



THE LUTHERAN AMBASSADOR

April 14, 1992



Alleluia



...by His stripes we are healed.

THE LUTHERAN AMBASSADOR

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Light on the Way

It Is Finished

As we come to understand and appreciate the first article of the creed through Luther's Small Catechism, we come to see that all we are and possess are gifts to us from our gracious God. All God has done for us is done "... purely out of fatherly and divine goodness and mercy, without any merit or worthiness in me." This is grace indeed! But it is not the Gospel. It leaves us with an obligation to "... thank, praise, serve, and obey Him." While we find God giving out of grace, we find ourselves responding inadequately and inappropriately to His lovingkindness. In short, we find we are people unworthy of God's blessings.

Here is where the Gospel enters in. The second article can be only so many words to the "righteous," but to the sinner, confessing faith in this article is life itself!

First, we find out who Jesus is. He is eternal God, "Begotten of the Father from eternity ..." (John 1:1-3; 8:58; Hebrews 1:6). He is also "true man, born of the Virgin Mary." Only in the God/Man do we find the One adequate to pay the price for our sin. And that is the second thing we find in Luther's explanation to the second article. He has "... redeemed me, a lost and condemned creature, bought me and freed me from all sins, from death, and from the power of the devil; not with silver and gold, but with His holy and precious blood, and with His innocent sufferings and death ..." Romans 5:6-8, says: "You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly. Very rarely will anyone die for a righteous man, though for a good man someone might possibly dare to die. But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us." And Matthew 20:28 says "... the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."

Third, we find that Jesus did this so we could finally become all that we were created to be. He purchased for us that which truly fulfills all human desire; that we might "be His own, live under Him in His kingdom, and serve Him in everlasting righteousness, innocence, and blessedness." Jesus himself said; "I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full" (John 10:10b).

Finally, we find assurance that all Jesus did is sufficient to bestow on us these blessings in that "... He is risen from the dead, and lives and reigns to all eternity," (I Corinthians 15).

It is of utmost importance to note that this article does not speak at all of what we do, but only of what Jesus has done for us. Nothing zaps the peace and joy out of the Christian life more than to look anywhere but here for assurance that I am right with God. Nothing of what I or anyone else has done is spoken of in this article because nothing can or need be added to Jesus' work on my behalf. His work is complete (John 19:30) and adequate (Hebrews 10:19-23). Trying to add anything to His work only shifts our focus to that which is always found to be lacking. No, God's Word tells us to "... fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God" (Hebrews 12:2). Here is certain and unchanging assurance of the eternal blessings of God!



— by Rev.
Jon Wellumson

The CONQUEROR Comes Back

Smile! You are a Christian, your Savior rose from the dead, because He lives you will live also, and "When I come again I will take you to myself that where I am you may be also."

We Americans love a comeback, whether it is in sports, politics, business or any other human endeavor. We watch with great interest a man or woman overcoming great odds, handicaps, to gain a championship success.

Nothing catches or holds our attention more than a comeback from the brink of defeat or death to the struggling heights of a final victory. This essentially is the heart of Easter, when death and sin seemed all victorious and hope seemed dashed forever.

When Christ had died on the cross for the sins of the world it seemed as if His enemies had destroyed Him. They placed a stone at the entrance of the tomb, a seal was affixed to secure the grave and soldiers guarded the grave. Good Friday left deep fears in the hearts of the Lord's disciples and confusion seemed in command. Their leader and Master was dead. Their hopes and plans had been shattered and they went into hiding.

Then on Easter morning the greatest comeback the world has and ever will know took place. Betrayed, denied, humiliated, abandoned and left to die in anguish beyond words, Christ burst forth from the tomb in new life! Not just for

Himself, but He became a source of new life for all who are willing to believe in and receive Him.

The conquering comeback Christ gives us even more. In Christ's fantastic, terrific comeback we have His guarantee of a final victory of complete conquest and eternal happiness for us. The Lord is coming in glory to judge all nations. "The hour cometh in which all that are in the graves shall hear His voice and shall come forth they that have done good into the resurrection of life and they have done evil to resurrection of judgment." On that day the liveliest place on earth will be the cemetery. All in their tombs shall hear His voice and come forth as He called Lazareth. So shall He call us.

The focus is on what God in Christ does for us, not what we do. For nothing can separate us from the love of Christ. Nothing! For Jesus is our champion. He has conquered. God did not spare His Son but gave Him up for us all. So now in all our trials we are more than conquerors through Him. Yes, our Victor will return. "Behold He comes with clouds and every eye will see Him" (Revelation 1:7).

Easter morning when you awake just let the angel of that first Easter morning whisper to you as He did to the women: "Do not be afraid ... He is not here, He is risen." The day will be brighter also as Jesus in Matthew 28:9, greets you with "All Hail." Beck translates it "Good Morning." Let Jesus also speak to you each morning with this greeting, reminding you that His resurrection is your eternal good morning guarantee.

