

THE LUTHERAN AMBASSADOR

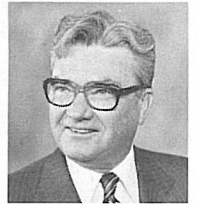
July 20, 1982



Twentieth AFLC Annual Conference



AT THE MASTER'S FEET



Rev. John Strand

The holiness of God

"Oh Lord, our Lord, how majestic is Thy name in all the earth." Thou art a great God! Let me never forget this. And a part of Your greatness is Your holiness. I confess, O Lord, that I do not think of this as I ought. It is easy to think of Your greatness only as far as power and wisdom are concerned. But You are a holy God. You have said (Prov. 9:10) that knowledge of the Holy One is understanding. I am to know You as a Holy One.

Holy, holy, holy!
Lord God Almighty!
Early in the morning
our song shall rise to Thee;
Holy, holy, holy!
merciful and mighty!
God in Three Persons,
blessed Trinity!

THE LUTHERAN AMBASSADOR

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Holy, holy, holy,
all the saints adore Thee!
Casting down their golden crowns
around the glassy sea;
Cherubim and seraphim
falling down before Thee,
Which wert, and art,
and evermore shalt be.

Holy, holy, holy!
though the darkness hide Thee!
Tho' the eye of sinful man
Thy glory may not see;
Only Thou art holy;
there is none beside Thee,
Perfect in power,
in love, and purity.

—Reginald Heber

Lord, as You know, this hymn is often used at the beginning of a worship service. Lord, perhaps we should use it every day to help us remember Your holiness. So many have forgotten Your holiness, Your love of purity, Your hatred of worldliness and sin. *You are truly unique!* Moses was commanded to take off his shoes for You were near. Lord, forgive me if I ever become careless and trite in Your service and worship. Many show more respect and reverence to the local cop or judge than to You.

Lord, there is much on the religious scene today that is at best just entertainment. Its center is human enjoyment, not Your exaltation. This does not help me mature as Your child. This does not draw men to You for a lasting relationship, but only a momentary attachment. Only as You are raised up, in all your glory and holiness, is Your Kingdom built. *Lord, have mercy!*

Lord, Your holiness does not frighten me. Rather it comforts. In this sin-cursed world, One there is Who is holy!

Yes, Your holiness causes me to praise You. Because You are holy, I know You are just, loving and merciful. I am not dealing with an angry tyrant.

But, Holy Lord, You do not tolerate sin. Sin and compromising grieve you. Your hatred of sin was seen at Calvary, as was Your love for the sinner. And as Your child, I, too, must hate sin. Lord, I confess that it is so easy to love it. This must not be. I am to be holy in all my behavior as You are holy. Yes, all Your children are commanded to be holy (1 Pet. 1:15-16).

Lord, it is so easy to become careless about sin, for sin to lose its terror. Yes, it is so easy not to struggle against sin, but instead, just seek forgiveness, at times even in a casual manner. Lord, is this because we have forgotten Your holiness? We are to struggle against sin, our sin, unto blood, if need be! (Heb. 12:4).

"Search me, O God, and know my heart;

Try me and know my anxious thoughts;
And see if there be any hurtful way in me,
And lead me in the everlasting way" (Ps. 139:23-24).

Holy Lord, help me to realize your holiness. Help me to see my sin, to confess and forsake it. Lead me in the way everlasting.

Lord Jesus Christ, I flee to Thee,
Let me Thy grace obtain!
But if Thou shouldst turn from me,
My quest would all be vain.

In all the world of human strife
No man can ever save;
Thou only hast the word of life
That fallen sinners crave.

Continued on next page . . .

A report on the
decisions made
at the Annual
Conference

FURTHER STUDY PROPOSED ON HYMNBOOK AND PRINTING PROJECTS

In the Annual Conference of the Association of Free Lutheran Congregations held in Dickinson, N. Dak., last month (June 16-20), the delegates voted to ask committees to continue study of projects which could lead to the publication of an AFLC hymnbook and the establishment of a church-owned printing shop.

Both projects, while unrelated, are under the Board of Publications and Parish Education. As to the hymnal, a subcommittee consisting of Mr. Donald Rodvold, Rev. Bruce Dalager and Mrs. Kenneth Moland will continue to study the feasibility of producing and desire for a new hymnal. The committee could conceivably be enlarged during the year, although the Conference made no recommendation to that effect.

Part of the study this year will be a poll of AFLC church councils and pastors to ascertain their support for the project. Presently, Association congregations use a wide variety of hymnbooks, but the predominant one for Sunday morning use is the *Concordia Hymnal*. A survey of church hymnals in the AFLC was undertaken by the Board in 1971, but the results didn't produce any action due to lack of interest.

As to the setting up of a print shop for the Association, delegates expressed real caution and asked the subcommittee of

Pastors Ralph Rokke and Ralph Tjelta to come to conference next year with more information. In their report this year they had concluded that, at best, AFLC printing needs alone would "barely be able to operate with any profit margin at all." The conference delegates seemed to agree with their observation, too, that the success of any such operation would depend largely upon the person who could head up all aspects of the work—printing skills, management, bookkeeping. And he would have to be willing to work at less pay than he could command in the commercial sector.

Elections

Rev. Leslie Galland, Thief River Falls, Minn., was elected vice-president of the AFLC for one year. He was elected on the second ballot after four candidates had been nominated for the first one and no one received a majority. The present vice-president, Rev. David C. Molstre, Dickinson, N. Dak., had been nominated but needed a three-fourths majority on that first ballot to continue in office after three successive terms.

Rev. Hubert DeBoer, Colfax, Wis., was re-elected secretary. This will be his third term.

Nominated to the Co-ordinating Committee for subsequent election by the Committee for five-year terms were Mr. George Hartman, Dalton, Minn., and Mr. Robert Knutson, McVie, N. Dak. The incumbents were not re-nominated because they are salaried by the Co-ordinating Committee, Mr. Ernest Miedema as Director of Development and Mr. Robert Dietsche as Director of the Association Retreat Center.

The record of all Annual Conference elections may be found elsewhere in this *Ambassador*.

Social Issues

Two so-called "social issues" resolutions deserve special mention. In one the Conference gave support to "stricter legislation regarding drinking and driving" and encouraged contact with legislators on this matter.

The other related to gambling and was introduced by Rev. LeRoy Flickinger, Leeds, N. Dak. The resolution asks the AFLC to stand firmly against (all) gambling and calls the term "charitable gambling" a misnomer.

The issue is particularly painful in North Dakota at this time as some forms of "charitable gambling" are now allowed there.

New Congregations

Rev. Kenneth L. Anderson, chairman of the Co-ordinating Committee, reported that five new congregations had been received into AFLC fellowship in the past year: Grace, Mt. Juliet, Tenn.; Our Savior's, Stanley, N. Dak.; Emmanuel, Williston, N. Dak.; North Prairie, Leeds, N. Dak.; and Minnesota Valley, Apple Valley, Minn. All are recently organized churches except for North Prairie. He declared the total number of congregations to now be 138. There are 101 pastors and 15 lay pastors. Summer ordinations will add several more.

World Missions

No major decisions were made in World Missions. Rather the resolutions consisted of encouragement and support for actions underway or being contemplated.

[Continued on page 4]

To Thee, my Lord, I humbly pray,
My sins Thou me forgive!
Wash all my guilty stains away,
That I may ever live.

Give strength of heart
and peace of mind,
My God so full of grace!
That I may have a faith sublime
And thus Thy love embrace.

Then shall I always praise Thy name
And follow after Thee,
The glory of Thy cross proclaim
Until I crown'd shall be.

—Author unknown

COVER CAPTIONS Photos by R. Huglen

Upper Left: Entrance to Dickinson State College

Upper Right: Missionary Connely Dyrud and Pastor Samuel Flores chat.

Lower Right: Miss Judith Wold, left, was honored for 12 years as Executive Secretary of Parish Education. Pastor Ralph Rokke and Mrs. Philip Regnier, the new secretary, look on.

