

THE LUTHERAN AMBASSADOR

June 9, 1981



Summer Pastoral — Roger C. Huebner, D.D.S.

Until He Comes . . .

AT THE MASTER'S FEET

Pastor Kenneth Pentti



HELPING FATHERS BE GOOD FATHERS

"When Enoch had lived sixty-five years, he became the father of Methuselah" (Gen. 5:21, RSV).

What is a father? To some he is a biological incidental. To some a father is an economic necessity. To some a father is simply the responsible party.

The root meaning of the word "father" is "the source or prototype." The father is "that one from whom I get my strength."

Fortunate indeed is the family and the children who have the privilege of growing up unto maturity in the Lord Jesus Christ because they have a father who is God fearing, and walks in true fellowship with his Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

God can help you be a good father. As a father you are potentially the child's finest teacher about God.

THE LUTHERAN AMBASSADOR

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All communications concerning contents of this magazine should be addressed to: Rev. Raynard Huglen, Editor, Newfolden, Minn. 56738.

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When Jesus sought to teach His disciples how to address God in prayer, He taught them to address the Eternal as, "Our Father which art in heaven." This statement was a great compliment to the father of the home in which Jesus was born and grew to maturity. It also provided an insight into the nature and character of God.

Jesus did not describe the eternal God as mother. He used the relationship of the father to the child to try to communicate something about the nature and the character of God.

Christ will help you to be a good father. There are many illustrations in the New Testament of fathers who came to Jesus in need of His help and He responded affirmatively and graciously.

There was an official whose son was ill who came to Jesus in his distress (John 4:46-54). Jesus met a need in the life of the son which the father could not supply. Christ will make a contribution through you to your children if you will but come to Him and let Him work His work of grace and power in your life.

A ruler of the synagogue came to Jesus on behalf of his daughter who was at the point of death, requesting His assistance in a time of crisis (Mark 5:21-24). Our Lord responded immediately to this father's plea for help and demonstrated His miraculous power by restoring the daughter to life because of the great faith of the father (Mark 5:35-43). We can be assured that our Lord wants to help us in this day and time when death comes or when crises confront us.

Matthew records the plight of a father whose child was a helpless epileptic (Matthew 17:14-20). With faith in His love and His power, we need to come to Jesus Christ in order that He

might help us as we seek to minister to and to meet the needs of our children.

You can give good gifts to your children (cf. Matthew 7:9-11). Our Lord used the earthly relationship between a father and his children to describe the relationship between God and His children. He speaks of the fact that an earthly father seeks to give only good gifts to his children. He will not deliberately give that which is harmful and destructive.

The Holy Spirit will help you to be a good father.

The Holy Spirit is seeking to reproduce within you the character and the personality of Jesus Christ (Galatians 5:22, 23). The fruits of the Spirit described by Paul is a verbal portrait of the character of Jesus Christ. This is God's plan and program for each of His children. The fruits of the Spirit are for all the children of God.

Do not ignore or neglect to make a personal response to God's great gift to you, His Holy Spirit. Do not seek to fulfill your responsibilities as a father without letting the Holy Spirit be your help.

Parents can help their sons become good fathers some day. Win your sons to Jesus Christ and teach them so that some day they can be worthy fathers to their children.

Each father must help himself become a good father. In the final analysis, you are responsible for the kind of father you are to your children.

Let Christ come into your heart to help you.

Let the Bible assist you in becoming a good father. Make much of prayer if you would be a good father.

Let the church have a vital place in your life in order that you might be a better father.

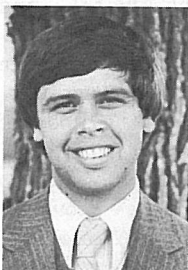


The following four articles are abbreviated from presentations which were made at the Winter Conference in Tioga in February. The theme of the Conference was "Until He Comes."

"UNTIL
HE COMES..."

OCCUPY

Until He Comes



by Rev.
Terry Olson
Minot, N. Dak.

Lk. 19:11-27

(Read also Ex. 3:1-16)

We are admonished by our Lord Jesus Christ to occupy until He comes again. We must confess that we are busy-ing ourselves with many things. It is our nature to do so. But the questions arise: What should have our attention? For what should we engage our energies?

Let us consider three areas which should occupy our hearts and minds until Jesus comes again.

First of all, we are to *worship our God* until He comes. From cover to cover, the Bible seeks to produce a reverential and fearful worship of Almighty God. As heaven is opened for us we see angels and saints worshipping the Lamb. As Jesus went about healing, the people gave praise to God (Lk. 18:35-43). As Jesus rode triumphantly into Jerusalem, the whole crowd began to praise God joyfully and loudly for all the miracles they had seen (Lk. 19:28-40). Some of the Pharisees were not pleased with this worship of Jesus. They urged Jesus to ask His disciples to be quiet. But Jesus answered, "I tell you, if these become silent, the stones will cry out" (v. 40). We read also of how Jesus taught in the temple every day. The opposition sought ways to kill Him but could not "because the people were all eager to hear Him" (Lk. 19:47, 48).

Without worship, service is unprofitable. Moses was called into service to lead the people out of Egypt, but not until he gave witness to worshipping the Lord. Isaiah, Jeremiah and Paul

were all called to occupy with their gifts but not until they gave witness to their deep and reverent worship of the Holy God. The highest service we can offer our God is to worship Him.

Let me quote quite liberally from A. W. Tozer's book: *Worship: The Normal Employment of Moral Beings*. "Why did Christ come? Why was He conceived? Why was He born? Why was He crucified? Why did He rise again? Why is He now at the right hand of the Father? The answer to all these questions is, 'In order that He might make worshippers out of rebels; in order that He might restore us again to the place of worship we knew when we were first created.'"

"Now worship is the missing jewel in modern evangelicalism. We're organized; we work; we have our agendas. We have almost everything; but there's one thing that the churches, even the Gospel churches, do not have: that is the ability to worship. It's the one shining gem that is lost to the modern church, and I believe that we ought to search for this until we find it."

We will never worship God unless we have an adequate idea of God. When we know our God for who He is then we will want to do all we can for Him. We will show our love and admiration in every possible way. "If there is one terrible disease in the Church of Christ, it is that we do not see God as great as He is" (Tozer).

You will notice in our text how the attitude the one man had toward God caused him to hide his talent. The man lived in constant fear of God, considering God a hard man to deal with. He believed God asked too much. He believed he himself would lose too much.

So his service, which did not begin with worship, ended in failure, even though he could return to God what He had given him.

According to A. W. Tozer, worship has these factors: 1) *boundless confidence*. You cannot worship a being you cannot trust. 2) *admiration* - the appreciation of the excellency of God. 3) *Fascination* - struck with astonished wonder at the inconceivable elevation and magnitude and splendor of Almighty God. 4) *adoration* - to love God with fear and wonder, yearning and awe.

Secondly, we are to *pray* until He comes. In Luke 18:1-8, we find Jesus encouraging His disciples to "pray and not lose heart." To this statement is attached a question in verse 8, "When the Son of Man comes again, will He find faith on the earth." In Lk. 19:45, 46, we find Jesus disturbed over the way His House was being used. He finally exclaims, "... My House shall be a house of prayer." What are we and our churches occupied with? Many are the activities. Where is the House of Prayer? Look at our schedules and programs! There is one thing that bothers me today—we have people busy but not with praying.

