göttel, a graduate of Association Free Lutheran Theological Seminary, returned to the United States from Brazil this month for an additional year of study at AFLBS. Pastor Göttel has been serving as a teacher at the Free Lutheran Bible Institute at Campo Mourao, Brazil, and as pastor to Brazilian national congregations. During his additional year of study in the USA, his wife Loide will attend Association Free Lutheran Bible School. Pastor and Mrs. Göttel and son Daniel will reside in Minneapolis. He will be available for some week-end speaking engagements during his year

at AFLTS. Inquiries regarding Pastor Göttel's itinerary may be directed to:

Chairman of Board of World Missions

Rev. Eugene Enderlein

Box 275

Thief River Falls, Minn. 56701

The Board of World Missions wishes to gratefully acknowledge the receipt of a scholarship in the amount of \$3000 to enable Pastor Yeddo Göttel to study for a year at Association Free Lutheran Seminary. This grant has been awarded by the Aid Association for Lutherans.

### Missions in AFLC . . .

Lord of the harvest to send laborers into His harvest fields. I am full of hope for AFLC World Missions in this new decade. I am hopeful because we have a great God who does "more than we ask or think." Let's pray earnestly and give sacrificially so that many may be won to Christ before the Day of the Lord. Soon our labors will be over and the day of opportunity will have passed. Dear friends, will you work with us, your Board of World Missions, so that our AFLC may be obedient to God's command? †

*"Rescue the perishing,  
Care for the dying,  
Snatch them in pity from  
sin and the grave;  
Weep o'er the erring one,  
Lift up the fallen,  
Tell them of Jesus,  
the mighty to save."*

### Master's Feet . . .

Be brave and invite a family to your home for pancakes or something easy right after the Sunday worship. This will assure them that you are interested in them as persons instead of how nice you have it.

Ask God to give you and your family a vision of how you can be used to be open, warm and sensitive to the needs of others.

We have seen the results of hospitality in the past. We believe that when God's Word is lived out in the lives of His people the results will be very positive. Warm up your congregation by using hospitality. Use hospitality as a tool for evangelism. May God be glorified! †



## *Our Home Mission Work in Bismarck*



# "Hitherto has the Lord helped us"

### **"Hitherto has the Lord helped us."**

Thus spoke Samuel after having won a decisive victory over the Philistines. It was actually the Lord who had won the victory for them. For while Samuel was offering up a burnt-offering and was calling upon the Lord for help, the Lord thundered with a mighty voice against the Philistines and threw them into confusion so that they were routed before Israel. This was a great supernatural victory, because the dangers to which the Israelites were exposed were beyond their own strength to overcome. Samuel well realized that they had not won the victory by themselves; therefore he gave special acknowledgment to the Lord for having helped them.

In our Home Mission work in Bismarck, I, too, must say, "Hitherto has the Lord helped us." I have sensed my weakness and helplessness, but God has been constant and unfailing in helping me. When my family and I moved here a year ago last August we had no indication whatsoever of what the outcome of the mission work would be. Therefore, I immediately sought the Lord's help then and I have continued doing so ever since.

Three days after our arrival in Bismarck I called on the one couple whom

I knew to be interested in starting a Free Lutheran Congregation. Then I continued to pray that the Lord would lead me to other interested people. The Lord helped me to soon find another family. Thus I was able to commence a Bible study in our home on September 6, 1978. In addition to my family, only two ladies attended that meeting. Nevertheless, it was a real joy to be able to hold our first Free Lutheran meeting in this city. On the following Wednesday three other members of those two families attended our Bible Study. Since both of those families desired that I start a worship service, I began searching for a building where we could hold our service. Again the Lord helped us. He provided a basement room in the YMCA, which we were to continue using for the next ten months for worship services and Sunday School.

Meeting in the YMCA is perhaps not the ideal method for starting a congregation, but it proved to be the best thing for us to do at that time. Every Sunday morning my wife and three of our sons faithfully assisted me in transporting the necessary equipment to and from the YMCA. Our worship services there were unique in that we very seldom had a pianist. In place of piano accompaniment, a man led us in our

hymn singing. Due to our having no pianist, special music usually consisted of a cornet trio by our sons.

Although several new visitors appeared at our services, many of them failed to continue coming. Some of them stated that our group was too small for them. Others said that the AFLC did not meet their needs. We thank the Lord that not all of our visitors during those first few months shared those same feelings. The Lord constantly helped us by bringing new visitors whenever people had quit coming. And invariably He brought people who were more committed than those whom they replaced.

This spring several new visitors appeared who have faithfully continued to come ever since. In June the Lord gave special encouragement to us by bringing three Bible School graduates to Bismarck to assist us in our work. These three men were Jim Johnson, Bobby Rudebusch and Dennis Tie-man. Though they all had full-time jobs, they devoted much time to visitation and to assisting with our Sunday School, worship services, and midweek Bible Study. They proved to be of great blessing to us. Two of them had to leave us in August, but Dennis is still with us.

## Bismarck . . .

Shortly before two of these men left, God enabled us to move into a church of our own. After being unsuccessful in trying to buy land on which to build a church, we were able to purchase the former kingdom hall of the Jehovah's Witnesses. We are indeed thankful to our Home Mission Board for lending us the needed money to buy this ideally located building. The building became ours on July 31 and on the following evening we held our first meeting there, a Bible study and prayer meeting. At that time we asked God to cleanse our building of Satan and his power, and we believe that God did so.

Our newly purchased building was soon provided with church furniture by Bethany Congregation of rural Edmore, North Dakota. That church was closed last summer due to the declining rural population. We are exceedingly grateful to the members of Bethany for their generous gift to us. Their church furniture fits into our church perfectly. Also much appreciated are the piano that was paid for with a gift from Zion Congregation in Tioga, North Dakota, the hymnals and catechisms given by St. Stephen's Congregation of Duluth, Minnesota, and the financial help that has been sent for our Sunday School by the Calvary Sunday School of Fergus Falls, Minnesota, which is also a Home Mission congregation. And we thank those friends who have given us anonymous gifts. Above all, we are thankful to the many people who have prayed to God to bless our work. We appreciate very much having Bethany Lutheran Congregation of Abercrombie, N. Dak., as our "Praying Friend" congregation.