Lower Left: Pastor Trygve F. Dahle, 90, ate some of the Association's birthday cake.



Rev. Hubert DeBoer, AFLC Secretary, tends to his work.

PROPOSALS . . .

These included support for the provision of regular amateur radio communication with the Brazil field. Some equipment has been donated and Rev. Connely Dyrud is seeking to secure a radio license for operation of such equipment. Also, encouragement was given to beginning twice-weekly radio broadcasts from Curitiba, where Rev. John Abel is stationed.

The World Missions Committee is to supply the best Lutheran theological training possible in India and the other fields. The Conference urged the Committee to permanently place Pastor Rao Dasari on the field in his native India by the summer of 1986. Presently he is teaching at the AFLC Schools in Minneapolis, Minn.

The Conference was told that land has been given for a mission in Paraguay, but government permission to begin work in that country hasn't come yet. Prayer was urged for that permission to be granted.

Resolutions concerning Mexico were general ones of thanksgiving and prayer support.

The only time the Conference raised the recommended goals for 1983-84 was in the area of World Missions when \$15,000 was added to the amount suggested by the Budget Analysis Committee. This was done when it became known that a single girl candidate, Miss Rachel Mundrom, will likely be ready to leave for Brazil in 1983 and wishes to do so, but no funds have been budgeted for that eventuality. The World Missions Committee had reservations that all would be in readiness for Miss Mundrom to leave for Brazil as early as 1983

and so had not included the item in its proposed budget for that time period. But the Conference voted the \$15,000 increase, making a total of \$265,975, by a vote of 82-49.

Schools

The Conference gave approval to adding a fourth year to the theological training of our AFLC pastors-to-be. The fourth year would be an internship year and would follow the three class years. The entering class this year would be the first class to have the full year of internship. At present the seminarians spend two summers in internship.

No one spoke in opposition to the change. Pastor Monseth, the dean, saw the longer internship as less disruptive for the students in family life and housing and as a better opportunity for gaining experience under pastoral supervision and for evaluation. He said that he anticipated there would be enough parishes available for interns to make the plan practicable.

Another item of interest pertaining to Schools was the rescinding of a motion at a previous conference that the next construction at the Schools must be for housing for seminary students.

The rescision doesn't mean that student housing won't be the next construction or acquisition, but it does open the way for some other facility(ies) to be provided first, such as a library-administration building. A Facilities Committee set up by the Co-ordinating Committee is presently making a study of campus needs. Medicine Lake Congregation also becomes involved since it rents space from the AFLC headquarters and Schools.

Pensions

The delegates voted the continuation of offerings in the congregations in October for the special fund for needy pastors and pastors' widows. It is for emergency situations.

Subscription Increase

In a surprising move, the subscription cost of the *Ambassador* was raised to \$10 per year. The Board of Publications and Parish Education and Committee No. 4 had recommended an increase to \$8 (from \$6), but the delegates advanced it two dollars more to spare on the subsidies required from the church agencies. In the discussion two speakers said they feared such an increase would make it impossible for some subscribers to continue subscribing to the church paper

ELECTION

*denotes re-election

Vice-president

Rev. Leslie Galland, Thief River Falls, Minn.

Secretary

Rev. Hubert DeBoer, Colfax, Wis.*

Co-ordinating Committee

5-years

Mr. George Hartman, Dalton, Minn.

Mr. Robert Knutson, McVile, N. Dak.

Board of Trustees (Schools)

5 years

Mr. Kenneth Rolf, McIntosh, Minn.*

World Missions Committee

5 years

Rev. Amos Dyrud, Minneapolis, Minn.*

Home Missions Committee

5 years

Mr. Owen Myhre, Abercrombie, N. Dak.

(the elderly and the young families). But others felt that congregations could aid those for whom the raise might seem prohibitive.

It should be noted that even with this sizable raise the *Ambassador* will continue to be heavily subsidized by the major church agencies and the Women's Missionary Federation.

Next Year's Conference

Invitations to the 1983 Annual Conference were extended by Our Redeemer Lutheran Church, Kirkland, Wash., and the Association Retreat Center (ARC), Osceola, Wis.

The Kirkland invitation was actually for 1984, but the congregation was willing to host in 1983 if that were desired.

By a vote of 74 to 27 the delegates chose the ARC for 1983. The dates could be either June 8-13 or June 15-19.

Delegate Count

A total of 344 delegates attended the Annual Conference. Of these, 269 were lay people, five lay pastors and 70 pastors. They came from 12 states, Canada, Brazil and Mexico.

One year ago, 400 registered for the Conference in Minneapolis. The all-time high registration of delegates took place in 1978, also in Minneapolis, when 496 were present. In that year a new president was to be re-elected, adding to the interest in the conference.

RESULTS

Youth Board

5 years

Rev. Allen Monson, Tioga, N. Dak.*

Board of Publications and Parish Education

5 years

Dr. Mary Lindquist, Grand Forks, N. Dak.

Commission of Evangelism

5 years

Mr. Arthur Arneson, Spicer, Minn.

Board of Pensions

5 years

Mr. Lawrence Dahlgren, Lake Park, Minn.

Stewardship Board

5 years

Mr. Harvey Dyrud, Newfolden, Minn.*

CORPORATION ELECTIONS

The following persons were elected by their corporations to membership after nomination by the Annual Conference on June 17:

Missions Corporation

1 year

Mrs. Oscar Folden, Minot, N. Dak.

5 years

Mr. Martin Bjornson, Valley City, N. Dak.*

Rev. Herbert L. Franz, Cloquet, Minn.*

Mr. Kenneth Nash, Colfax, N. Dak.*

Mr. Vernon Russum, Grafton, N. Dak.*

Mrs. Rodney Stueland, Roslyn, S. Dak.*

Miss Judith Wold, Thief River Falls, Minn.*

Rev. Henry Johansen, Virginia, Minn.

Dr. Wayne Sletten, Faith, S. Dak.

Dr. Lyle Mattson, Milbank, S. Dak.

Mr. Jerry Olson, Newfolden, Minn.

Schools Corporation

5 years

Rev. J. G. Erickson, Minneapolis, Minn.*

Rev. Dennis Gray, Spicer, Minn.*

Rev. Francis Monseth, Minneapolis, Minn.*

Mr. John Mundfrom, Minneapolis, Minn.

Lay Pastor Roger Krueger, Fergus Falls, Minn.

Mr. James Rolf, Brandon, Minn.

Mr. Clifford Dyrud, St. Paul, Minn.

Mr. Kent Quanbeck, McVile, N. Dak.

Mr. Clifford Johnson, Esko, Minn.

Mr. Robert Knutson, McVile, N. Dak.

The committees for the 1983 Conference

Nominating Committee

Mr. Kent Quanbeck, McVile, N. Dak. (END)

Rev. Gary Jorgenson, Stanley, N. Dak. (WND-EM)

Rev. Philip Rokke, Reva, S. Dak. (SD)

Mr. Harvey Dyrud, Newfolden, Minn. (NWM)

Mr. Wayne Floan, Fertile, Minn. (NCM)

Mr. George Hartman, Dalton, Minn. (SWCM)

Mr. Joel Rogenes, Ely, Minn. (LS)

Mr. Robert Dietsche, Osceola, Wis. (M)

Rev. James Gerdeen, Chassell, Mich. (NM)

Rev. Forrest Swenson, Tucson, Ariz. (A)

Rev. Stephen Odegaard, Kirkland, Wash. (WC)

Committee No. 1—Administration

Rev. Amos Dyrud, Minneapolis, Minn.

Mr. Eldor Sorkness, Sand Creek, Wis.

Mr. Robert Bursheim, Winger, Minn.

Rev. John Strand, Remer, Minn.

Mr. Eldon Hermsunslie, Abercrombie, N. Dak.

Committee No. 2—Schools

Mr. Lynn Walty, Lake Stevens, Wash.