"Men think of the world, not as a battleground but as a playground. We are not here to fight, we are here to frolic" (A. W. Tozer, *God Tells the Man Who Cares*). This attitude has also crept into the churches. It is not difficult to see because prayer is most often forgotten, neglected or painfully rejected. Many personal and congregational battles are won or lost because of the prayer closet.

"Without worship,
service is unprofitable."

Occupy . . .

The Christian life is a prayerful life. Prayers and devotions, both public and private, abound with every believer. It is not possible for any Christian to be truly awake to his position, faithfully filling out the duties of his calling, without strict, watchful attention to a prayer life.

Thirdly, we are to *use our talents faithfully* until He comes. Every member of the Church has some gift of one kind or another. The gifts are different and are given in different degrees. Each Christian is favored with special talents or natural abilities for a particular work in God's Kingdom. They are called gifts because they are all from God. They also form the basis of the Spirit's operation. When these natural abilities are taken hold of by the Spirit and given to God for His glory, they are called spiritual gifts or talents.

The gifts are basically mentioned in I Pet. 4:7-11; Rom. 12:6-15 and I Cor. 12:4-11. Some of those gifts are preaching, serving, teaching, encouraging, giving, ruling, showing mercy, etc. All these gifts are given by God to edify the believer and for the work of ministry in God's Kingdom. The Gospel of Christ must be made known. It must be set forth in the eyes and ears and hearts of all people. People need Christ. People need to know God's will. People need to know Christ came to save the sinner. People need to understand God's Word and His mission in the flesh. Each Christian has a specific gift or gifts for which he or she shall be held accountable. All that is asked is that we be faithful, occupying with the talent given by God when Christ returns.

Yes, our God wants us to occupy until He comes. Let us be found faithfully worshipping, praying and using our talents for His glory. Let me close with a quote from *Unger's Bible Dictionary*, "The Church of Christ is not only His representative body on earth, it is also the temple of divine service, continuing and perfecting the worship of the past."

BUILDING ONE ANOTHER UP Until He Comes

by Rev.
John Rieth,
Williston,
N. Dak.



Hebrews 10:25: "Not forsaking our own assembling together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another; and all the more, as you see the day drawing near."

WATCHFUL Until He Comes

by Rev.
David Molstre,
Dickinson,
N. Dak.



As we look at these verses the main thought or challenge that comes to me is a warning against deception. Because we are religious by nature it is

God admonishes us in our Scripture text to "not forsake." There is obvious importance assigned to this verse and it indicates divine importance assigned to the fellowship with and combined worship of believers.

I have, for the sake of space, chosen four areas dealing with the theme, "Building One Another Up." They are "Love One Another," "Pray For One Another," "Serve One Another," and "Exhort One Another."

Now, it must be recognized that the main vehicle for mutual encouragement and challenge in the Body of Christ is common assembly. In verse 22-25 of Hebrews, chapter 10, we are to "draw near," "hold fast," "consider how," and "forsake not." All are positive actions and are to be carried out by the Body of Christ. This leads us to consider our first point. We are to—

(1) Love One Another

1 John 4:7, 8 states, "Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God; and every one who loves is born of God and knows God. The one who does not love does not know God, for God is love". That is quite a statement. I recently studied anew the Trinity. This

easy for us to become deceived in the area of religion.

Satan knows man's heart, the value of Scripture and how to use it in his own kind of deception. There were many false teachers in Christ's day and it becomes clear in this chapter that even greater numbers will appear and are appearing in these last days.

I read a good definition of a false prophet. "A false prophet is a person who seeks to propagate his own versions of the truth rather than the truth as it is in Jesus Christ. Above all he is a person who tries to attach other men to himself rather than to Jesus Christ."

We must be very careful about what we hear today especially in the area of the spiritual, for what a man hears and sees so he becomes, Phil. 4:8,9.

The word "watch" is very often used in Scripture. False truths are many times harder to deal with than physical persecution. In our country this is what we are having to deal with.

As we look at other religions and

was in conjunction with a study on the cults. The Trinity cannot be explained to one's total understanding and yet it can be illustrated, documented and demonstrated. The same applies for love. I can't explain it, nor can you, but God says it can and must be demonstrated!

"I believe that the number one sin of the church towards those within its midst is the failure to demonstrate love."

I believe that the number one sin of the church towards those within its midst is the failure to demonstrate love. One of the noted characteristics of the Early Church was their love for one another. We hear often the excuse given by those outside the church that those within its fold are "hypocrites." While this doesn't always apply, there is a real basis for this accusation. If the Christian is indeed the only Bible that some people ever read, it behooves we

who profess faith in Christ to lead godly lives. This includes the demonstration of the characteristics of Christian love. I Cor. 13 tells us that love is patient, kind, not jealous, not boastful, acts properly, and does not seek its own gratification. Paul states, in I Cor. 6:12a, that "All things are lawful for me, but not all things are profitable". Our loving our brothers and sisters in Christ is not an option in Christian living. God expects it of us. We learn quickly that the ability to love this way is a work of the grace of God. The world watches, I believe, not only how we love them, but how we love our own.

We realize that we can't love as God expects us in our own strength, and so we should also—

(2) *Pray For One Another*

Why? Why should we pray for one another?

First of all, prayer is a reminder. We are reminded of our dependence on God for everything. By nature we are self-centered, wanting to be the masters of our own destiny, wanting to control our own lives. When we pray, we acknowledge that God is the One to receive glory for any good that may come

of our lives. Prayer, real prayer, involves humility, brokenness, a sense of unworthiness. This all serves to remind us that we should not judge another, but show compassion to one another.

Secondly, prayer is a restorer. So many of the ongoing conflicts that face those in the Body of Christ could be resolved if we faithfully prayed. How much better off we would be if instead of spending our time in gossip, which serves to do nothing but tear down, we spent that time in prayer that God would effect healing and help, first of all in our lives and also, then, in the lives of those within the Body of Christ who are with special needs. Acts 2:42 states that the Church was "devoted to prayer." We can read the right books, practice the right principles, speak the right language, and yet the mutual "building up of the body" will fail miserably if we fail to pray.

Then, as we pray, God calls us to—

(3) *Serve One Another*

In the 13th chapter of John, the Lord Jesus portrays the true role of the servant. He leaves this example, along with many others, to remind us that "He who is great among you, let him

cults which are increasing, we need some ground rules to compare other religions with what we believe is truth. Some of the basic beliefs include: God became flesh in the man, Jesus; Christ atoned for man's sin through His death on the Cross; Christ arose in bodily form from the grave, conquering death and proving He is God; The Bible is the inspired, authoritative Word of God. No cult or sect in the world agrees with Christianity on all these points.

1. On the deity of Christ, of all the great religions of the world, only Roman Catholics agree with orthodox Protestants concerning Christ's deity. All other religions and most cults make Christ out to be only a man, a great teacher, a great example. Even among Protestant clergy there is a denial of Christ as true man and true God, and the percentages are increasing.

