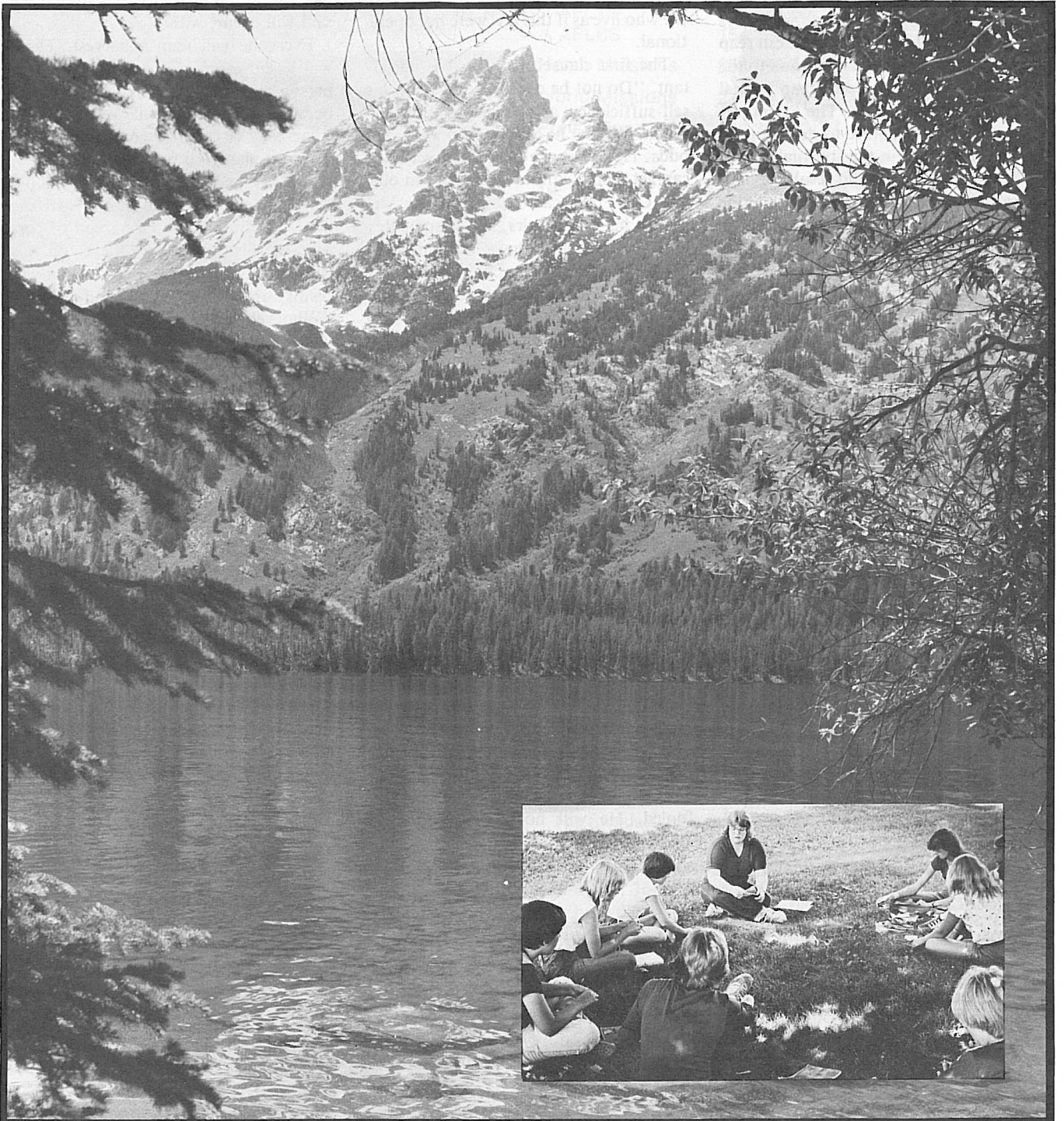


AFLC  
SUMMER CAMPING

# THE LUTHERAN AMBASSADOR

June 8, 1982



# AT THE MASTER'S FEET

Rev. Bruce Dalager



## Plant for a good harvest

"Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, this he will also reap. For the one who sows to his own flesh shall from the flesh reap corruption, but the one who sows to the Spirit shall from the Spirit reap eternal life" (Galatians 6:7, 8). The Scriptures here use a law of nature to demonstrate an important law in the spiritual realm.

What confusion would result if plants were not consistent in their production of fruit! Few farmers would remain in the business if they could not be assured of what would grow from the seed they planted. It is a God-ordained law of nature that plants produce seeds after their own kind. Without it, chaos would prevail. The idea of a farmer planting

wheat and getting cabbages or pineapples is ridiculous. Yet, there are people who live as if this law were not operational.

The first clause of our text is important. "Do not be deceived." Man in his self-sufficiency, arrogance and pride has the notion that he can somehow beat the odds. He can make it his own way. He can get along without God. He can outwit God. He can shove God aside, govern his own affairs, and if some day he should discover that God is needed, then, but not until then, he will give God a chance. Satan is the great deceiver. And man deceives himself. He does it to himself more effectively than anyone else. "All the ways of a man are right in his own eyes" (Proverbs 16:2). Man thinks, "I'm too smart to get caught. If I should some day be proven wrong, at least I was sincere and that should count for something." Does it? If I either purposely or mistakenly plant wild oats, will my sincerity or wishful anticipation make it come up wheat or even oats? Of course not. "Do not be deceived."

"The heart is more deceitful than all else and is desperately sick; who can understand it?" (Jeremiah 17:9). Until God convinces us of the fact, we fail to know that the only way to the Father is by way of Jesus. We do not come to Jesus on our own either. Jesus said, "No one can come to Me, unless the Father who sent Me draws him" (John 6:44).

"God is not mocked." He will not be fooled. He will not be surprised or

caught off guard by the schemes of men. He will not be proven wrong. What He said will occur, will.

Everyone will reap a harvest. There will be no crop failure. Even though a person may wish that his sowing would be without effect, he will not be without a harvest. We cannot escape the fact that what we plant will produce a crop.

The person who lives for self, seeking to satisfy the lusts and passions of the natural man, will reap a harvest of corruption. Living with one's eyes on this world and what one can get from it will result in bankruptcy and death. "Whoever wishes to save his life shall lose it; but whoever loses his life for My sake shall find it" (Matthew 16:25).

If we would see a good harvest, our lives must be lost to God's control. To submit to Him—confessing sin, receiving His salvation, seeking His righteousness—this is sowing the seed that God will raise up unto eternal life. To surrender to the working of the Holy Spirit in our lives will result in a harvest of great abundance. God promises it.

