

The Lutheran Ambassador

STEWARDSHIP

Personal Budget Nov. '79

Expenditures

Income

Free Lutheran Church - \$

Misc

November 1979

Housing

Utilities

Food

Car reg

gas

Insurance

Medical

Dentist

Clothing

entertainment

Personal Devotions - cont. in ACTS

Monday

Call Mrs. Smith - remind
Prepare Bible Study

Tuesday

Election Day

Council meet 7:30

Wednesday

Mid-week prayer - 7:15

Thursday

Visitation 7pm

Friday

Family Night

Let each one do
just as he has
purposed in his heart;
not grudgingly
or under compulsion,
for God loves
a cheerful giver.
And God is able to
make all grace
abound to you,
that always having
all sufficiency in
everything,
you may have an
abundance
for every good deed;
II Cor. 9:7-8 (NAS)

MEDITATION MOMENTS

Continue in Him

Read I John 2:28-3:3

The word abide carries several meanings. It could mean to tarry, to dwell, to endure, to continue and to stand firm. In Scripture it certainly means to dwell in Christ, to be at home with Him. We must abide in Christ or we are nothing, have nothing and can do nothing. Only through Him can we do all things. A union with Christ saves us. As we abide or continue in Jesus, what are the characteristics of a Christian?

1. *Absolute dependence on Him.* Why shouldn't we have dependence on Him? God is a God of love. All genuine love is from God. Sin or Satan cannot produce love. God has given us a glorious promise where we can have the love of God. God sent His Son. He went to the cross. He is our resurrected Savior. God wants to bestow His love on every one of us. He wants us to live victoriously. He wants to make us sons of God. The love of God should want to make us pray, "Lord, make me clean. Forgive me my sin." If we have absolute dependence on God we will have separation from the things of the world. We will have a desire for the things of God. We will have fellowship with Christians. We will have love for the brethren. There will be obedience to God. We will want to please God.

Have you experienced this love to God where you are totally dependent upon Him? Many a reader today has made those confirmation vows. We have made other promises to God. Are we really obedient to Him? Complete dependence on Him will give us a love for the Word of God. We will be in prayer to Him. Prayer is a Christian's vital breath. One of the greatest callings God can give is to pray. Let us pray for one another.

2. *Confessing Jesus Christ to others.* "Witness" means martyr. Are we willing to really stand up for Christ? Every Christian is a missionary. We never know how difficult it will be in the end times of the world. We may have great persecution. Christians have experienced and are experiencing persecution in many parts of the world for their stand for Christ. My wife and I have always agreed that no matter what persecution comes we will always stand up for Christ. A fish that just floats on top of the water is dead. If we are just floating along and have no desire to win a soul for Christ, there is something wrong. We are bought with a price. If you are a businessman, farmer, doctor, pastor, housewife or whatever God has called you to be—get active in the ministry of witnessing for Him. We see the false cults today. They have so much zeal. We have the

true God. We should be overflowing with love and compassion for souls today. The Old Testament prophets, as well as the New Testament disciples, had a great urge to give the Word of God out. It really comes down to one thing. What are the priorities in our life. What is first? Is it Jesus? Satan is coming on stronger than ever. We need to live a holy life. There can be no compromising.

3. *Walking in daily fellowship with Him so we are ready to meet Him.* This is a mark of a Christian. Are you looking forward to meeting Jesus face to face? I hope that you will never be ashamed to meet Christ. "Now we see but a poor reflection; then we shall see face to face" (I Corinthians 13:12). "And I—in righteousness I will see Your face; when I awake, I will be satisfied with seeing Your likeness" (Psalm 17:15). "You have made known to me the path of life; You will fill me with joy in Your presence, with eternal pleasures at Your right hand" (Psalm 16:11). (All from the NIV.)

Each day we live may we live for Jesus. May there be a continual coming to Him each day and asking of Him for forgiveness. Let us become more like Christ in our daily walk. Praise God we have an eternal home waiting for us.

—Leslie Galland

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“The Holy Spirit has been sent by God to teach and to give us understanding so that we can let the truth mold our lives.”

*by Rev. Gerald F. Mundfrom,
Nogales, Ariz.*

We may be tempted to think that since we are not scholars of the Greek and Hebrew languages (in which the Bible was originally written) that we cannot very well interpret Scripture. And though a knowledge of these languages will be helpful, this is not the first requisite in understanding what God is saying through His Word. More important than a knowledge of these languages is a sincere desire to know truth, as the following Bible passages will indicate:

“If any of you lack wisdom, let him

ask of God, that giveth to *all men* liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him” (James 1:5).

“My son, if thou wilt receive my words, and hide my commandments with thee; So that thou incline thine ear unto wisdom, and apply thine heart to understanding; If Yea, if thou criest after knowledge and liftest up thy voice for understanding; If thou seekest her as silver, and searchest for her as for hid treasures; Then shalt thou understand the fear of the Lord, and find the knowledge of God” (Proverbs 2:1-5).

“Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be

opened unto you” (Matthew 7:7).

The Holy Spirit has been sent by God to teach and to give us understanding so that we can let the truth mold our lives. We can depend on the Holy Spirit to do His job well when we sincerely desire to know the truth He has to teach.

Realizing this, we can see that a Hebrew or Greek Bible scholar is capable of misinterpreting Scripture and missing the truth, if his heart is not right with God. It was these scholars who were instrumental in introducing liberal theology into seminaries and later into many of our churches. All I am saying is that they are not infallible.

HOW SHALL WE INTERPRET SCRIPTURE?

Helps on interpretation

1. Learn to know your Bible as a whole. A single verse or portion of Scripture should not be interpreted to contradict the message the Bible gives as a whole. This also applies to individual books of the Bible. Learn the central themes and main emphasis of a book before interpreting a particular portion.
2. Avoid picking portions of Scripture from all over the Bible and patching them together to form a single doctrine. It is possible to make the Bible say whatever we want it to say when we use this method and logic.
3. Realize that no verse or portion of Scripture is complete in itself and in order to understand it more fully, more light from the rest of

the Bible or other Scripture passages is needed.

We are to assume that the Bible does not contradict itself. If it seems to, it is because of our lack of understanding the Bible as a whole. In such cases, it is not for us to pick the passage and interpretation which appeals to us (rejecting the “contradictory” passage), but to seek for an interpretation that would engulf both passages. Again, a greater knowledge of the Bible as a whole will help us to see how all Bible truths relate to each other and do not contradict each other. Sometimes there is a truth given with an exception. What seems to be a contradiction could be that exception.

4. Beware of those interpretations

which tear down the Christian and the church morally and spiritually. Beware of those interpretations which are very permissive and which condone some sin. The correct interpretation will build up the Christian and the church, making them more Christ-like.

5. The interpretation should make sense to us and appeal to our Christian sense of reasoning. But beware of letting your own desires and inclinations be a hindrance in allowing the Holy Spirit to reveal the truth to you. We are to accept what the Bible says in faith, but not blindly. If a certain interpretation seems unreasonable, a further, deeper study is in order.
6. Do not let every new thought or doctrine (no matter how appealing

Interpretation . . .

it may be) throw you from what you believe at present. "He that wavereth is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed. For let not that man think that he shall receive anything of the Lord. A double-minded man is unstable in all his ways" (James 1:6b, 7 and 8).