Is Jesus really God? If He isn't, then Christianity is a farce and we are fools. Is Jesus' virgin birth a pagan myth? To

deny the virgin birth is to deny Scripture. Also if Christ had been conceived through natural conception, with a human father, how could He have been eternal and pre-existent? *Does the Trinity make "three gods?"*

This is a particular target of many cults, as Unitarianism, Jehovah's Witnesses and Christian Science. It is interesting to note that the plural form of the Godhead is used way back in Gen. 1:26. Christ uses it in Matthew 28 and Paul uses the plural form of the Godhead in his Epistles. *Did Christ actually rise from the dead?* If He did not we are still in our sins and our faith is futile.

"False truths are many times harder to deal with than physical persecution."

2. Concerning man, the question is often asked, "What is man?" Is he all good, all bad, or in between? Many like to think they are bad enough to be fun, but good enough to do the right thing and some day go to heaven.

Christianity holds the unpopular opinion that man is all bad. The Bible teaches that every man is born spiritually dead in sin, Eph. 2:1. This doctrine has caused many cults. Mormonism, Christian Science and Jehovah's Witnesses view man much differently. Cults admit the problem of sin, but their solution is always different from that of Christianity.

3. When we say that Scripture is the only rule of authority, we are putting a wedge between Christianity and other faiths. Religions and cults the world over have their own view of what is meant by the Scriptures and what is sacred and what is not.

The Hindus have many sacred writings; the Buddhists have sacred writ-

WATCHING . . .

ings. The Mormons claim inspiration for the Bible, but also recognize other books like the *Book of Mormon*, "The Pearl of Great Price," as being inspired and sacred. Christian Science, Jehovah's Witness, the Unification Church, and others claim inspiration for their founder's writings.

Orthodox Christianity believes and teaches that the Bible is different from all other books because it is "God-breathed." The Greek word for inspiration in II Timothy 3:16 literally means that.

As we look at other religions today it is very important that we apply these ground rules, that we test the teachings to see if they are Scriptural. We dare not take our faith, our doctrines, lightly. We do well to follow Paul's advice to Timothy in II Tim. 3:13-17

SHOWING THE LORD'S DEATH Until He Comes

by Rev.
Edwin Kjos,
Culbertson,
Mont.



Writing to the Corinthians about the importance of the Lord's Supper, the Apostle Paul said: "Whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes" (I Cor. 11:26 NIV).

Death is an unpleasant subject. We don't like to talk about it. We don't even like to think about it. We try to avoid it. We equip cars and machinery with all kinds of safety features and equipment to protect lives. We are concerned about following good health habits in diets and exercise. If we get sick we see a doctor and perhaps even spend some time in a hospital to help us get well and stay alive. We value our lives.

In spite of all our precautions, death is a common experience of all men. Diseases, accidents, famines, wars and old age are continually taking their toll. What is the cause of all this death and sorrow?

The Bible tells us that man's disobedience has separated him from God. Man was created in the image of God. He was without sin. He was given dominion over God's creation. God gave man only one restriction: "Don't eat of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil."

Death is an unpleasant subject. We don't like to talk about it."

But Adam and Eve disobeyed God. Having been deceived by Satan into believing that eating the forbidden fruit would enhance their position in life, they selfishly ate and died. God had said, "In the day you eat thereof, you shall surely die." Their sin broke the intimate relationship that man had with God. Since God is the source of all life, separation from God means death. When man's sin broke the relationship between God and man, spiritual and physical death laid their hands on man. The Bible tells us that the result of this one disobedient trespass was that all men became sinners and came under condemnation (Rom. 5:18-19). Man is spiritually dead by nature. As a

BUILDING . . .

become your servant." If we are seeking to help and serve others, we will not be so caught up with serving ourselves. That beautiful description of Christ in Phil. 2:1-11 states that we should have the same mind in us as "was in Christ Jesus." I believe, as a pastor, that my primary role to the Body of Christ is that of a servant. Why? Because of love. To teach is to serve. To love is to serve. To pray is to serve. We are to be servants "one to another." Within the framework of John 21:15-22 we have this call and this one only, to follow Jesus. That call always involves the role of a "servant."

Finally, we see the importance of—

(4) *Exhorting One Another*

We all need a word of encouragement and appreciation. We sometimes fail to do this with our brethren for fear of their becoming "puffed up." I suppose there would be some validity in this if we were as hesitant when it came to criticizing them, either to their face or, more often, behind their back. No, we need to tell one another, "Thank you." If we understand properly how to take a compliment, we

know that we just pass it on to God. We know that He deserves the glory and yet appreciation should be expressed for the instrument He uses as well. He commands it.

We need to encourage one another. We live in an increasingly impersonal society. It is easy to schedule others and their needs out of our lives. Beloved, is it so bad to speak a word of encouragement, a word of thanks? Do we really think that that would somehow "destroy" the spiritual fire of the recipient? God help us if we do. One of the most serious breaches that can enter into our relationship with God is invited when we fail to thank Him and when we take Him for granted.

Let us remember that Christ took time to love us (Jn. 3:16), to pray for us (Jn. 17), to serve us (Jn. 13), and to exhort us (Jn. 14).

Remember that when we are endeavoring to "build one another up" we are part of the true role of the Church: to expose sin, to aid in effecting healing of the lives bound by sin, to demonstrate true Christianity, and to be used to reach the lost for eternal glory.

(All Scripture passages are from the *New American Standard Bible*.)

result we also suffer physical death. "It is appointed for men to die once. . . ." (Heb. 9:27)

The evidence of death's grip upon man became quickly evident. In Genesis, chapter 5, we have a brief summary of the lives of some of the first residents of earth. Even though they lived very long lives by modern standards, those lives came to an end. Over and over again we read these somber words, "And he died. . . and he died. . . and he died." The spiritual death of man was also quickly evident through the actions of man's sinful nature. Cain, the first person born into this world, killed his brother in a fit of jealous anger. Lemech, Cain's great, great, great grandson boasted about killing more men. Looking at man, God saw "That every imagination of the thoughts of man's heart was only evil continually" (Gen. 6:5).

God's attitude toward sin and corruption is seen in His subsequent actions and decrees. He sent a flood upon the world which destroyed all unbelievers. He prescribed the death penalty for men for serious crimes. Often he destroyed those who despised His will. Truly, as Paul writes in Rom. 5:1, "The wages of sin is death."

A pall of death hangs over every individual. Every infraction of God's holy Law makes us liable for judgment and demands death. Men all over the globe know they have sinned. Man fruitlessly tries to make amends. But he is helpless in the grip of sin and death.

Then comes the good news: "Christ died for our sins." God did not change His mind. The wages of sin is still death. But Jesus stepped into my shoes, so to speak, and took my punishment in my place as my substitute. Some 700 years before Jesus came into the world, the Prophet Isaiah expressed it beautifully, when he said, "We all like sheep have gone astray, each of us has turned to his own way; and the Lord has laid on Him the iniquity of us all" (Is. 53:6). In the New Testament, Peter, looking back at the death and resurrection of Christ, said; "He Himself bore our sins in His body on the cross, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness; for by His wounds you were healed" (I Pet. 2:24).

What rich blessings the death of

Summertime

Our summer brings
Some wonderful things:

The flowers dance
and swing

While birds their
voice ring.

The bees fly from
flower to flower

And search for
nectar by the hour.

The nectar is to make
honey sweet,
And honey is what I like
to eat.

Our tree that stands so
proud and tall

Has a nest for the birds and
is shade for all.

