

# THE LUTHERAN AMBASSADOR

June 24, 1980

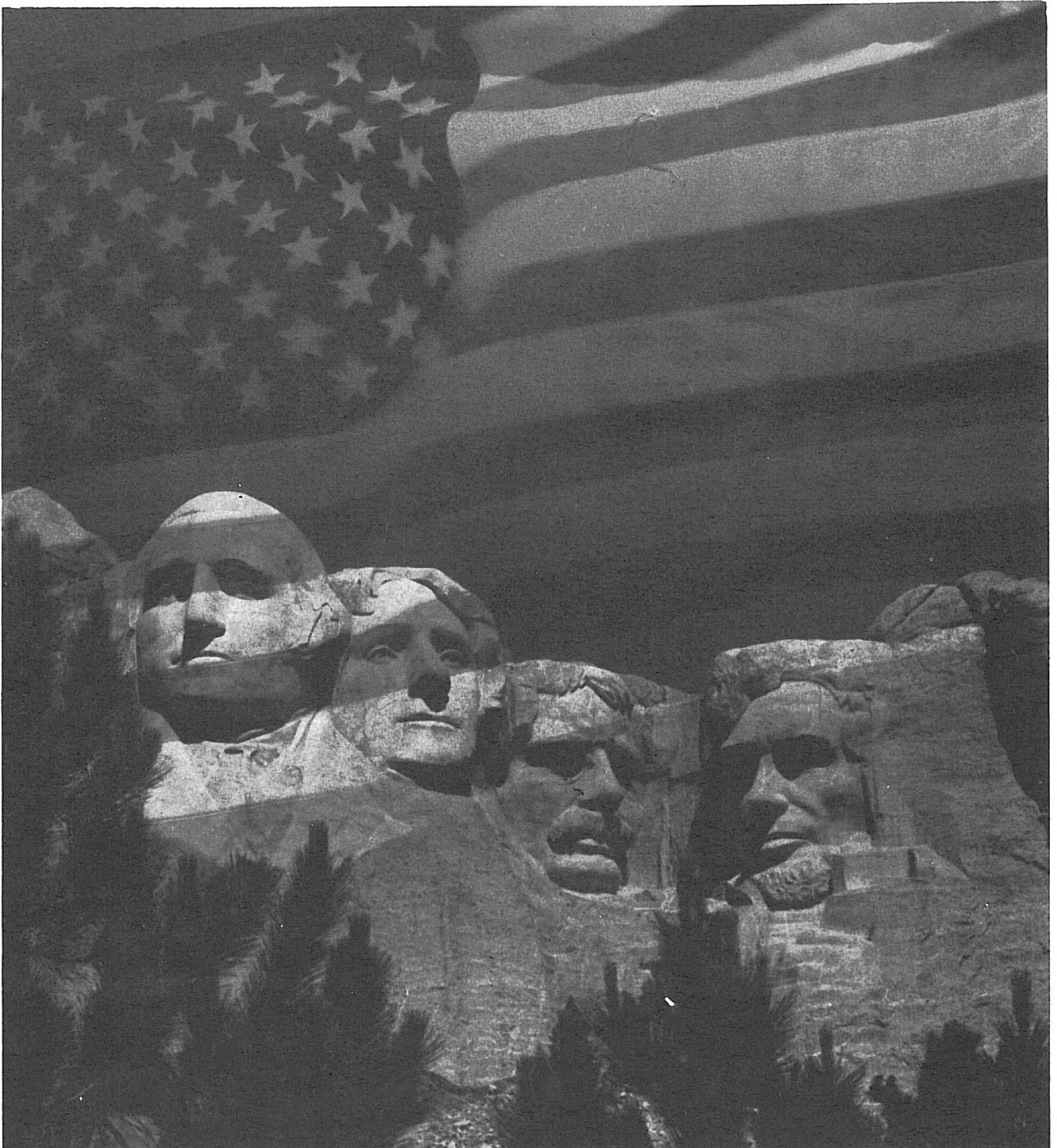


Photo by Roger C. Huebner, D.D.S.

# AT THE MASTER'S FEET

Pastor Gary Skramstad



## The Day Is Approaching

"Let us hold unwaveringly to the hope we profess, for He who promised is faithful. And let us consider how we may spur one another toward love and good deeds. Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another—and all the more as you see the day approaching" (Hebrews 10:23-25, NIV).

A few weeks ago I asked the teens in our youth group to mention some events that were taking place as fulfillment of prophecy. The list began. Concern is expressed by most everyone about the threatening Middle East situation. The earthquakes and drought of our farming regions remind us of Matthew 24:7. There are the "isms" and the "cults" and among the believers we witness love and zeal growing in different and cold. Sin of every kind is

on the rampage. There seems to be little shame. Our redemption draws near!

If we really believe that these things are happening and that the Day of the Lord is approaching, what are we to do? Some seem content to argue their particular viewpoint of Christ's return. Some exclude others as "true" believers if there is any variation in understanding prophetic Scriptures, or at least as worthwhile ones. Is this what God desires of us?

As the temptation comes to be silent in our belief, let us unwaveringly hold to the hope of our profession. We must not lose that first love. We must all the more realize what God has done for us. We must seek His grace and help every day. I challenged the teens to prayerfully consider a personal project that would be good for all of us. It is, after purchasing a notebook, write down the date and make a promise to yourself that you desire to grow in the spiritual man. Ask God to help you to be faithful and to create a hunger and understanding of His Word. Then make a personal spiritual diary by writing down the particular day. If that day happens to be the 15th of the month then read Psalm 15 and Proverbs 15. Jot down special insights and blessings. Make note of words or phrases that are difficult to understand. Seek to find the answers in dictionaries, cross references, commentaries or other available tools. Each day follow the pattern of the corresponding chapter from Psalms and Proverbs. Include prayer requests and as days go by record the date answered.

Our teens will be meeting most every week during the summer. During those times they will be encouraged to share the insights and the questions they have gained from their personal study.

They can share answered prayer and be reminded to share burdens and concerns with the other believers. We believe God will honor His Word as the teens become involved in such a study.

As you see the Day approaching, would such a study be helpful to you? Could each in your family grow through such an experience? As we see the Day approaching we must spur one another on toward love and good deeds. Through the pages of God's wisdom we can encourage and comfort one another. Responses to life situations are prominent in these books (Psalms and Proverbs). We need to allow God to remind us by His Word or else we will be reminded by His action. He loves us enough to chasten us.

When we believers truly become followers of the Way of Jesus the world will take note. They will know we are Christians by our love for the brethren. In our reverence towards God, the children will have safety and security. They will come to know that God is. Those without hope will desire a life-changing relationship with Jesus. We must take advantage of today to allow the Spirit of God to live Christ's life through us.

If we are among those who say they believe that Jesus is coming and it does nothing to really change us then we are deceived. We are lying to ourselves. The pride of this life, our reputation, our treasure, our pleasure, are more important than the truth that Jesus is coming soon. We might be persuaded that Jesus is coming but it is no conviction. A conviction is costly. We are willing to die for convictions.

Trim the lamps! Be ready! May we be among those who possess the conviction that Jesus is coming—the Day is approaching!

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# Prayer Defined

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Pastor W. M. Jackson  
Wallace, S. Dak.

