

THE LUTHERAN AMBASSADOR

April 17, 1990



LIGHT on the WAY

meditations on God's Word

COVER PHOTO

Near Austin, Minn. A field of dandelions, the "poor man's orchids."

Roger C. Huebner, D. D. S.

Volume 28 Number 8

THE LUTHERAN AMBASSADOR

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Easter afterglow

We have just relived the account of the resurrection of Jesus Christ. We have been thrilled to hear again the announcement that He is risen. It has been a time of renewal and reassurance. We are privileged to see the whole picture. It is all a part of God's plan from before the foundation of the world. God said that He would send His Son to save us and He did. He promised that this Savior would be holy and perfect, and He was. It was predicted in the book of the prophet Isaiah that this Christ would come to die for us, and He did. The Gospels bear witness to the fact that He would rise again, and He did. His ascension into heaven took place 40 days after Easter as He gave them the "great commission" to share the Gospel to the ends of the earth.

All of this we see from the vantage point of these things having been completed. But it was not so for the disciples. They had to struggle to grasp the truth that Christ was alive. After the resurrection Jesus made about 12 appearances to various individuals and groups. One appearance was to about 500 people. In each appearance He convinced the one or the many that He was alive and that He would send the Holy Spirit. In Mark 16:15, He says, "Go ye into the world, and preach the Gospel to the whole creation."

Dr. Hallesby says "To the whole creation" and all He had was 11 men,

and He gave them orders at a time when He was about to leave them. Strange! Of course, He did not leave either His friends or His work. This is the record of the very first missionary commission. Did He not say: "And lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world?"

So His disciples, equipped with His love, were told to go and share the Gospel. He asked Peter, "Do you love Me?" and when Peter assured Him of his love, Jesus replied, "Feed My sheep." This He asked three times to remind Peter that only in the love of the Risen Savior can this Great Commission be carried out.

We, too, have been inspired by the word we have heard, "He is risen." Like Simon Peter, we are to feed the Lord's sheep and lambs. Let us go forth in His power.



by Pastor
James Asp

For this REASON

Motivation for life

(Ephesians 3:14-19 NIV)

How many times was the Apostle Paul asked why he was a follower of Jesus? How many times when he was beaten, flogged, imprisoned and persecuted did his tormentors question in their minds, "Why does he do it?" and in this passage Paul seems to be explaining, to the amazement of fellow Christians, his devotion to God even in the context of suffering (Eph. 3:13). I believe Paul was motivated during his ministry by two overpowering concepts: God's love for him through Christ Jesus, and God's mission for the church, to preach of the unsearchable riches of Christ (Eph. 3:8)!

Paul was once Saul, zealous in his contempt and, indeed, hatred for Christianity. While in the very act of hunting out believers in Jesus, he, himself, had an encounter with Jesus! Indeed, Acts 9 tells us that while Saul was "breathing out murderous threats, a light from heaven flashed around him." Then he heard the voice, "Saul, Saul, why do you persecute Me?" When Saul asked who it was who called to him, the voice answered, "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting." The memory of that voice probably rang through Paul's mind many times in his life. At first, producing guilt, but later reminding Paul of the grace of God! For, while he was in the very act of persecuting Jesus, Jesus demonstrated His love for Saul!

The words of Rom. 5:8 carry the power of the Gospel, wielded by the Holy Spirit, but they also carry the conviction of an apostle who had personally encountered the love of Christ: "God demonstrates his own love for us in this: while we were still sinners, Christ died for us." Jesus' love had become a personal motivation for Paul. It is the chief reason Paul "kneels before the Father" and a source of strength so powerful that Paul describes his resultant faith as being "rooted and established." The Christ whom Saul persecuted now dwelt in the heart of Paul through faith in Jesus. And this faith gave him the power to explore the width, length, height and depth of Jesus' love. Indeed, by faith, Saul was dead and Paul was alive. Paul sums this up in a statement made to the believers at Philippi. "For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain" (Phil. 1:21).

Perhaps this is the time to ask, for what

reason do we call ourselves Christians? What is our personal motivation? Do we understand that, in all the created universe, our planet is the capital city of the rebellion against God? Furthermore, we not only live in that city but by nature we are all participants in that rebellion (Eph. 2:3)! Like Saul, we need to be born again and through faith in Christ become new creations (II Cor. 5:17). Jesus' love for us demonstrated on the cross must be the heartbeat of our motivation. This is the prayer of Paul in our text today, that by God's rich mercy we might all be rooted and established in Jesus' love.

Paul's second motivation was salvation for those who were perishing apart from "the unsearchable riches of Christ." The mission of the church is to bring Jesus to the lost. Indeed, if this is not the No. 1 mission of the AFLC, of your congregation, or of your life, then priorities have been improperly set. The lost are all around us. Each of us must find ways to share Jesus with others. We cannot merely attend worship services on Sunday, expecting the lost to get up early as well so they can hear Law and Gospel. Instead *we* must go to *them*. It is reported by statistical surveys that many Christians have no friends outside their own Christian circle. This reminds me of Christ's words, "Open your eyes and look at the fields! They are ripe for harvest" (Jn. 4:35). The urgency is that the grain is about to fall to the earth before it can be harvested. Souls are perishing because the workers are few. Isn't there someone in your town whom you could befriend who seems to need to know Jesus' love?

As Christians we really need to ask Jesus what He would have us do with our days and indeed with our entire lives. I can remember when God led both my wife and me to leave our jobs and our home and answer the call to ministry. Five years later we find ourselves serving a two-year-old Home Mission congregation in Wheatland, Ia., where we are discovering the extent of joy there is in serving the Lord full-time. (This term is meant to define pastoral service, or missionary service and does not deny that all believers can serve the Lord full-time in every vocation and in their own families.)

God may or may not want you in full-time ◇

"The mission of the church is to bring Jesus to the lost."



*by Pastor
Tim Carlson
Wheatland, Ia.*

(The last of four parts)

Last time, in the third installment, Dr. Monseth discussed Dr. Sverdrup's concept of what it means for a congregation or church to be "free." The most important freedom is that of individuals within the congregation being set free from the bondage of sin and hence free to love and serve the Lord. The other freedom is that of the congregation being free from external civil and ecclesiastical authority. Sverdrup had much to do with writing a set of Principles for a "Lutheran Free Church" and Dr. Monseth briefly reviewed them last time. Finally, he began a consideration of Sverdrup's attitudes toward church union and today's final installment of this paper, first prepared in his postgraduate work at Concordia Seminary in St. Louis, continues on that point.

The congregation is repeatedly given the responsibility for taking the initiative in achieving this union and any movement in the direction of unity must be approached on the basis of these essential truths. Demonstrating his firmness in doctrinal matters pertaining to union, Sverdrup wrote, "If truth does not count, and the whole matter sinks to the level of 'political fixing,' then the Spirit and godliness have disappeared."⁵⁴ Chiding the "new Missourians," he asks, "But if congregations that agree in all essentials should unite, would this be 'sinful unionism'? It would be beneficial if someone would assume the task of defining more closely the term 'sinful unionism.' It is far from self-evident what is meant by this term."⁵⁵

GEORG SVERDRUP

champion of the free congregation

— By Dr. Francis W. Monseth, Dean
Association Free Lutheran
Theological Seminary

The church bodies involved in the merger of 1890 resulting in the formation of the United Norwegian Lutheran Church were the Norwegian-Danish Lutheran Conference, the Norwegian Augustana Synod, and the Anti-Missourian Brotherhood, the latter group having withdrawn from the Norwegian Synod. Sverdrup had been greatly instrumental in bringing this union about. It was not long after the new church began to function that a deep controversy developed concerning the role of Augsburg in the united body.