It reaches up toward the sky.
Its branches wave as clouds
pass by.

We like to camp in the great
outdoors;

We're snug in our tent even when
rain pours.

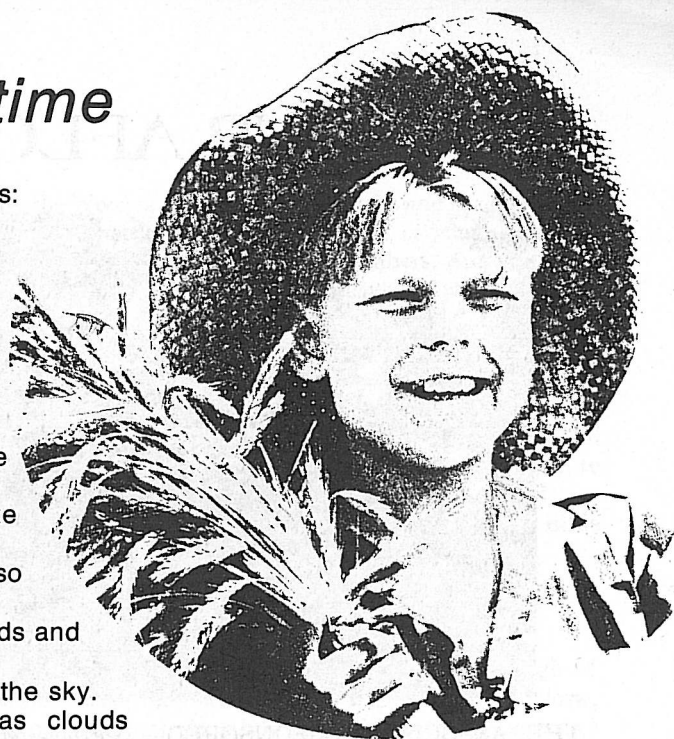
At night we build a great bonfire,
Of roasting marshmallows never
tire.

In our garden we plant the seeds
And as they grow up, we must
weed.

And when they are ready to
harvest at last,

We'll harvest them all as we've
done in the past.

We husk the corn and shell the
peas,



And eat all the strawberries
that we please.

Raspberries, strawberries and
blueberries we pick,

And eat and eat till we're almost
sick.

When work is done at the end of
the day,

We bow our heads to God and
pray.

Thank You, Lord, for all this and
more;

Upon us and all Your blessings
You pour.

By Joy Goodman
Age 12, Bemidji, Minnesota

Christ brings to me. My sins condemn me but Jesus bore my condemnation. "There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus" (Rom. 8:11). Trusting in Him, I will not perish, but have everlasting life (John 3:16). My sins are forgiven and God says He will never again remember them (I Jn. 1:9; Is. 43:25). Yes, "the blood of Jesus His Son purifies us from all sin" (I Jn. 1:7). No wonder Paul exclaimed, "May I never boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ" (Gal. 6:14 NIV).

Certainly we cannot keep such good news to ourselves. Jesus said, "Go into

all the world and preach the Gospel to all creation. . ." (Mk. 16:15). This was Paul's supreme desire. In I Cor. 2:2, he expressed this determination; "For I determined to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ, and Him crucified."

If we had a loved one suffering from a terminal illness and we found out about a sure cure for that illness, we would tell him quickly. All mankind is afflicted with the fatal illness of sin. Only through the blood of Christ can we be cleansed and reconciled to God. May the love of Christ constrain us to

(Continued on page 10)

"What rich blessings the death of Christ
brings to me."

OUR AFLC BIBLE CAMPS



THE ASSOCIATION-SPONSORED FAMILY CAMPS

At Galilee Bible Camp
Lake Bronson, Minn.
July 20-26

At the ARC
Osceola, Wis.
Aug. 10-16
(More on these camps later)

DISTRICT CAMPS

South Dakota

Pickerel Lake Bible Camp*

Grenville, S. Dak.

June 22-28

Minimum age: 12 years or completed 6th grade

Cost-\$15

Registrar: Mrs. Crescent Hills
Box 241
Waubay, S. Dak.

(Pre-registration required. Send \$1.)
Faculty: Pastors John Rieth and Einar Unseth

Dean: Rev. Philip Featherstone

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

Northwestern Minnesota

Galilee Bible Camp

Lake Bronson, Minn.

Deans: Pastors Eugene Enderlein and Burton Rygh

June 22-28—Teen Camp

Cost—\$30

Faculty: Pastors Francis Monseth and Forrest Swenson, Miss Lenorah Erickson

June 29-July 3—Pre-Teen Camp

Cost—\$20

Faculty: Miss Judith Wold, Pastor Elden Nelson, Mr. Don Johnson

The Pre-Teen Camp will close on July 3 with the third annual children's musicale directed by Miss Eunice Rokke, Fargo, N. Dak., entitled "The Discovery of John."

West Coast

Lutherland Bible Camp

Tacoma, Wash.

Aug. 12-16

Theme: "Reach Out to Jesus"

Northern Michigan

Little Lake Bible Camp

Little Lake, Mich.

A Family Camp

Aug. 19-23

Dean: Rev. Gary Skramstad

Faculty: Pastors Robert L. Lee, James Gerdeen, Connely Dyrud

Costs—16 and up, \$56; 13-15, \$42; 9-12, \$37; 4-8, \$21; 3 and under, free.

Minneapolis District

Association Retreat Center
Osceola, Wis.

June 21-27

Dean: Rev. Donald Greven

Cost-\$35

Faculty: Ev. Sterling Johnson and Rev. Kenneth Moland

Theme: "Lead me in Thy truth, and teach me."

PARISH CAMP

Kalispell, Montana

Stillwater and Faith Lutheran Churches

At Dickey Lake

June 26-28

(Note: Our list of camps is incomplete. Watch for local announcements about camps in your area.)

AFLC Family Wilderness Camp

July 31-Aug. 2

Dahlgren Farm, Lake Park, Minn.

Free Camping, water, and restrooms. No advance registration. Dean: Rev. Gordon Grage

See you at the ARC!

July 7-12

Luther League Federation Convention

editorials

FATHER'S DAY

A father fills a unique place in a home even as a mother does. Not only is he either the sole or primary provider for the family, but he is to be a bulwark of strength for it. In the Christian way of things he is to be the spiritual leader. A marriage works best when husband and wife are able to cooperate with one another and have the same goals and purposes. But the husband is to be the senior partner, if we may use that term, under the Lordship of Christ.

On Father's Day we honor our fathers. They deserve a day, too, for special recognition and gratitude. In our time we are seeing a proliferation of "days" and there can be little justification for them apart from the commercial value to the greeting card makers and potential sellers of gifts. Let grandparents, mothers-in-law, uncles, aunts, etc., be honored on their birthdays. Let them know your appreciation for them then. But of more "days" to honor their categories, we say no.

It is a beautiful thing to see the God-intended family, where husband, wife and children all are living in their Scriptural roles. That is a situation worth more than rubies.

The Lord bless the dads of the nation and of the world. May all seek to fulfill their responsibilities so that life can be what it is meant to be.