Since the day that we acquired our church, people have done much work on it voluntarily. The first step we took was to paint it. We did this so that people would no longer associate it with the Jehovah's Witnesses. For about three months we continued our change-over work on both the outside and inside of our church.

To get into a church of our own has been a real joy and help to us. The attendance has increased. The people of Bismarck are now coming to realize that Calvary Lutheran Church is in existence at 1731 North 13th Street. As

one person commented, "Now you are identified as a church." After we moved into our church, God gave us an excellent pianist. However, He gave us a pianist who has two daughters who are also pianists, and whose entire family is blessed with the gift of singing. How true is Ephesians 3:20, which says that God "is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think"!

The highest point of our work thus far took place on November 25 when we held our Dedication Service. Pastor Elden Nelson, our Home Mission Director, preached at both our morning worship service and our afternoon dedication service. Over 100 people attended our dedication which included members of several AFLC congregations as well as friends from other Bismarck churches. It was a great joy to be able to dedicate our church to our great God who has helped us so much.

Much of God's help has come to us

through some of His servants. I am truly thankful to our Home Mission Director and the members of our Home Mission Board for all of their work and prayers for this work. Likewise, I am deeply appreciative to my wife and our sons who have assisted me so faithfully. It has been a real joy to see this work grow numerically and spiritually even though the growth has come slowly. The greatest joy has been that of seeing some souls come to Christ and to assurance of salvation. Through it all I have been led to rely more upon God the Father for strength, more upon Jesus Christ for cleansing, and more upon the Holy Spirit for guidance. Truly I can say, "Hitherto has the Lord helped us." My prayer is that God will continue to help us in bringing souls to Christ and in building a strong free and living Calvary Lutheran Congregation in Bismarck.

—Pastor Einar Unseth



The congregation at the dedication

## Osceola Radar Base is now AFLC property, name change sought

GREETINGS from Psalm 145:7: "They shall abundantly utter the memory of Thy great goodness, and shall sing of Thy righteousness."

The purchase of the Osceola Radar Base is now a reality. God in His goodness has again answered prayer and has allowed the purchase of the property to be finalized. November 1st was

the date on which the AFLC took possession. The final signing of papers was completed on December 26th. Some of the possibilities it could be used for are a retreat center, a retirement center or Bible camp. Some dates have already been filled for 1980.

We need a name for our new AFLC Center and we are looking to you, the





# Happy Acres

## A LETTER FROM JOSEFA

On Saturday morning, Mark bounded up the road from the mailbox, excitedly waving the day's mail and shouting, "A letter from Josefa!"

Within a few minutes, he was in the kitchen and Mom was reading the letter to the children:

"Dear Family:

"I am so happy because I get letter from my good teacher, Pastor Peterson, and he tell me you let me have your name Johnson because I am your son in Lord Jesus. This give me so great joy for now I have both a good name and a family that will have me.

"I go from this Bible school. I go back to the hills of my people to bring them the Gospel. I help the missionary there to teach the Bible stories to children. I will talk to the young men of my tribe, and to the old ones, and tell them about Jesus so they may be free like I am. Now they are bound by devil worship, and they are afraid of demons and evil spirits. I want them to have

the so great joy I have in my heart because I am Christian.

"I have never felt lonely since Pastor Peterson tell me about my family in America that I never see. He tell me you sent money to Bible school to help me even though you never knew me, but because you love Jesus and want to help Malagasy boy to love Jesus, too.

"Your letters I get make me so happy. You lift up my heart.

"How I would like to see my Johnson

family. Some day perhaps a Johnson brother or sister come here to help with our mission. Then I see you, and tell you more how so great help you are to me.

"Please write many times to me.

"Your son and brother in Jesus,  
"Josefa Johnson"

## MEMORY VERSE

There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus. Galatians 3:28

## FAMILY DISCUSSION

1. Read Ecclesiastes 11:1. How does this apply to the Johnsons?
2. For four years, the Johnsons have been sending money to the Bible school to help Josefa. Which, do you think, would have given them the greatest happiness, saving this money to spend on themselves, or giving it to Josefa's needs? Of what Bible verse that you have memorized does this remind you? (Acts 30:35)

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Barracks to be used as dormitory rooms.

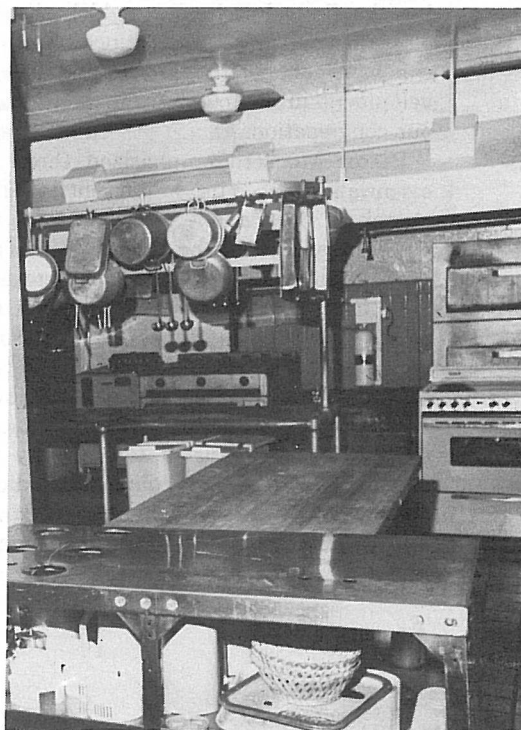
Part of the kitchen.

people of the Association, for suggestions. If you have a name to suggest, please send it to Pastor Snipstead at AFLC headquarters.