In the articles of union of 1890 it was provided that Augsburg Seminary was to be the official institution for the training of pastors in the United Church. Sverdrup and his colleagues considered it a breach of the articles of union when another institution was made the official college of the church. They believed this decision placed Augsburg's own preparatory department and college in a very precarious position. They felt this move was a threat to their program of instruction which included a nine-year preparation in the various departments at Augsburg.

Another difficulty developed in connection with the transfer of the title of Augsburg Seminary to the United Church. It was the decision of the court that Augsburg Seminary, whose board of trustees had previously held the institution in trust for the conference, could not deed away its property to another corporation. When it became evident that the United Church would not accept Augsburg as its educational institution unless the property were deeded to it, but would abandon the school to its fate, a group of Augsburg sympathizers, headed by Sverdrup and Oftedal, met to consider what could be done to save the institution. The group, which came to be known as the "Friends of Augsburg," determined that Augsburg must continue whatever the outcome might prove to be. These "Friends" functioned as a loosely-knit organization of pastors and lay-people within the United Church intent upon safeguarding the interest of the institution.

Owing to an increasing antagonism by the United Church towards all who supported Augsburg, which was expressed in the dropping of twelve

REASON

ministry, but He does want to be the motivation of your life's actions. So many people think the Lord wants them to give him talents, time, possessions, money, etc., when really He is interested in their lives. Jesus said, "Whoever finds his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for My sake will find it" (Matt:10:30). Once our lives are His, He can and will direct us in how to

use what we have for His service.

Paul summed up the motivation for life by starting with the phrase, "For this reason...". Since he was filled with Jesus' personal love for him and Jesus' desire that the church bring that love to the lost, let each of us, as believers in Jesus, look to our own lives and ask, "For what reason am I a Christian"? May that reason spill over into every thought and act of our lives.

congregations from the roster,* refusing to ordain several graduates of Augsburg, and denying seats to Sverdrup and Oftedal at a convention in 1895, the "Friends of Augsburg" met in 1896 to select a committee which was to formulate a set of principles and rules to be followed by the group in its future work. As noted previously, Sverdrup was the master designer of these statements which came to be known as the "Fundamental Principles" and which were adopted at the formal beginning of the Lutheran Free Church in 1897.⁵⁶

Sverdrup wrote and spoke of union no more in the sense which he had done prior to 1890.⁵⁷ The Lutheran Free Church, of which he became the founder, followed him in this respect until the 1950s when repeated agitation and promotion by leaders resulted finally in the majority of the congregations voting to merge with the American Lutheran Church. The formal welcoming of the Lutheran Free Church into the ALC took place in 1962. A small minority of LFC congregations, wanting to continue in the view of the congregations as understood by Sverdrup and as embodied in the "Fundamental Principles," chose to remain separate from the merger of 1962** and exists today as the Association of Free Lutheran Congregations.

Sverdrup: The Theologian: The Man. Acclaimed by a colleague as "one of the most learned theologians of our nationality on both sides of the ocean"⁵⁸ and described as a "brilliant lecturer" and a "keen dialectician,"⁵⁹ Sverdrup's main subjects at Augsburg were Old Testament and Dogmatics. In Old Testament he showed himself a pupil of Keil and Delitzsch. He did not occupy himself with questions of source and did not enter into archaeology and textual criticism. His interpretation of the Scriptures was more Biblical history than exegesis though he was thoroughly equipped for exegetical endeavor. He wished above all to make the Old Testament edifying for Christian congregations.⁶⁰ In his Dogmatic lectures (generally given without manuscript) and in which his audience has been pictured as being all "life,

"Sverdrup had been greatly instrumental in bringing this union about."

energy and enthusiasm,"⁶¹ Sverdrup appeared to be delivering a clear and rounded out speech, "full of conclusive logic and stirring force. Sverdrup's talent for formulating his ideas exactly, and impressing them deeply, as also his voice, gesture and accent, gave to his spoken toward the spell of a logical work of art."⁶² It cannot be said that Sverdrup presented many original thoughts. His material was essentially eclectic if one disregards his conception of the congregation. Neither can it be said that he led the students to independent study of systematic theology.⁶³ But in contrast to the best Lutheran dogmatists in America, these lectures had, in the opinion of one, "the great advantage that they built on the Scriptures and did not stand in the service of the seventeenth century theology or the Concordia formula."⁶⁴

Sverdrup is remembered as a clear and forceful writer. He "combined scholarship with singular power as a writer."⁶⁵ Among his literary works, all of which were published in Norwegian, are the following: *Fri menighet i fri Kirke* (Free Congregations in a Free Church), 1882; *Det Frie Kirkesamfund* (the Free Church Organization, 1897; *Ledende Principer* (Fundamental Principles), 1897, 1899; *Veiledning i den Lutherske Frikirkes Principer* (Guide in the Lutheran Free Church Principles), 1904. He was editor of *Kvartalskrift*, 1875-81; *Lutheraneren*, 1877-81, 1885-90; *Folkebladet*, 1881-82; *Kirkebladet*, 1890-93, and *Gasseren* (a mission paper for Madagascar), 1900-07. Selected writings have been compiled and edited in a six-volume edition entitled *Samlede Skrifter i Udvalg*, 1909-12. An English translation of writings of Sverdrup was published in 1969 and entitled *Heritage of Faith*.

Though Sverdrup never consented to be ordained, he was in great demand as a preacher. His style was simple and clear. His great aim was "to honor his

Master by commending the truth to the hearts and consciences of his hearers, and not to magnify himself."⁶⁶ Earnest and loving in his manner, deeply impressed himself by the Divine truth, he sought to impress others with it also.

Sverdrup was possessed of the typical Scandinavian temperament and personality which was most clearly evident in personal conversation with the man. At the age of 43 he was described as "cheerful and affable, and at the same time possessing a native dignity of which he cannot easily divest himself."⁶⁷ This "native dignity" is explained by another in terms of his being reserved and outwardly-unemotional.⁶⁸ Despite his personal reserve, he was "a man of freedom and of independent judgment...a man of iron will, who never crawled, never flattered, never compromised."⁶⁹ He was willing

continued on p. 16

JESUS

Earthbound. A cold, uncomfortable stable scene,

Jesus humbly born serene,

Rested in a manger, in swaddling clothes bound,

With animals peering all around.

Carpentry tools rested in humble, calloused hands,

In Nazareth lands.

Through miracles, parables, examples taught thee,

This kind, gentle Teacher was He.

His perfect, infinite, unconditional love, mercy, trust, and understanding

Are past our comprehending.

Virtues practiced He as verified.

He, never guilty, made us justified.

His blood shed for our transgression, Our hope for life eternal in His resurrection.

Jesus given as a promised gift,

Graciously receive Him with thankfulness in faith as an upward lift.

Mrs. Jule (Patricia) Hanson
Warroad, Minn.

I know for certain

My name is Maria Josefa da Silva. I am 18 years old and live in Foz do Iguacu, Parana.