An old Gospel hymn which emanated from the Southland says: "It's me, it's me, O Lord! standin' in the need of prayer. Not my brother, nor my sister, but it's me, O Lord! standin' in the need of prayer." Doubtless the brother and the sister stand in need of prayer as much as the lyricist. However, the emphasis and focus are on "me." When the sense of this dawns on the individual Christian the importance of prayer and fellowship with God comes into right perspective. The importance of prayer is generally understood by most Christians and hardly needs special emphasis. Jesus highlighted the importance of prayer when He said, "Men ought always to pray" (Luke 18:1). St. Paul reminds us to "Pray without ceasing" (I Thess. 5:17). Bible passages abound dealing with the importance of prayer.

Reasons for praying include: the fact that we have an adversary that "goeth about seeking whom he may devour," that God has appointed prayer as a means through which we can express our needs and through which blessing and help can enter our lives, the fact that the parent Church regarded prayer of utmost importance, the fact that prayer held such a prominent place in the life of Jesus, and the open invitation to the Christian to "come

boldly to the throne of grace." Many more reasons can be found in Scripture which encourage us to spend much time in prayer to our heavenly Father.

## WHAT IS PRAYER?

The dictionary definition includes the Latin word *precarius*, meaning, obtained by begging. It is an earnest request, entreaty, supplication. A request made to God. Any spiritual communion with God.

Somehow, I like the hymnwriter's definition better: "Prayer is the soul's sincere desire, unuttered or expressed; the motion of a hidden fire that trembles in the breast." These words of James Montgomery have endeared themselves to many of the faithful. Lutheran hymnody would be incomplete without them. The expression, "Prayer is the soul's sincere desire," may serve as a format of our desire to comprehend the meaning of prayer to God.

A less familiar Gospel hymn written by John W. Peterson includes the words, "I touched the heart of God in prayer." This thought adds a somewhat broader dimension to our understanding of the subject. The hymn writers of old and the present day Gospel song lyricists, as well as the poets and preachers, have all in their own way sought to give definition to what prayer is. It may well be that we know more about what prayer *does* than what prayer *is*. If we find ourselves caught on the "horns of a dilemma" because we find ourselves unable to understand or define prayer, let us not allow that to prevent our *experiencing* it. How earth-bound "dust creatures"

can conceivably lift feeble voices and be individually heard (while millions of others are doing exactly the same thing at the same precise time) by the God of the universe certainly defies explanation and boggles the mind. While it staggers the imagination to think such a thing is possible, let us remember that it is a small thing with God. After all, the very hairs of our head are numbered and, more than that, He knows the thoughts and intents of our hearts. Let us not allow that which seems utterly incredible to overtake our faith in God and prayer. The Bible is replete with assurances that *God does hear and answer prayer*. Hear what the Psalmist says: "As for me, I will call upon God: and the Lord shall save me: evening and morning and at noon, will I pray, and cry aloud; and *He shall hear my voice.*"

## ON WIELDING INFLUENCE

Influence peddling is a familiar subject in today's news. Generally it is thought of with respect to obtaining favors in return for influence applied in the right places. How much influence do our prayers really have on God? Some think Christians are presumptuous when they suggest that their prayers have anything to do with persuading God to do that which He has wanted to do all along. Sceptics, in their supposed realism, always appear negative, while Christians, for the most part, will take the positive position. With two sides of the issue to contemplate, is there some level ground of understanding to be discovered where our feet feel comfortable and we can

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*"It may well be that we know more about what prayer does than what prayer is."*

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# INTERCESSORY

by Pastor Albert Hautamaki  
Minneapolis, Minn.

I believe that intercessory prayer is simply communication of a believing heart with God in behalf of others or, as James writes in his Letter, "Pray for one another." It is indeed one of the great privileges of the Christian to talk to God and this is very important and vital to his spiritual life. A true Christian is not a selfish person interested in and praying solely for his own personal needs. He is concerned about the needs and problems of others and thus brings them to the throne of God's grace. Intercessory prayer is giving to God the cares and needs of people and asking Him to handle them, as Paul writes in Philippians 4:6, "Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God." Our prayers should never be limited to ourselves, to our own needs. We are a priesthood of believers. As priests, our

business is to talk to men about God and talk to God about men. For the Christian it is not optional for him to pray or not to pray—and, furthermore, to pray for others.

There are many exhortations to intercession in the Bible but the greatest comes from the Great Intercessor Himself, the Lord Jesus Christ. The evidence for this is found in the example and teaching of Jesus, as He states in Luke 6:28: "Bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you," and also in Luke 23:34: "Father, forgive them for they do not know what they are doing." I do not want to fail to mention Christ's High Priestly Prayer in John 17, wherein He prays a special prayer for the Church, for the keeping of the saints, that the Church may be kept pure and that the Church may be one in Him and, finally, that His own will reach that glory which He has prepared for them.

The teaching of the heavenly intercession of Christ is developed most fully

in the Epistle to the Hebrews, where it is shown that, although His act of propitiation was completed once for all on the cross and needs no repetition, His very presence at the right hand of God is an eternal act of intercession on man's behalf. Paul reiterates this fact in Romans 8:34: "Christ Jesus is He who died, yes, rather who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who also intercedes for us." Note also the words of Hebrews 7:25: "Hence also He is able to save forever those who draw

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**"Intercessory prayer is giving God the cares and needs of people and asking Him to handle them. . . ."**

## PRAYER DEFINED . . .

walk with confidence? It might indeed be suggested that God is influenced by *some* prayers, while not by others. This may seem to throw considerable responsibility back on the pray-er. One thing seems certain: That God's *purpose* is not altered by our prayers. That which God has ever wanted to do in the past He wants to do yet today. Case in point: "God would have all men to be saved" (I Tim. 2:4). Do we believe that God needs to be "persuaded" to save the lost? It rather appears that the prayer-person must allow mind and spirit to be conditioned to accommodate God's highest purpose in the matter. Questions which surface here have to do with motivation in prayer.

### MOTIVES DETERMINE THE PROPRIETY OF OUR REQUESTS

If a Christian wife prays persistently that her husband will have a conversion experience because it would be "so

nice" if he could be home on time and end his bar-hopping, go to church on Sundays, spend more time with the family, read the Bible occasionally and "take an interest in things," her prayer is unlikely to influence God to convert her husband. Should she not be thinking rather about the value of his soul and the God who has been slighted all these years? The cross of Christ has a definite place in all this. The same can be said for the husband who prays that his wife might be "delivered" from irritability or emotional upheaval because it would change their family life. Or what about parents who are under duress because a son or daughter shows slight traces of incorrigibility and is suspected of "testing the waters" of the drug scene. Would it not be wonderful if he or she would get right with God and become a good student, learn responsibility, help at home, get involved in youth activity at church? Is it

possible that there are some whose motives are akin to those described by James when he states: "Ye ask, and receive not, because ye ask amiss, that ye may consume it upon your lusts." Selfishness can all too easily creep into our motives as we pray.

Without doubt or question, a Holy

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*"Selfishness can all too easily creep into our motives as we pray."*

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Spirit-directed, cross-oriented, soul-burdened prayer will reach the throne of grace to bring down result and blessing. The entire scope of our prayer experience must come under the discipline of the Divine will and purpose. Let there be nothing between ourselves and God that serves as a hindrance to prayer.



# PRAYER

near to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them." We find that the Pauline epistles stress the duty of intercession for the Christian brotherhood. Not only does Paul constantly pray for his converts but he begs them to intercede for him. Note Romans 15:30 and also II Thessalonians 3:1.

Another important factor for the Christian to know is that He cannot pray without the Holy Spirit. Martin Luther stated: "Without the Holy Spirit no prayer is prayed." The Apostle Paul says in Romans 8:26-27: "For we do not know how to pray as we should, but the Spirit Himself intercedes for us . . . and He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit is, because He intercedes for the saints according to the will of God." Thus, every Christian prayer offered with the right intention is supported by a double intercession—that of the indwelling Spirit, and that of the glorified Christ.