Henry Rowoldt was born near Buffalo, New York, on September 18, 1911, where his father, Paul Rowoldt, was pastor. He is one of twelve children. Because of the smog in Buffalo, mother Rowoldt became ill. The physician advised that we move to an area of higher elevation. Father Rowoldt then accepted a call to a rural congregation in western Nebraska on the Colorado boarder. Through all the struggles and trials and heart aches, by the grace of God, even though we didn't have much of the worldly goods, we always had plenty of prayers and God's Word. From this family came forth four pastors. Henry received his

college education at Wayne College, Wayne, Nebraska, and Midland Lutheran College in Fremont, Nebraska. He graduated from Chicago Lutheran Seminary in Maywood, Illinois (no longer in existence). He was ordained at Trinity Lutheran Church in Columbus, Nebraska, in 1941, and served congregations in Nebraska, Indiana, Wisconsin, Michigan and Illinois. He married Helen Bittmann in 1946. Presently he is serving as Interim Pastor at Ebenezer Lutheran Church in Evergreen Park, Illinois. Last year he celebrated his 50th year in the Lord's service and became a member of the AFLC Clergy Roster.



— by Rev.
Henry Rowoldt,
Oak Forest,
Illinois



He Is Risen!

RESURRECTION

Resurrection morning!
a new life explodes from death!
May earthquakes of resurrection power
revive Your Church, O Lord
that dry bones will come to Life.

Roll the heavy stone away from our
suffocating apathy:
Our graveclothes of indifference
entombed in hearts grown
dull of hearing.

Unbind and set us free.
Warm with Your Spirit's fire
these hearts grown cold and dead.

Release us to fullness of joy —
Easter joy!
Restore Your church, Lord.
We need a resurrection!

— Barb Skeie
New Hope, Minnesota

The Joy Of Easter



Easter is a time to reflect on all Jesus has done for me. He willingly suffered and gave His life for me. He has covered all my sins with His blood and now God sees me as though I had never sinned. God is perfect and holy and I desire to do what is right. When I fail, He sees me through His Son's shed blood.

I was recently reminded by our three-year-old that Jesus did not have to stay on the cross. He could have come down from the cross. His love is so great for us that He wanted to offer His life once and for all. He was providing a way for all people to come to the Father. The cross is like a bridge leading to heaven.

The Bible says there were many women looking on from a distance as Jesus hung on the cross. I, too, had to go to the cross and ask Jesus to forgive my sins and ask Him to be my Saviour. The Bible says if we believe in God's Son, we will not die but live forever.

This is the good news of Easter. Jesus is alive! He is risen from the dead! And because He lives, we can live too. We can have a life forever with Him.

As a mother of small children, one of my greatest joys is knowing that they can have this same gift of eternal life from God. He gives it freely to all who ask and believe in what His Son did.

Our children love to sing and talk about Jesus. They talk about heaven and how wonderful it will be to live with Jesus. We know some things about heaven. There will be no sin, no sickness, no sorrow, and no death. What is most important to us is knowing Jesus will be there.

You, too, can find the real joy of Easter by asking Jesus to live in your heart today. He will give you lasting peace and happiness and a joy that never ends.

— *Judy Tuura, McIntosh, Minnesota*

HOPE

To begin with we might hope for heaven in a "wishful thinking" sort of way. We wish for something more than what this world has to offer where everything ends with death.

But then as we hear about Jesus and learn what He has done and accomplished for us, we begin to listen and study God's Word, and finally surrender our life over to Jesus for molding and safe keeping, giving Jesus full control of our life and being willing to follow as He leads. Then our "wishful thinking" hope turns into faith that heaven will be our destiny. This becomes a process with us more than a one-time occurrence. It is the Holy Spirit who will work this faith into our life as we unreservedly give ourselves to be coming acquainted with God's Word, willingly letting it take root in our hearts, ever relying on Jesus' molding or grace to enable us to obey its dictates. The more we learn about God's Word with this kind of attitude, the greater our faith in the promises of God's Word will become.

"Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen" (Hebrews 11:1).

However, if we should close our minds to some Biblical truth, or insist on believing something contrary to Scripture, the Holy Spirit will not argue with us and He ceases to enlighten us in that which we are blocking out. He will only enlighten us to the extent that we are willing to be taught.

Faith and hope have much in common and are closely related to each other. In heaven we will no longer have need of either one because the very thing we hoped for and had faith in will be fully realized.

— *Rev. Gerald F. Mundrom, Osceola, Wisconsin*

Blessed be the
God and Father of
our Lord Jesus
Christ, who accord-
ing to His great
mercy has caused us
to be born again to a
living hope through
the resurrection of
Jesus Christ from
the dead.

