

# THE LUTHERAN AMBASSADOR

April 18, 1989

**NEEDED:  
Prayer.**

p. 3

**Is God  
calling you?**

p. 4

**That sense  
of touch.**

p. 8

**Meet  
Leone Snipstead.**

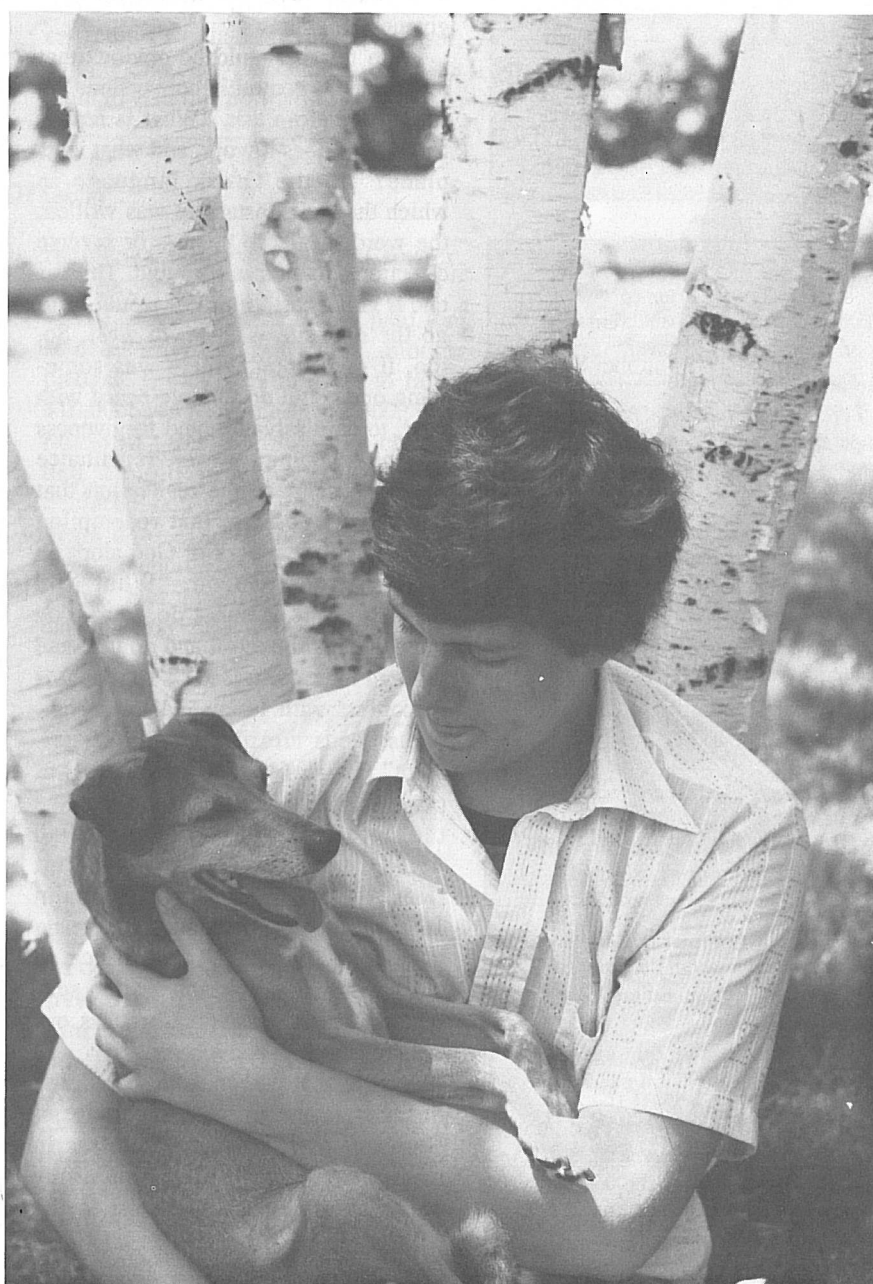
p. 10

**Conducting  
youth meetings.**

p. 12

**New work  
in California.**

p. 15



# LIGHT on the WAY

## meditations on God's Word

### COVER PHOTO

#### *The Best of Friends*

Roger C. Huebner, D. D. S.

Volume 27 Number 8

### THE LUTHERAN AMBASSADOR

is published biweekly (except for the first issue of July and the second issue of August) by the Association of Free Lutheran Congregations, 3110 E. Medicine Lake Blvd., Minneapolis, Minn. 55441.

Rev. Raynard Huglen, Editor

Rev. Robert Lee, Assistant Editor

Mrs. Wayne Hjermstad, Layout Design

#### Editorial Board:

Dr. Francis Monseth

Mr. Sheldon Mortrud

Rev. Ralph Tjelta

Subscriptions: \$10.00 per year.