Mr. Vernon Langaas, Greenbush, Minn.

Mr. Guy Murray, Champion, Mich.

Rev. Raynard Huglen, Newfolden, Minn.

Rev. Leslie Galland, Thief River Falls, Minn.

Committee No. 3—Missions and Evangelism

Rev. Laurel Udden, Minneapolis, Minn.

Mr. Carl Moland, Fertile, Minn.

Lay Pastor Walter Beaman, McIntosh, Minn.

Mr. Ronald Willand, Ferndale, Wash.

Rev. James Fugleberg, Ontonagon, Mich.

Committee No. 4—Publications, Parish Education and Youth Work

Mr. Don Carter, Lake Stevens, Wash.

Miss Elaine Hill, Negaunee, Mich.

Miss Eula Mae Swenson, Fargo, N. Dak.

Rev. Donald Greven, Radcliffe, Ia.

Rev. John Rieth, Williston, N. Dak.

Committee No. 5—Stewardship and Pensions

Mr. Bernard Nelson, Chassell, Mich.

Mr. Laurel Johnson, Brandon, Minn.

Mr. Will Olson, Kirkland, Wash.

Rev. William Moberg, Eugene, Ore.

Rev. Norman Tenneboe, Eben Jct., Mich.

Budget Analysis Committee

Rev. Wallace Jackson, Wallace, S. Dak.

Mr. Carmen Tweeten, Dickinson, N. Dak.

Mr. Raymond Jacobson, Wadena, Minn.

Mr. Eugene Nesland, Thief River Falls, Minn.

Mr. Wayne Hanson, Minneapolis, Minn.

Colloquy Committee

Rev. Dennis Gray, Spicer, Minn.

Rev. Dennis O'Neil, Shevlin, Minn.

Rev. Alvin Grothe, Astoria, Ore.

Rev. John Strand, Remer, Minn.

Rev. Jerome Nikunen, Minnewaukan, N. Dak.



The officers of the AFLC, left to right, Richard Snipstead, president, Leslie Galland, vice-president, and Hubert DeBoer, secretary.

Dickinson Press Photo

CONFERENCE MESSAGES

The Opening Service

Pastor John P. Strand, Remer, Minn., former president of the Association of Free Lutheran Congregations, preached the sermon at the opening service of the Conference on Wednesday night before a large audience.

He spoke on the Conference text, I Corinthians 15:58. The verse is a call to commitment, a commitment which God has a right to ask of us. And it is three-fold, according to this verse. 1) Be steadfast! It is something each of us can be, young and strong and old and wise. Be faithful. 2) Be immovable. Some people are constantly looking for something new. Rather, stand on the absolutes of the faith and don't be moved from them. 3) Always abound in the work of the Lord. Some would like to place this first among the three, but Paul placed it third. Other denominations have their place in God's work, but we have a special work, too. We have some truths concerning the church from which we dare not move. We have our *Fundamental Principles*.

Notice that the first one says, "According to the Word of God." Here we have the Scriptural basis. Sometimes we may substitute liturgies in our services which are not Word-centered. Our goal must be only that which honors the Word and what the Word can accomplish.

That first *Principle* also mentions the *congregation*. The Bible speaks of the congregation as the church. It should be a living fellowship and then it will meet spiritual needs. The congregation is to be *Lutheran*. Some among us are almost ashamed to call themselves that, but we are *Lutheran*. The Reformed churches don't need our help. God's work for us is to be Lutheran. And the congregations are to be free, with pastors as shepherds, not overlords.

Then something about the Christian life. The church is to be God-like. We have seen in recent history how corporate work in a denomination can take precedence over the local congregation. Then pressure is placed upon those congregations.

And we can look at advances in our own church agencies. But we should look first at our congregations. Is there pulsating spiritual life in them? Are they *living* congregations? Are our pastors builders of congregations, of fellowship? Do they love the church? Go home, build the church. If our congregations are living, men and means will ooze out to supply all our needs.

WMF Festival Service

On Thursday night Pastor Strand again spoke, this time at the Women's Missionary Federation festival service. That will be reported next time by the secretary of the WMF in her report of that convention.

Laymen's Service

Mr. LaVern Thompson of Fergus Falls, Minn., led the traditional laymen's service on Friday night at May Hall, where all conference sessions were held. The speaker was Mr. Carmen Tweeten of the host congregation, Our Savior's, in Dickinson.

There are two ways to know God: by reason and by revelation. Christianity is a religion of revelation and it is through the Bible that God reveals Himself to us and all mankind. The Bible, it lives and stands in spite of all opposition. Notice its harmony and unity. Written by approximately 40 writers over hundreds of years, and yet there is unity in the whole.

The Old Testament contains prophecies of the Christ. He is in the New Testament. He is the A to Z of the Scriptures. The Bible tells of my need and of God's provision. The Word is settled, fixed, in heaven. It transforms the hearts of men. Build on the Bible.

Youth Service

Lay Pastor Verle Dean, Sedan, Minn., brought the message on Saturday evening at the Youth Service. Rev. Allen Monson, Tioga, N. Dak., led the service. He is president of the Luther League Federation.



Mr. Carmen Tweeten, Dickinson, spoke at the laymen's service on Friday night.

Pastor Dean also spoke on the Conference theme, I Corinthians 15:58. We should emphasize the word "always" in the text: *always* abounding in the work of the Lord.

Thanks be to God who gives the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ, v. 57. Some of those who were with us 20 years ago have departed, men like Fritjof Monseth, Harry Molstre, Carl Ostby and Morris Eggen.

We have Goliaths in our lives as David had in his. But David didn't see the size of Goliath because the Lord was with him. Jesus is asking for you and me. We have to meet His conditions as found in our theme verse—*always* abounding in the work of the Lord.

We should read our Bible and find God's place for us. We must meet the conditions and die to self. He said that he was near death in open-heart surgery a few years ago. His heart had stopped, but he was called back to this life again. Someone has told him that his name "Dean" means "dweller in the valley."

The Communion Service

The secretary of the AFLC, Rev. Hubert DeBoer, Colfax, Wis., preached at the service of Holy Communion on Sunday morning. Rev. LeRoy Flickinger, Leeds, N. Dak., led the service.

Pastor DeBoer used Matthew 26:19 as his text, stressing the words, "They made ready the passover." We all have

BE IT RESOLVED . . .

Here are some of the Annual Conference Resolutions which we would like to call to your attention. They are implemented as interested people and congregations take them and act on them.

Gambling

Be it resolved, that the Conference strongly recommends that the AFLC stand firmly against gambling;

Be it further resolved that the Conference join with others who agree that the term "charitable gambling" is a misnomer. Gambling, by its very nature, is neither charitable nor beneficial, but adversely affects the spiritual life of the family, church and society.

On Drinking and Driving

Because of the increase in alcoholism in our nation and the high cost to our society because of drunk drivers, Be it resolved, that we continue to encourage the passage of stricter legislation regard-

ing drinking and driving; Be it further resolved, that we encourage our people to write to their legislators concerning this issue.

On the 20th Anniversary

Be it resolved, that we are thankful that the book, *Beginnings and Blessings*, has been published to remind us how the Lord has blessed us; Be it further resolved, that we encourage all our congregations to take a special anniversary offering for the debt retirement of our AFLC and/or for the establishment of an orphanage in India.

On World Hunger

Inasmuch as there are at least one billion people in the world who do not have enough to eat, Be it resolved, that we encourage our congregations to support World Relief through prayers and gifts.

On Marriage and the Home

Be it resolved, that we as members of our congregations and parents join hands in a concerned effort to strengthen the permanence of the marriage vows as well as family life and restore Biblical values to our homes.

On Our Freedom of Religion

Be it resolved, that as we observe events throughout the world, we again express our thanks to God for the freedom of religion which we have in our country and that we as individuals and congregations pray fervently for this freedom to continue.