THE CAMP EXPERIENCE

In this issue we carry some information about some of our Bible Camps. Perhaps there will be publicity about other camps later on. Here is a suggestion to our camps for this year. Would someone please take some pictures of your camp—buildings, natural setting, camp life, so that in future years there will be some way we can better publicize your camp? At present it's very hard to get pictures from the camps.

Over the years most of our pictures have been from Pickerel Lake Bible Camp, Grenville, S. Dak., the camp where this writer spent most of his years as a district pastor at camp. In our mind's eye it is easy to see that prairie jewel of a lake spread out before us on a sunny day in late June or early July. Across the lake one could see the grainfields and the cottages and resorts hugging the far shore.

As to the camp itself, its buildings, all four of them, are not imposing to look at. And the grounds are small and do not front the lake. But as is so true of so many things in life, it isn't the physical properties of something that determines its value (as in a home). Rather it is the living that goes on there, what happens, the values which are espoused. And so it is that those of us who have been associated with Pickerel Lake Bible Camp (or some other camp) at some time can look back with fondness because of the people who were

there, the Word of God which was taught and preached, and the things that happened in the lives of young and old. Those are the things which one remembers. And the camp itself becomes a hallowed place because of what has happened there.

We take justifiable pride in the programs of our camps. They are "Bible" camps, always have been and always will be. Generations come and go, but the goals remain the same—to help young people know, live and share Christ and His forgiveness. And new workers come along eager to perpetuate those ideals and to be useful for the Lord.

God bless the 1981 camping season in all our AFLC Bible Camps.

CONFERENCE MEMORIES

I remember my first Annual Conference, although at that time, 1938, I knew it better as the "aarsmøte" (Norw. for yearly meeting). As a boy attending with my parents I got a small taste of what a conference was like. One of our pastors, A. L. Hokanson, was ordained at Thief River Falls that year. The big subject of discussion in 1938 for the Lutheran Free Church (the church in which I grew up) was the selection of a new president for Augsburg College and Seminary and Dr. B. M. Christensen was chosen over Dr. Sverre Norborg to replace the renowned Dr. George Sverdrup, who had passed away in 1937.

Ten years went by before I got to another annual conference and then it was only to attend the ordination service in the afternoon on Sunday. Pastor Harry Sorenson (for whom I was teaching Vacation Bible School) and I drove up to Willmar from Milroy, Minn.

In 1950, while attending a summer session at the University of Minneapolis, I was able to get in on some evening and Sunday sessions of the annual conference. There I heard and saw Pastor John Strand for the first time as he preached at the Saturday night service. Interestingly, Pastor Fritjof Monseth led that meeting and the two of them a decade later were to have so much to do with the formation of our AFLC. On the Sunday afternoon of that conference the Science Hall at Augsburg was dedicated by Dr. T. O. Burntvedt. We marched the three blocks from Trinity Church to Science Hall. Dr. Christensen had given the address at the church.

Historic Trinity was the site of my ordination into the ministry three years later at another annual conference, as it was for Pastor R. Snipstead. Naturally, it was a high point in our lives.

But we must move on to more recent times. There have been the AFLC conferences. Remember the places: Fargo, Valley City, Thief River Falls, Minneapolis, Cloquet, Hancock, Ferndale, Whitefish. You have your own memories of these conferences, if you were able to attend, as I have. The election of presidents, decisions to build Bible School dormitories, votes to expand mission outreach. Sometimes ruffled feathers and hurts, but usually a good and brotherly spirit. Lots of good visiting, new friendships established.

Choir tour review

"You see so many people who need Christ."

"It makes the world so big."

"It gave us a needed humbling."

"Could I leave everything and go there as a witness?"

Quotes like these came from awakened AFLBS students, students in the Bible School's Choir, who toured eastward in visiting churches from St. Paul, Minn., to Washington, D. C.

Beginning April 19, the Choir traveled for two weeks with intentions of a ministry in music, testimonies and sharing in 12 churches and on an army base. Thirty-seven Choir members were accompanied by Director Don Rodvold and the dean of AFLBS, Pastor Kenneth Moland. Traveling through cities like Cleveland, Pittsburgh, Buffalo and Washington, our

eyes were opened to the need for Christ by so many people.

Pam Jacobson, a senior, was one such student. She said, "I learned that it is our duty to spread God's Word, no matter where we are and no matter what the circumstances."

Whereas most of the churches visited were non-AFLC, the Choir found a big part of their tour was also to spread news of the Association of Free Lutheran Congregations.

"Most people had never heard of us and didn't know what we stood for," said Lloyd Quanbeck, a senior. "That we were Bible-based and Bible-believing really appealed to some people," he explained.

Senior Joyce Strand was also awakened to needs. "I found more and more people to pray about," she stated.

Being in the eastern U. S. also exposed Choir members to such sights as Niagara Falls and the Nation's capital, where they spent three days.

But while the travel and experience helped add to the outward excitement of the tour, the purpose of a ministry for Christ remained the focal point of it all. While eyes were opened to the different scenes of a different region of the country, all the more the focus turned to the vast need for Christ by so many different people.

"We realized," said Lloyd Quanbeck, "that we weren't there just to see sights, but because we were called to God's work. We were out there for *that* reason."

—Jim L. Johnson

DEATH . . .

quickly tell the whole world this good news. Our lives, our words, our prayers, our giving should all be wrapped up in this one consuming burden: to proclaim the death of Christ and its benefits.

Our daily lives should continually honor our Lord. If we truly love our Lord, such living will be spontaneous. But we will also realize that we need daily to open our hearts to God's grace for cleansing and renewal. Through His Word He gives us the cleansing and renewal we need. It is also through His Word that we can have the most intimate experience of fellowship with Christ and with fellow believers. This fellowship is in the Lord's Supper.

When we partake of the Lord's Supper we are making a public confession. We are saying, "I am a sinner. I cannot remedy that situation myself and make myself acceptable to God. I need God's grace and mercy for the forgiveness of my sins." Along with this confession we are also proclaiming the good news, "Christ died for our sins. The blood of Jesus Christ, God's Son, cleanses us from all sin." We are proclaiming that through His death Christ obtained eternal redemption for us (Heb. 9:12). "For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim

the Lord's death until He comes" (I Cor. 11:26).

Until Jesus returns, may we, united in love with other Christians, continually proclaim the wonderful news that "Christ, the Mighty Maker died, for man, the creature's sin."

Death is an unpleasant subject generally speaking. However, along with Paul, we can glory in the cross of Christ, in the death of the Savior. "For 'twas on that old cross Jesus suffered and died to pardon and sanctify me." Therefore, may we, with all the strength and energy we have, proclaim His death until He comes. †

We regret that one article on the theme, from the Conference in Everett, Wash., was not available and thus is not included.—Ed.

EDITORIALS . . .

Sermons that gripped and were preached out of earnest hearts.

Again this year the conference will be back at Medicine Lake, one of the places in our young church which is "holy ground" to us. The Lord stands ready to guide and to bless as we permit Him to do so.

I will be missing the Saturday and Sunday sessions, the first I have missed in the 19 years, if memory serves correct-

ly. An uncle and aunt, the A. O. Lees of Devils Lake, N. Dak., observe their golden wedding that weekend. It is the only golden wedding there can ever be in my father's and mother's families and so I feel I must be there. But I shall miss those days of conference.

Annual conferences are also God's Church at work.