The Co-ordinating Committee  
R. L. Dietsche, Secretary

(Ed. note: The decision to purchase

the Osceola property was made at the 1979 Annual Conference. The price quoted then was \$200,000, the down payment to be \$20,000, with 11% interest on the balance. None of the money involved in purchase will come out of regular budget funds.)



# CAMPUS NEWS

## Principles of Congregational Life *a Look at the AFLBS extension ministry*

by Arlin Aasness

According to the AFLBS catalog, "the calling, purpose and function of the local congregation is viewed through Scriptural models of congregational life. Special emphasis is given to the principles and structure of the Association of Free Lutheran Congregations."

As a school extension ministry, Pastor Francis Monseth taught this course at Sunnyside Lutheran near Stacy on five fall Wednesday nights. The structure of the course was to study the models, message, members and missions of the body of believers and apply them to personal and congregational life. Requirements were a paper "God's Plan for me in My Congregation," and memorization of course-related Scripture verses.

An interview with the instructor was fruitful in finding his goals for the course.

A first goal was examining the growth of the early Christian Church as documented in the book of Acts. Using the first church as a model, the class then explored the question, "How can we experience that growth and development in our own day in each of our congregations?"

Pastor Monseth emphasized three essentials which must be present in a church in order for it to grow. First, there must be the preaching of the Word of God in truth and completeness, for through the Word alone can we receive the way of salvation and guidelines for a godly life (John 20:31). Second, we must recognize the importance of and experience the dependence on the Means of Grace, they being the Word of God (John 5:39) and the Sacraments of Baptism (Acts 2:38) and the Lord's Supper (I Corinthians 10:16). Finally, we must have the

appreciation for and make use of the spiritual gifts given to each of us. Each Christian needs to use the abilities God has given to him for the common good of the church (I Corinthians 12:1, 7). These three essentials are the principles we ought to aim for in each of our congregations in order that we may glorify God even in church growth.

In the booklet "The Fundamental Principles and Rules for Work" (AFLC—"Guiding Principles of the Lutheran Free Church" 1897), we see these very statements, especially in Principles two and six. The first of these states: "The congregation consists of believers who, by using the means of grace and the spiritual gifts as directed by the Word of God, seek salvation and eternal blessedness for

themselves and for their fellow men." The other says: "A free congregation esteems and cherishes all the spiritual gifts which the Lord gives for its edification, and seeks to stimulate and encourage their use." These, then, are the goals for each church and also the Association as a church body. After studying the Early Church, the course stressed the need for evangelism. This starts at the home church and extends to the whole world.

The overall and ultimate goal for the course was that we have free and living congregations. "Free and living congregations are growing congregations, too," states Pastor Monseth. "In each of our congregations, we should incorporate this goal and as a result we will have Christians growing in grace and also more people being won for Christ."

All of us as Bible students, whether at home or at AFLBS, should be aware daily of church needs and see the importance of becoming involved in the congregation, not only because the congregation needs us, but even more so because we need the congregation. †



Photo by Mark Olson  
The annual AFLBS Christmas party was held on December 20. Judy Benson, Kenyon, Minn. and Steve Snipstead, Minneapolis, served punch to some of the faculty children.



# editorials

## THAT 1979 INDEX

The annual index of a magazine may seem like dull reading, but it does serve two useful purposes.

First, it is helpful in looking for specific items which appeared in the publication during the year, such as a certain poem, article or editorial. The search may take some minutes anyway, but much less than if one begins to leaf through 25 individual magazines.

The second purpose of an index in a paper like *The Lutheran Ambassador* is that it can give an editor and his constituency a good idea of the type of coverage given to church work and the kinds of inspirational material used in the previous year. We invite you to make such an investigation of the 1979 Index which appeared two issues ago.

Let us illustrate what we mean. Two items are listed under Parish Education and one of those was actually an advertisement for the Ambassador Sunday School series. In other words, little attention was given to Parish Education last year. There was not enough material to warrant a separate category in the Index for Home Missions, that is, of major articles. However, there was news from at least three Home Mission parishes in the News of the Churches columns, so there was some coverage.

A look at the World Missions section reveals that only three articles came from our Brazil field last year, very likely the lowest total since our work there began. There are other references to the Brazil work, but they originated in the U.S.

As to News of the Churches, we find 30 separate news stories referring to 23 parishes and one district function (parish education, by the way). In 28 smaller news items, 12 parishes were mentioned. Hurriedly, we thus find 32 different parishes were the subject of news stories or brief items (a parish here referring to the one or more congregations a pastor serves). What it all means is that a good number of our parishes didn't send any news in at all last year.

If you are interested in subjects covered by articles in the *Ambassador*, then look over the titles under "Articles." If you want to check up on other items, such as news of the Church-World, find the proper place under "Features." Some of you have a special feel for poetry. You will find all the poems listed in that category of the Index.

The Index is not nearly as dull as it looks at first glance. Really, it tells a lot about what we did, or failed to do, in the *Ambassador* in 1979.

Needs. Projections. Hopes. Open doors. Challenges. You saw a lot of them in the series of articles last time about the decade of the 1980s and the Association of Free Lutheran Congregations. In the one about World Missions found in this issue there are more of them.

As you have thought about them and as we have, there seems to be no limit to the opportunities before us, and the challenges. Here are some of them: the need for a greatly expanded Church Extension Fund; ten to 30 new Home Mission congregations; expansion into inner-mission work in the U. S.; new workers for Brazil (Paraguay), India and Mexico and increased assistance for growth in these fields; and one that wasn't mentioned, a library-classroom-administration building at the Bible School and housing for married seminary students.

And all of these are before us in a time when rising energy expenses are adding to the cost of heating and maintaining our church buildings and travel allowances for pastors in their ministerial work. On top of that, hard inflation is eating away at earning and purchasing power.

The crucial point in all of this seems to be finances. There is no question about the needs and open doors. We think the workers will be forthcoming through more prayer. But how much of this challenge can we as a church support? The term "will we support" is perhaps more correct, but there is some validity to the idea of "can we support" also as we think of the expansion we'd all like to see.