At the same time, do not be so narrow-minded that you are unwilling to be further enlightened as truth is revealed to you.

7. Beware of all interpretations which evade the cross of the Christian and picture the Christian walk as one joyous picnic. Many have stumbled on this, only to find that this is not the truth. It has left them very confused.
8. We are not to interpret Scripture according to our experience, but to let Scripture interpret our experience. A spiritual experience will more vividly impress upon us the truth of some Biblical statement. However, the devil likes to get into this and cause us to believe something contrary to that which God has intended we believe. Many there are who misinterpret their experiences. How do we know this? Because their resulting doctrine is contrary to the truth of Scripture.
9. Never conclude that you have all the light there is on a certain doctrinal truth. Jesus' will for us is that we continue to learn and be enlightened. We must leave ourselves open to whatever more the Holy Spirit would will to teach us.
10. If you do not understand a certain portion of Scripture or doctrinal truth, do not conclude that it is not understandable. We may be too immature to comprehend it fully at the present time. Pray that some day you might become more

enlightened. There is no Scripture which has not been given for our enlightenment.

Walk by faith here on earth. However, in heaven we will do away with faith, for then we will see and understand all things clearly. But even now God wills that we move and work toward that time when we will know all things. This is Christian growth (I Corinthians 13:9-13).

God has no secrets that He would willfully withhold from us. It is only our immaturity that prevents us from fully understanding all truth at the present. We need to grow as Christians in order to understand more fully and it is a greater understanding of Scripture that causes us to grow. We should desire this growth.

11. Read and study your Bible prayerfully, ever letting the Holy Spirit give you new insights into truth as you apply yourself in this way.

Our Bible can be compared to a large sturdy tree. The twig—like Bible verses, when read out of context, are very flexible and can easily be bent in any direction. However, the truth, the Bible in its completeness, is immovable and unbendable.

It is possible to pick certain verses or portions of Scripture that appeal to us and read them out of context, making them say what we want them to say. But we cannot do this with the whole Bible. It never changes in what it has to say to us.

It was never God's intent that we feed our souls on certain pet verses or portions of Scripture, but on the whole Bible—"Every Word which proceedeth from the mouth of God" (Matthew 4:4). Let every word which we seek to interpret fall in line with the truth of the whole Bible.

Experience of Christ and the Bible

At one time—mostly in my college days—I was full of doubt. There were two objects of my rather vehement skepticism—the Bible and Jesus Christ. I could not accept the Bible as true, and I could not believe that a humble Galileean, who lived many centuries ago, was the Redeemer of the world. But on that bright morning when the light of the Sun of Righteousness beamed with heavenly radiance into my soul, I knew two things by a direct and unmistakable experience—first, that Christ is the Redeemer of the world; second, that the Bible is the true and inspired Word of God. Those two outstanding facts were impinged upon my consciousness as of parallel lucidity and equal value.

—L. S. Keyser

AFLC Missionaries

Cindy Alpert

David and Janet Abel

Connely and Carolyn Dyrud
at

Caixa Postal 44
87300 Campo Mourao, Parana
Brazil, South America

John and Ruby Abel
Rua Padre Agostinho, 653 Apt 5
Curitiba, Parana 80,000
Brazil, South America

George and Helen Knapp

Caixa Postal 31

78.950 Vilhena

Territorio de Rondonia

Brazil, South America

Pastor Samuel Flores

Apartado Postal 756

Leon, Gto., Mexico

Priscilla Wold

Abercrombie

North Dakota 58001

"The twig—like Bible verses, when read out of context, are very flexible and can easily be bent in any direction. However, the truth, the Bible in its completeness, is immovable and unbendable."

Keeping your missionary's mailbox full

by Marion Duckworth

Why not make a missionary pledge that will cost only pennies each week but that will be of inestimable value?

When our family left the East Coast for a home mission field in the Pacific Northwest, 3000 miles away, many pledged financial support, promised to pray and asked for our address so that they could write to us.

On our first visit home, one friend's comment was typical: "We wait for each prayer letter that you send and pray every day for your requests. I know that I don't write often—but I don't even write to my own mother."

Missionaries need three-point support: the first two—giving and praying—help get the worker to his field and keep him there. By these means, believers work together to do God's work. The third kind of support—a well-written letter—communicates to the missionary the fact that he is remembered and cared about.

In addition to praying and giving, why not make a Faith-Promise to God to write consistently to at least one missionary for the next year.

It is not necessary to know him personally. A mutual relationship with Jesus Christ is common ground for communication. Each letter will be meaningful, and it will meet his need, if it says, "I care about you. I am interested enough in you to write. I care about the work you are doing and I'm praying for you. We are brothers and sisters in Jesus Christ."

If you pledge to write to a missionary whom you don't know personally, introduce yourself and your family, and

make your mutual love for God the common denominator. Give a flavor of life at home, relate an especially inspirational message that you have heard, give news of God's work in your area and describe an amusing or tender incident. But do not limit your letters to that. Share your own experiences with the Lord, and express how faith is working in your life.

During our years as home missionaries, one woman kept letters in our mailbox. Affluent, she praised God for His goodness. When her husband was taken suddenly by death she reavowed her faith in God. When she faced financial failure and, at an age when most people are fondly eyeing retirement, she had to go to work, her letters were still filled with praise for the living God.

Coupled with the assurance that you are praying specifically for each request from the missionary, letters in which you share your own faith have priority. Communications in which you praise God for specific answers to prayer can be spiritually uplifting, even on paper via airmail. Missionaries become discouraged and tired; they wage spiritual battles. Your letter may be just the thing that God will use to lift them. Occasionally include a selection from a magazine article or a quotation from a book that you have found rich in truth.

Count the cost. A Faith-Promise to write consistently to at least one missionary in order to communicate, "I care about you," will require self-discipline and sacrifice. Each letter represents a ministry for God, and

viewing it this way will give it priority. As a missionary to Malaysia said, "The trip to the mailbox is the highlight of the day." Set aside time to think each letter through. Store up items that will be interesting to your correspondent for that next letter.

Pay a visit to the library and read about his country, its climate, the people, local customs and religions. What problems must the missionary face as a result of these things? Such basic information will make it easier to relate to him.

Give understanding and compassion, not hollow praise. Give honesty about your own discovery of faith, not empty clichés. Give faithfulness and consistency. Remember that your correspondence may be nearly one-sided. Often a form letter is the only reply that a missionary can manage.

Your commitment can be renewed on an annual basis. Perhaps you will want to give more of your time to this ministry. After a year of learning to be a three-point missionary supporter, it will be easier to repeat the promise to write, for it will have done something significant for you.

The mission field, instead of being a mysterious "other world," will be brought closer; you will be able to pray more intelligently and will be reminded to pray more frequently. And because of your personal involvement, the word "co-laborer" will become a meaningful term.

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The prolific hymn writer

Nikolai Fredrik Severin Grundtvig

by Arnfinn Stene,
Worthing, S. Dak.

This famous hymn writer was born September 8, 1783, in Udby, Denmark. I am not going to write a detailed biography on him, but rather my own opinion and experience and joy in singing his many hymns.