On Commitment to Jesus

Be it resolved, that we thank the Lord for our personal salvation and for bless-

ing and prospering the AFLC these past 20 years; Be it further resolved, that we continue to stress the personal commitment to Jesus Christ in the years that are ahead.

On Pastors' Salaries

Be it resolved, that each congregation examine the compensation given its pastor yearly.

On Benevolent Grants

Be it resolved, that we thank Aid Association for Lutherans and Lutheran Brotherhood for the grants that have been given to the work of the AFLC.

On Departed Brethren

Be it resolved, that we thank the Lord for the faithful ministries of (the late) Rev. Karl G. Berg and Rev. Harry Molstre.

On the Hymnbook

Whereas the 1981 Annual Conference requested the Board of Publications to investigate the possibility of revising or reproducing a supplement to the *Concordia Hymnal*, Be it resolved, that the Board of Publications proceed with the project of an Association hymnal, conditionally by (1) polling all AFLC church councils and pastors in regard to their measure of support for, and potential use of, a new hymnal; (2) beginning the process of carefully selecting which hymns to include; (3) seeking grants, memorials or gifts toward such a hymnal; and (4) determining on the basis of the findings the financial feasibility of production and presenting a recommendation at next year's Annual Conference.

On Internship

Be it resolved, that the Annual Conference adopt the fourth year internship program.

On Campus Needs

Whereas new facility needs have arisen (since the Annual Conference resolution regarding the fact that the next building project on campus would be seminary student housing), Be it resolved, that the Annual Conference give the Facility Committee authorization to study all possibilities. (This motion was passed after the previous conference resolution mentioned above had been rescinded.)

appointments to keep. In coming to the Conference we had appointments to take care of. We are to come to the Lord's Table only by appointment. If there is anything between us and God, and between us and others, then we aren't rightly prepared to keep that appointment.

We must live in the forgiveness of sins. Some say that Communion doesn't do anything for them. Then they don't really have the divine appointment. In Jesus Christ, let us fellowship together at the Table and grow closer to Him.

[Continued on page 8]

[Continued on page 8]

MESSAGES . . .

The Morning Worship

Host pastor Rev. David Molstre of Dickinson conducted the morning worship service at 10:30 and the local congregation augmented the delegates still remaining at the Conference. The sermon was given by Rev. Raynard Huglen, Newfolden, Minn., editor of *The Lutheran Ambassador*. He spoke on the Gospel text for the day, the second Sunday after Trinity, Luke 9:51-62.

The word which comes to mind in this text is *discipleship*. Discipleship means to follow someone closely, to be willing to identify with another even at cost to oneself. Here we are concerned with Christian discipleship, following Jesus Christ whatever the cost. Dietrich Bonhoeffer, who was put to death by the Nazis in 1945, wrote, "When Christ calls a man He bids him come and die." The death is to self, to be sure, and possibly even the giving up of physical life as in the case of the martyrs.

The text also says something about the long-suffering Savior. Jesus would not permit James and John to call fire down upon inhospitable Samaritans. As another text for the day says, "Yet there is room" at the great banquet of the Lord and we must be working to bring more people to the salvation of God.

Jesus is a demanding Savior as He calls us to follow Him. We are to ask ourselves what the implications and manifestations of discipleship are where we live. And are the manifestations present in our lives? If not, why not?

Three potential disciples are pictured in the text: the precipitate, impulsive man who had not counted the cost of coming after Jesus; the procrastinating, reluctant man who was not putting the kingdom of God first; and the irresolute, compromising man, who, although a volunteer like the first, was not ready to commit all to Christ.

Whether these three did become disciples, we don't know. We hope they did. But how is our discipleship? Worldly influences and considerations shouldn't control, nor should family ties. Christ and His kingdom must be first. And there is joy in following Jesus in spite of the hardness, and glory by and by.

Sunday Afternoon

The Conference closed on Sunday afternoon with an impressive service of

installation for Rev. Francis Monseth as dean of Association Free Lutheran Theological Seminary, but before a greatly depleted audience. Rev. Michael Brandt, Amery, Wis., chairman of the Board of Trustees, led the service. Mr. Donald Rodvold, Minneapolis, Minn., director of music at AFLBS, sang the always beautiful, "Be Thou Faithful." The sermon was preached by AFLC president, Rev. Richard Snipstead. His text was Romans 10:13-15.

Twenty years ago, as the Association was organized, there were very meager beginnings and, of course, no seminary for the training of pastors. In the resolution at the Thief River Falls conference looking toward the establishment of a seminary it was stated that the purpose of such an institution would be to "train our youth to be good pastors . . ." And now we have already had 76 graduates of our school.

It has been said that as a seminary goes, so goes the church body. And so this is no time to relax. We must earnestly contend, now more than ever, for the

faith.

How can men hear without a preacher? And how can one preach unless he is sent? The seminary enables the man to be ready. Pray for those who have the responsibility to train and examine the men. If we are steadfast we need not fear that our convictions will change.

A pastor is sent by the church. He must have a message to proclaim and be sure of the efficacy of the Word for salvation. The Law of God breaks the sinner and makes him ready for the balm of the Gospel. We must be urgent in this task of proclamation.

Our seminary gives the men the proper tools and yet we could wish that graduation would *guarantee* a well-equipped pastor. Sometimes a man can major in minors. Pray forth laborers. Pray the Lord of the harvest. The AFLC has a rich heritage of preaching the unsearchable riches of Christ. And it is an awesome responsibility for the future.

RESOLUTIONS . . .

On the Orphanage in India

Be it resolved, that the goal of establishing an orphanage in India be brought into reality by our prayers, our planning and our financial support.

On Work in Canada

Since there has been Conference action to investigate the possibility of work in Canada and reports from there indicate a need and interest in the AFLC, Be it resolved, that the Home Mission Committee take steps to establish the AFLC in Canada and develop congregations as the Lord opens doors and men

and finances become available.

On the Stewardship Seminar

Be it resolved, that the Conference strongly recommends that the local congregations encourage their pastors and key lay people to attend the Stewardship Seminar on September 28-29 (part of resolution).

On the Special Pension Offering

Whereas we give thanks to God for the special pension offerings taken to help pastors and pastors' widows with special needs, Be it resolved that we continue this special offering received during the month of October.



Rev. Francis Monseth was installed as seminary dean.

editorials

A CONGENIAL CONFERENCE

That's the word that came to mind as we thought of the Annual Conference of 1982, held last month on the campus of Dickinson State College, Dickinson, N. Dak. As almost 350 delegates gathered for the 20th annual conference of the Association of Free Lutheran Congregations a spirit of real congeniality prevailed.

No troubling issues were due to come before the conference, and none did, and so it was a time to meet old friends again and pause to thank the Lord for almost 20 years of fellowship and blessings.

Speaking of meeting old friends, someone told us that as delegates came to one of the dormitories to get their room assignments, a worker at the school remarked, as she watched people greet one another enthusiastically, "What kind of a convention is this? Everyone seems to know everyone else already!" Yes, that's the way it is in the Association. Small enough for people to get well acquainted.

At the coffee hour on Thursday afternoon, instead of the usual cookies, etc., a beautiful cake was served in honor of the AFLC's 20th birthday. The cake was donated by the Fred Valders, owners of a supermarket in Dickinson and members of the church there.

Those of us who have been involved in the Association from her beginning marvel that 20 years have already gone by since (in October) the AFLC was begun. Time has gone by quickly. There has been much to do. Perhaps later in the year we can take a look ahead at what the future may bring. We don't know the future, of course, but we can think about it nonetheless.

God is good. He has provided. His mercies have been new every morning and they have surrounded us all the days. What would have failed abjectly if it were only man's effort has, we may say in all humility, evidence of the blessing of the Lord upon it. To God alone be the glory.

Thank you, Pastor Molstre, and good people of Our Savior's Lutheran Church, Dickinson, for your great hospitality to the Conference. You did a great job. We may be wrong, but we wonder if any host congregation in our past has had as many men of the congregation always on duty to be of help, as was the case in Dickinson. Anyway, you did a great job.