We are thinking about these things at a time when we don't know what the response of the church was to the 1979-80 budget. If we fall much short of that goal our optimism about expansion in the '80s will be tempered. A year from now we'll know even more when we have worked on a budget much higher than this year's.

If we can't do all that we'd like in the next decade, then we'll have to seriously study our priorities as a church and decide on them. Should there be an even, modest increase in each area of our present work, across the board? Or should this be a decade to favor Home Missions expansion above other areas, building a stronger home base for the future? On the other hand, at a time when we are spreading out in World Missions, can we afford to do that on only a limited basis? Have we reached the limit of what needs to be provided at AFLBS and the Seminary for the foreseeable future or should there be at least one construction project in the decade?

Who is going to decide all these things? The people, of course. And that makes one think of annual conferences. But big decisions shouldn't be acted upon hastily and with little advance preparation. They need study and prayer.

Perhaps what we are suggesting is that we try, as a church and as church leaders, to take the long view and determine what the Lord wants us to do about our bringing Christ to our country, to Canada and the world. He won't demand the impossible, but He will give us a challenging goal.

If you have some thoughts about the future: our goals, our abilities, then share them with us through a Letter to the Editor. Those columns are always open to our readers, providing they are signed and written to deal with issues. †

# Letters

## TO THE EDITOR

### Greetings from the Sundbys

Just thought I would drop a line or two and express how joyfully we receive each copy of *The Lutheran Ambassador*. Many times we are able to keep track of people and events through this medium as well as being blessed spiritually by the meditations, etc.

We, that is, the entire family, rejoice that the AFLC is continuing to grow. You are always in our hearts and often in our prayers. We rejoice over foreign and home outreach. However, we do suggest one more. How about Canada? There is room for AFLC emphasis in this country, too, and I think this will be an increasing need as Lutheranism has a tendency to grow more liturgical. Also, a little less authority at the top would be appreciated by many, but the synodical system entrenches power much like political parties.

Don't get me wrong; I think there are some good signs, too, in Lutheranism today. One of which appears to be more concern with the preaching ministry and preaching with the authority of the Word. This has been sadly lacking and is still a problem. You who read these pages should be grateful for the above average preaching available in most AFLC congregations. At the same time you must remember much is expected of you by way of response and service.

I was thankful to see the article by Dr. (Iver) Olson regarding the 70th anniversary of the Bethlehem Congregation at Hawarden, Sask. (Oct. 2, 1979). We have good fellowship there and are grateful for the faithfulness of our pastor, the Rev. Arne Berstad. So although we travel 20 miles we enjoy much the same service and preaching to which we have been accustomed. Also, I noticed in Pastor Huglen's writings that he had read that I have been

doing some preaching. Yes, it was good to fill in for our pastor twice this summer. This winter I have the privilege of leading the adult Sunday School class in the Book of Hebrews. God has restored a measure of strength and there are days when I think perhaps soon I can return to the parish. But there are setbacks and several problems which seem to linger. One medication helps in one area and not so well in another so you have to trade off every once in a while and treat different symptoms. One cannot take all the medications at once. As it is, I consume 14 antibiotics and anti-inflammatory pills daily. So there is a limit in that area. God has been constantly faithful through all these months and years. If only we could boast of that kind of faithfulness in return. However, He is rich in mercy and we discover His mercy has no limits. How good it is in these days to be living in the forgiveness of sin. These are indeed peculiar days; may we be found in Him on that great day which is so close.

By the time this arrives and finds its way into the pages of *The Lutheran Ambassador* Christmas will likely be past and we will have launched a new decade. We wish you all Season's greetings. How dismal our prospects without the events of that Christmas long ago. Why should we be so blest in knowing this Good News when millions have never heard? Yes, in our own North America, as seen in the Oct. 2nd *Ambassador*, approximately 50% and more are unchurched. That is incredible, but no doubt the truth. May the message "He is come" and "He is risen" so permeate our hearts and lives that we and others we have brought may be ready for that message, "He is coming again." Can we say with John in Revelation, "Even so, come Lord

## Plain Bread

Peace with God is the one absolute necessity of the fully human life: it is the plain bread which every soul must have in order to live. Bread is what every man needs, and no man thinks of wanting it until he has to do without it. And it is this bread of life, that peace of God, for which men's souls are starving in these days.

—Studdert Kennedy

Jesus"? The '80s may well be the decade of His return.

This is no doubt overlong, but it is nice to visit with you for a few minutes. We covet the letters we receive and news we get about all of you. I'm afraid in most instances we are months behind the times so you may have to pardon our ignorance at times. It is true we are isolated from what became so precious to us, but isn't it wonderful that no one or no thing can isolate us from God or our salvation in Christ?

It is to this God of redemptive salvation in Christ Jesus His Son that we commend you all. God bless you all. Pray for us. Hebrews 12:1, 2.

Gene and Sylvia Sundby and family  
Outlook, Saskatchewan

(Ed. note: Lay Pastor Sundby served three parishes in our church until stricken with a strange illness. Let us continue to pray for his full recovery.)

### Jesus Is the Way

We are writing to you and wishing you God's blessings now and ever more. May we think of the Christ Child whom God let be born for us to remind us of Himself. Jesus His Son was born to teach, preach and perform miracles among people, to show us the way. He is the Way, the Truth and the Life. Nobody comes to the Father but through Him.

We are getting along pretty well with God as our leader in our church, Olivet Lutheran. We are few, but Jesus said that where there are two or three, He is among them; thanks be to God. We have services every Sunday, God willing. We thank Him for all His blessings.

Mr. and Mrs. Erno R. Kurle  
Spokane, Wash.



# YOUTH

## Get it straight

"There he is again," sighed Linda to herself as Kirk Reynolds walked briskly through the church door. Every time she saw him her heart turned a double flip. Kirk, an intelligent, handsome, ambitious fellow was one of the most popular guys at school. Following close behind him was Nancy Satherland, an attractive senior. Linda's heart had barely stopped doing flips and she found herself thinking, "Why does *she* always have to come to the youth meetings? Can't she stay home just once?" Then her fury became even more riled. "She doesn't even give me a chance! It's not fair! She has all the looks and all I have is a pudgy nose, sunken eyes, and a shy personality."