The curses or the blessings of the harvest affect more than the person who did the sowing. God visits the iniquity of the fathers upon the children and often spills the mercies and graces that lead people to faith into the lives of the children of those who have planted unto life.

As God guides our seedtime so He will bless our harvest.

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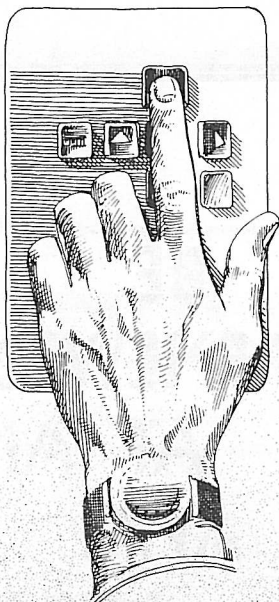
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by Pastor Gerald F. Mundfrom  
Osceola, Wis.

At a time when President Reagan, the commander-in-chief of our armed forces, and the one man most responsible for the safety of our nation from invading forces, is advocating a strengthening of our armed forces, there is a strong reaction to such strengthening and the advocating of total nuclear disarmament by all nations in the interest of peace. Billy Graham, whose voice has been heard around the world as a Christian leader, has publicly proclaimed his support in favor of such disarmament.

Certainly disarmament would make for a much better and safer world if it could be graciously agreed to and carried out by all nations. However, the very suggesting of such a proposal raises some serious questions, such as: "To what danger are we exposing ourselves as a nation by entering into such an agreement with Communistic nations, especially Russia?" The Communists, especially Russia, do not have a good reputation for living up to their word. They seem to be anxious to talk peace when it is to their advantage, but think nothing of invading some country almost at the same time.

Suppose we came to a satisfactory agreement with these Communistic countries in disarming ourselves of all nuclear armament; and then suppose that we as a nation faithfully lived up to our agreement, but then discovered later to our great dismay that they had not kept their end of the bargain, but in secret had built up rather than diminished their nuclear weapons. Wouldn't

that put us at a most tragic disadvantage? They would then be in a position where they could conquer and enslave us in a short while. It is horrifying to think of what could happen.

And if a treaty of nuclear disarmament were agreed upon, who would police it to see that all parts of the agreement were strictly adhered to? Would Russia or some other Communistic country allow us to spy into its every government affair and search every corner of its land (as if such were even possible) to see if there were any nuclear weapons?

And would we be willing to let Russia and other Communistic countries completely spy out our government and all its affairs as well as our land, and then report back their findings to their own government, whom we have long mistrusted, in order that they might use such information to their advantage against us.

Some advocate armament with non-nuclear weapons as an alternative, but that also would put us at a great disadvantage if an enemy is not living up to such an agreement.

You may say, "We should love all people, including the Communists." True, God commands the same, but God hasn't said we should foolishly trust all people when they don't prove trustworthy. To love and to trust are not the same.

Or you may say, "If we pursue peace, God will protect us and let no harm come to us." But God is known to protect those who make an earnest effort to

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*"The Communists, especially Russia, do not have a good reputation for living up to their word."*

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A personal opinion

# SHOULD WE DISARM?

protect themselves and who are obedient to His will and refrain from sin.

Even David, as a boy, had his sling for protection as he approached Goliath in open warfare (I Samuel, chapter 17). This was at a time when Israel was protecting herself from a foreign enemy. The sling was the weapon David was most familiar with and most capable of using at that time. Later, when older and stronger, he carried a sword. True, it was not David who overcame his enemy. It was God. Nevertheless, it was God working with David. David had a small part and God blessed his efforts.

Gideon, who cut down his force to 300 men, did not practice total disarmament. The 300 were the very best of the total who came out for battle. Again it was God who gave Gideon and his men the victory. These Old Testament saints did their best to protect themselves, while at the same time relying on God, and God gave them victory.

But even more important than working with God for our protection, we need to take a stand against and refrain from sin. We might well wonder to what extent we can depend on God's protection in warfare when we have gross drunkenness, greed, murder (abortion) and every known sin being practiced with little restraint throughout our land.

During the time of the Judges (when Samuel as a boy was under the care of Eli) the nation was engaged in war and assumed that God would protect them if they took the Ark of the Covenant into battle with them, as God had often done in the past. But now the nation had drifted into sin. The final result was that the Ark inspired the enemy and caused a great defeat to the Israelites (I Samuel, chapter 4).

Throughout the history of God's people, as recorded in the Old Testament, we see where God was with His people and often gave them victory in warfare. However, total disarmament was never practiced.

The time when Jesus walked on this

[Continued on page 4]





### **Northwestern Minnesota**

#### **GALILEE BIBLE CAMP** Lake Bronson, Minn.

Dean—Rev. Leslie Galland

June 21-27—Youth Camp

Cost—\$30

Faculty: Rev. Rodger Olson, Rev.  
Connely Dyrud and Lay Pastor Gene  
Sundby

June 28-July 2—Pre-Teen Camp

Cost—\$20

Faculty: Mrs. Philip Dyrud, Rev.  
Connely Dyrud and Don Johnson

### **Southwest Central Minnesota**

#### **FAITH HAVEN BIBLE CAMP** Battle Lake, Minn.

July 11-17

Evening Speaker—Ev. Kenneth Pentti

#### **PARISH CAMPS**

St. Paul's Lutheran Church  
Cloquet, Minn.

Aug. 18-22

(Please check address of camp)

Evening speaker—Ev. Kenneth Pentti

\*Pickerel Lake Camp and week are conducted together with several ALC congregations in the area.

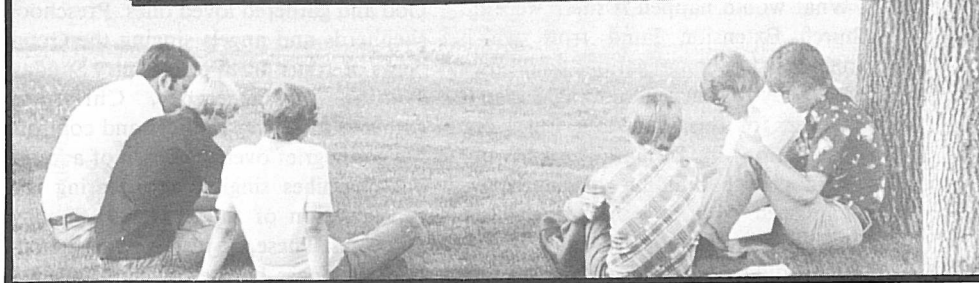
(Note: Our list of camps and details is not complete. Watch for local announcements about camps in your area.)

## **Wilderness Camp approved**

"Now unto Him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we can ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us, unto Him be glory in the Church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end" (Eph. 3:20, 21).