The setting at Dickinson State College was very good. What a fine auditorium in May Hall. We came to love that campus on the west side of the city. And western North Dakota has never looked more beautiful with its lush green carpet provided by the abundant rains of this spring and early summer.

Perhaps, in God's providence, we can meet in Dickinson again some day for annual conference. We hope so.

CONFERENCE COMMUNION

That certainly was a good and blessed service of Holy Communion on Sunday morning of the Conference. One could really sense the Lord's presence.

But then one wonders why, if Communion is to be served at a convention at all (and there is some debate on the point), it is not made available to the majority of those who attend.

It is common knowledge that in the Association most of those who have been at conference have left by Sunday morning. And so the question can be asked, what is the purpose of having the Lord's Supper at that time? Granted, any time is a good time to have the Lord's Supper, but shouldn't it be there for the most people?

Yes, we are sorry that more delegates don't stay through Sunday and we may say more about that another time. But there is also something very nice about beginning conference with Holy Communion. Delegates are gathered to worship the Lord and to hear the opening sermon on Wednesday night. It is the eve of the business sessions and the days of fellowship. Then they partake of the Sacrament together and Jesus is present in that special way, bringing His strength, granting His blessing. All who partake in truthfulness of spirit are bound still more closely in the Savior.

We hope that more thought and study can be given to this possibility, which was the practice in the old Lutheran Free Church and is the custom in some other Lutheran churches. There is no prohibition written in stone against it. We think that a service of Holy Communion is a good way in which to begin a church conference.



MINIMUM GOALS

Here are the Minimum Goals for the fiscal year 1983-84 as adopted by the Annual Conference last month. The first column is the amount recommended by the Budget Analysis Committee on April 26. The second or right-hand column shows the amount authorized by the Conference.

	Recommended	Approved
General Fund	\$187,180.00	\$187,180.00
Schools	262,085.00	262,085.00
Praise Program	28,880.00	28,880.00
World Missions	250,970.00	265,970.00
Home Missions	<u>219,796.00</u>	<u>219,796.00</u>
Totals	<u>\$948,911.00</u>	<u>\$963,911.00</u>



Summary of Conference Reports

Co-ordinating Committee

God has had His hand upon us for a special purpose. May we be faithful in proclaiming the message of the kingdom to this generation. There are many who are hungering for that truth. Let us "hold forth the Word of life; that we may rejoice in the day of Christ, having not run in vain, nor labored in vain" (Phil. 2:6).

Rev. Kenneth L. Anderson

Director of Development

As I have travelled around this past year and visited many dear folks I am troubled with the fact that some will not let God have control, especially financially. They insist on having complete control of their accumulation of this world's goods. Be sure that God will never take from you and leave you destitute, but when you share of what you have with Him He will pour out a blessing on your soul such as you have never experienced. All we need to do is let go and pray, "God, it is all Yours anyway; do with it what You will." Then as you read your Bible and pray He will direct you exactly as to what and where you should give. We cannot serve Christ and be poor stewards. The two cannot go hand in hand.

Mr. Ernest Miedema

Dean of the Seminary

Earlier in the past school year a facilities study committee was organized to consider the short and long-range needs of the seminary in terms of space needed for library holdings, classrooms and offices. Members of the Committee include two members of the Co-ordinating Committee, two members of the Board of Trustees, and the undersigned. While the scope of the committee has expanded beyond potential seminary needs, we are very thankful for this serious effort to plan for the future.

One of the short-range needs of the seminary is seen as the expansion of the library space to accommodate its growth in recent years.

Rev. Francis Monseth

Dean of the Bible School

The debt on the dormitory facilities continues to go down. Presently, the amount remaining is about \$230,000. The Board of Trustees has adopted 1985 as a target date for retiring this debt. Dormitory income, Praise Fund gifts and other special debt reduction gifts will combine to pay off this amount.

Rev. Kenneth D. Moland

Executive Director of World Missions

Pastor Samuel Flores and his son Milton, an administrator within the state government, continue to make weekly visits to the neighboring city of Celaya (Mexico). Efforts are being made to reach people whose hearts are open to the Gospel of Christ. As God opens doors of opportunity additional workers will be needed. It is our role to encourage expansion of the work in Mexico as we think of the need for additional workers and a greater financial investment on our part.

We are grateful to God for healing and restoring Pastor Flores' body after his serious Christmas Eve automobile accident. Thank you for praying for him.

Rev. Eugen W. Enderlein

Executive Director of Home Missions

This year's Home Mission budget is the biggest ever. It is only as the people of the AFLC trust and obey that this budget will be met. Lutheran Brotherhood this year is providing \$54,544.00 to our Home Mission work. We are thankful to Lutheran Brotherhood for this grant, but do not want to become dependent on them in financing our work. It is of real concern that receipts from congregations fall off so sharply during the months of May through September. These months with the summer ministries costs are our heaviest spending months. It becomes very difficult to pay subsidies and salaries, to say nothing of establishing new work.

Rev. Elden Nelson

Commission of Evangelism

As we look back over this past year, we have much to thank and praise the Lord for. He has again led the church through another trying year. It is good

that we have some valleys to go through, but we can thank the Lord that he said, "I will never leave thee nor forsake thee." We know that He will be with us unto the end of the world. From the Commission of Evangelism board and our evangelist, Rev. Kenneth Pentti, we pray that nothing will hinder that pressing toward that great goal that is set before us. May we work together as our theme says, "abounding in the work of the Lord."

Lay Pastor Verle Dean

Evangelist-Youth Worker

It has come to my attention how many people from other Lutheran church bodies have been attending the meetings in our AFLC churches. Could it be they are not getting the Word of God preached and taught as they desire within their local church? May we always stand on the true inspired Word of God and preach and teach repentance over sin and a personal commitment to Jesus Christ.

Evangelist Kenneth Pentti

Youth Board

The most effective youth work is still done in the home. Parents can assist their children in their walk with God by studying the Bible and catechism with them, by encouraging the reading of Christian books and magazines, by providing music in the home that honors God, by seeing that the whole family attends church activities, and by living consistent, godly lives their children can follow.

Rev. Bruce Dalager

Stewardship Board

Christian stewardship is the investment of one's life for Christ; the dedication of one's time, talent and treasure are all closely related. Only as we become more willing to give to the Lord of all that He has entrusted to us will He bless and multiply as He did the five loaves and two fish and fed the 5,000. The Lord uses and multiplies the gifts we give.

Rev. Ernest Langness

Board of Pensions

As members of the Pension Board and all who are in the fellowship of the AFLC, we should consider the words of the Apostle Paul to the Ephesians, chapter 4, verse 32: "And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one

The President's Message to the Church

(The second of two parts)

As the books were closed on the fiscal year, January 31, 1982, there was evidence of God's continued blessing on the AFLC. We did not quite reach the budgeted goal for our subsidies. The total giving for the year was increased by \$206,000.00, or 35.9% over the giving the previous year. This came about in a year when we were experiencing times of economic problems. We express our gratitude to God and to our many faithful supporters, many of whom have given sacrificially to make it possible for the work to go on.

Perhaps you have heard comments about the possibility of having a million-dollar budget before us at this Conference. We are pleased that with careful planning, and cut-backs, the budget subsidies recommended to the Annual Conference contain only a 3.5% increase this year. The subsidy request is still below the million-dollar mark.

It would be good to remind the Conference that it is only the subsidies

needed to operate the various activities of the church that are voted on at Annual Conference. We have actually had a million-dollar budget for a number of years. The total disbursements for 1980-81 were \$1,300,454.00 and the 1981-82 disbursements totalled \$1,462,855.00. This, of course, includes all kitchen operations, dorm rentals, all pension payments, as well as receipts at our ARC Retreat Center. This I believe is helpful to realize fully the growth of our AFLC in recent years.