Singing hymns in church, school, and at every other chance has been one of my dearest experience. My thoughts go back to my childhood in Norway, especially during Christmas, when we walked around the Christmas tree singing hour after hour. One of Grundtvig's most descriptive hymns is "O, How Beautiful the Sky." I am thankful to God that He put me in the environment He did, so I could benefit personally from so many things, especially from singing and digesting the thoughts behind the words in this hymn. I don't know how many verses there were originally (seven for sure), but most hymnaries have five. The most remarkable fact about this hymn is that the point Grundtvig wants to make comes in the very last verse, and

he prepares us in the preceding verses so we are ready for it.

We could write untold impressions of Grundtvig's hymns. Take, for instance, "Built on the Rock the Church Doth Stand." There is enough in the first two verses alone to ponder, but Grundtvig used seven verses in this hymn also.

To mention all of Grundtvig's hymns would take a lot of space, but I must, however, touch on one more, "O Day Full of Grace Which We Behold." This hymn was written in 1826 for the 1000 year anniversary of Christianity in Denmark. Every day of anybody's life is a day of grace, but in the waning years of our lives that is more apparent than ever.

When we study the origin of our hymns, we soon learn that they came from the trials and tribulations of the authors and the times in which they lived. Grundtvig was no exception. As a pastor he had difficulty in getting a church where he could proclaim his message. His sermons always dealt with the contrast of faith and unbelief, between the world and the church. He was called a fanatic and one by one the churches were denied him. Finally, only one church was open to him, where he preached in the evenings. Grundtvig, like Hans Nielsen Hauge, was taken to court for his doctrinal views, was found guilty, and had to pay a fine.

In 1839 Grundtvig became pastor in Vartou and gathered a large congregation, which, through Christian living and congregational singing, had a decisive influence upon the development of the church. In 1861, when he celebrated his golden jubilee as a pastor, he was given the title of bishop. Grundtvig died in September, 1872, at the age of 89. His last sermon was delivered the day before his death.

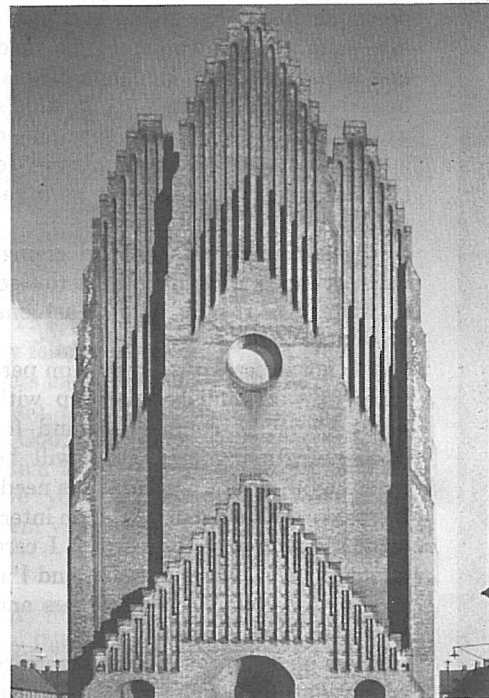
In 1968 my wife and I visited Copenhagen, where my nephew lives. Since we had only one day there, he asked what we especially wanted to see. As far as we were concerned, it was the Grundtvig church. What a rewarding experience it was to see this magnificent cathedral and then to stop to realize that the man in whose memory this church was built had for years of his life no church at all in which to proclaim his message.

(Ed. Note: N. F. S. Grundtvig wrote more *Concordia Hymnal* songs than any other person, crowned by his majestic "God's Word is Our Great Heritage.")



The organ in the Grundtvig Church

*God's Word is our great
heritage,
And shall be ours forever;
To spread its light from age to
age
Shall be our chief endeavor;
Through life it guides our way,
In death it is our stay,
Lord grant, while worlds endure,
We keep its teaching pure,
Throughout all generations.*



The Grundtvig Church



A PAGE FOR CHILDREN

Happy Acres



A LESSON FOR ANN

The sun shone brightly, promising a beautiful day for the parade at Woodbridge. Ann loved parades—any kind—and this one was to be a special Kiddie Parade. The children of Woodbridge were to dress in costumes. The girls would be pushing decorated doll buggies. The boys would have decorated bicycles, coaster wagons and pedal cars. Some would lead their pets, and the pets would have costumes, too!

Now Mom was calling, "Ann, have you started cleaning the eggs? We must have them all ready to take with us when we go to Woodbridge."

To go down to the basement on a sunshiny day and clean and pack eggs just did not appeal to Ann one whit. She would be glad when Melissa was old enough to take her turn at the egg chores.

"Yes, Mom," Ann answered now. "I'll get at the eggs soon."

There was plenty of time to do the egg chores, Ann decided, after a glance at her bedroom clock. It would be three hours before they would leave for Woodbridge. She decided she would read one chapter in her new book before she went down to the egg chores.

The new book of adventure proved especially interesting. Ann read two chapters before she took another look at the clock. Then she scurried to the basement. She had been working there only a short time when Mom called, "Time to get dressed for town, Ann!"

"But I haven't finished with the eggs yet," answered Ann, alarmed. She could see there were at least twice as many eggs left to clean and pack.

Mom looked down the basement. "Why, Ann! Are you still packing eggs? Why, whatever has taken you so long this time?"

Ann flushed. "Oh, I just got started a little while ago."

Mom threw up her hands. "The parade starts in just an hour. The rest of us have finished our work, and we have begun to get dressed. But we can't go until these eggs are ready to go with us."

Ann hurried. But hurrying and packing eggs did not go well together. She squeezed one thin-shelled egg too hard and so it cracked and spilled over her hand and into the packing crate. She dropped another egg to the floor and it splattered over her shoes and socks. She was in tears when Mark and Stephen, in their dress-up clothes, bounded down to help her.

Evidently, Mom had cautioned the boys not to scold Ann for being so pokey about her job, but they scolded her plenty with their eyes. When they had finished, Ann jumped up to wash and change clothes while Stephen and Mark impatiently carried the egg cases out to the car trunk.

They brought the eggs to the creamery in their own little village, then drove on to Woodbridge. When they reached the main street of Woodbridge, they spied only a few decorated bicycles and children showing off gay costumes. The parade, they learned, had just ended.

"Too late, of course," grumbled Mark. "All because Ann didn't tend to her egg business on time."

Ann burst into tears. It was bad enough to miss the Kiddie Parade without being scolded by Mark. But

worst of all was to realize that because she had failed in her responsibility, the whole family had missed the fun.

"We got our work done on time," said Mark. "It isn't fair that we should all miss the parade."

"No," replied Mom, "it isn't fair. But that's the way things work out. When one person in the family fails to do his part, things just go wrong for the whole family. 'For none of us liveth to himself'" (Rom. 14:7).

MEMORY VERSE: Whatever your task, work heartily, as serving the Lord and not men. Colossians 3:23 (RSV)
FAMILY DISCUSSION

1. Ann did not enjoy her egg cleaning and packing chores. Is that the way it is with most of us—that we have some chores or jobs to do that we may not enjoy doing? What does Colossians 3:23 say about our work?
2. In our house, what are the daily responsibilities that each one of us has?
3. Are some of us able to take more responsibilities?
4. In a nation-wide survey some years ago, it was found that there is one thing that employers always look for in the man or woman, the boy or girl, they want to hire for a job. That one thing is responsibility. How do we learn responsibility?