What if I don't feel like praying? Should I just wait for the right times, when I get the right feeling? Not at all. When we feel least like praying is the time when we most need to pray. We should wait quietly before God and tell Him how cold and prayerless our hearts are and look up to Him and trust Him and expect Him to send the Holy Spirit to warm our hearts and draw them out in prayer.

The whole secret of intercessory prayer, in fact, any kind of praying, is

found in the words of our Lord: "If ye abide in Me and My words abide in you, ye shall ask whatever ye will, and it shall be done unto you" (John 15:7). There are two conditions which Christ gives for this all-prevailing prayer.

The first condition is, "If you abide in Me." R. A. Torrey says: "To abide in Christ, one must, of course, already be in Christ through the acceptance of Christ as an atoning Savior from the guilt of sin, a risen Savior from the power of sin, and a Lord and Master over all his life. Being in Christ, all that we have to do to abide (or continue) in Christ is simply to renounce every thought, every purpose, every desire, every affection of our own and just looking day by day, and hour by hour for Jesus Christ to form His thoughts, His purposes, His affections, His desires in us."

Then the other condition stated in the above verse is, "And My words abide in you." Torrey continues his thoughts on this, "If we are to obtain from God all that one asks from Him, Christ's words must continue in us. We must study His Word, fairly devour His words, let them sink into our thoughts and into our heart, keep them in our memory, obey them constantly in our life, let them shape and mold our daily life and every act. . . . Prevailing prayer is almost an impossibility where there is neglect of the study of the Word of God."

I believe that there are many who wonder why God does not answer their

requests. We may have been praying for the salvation of some loved one for years or perhaps have brought some other petition to the Lord with no seeming answer. We do not always have the answer to God's purposes in the way He deals with His children. It may be that He wants to produce patience and love for Him. Then there may be things in our lives that hinder His answer to us. I want to mention a few that are based on Scripture. James says, "Ye ask and receive not because you *ask amiss*" (4:3). Isaiah writes, "Your *iniquities* have separated between you and your God, . . . and He will not hear" (59:1-2). In the Gospel of Mark we find this statement, "And when you stand praying, *forgive*, if ye have ought against any" (11:25). Then this important verse from James again, "Let him ask in *faith*, nothing doubting" (5:7). Unbelief is a definite hindrance. God demands that we shall believe His Word absolutely.

Intercessory prayer being a prayer prayed for and in behalf of others is primarily a mission prayer.

The prophet Isaiah complained in his day, "And he saw that there was no man, and wondered that there was no intercessor" (59:16). Today we need intercessors for the needy harvest fields of earth; people who have a Christly compassion for the thousands without the Gospel. We need intercessors for laborers to be sent by God into the needy fields of earth.

May the Spirit of prayer pervade your life as much as the air you breathe enables you to live.

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*"I exhort therefore, that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks, be made for all men; for kings, and for all that are in authority; that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty." I Timothy 2:1-2*

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# O Praise Him!

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by Pastor Marvin S. Undseth  
Salem, Ore.

Prayer is one of the great mysteries that you and I will never fully understand on this side of glory. God has chosen to tie His hands, so to speak. He can only move as you and I pray, because He is dependent upon our praying.

I never cease to marvel that God has entrusted to His saints the greatest force and power in this world, namely prayer. And yet it is the most unused, as well as abused, power in the world. If you and I would examine our own prayer life, we would no doubt find that most of our praying is really very selfish and self-centered. We want God to give us this, and give us that, do this for us, and spare us from that. In other words, praying most often involves asking God to bail us out of some kind of a situation when we know of nowhere else to go, or when all other alternatives have failed.

Prayer that is pleasing to God and that is modeled after the perfect prayer, the prayer that Jesus taught His disciples, involves much more than bringing petitions to God. The following aspects should be found in our praying: Praise, Thanksgiving, Confession, Intercession, and Petition.

In this article we will deal with the aspects of praise and thanksgiving in prayer. From my own praying, as well as listening to others pray, I realize that we need more praise and thanksgiving in our prayer life.

Praise and thanksgiving are very closely akin to each other. Men have tried to differentiate between them by saying that when we give thanks, we give God the glory for what He has done for us, and when we worship or give praise, we give God glory for what He is in Himself.

Because we experience the majesty and the grace of God only as He has revealed Himself in acts of merciful

kindness toward us, we can readily understand that praise and thanksgiving will overlap and complement each other. Thanksgiving will naturally express itself in praise. And praises will be called forth by the acts of merciful kindness for which we are giving thanks.

The saints of God in the Old Covenant had progressed far in the art of praising God. This comes to light especially in the Psalms. "I will bless the Lord at all times; His praise shall continually be in my mouth" (Ps. 34:1). "Let heaven and earth praise Him" (Ps. 69:34). "Praise the Lord! O give thanks to the Lord, for He is good; for His steadfast love endures forever!" (Ps. 106:1). "Praise the Lord. I will give thanks to the Lord with my whole heart, in the company of the upright, in the congregation" (Ps. 111:1). (All above verses are RSV.)

As we move into the New Covenant age, the importance of praise and thanksgiving in prayer is found throughout the New Testament from Matthew to Revelation. In the dispensation of grace in the New Testament, praise centers about God's greatest revelation of grace, the giving of His own Son to suffer and die for our sins. "Thanks be to God for His unspeakable gift!" (II Cor. 9:15, Am. St.) In the Revelation of John we learn that songs of praise shall resound throughout the heavens in all eternity and the theme of the eternal song of praise is stated briefly as follows: "And every created thing which is in the heaven, and on the earth, and under the earth, and on the sea, and all things that are in them, heard I saying, 'Unto Him that sitteth on the throne, and unto the Lamb, be the blessing, and the honor, and the glory, and the dominion, for ever and ever'" (Rev. 5:13, Am. St.).

In heaven the song of praise will be perfect. There God will be given the glory which belongs to Him. There the songs of praise shall resound everywhere and be re-echoed by everybody. There we shall be as harps in tune, which with individual variations, and yet in perfect symphony, will make melody unto Him.

## PRAISE and THANKSGIVING in PRAYER

# President's Message

## (Conclusion)

### Liturgy and Worship

The 1964 annual conference approved resolutions recommending Order of Service No. 2 in *The Concordia Hymnal* for continued use in our congregations. A resolution recommending the use of and publication of *The Altar Book (Ministerial Acts)* was also approved. Thus in effect the AFLC does have an official position on liturgy in our congregations. It is true that the Guiding Principles of our church allow the individual congregations the freedom to use whatever order of service it should choose. The above resolutions do, however, place the burden on our Seminary to instruct our future pastors both in the knowledge of and appreciation for the position of our church on these matters. It also places the burden on our Home Mission Board, that as new congregations are begun, their constitutions and practice will be in accordance with these approved resolutions.

A most important aspect of our worship services is our music. The AFLC has taken a doctrinal position that is strongly conservative. When it comes to music and hymns used in our churches we tend to be more liberal. To many of us there are some real concerns about this. It needs to be a vital concern for our pastors as they guide their congregations. Good music is taught and an appreciation for the best is gained only through education and practice. Why should we not have the best in music in our worship services?