When I was ready to give up, as it seemed impossible for us to get the permits necessary to have a wilderness camp on the land given the AFLC by Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence Dahlgren of Lake Park, Minn., God showed He is still in control.

At the hearing in Cormorant Twp., there were over 60 people there in opposition to our having a wilderness



camp. They had a petition with 136 signatures against our having a Bible Camp. It looked hopeless. At the hearing with Becker County, which I tried to cancel, they planned to approve it at their next meeting and recommended the County do the same. It was approved, even though there were people speaking against it.

A little information to let you know what is being done. The sewer system has been installed. A well will be drilled soon. Mr. George Hartman will be building the road. Mr. Arlo Kneeland has offered a mobile home for a caretaker to live in at less than half the

value and will move it from Summit, S. Dak., for that price. Our greatest need now is someone to live in the mobile home. Pray for this need.

We are planning a wilderness camp the weekend of July 30-Aug. 1. The evening speaker, and he will also be bringing the Sunday morning message, is Rev. Richard Snipstead, President of the AFLC. Rev. John Strand will be leading the Bible study on Saturday and Sunday mornings. Come and see this land given by the Dahlgrens which offers much potential.

Rev. Gordon Grage

# HOME MISSION NEWS

## CHURCH EXTENSION

When thinking of Church Extension, land, buildings, new construction, thousands of dollars, interest rates, and repayment schedules are often items of serious consideration. Currently 13 AFLC congregations receive Church Extension Funds and thus deal with some or all of these matters. However, Church Extension involves and means much more than the material and mechanical. The primary purpose of Church Extension is to assist in building the kingdom of God. Following are the testimonies of two Home Missions pastors whose congregations have borrowed from Church Extension for buildings and property. They express very well the need, the goal and the benefits of the Church Extension Fund.

### **"If There Were No Church Extension Fund"**

What would happen if there were no Church Extension Fund from which Home Mission congregations could borrow money for church buildings? Had it not been for this important Fund our congregation in Bismarck might not have a church building yet. Being we commenced with only one couple we naturally grew very slowly. Certainly no bank would have granted a loan to a tiny group like ours. However, our Church Extension Fund provided us with a loan for the purchase of a building.

This loan gave us identity as a church. Shortly after we purchased our building, a young man remarked to me, "Now you will be identified as a church." Being identified as a church is indeed a great help in bringing in new people.

Another benefit of receiving a loan from Church Extension is that having a church building gives the aspect of permanence to that work. Recently, our new neighbor told my wife that I had visited them when they first moved into another location in Bismarck over three years ago. She commented, "But you

didn't have a permanent meeting place then." The implication was that since we had no church building at that time, therefore they weren't interested in our work. Church buildings that are made possible through loans from our Extension Fund enable Home Mission work to get established and to grow.

Having had the experience of starting a Home Mission congregation I clearly see the great necessity of our Church Extension Fund. I thank God for it. My congregation and I are deeply grateful to all of you who have made contributions or loans to our Church Extension Fund.

Pastor Einar Unseth  
Bismarck, N. Dak.

### **An Avenue of Help**

A gym class with children running and joyfully laughing. A bride and groom making a solemn commitment before God and gathered loved ones. Preschool shepherds and angels singing the Good News of Jesus' birth on a wintry Sunday evening in December. Christians gathered in loving support and comfort for godly grief over the death of a loved one. Families singing and hearing the proclamation of the Word on Sunday mornings. These are just a few of the images that pass before my mind when I consider Church Extension. Strange? Not in the least. Church Extension has enabled us to have a building set apart for God's use. Yes, indeed, the church is not a building, but what a joy a building can be when it is used for such divine needs.

At Amery Lutheran Church and Academy, Church Extension represents other believers who made an investment in us. A small body of believers needs help. It is a humbling joy to be on the receiving end of God's provision through His Church. When we first began our work in Amery, space did not permit us to freely gather for certain occasions. Our sanctuary was the upper

level of a split-entrance home. Though our joy and purpose were never hindered, there were many activities for which a lack of space became an obstacle. Monies received gave us the freedom to build what had only been a dream. As one of our members stated, "Church Extension is more than four walls, it is people investing in people for the kingdom of God."

Now Church Extension has an ever deeper meaning. It represents an avenue through which we can love other new, small fellowships. We have a deep resolve to return that which was entrusted to us so that others might share in its blessing. As we give from our abundance or sacrificially, we can almost hear the joyful sounds of God's people echoing from the walls and ceiling of another building set apart for God's use.

Pastor Michael W. Brandt  
Amery, Wis.

The above testimonies give evidence of the need and importance of the Church Extension Fund in the work of AFLC Home Missions. Since June is Church Extension month on our promotional calendar, let me encourage you to pray for the ongoing work of Church Extension. Let me further encourage any individuals that might have funds which could be loaned or given to Church Extension to do so now. Such help is needed and welcome as we continue the work our Lord has called us to do.

—Rev. Eldon Nelson  
Home Missions Director

an  
investment  
in building  
the Kingdom  
of God



### Isn't He wonderful?

"I pronounce you man and wife." Three years ago we never thought we'd hear Pastor Philip Featherstone say those words to our daughter Donna. We've witnessed a modern-day miracle in our family. Three years ago we called Pastor Featherstone to the hospital. Extensive surgery revealed that our 19-year-old daughter had cancer of the colon, rectum and ovaries—a fast moving, rare cancer. Five days following surgery we were on our way to Detroit for treatments by a specialist of the endodermal sinus cell. It was not an easy 13 weeks in Detroit amid complete strangers. Thanks be to God, His will be done. The best of doctors at Wayne State University, the kindness of friends, our big close-knit family—it was a learning experience for us all.

After a year and a half of extensive therapy, the exploratory surgery revealed our Donna was free of cancer. We continue to thank God for His loving kindness to us. Pastor Featherstone continues to minister to our spiritual needs.

Some good comes out of bad. Our son Dave said, "This is the saddest day of my life," when he received the word that Donna had cancer. The week-end we returned from Detroit, Dave married a Christian girl. He accepted the Lord as his personal Savior and now he and his wife are active workers in our church. Again, praise the Lord for His blessings. Prayers have been answered.

Donna continues to take one day at a time. We remember the day Pastor brought us communion at the hospital. We were thankful for every hour of each day.

Cancer is a disease that affects the whole family. It is not easy for parents to see a loved one suffer. We've learned to trust in Jesus and to grow in grace.

If I were asked for a hymn to sing following this story, I'd probably choose *Moment by Moment*, or would it be *Isn't He Wonderful*?