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Memory Verse

Whatever your task, work heartily, as serving the Lord and not men.

Colossians 3:23 (RSV)



Dean Moland watched Keith Quanbeck, McVille, N. Dak., present a gift to honor Orpha Flaten for her tenth year of AFLBS service.

Coming home to the family

by Arlin Aasness

To be a member of the body of Christ is a joy that only the body of believers who have accepted Christ's salvation and lifestyle can share. There is an elation, not apart from that special joy, which the family of AFLBS students and alumni experience together. This elation consists of a love we have in common for Jesus Christ and a pride we have in the Christian heritage of our school. From this, a love for each other has sprouted and grown, rooted deep in our hearts. For this reason we have a celebration: Homecoming 1979, October 5-7.

The opening service, which was led by Mark Antal (1974), was a praise celebration in which selected members of the 1969 and 1974 classes shared. Their words were encouraging:

"The Lord calls us to be faithful, not successful." Arley Hartsoch (1969)

"God will not lead you where His grace cannot keep you." Jeff Kamp-haugh (1974)

"For of His fulness we have all received, and grace upon grace." (Jn. 1:16) Karen Kvistero (1979)

"Delight thyself also in the Lord; and He shall give thee the desires of thine heart." (Ps. 37:4) Diane Moland (1974)

"As you therefore have received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him." (Col. 2:6) Kathy Engevik (1974)

Mr. Don Rodvold directed the '74 choirs.

Yes, "to God be the glory, great things he has done" in the lives of the alumni. Their lives are an example to all of us.

Again this year we enjoyed the delicious ice cream social which the faculty and staff provided and served. Little did Orpha Flaten know that this event would double as her birthday party and a celebration for her ten years of service as secretary at the Bible school. During this time of service, each of the students have come to love her so dearly because of her blooming Christian personality. Yes, we love Orpha and praise God for the privilege of knowing her.

The Saturday morning hours were, for some of us, a chance to sleep in after a late night. But for the alumni, it was a time for Big Business. Pastor Moland addressed the alumni after which the annual business meeting of the alumni was conducted.

AFLBS students and alumni faced each other in a duel for the championship of the annual Homecoming football game. The first points in the game were made by junior Mark Molstre, running 55 yards. Mark's 14 points and senior Don Grothe's 6 were enough to defeat the alumni. Alumni quarterbacks Jim Peterson and Ivar Berge discovered passing was the best way to move the ball. Dan Mundfrom's two touchdown catches provided the only

scores for the alumni.

With anticipation, we waited for the evening in which we would receive an abundant feast, both physically and spiritually. The Jolly Troll provided a warm Scandinavian atmosphere and delicious smorgasbord.

We had the privilege of hearing as speaker, Mr. Tommy Johnson, former pitcher for the Minnesota Twins. Tommy shared with us his joy in serving the Lord in the sports world. God has been using him as a witness and as an example to fellow ballplayers. Tommy related to us how God has strengthened him through trials of physical affliction. God is using Tommy in blessing others, as he did us, at this festive occasion.

Sunday morning worship was a time of beautiful fellowship. Together we praised God through hymns, anthems, and the celebration of the sacrament of the Lord's Supper after a sermon on "child-like faith" by Pastor Jay Erickson.

Looking back on the weekend, we can see the theme emphasized and re-emphasized. It becomes a daily challenge to all of us. I Timothy 6:12, "Fight the good fight of faith; take hold of the eternal life to which you were called, and you made the good confession in the presence of many witnesses."



editorials

COMMENTS ON A POPE'S VISIT

What we wrote recently about the visit of Pope John Paul II to America was written in anticipation of his coming. Now we can write after the event and make some observations.

First some favorable comments. He certainly took the country by storm. What a charismatic figure, using that word in the sense of "attractive, someone to whom one is drawn to respond in affection." No one has come along in quite the same way since the days of John and Robert Kennedy. Pope John Paul II made friends for the Roman Catholic Church.

He showed himself a friend of children, of young people, of all ages. He bore himself with a slight stoop of the shoulders, bespeaking a personal humility. His speeches were simple yet carrying a gravity and earnestness that made one listen.

Protestants, too, could identify with and appreciate his emphasis on the dignity of man, the call for political freedom around the world and the conservation of natural resources, not least of the land, and the challenge to live morally, upright lives.

Conservatively-minded Protestants can be grateful for his opposition to abortion on demand, euthanasia and homosexual acts. While it doesn't matter to us, in one sense, we can applaud his insistence that his church will never ordain women as priests because it strengthens those of us who don't believe in the ordination of women as pastors. And we can commend his courage in upholding what is among not a few an unpopular doctrine, the celibacy of priests.

As his stay drew to a close it became more and more evident that deep divisions do indeed exist in the RCC. In spite of his own great personal popularity, if he continues to hold to these things mentioned here, and to oppose artificial contraception, his papacy will be strained to the limit to resist the call for changes which will become more strident in the 20-year reign which he could reasonably expect to have. He is, figuratively, a man atop a barrel of tigers.

Now, some unfavorable comments. What about the outpouring of adulation to this man, Pope John Paul II? It was pretty heady stuff for a human being to receive, and after all he is that. We came away with the feeling that we are glad that no person in the AFLC, the Lutheran Church, the Protestant Church is or can be the object of such attention, yes, even worship, as the Pope. We like it better our way. It's easier then, to focus on the Lordship of Jesus Christ.

The old problem of the papacy itself still remains for the Protestant. It is an office we don't accept. We can accept it as the leadership of the Roman Catholic Church, but not for the whole Christian Church on earth. To say that he is *the* vicar of Christ on earth is quite preposterous. Therefore, it is difficult to appreciate the man who can take that title unto himself and to take him seriously. We hope that our Roman Catholic friends can understand that.

Without having access to all that he said while in Ireland and here, it is safe to say that many of the old irritants with his church remain, including the worship of Mary and the invocation of the saints. And those, if nothing else, touch on our doctrine of justification by faith alone and grace alone and that other foundation stone, the Word alone normative for faith and life.

Finally, we state again that television spends an awful lot of time covering events associated with the papacy. We suppose that the argument is that Protestants and other "religions" have no one or nothing equally newsworthy. That may be true, but is this present lop-sided approach fair to all of us who aren't Catholics? We don't think that it is.

A TRUST FROM THEE

From memory and almost unthinkingly we sing each Sunday: "We give Thee but Thine own, whate'er the gift may be: all that we have is Thine alone, a trust, O Lord, from Thee." The words are good and we trust that the Lord will accept our intentions even though we can't keep our thoughts on what we're singing.

In our Sunday offering we are sharing some of what we control with God's work. Like Ananias and Sapphira, before we give it it is our own and at our disposal. And what ends up in the offering envelope is by our choice.

And yet, as the song says, all that we have belongs to God ultimately and is a trust from Him. Therefore, we are under real obligation not only to share with Him generously but to use what we keep for ourselves wisely and unselfishly. Of course, the Lord will have to decide whether or not we live unselfishly in this world. It depends what income we make, for one thing.