"How's school going for you this week, Linda?" Kirk questioned, stepping next to Linda.

"Okay, I guess," she replied. "Though I'm having a bit of trouble with English."

"Maybe I could help you sometime," Kirk answered. "Talk to you about it after the meeting, okay?"

"Sure, thanks." Linda's face flushed with happiness as she took her seat. As the Bible study began she was thinking of Kirk but the far away voice of the speaker kept interrupting her thoughts.

"In Ps. 139:14, we read, 'I will praise Thee; for I am fearfully and wonderfully made.' How many times have you looked in the mirror and said, 'I wish my eyes were a different color,' or you've made some other comment? Kids, God has a plan for you and He's made you according to His blueprint. 'Woe unto him that striveth with his Maker! . . . Shall the clay say to him that fashioneth it, what makest thou?' (Is. 45:9)."

Linda's face was flushed again but this time in great shame. She recalled her earlier thoughts. The speaker continued.

"Sometimes when we are dissatisfied with our own looks it's because in our eyes someone else looks better. When we feel this way we become jealous. Listen, Christian young people, if

we let jealousy into our hearts, this jealousy will make us wish evil upon others and keep us from communicating with God. Don't let this gap come into your life. An excellent Scripture to read is Psalm 139. I pray that you would go home and read it and let God speak to your heart this night. Let's pray."

Linda bowed her head in prayer asking God's forgiveness and as the tears rolled down her cheeks she went over to Nancy and asked her forgiveness.

*Examine Linda's attitude. What negative character traits did she have at the beginning? Do you have any of these in your life? How can you get rid of them and improve your love life with the Lord Jesus Christ? (hint: Ps. 139)*

—Stephanie Krueger

(Ed. note: Stephanie Krueger is a high school student at Mustard Seed Academy in Amery, Wis., and a member of Amery Lutheran Church. Her short stories will be appearing regularly from now on on our Youth Page.)

### Director of Development of the AFLC



Mr. Ernest Miedema  
145 N. E. 12th St.  
Valley City, N. Dak. 58072  
Telephone: (701) 844-1418 (H)  
845-2732 (O)

Counsllor in will, estate and gift annuity planning. He is available for assistance in the above areas. Employed by the AFLC.

### Wisconsin Church Bids Farewell to New Director of AFLC Osceola Property

Sunday, Nov. 4, 1979, was a day that will long be remembered by the congregation and friends of Faith Lutheran Church of Running Valley near Colfax, Wisconsin.

The morning service was conducted by the seven children of Mr. and Mrs. Gerald Madison and accompanied by their cousin, Cary Dietsche.

They had all attended Sunday School in this church and grown up in the Sand Creek area. All now are married and living in the Twin Cities area.

What a joy for the local congregation to hear the blessed numbers in song and testimonies of experienced salvation. To those who know the family, from the oldest to the youngest, they are: Smiley Madison, Carolyn Ray, Carlie Madison, Homer, Paul, Doug and Al Madison.

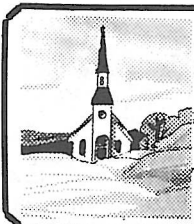


Mr. and Mrs. Bob Dietsche

Following this service, a fellowship dinner was held in the downstairs dining room. The cooperation of every lady in the church made this possible.

In the afternoon at 1:30, there was a program honoring Bob and Carol Dietsche, who are taking up managing the AFLC work at the Radar Base near

[Continued on page 16]



## A Minister's Musings

Pastor Einar Unseth



### Confession Brings Forgiveness

Psalm 32:5

"I guess I try to rationalize my sins to God instead of confessing them." These are the words that were spoken to me by a lady whom I once visited. That lady had cordially invited me into her apartment when I introduced myself as the pastor of \_\_\_\_\_ Lutheran Church. As we proceeded to visit, she soon asked me about the principles of our church. Detecting a real open attitude on her part to spiritual things, I asked her, "Have you come to the point in your spiritual life where you know for certain that if you should die tonight you would go to Heaven?" Very forthrightly she replied, "No, I haven't." Therefore I presented to her the way of salvation. When I had finished, I asked her if my presentation made sense to her. She said, "Oh, yes, I have no trouble accepting that. The theorem is fine, but it's the corollaries that I have difficulty with." When I asked her what those corollaries were, she stated, "It's the church's stand on divorce and women, etc." Thereupon I pondered in my mind what it really was that was hindering this woman from receiving God's gift of eternal life. So I asked her if she believed that she is a sinner. Her reply was definitely in the affirmative. However, when I inquired if she had confessed her sins to God, she then responded, "I guess I try to rationalize my sins to God instead of confessing them."

Therefore it is not surprising that she did not have the hope of Heaven. For God's Word teaches that we receive forgiveness of our sins only after we have confessed them to God. Trying to rationalize (to explain our sins according to reason) is never acceptable to God. The psalmist, David, expressed a vital truth for us when he wrote in Psalm 32:5, "I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord; and Thou forgavest the iniquity (guilt)

of my sin." It is one thing to admit that I am a sinner, but it is quite another thing to admit that because I am a sinner, therefore I stand guilty and condemned before a holy God. Our confession must first of all be to God because it is He whom we have offended. The lady whom I visited apologized to me for not being willing to accept God's gift of eternal life. I explained to her that she owed no apology to me, but rather to God, since it is His gift that she is rejecting. Refusing to confess our sins offends God and brings misery to us.

The psalmist had his sins forgiven when he confessed them. His confession did not produce the forgiveness; but it opened the door for God to grant the forgiveness. The moment we break our silence and cry in faith for mercy, God bestows the cleansing. And His forgiveness is prompt and complete. For when God forgives sin, He declares that He has taken it away.