Now if we can ever give any moral support to a family with cancer we'd be

### the stories of two miracles

## Release and freedom

For the first time I know what Easter really means. Not an occasion or time of year for a new suit or dress, but God's sacrifice for me and my sins. He died so I could have the Resurrection as my own staircase to heaven.

Before I accepted Christ I always thought I would have to give up a lot of material things or activities but I was wrong. I was a material man, I had a family, a house and job, I had everything a man would want except Jesus Christ.

First of all, I was a man who did not really need anybody. I had my softball, golfing, basketball, and I had the bar and my bartending.

I started working at the bar a couple of years ago and in the beginning I thought the job was the only thing that was keeping us going financially. But I know now the Holy Spirit was working in me, even when I took the job. It started out as fun, but after seeing other people drinking, swearing, using abusive language about their wife and kids, getting drunk, fighting with each other, and me being irritable with my wife and kids because I would work from 8 p.m. to 3 a.m., Friday and Saturday nights, all started to take its toll on Carol and the kids. I would want to sleep on Saturday and Sunday mornings and then most Sunday mornings not bothering going to church.

The Holy Spirit began working in me through my wife also. She had accepted

glad to. Folks were so kind to us, we'll be forever indebted to relatives and friends.

Trust in God, lots of love, and a lot of patience helped Donna win the battle over the 'big C'.

Mrs. Percy (Edna) Gunderson  
Chamberlain, S. Dak.

Christ about four years ago. In the last six months or so she started to keep track of what I did and my time away from home. I thought I spent enough time at home but she did not agree. But funny I never really wanted to believe or look at that calendar, but something was there.

Carol was involved in the women's Bible study. She learned to be more patient and loving by learning and studying the Word of God. She would also ask question of me about her Bible study and I could give her an answer. So it wasn't that I did not know anything about Christ but I did not want to claim it or proclaim it.

The turning point in my life came when someone asked me to go to Bill Gothard's Basic Youth Conflicts seminar. And on Friday of the six-day institute I accepted Christ as my personal Savior. It brought new release and freedom to my life. When I came home I quit drinking and bartending. The eyes and facial expression of my son Christopher when I had quit were enough of a blessing for me, and you know what, we don't even miss the money. Chris was so proud telling everyone I had quit and would be home more.

Now I have everything a man wants. I have a wife and family, a house, a job and life with Christ.

Besides spiritual benefits there were some physical benefits for me also. Since I quit drinking and received Christ on Nov. 6, 1981, I lost 10 to 20 pounds.

In Revelation 3:20, it says: "Behold I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will go in and eat with him, and he with me."

I thank God for His hard and patient knocking. I thank Pastor Michael Brandt and the members of the church in Amery for their love and kindness. I thank Dennis Christopherson for asking me to go to Bill Gothard's Basic Youth Conflicts seminar. I thank my wife Carol for her love and patience and prayers for me. I am thankful that I finally heard the knocking and then opened that door for me and my family's new life in Christ.

Edward Le Clair  
Amery, Wis.

# CAMPUS NEWS

## Summer outreach program grows



### AMBASSADORS

*Mission:* Sing. (Much, i.e., for Jesus' glory.)

*Destination:* All over Free Lutheran country . . . and more. Washington State to Illinois and Michigan.

*Sent ones:* Amy Judkins, Mark Quanbeck, Marlys Quanbeck, Roger Quanbeck, Brian Rice, Kary Sletten, Robin Peterson, Reuben Unseth and Steve Woimanen.

*Summer: when the beaches burst, when the waters roll, when the fun is frolic—and not to mention, when the big dollars are made for school next year.*

*Ah, summertime. What an opportunity to relax. And to think, 25 Association Free Lutheran Bible School students will not be taking advantage of it.*

*Or will they?*

*Servants they will be. As members of AFLBS outreach teams, they will be servants for a summer. Servants taking advantage of an opportunity to be used for the sake of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.*

*And servants sent in larger number than ever before from AFLBS, according to AFLBS Dean Kenneth Moland. Way larger.*

*The following page opens the eye as to how these outreach teams—and these AFLBS students—are taking "advantage" of the summer of '82.*



### BARNABAS 5

*Mission:* Walk, talk, work, teach VBS, and yes, perhaps they'll even do windows (i.e., to build up Christ's body.)

*Destination:* New AFLC home mission churches in North Dakota, Minnesota and Montana.

*Sent ones:* Mark Westlake, Martha Mostad, Rob Lundquist and Carrie Cornish.

### BARNABAS 6

*Mission:* Much the same as Barnabas 5. They will do it all. Even windows? Even windows.

*Destination:* Home missions churches in Minnesota, Wisconsin and Michigan. Five different churches at two weeks a crack.

*Sent ones:* Mark Schmitke, Jim Johnson, Jean Swanson and Ilona Iverson.



### BARNABAS 7

*Mission:* Much the same as Barnabas 5 and 6 along with a little more walking and canvassing, and a LOT more sunshine. (Hint: see below.)

*Destination:* Arizona, where the AFLC is considering starting a new work in Tucson (do they even NEED windows there?) and Minnesota.

*Sent ones:* Jay Lund, Lavonne Torkelson and Nancy Woods.

### FLY TEAM

*Mission:* Help the Mission.

*Destination:* Campo Mourao, Brazil, where the AFLC has a mission. (Note: the FLY team is not sponsored by AFLBS, but the team is made up of AFLBS students.)

*Sent ones:* Ray Crestik, Tom Hill, Lynn Jalonen, Janet Prinzing and David Ramme.





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# editorials

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## BIBLE CAMPS

This issue of *The Lutheran Ambassador* contains *some* information about *some* of the Bible camps which will be operated in the Association of Free Lutheran Congregations this summer. We wish the list could be complete, but it isn't. But there is enough information, we trust, so that your appetite is whetted for the coming camping season.

The name "Bible camp" brings forth many images to us, according to our experiences. As to natural settings: cabins nestled among the pines, or on the hillside by a prairie lake, or dormitories built near small oak trees, with much open space for the warming sun, or camp buildings near a mountain lake or river, the forested slopes reaching up toward God.

And the pictures of camp life come to mind: the morning bell awakening the camp family to a new day; the happy clatter of mealtimes; the banter when a friend is called for KP duty; the fun of playing softball or volleyball; the refreshment of a swim; the browsing the little bookstore which has been set up; the friendships of the evening before the call to return to the cabins or dorms.

And the real purpose of camp, seen in these reflections: boys and girls in morning devotions, heads bowed as the blessing of God is asked for the day; youth, Bibles opened, following along as a pastor guides them in a study of God's Word; a missionary telling of her experiences in some far-off land; discussion groups; voices raised in joyful sound during choir rehearsal; the evening service with a pastor calling the young people to follow Jesus Christ, to commit life to Him; the earnestness of the campfire as some campers tell what the Lord means to them; the devotions before lights out, when in the smaller group still others get the courage to share and pray aloud.