How fine a car, TV and house are we entitled to have? What recreational equipment and leisure-time facilities are right for us? How well should we dress? Questions that each Christian will have to decide before the Lord.

Giving will have to be determined individually, too. Tithing has been held before us as a goal. Now some say that one only begins to give when it is beyond the tithe or tenth. Those who tithe must not become proud that they do so. Certainly giving should be proportionate, "as he may prosper" (I Corinthians 16:2).

There is a joy in sharing generously with the Lord's work. As we sing the offering response, may there be a sense of gladness in being able to be along. Let us think of lives that will be touched for Christ because we gave.

The second stanza of that offering hymn is this: "May be Thy bounties thus as stewards true receive, and gladly as Thou blestest us, to Thee our first-fruits give." Let us try to sound that note of gladness whenever we sing following the giving of our offerings to the Lord.

Railroad derailment interrupts West Coast rally

Early on September 25, the day of the West Coast District Women's Missionary Federation fall rally, a railroad tank car filled with 33,000 gallons of potentially explosive liquid propane gas derailed in the middle of Everett, Wash., host city to the rally. As a precautionary measure, 54 square blocks were to be evacuated. Business places and schools were closed, temporary shelters provided and hospitals were made ready to deal with injuries in case of an explosion.

At first we were of the opinion that Calvary Lutheran Church was not included in the danger zone, so we proceeded with the program. Registration and the coffee hour were over and we had just completed our prayer session when Pastor Leslie Galland of Calvary announced that we had to evacuate *immediately*. He informed us that we were moving out to Elim Lutheran in Lake Stevens.

Pandemonium reigned for a while as we hurriedly "dumped" food, table cloths, flowers, utensils, music, children, etc., in various cars, making last minute telephone calls, wondering which streets would be open for travel, Pastor Galland reminding us that we had "two minutes to get out."

By 11 o'clock we were quietly and peacefully settled out at Elim, going about our business, leaving the Everett ladies to unscramble the food, flowers, and other things, setting up tables out in the yard for the noon meal.

The Lord smiled down on us with beautiful weather and answered our prayers that there be no fatalities in spite of what could have been a tragic disaster for the city of Everett. By one o'clock the next morning all danger was past.

Solveig Hays, local president, welcomed the district ladies to the rally which had as its theme, "Righteousness Exalteth a Nation" (Proverbs 14:34). The theme song was "Jesus Shall Reign Where'er the Sun." She thanked our sister church for coming to

our aid in a time of crisis. District president Ann Mayer gave the response.

Clara Thompson, Vancouver, Wash., led the morning devotions. Special music included a solo by Lois Forde, Lake Stevens, after which Ellie Knutson of Ferndale, Wash., presented a good and interesting Bible study, using the theme for the day. She mentioned characters like Daniel, Joseph and Esther and showed how they had exalted their nation. She closed by saying that Jesus is victorious and we should stand fast in Him. A memorial service was led by Everett ladies.

In the business meeting reports were given of the activities of the various WMF groups by Lois Forde. The day's offering of \$265.55 was given to Church Extension. A special love offering of \$85.00 was given to the new work at Aberdeen, S. Dak. The Kalispell, Mont., WMF extended an invitation for the spring rally next May.

Mrs. John Rieth, Kalispell, led the afternoon devotions. Mrs. Robert Rieth, Kirkland, Wash., played a musical number on an ancient instrument made of wood and which resembled a marimba.

Clara Thompson introduced her pastor, Charles Kvanvig, who recently began serving the field in Vancouver, and he was our afternoon speaker. He spoke of the many influences for which he was grateful which had helped to mold his early life as a Christian, such as Bible camps, prayers of relatives and friends, good books, music, etc. He, too, spoke on the day's theme, stating that we need men and women who will invest themselves for the cause of righteousness. Lifting up Jesus exalts a nation. We need to take more time for missions.

Pastor Galland closed the meeting with prayer and the benediction.

Solveig Hays
Secretary

Women For Christ

Minot WMF honor two

The Bethel WMF of Minot, N. Dak., presented two of their members with pins and Honorary Memberships at their August meeting.

Mrs. Johanna Gunderson and Mrs. Vera Glasoe were the ladies honored. Both were once members of Zion Lutheran Church, the old Lutheran Free Church congregation in Minot.

Mrs. Gunderson, who just observed her 96th birthday, is now living with her brother and sister-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. Rueben Hustad. We met at their home for fellowship.

Mrs. Oscar Folden gave the devotions. Mrs. Bruce Walla read a poem and Mrs. Ted Jessen gave a very challenging summary of Paul's Letter to the Colossians.





News from the Tioga WMF

Six women of the Zion Lutheran Ladies Aid, Tioga, N. Dak., were presented with Honorary Membership certificates and pins for their faithful service over 25 years in the Women's Missionary Federation. This service was held in conjunction with the regular Aid meeting on August 15.

As they are pictured, they are, left to right, Edith Arnstad, Mrs. Orville Eraas, Mrs. Trygve Heimdal, Mrs. LaVern Johnson, Mrs. Lynn Hartsoch and Mrs. Ernest Lee.

Mrs. Hilda Breckey, who has been an active member of the Zion WMF for over 50 years, was presented with the new WMF pin at the September meeting. Mrs. Breckey will be making her home in Fergus Falls, Minn., after living in the Tioga area since 1915. An

open house in her honor was held on Sept. 18 in the Fireside Room of Zion Lutheran. Rev. Allen Monson is pastor of Zion.



Green Lake honors three

The Green Lake Lutheran Women's Missionary Society presented WMF Honorary Membership pins to Nora Thorpe (shown here), Alma Evenson and Inger Stulen for their faithful service in the congregation and Mission Society.

Vice-president Bertha Hegreberg presented the pin to Mrs. Thorpe. President Mrs. Trygve Dahle led the meeting. Rev. Dennis Gray is pastor of Green Lake Lutheran.

Finlayson hosts Lake Superior rally

The fall rally of the Lake Superior District WMF was hosted by St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church at Finlayson, Minnesota, on Saturday, September 29, with 34 ladies present. The theme for the rally was "In Christ We Are Encouraged," with Romans 15:4-5 and Philippians 2:1 and 2 as our Bible references.

A warm welcome was extended by Mrs. Evelyn Koski and we were led in devotions by Edna Kari.

There was a unanimous vote cast for Christine Hanson for president, Rosamond Lee for treasurer and Jean Johnson for Cradle Roll secretary.



Appreciation service held at Astoria

The Bethany Society and Ladies Aid of Bethany Lutheran Church of Astoria, Oregon, recently presented each of the following ladies with an Honorary WMF Membership pin in appreciation for all the years of faithful service in their church. (Left to right) bottom: Garda Angevine, Anna Peterson and Bergit Husby; (second row): Susanne Tunesvik and Anne Anderson; (third): Inga Soderstrom and Clara Johnson; (fourth): Anna Helmersen, Hilda Hendriksen, Olga Moe and Petra Vincent. Not pictured, but honored: Dorothy Peeke and Alice Sather. Rev. Alvin Grothe is pastor.