Pastors' Salary Survey

The Coordinating Committee has authorized a pastors' salary survey every other year. A survey was conducted during the months of January and February this year. We are gratified to see the improvements in the pastors' salaries since the survey was done two years ago. The last survey shows the average cash salary for pastors in our ALFC is now \$15,733.00, compared to just over \$12,000 in 1980. Most of our pastors are adequately taken care of. A few pastors continue to struggle in an effort to make ends meet.

The following is a breakdown of the salaries as reported to us by 70 pastors and lay pastors. We have included a comparison to ALC pastors.

	Number Reporting	% of Total Reporting	% for AFLC Pastors
\$ 6,000- 7,999	1	1.4	.5
8,000- 9,999	4	5.7	.4
10,000-11,999	6	8.57	.7
12,000-13,999	9	12.85	1.4
14,000-15,999	16	22.85	5.7
16,000-17,999	13	18.57	11.6
18,000-19,999	5	7.14	15.8
20,000-21,999	6	8.57	17.4
22,000-23,999	5	7.14	15.9
over 24,000	5	7.14	30.6

Seven percent of our pastors are below an annual income of \$10,000. Almost sixteen percent are below \$12,000 annual cash salary. It is these men that I am concerned about. Most of these men have families and do a considerable amount of driving. We are willing to make our office available to any congregation desiring counsel or help in working toward an adequate salary for its pastor. We know that it is difficult for a man to do his best work for God when he is burdened with financial problems.

Mr. Clifford Holm

Our Corporate Work

Detailed reports will follow from each of the divisions of our corporate work. We do, however, desire to make some general comments about certain aspects of the work we do together.

Our Schools have had a very fine year. Enrollment in both the Bible School and the Seminary have been at or near record levels. We praise God for the youth in our Bible School who are desirous of learning more of God's Word and will so that they can have God's best for their lives. We have rejoiced as we have travelled through our Association and have seen our Bible School graduates active in and supportive of the work of the local congregations.

For a number of years we have had resolutions before our Conference "praying the Lord of the harvest that He would send labourers into the harvest." We have seen the answer to those prayers in the fine men who have responded to the call to the ministry.

We are grateful for the standards at our Seminary. These standards are continually reviewed. The laity today demands more from a pastor. Lay people are better trained today than 20 years ago. The level of education of our pastors must also continue to improve, so that the men who come from our seminary will be able effectively to minister to their people.

With growth in the schools, and with a number of additional offices being opened at headquarters, we have experienced space problems. The World Mission office was moved to headquarters this last year, as was also the department of Parish Education. All available rooms are now being used for offices. The result is that we have greatly reduced the available rooms for Sunday School for Medicine Lake Lutheran Church which rents the facilities from the AFLC. The present seminary library will soon outgrow its present space and we have nowhere to move the library to gain more room.

A "Facilities Committee" composed of members of the Coordinating Committee and the School Board has been appointed and is studying the situation

[Continued on page 12]



Rev. Richard Gilmore, left, and Rev. Yeddo Gottle at the pastors' dinner.

another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you." As I read this verse I thought of how our special pension fund has been used to help in different ways those in need. But more important we have to show our tenderheartedness whenever possible, so we can live more Christlike.

PRESIDENT'S...

with a view to making a recommendation to the Annual Conference at such time as a decision has been made as how to best solve our problem. The AFLBS Alumni Association is also interested and is involved in the discussion about possible future plans. No recommendation will be forthcoming to this Annual Conference. I believe that I can assure each one of you that utmost care and study will be made before any recommendation for additional facilities is made to the Annual Conference.

This year our Board of Parish Education and Publications has been confronted with some serious problems with regard to printing of *The Lutheran Ambassador*. Bethany Fellowship, which has printed the *Ambassador* since it began, gave notification that it was discontinuing the printing of periodicals. A fine new printer has been found in Printing Arts. The costs, however, have been increased by over 40% for the printing. Many other printers were contacted. In addition to the printing problem the postal department unexpectedly imposed increases in postal rates for second class materials. The Board of Publications is forced to come to this Annual Conference asking for a further increase in the subscriptions to the *Ambassador*. I would like to have a discussion at that time on the feelings of the Conference regarding the amount of the subscription price and also the subsidies being asked from the various boards. In this year's budget request, about 40% of funds for the *Ambassador* will come from subsidies.

Work on the mission fronts continues to expand. Good reports have come from Brazil, from Mexico, and from India. We trust that we will soon have approval for our work in Paraguay. The efforts on the Home Mission front continue to show positive results. We are glad for each open door that we are able to enter. Here we are hampered by a lack of funds and a lack of men gifted to do Home Mission work. Our hosts at this Conference, Our Saviour's Lutheran Church, are a product of our Home Mission effort.

A recommendation passed at the last Annual Conference asked that a study be made of the Articles of Incorporation and By-Laws of the Missions and Schools Corporations in order to establish a consistent policy for the elec-

tion of corporation members and for members of the Board of Directors of each Corporation. A law firm has been reviewing the present articles and by-laws and has presented recommendations which will be presented to this Annual conference for approval, and then the corporations will adopt them and make the necessary changes. The attorneys have found that there need to be some corrections in mode of operation and that some of the previous changes have not been recorded with the Secretary of State.

Our AFLC continues to be the recipient of many benefits from Lutheran benevolent societies. Lutheran Brotherhood continues to give an annual grant to the establishment of a new Home Mission field. Assistance is also given for the continuing education of theological professors and pastors. Aid Association for Lutherans has also given funds for the continuing education of pastors, as well as assistance for seminary students. A grant was given by AAL for assistance in printing our anniversary book, *Beginnings and Blessings*. This summer AAL is providing a grant giving assistance for the Leadership Institute at our Bible School. We have also applied to AAL for a grant to assist us in a Stewardship Workshop this fall. In a newly established program, AAL is giving a gift to congregations having reached significant anniversaries. As a church body, we need to express our deep appreciation to these benevolent societies for the assistance they are giving to Lutheran congregations.

We would like to give you a little more information concerning the Stewardship Seminar which is scheduled for September 28 and 29. Dr. Waldo Werning from Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, Indiana, will be our instructor. The seminar theme will be "The New Testament Grace System of Giving." We hope to have representatives from each district and possibly even each congregation in attendance. That will be determined by the size of the grant we might receive from AAL. The seminar will be held in connection with the All Boards' meeting.

Stewardship meetings were held in nearly all the districts this past year. Presentations were also made in many of our congregations. The response was very favorable. We are available to continue these presentations. We have

replaced the flip chart with a slide presentation. We need to continue to tell the story of the AFLC to our people.

Our AFLC has held an emphasis on the need of a personal Christianity. We stress that the Word of God is applicable and relevant in all aspects of life. As the Christian studies the Word, he finds there the standards he needs for his life. He finds, too, that he must limit his Christian liberty because of the weakness of his own flesh and because he must be careful of his example to others about him. We continue to believe that this is "a pietism which is needed and is right for our day."

In Memoriam

Karl G. Berg passed away at Salem, Oregon, on June 21, 1981, at the age of 77 years, 11 months and 23 days. Funeral services were held at Our Saviour's Lutheran Church, Thief River Falls, Minnesota, on June 26, 1981.

Harry Molstre passed away at Fergus Falls, Minnesota, on December 6, 1981, at the age of 74 years, two months and 24 days. Funeral services were conducted at Calvary Lutheran Church, Fergus Falls, Minnesota, on December 9, 1981.

May the memory of these departed servants of God continue to inspire us in our devotion to God and in our Christian service.

Appreciation

The faithful support and encouragement given to me this past year has been almost overwhelming. How deeply we appreciate the comment, whether by letter or in a phone call or in a personal conversation, "We remember you in prayer daily." We deeply need this support before the Throne of Grace.

God is so good. We may not know what may be before us in the immediate future. We believe that as we are willing to give ourselves wholly unto Him and press on in faith and prayer and determination, we shall experience even greater blessings and see even greater accomplishments in the kingdom work. Let us join hearts and hands together for that purpose.