Again this year, many of the pastors of our church and many lay volunteers will fill the positions of leadership in the Bible camps: dean, manager, dean of boys, dean of girls, counsellor, choir director, recreation director, lifeguard, bookstore manager, cook, the list goes on. Pastors, missionaries, professors, laymen have been secured as Bible teachers and speakers. Even now they are praying and preparing for their assignments. They want to be at their best for their great responsibilities.

Last, but by no means least, hundreds of Association young people and some visiting friends will come to these camps. Some will come with a real spiritual longing to know more of Christ. They will be the easy ones with whom to work. They will drink in the Word. Some will come with no fixed goal in mind, but with the feeling they ought to be there. They usually work into the camp program more and more as the week wears on. Still others come only to accompany a friend or because a great deal of pressure was applied at home or because they want a "good time." The outcome of their week

can be mixed. But the Word of God is there and the Holy Spirit is there and so great things *can* happen. And if there are no immediate results for good in those lives, still the seed is sown and something may later on be recalled.

A group of people hasn't even been mentioned yet. We are thinking of all those folks who make our camps possible because they have built them or at least maintain them. What a host they are. How impossible to begin to name names, but they certainly deserve our thanks. Remember that when you go to a Bible camp. There's more than meets the eye.

We have centered our thinking on youth camps today. There are Family camps also, with their youth sections. Some of our people plan on attending a family camp each year as a part of their vacation. Perhaps you could do that also. A number of such camps are available to us including the two official ones, at Lake Bronson and Osceola. (Add also the wilderness camp at Lake Park.)

May the Lord bless the camping season of 1982. It could be the best ever.

## SEVEN MILES

A fundamentalist college is reported to have advertised its location as being seven miles from any know form of sin.

We smile at that, wondering how anyone could be so naive. We know better from personal experience. Even though we may at times feel that we have put some geographical distance between ourselves and the sinful world, the devil and our own sinful flesh remain nearby to cause us all kinds of troubles.

And speaking of the world, television has made it more difficult to escape the world's influences. We feel sorry for parents who have so many unwanted influences right in their own homes for their children to see and hear. The right Christian home will exert some censorship, but it isn't easy. As adults, we feel that we can manage things better for ourselves. But do we do so well? Sometimes we have to say, thank God for the summertime when there is less time to be indoors and under the influence of the "tube."

Then there are the books. Recently we had occasion to stop in a small North Dakota town for a noon meal. Noticing a sign in the cafe about a book sale at the local school, we decided to check it out. The sale consisted mostly of paperbacks and we were surprised that some of the books had even been a part of the school library. At least they were being sold in a school. How times have changed!

Seven miles from any know form of sin, indeed! Our Bible School has certainly not been able to make that claim, ever. Some of our students are wise enough to realize that some of Satan's attacks get even more devious in such a setting.

And our churches. They may be protected by local law from being near liquor outlets. But sin intrudes anyway. A worldly spirit can be present. Individual sins bother the membership. The congregation may divide into factions; quar-

[Continued on page 10]



Pastor and Mrs. Yeddo Gottel, Minneapolis, Minn.



Pastor Rao Dasari and family. Pastor and Mrs. Leslie Galland are in the upper left corner.

## Scenes from the Missionary Conference in T.R.F.



Missionary and Mrs. Connely Dyrud, foreground, and Mr. Glen Espe of the host Our Savior's congregation.



Mr. and Mrs. Robert Knutson, McVillie, N. Dak. Mr. Knutson is a former chairman of the Board of World Missions.

## EDITORIAL . . .

rels over insignificant matters, or large ones, may erupt. The witness of the church in the community is damaged. The sins of a few days can cause hurt that it may take years to heal.

Yes, the Tempter is never far away, sometimes observable as the roaring lion out for prey, but more often parading as an angel of light, seeking to lead astray. So it is important to be on the alert, spiritually keen, depending on the power of the Lord Jesus Christ to escape Satan's designs.

### FATHER'S DAY

It is now a tradition to observe the third Sunday in June as Father's Day. This day has by no means caught the country's attention as has Mother's Day and perhaps it is just as well. It is alright that Mother is honored with a little more flair than Dad. She is the special companion and teacher of the very young child and usually is closer at hand in all those early years.

But that doesn't mean that Father shouldn't be honored and thanked also on a special day each year. He is the primary provider, in God's order of things, and ought to fulfill the role of spiritual head of the family. It doesn't always work out that way, but that's the way it ought to be.

Honor Dad in some special way on Sunday, June 20. Express your love and thanks to him. Give him a hug, a kiss, a heartfelt handshake, and say, "Thanks, Dad, for all you mean to me." And thank God for him.

*"Honor thy father  
and thy mother: that thy  
days may be long upon  
the land which the Lord  
thy God giveth thee."*

*Ex. 20:12*





13. Col. 3:16. How can we draw upon the reserves of God's precious Word in times of trials and loneliness? Jn. 11:25-26; Jn. 14:1-2. \_\_\_\_\_

If we are real students of the Word of God, if we feed upon the Bread of Life, if we faithfully study the Scriptures, people will see the difference in our lives; they will see we have been with the Lord.

14. What about your life? Do you have reserves of spiritual power? Do you know the Lord as your Savior?

When you cast yourself on the mercies of God in Christ, though you be poor, yet you will become rich; though you were hungry, yet you will now have all that your soul can desire and the hope of heaven, too.

The devil is crafty and uses great skill

To master the minds of believers at will,

But if *on the truth of God's Word* they depend

They'll not be misled by a signal he'd send.

—DJJD

Thought: Satan's plays are no match for the Savior's power.



*July's projects are Mission Scholarship and AFLC Schools. Scholarships are available to seminarians at AFLTS who plan to serve on the mission field. Gifts to our schools are vital to the outreach and future of the AFLC. Consider the budget goal for each project as you give. Gifts may be sent to Our National Treasurer—Mrs. Vernon Nelson, Box 261, Leeds, North Dakota 58346. Mrs. Grace Syverson—National President.*

## Ruth

July 1982

# WMF Bible Study

## The Pleasure of Naomi

Read Ruth 2:18-23.

Now amid all these favors Ruth did not become overly confident. She did not become self-centered. She thought of her hungry mother-in-law and, though she had satisfied her own needs, she did not forget to lay aside a portion of food for Naomi. What love she had for her.

1. What was the first thing Naomi asked Ruth when she arrived home? \_\_\_\_\_

We cannot but expect Naomi to have been most surprised and happy at such unexpected fortune. It is probably not too much to suppose that she had been apprehensive all day, home alone, with nothing but her needs, her poverty, her want and her uncertainty as to what might happen to Ruth.