In 1983, my family went to live in Paraguay. Through a Christian family there, we met Pastor Charles Knapp, who had home Bible studies. We started attending and really enjoyed them. When we moved back to Foz do Iguacu, Pastor Charles asked my parents if he could visit us and have Bible studies in our home there. My parents were glad to consent to his visits. In Foz I started to skip out on the studies to go places with my friends. One day I was invited to attend the Bible Camp in Campo Mourao and after thinking about it I accepted the invitation. It was at this camp that I felt Jesus had entered my life. But it wasn't a real conversion. When I returned home, I started participating in the church activities and learning things I had always wanted to know.

Pastor Charles and his wife Joyce helped me very much. One Sunday evening I heard a message that spoke to my heart and this time I know for certain that I accepted Jesus with fidelity and truth.

I had been encouraged to come and study at the Free Lutheran Bible School. My age and lack of studies prevented me from coming for a few years. Last year, Pastor Pedro Simao de Abreu asked me if I was ready to come and study here and this time I could answer yes.

Even though there are problems at home and my father died at the end of last year, I stayed firm in my decision to come and study and here I am. Praise the Lord for this.

I want to learn much from God's Word and be able to take the Word of God to others, especially in Paraguay and Argentina, the countries that border Foz do Iguacu, as I have a good knowledge of Castelhana (Spanish).

With God's help, my goal is to finish Bible school and go back to my church in Foz and help others who



don't know God's Word.

Mark 16:15: "...Go into all the world and preach the Gospel to the whole creation."

Maria Josefa participates in the Central Free Lutheran Church this school year. She is involved in the hospital visitation ministry there.

Work in India resumed

Following the visit of Rev. Eugene Enderlein, AFLC World Mission Director, and Rev. Einar Unseth, chairman of the World Missions Committee, to India in October of last year, much discussion took place in meetings of the Committee relative to the advisability of resuming official support of work in Andra Pradesh, India, previously supported. The assistance had been interrupted in the mid '80s because of internal problems in the mission there.

Upon the recommendation of the two visitors and out of personal conviction, the Committee on Feb. 5 voted that the AFLC "again take up the support of the Gospel workers in India." A companion motion ratified the action of the Bible Faith Lutheran Church of India to re-affiliate with the AFLC."

At present there is nothing in the mission budget earmarked for India and an item cannot be placed there until the next annual conference. Therefore, gifts in the meantime must be designated gifts. U. S. support for the 24 workers in the mission is only \$500 per month.

St. John's Lutheran Duluth, Minnesota

Any time you are visiting a relative or friend or just vacationing along the beautiful North Shore drive in north-eastern Minnesota, make sure you stop in our our AFLC church located in Duluth.

With the help of St. Paul's Lutheran in nearby Cloquet, St. John's began their first worship service at the Duluth Cathedral School chapel in the fall of 1984. St. John's was incorporated in the winter of 1985. In the fall of 1986 the fellowship moved and leased a church building which was originally built for a congregation of the Lutheran Free Church in Kenwood neighborhood.

The congregation had specific prayer requests regarding their future. One, they wanted a full-time pastor and, two, they eagerly wanted a permanent place of worship. God has been good. In the fall of 1988 Pastor Steve Kneeland accepted the call to come to Duluth. Also, the congregation voted this past January to purchase seven acres of land about a mile up the road from the present location, with the vision of building once the land is paid for. Whenever there has been a need, just at the right time God has supplied. Praise the Lord!

People drive from all over the north woods to worship at St. John's. Members come from all areas of Duluth and also from Proctor, Hermantown, Cloquet and as far as Meadowlands (40 miles away). St. John's has Sunday School for both adults and children at 9 a.m., with worship at 10. One Sun-

This is not a large amount but help is needed to maintain these faithful servant of God laboring among thousands of people until budgeted funds will be available, after Feb. 1, 1991. Individuals and congregations so led are encouraged to send their assistance to the AFLC mission office in Minneapolis, Minn.

1990 Youth Leadership School

Our Bible School will be hosting a Leadership School this coming summer. The week of the school will be July 15-19.

Emphasis will be on worship, witness and outreach. Sessions will take place on owning your own Luther League ministry and peer ministry. One session will concern itself with the differences between Law and Gospel.

It is important that youth and adults pre-register. Pre-registrations can be sent in to AFLBS with the appropriate registration blank.

Soon a registration blank will be sent. Since space is limited, you are urged to send in that blank with the appropriate fee right away. Priority of space will go to youth and staff.

Pastors are especially urged to attend. There will be special sessions with our AFLC Youth Director. These sessions will be geared to pastors, youth directors, youth advisors and counselors. Sunday School teachers are welcome to attend.

day night a month is family night with activities ranging from sleigh rides in the winter to picnics in the summer. Also, Christian videos are used often and are well received on family nights.

This summer St. John's is planning on hitting the field in the city church softball league. On Wednesday, Bible study is at 7 p.m. for adults and teens. During Lent we have a potluck supper at 6 followed by singing, sharing and a study for the whole family on Wednesdays.

We are thankful to God for our church. If you are in the area this summer, please stop in and worship with us. Our address is 1630 Kenwood Ave., just across the street from the Kenwood Shopping Center.

—Corr.

West Coast news

The West Coast District Luther League will be having their spring rally at Astoria, Ore., April 20-22. The theme will be "Missions — Youth With a Purpose," based on Romans 10:14. This verse reads, "How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them?"

The West Coast District has rallies in the fall and spring. Each event begins on Friday evening and continues through Sunday noon.

Let us be in prayer for the youth of our AFLC. You are encouraged to place each youth event announced in the *Ambassador* on your prayer list.

Pastor Craig Johnson of Eugene, Ore., recently attended a youth resource seminar of Youth Specialties Ministries. Pastor Johnson relates that the seminar was very helpful. He believes that the approach the Youth Specialties have is a good one.

Having also attended these seminars as the AFLC Youth Director, I would certainly agree with Pastor Johnson. Usually the seminars cost only \$39.00. You will be able also to examine a number of printed resource materials from Group Publishing.

Northern Michigan news

About 30 young people gathered on Sat., Mar. 10, for a youth rally of the Northern Michigan District. The rally was hosted by Grace Lutheran Church of Pelkie and featured a morning Bible study by Rev. Herbert Franz on the theme, "Examine Yourself" from II Corinthians 13:5. At the business meeting it was decided to hold a fall overnight retreat at a camp (yet to be determined) around the first part of November. There will also be another all-day rally next spring in Ishpeming.

Following a lunch of taco salad and

Summer van needed

The Luther League Gospel team is in need of a van for this coming summer. The need is from Friday, June 1, through August 7. Details can be received by calling or writing Rev. Dennis Gray, AFLC Youth Director, 112 West Milner, DeKalb, Ill. 60115. This is an urgent need since the four-member team will be traveling with 20 puppets and other supplies. (Call 815-758-2531.)

God, can you hear me?

Do you feel like God isn't listening to your prayers? That you're having to battle life's problems all on your own? If you can relate to this, maybe the problem is unconfessed sin in your life. Isaiah 59:2 says "But your iniquities have made a separation between you and your God and your sins have hidden His face from you so that He does not hear." When you feel that your relationship with God has become cold or distant, it is important to make sure the line of communications is open by confessing any known sin in your life. God promises us in 1 John 1:9 that "If we confess our sins He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." Let's claim that promise today and open up those lines of communication!