CHRISTMAS GIFT SUGGESTION

From now until Christmas, the book *His Mysterious Ways* will be on sale for \$2.00 per copy. This book may be secured from the Northwestern Book Stores, the Osterhus Book Store, and the LEM Book Store—all in Minneapolis, Minnesota. Also, it can be ordered directly from the author at this address:

Mrs. Harriett Erickson
2345 Jonquil Lane N.
Plymouth, Minnesota 55441

Books make interesting and lasting gifts—for birthdays, anniversaries, or Christmas. Order one or more today.

Three honored at Bluegrass

On Oct. 4 the three women pictured above were honored for their years of faithful service in the WMF of Bethany Lutheran Church, Bluegrass (Sebek, Minn.). They are, left to right, Mrs. Hildur Thompson, Mrs. Martha Wamous and Mrs. Edith Bounds.

Michigan rally theme was "Walking in love"

Maranatha Lutheran Church, Chas-sell, and Grace Lutheran Church, Pelkie, were hosts to the Women's Mis-sionary Federation fall convention on Saturday, Sept. 22. Fifty-one ladies were in attendance and the theme for the day was "Walking in Love."

Gerine Jaykka of Ishpeming, our president, extended a warm welcome to all and presided over the sessions. She also led in Scripture reading, I John 4:7-21, and prayer.

Vivian Matero of Bessemer led us in a Bible study of Ephesians 5. She stressed the need to be imitators of Christ and to be in the Word of God.

Susan Eberth of Chassell, wife of host pastor Jay Eberth, led the after-noon devotions, using the same Scrip-ture as Mrs. Jaykka. We were pleased to have Miss Priscilla Wold, our mis-sionary from Brazil, as our guest speaker. She challenged us to pray for the missionaries and Mission Board, using Luke 10:2, II Corinthians 5:20 and Matthew 28:19. Every Christian can be a missionary, she said, as there are many jobs to be done and we don't know how long the doors will be open. If He calls you, she challenged, be obedi-ent to the call.

We had a time of sharing and an of-fering was taken for missions. What a wonderful day of blessings from the Lord!

Gladys Schauland
Secretary

[Continued from page 11]

Voit served as organist throughout the day as she led us in many hymns of faith.

Pastor Philip Haugen brought us an inspiring afternoon message based on the theme for the day. He explained why and how Christians need to en-courage one another. Encouragement results in new courage.

The offering was taken for Church Extension.

The Spring Rally will be hosted by one of the three churches in the Mason-Drummond area.

Aili Siltanen
Secretary

BOOK TO READ

MOTHERS ARE PEOPLE, TOO

I found a good book! I must share it! Have you ever felt that way after read-ing a good book? Then you can under-stand my reaction.

The book is *Mothers Are People, Too*, by Linda Howard. Copyright, 1976, published by Logos Internation-al, Plainfield, New Jersey 07061.

This book would benefit all young families. The title sounds as if it is only for mothers, but fathers would profit from reading it, too. The line of author-ity is straight. 1. God 2. Father 3. Mother 4. Children. *Consistency* in discipline is stressed.

The style and language are simple. One can sit down and read it in a couple of hours or it can be read in spurts. It is written in short chapters with a different subject for each chapter. You might want it lying around in your bedroom, bathroom, kitchen, living room or car (year after year).

Mrs. Howard has a keen, *practical* insight on how to *cope*. Young parents get tired, don't always do the right thing, make the right decisions or say the right thing. The last chapter is "When All Else Fails—Pray." There may be a flippant ring to that chapter title, but throughout the book there is a strong sense of Mrs. How-ard's leaning on the Lord through prayer every day.

Raising children is an enormous, sometimes overwhelming responsibil-ity, but it is ours if we have been given children. No one else is accountable for our own children's physical, moral and spiritual maturity and develop-ment. Mrs. Howard concludes "For many it is a lack of discipline or a heart without understanding. We all fail but God is faithful. He knows how to repair hearts. God can take all the wrong things and make them right."

Mrs. Lowell Hogberg
Argyle, Minn.

Letter to the Editor

Appreciates Friendship Shown

I want to express my appreciation to the many dear friends who remem-bered me while I went through open heart surgery at Northwestern Hos-pital, Minneapolis, Minn., recently. Also for the prayers, cards, phone calls and gifts. May God bless you very much. Each one of them meant so much to me.

I would like to express my thanks to you from Philippians 1:2-11: "Grace be unto you, and peace, from God our Father, and from the Lord Jesus Christ. I thank my God upon every re-membrance of you, always in every prayer of mine for you all making re-quest with joy, for your fellowship in the Gospel from the first day until now; being confident of this very thing, that He which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ: Even as it is meet for me to think this of you all, because I have you in my heart; inasmuch as both in my bonds, and in the defense and con-firmation of the Gospel, ye all are par-

takers with me of grace. For God is my record, how I long after you all in the bowels of Jesus Christ. And this I pray, that your love may abound yet more and more in knowledge and in all judg-ment; that ye may approve things that are excellent; that ye may be sincere and without offense till the day of Christ; being filled with the fruits of righteousness, which are by Jesus Christ, unto the glory and praise of God."

This is my heartfelt thanks to all of my fellow members of the AFLC. God bless each one richly, from Acts 20:32: "And, now, brethren, I commend you to God, and to the word of His grace, which is able to build you up, and to give you an inheritance among all them which are sanctified."

Lay Pastor Verle Dean
Spicer, Minn.

(Ed. note: The church rejoices with Lay Pastor Dean and his family in his good recovery from his surgery. His ad-dress is Route 2, Spicer, Minn. 56288.)

Pastor Dahle has unique experience

Leaving Family Bible Camp on Sunday afternoon, Lake Bronson, Minn., Aug. 12, my wife and I drove east to Wannaska, Minn., where I served for over four years, starting in June, 1928. While serving there I had several weddings, one being on Aug. 12, 1929. On that date 50 years later I spoke and sang at that couple's golden wedding. The couple is Lewis and Clara (Dahlquist) Brateng.

They have eight children and they arranged and supervised the program, but didn't tell their parents that the pastor who married them would be the guest speaker at the anniversary, so they had a real surprise when I was announced.

That was a unique experience for me and I don't remember hearing about

any pastor being a speaker at a golden wedding of a couple he had married 50 years before.

I also had my picture taken as the oldest camper at Family Camp also this year. I held the youngest camper, the son of Pastor and Mrs. Ragene Hodnefield of Dalton, Minn.

This Bible Camp was one of the best, from my point of view, that we have had. Pastor (Ralph) Tjelta of DeKalb, Ill., was the adult Bible teacher and was very good. Good, deep, Lutheran thinking, and very well presented.

Pastor T. F. Dahle



Personalities

Pastor Kenneth L. Anderson's address at Kenyon, Minn. 55946, is 317 So. 3rd St. He assumed duties in his new parish on August 1.

Rev. Gary Skramstad, who served Victory in Christ Lutheran Church in St. Paul, Minn., the past two years, is now pastor of Redeemer Lutheran Church, Bessemer, Mich. While the family lives in nearby Ramsey, they receive mail at Box 47, Bessemer, 49911.

Stephen C. Hokonson, son of Pastor and Mrs. A. L. Hokonson, was ordained into the ministry of the American Lutheran Church on Aug. 12. Pastor Hokonson had the honor of assisting in the service. A graduate of Pacific Lutheran Seminary, Berkeley, Calif., the new Pastor Hokonson was installed as pastor of Zion Lutheran Church, Spokane, Wash., on Sept. 9, where he has members who once were served by his father during a pastorate in the 1940s. He is married and there are two children in the family.