### Pastoral Supply and Salaries

Our church continues to experience a shortage of pastors. This is not new for us as an AFLC. We have heard that message for 18 years. We have at a couple of points felt we were nearing the point when we would have an adequate supply of pastors. That will not be true for us for at least three years. The new

**"But no one can become a member of the celestial choir who has not learned to sing His praises here below."**

Our songs of praise here on earth are imperfect as everything else here below. But no one can become a member of the celestial choir who has not learned to sing His praises here below. "He hath put a new song in my mouth, even praise unto our God" (Ps. 40:3, Am. St.).

The Apostle Paul admonishes us to praise God individually as well as collectively: "Speaking one to another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody with your heart to the Lord" (Eph. 5:19, Am. St.; see also Col. 3:16). As far as I am able to observe, we praise God very little individually and collectively. We need to make more frequent use of the powerful hymns of praise, including the Psalms, which our forefathers sang, when we assemble for worship.

Praise is the vocal adoration of God. Adoration is the act of rendering divine honor, esteem and love. Aside from the fact that Jesus listed praise first in His prayer, there are numerous reasons for placing it first when we pray. Only praise puts God in His rightful position at the very outset of our praying. In praising God we declare His sovereignty and recognize His nature and power. The worship and praise of God demand a shift of center from self to God. One cannot praise God without relinquishing occupation with self.

The Scriptures contain a number of both direct and indirect admonitions to give thanks to God. The strongest one is found in Ephesians 5:20: "*Giving thanks always for all things in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ*" (Am. St.). Also, in I Thess. 5:18, we read:

*"Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you"* (RSV).

Did you notice that we are to give thanks not only for the good things but for *all things*, even things that hurt, such as trials, testings, disappointments, suffering and death. Job had learned this truth as we note in Job 1:21: "The Lord gave, and the Lord has taken away; blessed be the name of the Lord" (RSV). Also, in Job 2:10, we read: "Shall we receive good at the hand of God, and shall we not receive evil?" (RSV).

Praying Hyde often excused men who had been unkind to him. "They do not understand," he said. "I know they do not want to be unkind," he once replied when he was asked to defend himself against bitter and unjust attack. A friend even offered to write and explain, but he quietly said, "This is my cross which Christ wants me to take up and carry for Him."

What would happen if we all had such a spirit? Misunderstandings, fightings, divisions, etc., would cease. Oh, the petty quarrels, jealousies and misunderstandings among the dear children of God! How can they be done away with? I believe that Praying Hyde's way is sure to succeed. *Be much in prayer*; let any slight or even insult be an occasion to pray for the very persons who do these things, and praise God for the privilege of being permitted to bear these things. I think it was Madame Guyon who used to say when she was insulted or persecuted, "Thank you, Father; you saw I needed just this humbling."

But we need a life of prayer to be able to do this, not a spasmodic spurt, but a habit of prayer, to live in daily moment-by-moment communion with Him. The secret of Praying Hyde's power with God and with men was "Giving thanks in everything." May God also help us to follow his example in giving thanks and praise to God in every circumstance and situation that we may find ourselves in from time to time.



## MESSAGE . . .

class enrolling in the seminary in the fall will be the largest one for some time, and will help to meet our shortage. We believe this is an answer to prayer, as the conference last summer issued the call to prayer, that "The Lord of the harvest send forth laborers into the harvest." We continue to urge our people to make this a matter of vital concern in prayer.

We need the kind of pastors who will minister in the spirit of the Association. The 1965 annual conference in Resolution 10 (c) of Committee No. 2, "reminds our pastors that they are the servants of the congregations as God admonishes in I Peter 5:3, 'not as domineering over those in your charge but being examples to the flock.' " To be without a pastor is a trying time for a congregation. To have a pastor lacking humility and a true love for the flock is even more trying. The Co-ordinating Committee as guardians of the clergy roster keep this concern in mind as men come to us from other synods. Pray for men with a shepherd's heart.

A survey of pastors' salaries was conducted in January of this past year. The average salary of our pastors was \$12,075.00. A number of pastors on extremely low salaries brought the average down considerably. Many of our pastors are paid fairly adequate salaries. Our concern is for those men who cannot possibly live on the salary being paid. In these cases the work of the ministry is hindered in a number of ways. The pastor is burdened by personal financial problems and may even have to try to supplement his salary with other work. It would be a much better situation if we could have reported that the minimum salary was \$12,000.00. I trust that as a Conference we will urge our congregations to look at the salary being paid their pastor to see that he is provided for adequately. Congregations ought to consider the annual cost of living increase in preparing their budgets. According to statistics it requires twice the salary in 1980 to maintain the standard of living of 1970.

### The Lutheran Ambassador

*The Lutheran Ambassador* continues to serve our church well. It is a paper of which we in the Association can be justly proud. It is one of the finest church publications, but it is also the cheapest paper available when we consider the subscription price. Our low subscription price and rising costs have left us with a fairly large deficit for this past year. The various Boards also subsidize *The Lutheran Ambassador*, and these subsidies will be increased as of February 1, 1981. But we face the prospect of an even larger deficit this year. The conference should take action to increase the subscription rate accordingly.

### Development Program

Already, since we have had a person working in the area of Director of Development, we have received many benefits as a church. The cost of having a man in this position will be offset in an overwhelming way by the funds that come to us through his work. Mr. Miedema has been working on getting a program in annuities for us. We are glad to report that he has completed this work and we can now help our people. This program has also been long overdue.

Mr. Miedema is looking for assistance from our pastors in directing him to the right people in the various parishes. He will so much appreciate this assistance and our entire church will reap the blessings.

### "The ARC"

A year ago the purchase of the property at Osceola came before the conference. The property became available to us just prior to the last Annual Conference and did not give the opportunity for presenting it to our people before Conference. There has been some discontent expressed over that. It would have been preferable to all if we had had more time to consider that purchase. The addition of that valuable property to our assets is one we thank God for.

It is our first Campground and

Retreat Center where we can meet now that can provide for our needs adequately and that is owned by the AFLC.

The facilities will be paid for by gifts and legacies, so will never be a budget item. We expect that very soon the activities at The ARC will make it self-sufficient as far as operations are concerned.

### Anniversary of Lutheran Confessions

This year marks the 450th Anniversary of the *Augsburg Confession* and the 400th Anniversary of *The Book of Concord*. Through a grant from Aid Association for Lutherans special lectures were presented to our pastors at their conference in January. Three lectures given by Dr. N. S. Tjernagel were on The Background and Content of The Augsburg Confession and The Catechism, and their Application to Present Day Lutheranism. We learned to appreciate Dr. Tjernagel very much.

AAL has also provided sufficient funds for publication of a booklet on the *Augsburg Confession* containing explanations written by our own pastors. Pastor Huglen has compiled these and it should be off the press shortly.

We planned to have a special observance of this anniversary year throughout the AFLC on June 1st. However, this has now been changed to Reformation Sunday, October 26th. This change has been made largely because the special pamphlet prepared for the occasion was not ready.

While we are thinking about these historic documents for Lutherans, we cannot help but make just a comment on what we see happening on the Lutheran scene. It is sad, but perhaps not surprising, that among most Lutherans the basic concern is making the *Augsburg Confession* into an ecumenical document.

### Survey of Lutherans

Also in celebration of the anniversary of these Lutheran Confessions, Aid Associations for Lutherans has extended an offer to the Lutheran

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# editorials

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## THANK YOU, PASTOR SKRAMSTAD

It is always with a little sadness (although that is too strong a word, too) that we write our word of thank you to the one who has been writing the devotional articles for the *Ambassador* for the previous six months. This is so because during that time we have all been sitting at his feet, sharing the insights and thoughts he has felt, while in the larger sense sitting at the Master's feet.