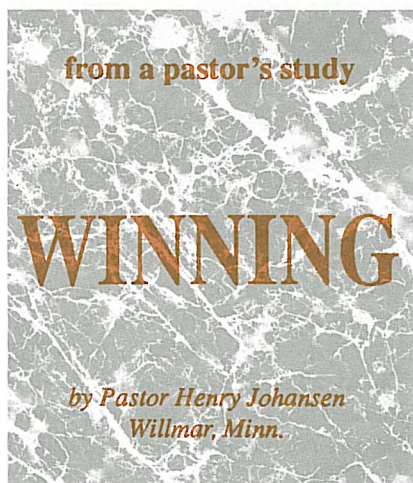
Bob Halvorson

Devotional Life Secretary

sandwiches, the afternoon was spent playing volleyball, basketball and ping pong at the Pelkie School. Then the pastors in attendance (Charles Knapp, Harvey Jackson, Jerry Holmaas and John Mundfrom) took turns answering questions from teens and adults which had been submitted earlier by the planning committee.

A spaghetti supper was served about 5:00 and the day concluded with a musical concert by Yvonne (Haugen) Blake of Ontonagon, an alumnus of AFLBS.

—Pastor J. Mundfrom



Everyone loves a winner, while the losers are left to nurse their wounds. Recently, my wife and I were watching a college basketball tournament game. First one team was ahead, then the other. When the game was over, as always there was joy with shouting and hugging on the winner's side. The losing team and fans? It was tough. They felt bad. Some cried. Both sides played with equal prowess. The teams were well matched. It was anybody's game, but there had to be a winner and a loser. The winners went on to play again in the tournament, the losers were done, ignored, save for the cameramen who zeroed in on their misery. Will the winner of that contest be the final champions? Only the future will reveal that at this writing. The outcome will be history when these lines are read.

There is another contest, fought even more intensely than those games in the stadia, courts and fields, and the stakes are much higher. The outcome has eternal ramifications. There is a factor that needs to be remembered. This contest also has a winning and losing side, yet no person has to be on the losing side.¹

As with all contests, there is a set of rules which the Coach has set up. The rules themselves say that they are not burdensome.² Besides that, the Coach has made available to the teammates the power to follow His rules.³ What is this game? It is the game of life. Its players are you and I, along with over five billion others. The Coach? The Triune God, the creating, redeeming

and sanctifying God! Of course, there is another coach, another team. There has to be or there would not be a contest.

Knowing the value of training a good coach keeps his team in constant home court practice. Games are scheduled with other teams to test the stamina, the method of play and the teamwork of the players. In any good game, the tension is high as the lead bounces back and forth between teams. For some, the hours of practice will result in the joy of winning, of knowing that the lessons were well learned. In a close game, even the agony of loss is tempered by the players knowing that they gave it their best shot. A lopsided loss helps the team to evaluate their failures and take corrective measures. In the area of the spiritual, the loss is always lopsided. We share in the joy of victories, thankful that we have learned to handle the temptations and trials of life that come our way.⁴ When sin does occur in our lives, we learn repentance and God's grace from the resulting distress and humility that we have caused to ourselves and others.

The Coach does say that we are not an island, that none of us lives for himself.⁵ Paul taught that we "sit together in heavenly places."⁶ We need to realize the truth that we are responsible to our Coach as well as the rest of the team, our fellow believers.⁷ Like the games in the courts, we are also responsible to those on the opposite team. There is a penalty to the player

(as well as his team) when he makes a wrong move against the opposition. Christians are a letter of God read by all men.⁸ If we allow spiritual flabbiness to prevail by physical selfishness, mental slovenliness, moral dullness and spiritual density, because we have failed to keep ourselves under control,⁹ not only is the image of our team tarnished, but those who would desire to join from the ranks of the devil's squad are immediately crippled. They do not see their need; our conduct has blinded their eyes.

How many of us are willing to spend every ounce of our physical, mental, moral and spiritual energy for Jesus Christ? He did in obedience to the Father. He sends us to do the same.¹⁰ Do we have the same mind as He? Are we willing to be of "no reputation"? Are we willing to be humbled?¹¹ Are we ready to be poured out as a drink offering for the cause of Christ?¹² Hard questions, but not impossible, "For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of His good pleasure."¹³ His working in your life is only possible by your knowing Him and the power of His resurrection in your life.¹⁴ Will you join us on the team?

¹I John 3:16-17; ²I John 5:3; ³I Cor. 15:10; ⁴I Cor. 10:13; ⁵Rom. 14:7; ⁶Eph. 2:6; ⁷I Cor. 12:26; ⁸II Cor. 3:2, 3; ⁹I Cor. 9:27; ¹⁰John 20:21; ¹¹Phil 2:5; ¹²Phil. 2:17 (NASB); ¹³Phil. 2:13; ¹⁴Phil. 3:10.

What is vain?

For a man who has not felt the shame and the burden of sin, and realized it to be the barrier that keeps him back from God, to see love's necessity in the cross, is as vain as for a childless man to interpret the thoughts of a father, or a deaf man to expound a theory of music. "The natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God."

W. M. Clow

ARTICLE VI

A free congregation esteems and cherishes all the spiritual gifts which the Lord gives for its edification and seeks to stimulate and encourage their use" (*The Fundamental Principles*).

A free congregation is meant to be a living congregation. It is to be one where the Holy Spirit freely carries on His five-fold work of calling, gathering, enlightening, sanctifying and preserving human souls, all by and through the Word of God. Thus it is necessary for the Bible to be regularly and faithfully preached and taught in the congregation. Article II set forth the goal: salvation and eternal blessedness for all. In our article today the goal is stated as being the edification or building up of the congregation.

To this end, and the end is one, spiritual gifts are available. They are sometimes referred to as gifts of grace, as well. Georg Sverdrup has written that the congregation is "obligated to revive, encourage, elicit and call forth the gifts."

In his discussion of *the Fundamental Principles* as found in his collected work *Samlede Skrifter i Udvalg*, Vol. III, Sverdrup declares that officers of a congregation should be chosen carefully, according to Acts 5 ("Pick out from among you seven men of good repute, full of the Spirit and of wisdom"). Some will say that we cannot judge the heart, but Sverdrup insists that the congregation or church has the duty to discern such matters.

Officers chosen to lead have the responsibility to work for God and the congregation, but they aren't to do all the work. All believers, he says, are to enter the task: "big and small, young and old, men and women." He gives the example of one officer, that of treasurer. One person has the position, but all the others should help him in his job.

Sverdrup doesn't name the spiritual gifts of I Corinthians 12-14 or cite the passage, nor Romans 12 or Ephesians 4, for that matter. He writes in a general way concerning the responsibilities of members. They are to be active, available, using their talents, living close to God so that they may be a blessing to others.

Let us hear how he puts it, in his own words: "It (the public preaching of the Word) isn't only to say to a person and a member of the organized congregation that you must give the Lord your heart in a true and living faith, but also that you must present yourself as a living, holy and God-pleasing offering with a true, deep and sacrificial love to God and your neighbor. The preaching must be congregation-oriented so that light falls over the Christians' call and as members of a congregation, over their pounds and talents committed to them."

Naturally, there is interest over the spiritual gifts mentioned in I Corinthians even though Sverdrup doesn't mention them in this place. What about speaking in tongues, their interpretation, and healing? There is difference of opin-

ion as to whether these gifts are still in effect. A new book, *Miracles, Demons and Spiritual Warfare*, by Edward N. Gross (Baker Book House), suggests that the gifts of healing and tongues are no longer given. No doubt some in the AFLC hold that view.