—Raynard Huglen

- a.) Motive—12:6 _____
 - b.) Recipient—12:6 _____
 - c.) Helpful attitude of recipient—5:5, 17 _____
 - d.) Reason—5:7-8, 10 _____
 - e.) Action—5:18, 12:11 _____
 - f.) Follow through—5:18 _____
 - g. Result—5:17, 12:9, 11 _____
 - h.) Result of non-discipline—12:13 _____
- 14.) Read the following proverbs and record the specific data pertaining to discipline. Draw insights from the information you gather and discuss.
- a.) 13:24— _____
 - b.) 19:18— _____
 - c.) 20:20— _____
 - d.) 20:30— _____
 - e.) 22:15— _____
 - f.) 23:13-14— _____
 - g.) 29:15, 17, 19— _____

15. Conscientious to discipline Scripturally, we may yet fall into error, so the Bible also gives warning to parents. Identify improper correction and the potential results to our children: Psalm 103:13-14, Ephesians 6:4a, Colossians 3:21, I Peter 5:3.

III. Ultimate Release

Sitting with friends at the bedside of their stricken child, we realized that when parents elect to have children, they open themselves to joy and sorrow, pleasure and pain. Many risks are involved in mothering. Mothers also make many mistakes; we know our frame! Sometimes it seems our efforts produce mere ashes to the Lord instead of praise. God reminds us in this lesson that each child is a gift from Him to us (Job 1:21). He desires us to surrender our children back to Him for His beneficial care and safekeeping (I Samuel 1:28). Committing our children to the Lord we become dependent on Him to work in the child that which no other human can work. Read the following verses aloud, then silently pray, acknowledging God's trustworthy claims and releasing your mothering and your children to Him: Job 5:8-9 and II Timothy 1:12.

—Mrs. Michael Brandt

Next Month: I ENJOY GROWING OLDER

WMF Bible Study

I Enjoy Being a Woman

July, 1981

I enjoy being a mother

On the dresser in our bedroom is a framed portrait of three smiling, pink-cheeked little girls, each one a unique individual with her own temperament, personality, abilities and potential. These girls are very special to me because they are my daughters and I am their mother. As I carried our first baby within me, I distinctly remember feeling like an honored "vessel for noble use," and it was with overwhelming joy and gratitude to God we laid our firstborn in her lovingly prepared crib. God could have devised a myriad of ways to replenish the earth, but He perfectly chose His plan and graciously designed women to be mothers.

Being physiologically able to reproduce, however, does not qualify a woman for motherhood. This sad fact has been apparent in every society, including today's.

"Today. . . many parents feel increasingly harassed by external influences. They hear popular parent-training groups preach on the inadequacies of the modern parent, and they readily believe that they are incompetent as parents. Many feel powerless in the face of institutional and social interference, such as television, school, jobs, peer pressure and family experts. 'Parents are not abdicating,' says an MIT psychologist. 'They are being dethroned by forces they cannot influence, much less control.' . . . Parents feel obliged to consult the 'experts' before deciding how to feed their children, how to discipline them, and which school, books or games to select for them. Another major area of concern. . . is the growing number of individuals who think about their own needs. . . neglecting their own spouses and children. This inward focus is one cause of the increase in divorce and child abuse" (V. Bright).

Incompetent? Yes. Powerless? No. With Jesus Christ as Lord of your life you can enjoy being a mother. "He gives the barren woman a home, making her the joyous mother of children. Praise the Lord!" (Psalm 113:9). Let us together consult The Expert to find out how.

I. Precious Privilege

1. List the nouns and adjectives that indicate the blessing of motherhood, Psalms 127:3-5 and 128:3-4. _____

- 2.) The influence of our home life has far-reaching effects. Contrast Exodus 20:5 with Psalm 103:17-18. _____
- 3.) Many mothers have been indoctrinated to feel a lack of purpose in their role. With the focus on the monotonous labors required, it is no wonder that "unfulfilled" is the final conclusion. One privilege and perfect opportunity is afforded mothers like none other. Pastors and missionaries long for this opportunity that can be summed up in one word. Can you detect it through these verses? Galatians 4:19, II Timothy 2:2, and I Peter 5:2 _____

- 4.) How can this privilege be executed by a mother?

- a.) Mark 10:13-16 _____
- b.) Deuteronomy 6:6-7, II Timothy 3:15 _____
- c.) Psalm 78:4, 6-7a _____
- d.) I Thessalonians 2:11 _____
- e.) III John 4 _____

- 5.) Mothers also have the privilege of meeting the three basic needs of a child's soul. Discuss these needs and how to communicate the right attitudes to your children.

- a.) Need for love. Why is meeting this need so important? John 15:12, I John 4:8, 19-20 _____

- b.) Need for a sense of worth. Isaiah 43:4-7, Psalm 139:13-16 _____

- c.) Need for security. Proverbs 14:26 _____

II. *Awesome Responsibility*

As well-prepared for parenthood as we think we may be, the responsibility of ten startles us when we bring the little one into our home. His total physical dependency on the parents is obvious and challenging. At six months or so the innocent babe's Old-Nature rears its head and we become aware of our responsibility in shaping and molding the child's character. A parent's accountability is not to be taken lightly and is no small matter to the Lord either (Matthew 18:5-6). He is able to fully equip you for every good work, including motherhood (Hebrews 13:20-21).

- 6.) The instructions given to parents and children are not complex. One word suffices for children and two words are specific for parents. What are the instructions for each? Ephesians 6:1, 4 _____

- 7.) How can a parent possibly fulfill this responsibility? Where does a mother start, and what direction does she take? Judges 13:8, and Proverbs 19:27 _____

INSTRUCTION (nurture) occurs by two avenues: what I teach (Proverbs 6:20) and the example I offer (II Thessalonians 3:9b). There must be compatibility between the two, for they speak with equal volume. Training is "the process by which the behavior of one person is changed into conformity with a standard exemplified by another" (Hatch).

- 8.) Proverbs 22:6 is a standard promise clung to by all Christian mothers. Look at it closely and notice what emphasis we are to teach. _____

(Compare with God's way of teaching: Psalm 32:8, Isaiah 30:21).

- 9.) A mother cannot venture very far into "instruction" without acknowledging the powerful influence of her daily example. Read the following verses and note one aspect of example in each: Psalm 101:2b, Proverbs 23:26, Ezekiel 16:44, I Corinthians 11:1, and Philippians 4:9. _____

- 10.) What does a Christian mother want to teach her children? The following is a suggested list. This time you supply a probable corresponding Bible reference to support the topic. Discuss how you might teach the attribute at the age level of your child.

- a.) Fear of the Lord—Proverbs 16:6 _____ d.) Decision-making—Proverbs 23:17 _____
- b.) Devotional habits— _____ e.) Responsibility— _____
- c.) Independence— _____ f.) Problem-solving— _____
- g.) Goal-setting— _____

- 11.) Take heart in the promise in Isaiah 54:13 (KJV); what is it? _____

DISCIPLINE (admonition) is a sensitive word in our society. Knowing that Sweden has passed a law prohibiting parents from spanking their children or administering "humiliating treatment," and acknowledging the awareness that our government has involved itself in parental discipline here in America, it is urgent that Christian parents solidify their convictions on child discipline in accordance with the Word and be prepared to stand by them. Correction involves the *position* of authority utilized in a fair, consistent and constructive manner for the benefit of the child, not the parent. Its purpose is to encourage the awareness that wrong doing has its own consequences so that a child learns to associate sin with pain. Its goal is to bring the child *from* parent-control, *through* self-control, to God-control. Discipline ought to be a positive experience for a child.