Write to:

*The Lutheran Ambassador*

3110 E. Medicine Lake Blvd.

Minneapolis, Minnesota 55441

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

Second-class postage paid at Minneapolis, Minn., and additional mailing office.

USPS 588-620 ISSN 0746-3413

Postmaster: Send address changes to *The Lutheran Ambassador*, 3110 E. Medicine Lake Blvd., Minneapolis, Minn. 55441.

**P**eter said to them, 'Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit'" (Acts 2:38).

In but a few weeks we will again celebrate Pentecost Sunday when we remember the descent of the Holy Spirit in a mighty and powerful way upon the Christian Church. On that day, Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, preached so that hearers were moved to ask, "What shall we do?", to which the answer came, "Repent and be baptized in Jesus' name for the forgiveness of sins."

From this it should be obvious that repentance is central in conversion. We should therefore ask, "What is repentance, how does it work, and what is its place?" In the Greek language in which the New Testament was written, the word means to change or reverse directions, to alter one's mind. Thus, if one is going east, to repent would be to go the opposite way, to go west. So, too, if one thought there was something one could do to have peace with God, to earn salvation and forgiveness of sins in human power, repentance means to come to the realization that one can do nothing, that redemption must be 100% a work of God alone. It is to cry out to God, "What You demand of me I cannot do. Lord, you must take total control and do it in and through me, in my place." To repent is to confess with Isaiah, "All our righteous deeds are like a polluted garment" (Isaiah 64:6), to say nothing of our evil works, and that God must be the doer of all our works (Isaiah 26:12), the source of all our fruit (Hosea 14:8). With David, in Psalm 16:2, we declare to God, "I have no good apart from thee." Repentance, in other words, is to be ripped from self-wholeness and cast on Christ as our only redemption and wholeness.

It is to this end that the Word and Sacraments are given. The purpose of Baptism is to make me helpless in myself and thrust me upon Jesus as my only Savior. Because of this, in the

## Repentance

Lutheran Church we do not wait until an age of ability to baptize. Baptism, of a child or an adult, is not to be based upon human ability but human inability. God labors in and through the written and spoken Word, through baptism and the Lord's Supper, to make me incapable in myself so He in Christ can be and do everything for me, in me on my behalf. "Unless you turn (repent) and become like children (helpless in self), you will never enter the kingdom of heaven" (Matthew 18:3).

Erick Pontoppidan, in his explanation of *Luther's Small Catechism*, asks the question, "How many types of repentance are there?", to which he answers, "Two." There is repentance of the unconverted, those fallen from grace, and repentance of the converted, of those who endure in the faith and remain in grace (Question 529). In this world our union with Christ is never completed perfectly. Daily we must die to all that is of self so Christ as our new nature can come forth in us. (Luther's Catechism, Baptism, Part 4). In Christ we are always 100% perfect and complete, in self 0% righteous or whole. Therefore, we must always flee from what is of us and ever turn to Christ as our only hope. The ability of the flesh is the same before and after conversion, capable of accomplishing nothing. It is God in us who alone can be our hope. "It is the Spirit that gives life, the flesh is of no avail" (John 6:63).

As we think of Pentecost Day, may its message of repentance affect us. Let us be those who continually turn away from ourselves and all that is of us to Jesus, that He in us may alone be our salvation, redemption and sanctification forever.



—by Pastor  
Christian Oswood

# A Call to Pray

**A**s you examine the Old Testament you notice that from time to time godly leaders called the people of God to special times of prayer.

In II Chronicles 20:3-4, King Jehoshaphat called Judah to prayer when faced with war. People from every city in Judah came to seek the Lord.

In Esther 4:16, Queen Esther called for prayer as she was about to go in and speak before the king on behalf of the Jews.

And in Jeremiah 36:9, we see the people of Jerusalem and the cities of Judah gathering for a time of prayer.

These are just a few of the many Old Testament references to times of serious prayer.

As we of the Commission on Evangelism have met in our last few meetings we have been burdened to pray for our AFLC. Therefore, we would encourage the congregations of the AFLC to set aside a special time of prayer for all of the opportunities and responsibilities which lie before us at our next annual conference in Minot this summer.

We believe a 24-hour prayer vigil in all of our churches beginning on Friday, June 2 at 6 p.m. and running through Saturday, June 3 at 6, would be a fitting way to prepare for our conference.

Would you consider calling your congregation to prayer during this special 24-hour prayer vigil?

Have people in your congregation sign up for an hour or a half hour each to pray specifically for the ministry of the AFLC.

Here are some of the things you could pray for:

1. Pray for revival in our churches (II Chronicles 7:14).
2. Pray for the calling of a full-time evangelist.
3. Pray for Pastor Snipstead and those who minister at our AFLC headquarters.
4. Pray for the ministry of the ARC.
5. Pray for the Co-ordinating Committee that they would have wisdom in all their decisions.
6. Pray for the Board of Trustees at our schools.
7. Pray for the faculty and staff of our schools.
8. Pray for the Home Missions Committee that

they may have wisdom to know what to do with all the open doors before them.