The Association has officially held, since 1965, that speaking in tongues is a legitimate gift still given, but it also calls it "a lesser gift." It is fair to say that the AFLC's position on the matter has been one of great caution. Prospective pastors are screened carefully as to their understanding and approach to the gift. Local congregations are admonished to exercise care regarding this point in receiving new members. The stance is this: if one has the gift, let it be used privately and never as a subject of promotion among others. Speaking in tongues is not to be thought of as a sign of higher advancement in fellowship with God and, hence, in His kingdom.

Time and space prevent a full discussion of the use of the spiritual gifts in the congregation. We repeat, Sverdrup discusses the issue in general terms. It is almost as if he is thinking more in the sense of the talents Christians have been given. Earlier in this series (Article II) we quoted him as saying, "Each believer has his spiritual gift (gift of grace) and is responsible for using it for the building up of the Body of Christ" (the church).

Near the conclusion of his discussion of Article VI, Sverdrup sums up his thoughts about the congregation and the place of the believers in it. We close with his words. "Consequently, this is the congregation's right form in the world: a believing, praying and working people, who receive from the Lord all that they need for their work, faith, life and gifts, and who therefore acknowledge this wholly and completely, that they belong to the Lord with all that they are and all that they have, so they are all His servants, created by Him for all good work.

"Are our congregations of this kind? If not, why not?"

GEORG SVERDRUP

In this issue we conclude a series of four articles by Dr. Francis W. Monseth, the dean of our seminary. As has been noted, the articles are a paper which he wrote while doing postgraduate work at Concordia Theological Seminary in St. Louis. He has graciously permitted us to use it here.

We trust that this series has given our readers a greater understand of this man whom we consider one of our spiritual forebears. He is not the only one, but an important one. It is too bad that there isn't much material readily available on him for the average reader, except for the current biography by James Hamre, *Georg Sverdrup: Educator, Theologian, Churchman*, and that is well worth reading. It is to be hoped that Andreas Helland's biography, *Georg Sverdrup: The Man and His Message* (1947), will be one of the books reprinted by our Board of Publications at a future date. ¶



Exceedingly abundantly

What a tremendous promise God has given to His children in Eph. 3:20. We are assured that He "is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us."

The brief 28-year history of our AFLC has been a continuous demonstration of God's blessing far above what any of us have even imagined. I want to single out these areas for this article.

When the AFLC was organized at Thief River Falls, Minn., in the fall of 1962, we as a church body did not own one single piece of property. It was not something that concerned us a great deal. The future was in God's hands. We were willing to trust Him for whatever He had in store for us.

It soon became evident that an area of need in this new church body was that of providing assistance for the new congregations that were springing up. The Missions Committee was very active in those early months. One of their tasks was to incorporate the Committee in the state of North Dakota. This was accomplished on April 24, 1963. This opened the way for the purchase of the former Messiah Lutheran Church in Fargo. Papers were signed on May 14, 1963. The purchase price was \$30,000. A "Stretch Program" was initiated to raise funds to take care of

this indebtedness. Loans and gifts from the people of the AFLC took care of this obligation. The AFLC now owned its first property. The intent was to use this facility as a mission center. Some felt that this was also an indication that Fargo would become the center for the work of the AFLC.

Another committee was also hard at work during this time. This was the Seminary and Doctrine Committee. The organizational conference in the fall of 1962 had expressed the desire that a seminary be started in the fall of 1963. The June conference in 1963 set the target date for the opening of the seminary for the fall of 1964. It did, however, recognize that some most important steps had to be undertaken. In addition to securing a faculty and students, a suitable site had to be secured for the seminary.

An intensive study was made of various sites by the Seminary Committee. The Committee finally decided to purchase the Hauge Inner Mission property located on the outskirts of Minneapolis at Medicine Lake. The purchase price for this valuable piece of property was \$100,000. The property included a beautiful, spacious brick church building on 21 acres of land. The Seminary was opened on this site in the fall of 1964.

A residence of the president of the AFLC was also purchased at about the same time. The purchase price was \$20,779. The home was occupied by the John Strands in September of 1964. A seminary faculty house was also purchased for \$10,358. The "Stretch Program" now gave way to the "Praise Program" as a means of raising funds from our own people.

The AFLC offices were now firmly

**"The future was
in God's hands. We
were willing to trust
Him for whatever
He had in store
for us."**

established in Minneapolis. We all can thank God for all that has transpired to bring this about.

The AFLC was also interested in beginning a Bible school. This became a reality in the fall of 1966. The interest in the Bible school led the 1967 annual conference to approve the building of a dormitory.

Ground-breaking for this new dormitory was held on March 27, 1968. The construction bid was for \$213,500. A "One Grand Fellowship" was organized to help raise funds for the dormitory project. The dorm was ready for the opening of the Bible School in the fall of 1968. A garage and shop was built at a cost of \$11,275. A home at the lower side of the campus was purchased for a student residence at a cost of \$17,000, and a "Dean's Home" was built on campus at a cost of \$30,500.

God blessed the Bible School and the facilities once thought adequate were no longer so. Students were being turned away for lack of room. The 1972 conference approved a resolution to build a second dormitory on campus. An additional five-and-a-half acres of land were also acquired and utilized in the building of the men's dormitory. The cost of the additional land was \$16,635.

EDITORIALS

It is also to be hoped that the *Ambassador*, in the future, will be able to share more history with its readers, not only of the Lutheran Free Church and Sverdrup, Sven Oftedal, etc., but of other pieces which go to make up the mosaic which is the AFLC. There is a rich heritage and tradition from which we all benefit now whether we realize it or not.

Finally, since we have a congregation in Ishpeming, Mich., may we share this bit of trivia concerning Prof. Sverdrup. In 1883, Professors Sverdrup, Oftedal and S. R. Gun-

nersen resigned from Augsburg due to the persistent strife in the church, the Norwegian-Danish Conference (Konferentsen), concerning the philosophy of the school. Sverdrup and Oftedal refused to withdraw their resignations, but were subsequently re-elected as professors by more than a two-thirds majority. A delegation of five laymen went to the two teachers to ask them to accept the election, among them being one J. H. Oje of Ishpeming. The happy outcome was that Sverdrup and Oftedal continued at Augsburg until their deaths, Sverdrup in 1907 and Oftedal in 1911.

Construction of the second dorm was begun in 1973 and completed in time for the 1974 school year. The original bid of \$306,000 was exceeded due to difficulties encountered during construction. The total cost for this building was \$430,000.

The 1979 annual conference found itself considering the purchase of an old US Air Base at Osceola, Wis. The move in a new direction of ministry to provide an AFLC Retreat Center was approved by a 180-24 vote. Only about \$2,000 remains to be paid of the original purchase price of \$200,000.

None of us who were there at that beginning of the AFLC could ever have envisioned the progress that has been made. It surely has been exceeding abundantly above anything we could have asked or thought. God has blessed. How amazing it is to realize that all of the aforementioned properties are nearly completely paid for.

Today the AFLC faces its biggest challenge. The continued growth of the AFLC has resulted in the need for a new administration building. The estimated cost is \$650,000. The 1989 annual conference gave approval to this project. A fine committee has been working on the fund drive. We find ourselves in the midst of this project. As the challenge is presented to each of us, we trust that the response of every heart will be let us "rise up and build." — *Pastor Richard Snipstead*

"None of us who were there at the beginning...could ever have envisioned the progress...."