1 Peter 1:3 (NASB)

It really doesn't make any difference to me if Christ be risen or not. The main thing is, His truth goes marching on!" That was the blasphemous message people from all over the United States heard on the radio early one Easter Sunday morning in 1932, from a well-known preacher in New York City. Today, we would like to share with you just what difference Jesus' resurrection **does** make in our lives.

Knowing that we serve a **living** Savior is the best antidote for a fear of death. Because we know that Christ triumphed over death, we have no reason to live in fear of it. For all who have trusted Jesus as their Savior, "We are more than conquerors through him that loved us."

"My soul shall make her boast in the Lord." Christ's resurrection gives us something to boast about. The fact that Jesus has risen from the dead is one of the most convincing proofs that He was not just an ordinary man. In sharing Christ with others, we have had the joy of boasting that Jesus did not stay in the tomb, but that **He has risen!** Therefore, He was not just a great prophet, or a wonderful man, but He truly was the Son of God.

We recently saw the power of the risen Lord first hand. The first two weeks of March we had the privilege to travel to Russia and serve the Lord there. It is amazing to see what God

has done with a country that was formerly so closed to Him. During the week, we would visit the public schools, sharing the Lord and handing out Bibles right in the classrooms. On Saturday and Sunday, some of the public schools had opened for family seminars — somewhat like our Sunday Schools here in North America. The people were so open to the Gospel that it was just beyond belief. The Lord drew many people unto Himself. We witnessed the power of the Lord in our own lives as well, for neither of us are particularly gifted in public speaking or in sharing our faith. But the Lord showed us the truth of the verse, "I can do all things through Christ which strengthen me."

Christ is risen, no matter what people may say. Sixty years ago when that New York pastor made his statement on the radio, another minister by the name of Alfred Ackley was listening. He was so upset by the New Yorker's audacity that he nearly cut himself as he was shaving. That evening his wife suggested that he write a song about our **risen** Savior, sharing with others the truth and joy of Jesus' resurrection. He followed through on her suggestion. We're certain many of you will be singing, "I Serve A Risen Savior" in your church this Easter Sunday.

— by David and John Gettis
Vernon, BC

AFLC Young People Share The Meaning Of Easter

Easter means spring which is a time for bees and butterflies, for grass and flowers which means a continuation of life. Easter also means Jesus. It is a time of sadness when Jesus died for us on the cross. It also is a happy time for us because Jesus rose from the dead. It's a time of love, joy and family dinner. It is a time we go to church a lot and have vacation time from school. We like Easter very much.

— by Unity Evangelical Lutheran
Sunday School
Massapequa, New York
Grades 2-3

**"He has risen,
he is not here: see the
place where they laid
him."**

— Mark 16:6



What Easter Means to Me

If Jesus had not come to earth to die upon the tree,
 Think of the desperate hopelessness that'd be felt by you and me.
 For if He had not died for us to save us from all sin,
 We would not have the hope of heaven — no way to enter in.
 But since He did come here to earth, and lived a holy life.
 We have the joy of being forgiven, and not eternal strife.
 For when He was still on this earth, He died for you and me,
 So we would not die in our sin, but live eternally.
 Then best of all He rose from death when days had numbered three.
 This is what the story of Easter means to me.

— by *Lucas Long*
Arlington, Washington



— *Grades 5-6*
Unity Evangelical
Lutheran Sunday School
Massapequa, New York

Easter means that we get up early
 and listen to the happy song of the
 birds singing praise to God.

E is for Early
 A is He Arose
 S is for the Song birds
 T is for the Tree He died on
 E is for Eternal
 R is for Rolled away.

— by *Rebekah Knapp*
Karlstad, Minnesota

When I think about Easter it makes
 me feel happy just to think that Jesus
 was willing to die for me. But most of
 all I think of Him rising again. If he
 had not, we could not be sure that we
 could be saved from our sins. There is
 no question that it is impossible for
 any of us to earn our own way to heav-
 en alone.

Praise God for Jesus this Easter!

— by *Jesse Long*
Arlington, Washington

A Dead End Street



This picture is a unique picture! Amidst the signs are two beer advertisements plus a sign which says, "Dead End Street!" One sign says, "No Parking Anytime." All of the signs have an interesting and though provoking message to us.

The message is clearly against drinking. It is a dead end street, no parking allowed. If you are here, you are on a dead end street!

Time and time again those who are addicted to alcohol have voiced the fact that they are on a dead end street. Families of drinkers have voiced frustration, anxiety and even guilt when someone in their family has a drinking problem.

The message to students is clear, "Don't take the first drink!" You will end up with the frustration, anxiety, guilt and the pain of addiction. Alcohol is one of the most potent liquids in history. It is so easy to become captive to its power!

We see the advertisements on television and in the newspapers and sign

boards. We hear the jingles on television and on the radio. These all show young men and women who are having a great time at parties where beer is being served. Fun!? Fun!? There is no dead end street here, right? Everybody is reaching for the gusto. We all need to say "no." We realize no is the only answer.