The Battle Lake property once owned by the late *Arne Aanestad*, Fargo, N. Dak., has been purchased through a sealed bid by *Pastor and Mrs. Eugene Enderlein and family*. It

had been given to the Board of World Missions to be used as a missionary home but it was later determined that it did not serve that purpose well.

Rev. Arnold Stone, Alexandria, Minn., retired LCA pastor and Bible teacher, spoke at a Christian Life and Growth Week at Grace Lutheran Church, Bagley, Minn., Oct. 7-11. The series was a part of an area LEM conference. Mauritz Lundeen is the local pastor.

Rev. Herbert L. Franz, Cloquet, Minn., was the speaker at the Life in Christ Crusade in Medicine Lake Lutheran Church, Minneapolis, Minn., Oct. 21-27. J. G. Erickson is pastor of Medicine Lake congregation.

Rev. Harvey Carlson, Grand Forks, N. Dak., spoke at a prophetic conference in St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Cloquet, Minn., the last week in September. *Rev. Herbert L. Franz* serves St. Paul's Church.

Rev. Terry L. Olson, Minot, N. Dak., preached at special services in Hope Lutheran Church, Ishpeming, Mich., recently. When he was called away due to accident injuries suffered by his brother, *Rev. Norman Tenneboe*, Eben Jct., Mich., completed the week for him. Hope Lutheran is served by *Rev. Paul Nash*.

fellowship CORNER

THOUGHTS ON GIVING

"It is more blessed to give than to receive" (Acts 20:35c).

I think of this verse often these days, and do we as Christians really believe it? And do we practice it? I know I don't.

It is so easy and not "too expensive" when we want to give to our loved ones. Or so I have found. But what about those who cannot return our gifts or who don't want to return them?

I can remember how my folks always had enough for that extra child in our home in the Depression years. At that time everyone seemed to look for someone to whom to pass on those outgrown clothes. Now everyone, or nearly everyone, has a garage sale, which helps, too, but isn't really giving.

I have found that when you really give freely and in the love of Christ, you are the one who is blessed most. This is hard to talk about, even among God's children, but it is true, as I see it in the Word of God.

Then, too, this giving means more than just our material things, I believe. What about our time and our talents? I find when I ask someone to do something, usually they give a long list of things they just have to do *that* day. So many times God's work is neglected by me, too.

This last winter when my husband was sick I thought only of him and didn't check on a lady I usually looked in on once a week or so. When I heard that she was really sick I felt terrible, like I hadn't put the Lord first. So I told my dear husband how I felt.

It seems I have to learn everything the hard way. On the other hand, when I really dropped everything and when I really didn't feel up to it, I have visited our nursing home. And soon all my troubles were behind me and I felt fine. So this, too, is what this verse means to me.

Mrs. Dorothy Jodock
Hatton, N. Dak.

Life on the Edge of Town



Faith, S. Dak.

The Open Spaces

A preaching mission at Emmanuel Lutheran Church, Eagle Butte, S. Dak., (Oct. 7-11), has brought me out to this heartland of South Dakota cattle country. I've been fascinated on previous trips here with the long view afforded to the west from this town and I feel it again now. There is an aura of mystery about this open land stretching as far as the eye can see, broken in the distance by lonely buttes.

On Sunday morning at the churches (Bethel and Emmanuel) I quoted the last verse of A. L. Hokonson's (a former pastor here) poem, "South Dakota—The Land of God." Here is how it goes:

"Views of the ranches, nestled, exposed,
As the home of the plainsmen,
wrought from the field,
In grandeur of heart and courage disclosed.
In a paean of Praise for star-stamped domain,
For the Black Hills of beauty, and
Badlands unshod,
For cities and tempests, for lakes
and grain,
We thank Thee, Lord, for the Land
of God."

That is great poetry about a great subject.

Ernest Langness, pastor of this most "western" of our parishes and who uncomplainingly travels the many miles to minister to his flock, and I were over to the sales barn or market one afternoon for a while. I watched with great interest as smaller and larger groups of yearling steers and heifers were moved through the ring in clockwork for sale to feeders. Dr. Wayne Sletten, sitting on my right, patiently explained the auction and marketing process to me. He is a veterinarian and a member of our church in Faith.

Sunday afternoon the Langnesses and I attended an open house in honor of Mr. Ray Bayless of Eagle Butte on his 90th birthday the next day. He told me the events that brought a Kentucky boy from a career in barbering to one of South Dakota rancher-farmer and back to barbering. It was good to share the open house with his family and friends.

Each evening we gather in Emmanuel Church in that town which is the headquarters of the Cheyenne Indian Reservation. We are having blessed times about the Word of God. We make an 80-mile round trip each day, but the distance gets shorter as the way becomes more familiar.

I enjoyed the trip over here on a lovely October Saturday. Next weekend (the 14th) I am to be in Ortleigh, S. Dak., in Pastor Snipstead's place to participate in a mortgage-burning service at our church there. I look forward to being back in that part of the state where I lived for 13½ years.

Tofte, Minn.

On my most recent trip to the Cities, I took the long way round in order that I could visit again the place where my father first lived when he came to America, Tofte, on the North Shore, in 1904. That, you see, was 75 years ago, so it was an anniversary of sorts.

Another reason for going now was the hope of seeing again an old gentleman, Christ Tormondsen, who remembers Dad from that time. I found that he is still living (he will be 92 in February), although now in Grand Marais. They were only teenage boys then and Dad stayed around less than a year, but Mr. Tormondsen remembers him, largely because he bought Dad's eight-string violin. Unfortunately, the instrument is no longer in existence.

Anyway, it was good to see him again and to try to picture the North Shore he described as it was in those early days, covered with virgin timber from the water's edge (of Lake Superior) and up the hills.

Dad came to Tofte because two of his cousins were already working there. He himself worked in the woods out from nearby Schroeder and went with other fellows to take part in the harvest around Leeds, N. Dak. During the next winter he moved to Minneota, Minn., later to the West Coast (Seattle and Everett), and finally to Minneapolis, where he studied for the ministry at Augsburg Seminary, preparing for the 23 years of work which the Lord allotted to him.

In the Tofte area I was struck with the resemblance to parts of Norway because of the homes nestled on small acreages among the woods which in late September were approaching the height of autumn beauty.

—Raynard Huglen

Addition to Everett church dedicated

Dedication services for an addition to Calvary Lutheran Church, Everett, Wash., were held at 4 o'clock, Sunday, Sept. 16. Rev. Richard Anderson, Lake Stevens, Wash., was the speaker and officiated at the dedication.

Also taking part in the service for the church which is pastored by Rev. Leslie Galland, were Dick Christensen, Pete Eckrem, chairman of the congregation, Craig Thompson, Dave Forsberg and Nick Metrokas, as well as Pastor Galland.

The \$60,000 project provides a new entry, narthex, restrooms and indoor access to a downstairs fellowship hall. Ramps facilitate entry for handi-

capped people. The large stained glass windows, which originally came from Europe, have been releaded and re-framed.