A few months ago a young man told me that having come to realize that he must straighten out his life, he had done much reading of the Bible. When I asked him if he had invited Christ into his life, he replied, "I asked God to forgive my sins." Instead of rationalizing, there was confessing. Consequently he experienced God's gracious forgiveness; for confession brings forgiveness.

Dear reader, do you perhaps hear God's voice calling you to repent of some sin in your life? If so, then why not heed that voice? Do like David who said, "I will confess my transgressions to the Lord." Go to God, and without any excuses, confess your sins, and ask for forgiveness through the blood of Christ. God promises that He will then forgive the guilt of your sin and will give you His peace. †



### Three Honored at Sunburg WMF

In a meeting last fall the Sunburg Lutheran Ladies Aid presented three members with Honorary Memberships in the WMF. The women are, left to right, Mrs. Raymond Shelstad, Mrs. Julius Sondrol and Mrs. Albert Johnson.

In the special program for the occasion, the hymn, "In Heavenly Love Abiding," was sung and Mrs. Ludvig Anderson read the poem, "What the Pin Means to Me." Mrs. Florence Spannum played a piano solo and the prayer, "Only a Little," was read by Mrs. Anderson.

The pastor of the church is Larry Haagenen.

### Annual WMF Workshop, Banquet Scheduled for Stacy

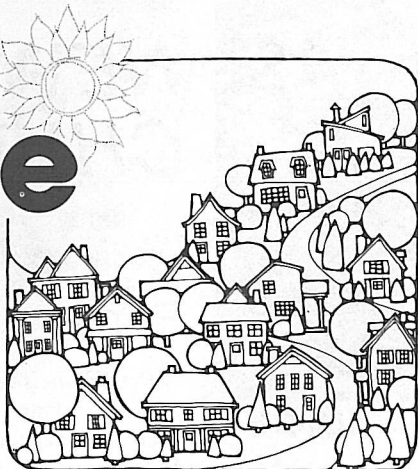
The annual Women's Missionary Federation workshop and banquet will be held on Friday, Feb. 15, at Sunnyside Lutheran Church, Stacy, Minn., in connection with the AFLC Winter Bible Conference.

The ladies will be dismissed from Conference sessions at 4 o'clock and registration for the workshop will begin at 4:30. There will be baby sitting service available during the WMF sessions.

Mrs. Reuben Wee  
Secretary



# Life on the Edge of Town



## Where We Are

It is winter here at Newfolden, Minnesota, where the editorial office of the *Ambassador* is located. Before saying more about winter, let me say that the office is a modest one. The desk is my own, the kind gift of a parish I served. Besides that I have my own filing cabinet. The *Ambassador* owns one and a storage cabinet. Several other small pieces of furniture complete the room, together with some book shelves which house part of my library, the rest of it being situated in two houses in two states.

Still before writing about an unusual phenomenon of our winter this year, let me set the location of Newfolden geographically. We've never really done that. Our town of 400 or so people is in Marshall County, whose western border, about 35 miles away, touches North Dakota at the Red River. To the north, Canada is only about 45 miles as the crow flies. Look at a map of Minnesota to see how much farther north we are than Duluth.

Newfolden lies on the edge of the Red River Valley and in spite of being "northern Minnesota" is not in lake country. Ages ago our area was part of Lake Agassiz and our only "hills" are sandbars of that lake, which we call sand ridges. Naturally, they were desirable to the homesteaders as the location of their farmyards because before ditching took place the flat countryside was very wet in the springtime and in rainy weather.

Marshall County isn't steeped in exciting history. There were no Indian

wars or skirmishes that I know of, although the native Americans roamed the land when the settlers came in the 1880s. And earlier they travelled by on the Pembina Trail within ten to 15 miles of where our town would be. And somewhere between here and the Red, the Rev River oxcarts squeaked their laborious way to St. Paul, making sounds "indescribable" as wooden wheels rubbed on wooden axels. Steamboats operating from Georgetown, Minnesota, and north made the oxcarts obsolete, just as the railroad would later supersede the rivercraft as means of transportation.

Ours is a quiet, peaceful part of Minnesota, where centers like Warren, Thief River Falls and Roseau provide shopping not available in the Newfoldens and Badgers. And if we want to go to a really big place, we venture to Grand Forks or Fargo-Moorhead.

## Beautiful Frost

Memory plays tricks on us, all of us, and so one should use the expression, "I have never seen this much, or this nice, or this great—" sparingly. But at Christmas this year, we in northern Minnesota and, I think, over much of the state, have seen sustained beautiful frost on trees, branches, woods and grass as we shall not see soon again.

It is hard to describe the beauty of it. Woodlands look as though they are in leaf again, only it is wintertime and the foliage is white. It is as though all plant life has been flocked as some Christmas trees are.

One day, Dec. 28, the sun shone brightly and the trees were even more beautiful against the blue of the sky. On other days, when the sky has been overcast and a light fog prevails there is a beauty, too, of white against gray. Near the streetlights at night even the most ordinary trees are transformed into objects of exquisite beauty.

As this is written on January 1, the frost has remained on the trees for a week or more. This is part of the unusual. We know the scientific explanation for all this, warm temperatures and lack of wind. But I prefer to think of it as God's handiwork. We have been treated to a display which, as I said, before, we won't see soon again, and may never have seen before.

## An Afternoon of Christmas

At the little country church which I serve, Telemarken, we had our Christmas service-program on Dec. 30th in the afternoon. There were a couple readings and a mother and daughter played a flute-organ duet of "Silent Night." Special vocal musical numbers were "Star of the East," "There's a Song in the Air," and "Christ Was Born Today." As an audience we sang "O Little Town of Bethlehem," "Once in Royal David's City," "Thou Didst Leave Thy Throne," "Away in a Manger," "All Praise to Thee, Eternal Lord," and "O Come, All Ye Faithful." The meditation was on the visit of the Wise Men to the Baby Jesus.

After the program the ladies served a delicious lunch of sandwiches and Christmas baking, with coffee and hot cider. It was a pleasant afternoon in our country church.