Just simply saying no is not the total answer either. There is a void inside each of us which needs to be filled. This void can only be filled by a personal walk with the Lord Jesus Christ. A personal walk with Jesus in His Church with other Christians both younger and older is the answer.

What if one has already walked on the dead end street? He is the only One who can break the shackles of sin and keep you and me on the right path. There is no temptation that cannot be broken. Jesus will intervene in the time of need. He will fill the emptiness with joy and peace giving us victory over his area and any other area of sin.

The reason students drink is to be accepted. There is a conclusion you and I need to come to. We will not be accepted by everyone! Friendships need to be more solid than those made by drinking. We need to understand how to be an individual in our own right without the need of those who will drink.

This is why we need Jesus. He accepts us as we are and understands all the misgivings we have about ourselves. We will find in Him all that is needed to face the crowd that drinks.

Youth Group Discussion suggestions:

1. Read II Corinthians 5:14-21.
2. Some people say, "I'm my own boss, I'll do what I please." What does the Christian say? See v 14, 15 and 17.
3. According to these verses, what motive ought to control the Christians thoughts and actions?

4. What does it mean to regard someone from the human point of view?

5. What is the mission of a world Christian?

6. You are with a certain group of teenagers. They decide to get some beer and have a party. What should you do?

Go along and participate?

Go along just this once; but not drink and neck?

Refuse to go along and tell them off?

Refuse to go along and tell their parents?

Refuse to go along and keep silent about it?

Suggest some other kind of activity?

Simply tell them you don't do that scene?

Go along and keep the party clean?

Refuse to go along and get your parents' advice?

Refuse to go along and get your pastor's advice?

What would you do?

— Rev. Dennis Gray
Youth Resources Director

**Make Your Plans
Now!**

**AFLC Youth
Leadership School**

July 13-17, 1992

AFLBS Campus, Minneapolis

AFLC Annual Conference Accommodations

June 17-21, 1992

Association Retreat Center
Osceola, Wisconsin

He is arisen!
Glorious Word!
Now reconciled is God,
my Lord,
The gates of heaven
are open,
My Jesus,
died triumphantly,
And Satan's arrows
broken lie,
Destroyed hells
direst weapon.
O hear what cheer!
Christ victorious
riseth glorious,
Life He giveth —
He was dead, but see,
He liveth!

— J.N. Kildahl

The ARC, Route 1, Box 92, Osceola, WI 1-715-294-2877

Pool, sauna, lake, swimming beach, game room, football, softball, horse shoe, frisbee golf.

Rates:

Good News Lodge: \$12 nightly

All other lodging (Tabitha, Covenant, Daniel, etc.): \$10 nightly

Children (17 and under): half-price

Children (3 and under): free

Maximum family rate: \$40 per night

RV parking (includes electricity and use of shower): \$7.50 daily

RV's using air conditioners: \$2 daily additional

Valley Motel, P.O. Box 545, Dresser, WI 54009; 1-715-755-2781

1 double bed \$35

1 queen bed \$40

rollaway \$5

2 double beds \$42

2 double beds deluxe \$48

Springs Inn, Taylors Falls, MN 55084; 1-612-465-6565

Sunday-Thursday

1 double bed, 1-2 people \$34

2 double beds, 2 people \$38

2 double beds, 3-4 people \$43

king-size bed, 1-2 people \$42

queen-size bed, 1-2 people \$38

studio, 1-2 people \$43

studio, 3-4 people \$46

Friday-Saturday

1 double bed, 1-2 people \$42

2 double beds, 2 people \$45

2 double beds, 3-4 people \$48

king-size bed, 1-2 people \$45

queen-size bed, 1-2 people \$43

studio, 1-2 people \$45

studio, 3-4 people \$50

American Motel, 1020 S. Knowles, New Richmond, WI 54017; 1-715-246-3993

pool, sauna, continental breakfast

1 double bed, 1 person \$34

1 double bed, 2 people \$39.90

2 double beds, 4 people \$53

1 queen-size bed, 1 person \$41

1 queen-size bed, 2 people \$46

Somerset Motel, Somerset, WI 54025; 1-715-247-5487

1 double bed, 2 people \$36

1 queen-size bed, 2 people \$38

2 double beds, 4 people \$48

Wild River Motel, Route 3, Box 590, St. Croix Falls, WI 54024; 1-715-483-9343

2 double beds, 1 couple \$45

2 double beds, 2 couples \$45

1 king-size bed, 1-2 people \$45

3 double beds, 3-4 people \$60

3 double beds, 5-6 people \$75

Dalles House Motel, P.O. Box 664, St. Croix Falls, WI 54024; 1-800-341-8000

Complimentary coffee, indoor pool, tanning facility, sauna

2 queen beds \$51

Prices on motel rooms does not include motel tax or sales tax.