Eastern North Dakota District WMF Spring Rally

May 5, 1990, 9:30 a.m.

**New Luther Valley Free Lutheran Church
McVile, N. Dak.**

Tioga, N. Dak.

Ten children received certificates of graduation from cradle roll into Sunday school at Zion Lutheran, Tioga, N. Dak. Pictured are Jennifer Myren, Christopher Pederson and Jess McIntyre. Others receiving certificates were JaNeese Ellis, Sharon Foster, Erin Lalim, Jessica Olson, Mason Swanson, Christopher Vedner and Ryan Wolla



Western Dakota - Eastern Montana WMF District officers are: Jeanie Sheldon, secretary; Charolett Qually, vice-president; Connie Kinnoin, president; Ardis Zurich, treasurer and cradle roll secretary; Linda Korhonen, national WMF president is seated.

Camarillo, Calif.

Five quilts were given to Luther's Attic for sale and 25 layettes and many receiving blankets were given to the Zoe Christian Center in Oxnard for needy mothers by the Christian Service Day women of First Lutheran.

What's the most creative job in the world?

It involves taste, fashion, decorating, recreation, education, transportation, psychology, romance, cuisine, designing, literature, medicine, handicraft, art, horticulture, economics, government, community relations, pediatrics, geriatrics, entertainment, maintenance, purchasing, direct mail, law, accounting, religion and management.

Anyone who can handle all those has to be "something special". SHE is. She's a Homemaker. —Selected

Women's Missionary Federation

In memoriam gifts

Howard Courtright, Aurora, Colo.
Edwin Brenhaug, Medford, Ore.
Olga Mayer, Everett, Wash.
Eleanor Johnson, Ottawa, Ill.
Mary Rovang, Dalton, Minn.
Elva Engesether, Fosston, Minn.
Walter Grahn, Roseau, Minn.
Seth Karlsson, Roseau, Minn.
Elizabeth Thorne, Aitkin, Minn.
Ruth Oppegard, Valley City, N. Dak.
Oscar Olson, Valley City, N. Dak.
Inga Ford, Valley City, N. Dak.
Eileen Stevens, Valley City, N. Dak.

Blessed are those who die in the Lord



Advent

Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates
O Come, O Come, Immanuel
O How Shall I Receive Thee
Rejoice, All Ye Believers
Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus
Come, Thou Savior of Our Race
Make Wide the Door, Unbar the Gate
Repent, The Kingdom Draweth Nigh
Hark, the Glad Sound!
Prepare the Way, O Zion!
On Jordan's Banks the Baptist's Cry
Hosanna Now Through Advent
Comfort, Comfort Ye My People
Now Jesus At the Door Is Knocking
Christians, Prayer May Well Employ You
The Only Son From Heaven
Now Hail We Our Redeemer
Savior of the Nations, Come

Christmas

Joy To The World!
O Come, All Ye Faithful
Hark! The Herald Angels Sing
O Little Town of Bethlehem
Angels We Have Heard on High
Silent Night! Holy Night!
It Came Upon The Midnight Clear
Away in a Manger
Angels, From the Realms of Glory
O Come, All Ye Children
What Child Is This
From Heaven Above to Earth I Come
I Am So Glad Each Christmas Eve
As Lately We Watched
All My Heart This Night Rejoices
Thou Didst Leave Thy Throne
When Christmas Morn Is Dawning
The First Noel
Good Christian Men Rejoice
While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks
Infant Holy, Infant Lowly
Once in Royal David's City
Behold, a Branch is Growing
Of the Father's Love Begotten
Be Ye Joyful, Earth and Sky
What Can I Give Him
The Happy Christmas Comes Once More
As Each Happy Christmas
Beside Thy Manger Here I Stand
Rejoice, Rejoice This Happy Morn
Go Tell It On The Mountain
Hark, Now, O Shepherds
Let All Together Praise Our God
A Great and Mighty Wonder
Shout the Glad Tidings, Exultingly Sing

New Year

O God, Our Help in Ages Past
Jesus, Name of Wondrous Love
A Year Again is Now Descending
The Old Year Now Hath Passed Away

Epiphany

As With Gladness Men of Old
How Brightly Beams the Morning Star
O How Beautiful the Sky
The Morning Star Upon us Gleams
Christ, Whose Glory Fills the Skies
Brightest and Best of the Stars of the
Morning
Songs of Thankfulness and Praise
O Thou, Who By a Star Didst Guide

Lent: Death of Christ

O Sacred Head, Now Wounded
Beneath the Cross of Jesus
When I Survey the Wondrous Cross
Go to Dark Gethsemane
In the Cross of Christ I Glory
Sweet the Moments, Rich in Blessing
Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross
In the Hour of Trial
Alas! And Did My Savior Bleed
Ah, Holy Jesus, How Hast Thou Offended
There is a Green Hill Far Away
What Wondrous Love Is This
Glory Be to Jesus
The Hour in Dark Gethsemane
O World, See Here Suspended
Wide Open Are Thy Loving Hands
He Was Wounded For Our Transgressions
Jesus, Name All Names Above
Jesus, Refuge of the Weary
O What Precious Balm and Healing
Stricken, Smitten and Afflicted
"Man of Sorrows!" What a Name
'Tis Midnight, and On Olive's Brow
Were You There
Savior, When in Dust to You
'Tis Finished! So the Savior Cried
My Song is Love Unknown
O Darkest Woe
O Come and Mourn With Me Awhile
Christian, Dost Thou See Them

Lent: Palm Sunday

All Glory, Laud, and Honor
Hosanna, Loud Hosanna
Ride On, Ride On, O Savior-King
Hosanna, Hallelujah

Easter

I Know That My Redeemer Lives
Thine Is the Glory
Alleluia! Jesus Lives!
Come, Ye Faithful, Raise the Strain
Christ The Lord is Risen Today
Ended His Strife, The Battle Done
Easter Morrow Stills Our Sorrow
He is Arisen! Glorious Word
That Easter Day with Joy Was Bright
In Heavenly Love Abiding
Now All the Vault of Heaven Resounds

Tentative list of hymns for the proposed AMBASSADOR HYMNAL

Christ The Lord is Risen Today, Alleluia!
Good Christian Friends, Rejoice and Sing!
Christ is Risen! Alleluia!
Jesus, Master, At Thy Word
There's a Kingdom Fair
Hail the Day That Sees Him Rise
We Welcome Glad Easter
Now the Green Blade Rises
Jesus Lives! Thy Terrors Now

Ascension of Christ

A Hymn of Glory Let Us Sing
Look, Ye Saints, the Sight is Glorious
Alleluia! Sing to Jesus
I See Thee Standing, Lamb of God
Hark! Ten Thousand Harps and Voices
Golden Harps Are Sounding
The Head That Once Was Crowned

Pentecost

Come, O Come, Thou Quickening Spirit
Open My Eyes, That I May See
O Day Full of Grace, Which We Behold
Gracious Spirit, Dove Divine
Holy Spirit, Faithful Guide
Breathe On Me, Breath Of God
Come, Holy Spirit, Come
Come, Holy Spirit, Heavenly Dove
Come Down, O Love Divine
Come, Holy Ghost, Creator Blest
Heavenly Spirit, All Others Transcending
The Glory of the Spring How Sweet

Trinity

Holy, Holy, Holy
Come, Thou Almighty King
Praise Ye The Father
He Is
Father Most Holy, Merciful and Tender
Glory Be to God the Father
Praise to the Father, The Glorious King

Reformation

A Mighty Fortress
Faith of Our Fathers, Living Still
Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation

Thanksgiving

Come, Ye Thankful People, Come
Now Thank We All Our God
We Gather Together
Sing to the Lord of Harvest
Let All Things Now-Living
Praise and Thanksgiving
Thanks to God for My Redeemer
We Plow the Fields and Scatter
God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending
How Marvelous God's Greatness

Reign and Second Coming of Christ

Jesus Shall Reign Where'er the Sun
Rejoice, The Lord is King!
Wake, Awake, For Night is Flying
One Day!