The congregation of about 50 families, with a majority of older members, had its beginning in 1901 in the Norwegian-speaking Zion Lutheran Free Church. The church building was erected a year later. Internal problems and the migration of some members to Canada closed the church about 1914.

A new beginning in 1919 as the Norwegian Lutheran Free Church was directed by Rev. James R. Gronseth, with the congregation meeting at Rockefeller and Everett Avenues. A

year later it moved to 22nd Street and Baker Avenue. In 1932 the congregation purchased back the original 26th and Rockefeller building. It changed its name to Calvary Lutheran in 1938.

A number of pastors have served since the reorganization. Pastor Galland has served for the past four years. He states that the non-liturgical church, affiliated with the Association of Free Lutheran Congregations, stresses "relationship to Jesus Christ in a personal way."

—Based on an article in the
Everett Herald,
Sept. 15.



Toboli Testament featured in service

At the Worship Service of the Calvary Lutheran Church of Everett, Wash., on Sunday, September 23, a special prayer of blessing was prayed on the Toboli New Testament that the Wycliffe Translators have printed. The Toboli people live in Bukidnon, the Philippines. Pictures with Pastor Leslie Galland is Winnie Forsberg, mother of Vivian Forsberg, missionary to the Toboli people. Vivian is a member of Calvary Lutheran. It was also Winnie's 84th birthday.

The Wycliffe Translators have translated the entire New Testament into over 100 languages.



News of the Churches

Wadena church to burn mortgage

Zion Lutheran Congregation, Wadena, Minn., anticipates with great joy our day of celebration, Nov. 18, as we will meet for a special service of mortgage-burning at 11 o'clock. Our debt has been paid in full and we praise our heavenly Father for His love and faithfulness. We can truly sing "Great is Thy Faithfulness."

All are cordially invited to come and join us for this special day of thanksgiving to God. Dinner will be served to all. We regret that Pastor Snipstead cannot be with us, but rejoice that Rev. Elden Nelson, Home Mission Director, will be with us. Mr. Frank Rutherford, seminary student and well known to us, will be present to sing.

Come and enjoy a good day with us.
Mrs. Chester Galland

Ordination service

The ordination service for Mr. LeRoy Flickinger, 1979 graduate of Free Lutheran Seminary, was held at Green Lake Lutheran Church, Spicer, Minn., on Sunday, August 19.

Rev. Richard Snipstead, president of the Association of Free Lutheran Congregations, gave the address and conducted the rite of ordination. Other pastors taking part in the service were Dennis Gray, local pastor, Leslie Galland, Everett, Wash., T. F. Dahle, Spicer, Timothy Skramstad, Minnewaukan, N. Dak., and Lay Pastor Verle Dean, Spicer. Mr. Frank Rutherford, seminary intern at Green Lake, sang "Be Thou Faithful."

The wives of the church council served a reception following the service. Pastor Flickinger is now serving Lebanon Lutheran Church, Leeds, N. Dak. He is shown here with his wife and their youngest child.

Abels at Ortley Mission Festival

Sunday, September 16, was Mission Festival Sunday at Ortley, South Dakota. During the Sunday School hour, slides from Brazil were shown by Pastor John Abel, missionary on furlough. During the worship service, Pastor and Mrs. Abel shared in special music and he brought a challenging mission message. An offering of more than \$817. was received for foreign missions.

Following the service, the WMF ladies hosted a fellowship dinner. The church and fellowship hall had been decorated with the harvest theme by Mrs. Bob Rudebusch, Mrs. James Swanson, Mrs. Raymond Miller and Miss Helen Lee. Pumpkins, squash, corn, carrots, potatoes and other garden vegetables were used for decorations. Wm. Moberg is the pastor of the Ortley Lutheran Church.

—Corr.

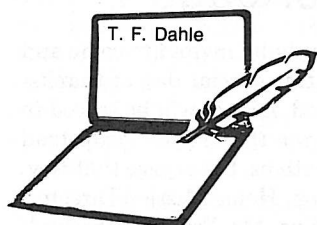
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Praise be to God for Aberdeen offering

Offerings for the work in Aberdeen, S. Dak., continue to come in, and as of October 16 total \$15,166.30. The response of members and friends of the AFLC bears out the truth of Ephesians 3:20: "Now to Him who by the power at work within us is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, to Him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, for ever and ever."

Thank you, one and all, for your expressions of love to our friends in Aberdeen. Please continue to pray for Pastor Roy Warwick and the people he serves.

An article reporting on the work in Aberdeen, along with pictures, is forthcoming.



Thoughts
from Tryg

ARE WE GOD'S STEWARDS?

God's Word says "Yes." We read in I Cor. 4:1, "As of ministers of Christ, and stewards of the mysteries of God." How about the time God has given us? Are we good stewards of our time? Only one life, 'twill soon be past; only what's done for Christ will last." How many minutes a day do we spend talking with God? There are three kinds of prayer: first, the "gimme" prayer, thoroughly selfish; second, "thank you" prayers; and thirdly, intercessory prayers. Prayer changes things. God answers prayer. Why not make good use of it?

How much time do we spend reading God's Word? We desperately need to feed our souls on His wonderful Word, that we "may grow thereby—" (I Pet. 2:2). We often sing, "Take time to be holy, speak oft with thy Lord; abide in Him always, and feed on His Word." The Psalmist says in Ps. 119:11, "Thy Word have I laid up in my heart, that I might not sin against Thee." If we neglect the Word, we are robbing ourselves of the only weapon against the "wiles of the devil." "How shall we escape, if we neglect so great a salvation" (Heb. 2:3). God help us to be better

stewards of our time, "For we shall all stand before the judgment seat of God" and answer how we have used our time (Rom. 14:10).

How about our finances? Are we good stewards of the money God has entrusted to our care? God speaks, in Mal. 3:10: "Bring ye the whole tithe into the store-house—" God accuses His people of robbing Him by not bringing in the "whole tithe." Are we robbing God by withholding the tithe? If so, we are not only robbing God, but much more ourselves, so we are recipients of God's "curse" instead of His blessings. God then dares His people to prove Him and see if He "will not open the windows of heaven, and pour out a blessing, so there shall not be room enough to receive it." If we sin against God on this score, we are no better than Israel. Read Deuteronomy 28 and see the blessings if we obey God and the curses, if we do not. King Solomon says in Proverbs, "The blessing of the Lord, it maketh rich." Every person is either under the Lord's blessing or under His curse depending upon our obedience or disobedience.

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Boscobel, Wis.

Trinity Lutheran Church

Larry V. Severson, pastor

Nov. 11-13

Ev. Kenneth Pentti, speaker

Radcliffe, Ia.

Salem Lutheran Church

Donald Greven, pastor

Nov. 25-28

Ev. Kenneth Pentti, speaker

Those blessings are not for this life only, but also for the hereafter. Eternal life or eternal damnation. God knew that because of Adam's fall the whole human race was doomed to a lost eternity, so He came down to earth Himself in the person of Jesus and "fulfilled all righteousness" that we might be saved. The choice is ours.

In II Chron. 7:14, God says: "If My people, who are called by My name, shall humble themselves and pray—then will I hear—and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land." May God help us to be better stewards and He will supply our every need (Phil. 4:19).

Trygve F. Dahle