9. Pray for the World Missions Committee as they oversee our foreign fields of mission work.

10. Pray for our Stewardship Board that they would be able to meet the challenges they face.

11. Pray for our Youth Board that they would be able to help our congregations be more effective in reaching out to our young people

12. Pray for the Board of Publications and Parish Education that God would supply wisdom as they seek to revise our Sunday School material.

13. Pray for our Pension Board that they would make wise decisions regarding our pension and insurance program.

14. Pray for the Women's Missionary Federation that they would continue to be an encouragement to our mission work both at home and abroad.

15. Pray for the new committee elected last year to study the issue of an AFLC-wide men's group.

16. Pray for the Luther League Federation in their important work.

17. Pray for every pastor in the AFLC that they might preach the Word in its truth and purity.

These are just some of the things we could focus on as we gather for prayer in our congregations. There are many more that could be added.

We as the Commission on Evangelism believe that we are at the threshold of great opportunity for the Lord. That is why it is so vital that we pray for God's blessing to rest upon us.

Will you pray for our AFLC with earnestness? Will you plead God's mercy and blessing on every aspect of our ministry?

"Thus says the Lord who made the earth, the Lord who formed it to establish it, the Lord is His name, 'Call to Me, and I will answer you, and I will tell you great and mighty things, which you do not know'" (Jeremiah 33:2-3).

—Pastor Peter J. Franz, Secretary  
Commission on Evangelism

He said  
no to  
God's  
call

**B**alaam was a man who practiced divination. Deuteronomy 18:10-13: "Let no one be found among you who sacrifices his son or daughter in the fire, who practices divination or sorcery, interprets omens, engages in witchcraft, or casts spells, or who is a medium or spiritist or who consults the dead. Anyone who does these things is detestable to the Lord, and because of these detestable practices the Lord your God will drive out those nations before you. You must be blameless before the Lord your God." This tells us that this was an abomination to God. Balaam may have used a magic scroll or some such thing that he would look at or into to forecast the future for people who were seeking counsel.

God's Word states, in Jude 11, that he practiced his sin for money and in II Peter 2:15 we find that he loved the wages of unrighteousness.

One day he encountered God's Word. In fact, it looks as if through a series of events and over a period of time, he was constantly being exposed to God's direction.

Numbers 24:25 states, "He rose up and went and returned to his own place." After all of those exposures, we see that Balaam went back to his old ways.

Numbers 31:8 says that the children of Israel killed him along with the five kings of Midian.

Numbers 31:16 tells us that the people of Moab, through the counsel of Balaam, caused the children of Israel to commit trespasses against the Lord.

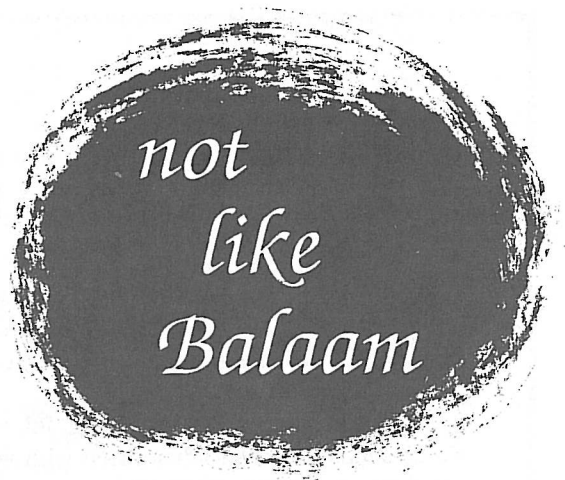
Let's take a look at all the exposures Balaam had to God's Word.

The children of God had captured two countries under the leadership of Moses. One country was called the land of the Amorites and the other country was called the land of Bashan. Between these two countries was a country called Moab. At this time the Moabites and the Midianites were in the same country.

The king of Moab is disturbed; Israel has destroyed the nation directly south of him and directly north.

Numbers 22:3, 4, takes us to the dilemma he is facing: "And Moab was terrified because there were so many people. Indeed, Moab was filled with dread because of the Israelites. The Moabites said to the elders of Midian, 'This horde is going to lick up everything around us, as an ox licks up the grass of the field'." In other words, he knows that he doesn't have a chance. His only hope is supernatural intervention from his gods.

Balaam is chosen and he is sent with a mes-



sage from the king to curse Israel. Numbers 22:6 tells us exactly what the king wanted Balaam to do. "Now come and put a curse on these people, because they are too powerful for me. Perhaps then I will be able to defeat them and drive them out of the country. For I know that those you bless are blessed, and those you curse are cursed."