Lo! He Comes With Clouds

Descending

The Day is Surely Drawing Near
Christ Returneth!
Hail to the Lord's Anointed
Ten Thousand Times Ten Thousand
When Jesus Comes in Glory

Other Special Days

For All the Saints
Ye Watchers and Ye Holy Ones
The Son of God Goes Forth to War
For All Thy Saints, O Lord
From All Thy Saints in Warfare

Prayer, Praise

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty
Crown Him with Many Crowns
Beautiful Savior
What a Friend We Have in Jesus
All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name
O Worship the King
Ye Servants of God, Your Master Proclaim
My God! How Wonderful Thou Art
All Creatures of our God and King
For the Beauty of the Earth
Praise, My Soul, The King of Heaven
Jesus, Priceless Treasure
Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing
Lord, Teach Us How to Pray Aright
O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing
Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise
We Praise Thee, O God
O Worship the King
O Savior, Precious Savior
Sweet Hour of Prayer
This is My Father's World
My Jesus, I Love Thee
Blessing, and Honor, and Glory, and
Power
All Glory Be to Thee, Most High
Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee
One There is Above All Others
O Sing, All Ye Lands
Thou Art the Way, The Truth, The Life
Dear Lord and Father of Mankind

Thee, God, We Praise, Thy Holy Name
We Bless

Come, Christians, Join to Sing
Give to Our God Immortal Praise
Ye Lands, To the Lord Make a Jubilant
Noise

My Heart is Longing to Praise My Savior
Prayer is the Soul's Sincere Desire
When Morning Gilds the Skies
Praise the Lord, Ye Heavens, Adore Him
Lord of Our Life, and God of Our Salva-
tion

The Love of God

Christ, We All Adore Thee
Jesus, Thou Joy of Loving Hearts
Holy God, We Praise Your Name
Hail, Thou Once Despised Jesus
Praise God, Praise Him
Jesus, Thy Boundless Love to Me
Jesus, Jesus, Only Jesus
From All That Dwell Below the Skies
Jesus, For Thee and Thy Blessed
Communion

Let All the World in Every Corner Sing
Our Father, Throned in Heaven Above
In Thee is Gladness
Oh, That I Had a Thousand Voices
Mighty God, While Angels Bless Thee
Lord, With Glowing Heart I'd Praise Thee
Come, My Soul, Thy Suit Prepare
Lord Christ, When First You Came to
Earth

Love Divine, All Love Excelling
Lord Jesus Christ, Be Present Now
Open Now Thy Gates of Beauty
Father, Again in Jesus' Name We Meet
O Holy Spirit, Enter In
Blessed Jesus, At Thy Word
God Himself is Present
Dearest Jesus, Draw Thou Near Me
Come Gracious Spirit, Heavenly Dove
Look Upon Us, Blessed Lord
Father, We Praise You
With God and His Mercy
Tell Me the Old, Old Story
Come, Thou Bright and Morning Star
Lord, We come Before Thee Now
Awake, My Soul, and With the Sun
Father, Source of Life and Light
Now that the Sun is Beaming Bright
Our God, To Whom We Turn
The Chimes of the Sabbath Re-Echo
Abroad

Closing, Evening

Blest Be the Tie That Binds
Savior, Again To Thy Dear Name We Raise
Lord, Dismiss Us With Thy Blessing
On Our Way Rejoicing
All Praise to Thee, My God, This Night
Sun of My Soul! Thou Savior Dear
O Happy Day When We Shall Stand

God Be With You Till We Meet Again
Seal My Heart With Thine Impresure
Now the Day is Over
The Day Thou Gavest, Lord, Is Ended
Now Rest Beneath Night's Shadow

The Word of God

Break Thou the Bread of Life
God's Word is our Great Heritage
O Bread of Life from Heaven
O Word of God Incarnate
Lord, Keep us Steadfast in Thy Word
Thy Word is Like a Garden, Lord
We Have a Sure, Prophetic Word
Thy Word, O Lord, Like Gentle Dews
How Precious is the Book Divine
Father of Mercies, In Thy Word
Deep and Glorious, Word Victorious
Holy Bible, Book Divine
How Firm a Foundation

Baptism

Savior, Who Thy Flock Art Feeding
Baptized Into Thy Name Most Holy
O Lord, Our Little Ones to Thee
He That Believes and Is Baptized
Dearest Jesus, We Are Here
Blessed Jesus! Here We Stand
Praise and Thanksgiving be to God

The Lord's Supper

Here, O My Lord, I See Thee Face to Face
I Come to Thee, O Blessed Lord
According to Thy Gracious Word
Lamb of God Most Holy
Now We Join in Celebration
O Living Bread From Heaven
O Jesus, Blessed Lord, To Thee
Deck Thyself, My Soul, With Gladness
Sent Forth by God's Blessing
For the Bread Which Thou Hast Broken
O God, Unseen, Yet Ever Near
Lord Jesus Christ, We Humbly Pray
My God, and is Thy Table Spread

Confirmation

O Jesus, I Have Promised
Take the Name of Jesus with You
Blessed Savior Who Hast Taught Me
With Solemn Joy We Come
Father, Son, and Holy Ghost

Church, Ministry

The Church's One Foundation
Glorious Things of Thee Are Spoken
Built on the Rock the Church Doth Stand
In Christ There is No East Or West
I Love Thy Kingdom, Lord
How Fair the Church of Christ Shall Stand
Christ is Our Cornerstone
Lord, Pour Thy Spirit From On High
This Is God's House
Lord of the Church, We Humbly Pray
(to be continued)

The AFLBS Mission Club is off to a busy start this spring with several activities and fundraisers planned.

This school year the club has been active in prayer groups, sending cards and financially supporting missionaries and one Bible School student in Campo Mauro, giving programs dealing with missions at Medicine Lake Lutheran Church, and planning various fundraisers such as recycling pop cans and sponsoring basket socials to raise money for missionary causes. All of this we do to try to make the student body aware of missions and take an active role in it.

Our Missions Club president, Blair Johnson, Amery, Wis., stresses that the most significant influence we can have now in the mission field is to pray for or missionaries. God hears His children and answers our prayers.

This spring we have planned a "Hawaiian Basket Social" for the student body on Thursday, May 10. This time, the women will be bidding on the men's baskets. It's sure to be a hit! We are encouraging the students to set aside a portion of their tithe to this cause.

On Saturday, May 12, we will be hosting a rummage sale open to the public from 9 to 5 in the choir room. We would ask that any of you in the Twin City area who have unwanted household items, please bring them to

Mission Club at AFLBS



AFLBS Missions Club with their advisor, Rev. Ralph Tjelta.