2. How is it with you today? Will you trust the Lord in the dark hour even as in the noonday? \_\_\_\_\_

3. Note that Naomi prayed God's blessing upon the one in whose field Ruth had gleaned even before learning where she had been. What was the prayer? \_\_\_\_\_

4. Think of Boaz as a type of Christ and the meal to which he invites as a spiritual "meal." Then study 18b in light of it. \_\_\_\_\_

5. What does the man's name, Boaz, mean to Naomi? Was Ruth aware of this? vs. 19-20 \_\_\_\_\_

6. What assurance did this give Naomi? Gen. 24:27; Lev. 25:25 \_\_\_\_\_

We cannot but feel that Boaz must have been happy that night in doing the good that he had done. What a joy for him, too, as he was obedient.

7. Have you shown compassionate kindness to your neighbors in trouble or in any way? Mk. 12:30-31 \_\_\_\_\_

8. Have you shared the happiness which is yours in Christ with those who are destitute? Have you given of your means to help to feed the poor? \_\_\_\_\_

(a) The perfect exercise of love includes our whole duty to God and our fellowmen. The Son of God is the special object of Divine Love.

(b) The test of love is the surrender of personal ambition and a complete abandonment of self in our devotion to another. Jesus commands, "*love one another; love your enemies*".

9. Was Boaz rich in more ways than in material goods? \_\_\_\_\_

You can give a little and receive much if you have the will to bless those and help those who are in need. May God give us all lips to speak a word in season, a word of comfort, encouragement and help, especially to point sinners to Christ who is the only Savior from sin, before it is too late.

10. What does verse 23 reveal regarding Ruth? \_\_\_\_\_

11. What does the faithfulness of Ruth teach us? I Cor. 15:58 \_\_\_\_\_

Let us be rooted and grounded and built up in the Word according to the admonition of Scripture. We need to glean continually in the field of God's Word. As the hymn writer advises:

"Take time to be holy,  
Speak oft with thy Lord;  
Abide in Him always,  
And feed on His Word."

12. Read Acts 17:11. What Example have we here in searching the Scripture daily? \_\_\_\_\_

We live in a day and in a land where there are many false teachings and cults abroad because men have not studied the Word with receptive hearts, II Tim. 2:15. If we would know the truth, we must study God's Word with receptive hearts.



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# THE CHRISTIAN LIFE

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## How may we get spiritual power?

by Martin Hegland  
(Continued from last time)

On the other hand I interpret the Lord's statement "Not by might, nor by power, but by My Spirit," to mean that by the help of God we shall surely succeed in our life and work, as Christians. Let me remind you of Jesus' assuring words to the disciples. "Ye shall receive power when the Holy Spirit is come upon you." This promise I sincerely believe holds good today as it did in the days of the Apostles. I believe that God is faithful and that His arm is not shortened. I believe that whenever and wherever men permit the Spirit of God to take possession of them, they become spiritually powerful men.

The Spirit of God works wonders. He convicts us of sin and of our own utter impotence to save ourselves. He points us to Christ as our redeeming Lord and creates faith in Him as a personal Savior. As a fire He purges out the dross in our old nature and progressively recreates us into likeness with the character of the Son.

The Holy Spirit produces a profound sense of gratitude for salvation; He gives birth to a burning zeal for spreading the Gospel; He creates courage to bear witness in the most difficult situations; He develops a faith that can remove mountains; He creates a love to Christ and fellowmen that makes a man willing to sacrifice time, money, ease, comforts and all things for the sake of Christ's cause.

A writer calls attention to the experience of a ship in going up through a series of locks. When the gates are closed behind and the sluice ways opened in front, the water from above rushes down and bodily lifts the ship and allows it to glide along on the higher level.

Something like this happens when the Spirit of God comes down from above. He lifts men up onto a higher plane of living and doing.

By means of a slender wire a body of only very small weight may be lifted; but let that wire be used to conduct an electric current from a power station to a hoisting engine and that crane will lift a load of thousands of pounds. So by means of our own strength we are able to accomplish nothing of consequence for the kingdom of God. But if we permit ourselves to become channels through which dynamic strength from God's own power station flows, we shall be able to accomplish the unbelievable. The day of miracles is not past. A regenerated, consecrated, Spirit-filled soul is a moral and spiritual miracle, which can not be explained in terms of anything natural. He is one of God's perpetual wonders.

Who can measure the possibilities latent in a body of Christian men and women?

What if the large number of pastors and teachers in our church could be so filled with power by the Holy Spirit that in their congregations and schools they would proclaim the whole counsel of God without fear or favor? What if their souls were really gripped with a passion for souls and concern for the eternal welfare of their fellowmen?

What if the lay people in the congregations were filled with the Spirit of God to hold up the hands of their pastors, to besiege the throne of grace for profound spiritual stirrings among our people, and to live lives in sincere harmony with their Christian profession?

What if the Christian students in our schools and colleges were endued with power from God to stand up for Christ and to show forth His glory before their fellow students?

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**"He (the Holy Spirit) points us to Christ as our redeeming Lord and creates faith in Him as a personal Savior."**

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Oh, friends, a mighty transformation in our church would result, if we all were filled with the Holy Spirit.

### III.

We come now to the consideration of a searching question, "Do we really want the Holy Spirit?"

There is with God no lack of power; there is no lack of His willingness to give us spiritual reinforcement for overcoming great obstacles and for accomplishing vast tasks. The only uncertain factor is our own attitude toward the reception of spiritual power.

Are we really anxious for power to overcome the world and to live strong spiritual lives? Are we really deeply concerned about the unsaved people that are living all about us? Are our hearts really gripped by the suffering of humanity? Do we really love Christ? Do we really want to build His kingdom? Are we really willing that God should take complete possession of us? Are we really willing that God have the control of our money, our talents, our whole lives? Are we really willing to open up the sluice gates of our being and let the fulness of the Spirit flood our lives with power from on high?

Or must we confess that we rather love the world, that unsaved souls do not trouble us greatly, that we are more or less callous to human suffering, that we love ourselves pretty much, that we are not particularly enthusiastic about Christ's kingdom, that we hesitate to give God the control of our lives, that we love our luxurious homes, our elegant cars, our flesh-pleasing comforts, that we rather fear that the Spirit of God might lead us into sacrificial ways?

Oh, how many of us, who bear the Christian name, must confess, if we are sincere, that we are merely playing at the business of being Christians. We are so full of the world that we have no place for the Spirit. We are in very truth trying to serve God and Mammon.