Balak sent some money to help Balaam in his decision. Balaam tells the messengers to stay overnight. He will ask the Lord what he should do. Numbers 22:12: "God said to Balaam, 'Thou shalt not go with them, thou shalt not curse the people for they are blessed'." The messengers return to the king and tell him that Balaam will not come.

King Balak is desperate. He knows that without supernatural help from the gods, he will lose. King Balak fattens the purse and sends again for Balaam. This time the king offers Balaam a bigger reward if only he will come and curse Israel. Numbers 22:17: "I will do whatever you ask and will promote you to great honor."

Balaam knows the will of God. He knows that God made it very clear. God said, "You shall not curse these people." But he tests God. He has the audacity to think otherwise and why? Greed. His prayer is only a prayer to consume it upon his own greed. The Lord lets him go.

How many times do we do the same thing? We know that it is God's will that we do not abort His children, but we come to Him and ask if it might be okay in this situation. Come, Lord, and bless my disobedience, is really what we are saying. We know it is wrong to separate from our husband/wife, but, Lord, won't you bless my disobedience in this case? We know that it is God's will that we do not live together before marriage, but, Lord, won't you bless us, because we really love one another. We know that it is a sin to go to someone else instead of the one who

by Rev.  
Gerald Gettis  
Vernon, B. C.



sinned against us, but, Lord, this is a special case, and on and on it goes. Lord, won't you bless my disobedience? Balaam eagerly seeks his reward.

Our Lord God meets him again. This time Balaam doesn't see Him. He is so eagerly seeking his reward that his eyes seem to be blind. I John 2:15-17: "Do not love the world or anything in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For everything in the world – the cravings of sinful man, the lust of his eyes and his pride in possessions – comes not from the Father but from the world. The world and its desires pass away, but the man who does the will of God lives forever."

Balaam doesn't see the messenger that the Lord sent to stop him, but the donkey on which he rides does. The angel of the Lord stood in his way. The donkey sees the angel and his drawn sword and runs to the field in fear. Balaam's anger and greed beats his donkey back on to the path of greed. The Lord's angel meets him later down the path.

This time Balaam is riding the donkey between two fenced-in vineyards. The path is narrow and the angel appears for the second time. The donkey sees the angel and rears up and thrusts Balaam's foot against the fence. Balaam's greed pushes him into a fit of anger and he takes it out on his donkey by hitting her again. Balaam's anger forces the donkey to go past the angel and he continues on his path of greed.

The Lord places Balaam in a place where he

can go no further; the donkey sees the angel of the Lord and falls to the ground. This time Balaam hits the donkey with his staff in a rage of anger. God speaks to Balaam again through the donkey. The donkey questions Balaam pertaining to the anger in his behavior. "Why have you done this to me?" the donkey said. "Because you have mocked me," or another way of saying it, "Because you have abused me."

Our anger can really cause us to come up with the most ridiculous statements. Have you noticed in your life how many times you have tried to justify your anger? Really, we are not any better than Balaam. Our greed causes us to trespass against the Lord, too.

The donkey tells Balaam he has always been a good donkey to him. The Lord then opened up Balaam's eyes. He sees the angel with the drawn sword, and he falls on his face.

The angel tells him that he is perverse and crooked. "Your donkey saw me but you didn't. In fact, your donkey has saved your life." Balaam makes a statement that sounds most peculiar, "I have sinned because I didn't know you stood against me." Of course he didn't know that God stood against him. His greed kept him in the dark. The Lord gives him permission to go. Over and over, God speaks to him. Numbers 23:5 states that the Lord put His Word in his mouth when Balak asked Balaam to curse God's people. Numbers 23:16-24 tells us that the Lord put His words in the mouth of Balaam. The King asks Balaam to curse the children of Israel for the third time. Balaam ☐

"Have you noticed in your life how many times you have tried to justify your anger?"

## JESUS SHOWS US THE WAY

"To him that knoweth to do good, and doeth it not, to him it is sin" (James 4:17). Do you know what it means to do good? It means to show compassion to those who hate you. It means to endure their slaps again and again. It means to give them your shirt when they have already taken your coat. It means that you are to let people "dump" on you and then offer yourself to them as a friend. I know what it means to do good because when Jesus was given many opportunities to demonstrate it He never failed to do so. When the Roman soldiers spit on Him and slapped Him and hated Him because He was "nothing," He wept, not for Himself, but for them. When I have

offended, abused, perhaps even hated Him, He has loved me in return. He has never acted but for my good and happiness. In Him I have learned what it means to do good. And, I have come to trust Him to continue to do good.

Now that I know what goodness is, I am guilty when I fail to do it. You see, I am only beginning to learn to turn the other cheek when I am slapped. My previous reaction has been to slap back or to run like a coward. Both are wrong and both continue to be common in my life. I am only beginning to learn to let people take from me and then to give them more beside. More often, I retaliate in kind and in exceeding measure. And that is wrong. I am only beginning to learn to

let people "dump" on me and then to offer them my friendship. More often I hate them, and that is wrong.