- 12.) According to the Word, God expects a parent to correct his children. Eli suffered harsh consequences, I Samuel 3:13. Why? _____

- 13.) We learn from the example of our heavenly Father, Who disciplines His children. What can we apply from His method? Job 5:17-18 and Hebrews 12:5-13 _____

NEWS OF THE CHURCHES

Personalities

Rev. Francis Monseth, teacher at the AFLC Schools, was guest speaker in a preaching mission at Spruce Lutheran and Norland Lutheran Churches of the Roseau, Minn., parish, Apr. 19-22. *Rev. Jerome Nikunen* was the pastor of the congregations at that time, but has since moved to Minnewaukan, N. Dak.

Rev. John Strand, Fargo, N. Dak., was guest preacher at a Bible Conference in Calvary Lutheran Church, Bismarck, N. Dak., Apr. 26-30. He brought messages from Ephesians. *Rev. Einar Unseth* is Calvary's pastor.

Rev. Jay Eberth, who has served the Chassell-Pelkie, Mich., parish since 1978, has resigned to accept the call to Calvary Lutheran Church, Fosston, Minn., which will become a separate parish upon his arrival. To now it has been a parish with Mt. Carmel Lutheran and Trinity Lutheran of McIntosh, served by Lay Pastor Walter Beaman. Pastor Eberth will begin his work in Fosston later this summer.

Missionary and Mrs. David Abel in Brazil became the parents of a baby son, *Robert Harrison*, on April 22. Weighing nine pounds at birth, he joins a sister, *Tamara*, in the family.

Stillwater church observes dedication

One year from groundbreaking the Stillwater Free Lutheran Church in rural Kalispell held a service of dedication for the new addition. Approximately 180 people filled the sanctuary and shared in our joy and thanks and praise for all the Lord has done this past year. The new addition nearly doubles the size of the sanctuary. The basement fellowship area—pastor's study, three classrooms, two new bathrooms and a maintenance room—will be accomplished as we trust God to supply our need.

Hans and Andora Tutvedt greeted our guests that beautiful day. Bonnie West and Sharon Tutvedt provided piano-organ accompaniment and duets for special music. The deacons read scripture selections on the dedication of God's House and God's people. John Horn also shared a greeting of Scripture from our seminarian, Mary Horn. The senior choir sang "My Church, My Church," and Pastor Elden Nelson gave the message. After everyone had sung "Now Thank We All Our God" we were blessed by Sharon and Shirley Tutvedt's duet of the "Lord's Prayer."

The old and young shared good food and fellowship in the basement afterwards. The "Building Scrapbook" was

on display, also a quilt made in 1911, when the original church was built. One of the persons who signed that quilt attended our service. There were special greetings posted from former pastors John Rieth and Gary Skramstad, who shared in our vision of the future for our little church in the valley.

It is our fervent hope and prayer that our house of worship be dedicated and consecrated to the preaching and teaching of the true Word of God so that present and future members may stand firm in the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ. We thank God for the inspiration and guidance of those who encouraged us to become a home mission and to the Home Mission Board for accepting us; and we thank Him for calling Pastor Dale Mellgren to our congregation. We thank all of you who support the church Extension Fund for we couldn't have built so soon without that assistance.



Missionaries on furlough

Rev. and Mrs. Connely J. Dyrud will be home on furlough from Brazil in early July. They look forward to visiting and fellowshiping with many at Bible Camps and WMF rallies and in local churches.

After July 1 their address will be:
Rev. and Mrs. Connely J. Dyrud
Route 2

Thief River Falls, Minn. 56701

Laymen to meet

Norden Lutheran Church, west of Thief River Falls on Hwy. 1, will be the site of the June meeting of the Northern Minnesota Lutheran Laymen's Society on June 28 at 2:30 p.m. The text for discussion will be Romans 1.

Cookbooks available from Greenbush

United Lutheran WMF cookbooks are available by sending \$4.75, postage paid, to *Mrs. Donald Christianson*, Rt. 2, Box 117, Greenbush, Minn. 56726.

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

Willmar

Thelma Farness, 52, Apr. 8, Zion Spicer

Andrew Lind, 72, Apr. 15, Green Lake
Marius C. Gunderson, 93, May 9, Green Lake

Newfolden

Andor Hjelle, 77, Apr. 21, Westaker



Schools' graduation services held

Thirty-three AFLBS seniors received diplomas on May 22 during graduation services. Two AFLTS men graduated. (Pictured) Pastor and Mrs. Dyrud were honored by the seminarians and their wives during the reception. (Left picture) Amy Sletten, Faith, S. Dak., was congratulated by Pastors Gray and Snipstead.

LAKE REGION—S. DAK.

Buffalo Lake WMF hosted the spring rally for the Lake Region parish—Ortley-Wallace ladies on May 13. The theme verse was John 6:35: "I am the Bread of Life." Mrs. Richard Grorud of Grenville, S. Dak., gave a challenging message. Seventy-eight guests were registered.

Pray for our evangelist

Greenbush, Minn.

Oiland, Lutheran Church
June 7-11 (have been held)
Gustav Nordvall, lay pastor

Osceola, Wis.

Luther League Federation Convention
July 7-12

At the ARC

Paynesville, Minn.

LEM Camp

July 13-18

Evening speaker

Burton, O.

LEM Camp

Aug. 15-22

Pastor Kenneth Pentti, our evangelist-youth worker, faces a heavy schedule of meetings this fall. Pray for him in these summer appointments and as he visits many churches from September and on. Pray for a harvest of souls through this evangelism ministry.

ASSOCIATION OF FREE LUTHERAN CONGREGATIONS

3110 East Medicine Lake Boulevard

Minneapolis, Minnesota 55441

BUDGET RECEIPTS

Feb. 1 - April 30

Fund	Total Budget	Received to Date	% of Total (Ideal 25%)
General Fund	\$135,980.00	\$ 31,459.54	11%
Schools			
AFLTS	82,834.00	11,839.48	14
AFLBS	143,312.00	24,837.16	17
Home Missions	197,200.00	29,831.99	15
World Missions	218,880.00	24,983.04	11
Praise Program	31,000.00	4,695.95	15
TOTAL	\$809,206.00	\$127,647.16	16%
1980/81	\$582,237.00	\$ 87,710.74	15%

Itasca church welcomes visitors

If you, your family or friends are in the Itasca State Park area of Minnesota this summer, we welcome you to visit our church, Sell Lake Lutheran (AFLC), on Sunday mornings. Dennis O'Neil is the pastor (Tel. 218-785-2262).

Our worship schedule:

1st, 3rd and 5th Sundays, 8:00 a.m.

2nd and 4th Sundays, 11:15 a.m.

On June 28th, worship with us at Bethany Bible Camp on Grace Lake, east of Bemidji.

Sell Lake is located four miles north of the north entrance to Itasca Park on County Road 2. For further information call Pastor O'Neil or 266-3481 daytime, 266-3309 evenings in Itasca area.