Housing and Meal Registration at the ARC

Pre-registration for rooms by June 1: \$5 per person or \$10 per family. This is non-refundable. Registration after June 1 will be \$10 per person or \$15 per family. ARC, Route 1, Box 92, Osceola, WI 54020; 1-715-294-2877.

NAMES	DORM PREFERENCE	NIGHTS	RV PARKING
_____	_____	Indicate the nights you need lodging.	_____
Age _____	Rates: \$10 for Tabitha, Covenant, Daniel and Bethany.	Tuesday _____	\$7.50 daily
Age _____	\$12 for Good News Lodge.	Wednesday _____	Price does include electricity and shower.
Age _____	No children allowed	Thursday _____	\$2 daily additional for RV's using air conditioner.
Age _____	in Covenant.	Friday _____	
Please list all children attending with you:		Saturday _____	
Age 4-17 are half-price.		Crib _____	
Age 3 and under are free.		Bedding _____ \$2 per person.	
Maximum family rate is \$40 per night		You are encouraged to bring your own bedding and cribs/playpens as the ARC has a limited supply.	

MEALS AT THE ARC

(Indicate the number of people registering for each meal.)

	BREAKFAST	LUNCH	DINNER
Tuesday	_____	_____	_____
Wednesday	_____	_____	_____
Thursday	_____	_____	_____
Friday	_____	_____	_____
Saturday	_____	_____	_____
Sunday	_____	_____	_____

COST OF REGULAR MEALS

Breakfast:

\$2.50, Age 9-adult; \$1.25, 4-8; 3 and under free.

Lunches: Served a la carte Thursday-Saturday.

Hot and cold sandwiches, soup, salad, chips, etc.

Evening dinner and Sunday noon:

\$5, ages 9-adult; \$2.50, 4-8; 3 and under free.

SPECIAL MEALS

Wednesday	WMF Luncheon, \$5
Thursday	WMF Breakfast, \$3
Thursday	Builders Fellowship Lunch, \$5
Thursday	Schools Corp. Dinner, \$5
Friday	Missions Corp. Breakfast, \$3.00
Friday	ARC Supporters Lunch, \$5
Friday	Pastors' Banquet, \$11.70 (Trollhaugen)
Saturday	Mission and Laymen's Breakfast, \$3.00
Saturday	ARC Corp. Lunch, \$5.00

If you are registering for any of these special meals, do not register for a regular meal for that time.

Nursery Hours

A nursery will be provided each day except Sunday.

The hours for baby sitting are:

8:45 a.m. to noon; 1:45 to 5 p.m.; and 8-9:30 p.m.

The cost will be \$2 per morning, per afternoon and per evening session. One dollar for each additional child in a family.

Special baby sitting arrangements for the Pastors' Banquet on Friday evening can be made.

There will be a separate program for grades 1-12. The hours for this program are 9 a.m. to noon and 2-5 p.m. There will not be any youth program on Sunday.

Women of Wisdom and The Word

The Woman of Samaria

Study Verses: John 4:1-42

Every society has its social outcasts. Jesus set an example for us. He touched lepers. He even called a hated tax collector to be a disciple.

In today's study, Jesus meets a social outcast. This immoral woman had nothing going for her. But Jesus did something that no respectable Rabbi would ever do. He initiated a conversation with her, and offered her living water. Her encounter with Jesus changed her forever!

Living Water — John 4:1-6

As you study your Bible, ask yourself the five W's: Who, What, Where, When, Why. also, look for the unusual. These can be helpful clues to understanding a Scripture passage.

In this section, Jesus left Judea to go to Galilee.

1. Where did Jesus pass through? v. 4

Years before, when Israel was captive to Assyria, some Jews and Assyrians intermarried. Their offspring were the people of Samaria. Jews would do anything to avoid contact with the hated Samaritans.

2. Jesus was not reluctant to go through Samaria. Why? v. 4; 10:16; Luke 19:10

3. What was unusual about drawing water at the sixth hour (noon)? Genesis 24:11

4. Jesus asked the woman for a drink. (v. 7) Give two reasons why that was so unusual. v. 9, 27

11. What was that realization? v. 25

Bible commentators tell us that this is the only place in His public ministry that Jesus admitted He was the Messiah.

12. What did the woman do when she heard His affirmation? V. 28, 29

Jesus had captured her attention, arousing her curiosity. Now the townspeople were similarly curious with her witness, "Come, see a man who told me all the things that I have done."

13. What kind of a response did the woman receive in town? v. 30, 39

Life Response

The woman left her waterpot — she left what she was doing because of the wonderful experience she had. She had to tell others. In fact, there is no sense of duty but rather delight in witnessing. Do you witness from a sense of duty or delight? Or both? Explain your answer.

- a.
- b.

5. How did Jesus arouse her curiosity? v. 10

In the Old Testament, living water was associated with Jehovah. "Living water" referred to a stream or water that flowed as opposed to a pond. Rabbis preferred this living water for ritual purification. Jesus took the familiar and gave it a deeper meaning.