Respectfully submitted,
Richard Snipstead

(Ed. note: The list of anniversaries, dedications, etc., has been omitted, but may be found in the 1982 Annual Report to be published later this year.)

THE CHRISTIAN LIFE

In what kind of amusements may a Christian take part?

by Martin Hegland

Of all the questions that concern youth that of amusements looms up as tremendously big.

There is a reason for this. Deep down in the nature of every normal young person, Christian and non-Christian, there is an urge to diversion and pleasure which demands to be satisfied. And this urge is legitimate. The instinct of play is just as natural with children and young people as those of eating and sleeping. A failure to recognize it has been responsible for some of the attitudes and policies in dealing with youth that have proved extremely unwise and even disastrous. If as parents and guides of youth we would wish them well, we do wisely in interesting ourselves vitally in their play. No person, young or old, can keep normal or do his best work without a certain amount of relaxation and recreation. The old saying is profoundly true: "All work and no play makes Jack a dull boy."

Another thing is to be said. God wants young people to be happy. The Christian life is not a barren, joyless form of existence. Jesus said, "I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly." It is a grave mistake to picture the Christian life as one in which young people can not enjoy themselves. That is not God's thought. He wants our lives to overflow with gladness. His servant Paul urged upon the Christians of his day: "Rejoice in the Lord always: again I will say, Rejoice."

Now in order to give a wise answer to the question, "In what kind of amusements should a Christian take part?" it is necessary to discover some basic principles according to which our

answer may be determined.

1. As a first principle no Christian should take part in any form of amusement that injures his body, mind or soul. As Christians we believe that we are creatures of God and that all we have are His gifts, for which we stand in the position of stewards. We have a solemn responsibility to care for every part of our being as belongings to God.

2. A second principle is consideration for others. It is conceivable that there are things you could do with a good conscience which another person could not do except with a guilty conscience. For him it would be sin, and your example might lead to his spiritual ruin. In such situations the Christian who loves his fellowmen will be very careful. He will voluntarily and cheerfully abstain from many things for his brother's sake. Paul puts it this way, when speaking of the eating of meat that had been presented in sacrifice to idols: "If meat causeth my brother to stumble, I will eat no flesh for evermore, that I cause not my brother to stumble" (I Cor. 8:13).

There may, of course, be people sometimes of such limited outlook that they regard practically all forms of amusement as wrong, and it would be robbing ourselves of God-given liberty to be governed by their views. But the big-hearted Christian will go to great lengths not to cause his brother to stumble.

3. As a third principle, we may set down the will of God. That may not always be easy to determine, but surely we are agreed on this that a Christian should not take part in any form of amusement that he knows to be contrary to God's will.

Now as an aid to determining the will of God we may ask ourselves the question, "What would Jesus have me do?" If the conscience clearly registers the verdict, "Jesus would say No to that," then that settles it for the Christian. In loyalty to his Master, he will say, "I will not take part in that."

"The Christian life is not a barren, joyless form of existence."

Here are two passages of Scripture that will be found helpful in this connection: "Whatsoever ye do in word or in deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him" (Col. 3:17). "Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God" (I Cor. 10:31).

There are other principles that might be stated, but we do well not to make the matter too involved. A Christian will not go so far wrong if he conscientiously and prayerfully subjects a given problem to these three tests: How will it affect me in body, mind and soul? How will my action affect others? What would Jesus have me do?

Tested by these standards there are many fine forms of diversion, recreation and amusement in which a Christian may take part, as for instance the reading of wholesome books and magazines, attending worth while programs and lectures, producing or listening to good music in its manifold forms, the many fine, interesting and enjoyable games, puzzles, contests, and the like that can be participated in the family circle—or in the larger social group such as the Luther League—healthful outdoor recreation of almost endless variety—in summer and winter: baseball, football, basketball, tennis, golf, croquet, swimming, skating, skiing, coasting, and many others. Properly participating in such forms of recreation, the Christian may thank God out of a full heart for the refreshment and amusement which will enable him better to do the work of each day as it comes to him.

—From *Problems of Young Christians*
by Martin Hegland
Augsburg Publishing House.

Next time: What About Card-Playing?

Conference Prayer Hours

The Conference Prayer Hours were led by Rev. Francis Monseth, dean of the Association seminary in Minneapolis, Minn. Here is a brief report on them.

Thursday

Text: Psalm 16:5-11. The goodly heritage of which the psalmist speaks for us goes backward beyond the 20 years of our history. Many have influenced us for good. And what of the future? How will it go for our church? We can trust the Lord for that future. Let us bless Him and praise Him.

Friday

Pastor and Mrs. Trygve Dahle, Spicer, Minn., sang a duet, "Children of the Heavenly Father." Pastor Monseth's text was Hebrews 4:14-16.

Opposition from the enemy will increase. We need the exhortation to hold fast which the text gives us. The Lord gives grace to do what He asks or commands. We have a great High Priest with a superior priesthood and an unchangeable one. His blood cleanses eter-

nally. He is risen and the grave has lost its fear.

Let us come boldly to the throne of grace. Jesus is a great empathizer. He is able to help and strengthen. Let us hold fast to the great truths. We are needy people and stand in need of grace more and more. We come in Jesus' name to the throne of grace.

Saturday

"Day by Day" was sung by the AFLBS summer Gospel team, the Ambassadors. Ephesians 3:13-21 was the text Pastor Monseth used for the day's meditation.

Quotations were given from a book on prayer by E. M. Bounds. In effect, Mr. Bounds has said that God is looking for better men, not better methods; the pulpit today is weak in prayer; and the observation, "Behold he prayeth," is the epitome of Paul's ministry.

Paul had been sensitive, listening to the needs of the Ephesians. He calls upon us also to hold fast for Christ, work for Him and move forward. We are to be grounded and rooted in love, able to comprehend with the saints the love of Christ and filled with the fullness of God.

Each prayer session closed with a season of prayer with many taking part.

In Gratitude

Secrets? Yes, people within the Association are able to keep them.

It was a surprise to me that my retirement was to be celebrated during coffee break on Friday afternoon of the Annual Conference. There it was: a beautifully decorated cake, a corsage, cards and gifts from kind and generous people.

Those years of serving directly with Parish Education went by quickly. We accomplished much, but I was faced with lack of storage space. The headquarters in Minneapolis seemed to be the proper place for the location of this department.

You have been very gracious to me. May it please the Lord to continue to use us.

Thank you
Judith B. Wold

Devotional leaders

The devotional leaders at the Conference business sessions are listed here with the texts which they read.

Thursday, 9 a.m.

Mr. Harris van Someren, Drummond, Wis.

Romans 15:1-6

Thursday, 2 p.m.

Mr. Mark Antal, Minneapolis, Minn.

Hebrews 12:1-7

Friday, 9 a.m.

Mr. Jon Wellumson, Ortle, S. Dak.

Psalm 40

Friday, 2 p.m.

Lay Pastor Gustav Nordvall, Roseau, Minn.

Psalm 124 and John 17:15-21

Saturday, 9 a.m.

Mr. Peter Franz, Buxton, N. Dak.

II Corinthians 8:1-12

Saturday, 2 p.m.

Lay Pastor Merle Fagerberg, Dalton, Minn.

Isaiah 55:1, 2 and I Peter 2:1-4

Personalities

Rev. Jay Eberth has resigned as pastor of Calvary Lutheran Church, Fosston, Minn., a pastorate he had served since last summer. His future plans aren't known at this time.

Rev. Terry Olson is now the pastor of St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Fargo, N. Dak. He began his ministry there in June after moving from his previous call, Bethel, Minot, N. Dak., and Faith, Burlington, N. Dak. Pastor Olson had served in Minot since 1978.

Mr. James Olson, now received as a lay pastor in the AFLC, is serving Zoar Lutheran Church, Hatton, N. Dak. He succeeds his father as pastor there, Rev. Orville T. Olson.