Author of PURGED will speak

Rev. Gerald F. Mundfrom, Osceola, Wis., author of the book *Purged*, in which he tells of his experiences with mental depression, is available for speaking on the subject of depression and how to help others who are going through that experience. He will also speak on Bible subjects as desired. He may be contacted at Rt. 1, Box 503, Osceola, Wis. 54020. Telephone: (715) 294-2052.

Pukwana—S. Dak.

St. Olaf Lutheran Ladies Aid hosted the WMF Spring Rally for the Pukwana, S. Dak., parish and friends on April 25. The theme was Prayer. Pastor Philip Featherstone gave the morning Bible study based on James 4:2, and Mrs. Allen Olivier was the afternoon speaker. The singspiration, led by Alta Dozark, was made up of songs and related Scriptures that were titled "Umbrella Prayers," bringing blessings of faith, trust, confidence and submission. With prayer, special music, a luncheon and Christian fellowship, it was a day of inspiration to all who attended.

Mrs. Philip Featherstone

Review of spring rallies

Bluegrass—S.W. Central Minn.

Mrs. Norman Haugen, Murdock, led the morning Bible study on the theme "Joy in Service," at the Southwest Central Minnesota District WMF Spring Rally, May 5, at Bluegrass, Minnesota. Pastor Roger Krueger of Granite Falls was the afternoon speaker. Mrs. Harlow Berg of Sunburg and Mrs. Forrest Swenson, Fergus Falls, were devotional leaders. Music was provided by Mrs. Harold Erickson, Mrs. Terry Nash, and the District choir. One hundred forty-nine women were registered.

Wannaska—N.W. Minn.

The Northwestern Minnesota District WMF Rally was hosted by Golden Valley WMF of Wannaska, April 11, at the Wannaska School. The theme was "New Life in Christ." Pastor and Mrs. George Knapp of Brazil spoke morning and afternoon. Mrs. Orin Green and Mrs. Elaine Ose were the devotional leaders. Special music was provided by Mrs. David Nikunun, Mrs. Jerome Nikunen, Mrs. Wm. Goodman, and the Gospelairs of Roseau. Mrs. Eugene Enderlein gave an interesting report on their trip to Brazil. One hundred fourteen ladies were present.

Drummond—Lake Superior

The Spring Rally of the Lake Superior District WMF was hosted by Drummond Lutheran Church at Drummond, Wis., April 25, with 42 ladies present. "Perseverance" was the theme, based on Eph. 6:18-19, that Mrs. Albert Iwasko of Cloquet, Minn., used for her Bible study. Myrna Forbrag of Cloquet gave a chalk talk on the theme "Rally around the flag." Music was provided by Rachel Tuura and Christine Hanson.

Aili Siltanen, Sec.

Astoria—West Coast

The West Coast District WMF Spring Rally met May 12, in Astoria, Oregon. The theme was "Lord, Teach Us to Pray." District President Mrs. Alvin Grothe led the prayer service after which Viola Johnson extended the welcome. Mrs. Petra Lee of Everett, Washington, led the morning devotions which were followed by the special music by Pastor Charles Kvanvig of Vancouver. A ladies quartet from Astoria sang in the afternoon. Pastor and Mrs. George Knapp from Brazil were the guest speakers. The afternoon devotions were led by Marilyn Pederson of Ferndale.

Solveig Hays, Sec.

Ontanogen—Michigan

Redeemer Lutheran Church of Ontanogan was host to the WMF Spring Rally on Saturday, May 2. Forty-seven were in attendance and the theme was "There Shall Be Showers of Blessing." Fern Peterson welcomed us and Shirley Keranen led in devotions. Pastor James Fugelberg led the Bible study based on Ezekiel 34:26.

Maryann Blake opened the afternoon session with devotions. Ellen Maki of Wakefield was the guest speaker.

Gladys Schauland, Sec.

Hatton—Eastern N. Dak.

The Eastern North Dakota WMF Spring Rally met in Hatton, N. Dak., at Zoar Lutheran Church with 150 people registered. Mrs. Michael Brandt of Amery, Wis., was the guest speaker and she also was the soloist.

Mrs. Vernon Russum, Sec.

Honorary memberships and Cradle Roll news

Minneapolis

At a recent mother-daughter luncheon at Faith Lutheran, Inez Hempel and Lillian Nordin were honored.

Kalispell

Stillwater Lutheran held its first cradle roll program. Kris Bruninga is the secretary.

Ferndale

Twenty-one children were present at a recent cradle roll program at Triumph Lutheran. Pictured are new members: Vonda PolinSus, Carrie Egerdal, Kara Chervenock and Esther Palmer.



AAL awards grant to AMBASSADORS

Aid Association for Lutherans, a fraternal insurance company, has informed Association Free Lutheran Bible School of the approval of an application for funding a musical teaching-preaching program this summer. The application was made by the Director of Music at AFLBS, Donald Rodvold, who is the project director.

The program which won approval is called "Lutheran Heritage in Music." It is a combination of music and speech tracing our Lutheran lineage from the Reformation in Europe to here and now. The program will follow the various ethnic tracks of the Association of Free Lutheran Congregations constituency (principally Norwegian, Swedish, Finnish and Danish) and be adaptable to various congregations.

The program will have 12-14 musical examples, three or four to be sung corporately with the congregation and ten or 12 by the ensemble. These will be interspersed with meaningful information about the music and poetry, its inspiration and author/composer, bringing them back to life and adding greater dimensions to ours.

The goal is to aid the congregations' insight into Lutheran evangelical hym-

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nody, both traditional and contemporary, and to illustrate by demonstration and explanation some of its values, enhancing our credal uniqueness and spiritual identity, and to foster an ethnic keenness and appreciation.

The \$8,000 grant will provide a modest remuneration for the ensemble

members, reimburse to AFLBS the salary paid to the project director while he has prepared the program, and cover travel expenses.

Watch for local announcements concerning the visit of the Ambassadors to your area.

—Corr.

Thy Kingdom Come

"So teach us to number out days,
That we may get us a heart of wisdom"
(Psalm 90:12).

It is not right to forget days that have passed. Contrariwise we ought to remember the times that are no more, the roads we traveled, and what we have lived through. The sins we committed and that God has forgiven, we should not drag around, but we should remember the many times that God has been gracious to us, and how He has guided and followed us among the hidden reefs in storm and darkness.

I think it is especially profitable to look back on life after one is somewhat advanced in years. Which is not saying that youth should neglect an occasion-

al examination of the years that have fled, but he who is older sees more clearly and is able to pass a fairer judgment. In autumn the air is clearest and cleanest not only in nature but also in human life. And the blessedness of this backward look is that much of what we encountered, and which we at that time considered punishment and misfortune, we now see was full of God's Father-care. Where we thought ourselves rejected by God, there His love and grace now shine upon us. We also see that that which cost us the most in struggle and tears, gave us also life's greatest riches.

The Christian harvests this wisdom for his heart when he lets God teach him to number his days. And it is such

people that become more and more thankful the longer they live. But in that case it is good to be old, too.

But I will tell, while I am living,
His goodness forth with every
breath,
And greet each morning with
thanksgiving,
Until my heart is still in death.
Nay, when at last my lips grow
cold,
His praise shall in my sighs be told.

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A WISE HEART