6. What was that deeper meaning? John 7:38

7. Who is the living water? John 7:39

8. when a person believes in Christ, what happens? 7:38

9. Jesus made a startling statement in v. 16. Why did He confront the woman in this way?

The Rabbi allowed for two or possibly three marriages. The fact that the woman had five husbands and was now living with another man, pointed to her immorality.

10. Was the woman willing to acknowledge her sin?

What did she do to avoid talking about her sin? v. 20

Live Response

Are there things, sins, if you will, that hinder you from thirsting after God? Perhaps you aren't **deliberately** choosing to sin, but your spirit is cold and indifferent. Could it be that there is a blind spot that needs to be identified and dealt with in order for you to experience spiritual growth?

Do you have a passion for spiritual growth or are you satisfied with your spiritual state? Look back one year, five years, ten years ... have you grown in your walk with the Lord? What should be continually happening in your spiritual life? Read Hebrews 5:1-14 for some insights.

What God Desires from His Children

Hindrances to Spiritual Growth

Psalms 14:2

James 3:14, 16

Matthew 6:33

Philippians 2:3

Colossians 3:1

II Timothy 3:2

The root of many of our hindrances is **self**. "Sin is a tree with a great many branches, but it has only one root, namely, the inordinate love of self." (Kibby Page, "Living Joyously")

There are so many hindrances to this business of the Christian life. **How** does one seek God? The solutions are **always** found in God's Word and carried out in the power of the Holy Spirit, not our own strength.

Solutions —

Proverbs 8:17

Psalms 42:1, 2

Colossians 3:10

Romans 6:6

James 4:7, 8, 10 List four actions:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.

Living Witness

For the woman, Jesus was just an ordinary man. (v. 9) He then became a prophet in her eyes. (v. 19) Finally, a startling realization struck the woman.

Tanzanian, Russian Students Given Gifts At A Recent Chapel Service



AFLBS Dean Don Greven awards Bible School student Helen Larchenko a Hebrew Bible in recognition for excellent work in the the Hebrew language. Helena, a second-year student at AFLBS from St. Petersburg, Russia, takes the course with AFLC seminary students. The Bible was awarded by the American Bible Society.



AFLBS senior Bill Kroll and AFLTS student Larry Houston give a gift of \$550 to Pastor Zakaria Axwesso to aid his family during a year of drought in his native Tanzania. Pastor Zakaria, the president of Wa'ama Bible School in Tanzania, is studying at the AFLC seminary for the year and living on campus, where his warmth and love for the Lord has made him a popular father figure for many students and seminarians at AFLTS and AFLBS. A husband and father of eight, Pastor Zakaria heads a Lutheran Bible school that receives 200 to 300 applications per year but has room for 64.

*Deep and glorious, word victorious,
Word divine that ever lives!
Call thou sinners to be winners
Of the life that Jesus gives;
Tell abroad what God hath given;
Jesus is our way to heaven.*

*Savior tender, thanks we render
For the grace Thou dost afford;
Time is flying, time is dying,
Yet eternal stands Thy word;
With Thy word Thy grace endureth,
And a refuge us secureth.*

— T. V. Oldenburg

AFLC President Resigns

Rev. Richard Snipstead, 63, resigned as president of the Association of Free Lutheran Congregations (AFLC) in a letter to the Co-ordinating Committee, chief administrative agency of our church body, dated March 31, 1992.

In related action, the committee approved an official communication that was received by all AFLC pastors and congregations, notifying them that the former church leader had been removed from our clergy roster due to "a breach in moral conduct," and calling all members to unconditional love and support for the Snipstead family. They were also informed that professional Christian counseling would be offered to him through the church leadership.

Snipstead, who was first elected president in 1978, and who guided us through years of significant growth, expressed in his statement to the committee deep regret for the consequences to his family and the church of his moral failure.

The AFLC Vice President, Rev. Robert L. Lee, a Newark, Illinois, pastor, has assumed the office of president in accordance with our "Rules for Work," until an election can be conducted at the annual conference in June.

Rev. Norman Hoffeld, who serves Faith Lutheran Church, Shakopee, has the following address: P.O. Box 46, Shakopee, MN 55379. Phone number: 612-445-8474 (H) and 496-3126 (O).

Roslyn, South Dakota — Saron Lutheran Church will host special meetings on April 26-29, with Rev. Laurel Udden, New Hope, Minnesota, as the speaker.

Rev. Gerald Mundfrom continues to reside at the same home, but with a new address: 312 235th St., Osceola, WI 54020.

Campo Mourão, Brazil



The old girl's dorm (pictured right) at Bible School in Campo Mourão was razed in December/January. The girl's dorm also housed the Miriam Infant Home. Part of the wood taken from the old building was used in the roofing of the new buildings (Girl's Dorm and Infant Home). The rest of the wood and other materials were taken to be used at the ARCA — the new camp site in Curitiba, Paraná, and used in the buildings there.