No wonder we are weak; no wonder we are indifferent; no wonder we are lifeless; no wonder we are fearful; no wonder we are selfish; no wonder we are

*[Continued on page 14]*

# District WMF Spring Rally Report

## LAKE SUPERIOR

On April 24, 30 women attended the Spring Rally at the ARC in Osceola, Wis. Mrs. Bonnie Roberts presided during the sessions which emphasized missions. Pastor Connelly Dyrud spoke on the theme, "Here am I, send me."

Mrs. Reuben Emberson presented a skit. Music during the day was provided by Mrs. Rachel Tuura, Esko, and Mrs. Evelyn Falk and Mrs. Beata Becker of Finlayson.

The Fall Rally will be at St. John's Ev. Lutheran Church in Finlayson, Minn.

—Aili Siltanen, Sec.

## NORTHWEST MINNESOTA

Spruce Free Lutheran Church of Roseau, hosted the Spring Rally on April 17, with Norland Lutheran Church assisting. Pastor and Mrs. Connelly Dyrud spoke to the 117 ladies on the theme, "Go Tell—Jesus Christ is King."

A Ladies Retreat at Galilee Bible Camp was announced for August 6-7 with Mrs. Curtis Emerson, Valley City, N. Dak. as the speaker. Hegland Free Lutheran Church of Strandquist will host the Fall Rally.

Annette Kirkeide, Sec.

## SOUTHWEST CENTRAL MINNESOTA

"Forsake sin and run the Christian race," was the theme for the rally at Chippewa Lutheran Church, Brandon, on May 5. Mrs. Robert Lewis and Mrs. Lois Oscarson, both of Abercrombie, N. Dak., led the morning devotions and Bible Study. Pastor Connelly Dyrud spoke during the afternoon session. Mrs.

Norman Haugen directed the District Choir. Other music was provided by ladies from Bethany Free Lutheran of Bluegrass.

The 152 ladies registered elected Mrs. Harold Erickson, Vice President; Mrs. Roger Rasmussen, Sec.; and Mrs. Carl Hort and Mrs. Dean Kloster, Program/Nominating Committee.

Mrs. Roger Rasmussen, Sec.

## MINNEAPOLIS

On April 13, Hauge Lutheran Church, Kenyon, hosted 134 ladies for the Spring Rally. The day's theme was "Why? I Cor. 9:23." Pastor Eldon Nelson spoke on home missions in the AFLC at the morning session. The afternoon featured a panel discussion with district pastors led by Pastor Eugene Enderlein. The pastors shared on the aspects of "How are our AFLBS students bearing fruit for the Lord in the community and the church?"

Devotions were given by Mrs. John Klug, Zumbrota, and Mrs. Frances Hodnefield, Radcliffe. Music throughout the day was provided by Mrs. Eugene Vukonich, Mrs. Burton Boyum, Mrs. Roger Hougum and Pastor and Mrs. Kenneth Anderson, all of Kenyon. Mrs. Homer Madison of Colfax, led in the hymn sing.

Mrs. Marlin Benrud presided during the day. The district ladies elected Mrs. Burton Boyum President; Mrs. Aini Myking, Treasurer, and Mrs. Harry Lindgren, Mrs. Gerald Mundfrom, and Mrs. Jay Erickson, Nominations Committee.

Mrs. Ronald Horn, Sec.



## EASTERN NORTH DAKOTA

Mrs. Paul Bjornson called the Spring Rally to order on May 1, at St. Paul's Free Lutheran Church, Fargo. Colossians 4:2 was the basis for the theme, "Devote Yourselves to Prayer." Pastor Bruce Dalager conducted the Bible study on prayer. Mrs. Sandi Weaver shared during the afternoon session on the subject of "Service." The 124 ladies registered enjoyed music from Pastor and Mrs. Dalager, June Thompson, Shirley Schroeder, and Mrs. Bonnie Van Bruggen.

Mrs. Henry Mohagen, Sec.

was held on April 2-3 at the Red Willow Bible Camp, near Binford. Mrs. Betty Lou Jenson, Valley City, was the guest speaker. Poor weather did not prevent the ladies from having a refreshing time. Age was not a factor in keeping ladies from attending. The eldest was Emma Knudsvig, 76 years old and the youngest was Laura Lee Finstrom, 3½ weeks old.

## LIFE...

holding back; no wonder we have deficits in our budget; no wonder our churches are marking time, while precious blood-bought souls by the millions are passing into a hopeless eternity.

Oh, for preachers of repentance; oh, for the divine lightnings of God to strike us to earth and reveal to us our deadly sins of smug satisfaction, of selfishness, and of disobedience.

God cannot use us because our hearts are divided; Christ cannot compel us because we love the world; the Holy Spirit cannot fill us because the channels are clogged.

Oh, for influences to bring us upon our knees in confession of sins, with pleas for pardon, with a willingness to consecrate ourselves completely in the Lord's service, and with eagerness to be filled with God's power for spiritual achievement!

## IV.

Before that first great outpouring of the Holy Spirit the early Christians "all with one accord continued steadfastly in prayer." That tells the secret of the Spirit's coming.

God repeatedly connects the giving of His gifts with the practice of prayer; and of the giving of the Holy Spirit in particular, Christ says, "If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children, how much more shall your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to them that ask Him?" (Luke 11:13).

If we "have not" the Holy Spirit in abundance, it is because we "ask not."

But the prayer that brings results is not the isolated, thoughtless petition.

The effective prayer comes only out of a life attuned to God by constant and close fellowship. The effective prayer re-

quires a condition of absolute surrender; the effective prayer thrives only in an atmosphere of childlike trust and abiding faith; the effective prayer is found only where obedience to the will of God is growing more and more complete. Prayer out of such lives will release a flood-tide of power from God among men.

In the presence, then, of vast hostile forces and formidable obstacles on one hand, and the rich promises of God on the other, let our Christian men and women draw near to God in an attitude of so complete a consecration that our prayers will bring down upon our people pentecostal outpourings of the Holy Spirit, with great power for spiritual conquest.

—From *Problems of Young Christians* Augsburg Publishing House.

Next time: Of Whom Shall We Ask Forgiveness?





Chippewa Lutheran Church of Brandon honored 11 ladies recently. Pictured are: Hilda Thompson, Alma Stene, Ethel Scheerer, (row 2) Viryl Magnuson, Alpha Schulte, Irene Larson, Viola Strom, Nina Strom. Not pictured are: Anna Stop, Ida Bergner, and Evangeline Erickson.



1982 WMF officers at Scandia Lutheran Church, rural Sedan, Minn. are: Mrs. Evelyn Moen, President; Becky Iverson, Vice President; Mrs. Doris Lagred, Secretary; and Grace Nelson, Treasurer.