These failures are sin. The wages of sin is death, but I do not fear death. Rather, I have learned to depend on Jesus Christ to do good for me.

Now even if it was not true before, you, too, know what it means to do good. Consequently, your failure to do good must now be considered sin, and "the soul that sinneth, it shall die." Where will you look for salvation?

—Pastor Philip Rokke  
Greenbush, Minn.  
(in *United Voice*)

---

---

# Look, ye Saints, The Sight Is Glorious

Look, ye saints, the sight is glorious,  
See the Man of Sorrows now;  
From the fight returned victorious,  
Every knee to Him shall bow;  
Crown Him! Crown Him!  
Crown Him! Crown Him!  
Crowns become the victor's brow.

Crown the Saviour, angels crown Him!  
Rich the trophies Jesus brings;  
In the seat of power enthrone Him,  
While the vault of heaven rings;  
Crown Him! Crown Him!  
Crown Him! Crown Him!  
Crown the Saviour King of kings.

Sinners in derision crowned Him,  
Mocking thus the Saviour's claim;  
Saints and angels crowd around Him,  
Own His title, praise His Name;  
Crown Him! Crown Him!  
Crown Him! Crown Him!  
Spread abroad the victor's fame.

Hark, those bursts of acclamation,  
Hark, those loud triumphant chords!  
Jesus takes the highest station;  
O what joy the sight affords!  
Crown Him! Crown Him!  
Crown Him! Crown Him!  
King of kings, and Lord of Lords.

Thomas Kelly  
(Service Book and Hymnal)

---

---

## BALAAM

again ends up blessing the children of Israel.

There is no power that can withstand the power of our God. Paul tells us that nothing can separate us from the love of God. Romans 8:38-39: 'For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.' God can even use evil for good. No power can stand against our Lord. No power can stop Him from carrying out His overall will.

*Your unbelief is just like Balaam. Unbelief can keep the power of God from flowing through you.* You, too, have heard the Word of God many times, but you, like Balaam after the encounter, rise up and go to your own place. Sunday after Sunday, you hear God's Word. You even fool people at your local midweek Bible service, but you can't fool God. He is not mocked. Whatsoever a man sows, that shall he also reap.

Jesus is here today, offering you Himself. He has come that you might have life and that you might have it more abundantly. Read John 3:16. Isaiah 11:2: "Come, let us reason together," saith the Lord, "though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow."

I remember one day I was counselling a young man and we came to that verse. The Jesus who died on the cross and who has risen from the dead is calling you to Him. "Come, let's do business," is what He is saying. "Come and sit down with Me and stop trying to fool

Me. Be honest with me and I will cleanse you from all your sins." Today is the day of salvation. Balaam went right back to his old way of living. He lost his eternity. He said no to God's call.

How about you? The Lord Jesus is waiting. The Savior is waiting.

1. "The Savior is waiting to enter your hearts; Why don't you let Him come in?"  
There's nothing in this world to keep you apart, What is your answer to Him?

Chorus: Time after time He has waited before,  
And now He is waiting again  
To see if you're willing to open the door:  
O how He wants to come in.

2. If you'll take one step toward the Savior,  
my friend,  
You'll find His arms open wide;  
Receive Him, and all of your darkness will end,  
Within your heart He'll abide.

### Biographical Sketch

Gerald V. Gettis was born in Salem, Ore., and attended Central Lutheran Church in that city as a boy. He came to Canada in 1967 and married his wife Shirley on Dec. 18, 1971. The couple have six children: David, 14, John, 13, Claire Elizabeth, 11, Joanna, 9, Matthew, 7, and Daniel, 5.

Pastor Gettis has been serving Living Word Lutheran Church in Vernon, B. C., for the last year. He was recently accepted on the fellowship clergy roster of the AFLC. He will be host pastor to the Luther League Federation convention in Vernon next summer.

# I could resist no longer

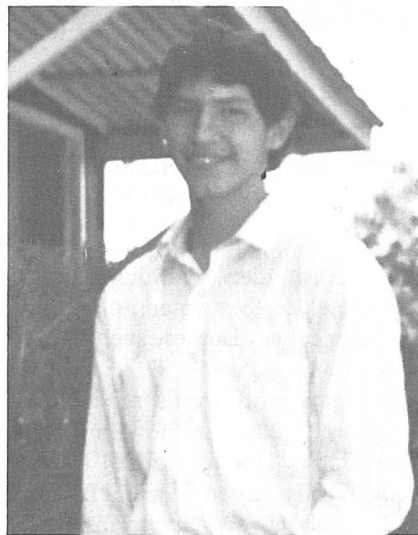
**M**y name is Iran Santiago de Goes, Junior. I am 19 years old. My family participated in spiritism (Umbanda) since a young child and when I got to my adolescent years I had thoughts about going deeper into spiritism and becoming a medium. In reality, I didn't have happiness because my family was not united and I sought refuge in worldly pleasures to fill the emptiness within me and to run from my problems.