The new dorm is built of face brick. There are flower boxes on the upper level, and along the sidewalks. There are 12 dorm rooms (double occupancy) and an apartment for the dean of women. There is carpeting on the floors.

These buildings have been built with much effort and we would like to thank each one of you who have contributed. By God's grace they will be dedicated to His service this year.

On November 29 and 30 the Bible School had its graduation services. Eight students graduated from the first year and four from the second year who are continuing on in the seminary.

Badger, Minnesota — Badger Creek Free Lutheran Church held their special meetings on March 29-April 1, with Rev. Hal Christensen, Nanuet, New York, as the speaker.

"This is a Joyous, Happy Day," a baptismal hymn text by **Rev. Roger Tappert**, pastor of St. Mark's Church, Indianapolis, Indiana, has been selected for the 1992 Rally Day service material of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod.

Rev. Henry Johanson, Willmar, Minnesota, an experienced outdoorsman, spoke at Word of Life Free Lutheran Church's Wild Game Supper on March 14. The Upsala, Minnesota, congregation used the Senior Citizen Center to serve sweet and sour venison, barbecued squirrel, elk, moose, rabbit, duck, pheasant and racoon.

Murrieta, California — Shepherd's Church of the Valley joined three other AFLC neighboring congregations on April 5, 1992, for an afternoon and evening of workshops. Guest speakers were Rev. Ralph and Katha Tjelta, AFLC Schools' professor and the AFLC Christian Education Director and Karen Knudsvig, Executive Secretary of the national WMF.

Roseau, Minnesota — Rose Church sponsored a soup and sandwich supper before each Lenten service this year. The congregation participated in an area AFLC pulpit exchange for the Wednesday evening services, with pastors from Warroad, Greenbush, Roseau, and Badger.

Upsala, Minnesota — Word of Life Church hosted its third annual Valentine Banquet with more than 130 people attending. Dr. Steve Lombardo, AFLC Schools professor, was the speaker.

Bloomington, Minnesota — Emmaus Church conducted a "Renewed Life Series" of special services on March 29-April 1, with Dr. Steve Lombardo as the guest speaker.

Rev. Richard Long, the new pastor of Atonement Free Lutheran Church has the following address: 201 S. McLeod Ave., Arlington, WA 98223. Phone number: 206-435-5752.

Wallace, South Dakota — Pastor Ken Thoreson, Beloit, Wisconsin, was the speaker during special meetings at Calvary Church on March 8-10.

Deep within my heart I find
That my soul takes comfort in
Knowing once a tomb confined
Thee, my Savior, 'Neath my sin
Thou didst lie in Death's dark state.
Now, behold, at Heaven's gate,
Thou art risen, shining, free —
Triumphant, reassuring me.

— J.N. Kildahl

CONSIDER THE LILIES

It is not easy for most of us to consider Easter without lilies. They are connected in our minds with the season as closely as the poinsettia is with Christmas. Like meat and potatoes. Or bacon and eggs. An abundance of the fragrant white flowers customarily adorn our churches on this festival Sunday, and at our church, for example, there is a large wooden cross especially constructed with shelves to display the plants in profusion.

Let us consider the lilies. Jesus spoke of the lilies of the field in His Sermon on the Mount, declaring that not even Solomon in all his glory was arrayed like one of these, in spite of the fact that they do not labor or spin in order to clothe themselves in such lavish splendor (Matthew 6:28-29). They are a lesson in loveliness to us, as well as a warning against worry.

But the lilies also have another message to announce, for they proclaim the good news of resurrection. My wife and I were given a lily bulb for Christmas. It seemed to be lifeless, from all outward appearances, and yet a minimum of soil with regular watering not only made it spring to life again but also to produce several large flowers ... and this during the coldest months of winter.

The analogy is imperfect, of course, since the death of Jesus Christ on the cross was not only the semblance of lifelessness. "He was crucified, dead and buried." The heart of Easter Gospel would be destroyed if He did not truly die, even as if He was not truly raised again to life. Our deaths will be fearfully real, too, not like dormant bulbs, as the old enemy comes to claim his own.

Consider the lilies this Easter season. Once again they will outshine all the springtime finery with which we clothe ourselves. Consider their fragrance, and remember that the Lord tells us in His Word of a resurrection parade that never ceases, in which His children triumphantly march and "spread everywhere the fragrance of the knowledge of Him" (II Corinthians 2:14).

THE OTHER SIDE OF THE HILL

A recent editorial entitled, "Over the Hill" (March 3, 1992), resulted in an emotional response from several readers, primarily in the form of personal letters to the editor which were not written for public consumption. It is clear to me in a new way that many pastors are afraid that their age will hinder them from being considered for call in the minds of many parishes. "I wouldn't mind serving here for the rest of my ministry," one man confessed, "but it would be terrible if I believed that the time had come to move ... even worse, if my church felt that it was time for me to leave! ... and yet I had to remain

here because no other congregation wanted me." One pastor even reminded me that age discrimination is against the law of our land.