Thank you, Pastor Gary Skramstad, for preparing our devotional series the first half of this year. Of your writings it must be said that they have been rich in practical Christianity and that is what it's all about, after all. God bless your continued ministry in the Bessemer-Ramsey community and beyond. "And let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart" (Galatians 6:9, NKJV).

Our writer on page 2 of each issue during the last half of 1980 will be Pastor Ralph Rokke. After serving our parish at McIntosh-Fosston, Minn., he came last year to Minneapolis to serve Rosedale and Faith Congregations. So you can imagine that he is a busy pastor with such a large area in which to reach out.

May he have a fruitful ministry in this new field also and we appreciate his willingness to write for us now. In this way he will come into the homes of *Ambassador* readers on a regular basis, even as Pastor Skramstad did, to blessing and enrichment for all.

## PRAYER AS CONFESSION

There are three articles on the subject of prayer in this issue, beginning on page 3. Prayer is a timely subject, always in order. "In the prayer time the battle of the spiritual life is lost or won. Prayer is not an optional subject in the curriculum of living. It is a required subject; it is *the* required subject." Thus wrote the late E. Stanley Jones.

So this is something important about which three pastors of the church write today and we trust you will read their articles carefully.

There was to have been one on Prayer as Confession as well, but the pastor who was asked to write was unable to meet the assignment by the required date. But that would have been a valuable addition to this discussion. One cannot pray long in individual prayer as a Christian before including prayer of confession of sin. Man is a sinner and even as a forgiven sinner he needs to plead God's mercy again and again as he is aware of his transgressions. Furthermore, he must also cry out, "Cleanse Thou me from secret faults" (Psalm 19:12).

And for the one outside of fellowship with God, it has been said that the first prayer from him that the Lord will hear is, "God be merciful to me, a sinner."

For now, we must leave it to you to think further on this aspect of prayer: confession of sin. There are many references to this in Scripture. Why not look them up and develop your own study of this area of prayer?

Lord, teach us to pray.

Churches in the USA to participate in a study of Lutherans.

On the receipt of the invitation from AAL, Pastor Moland was appointed as our representative to the Steering Committee. Considerable work has been done in preparations for the survey which will be entitled, "Profiles of Lutherans." Final selection of the survey questions is close to completion. The questionnaires will be ready for final approval in August.

Our people will be asked to participate in this survey between the months of September and November. The survey consists of a set of core questions

which are common to all eight bodies, and also contain a series of questions which will be of particular interest to us in the AFLC.

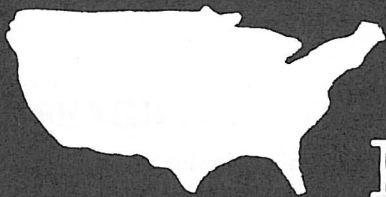
This study will not be for the interest only. It will enable us to make a comparison of the AFLC with other Lutherans. We trust that it will also provide us with information that will better enable us to minister to our people.

## World Relief

On a recent visit to India we saw poverty as we had never seen it before. Yet this was not nearly so severe as the

problems of want and starvation that exist in some other areas. The most critical area of need has been in Cambodia. We are told that there may be a reoccurrence of the hunger and starvation there. Congregations in the AFLC last year contributed \$7,524.21 to the World Relief Commission. It is not very much, but it is at least an indication that we do care. As we count our blessings in this land of plenty, may we remember the starving millions in the world. May God touch our hearts to generous response.

[Continued on page 10]



# Home Mission News

## Meet Our Upper Penninsula Churches

Maranatha Lutheran Church of Chassell and Grace Lutheran Church of Pelkie are both Home Mission congregations in Northern Michigan. The joint aims and purposes of these congregations as stated in their constitutions are to seek to establish, to nurture and to extend the Kingdom of God in the minds and hearts of their own people, among their unsaved neighbors and, through active support of missionary, evangelism, education and charitable efforts, to help spread the good news of salvation through Jesus, to "the ends of the earth," (Matt. 28:19-20).

The outreach of Maranatha includes the cities of Chassell, Houghton and Hancock in which are located Michigan Technological University and Suomi College. The Greek name *Maranatha* means Jesus is coming again. It is found in the Greek form in I Cor. 16:22. There are, however, over 240 references to the second coming in the New Testament alone. Maranatha Lutheran stands as a witness to the

second coming of Christ and purposes to prepare the hearts of people for this event through the pure preaching of the truth found in the Word of God. Our ministries include Sunday morning services, mid-week Bible study and prayer, Sunday School, WMF, Sunday evening "house church," monthly nursing home services, Bible camp, visitation, and sponsoring two radio programs on a local radio station with Pastors Eberth and Herbert Franz, Cloquet, Minn. As pastor of the congregation for two years, one tool I used to see if we are partly meeting our purpose of reaching others for Christ and to build a living, witnessing congregation was to take a survey among some of the new regular attendees in our services.

I recently interviewed Chuck and Dorothy Aho as to why they started coming to Maranatha. They stated that a person from a neighboring church referred to Maranatha as being a "good church." Secondly, the name "Maranatha" attracted them because they knew the meaning and thought

that this must be a Bible-believing church. After worshipping with us they said they like the informal service, the warmth and friendliness of the congregation, felt the presence of the Lord through the people, and agreed with the solid Bible teaching.

My next interview was with Mrs. Hogback. She told me she went to one other church before ours. The first Sunday she came to Maranatha a layman spoke and she "liked it." She states, "This church is more like the Lutheran Church I went to long ago, very simple. The people welcomed me, were very friendly, and came and introduced themselves. Everyone I have met makes me feel as though I've always known them, even though I don't know their names. I feel comfortable coming and I feel good when I leave."

The sister congregation, Grace Lutheran Church in the rural community of Pelkie, started in the spring of 1975 with eight families and 23 members, and have had their church building for two years. They now have 15 families with 45 members. Our area of outreach includes the small communities of Tapiola, Elo, Pelkie, Nisual, Baraga and L'Anse, all within a 10 to 15-mile radius of the church. It is our desire for all the people to hear the Gospel and receive His saving grace. We want to be His workmanship through His grace in our new life in Christ to work for Him (Eph. 2:8-10). Our ministries include Sunday services, Sunday School, Luther League, mid-week Bible study and prayer, choir, Bible camp, and visitation.

I interviewed Floyd and Barbara Voltz, who have been visitors now for some time and may join us soon. They told me they were "malcontent" with the other Lutheran Church they were going to, meaning they were not happy about currently prevailing conditions and circumstances there or of the stewardship and spending programs. Most of what they said was opposite to what Grace does. At Grace they liked our "use of the Bible" and the simplicity of our service even though they were both brought up in a church with formal liturgical worship. They said they felt as if they were at home at Grace.

My next interview was with Nana Kuevanen who said the main reason

## MESSAGE . . .

### Pension Fund

Our congregations have been encouraged to have a special offering for the Pension Fund annually. The month of October has been designated as the time for such an offering. We would encourage our people to remember pastors and pastors' wives who may be in special need by receiving an offering for this fund again this year.

### In Memoriam

Since our last annual conference Pastor Jonas Helland was taken from us by death. He passed away on July 30, 1979. We remember his devoted

service to his Lord with gratitude and pray that his memory may be blessed among us.

### Our Thanks

Our thanks for your support in the past. As we press forward into these turbulent '80's, may it be with "The Lord always before us." Friends, it may be in this decade that we shall all receive our final summons to meet Him in the clouds of heaven. Let us live daily in that hope.