—Raynard Huglen

## New Organ Dedicated at Morgan Avenue

"Music hath charms to soothe the savage breast" is truly a quotation worth considering by any criteria, yes, even by us who have been deeply blessed by our holy faith in the love and merciful goodness of the Triune God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

On the evening of Dec. 2, the Morgan Avenue Lutheran Church in Minneapolis, Minn., presented a festive dedication service for our new organ, which was attended by a packed church. Members, friends and a goodly number of our Association Free Lutheran Bible School students, Choir Director and Mrs. Don Rodvold and Mrs. Amos Dyrud.

Pastor Chester Heikkinen led in opening prayer, was master of ceremonies and performed the rite of dedication. Organist Miss Joanne Flage, in her inimitable fashion, coaxed the organ to sound off in so many ways that only an accomplished musician could sufficiently describe them, from the barely audible nuances to crashing crescendos. Some of Bach's pieces and those of other masterminds of music were made alive by Miss Flage's highly artistic interpretations.

For variety, Miss Karen Anderson played a number of solos on the flute, very high-class renditions. The audience sang a number of Christmas carols in the decorated sanctuary.

While I believe the Bible reference to "beauty of holiness" principally applies to the heart of man, which has been converted from spiritual darkness to the "Light of the world," Jesus Christ, I believe that in a lesser degree that beauty can be exemplified by outward manifestation also, especially such as we are accustomed to having at Christmas time.

To nicely round off the occasion, the ladies of the Ruth Guild served a lunch with the usual Christmas goodies and coffee. We Scandinavians would be lost without them. There was a time for friendly fellowship, with thankful hearts to our good and gracious Giver of the most perfect Gift, Jesus Christ, whose birthday we were soon to celebrate.



## Mortgage Burned at Wadena

In October of 1974, nine people purchased a church building from the congregation of the Christian and Missionary Alliance. They were so eager to have a building of their own to worship in that they made a down payment of \$12,000. They chose the name for the church as Zion Lutheran Church. The church seats 200 people with an overflow room for another 50 people. The church is located right on U.S. highway 71 and right in the city of Wadena, Minn.

The good news is that on November 18, 1979, the mortgage burning service was held and the church is completely paid for. Preaching the sermon and conducting the mortgage burning was Rev. Elden K. Nelson, our Home Mission Director. He was assisted by the local pastor, Rev. Fred H. Carlson, Mr. Harold Erickson, president of the congregation, who presented the mortgage for burning, and Mr. Gene Greenwaldt, secretary. The congregation rejoices in God's goodness!

Shown in the picture, left to right, are Pastor Carlson, Pastor Nelson, Harold Erickson and Gene Greenwaldt.

Pastor Fred Carlson

Somewhat out of context, but in reference to the first paragraph of this write-up, I wish to categorically state that the *wrong kind* of music or rather *counterfeit* music drags people into savagery, capable of dreadful consequences, such as an anticipated rock concert where 11 people were trampled to death, plus many seriously injured, so here, too, the matter of Christian separation of values is of supreme importance.

—Wm. Kangas

# NEWS of the CHURCHES

## Personalities

Rev. Francis Monseth of the AFLBS Schools' faculty, Minneapolis, Minn., preached at evangelistic services at Bethel Lutheran Church, Minot, N. Dak., Nov. 15-18, 1979. Local pastor is Rev. Terry L. Olson.

Rev. Terry L. Olson is currently serving Faith Evangelical Lutheran Church of Burlington, N. Dak., in addition to his duties at Bethel, Minot. Faith Lutheran is affiliated with the Evangelical Lutheran Federation of Kingston, Wash.

## Lighted Cross Installed on Ortley Church

A lighted cross was installed last fall on Ortley Lutheran Church, Ortley, S. Dak. It beautifies the outer appearance of the church and it can be seen from the highway, to the north, both in the day and at night.

Mike Rudebusch, a member, and graduate of AFLBS, who is a professional carpenter, made the cross. A Watertown, S. Dak., electrical firm put blue neon tubes inside the cross in such a way that at night the cross is outlined in blue.

Shortly the church will be provided with a complete public address system with additional speakers in the annex, hallway and nursery.

Wm. Moberg is pastor of the church.







## Unique Christmas Program Given

The Emmanuel Lutheran Sunday School of rural Kenyon, Minnesota, this year presented a different type of Christmas program than usual. All 39 students portrayed Bible characters out of the Christmas story. This was done in the form of a color slide presentation. Real sheep on the hillside got into the act along with the "shepherds" and "angels." Scenes were photographed inside a barn with cows where the "baby Jesus" lay in a manger. Mary and Joseph went to Bethlehem with a donkey (as seen in the photograph). The crowd going to be taxed walking along a dirt road consisted of

many of the students and some of their adult teachers.

Traditional Christmas carols, along with some new songs, were sung. "For Unto Us a Child is Born" from Handel's "Messiah" was sung by a group of high school girls. The program, which was entitled, "The Prince of Peace," was tape-recorded and will be brought to nursing homes and to other shut-ins so they can enjoy the Christmas program. They will be able to see the slides and hear the narration and songs. Dan Torkelson was the photographer for all the slides.

Mrs. Harlan Hjermstad

## Notes from Green Lake Lutheran

The youth and younger couples group of Green Lake Lutheran, Spicer, Minn., called on a number of shut-ins before Christmas. At least 28 youth and 18 adults sang carols for those unable to get out.

After the Christmas caroling the group met at the parsonage home of

Pastor and Mrs. Dennis Gray. A "crazy gift" exchange was enjoyed by many.

The WMF of Green Lake went caroling at the Bethesda Heritage Home and the Willmar Nursing Home on Friday, Dec. 14. Pastor Gray and Lay Pastor Verle Dean gave meditations.

—Corr.