I have a brother, Julio Cezar, and through an invitation he visited a Free Lutheran Church, accepted Jesus and became a strong Christian. I, in my incredulity, continued in dark, sinful and abominable paths and many times attacked my brother with words and insults because he was a Christian. In my heart I felt revolted when he became a Christian.

What I disliked the most was that he would always come and talk to me about the Gospel. But we would end up arguing and I continued depending on spiritism. One day Julio said to me: "I'm not going to talk to you about the Gospel any more, I'm only going to pray." I never forgot that and it had an impact on my life.

Ten months passed, with my brother firm in Jesus, and I started to feel a desire to go to church, but I felt ashamed about telling Julio. I had at the same time started backing away from spiritism and was looking for truth.

A year passed and I couldn't resist any longer. I told my brother that I would like to go to church. He was happy to hear that. The day I first visited church was when Julio Cezar was completing a year in the family of God. He said it was a great present. After that visit to church, I saw how I really needed Jesus and I opened my heart and let Him enter. The peace that



Iran Santiago de Goes, Jr.

I sought, I found in Jesus Christ.

My life was transformed and blessings started to fill my life. At that time I was 16 years old.

I was invited to study at the Bible School and came in 1986, spending a year of blessings here. Jesus truly changed my thoughts, actions and speech, and now I have great joy. At my church, by the grace of God, I was president of the youth group, teacher in the Sunday School, leader of Bible studies, and trainer for Evangelism Explosion.

With all this, I felt called to the ministry. Today I am studying in the Theological Seminary. I used to be an unhappy person and a spiritist, but today I am a proclaimer of the powerful Gospel of salvation and I praise God for this. I have the great joy that, if I were to die today, I will be partaking of celestial blessings at Jesus' side in heaven.

John 16:33: "I have said this to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world."

*Iran Santiago*

(Iran is from Vitoria, Espirito Santo. During this first year in seminary he is working in Central Free Lutheran Church with Pastor Connely Dyrud. He is involved in evangelism and youth work.)

# Itinerary for Missionaries Paul and Becky Abel

(conclusion)

Tues., May 2 — Southwest Central Minn. District WMF Rally, Wadena, Minn.

Sat., May 6 — Eastern N. Dak. District WMF Rally, Trinity Lutheran, Grand Forks, N. Dak.

Sun., May 7 — Maple Bay Lutheran, Mentor, Minn.

Tues., May 9 — Mother-Daughter Banquet, Grace Lutheran, Mequon, Wis.

Fri., May 12 — Maranatha Lutheran, Chassell, Mich.

Sat., May 13 — Northern Mich. District WMF Rally, Calvary Lutheran, Eben Jct., Mich.

Sun., May 14 - Wed., May 17 — Missions Conference, Eben Jct.

Sun., May 21 — (p.m.) Grace Lutheran, DeKalb, Ill.

Wed., May 24 — West Lisbon Lutheran, Newark, Ill.

Fri. and Sat., May 26 and 27 — Youth Rally and Missions Conference, Freedom Lutheran, Ottawa, Ill.

Sun., May 28 — (a.m.) Bethlehem Lutheran, Morris, Ill.

Sun., June 4 — Christ is Lord Lutheran, Onalaska, Wis.

Wed., June 7 — Hope Lutheran, Wyoming, Minn.

Sun., June 11 — (a.m.) New Luther Valley Lutheran, McVile, N. Dak., Bethany Lutheran, Binford, N. Dak.

Wed., June 14 — Women's Missionary Federation Annual Convention, Minot, N. Dak.

Thurs. and Fri., June 22 and 23 — 22nd Annual Northwestern Minnesota District Pre-Teen Bible Camp, Galilee Camp, Lake Bronson, Minn.

Sun., June 25 — (a.m.) King of Glory Lutheran, Eden Prairie, Minn.; (p.m.) Amery Lutheran, Amery, Wis.

Mon. to Thurs., June 26 -29 — Minneapolis District Junior and Senior Camps, ARC, Osceola, Wis.



## TOUCH

"But God said, 'You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, neither shall you touch it, lest you die'" (Genesis 3:3).

Helen Colton, in her book, *The Gift of Touch*, states: "Being born is our first touch experience." Wendy Murphy in her article for the *Time-Life Books Library of Health* writes: "In a larger scale, touching and being touched play a key role in the development of the other senses, and in an infant's physical growth."

The American psychiatrist, Margaret A. Ribble, found that increased handling of infants stimulated their respiration and blood flow, and more research has shown that touch sensations of the newly born are a kind of dress rehearsal for the mastery of more complex sensory skills, such as seeing and hearing.