### MUSICAL "NOAH," PRESENTED

The "Children of Hope," a children's choir from Hope Lutheran Church, Wyoming, Minn., presented a musical program called "Noah" on Sunday, April 25. It was a production of songs and narrations taken from Genesis 6-9. The program was under the direction of Mrs. Janis Carlson. Rev. Wendell Johnson is the pastor of Hope Church.

—Corr.

### West Coast Leaguers gather

On April 23-25, the West Coast District Luther League gathered at Triumph Free Lutheran Church in Ferndale, Wash. About 90 people focused on the theme, "Let the SON-shine in."

The film "High Point" began the weekend's activities. Pastor Marlyn Kruse, Everett, and Mr. Bob Wagner, Lake Stevens, led the Bible studies. Mr. Mark Isenhowe, Ferndale, provided special music at the Saturday evening banquet after which Mr. Geoff Reece, a former pro-football player, spoke. A variety of recreational activities kept the youth busy.

Each Luther League was encouraged to continue

### ASSOCIATION OF FREE LUTHERAN CONGREGATIONS 3110 East Medicine Lake Boulevard Minneapolis, Minnesota 55441

#### BUDGET RECEIPTS February 1-April 30

Fund	Total Budget	Total Rec'd to Date	% of Total (Ideal—25%)
General Fund	\$170,000.00	\$ 31,740.09	19
Schools			
AFLTS	86,381.00	16,105.57	19
AFLBS	154,162.00	23,825.33	15
Home Missions	254,380.00	31,044.49	12
World Missions	218,880.00	44,735.16	20
Praise Fund	30,200.00	3,798.18	13
Total	\$914,003.00	151,248.82	17
1981-82	\$809,206.00	\$127,647.16	16



### Morgan Avenue Lutheran receives new members

On Palm Sunday, April 4, new members were received into active membership in our congregation, Morgan Avenue Lutheran Church, Minneapolis, Minn. Pastor Yeddo Gottel conducted the reception. Those received were Mr. Glen Bay, Mr. Michael Blazevec, Mr. and Mrs. Arvid (Thelma) Hanno, Miss Lori Kruger, Miss Diane Moland, Mr. and Mrs. John (Lorilee) Mundfrom, Mr. and Mrs. Paul (Susan) Norby, Mrs. Sharon Ryan and Angela, and Rev. and Mrs. Karl (Christine) Stendal.

The Stendals, of course, are not new in the sense the term usually implies, being veterans in our AFLC, charter members in the grass roots movement. Association Free Lutheran seminarian, John Mundfrom, and wife Lorilee (our organist) have both displayed their sincere Christian fellowship in active participation, music and song. Miss Diane Moland has taught in our Sunday School for several years.

—Wm. J. Kangas

their good work in raising money to support missionaries. Together the leagues sent in one thousand dollars.

## With our Evangelist-youth worker

Summertime is camp time and our Evangelist-Youth Worker, Rev. Kenneth Pentti, will be speaking at a number of Bible camps. Remember him in prayer as he ministers God's Word to young and old at these retreats for God.

### **Dickinson, N. Dak.**

AFLC Annual Conference

June 16-20

### **Grenville, S. Dak.**

Pickerel Lake Bible Camp

June 21-27

### **Battle Lake, Minn.**

Faith Haven Bible Camp

July 11-17

### **Osceola, Wis.**

AFLC Family Camp

Aug. 9-15

### **Cloquet, Minn.**

St. Paul's Lutheran Family Camp

Aug. 18-22

(Please check camp address)

## THE LUTHERAN AMBASSADOR

3110 E. Medicine Lake Blvd.

Minneapolis, Minn. 55441

Second-class postage  
paid at Minneapolis, Minn.

## Ortley hosts conference

A week-end Bible Conference was held at Ortley Lutheran Church Sunday, April 4, with Pastor Francis Monseth, Dean of Association Free Lutheran Theological Seminary, as guest speaker.

In a series of five sessions, Pastor Monseth shared in a Bible Study of I Thessalonians entitled "Portrait of a Living Congregation."

## Bells, Labels, Loaves

Amery Lutheran's academy has had an exciting school year. Just recently we celebrated Palm Sunday with a dedication service for our Love Loaves. The mission project this year centered around Love Loaves given to World Vision's hunger program. On Palm Sunday the loaves were brought to the church where the students presented the afternoon program. Our program was highlighted by two student handbell choirs. Early this year Aid Association for Lutherans had given Mustard Seed Faith Academy a \$2,000 grant toward the purchase of handbells.

We wish to thank all who have been praying for our academy. A special word of thanks to you who have saved and sent Campbell's labels to the school. Twelve thousand labels were gathered and equipment was ordered for our reading program and physical education department. Anyone wishing to help our Academy by saving Campbell's labels should send them to:

Amery Lutheran Church

Rt. 2, Box 359A

Amery, Wisconsin 54001

Our goal for next year is 20,000 labels which would enable us to purchase a film-strip projector.

Pastor Michael Brandt

Amery, Wis.

## INTRODUCING A NEW VOLUME

THE  
AFLC



## 20 years of Beginnings and Blessings

This book is likely to be an heirloom volume in years to come. It will be 112 pages packed full of pictures and the story of the first 20 years of the Association of Free Lutheran Congregations.

It will also be a valuable resource for churches and pastors who are sending or receiving calls. All churches and pastors of the AFLC are pictured, and information is given about each, as well as about every aspect of AFLC work.

Above all, *Beginnings and Blessings*, just as its name suggests, records the marvelous grace of God toward the AFLC in its first 20 years and presents a challenge for serving Him in the future.

Delivery date for the volume has been set so that it should be available at our 1982 Annual Conference at Dickinson, N. Dak. The price for this 8½ x 11 inch, hardbound volume will be only \$10.00 per copy. Plan now to buy yours at Conference or ask someone else to buy one for you.

Rev. Ralph M. Rokke, Chairman  
Board of Publications and Parish Ed.

## In Memoriam

Key: The name of the town is the address of the deceased. Following that is listed the name of the deceased, age, date of death, and the church in which he or she held membership.

### **MINNESOTA**

Minneapolis

**Sophie Lee**, 91, Nov. 17, Faith

**Anna M. Lee**, 89, Apr. 11, Faith

The Lee sisters were laid to rest in the family plot at Erickson, Man.

Roseau

**Earl Stanley Besserud**, 54, Apr. 21, Rose

## Spencer Creek welcomes new pastor

A welcoming service was held at Spencer Creek Lutheran Church on May 2 for our new pastor, Bill Moberg, and family in the church annex.

A potluck dinner was held to celebrate the occasion and greetings were expressed by the congregation. Those present were introduced to the pastor and family in the hour following. A shower of food was presented to the Mobergs to get them started at their new place of service.