Respectfully submitted,  
Pastor Richard Snipstead





Pastor and Mrs. Jay Eberth,  
Sarah and Paul

she attends Grace was because she liked the preaching and the simplicity of the worship service. She said at first she wasn't used to so much use of Scripture in the sermons but now she likes it.

As you can tell from these few brief interviews, people come for various reasons, the three common ones being the warmth and friendliness of the congregation, the preaching and teaching of the inspired Word of God, and the simplicity of the worship service.

We would like your prayers for our congregations, Maranatha and Grace, as we go forward with Scriptural goals to reach our communities for Christ and build living Spirit-filled congregations in grace and truth, looking for the second coming of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior.

Pastor Jay Eberth

*When the Word of  
God is not heard,  
not read, not  
pondered, not  
accepted, there  
can be no  
corresponding  
indwelling of the  
Holy Spirit in life.*

—Timotheus Lehmann

## Women for Christ WMF Spring Rallies

### WEST COAST — Kalispell

The ladies of the West Coast District Women's Missionary Federation met in Kalispell, Mont., for the spring rally on May 6. Hostesses were ladies from Faith Lutheran, John Rieth, pastor, and Stillwater Lutheran, Dale Mellgren, pastor. The theme was from II Timothy 4:12: "Be Thou an Example."

The total number registered was 68, which included five pastors. Sharon Tutvedt and Lilac Knox served as pianist and organist, respectively, with Bonnie West leading all singing. All are from Stillwater congregation.

Mrs. Alvin Grothe of Astoria, Ore., led the morning prayer session. Irene Enger of Kalispell gave warm words of welcome with our district president, Ann Meyer, giving the response. Beverly Eikenberry and Marion Dixon, Kirkland, Wash., led the morning devotions, reading the paraphrased version of Prov. 3:10-31. A group of five ladies from Ferndale, Wash., presented a beautiful number in song after which we enjoyed a short coffee break.

Mrs. Helen Jespersen of Our Redeemer's Lutheran, Kirkland, led the Bible study. She and her husband are former missionaries to China.

In the business session, work, and activity reports were given by the various groups. The offering of the day was to be divided between World Missions and Church Extension. The ladies from Triumph Lutheran, Ferndale, invited us to come for the fall rally to be held there on Sept. 23. Mrs. Grothe was elected president and Marlys Olson of Kalispell was elected treasurer.

Ann Meyer led the afternoon devotions. The special music was a beautiful selection by three Kalispell ladies, after which Pastor Ronald Knutson of Ferndale brought the afternoon message, based on the theme for the day. He mentioned five principles of growth in order to become good examples: use the Word, prayer, witnessing and sharing, fellowship and availability.

There was an evening meeting held at the rural church (Stillwater) for

those who were able to stay, in the interest of Church Extension. We saw where the addition to the church will be built.

Following the afternoon session the opportunity was given to enjoy a free tour of the Conrad Mansion in Kalispell. Built in 1875, it still contains much of the original furniture. The house is now a historical museum. Irene Enger arranged for the tour.

Solveig Hays  
Secretary

### N. CENTRAL MINN. Shevlin

The Women's Missionary Federation of the south half of the Northern Minnesota District met at Sell Lake Lutheran Church, rural Shevlin, Minn., Rev. Dennis O'Niel, pastor, on Saturday, May 3. The theme was "Walk in the 'Son Light,'" based on Eph. 5:8.

Our president, Mrs. Marvel Thompson of Shevlin, opened the meeting with a greeting and the audience sang the theme song, "Stepping in the Light." Mrs. Ed Mathison, Bagley, gave the morning Bible study, based on the theme verse.

A skit was given by the ladies of Landstad Lutheran, Shevlin, and Grace Lutheran, Bagley, entitled, "Conducting a Ladies Aid Business Meeting." Special music was by the Sell Lake ladies.

The afternoon session opened with a singspiration led by Mrs. Sherri Collihan, after which we were favored with selections by "The Master's Touch" Gospel team from AFLBS. Mrs. Fran Aamodt, Bagley, led the prayer hour.

Our speaker was Pastor Yeddo Gottef of Brazil. He based his talk on John 15:1-8. As vines spread, so God's Word should spread over the world.

The special music was by women from Trinity Lutheran, McIntosh, and Union Lake Lutheran, Winger parish. Mrs. Gustafson, Shevlin, favored us

## RALLIES . . .

with a violin solo during the offering. The offering was divided between the General Fund and Church Extension.

Mrs. Birdeen Holt  
Secretary

## N. MICHIGAN —

### Eben Jct.

Calvary Lutheran Church of Eben Jct., Norman Tenneboe, pastor, hosted the spring rally of the Northern Michigan WMF on Saturday, April 26. The theme of the day was "A Woman Who Fears the Lord Shall Be Praised," Prov. 31:30. Forty-five ladies were in attendance. We were welcomed by Mrs. Helen Woimanen.

Vivian Matero of Bessemer led us in devotions, reading I Tim. 2:1-3 and II Chron. 7:14. We had a time of silent prayer for our country and leaders after which we sang, "America the Beautiful."

Jean McIntosh of Eben Jct., led us in Bible study, speaking of God's "beautiful women," using Numbers 36, I Peter 3:3-5, Proverbs 31 and Ephesians 5:21-24.

A trio from Eben sang "Let the Whole World Know" and "The Choice is Mine."

Gerine Jaykka opened the afternoon meeting with Viola Williams leading us in devotions, reading from I John 3:1-8. We were happy to have Pastor Yeddo Gottel and David Carlos of Brazil with us and they sang a song in Portuguese, after which Pastor Gottel spoke to us, using Ezekiel 22:30, and challenged us to stand in the gap as the Lord looked for someone to do in those days of injustice and oppression.

A love offering was taken for missions. We had a time of sharing with many taking part, including Mrs. Paul Nash of Ishpeming, who played a piano solo, "There is no Greater Love."

Mrs. Gladys Schauland

Mrs. Willy Tenold, left, and Miss Judith Wold

## N. MINNESOTA — Thief River Falls

The north half of the Northern Minnesota District of the WMF held its spring rally on April 26, at Our Saviour's Lutheran Church of Thief River Falls. As the record 129 women registered, they received a colorful floral name tag bearing a Bible verse reference; there being only two alike made an interesting time of matching verses to find a prayer partner. These prayer partners are to pray for each other until the next rally.

The activities centered around the theme which was taken from I Thessalonians 5:21 and the theme verse, II Timothy 3:14, "But continue thou in the things which thou hast learned and has been assured of, knowing of whom thou hast learned."

Mrs. Ingvald Rokke, president, led the program for the day and greeted us in the opening from Hebrews 10:24-25. Mrs. Eugene Enderlein, WMF president, and a member of the host church,

gave a brief greeting.

Mrs. Paul Abel led the inspiring singspiration using a responsive reading and many good hymns.

Mrs. Sheldon Mortrud, president of the local WMF, gave a welcome. The session was highlighted by a panel discussion in the forenoon. Mrs. Philip Dyrud was the coordinator with a panel consisting of Mrs. Gust Nordvall, Mrs. Glen Espe, Mrs. David Nikunen and Mary Ellen Flaten. The discussion centered around the theme.

The forenoon Scripture and prayer were given by Mrs. Albin Green of Greenbush. She read Psalm 34:1-10. Mrs. Milford Lange of Badger had Scripture and prayer for the afternoon program. She read II Timothy 2:20-21.

Pastor Bruce Dalager from the Winger, Minn., parish, gave the Bible message in the afternoon.