So far no new seminary graduates have contacted the editor to complain that they were overlooked by certain congregations because of their youth and inexperience. Perhaps this means that such possibilities are merely wishful and wistful pipe dreams of aging pastors.

The problem may be a broader one. Pastors wrote of call committees that contacted them and then kept them waiting indefinitely, without the courtesy of any response to their interviews. "It's difficult not to become discouraged," said one man, and not to wonder what might be wrong with you and your ministry.

It is good that there is another side of the hill. God still works through our calling process, flawed and fallible though it may be, and each pastor with a calling from God can trust that He has a place for that calling to be expressed. There are seasons in the ministry, not unrelated to age, when we may well find more satisfaction and effectiveness in one particular aspect of ministry more than another. I must admit, for example, that my youth ministry had a different dimension during the years when I was closer to the age of a contemporary from my present perspective as a parent ... not necessarily better, but different nevertheless. There are special lessons to be learned, too, during the seasons of waiting.

Finally, pray for our pastors, no matter what side of the hill may be their appointed place. We are a fairly typical lot, as varied as the people who fill our pews on Sunday mornings, often distinguished only by the commitment to a calling. Your pastor has a combination of strengths and weaknesses, abilities and disabilities, much like your own. The hire-and-fire corporate model has unfortunately gained considerable ground in church life today, and not only the clergy are casualties but congregations as well.

There is another hill, called Mt. Calvary, which we can still climb today through the eyes of faith. Our Savior suffered and died on this hill, to bring forgiveness and healing to all who kneel at the foot of His cross. Come to Him with your disappointments and frustrations, whoever or whatever you are, and discover that He is wonderfully willing and able to do whatever is needful without and within.

Best wishes for a blessed Easter from the editorial staff of *The Lutheran Ambassador* to all of our faithful readers. He is risen! He is risen indeed!

What Have You Done About Jesus?

"What shall I do, then, with Jesus who is called Christ?" Pilate asked (Matthew 27:22).

A strange turn of events brought these two into close encounter, Jesus Christ and Pontius Pilate. It seemed, for a moment, that Pilate held in his hand the key to the destiny of Jesus Christ. His position gave him the power to determine what should be done at the moment. It was to him a judicial question. "What then, shall I do with Jesus?"

Nevertheless, this close encounter with the Divine Son of God could hardly be passed off as "just another case on his agenda for the day." The overwhelming sense of his own sin and guilt must have gripped him as he looked into the eyes of the sinless One. Perhaps in that heart-searching moment the "judicial question" became for Pontius Pilate also a "personal question." **"What, then, shall I do with Jesus who is called Christ?"**

This is the recurring question that cries out for an answer in each of our lives. Through various encounters in life we are confronted anew ... "What shall I do with Jesus?" A formal relationship is not enough. Church membership is not sufficient. "But to as many as received Him, Jesus, to them gave He the right to become sons of God" (John 1:12).

One may know and give assent to all the facts concerning Christ, yet lack a personal relationship to Him, never having personally received Him and confessed Him as Savior and Lord. Hence, the question comes to you this day — **"What have you done about Jesus?"** Are you among those who have brushed that question aside? Or possibly you are deriving comfort from the thought — "There will be a better time and place for me to settle this matter."

Perhaps you have neglected to face

the question for so long that a voice within you says, "It's too late for you now." Satan is cleverly preventing you from making the most significant decision of your life.

As the procession to Calvary comes into view again this Holy Week, look into the merciful eyes of Him who carries the cross for you. Behold His blood-stained body lifted up on the rugged tree — suffering, dying for your sin. Hear His assuring words ... "It is finished!"

Let Pontius Pilate's question be heard again. "What, then, shall I do with Jesus who is called Christ?" The response our Lord seeks is a simple "yes" of commitment. Do it now!

"Jesus Christ is passing by,
Sinner lift to Him thine eye.
As the precious moments flee,
Cry, 'Be merciful to me.'"



— Pastor
Jay G. Erickson

Wonderful Springtime

The silence of winter is over,
With the welcome return of spring,
When flowers again will be
blooming
And the birds coming back to sing.

There is life again all around us,
There is a fresh breath in the air,
The coldness of winter is broken
And new life is everywhere.

We think of that first Easter
morning
When Jesus arose from the grave;
He gave up His life to redeem us;
He lives and our lives He can save.

What shall we do with the Savior?
He earnestly calls to us now;
And eternal springtime He
gives us,
If in true repentance we bow.

Can we leave and simply
ignore Him,
This Savior who died for us all?
Or shall we receive Him and
love Him,
And gladly respond to His call?

— Laura Norum