Pastor Ray Persson has resigned as pastor of Bethany Lutheran Church, Bemidji, Minn., after seven years of service there. Future plans are indefinite at this time.

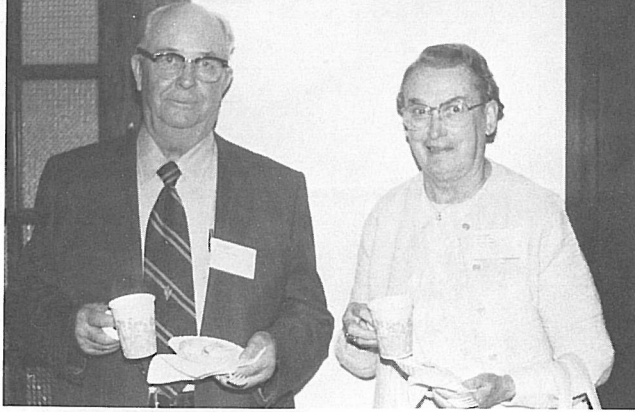
Rev. Forrest Swenson is serving the mission in Tucson, Ariz. His most recent parish was at Fergus Falls and Doran, Minn.

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)

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



Mr. and Mrs. Russell Duncan of Fargo.



Mrs. Richard Snipstead, right, helped cut the anniversary cake.

Conference sidelights

Pastor and Mrs. David Molstre became the parents of a fourth son on Friday during the Conference. He joins his brothers and a sister. Needless to say, Mrs. Molstre (Sandra) wasn't able to take part in any conference activities. Congratulations!

The State College food service reported that AFLC delegates drank approximately 2500 cups of coffee during coffee breaks. At 40¢ per cup that would come to a thousand dollars' worth. Actually the coffee breaks were free-will and often the proceeds went to World Relief.

Good to see Chaplain Timothy Skramstad at the Conference, home from Maryland.

On Tuesday before Conference, Mrs. Wayne Hjermstad (Solveig), who does our layout design, gave birth to a son, Micah Wayne, in Minneapolis, Minn. She and her pastor husband live at 16980 Duck Lake Trail, Eden Prairie, Minn. 55344. Congratulations!

Fellowship Corner

It's later than we think

A few weeks ago I received *Budbereren* from Norway. In this paper there was an article written by Dr. Sigurd Aske, whom I know. He is a great authority on world missions. He said among other things that there are 25 million Christians in China and the Christians have increased at the rate of 800% these last 30 years. Fantastic, unbelievable, you say.

And through information from other missions periodicals we know that thousands have these last years been swept into the kingdom of God in various heathen countries.

What does this tell me? It tells me that the Lord is making haste to fill his house and then He will come and take his Bride home.

Then the great tribulation with horrible things that will happen during the use of atomic warfare.

Oh yes, it is much later than we think.

If you want your unsaved loved ones to get saved, you better step on the gas. Get busy. Talk to them. Write to them. Pray for them as never before.

Soon Jesus is coming for His own and yours which are unsaved will be left behind in this world of woe and judgement.

"Seek ye the Lord (now) while he may be found, call ye upon Him while he is near" (Isaiah 55:6).

Pastor Lars Stalsbroten
Woodburn, Ore.

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Pastor Kenneth L. Anderson passed away

In His wisdom God has called His servant, Pastor Kenneth L. Anderson, to his heavenly reward.

Pastor Anderson, 53, serving the AFLC parish at Kenyon, Minn., and chairman of the Co-ordinating Committee, passed away early Saturday morning, July 3 in Kenyon. The funeral service was held there on July 7.

A complete obituary will be included next time.

Blessed be his memory.

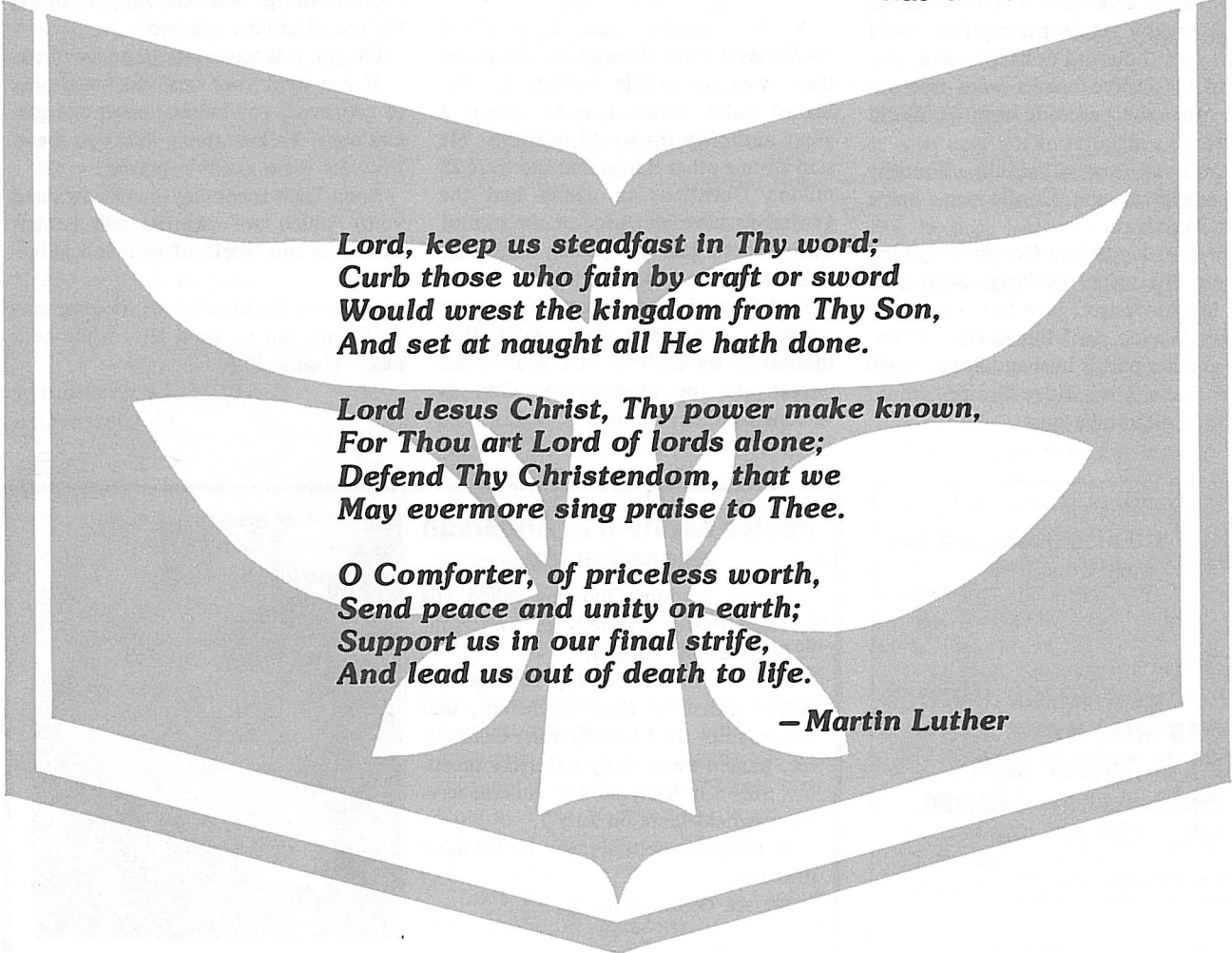


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THE AFLC TWENTY YEARS of BEGINNINGS and BLESSINGS

To God be the glory
great things He
has done!



*Lord, keep us steadfast in Thy word;
Curb those who fain by craft or sword
Would wrest the kingdom from Thy Son,
And set at naught all He hath done.*

*Lord Jesus Christ, Thy power make known,
For Thou art Lord of lords alone;
Defend Thy Christendom, that we
May evermore sing praise to Thee.*

*O Comforter, of priceless worth,
Send peace and unity on earth;
Support us in our final strife,
And lead us out of death to life.*

— Martin Luther