Many special numbers in song were given by the following: vocal solos from

## W. SOUTH DAKOTA — Reva

On April 18 Slim Buttes Lutheran Church hosted an area WMF gathering with women from Faith and Eagle Butte, S. Dak., as guests. Slim Buttes Lutheran is located near Reva, S. Dak. The pastor is Philip Rokke.

There were 37 members and guests who attended. "Pray Without Ceasing" was the theme and I Thess. 5:17 the text.

Pastor David Molstre of Dickinson, N. Dak., was our morning speaker, inspiring us with many helpful hints on how to pray. He used Psalm 140:6-7 and 12-13 as his main Scripture reference.



Miss Judith Wold, WMF executive secretary from Thief River Falls, Minn., told us about some of the WMF projects.

After two games, one naming Bible women and the other about the contents of our purses, we were enlightened by a skit by the Faith and Eagle Butte women. They brought home some very good points about who does what when it comes to church attendance and other activities concerning our Christian walk. Miss Wold was our afternoon speaker. She gave us an excellent Bible study about the many facets of prayer: praise, thanksgiving, intercession, confession and asking for personal needs.

Twenty per cent of our offering was sent to the Junior Missions project of our WMF.

We closed with a time of prayer and praise, ending with the perfect example of prayer given to us by our Lord Jesus, the Lord's Prayer.

Venoy Tenold  
President

## LAKE SUPERIOR — Mason

Mrs. Roger Berg and Mrs. Ezra Davy of the Golden Valley and Salem churches of Wannaska, a trio from the Newfolden parish, a quartet from the Roseau parish, and a group from the Thief River Falls parish.

New officers elected were Mrs. Martin Johnson of Badger as president, Mrs. Milford Lange of Badger as vice-president, and Mrs. Paul Flaten of Newfolden re-elected as secretary.

The decision was made to send the offerings to My Missionary for a Day and Church Extension.

A special item at this year's rally was a Successful Living book display by Mrs. David Nikunen of Roseau.

Mrs. Paul Flaten, Secretary

## S. SOUTH DAK. — Pukwana

On May 3, Elim Ladies Aid of Pukwana Lutheran Church hosted the WMF spring rally for St. Olaf Lutheran ladies and friends in the community. The group was welcomed by the president, Ardyce McManus, and all sang, "Open My Eyes That I May See." Viola Shroyer gave devotions, which included the theme verse from Romans 10:17: "So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God." Mrs. Philip Featherstone presented a brief report of WMF activities. A highlight of the morning was the presentation of an Honorary Membership to Etta Swanson. Her daughter Jean pinned on the WMF pin. Etta has been very active in the Ladies Aid, having served several terms as president. Pastor Philip Featherstone gave the morning Bible study from Romans 10:11-18.

After a noon salad luncheon, the afternoon session resumed with group singing and a vocal duet by Etta and Jean Swanson. Pastor Vernon Schindler from Chamberlain, S. Dak., showed slides and many interesting mementoes as he related his experiences on the mission field in Ghana. He and his family had served there from 1967 to 1978. The rally closed as the group sang, "Lead On, O King Eternal" and the benediction was given by Pastor Featherstone.

Mrs. Philip Featherstone

The spring rally of the Lake Superior District WMF was hosted by Moland Lutheran Church at Mason, Wisconsin, on Saturday, April 26, with 40 ladies attending. The theme for the rally was "Rejoice," using Deuteronomy 26:11 as a Bible reference.

A warm welcome was extended by Violet Berwiger and we were led in devotions and prayer by Bonnie Roberts.

Ruth Hokanson presented a very interesting Bible study on the life of Moses. It was mentioned that we should let ourselves be used by God as Moses did and be expendable for Him in our service.

The offering for the day was taken for Cradle Roll/Junior Missions.

The afternoon session began with devotions and prayer by Agnes Blaser.

Pastor Richard Bartholomew, host pastor, gave a very inspiring message on rejoicing in God as our Savior, using as his text, I Thessalonians 5:16-18.

Our soloists for the day were Karen Sachse, who sang, "We Need Jesus," and Christine Hanson, district president, who sang, "Let's Just Praise the Lord" and "The Longer I serve Him."

Aili Siltanen read two poems by Helen Steiner Rice, "The Windows of Gold" and "Listen in Silence If You Would Hear." Agnes Blaser gave a reading, "Why Will Christ Return?"

Alphild Eletson gave an interesting report on the Winter Bible Conference of the AFLC.

Many hymns were sung and a time of sharing was held on the question, "Why Rejoice?"

Miss Hanson served as pianist for the day, with Evelyn Emberson and Pastor Bartholomew as song leaders.

The fall rally will be hosted by Faith Lutheran Church at Mason, Wis., on the last Saturday in September.

Aili Siltanen  
Secretary

### *Home Mission Prayer Reminder*



The John Rieth Family—Jan, Jason, and Jesse

## Our newest Home Mission work in Williston, N. Dak.

*Pastor Rieth and family expect to move to  
Williston after August 1.*



## RALLIES . . .

### S. W. CENTRAL MINNESOTA — Abercrombie

The spring rally of the Southwest Central Minnesota District Women's Missionary Federation met on Tuesday, May 6, at Bethany Lutheran Church, Abercrombie, North Dakota.

Mrs. Ted Aasness presided over the meeting with our theme verse being Revelations 3:20: "Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear My voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with Me."

Mrs. Clarence Hermunsleie welcomed us on behalf of the Bethany WMF and her sister church, United Lutheran, McLeod.

Pastor Gordon Grage, Brandon, Minn., brought us the morning Bible study from Matthew 2:1-12,

Pastor Larry Haagenon, Sedan, Minn., brought the afternoon message from Haggai 1:1-14.

Mrs. Joe Nelson led in Scripture and prayer. Mrs. Chester Galland led the prayer fellowship.

Music was provided by the district choir under the direction of Mrs. Doug Johnson, a duet was sung by Mrs. Norman Haugen and Mrs. Larry Haagenon and a singspiration was led by Mrs. Roger Rassmussen.

Pastor Richard Snipstad, president of the AFLC, brought a greeting and told of the World Mission and Home Mission work.

Mrs. Harlow Berg reported on the Cradle Roll and Mrs. George Hartman shared letters from our missionaries.

Mrs. Art Arneson was elected vice-president and Mrs. Roger Rasmussen was elected secretary. New members of the program/nominating committee are Mrs. Harry Lindquist, Mrs. Roy Kinneberg, Mrs. Carl Hort and Mrs. Dean Kloster.

Offerings were taken for the My Missionary For a Day project.

Mrs. John Arlen Johnson  
Secretary

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### E. NORTH DAKOTA — Grand Forks

The Eastern North Dakota Women's Missionary Federation spring rally was held Saturday, April 26, at Trinity Lutheran Church, Grand Forks, with 140 ladies registered.

The theme for the rally was "Freed to Serve," taken from the theme verse, II Corinthians 4:5: "For we preach not ourselves, but Christ Jesus the Lord; and ourselves your servants for Jesus' sake."

June Thompson and Katherine Green, organist and pianist respectively for the day, opened with a prelude of songs. A hymn sing was led by Mabel Quanbeck. Devotions were by Pearl Aanstad and the rally hymn, "Available," was sung.

Local president, Muriel Christopherson, welcomed the ladies and Darline Bjornson, district president, responded. Darline Lofthus led us in singing "Win Them One by One." Mrs. Weley Langaas, vice-president, introduced the speakers for the day. Donna Hass, WMF treasurer, led the morning Bible study on II Corinthians

8 and 9 and the parable of the sower, about the work of the WMF urging evangelism. She shared how we should give willingly, generously, proportionately, cheerfully and bountifully. A trio composed of Cathy Anderson and Beverly and Mary Jones sang "Willing," after which the business meeting was held.