## News from Scandia WMF, Sedan

On September 8, 1979, the Scandia Lutheran WMF, Sedan, Minn., took part in the Annual Market Day at Glenwood. The ladies brought in much garden produce, canned goods, baked goods and many crafts. Several quilts were made and sold. Pictured here are Mrs. Alfred Arneson, Mrs. Myrtle Thompson and Mrs. Clarence Nelson getting things ready for the sale.

On Sunday afternoon, October 21, the Scandia WMF had their Annual Harvest Festival. Mrs. Ernest Moen, president, was in charge of the program. Devotions were given by Pastor Larry Haagenson. The congregation sang "Now Thank We All Our God." Mrs. Harlow Berg gave a reading on "Sharing." Carolyn Rodahl sang "Dearest Lord Jesus."

Tony Stockman of Minot, N. Dak., was the guest speaker. He spoke on "Jesus, Lord of the Harvest." He shared from Malachi 3:8, Matthew 22:14, Romans 8:30, 1 Peter 2:9-10 and 1 John 5:13.

The offering was sent to Janet and David Abel, our missionaries to Brazil.

The WMF ladies sang "For the Beauty of the Earth."

Mrs. Larry Haagenson and Mrs. Gary TeBrake played a piano duet. The congregation sang "Come, Ye Thankful People, Come." Mrs. Moen closed with prayer.

Garden produce, canned goods, and miscellaneous goods were brought in at this time and given to the AFLC Bible School in Minneapolis, Minn.

—Corr.

## From here and there

*Bessemer, Mich.*—Rev. Gary Skramstad was installed as pastor of Our Savior Lutheran Church on Dec. 9, 1979, by Pastor R. Snipstead, president of the AFLC. A potluck dinner followed the service.

Mrs. Skramstad (Janet) and Sarah were honored at a welcoming party by the Ladies Aid on Nov. 13.

*Boscobel, Wis.*—Trinity Lutheran's (Larry V. Severson) hymn of the month for January is "O Love that Wilt Not Let Me Go." For February, "O Zion Haste, Thy Mission High Fulfilling," has been chosen.

*Winger, Minn.*—Four new members were received into membership on Sun., Nov. 18. They were Emogene Solberg, Doris Gillespie and Mr. and Mrs. Bill Lee. Rev. Bruce Dalager is pastor of the congregation.

*Ferndale, Wash.*—Rev. and Mrs. Ronald Knutson and family have moved into their new parsonage home at 6117 Vista Drive.

A progressive dinner for adult members and friends of Triumph Lutheran was held on Dec. 16, 1979. Courses were served at the Harold Carter, Sr., Les Hanson and Don Nelson homes and dessert at still another.

*Stacy, Minn.*—A Living Nativity program was presented again this Christmas at Sunnyside Lutheran, Rev. Wendell Johnson, pastor. It was held on the church lawn from 7-9 p.m. on Dec. 22. Each scene lasted for 15 minutes. Refreshments were served in the church basement. Youth from both Sunnyside and Hope, Wyoming, participated.

*Roseau, Minn.*—At the parish New Year's Eve watch night service the film "Sound of the Trumpet" was shown at Spruce Lutheran Church.

*Badger-Greenbush, Minn.*—The parish young adults met in Wannaska at the School gym in November. Volleyball was played. Lloyd Melby led the devotions. The Christmas party was held at the Nordvall home on Minnesota Hill on New Year's Eve.

*Newfolden, Minn.*—"Out There," a Disney-type wild animal motion picture filmed in Alaska, and with a message of God's forgiveness of sin, was shown at the parish wake night service at Hegland Lutheran, rural Strandquist.

## *The Kingdom of God*

At present the kingdom of God resembles nature in its winter shroud. But on the day of Christ's appearing, it will take on the beauty and grandeur of a midsummer's day.

F. Hammarsten

## Farewell . . .

Osceola, Wisconsin. This is gain for the AFLC as a whole and our prayers go with them, but how Faith Lutheran will miss the Dietsche family! As a family, they were strong participants in every organization of the church.

Bob was on the board of deacons; Carol had been Sunday School superintendent, as well as active in the WMF and every member of the family sang in choir and took an active part in the Luther League and promoted youth activities.

Pastor Hubert DeBoer emceed the program.

Eldor Sorkness gave a greeting representing the church board.

A greeting was given by Mrs. Carl Rasmussen, representing the Ladies Aid and the Martha and Mary mission group.

A greeting and gift presentation were by Orwin Sparby.

Their children, Mrs. Paul Nash (Laurie), Cary and his wife Rosalie, and Christie were present for the occasion.

Mrs. Sylvan Meinen had baked and decorated a special cake which was served with coffee and mints to all following the program.

The day had more blessings in store as on Sunday evening Mr. and Mrs. Bob Dietsche had planned the Luther League program (their turn as program chairmen). Christie Dietsche led in devotions. Cary Dietsche presented a memorable "chalk-talk" that dealt with the Living Bread while his mother read the Scripture and thoughts dealing with the Food we need to grow spiritually.

Inspiring songs were sung in forms of a trio, solos and larger groups from the Dietsche and Madison families. A special number was sung by Mrs. Ann Morrone.

Christ's name was honored throughout the day. Blessed be His Name!

—Mrs. Carl Rasmussen

# FASTEN Down your giving!

**FASTEN, a new financial aid program, is being developed to provide funds for student grants at AFLBS. Gifts are being received from individuals who are concerned that all who desire to attend Bible school may do so, without limitation due to financial circumstances.**

FASTEN, financial aid to students through establishing new churches, has the potential of benefiting both AFLBS and church extension. The church extension fund then loans the money to home mission congregations in need of capital for building purposes.

The interest earned on the funds is then used for financial aid for Bible school students, given on the basis of need and merit, administered by the financial aids committee.

The program gives interested donors an excellent opportunity to see their gifts have a far-reaching effect. New churches can be built—more students can benefit from life at AFLBS.

More information is available through the dean's office at AFLBS. Interested congregations or individuals may send their gifts to AFLBS designated for FASTEN.

Association Free Lutheran Bible School  
3110 E. Medicine Lake Blvd.  
Minneapolis, Minn. 55441