Why do we have this sense of touch? God gave it to us for several reasons: pleasure, identification and signals for danger, such as pulling away from a fire when the heat touches us. With the ability to respond to touch, we know pain. We can also either play a musical instrument, write an article on the typewriter or set up a computer program for a corporation.

With the ability to respond to touch we can decide if the sensation is either too light, such as in tickling, or too heavy, as in pinching.

In the Old Testament, God expressed, from Genesis on, definite laws of "Do Not Touch" for his chosen people, such as are found in Leviticus 5:2: "Or if any soul touch any unclean thing, ... The same concepts can be found in Leviticus 6:27, 11:8, and Deuteronomy 14:8. In a sense, when God gave His command, "I am the Lord thy God. Thou shalt have no other gods before me," He didn't want us to touch the gods of others.

The Old Testament describes many other laws for the Israelites, which include the ones to protect His people

## the perception senses in God's wondrous design

in health and diets. God dictates rules to follow for the protection against communicable diseases, such as leprosy.

The powerful words repeated in Hebrews 11:28 relate how important were God's "Do Not Touch" instructions for His chosen people. "By faith he kept the Passover and sprinkled the blood, so that the Destroyer of the first-born might not touch them."

Once more we find *to touch* exemplified in the study of Isaiah 6:5-9: "And I said, 'Woe is me! For I am lost; for I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips; for my eyes have seen the King, the Lord of Hosts!' Then flew one of the seraphim to me, having in his hand a burning coal which he had taken with tongs from the altar. And he touched my mouth, and said: 'Behold, this has touched your lips; your guilt is taken away, and your sin forgiven.'"

Helen Colton, in *The Gift of Touch*, believes that the touch sense is the most important of all the senses. Loss of this sense can send one into a psychotic breakdown. The ability to touch is an essential need for the blind. Loneliness is a loss of touch.

She continues, saying that we live in a touch-hungry culture. Advertising depends upon it. We have the sense of touch so that we can experience pleasure and danger and differentiate smoothness, roughness, softness and "gooshy" in our society. Multiple sclerosis, a disease in which the touch signals are not transmitted to the brain, illustrates a grave loss of the gift of touch.

John Ilman, in *The Body Machine*, states that the sensations of touch, temperature and pain are perceived in the sensory cortex of the parietal lobe of the brain. It is perhaps not surprising

that the most sensitive areas of the body command the largest areas of the sensory cortex; our lips, fingers and thumbs account for as much space in the sensory cortex as the rest of the body put together.

Jesus touched all sorts of people: the well and the unwell. From the "Touch Not" concept of the Old Testament, we are given the "Do Touch" of the New Testament. This observation is illustrated in the remarkable story of the unclean woman found in Mark 5:25-34.

We are familiar with the account of her suffering and embarrassment as a result of the uncured condition she had had over a long period of time. According to Jewish law, she was ceremonially unclean, hence excluded from all normal social life (Leviticus 15:25-27). She was not to be touched.

How thrilled we can be, however, when we read that just by her touching Jesus' garments she was made well. Her touch revealed a personal faith that she would be healed, for the reports of His wonderful works had caused her to trust Him. Then, after being healed through Him, she tried to hide in the crowd, but Jesus knew what had happened and asked, "Who touched My garments?"

Jesus touched the crowds that walked with Him. He touched when He healed (Mark 3:10). He touched the little children (Luke 18:15). He touches us today.

What an important sense of perception is our gift of touch from birth to death. Primarily it is a physical contact between two objects. We can't actually touch God, but by our faith in Jesus. He has touched our hearts, and by the same faith we know that we can also touch Him.

It must be our prayer to touch others who have not had the touch of God.

"For no pain or suffering  
is ever too much  
To yield itself to  
God's merciful touch."

—Helen Steiner Rice



## DOOR-TO-DOOR

**I**t was exciting to read a letter from Pastor Orville Hiepler of California telling about a mission work he is involved in in Palmdale, Calif. Exciting because it sounds like a true home mission venture where door bells are being rung and homes visited because they are there, because people live in those homes and the callers have the Gospel of Jesus Christ to share.

Making over 300 calls in two days is a great effort and it takes work, even for two people, as they were. In some communities where we have congregations, after 300 homes the callers would have covered all the people in what would be called normal territory, and maybe well before that. But in other places it would only have been a beginning, there are so many houses and apartment units in the area.

We talk about evangelizing our country and Canada. A part of that is inviting people to come to a church where the Word of God is faithfully preached. There, as the Word is proclaimed Sunday by Sunday and a rapport is built up between pastor and hearer, and among the people, miracles of transformation can happen in lives.

The California pastor writes that in three weeks the callers had met only four Lutheran families, but that was no reason to quit. West Coast people are notorious for being unaffiliated with any church. All the more reason to reach out to them and others in similar condition whatever area of our countries they live in.