Campus Days on March 23-25, found AFLBS hosting 175 prospective students plus their sponsors. Students came from Washington, Michigan and the Midwest.

the Bible School office. The proceeds from these two fundraisers will be divided between: the Giles in Mexico, Vitoria, Campo Mauro, Curitiba, and

to Seminarian David Nelson who is serving part of his internship with several AFLC missionaries in Brazil.



Attending a sample class was part of the Campus Days experience.



On March 16-17, AFLBS alumni gathered for their annual volleyball and basketball tournament. Pictured are Shelly Walker, Minneapolis and Yvonne Blake, Ontonagon, Mich.

South Dakota news

Arlington dedication

The congregation of Calvary Lutheran Church of Arlington, S. Dak., would like to welcome you, our AFLC family and friends, to the dedication of our new church home on Sun., afternoon, April 29. Rev. Elden Nelson, Director of our Home Missions, will be speaking and officiating at the 2:30 service.

The church is located on the east side of U. S. Highway 81 in Arlington. Please join us on this special afternoon as we dedicate our building to the Lord!

Faith and Eagle Butte

Eight young people from Immanuel Lutheran, Eagle Butte, and Bethel Lutheran, Faith, went swimming Feb. 10 at Evans Plunge in Hot Springs, S. Dak.

The Bethel men fixed their annual Valentine dinner for the ladies on Feb. 18. In the afternoon there was a surprise 50th anniversary open house for John and Corrine Schmidt.

On Feb. 24, Mrs. Todd (Miriam) Klemme hosted a ladies tea at the parsonage. Twelve ladies enjoyed strawberry pie.

Ortley

Ortley Lutheran Church, Ortley, S. Dak., is hosting an evangelism week this week, with the concluding service tomorrow evening (April 18). Rev. Herbert Franz, Dollar Bay, Mich., is the speaker at the meetings which begin at 7:30 p.m. Rev. Wm. A. Gergerson is the pastor of the congregation.

TEACHERS WANTED

Medicine Lake Lutheran Academy, an AFLC school with grades kindergarten through 8th, is accepting applications for teaching positions for 1990-91. Degreed teachers for either elementary or middle school grades are encouraged to write Mrs. Eugene Enderlein at 6300 Walker St., St. Louis Park., Minn. 55416.



Personalities

Rev. Robert Lee was installed as pastor of Helmar Lutheran Church, rural Newark, Ill., on Jan. 14. Pictured

left to right are: Vice-chairman Sheldon Een, Chester Scott, deacon, AFLC president Richard Snipstead, Howard Johnson, deacon, Pastor Lee, Don Davidson and Noel Cryder, deacons.

Rev. and Mrs. Howard Kjos, formerly of Roslyn, S. Dak., have moved to Sacred Heart, Minn., where Pastor Kjos has accepted a call to serve First English Lutheran Church there. It is an independent congregation.

Mrs. Norman Anderson

Mrs. Beatrice Anderson, widow of Rev. N. C. Anderson, passed away on Mar. 12, in Minneapolis, Minn., at the age of 79. She was a daughter of the late Rev. and Mrs. Andreas Helland and a sister of the late Dr. Melvin Helland, missionaries in Madagascar and India, respectively, under the Lutheran Free Church.

Mrs. Anderson's husband served parishes in Tacoma, Wash., Battle Lake, Climax, Preston and Milroy, Minn., and Blanchardville, Wis. He also taught at Augsburg College, Minneapolis, for 12 years. Beatrice Anderson at one time edited the LFC publication, *The Child's Friend*.

Her funeral was held Mar. 15 at Trinity Lutheran Church on the Augsburg campus. She is survived by two sons, one daughter, one brother and one sister. Blessed be her memory.

IN MEMORIAM

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

MINNESOTA

Greenbush

Iver Iverson, 82, Mar. 19, Badger Creek, Badger, Minn.

NORTH DAKOTA

Grand Forks

Mrs. Josephine (Josie) Ryan, 75, Mar. 20, Our Savior's, Argyle, Minn. Fargo

Mrs. Rose (Einar) Westby, 93, Mar. 9, Aadalen, Fairdale, N. Dak.

WILDERNESS BOARD MEETING

The Board of Wilderness Family Camp, Lake Park, Minn., will meet on Sat., Apr. 21, at 10 a.m., at the camp.

selections will be provided by the various congregations.

After a brief opening, those attending will be divided into small groups for prayer.

DISTRICT PRAYER MEETING

The Illinois District of the AFLC will meet together on Thursday, May 3, at 7:30 p.m. for a National Day of Prayer service. The District will be meeting at Helmar Lutheran Church of rural Newark, Ill., Robert Lee, pastor.

The service leader will be Dennis Gray the president of the district and pastor at Grace in DeKalb. Musical

SVERDRUP

to bear the consequences of his convictions which he desired always to base on the Scriptures. If the course occasioned by his adherence to what he considered right meant misunderstanding and hardship, he was willing to endure it. The sufferings of this present time were not worthy to be compared with the glory afterward to be revealed.

Kathrine, Sverdrup's first wife, died in 1884 and three years later he married her sister, Elise. Seven children were born to the Sverdrups.⁷⁰ Death came to Sverdrup while still in the prime of life. Overcome by increasing weariness and weakness at the close of the school year at Augsburg in 1907, he succumbed to a heart attack on May 3. A few days after the funeral short notes were found among Sverdrup's papers, the outline of the speech he intended for the graduates on the second of May, words which have been called the key to his life — "The free people and the free man...men of conviction...value of truth...value of a man is dependent on his relation to truth and adherence to it...have faith...Luther at Worms... Jesus' disciples...an unfaithful man is like a rotten beam in a structure...an untrue principle is like quaking ground."⁷¹

(Conclusion.)

Note: Readers who are interested in pursuing any or all of the footnotes contained in Dr. Monseth's article are invited to write to him for further information. He may be reached at 3110 E. Medicine Lake Blvd., Minneapolis, Minn. 55441. Please use the footnote numbers as given.

*Two AFLC congregations were among the 12; they are Section Ten, Cumberland, Wis., and Bethany, Abercrombie, N. Dak.

**Technically, the merger of the ALC and LFC occurred on Feb. 1, 1963.

*"The eyes of all look to Thee,
And Thou givest them their food
in due season.*

*Thou openest Thy hand,
Thou satisfiest the desire of every
living thing."*

Psalms 145:15, 16

Bible Briefs from the American Bible Society

Having someone read for you helps, but it is never the same as being able to read for yourself. So it was with real joy that the 69-year-old visually handicapped college professor in one of the Eastern states could say after receiving Scriptures in large type produced by the American Bible Society, "John is my favorite book of the Bible, and now I can do what I haven't been able to do for years — read it!"

He left his Russian homeland six years ago for a new life and opportunity in the United States. Now he was working in a hotel in a major Southern city when two volunteer workers for

the American Bible Society happened to check in for a denominational convention. Hearing them talk, he said that one of his greatest wishes was to read the Bible in his own language.

That was enough for the two women to seek out at once a local ABS volunteer, who in two days was able to supply a Bible in Russian, one of the more than 80 languages in which the American Bible Society carries the written Word.

The dream of this Russian man was thus fulfilled. "He was overjoyed to receive the Bible and immediately began leafing through it...and with tears in his eyes he thanked us," one of the women related, tears in her own eyes.