The afternoon session opened at 1:30 with a hymn sing and devotions by Mrs. LeRoy Flickinger. A group of girls, accompanied by Joy Enderlien, sang several songs, after which Mrs. Eugene Enderlein, our president, led us in a Bible study on our theme verse, reminding us to deny self, preach Jesus, and be His servants. She shared about the work of the WMF urging everyone to remember our missionaries in prayer support and by cards, letters and packages. The trio sang, "May I Serve Thee, Lord." Darline Lofthus gave a slide presentation on "Win Them One by One." The offering for the day was \$790 for My Missionary For a Day.

Mrs. Dorothy Russum  
Secretary

## Personalities

Rev. Karl G. Berg has accepted a call to serve as visitation pastor of the Kenyon, Minn., parish and will begin his duties on July 1. The address of Pastor and Mrs. Berg, formerly of Salem, Ore., is Springcroft Apt. #104, 630 South 3rd Ave., Wanamingo, Minn. 55983. Pastor Berg served as interim pastor in the parish (Emmanuel and Hauge) last year before the arrival of Rev. Kenneth L. Anderson, present pastor.

## We are sorry

We are sorry that various news items have been crowded out of this issue. Due to other commitments previously we have had to block out a large portion of this *Ambassador* for reports of WMF conventions. They must be taken care of now and thus other news, even other regular features such as A Page for Children, Youth Page and Life on the Edge of Town must be held over for another time.

We hope you understand. The news items referred to above will be carried soon. Thank you for your patience.

The Editor

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## Teacher wanted

St. Paul's Academy  
St. Paul's Lutheran Church  
Cloquet, Minn. 55720  
Secondary position open  
Science/Math major preferred; other majors considered  
Some administrative duties  
Experience preferred  
Salary negotiable  
Write to address above or call 1-218-879-3206 for information.

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### NAME OMITTED

The name of Mark Thompson, Newfolden, Minn., was unintentionally left out among those not pictured in the Junior Class of Association Free Lutheran Bible School in our June 10 issue. We are sorry.



# A Minister's Musings

Pastor Einar Unseth



## A time to die

Ecclesiastes 3:2

"I wonder what she was thinking about when it happened?" This thought was expressed by a young man concerning his girl friend who was tragically killed with 270 other persons in a plane crash at Chicago's O'Hare Airport a year ago. "I wonder what she was thinking about when it happened."

A 25-year old man recently committed suicide because the girl whom he loved refused to marry him. Strangely enough, he professed to be a Christian. I wonder what he was thinking about when he died.

Many people do not like to think about death. Last Sunday evening I saw an excellent film called, "If I Should Die." In the beginning of the film a nursing instructor was instructing her students regarding the death of patients. She stated, "No one likes to look at death, and it's your job to keep them from it." But the Bible instructs us to think of death when it states, "a time to be born and a time to die."

During our recent city-wide Crusade, our church's youth were passing out invitations from door to door. When one man expressed no interest in the Crusade, one of our young men challenged him and reminded him that we do have to die and face judgment. Thereupon the man said, "Let's not talk about that." He refused to acknowledge the fact that there is a time to die.

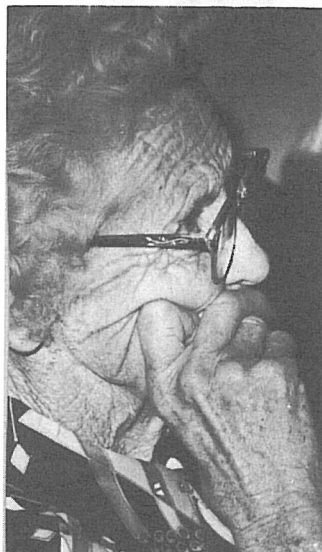
Dr. Maurice Rawlings of Chattanooga, Tenn., tells of a heart patient who had a cardiac arrest and dropped dead in his office. Each time the patient regained heartbeat and respiration, he screamed, "I am in hell! Don't stop. Don't you understand? I am in hell. Each time you quit I go back to hell! Don't let me go back to hell." The doctor said that he had always thought of death as a painless extinction, but now he came to believe that there is a life after death and there is a heaven and a hell. He has prepared for that time to die.

Just last night a Christian doctor in

Bismarck told of an awakening experience for him during his internship. One day he had just lost a patient when he was paged to deliver a baby. He remarked, "There was something about delivering one person into eternity and another into this world that struck me awfully hard." God used that experience to bring him to Christ.

God's Word reminds us that there is "a time to be born, and a time to die." And actually we have as little control over the one as over the other. These are the two milestones between which is included the whole of man's life on earth. Life on earth is a gift of God, but this life will end. Therefore we should prepare for that end.

I wonder what we'll be thinking about when the time comes for us to die. No doubt our thoughts then will be determined by our thoughts and decisions now. The Gospel is the good news that "he that believeth on Christ hath everlasting life." All of us who are trusting in Christ as our Savior will in the time of death be experiencing the presence of that Savior as we pass through that valley of the shadow to His glorious mansions in Heaven. In preparation for that time to die, let us now set our affection on things above (Col. 3:2).



Mrs. Borstad, Tioga



Mrs. Curt Emerson,  
Valley City



Mr. E. Miedema  
Miss L. Butterfield, AFLC Hdqts.



Mrs. G. Knapp, Brazil  
Mrs. E. Unseth, Bismarck

## 18th Annual Conference Scenes

Pastor and Mrs. P. Featherstone, Pukwana



Reports  
and  
pictures  
next issue

President Snipstead opened the conference



## DATES TO REMEMBER

July 21-27—AFLC Family Camp at  
Lake Bronson, Minn.

July 28-Aug. 8—Summer Institute in  
Theology, at Medicine Lake.

Aug. 13-17—AFLC Family Camp at  
Osceola, Wis.

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## THE LUTHERAN AMBASSADOR

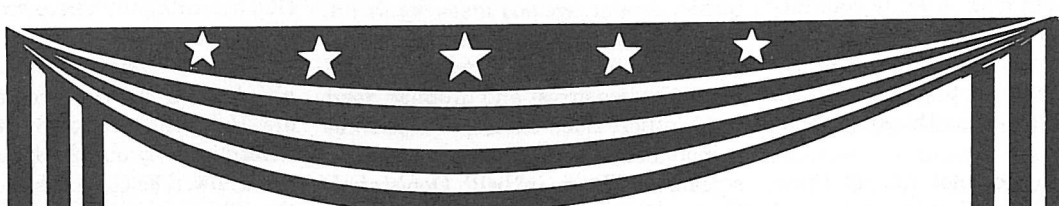
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*God of our fathers, whose almighty hand  
Leads forth in beauty all the starry band  
Of shining worlds in splendor thro' the skies,  
Our grateful song before Thy throne arise.*

*Thy love divine hath led us in the past,  
In this free land by Thee our lot is cast;  
Be Thou our ruler, guardian, guide and stay,  
Thy word our law, Thy paths our chosen way.*

*From war's alarms, from deadly pestilence,  
Be Thy strong arm our ever strong defense;  
Thy true religion in our hearts increase,  
Thy bounteous goodness nourish us in peace.*

*Refresh Thy people on their toilsome way,  
Lead us from night to never-ending day;  
Fill all our lives with love and grace divine,  
And glory, laud, and praise be ever Thine.*

*Daniel O. Roberts*