We tend to see, perhaps unwittingly, our natural constituency or potential as coming from certain national background groups. And in some communities that's about all there is. But in other places there is greater diversity and no one should be ruled out as a contact or a possibility for a Lutheran Christian.

In one congregation we served, in another state, the membership consisted of several national groups and not all had Lutheran background. The other Lutheran church in the small town had been started over 40 years before. Those belonging there were predominantly Norwegian Americans. The new congregation which Rev. E. P. Dreyer, an Association pastor at the last, and now deceased, gathered together had a nucleus of people with the "right" background and to that he added a variety of persons, but it was an interesting mix and included folks who had been, to that time, left out.

That's the way it should be as we seek to do our part to evangelize in our time and build "the congregation," both our existing ones and new ones.

These thoughts were prompted by the letter of Pastor Hiepler telling about an effort being made to begin a congregation in a fast-growing suburb of Los Angeles.

## WITHOUT DISTINCTION

**W**hat we write now may have some connection with the above. This is occasioned by the words of Jesus as recorded in John 12:32, where we read: "And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all men to Myself."

That is a passage, of which there are many in the Bible, that requires some "chewing" by the reader or hearer. What did Jesus mean when He said that He would draw "all men" (people)?

The interpretation given by J. Sidlow Baxter in his book, *Studies in Problem Texts*, has made sense to us ever since we read it. Dr. Baxter says that Jesus didn't mean that He draws all men without *exception* — since it is obvious that not all people come to Christ — but that He draws all people without *distinction*. That is, *whosoever* will may come.

Mr. Baxter then mentions three areas in which there are no distinctions: social, racial and age. The socially elite are welcome, as well as the "down and out." There are no racial barriers. Color of skin and national origin are immaterial to God. His heaven will be peopled by representatives of them all. Young and old can belong and every age in between.

To these could be added education and wealth. The well-educated may share in God's kingdom, as may those with no formal education. The penniless may know the Lordship of Christ and the wealthy may own Him as King as well.

There are no distinctions with Jesus. It's good to know that. He calls all people. He gave His life for everyone. Every soul has value. The one who comes, whoever he be, in response to the drawing love of Christ, will be saved. That is a glorious thought.

## BAPTISM

Baptism is therefore not a rite which lays hold of the word of promise, connected to the sacrament. The outward act apart from such faith is of no value to the baptized person. Baptism is therefore not to be separated from Christian experience and life.

—A. D. Mattson

**I**t was the fall of 1953, the newly ordained Richard Snipstead married a shy farm girl from Elbow, Saskatchewan, Leone Joel. They had met one summer when he was student intern at the Lutheran Free Church congregation in Elbow. Their wedding was the beginning of a busy and varied life in parsonages from Saskatoon, Greenbush, Ferndale, and for the last eleven years, the AFLC president's home in New Hope.

Leone's family numbered almost as much as her school. Her seven brothers and one sister made the Elbow school of twelve students thankful for the Joel family. "When I was a sophomore I was alone in my class and the oldest in the school. Because of that situation, I spent the last two years of high school at the Lutheran Bible Institute High School in Outlook," Leone continued, "After one year at Augsburg College in Minneapolis, I returned to Canada for nursing school at Saskatoon City Hospital."

Miss Joel's shyness continued to trouble her. Then just before her own capping ceremony, Leone left school because, "I simply had so much fear of people." However, that time in Saskatoon was not in vain, for it was during

## Meet our president's wife

those days that Leone began dating seminarian Dick Snipstead.

The next fall, Leone returned to Augsburg College to prepare for a career in medical technology. She also took along a lot of stationary to correspond with that special seminarian. Within a year, she was to walk away from the altar as Mrs. Richard Snipstead.

God was working. Leone was beginning a very public life as a pastor's wife and loving it. Indeed it was a change for the young, bashful nursing student!

It was during their first parish ministry in Saskatoon, that the Lord spoke to the Snipsteads through Missionary Leona Erickson. "We both dealt with the mission call and were open to go anywhere. In fact, we thought a specific call to Hong Kong was forthcoming from the LFC Mission Board," smiled Leone. "But that was not to be. Instead we accepted the call to a six-point parish in Greenbush, Minnesota."

Leone found herself busy as wife and mother. Four girls and two boys were to bless their marriage. Reflecting on those years, Leone commented, "I am so thankful that I could be a full-time wife and mother. There is nothing in my life that has been so fulfilling and challenging."

After four years at Golgotha and First Lutheran in Ferndale, Washington, the Snipstead family filled the new AFLBS dean's home at 3110 E. Medicine Lake Blvd. "I thank God He placed us in locations that were good for us at each point in life. For example," Leone added, "the children had a big yard for playing — the campus. Also we were being eased into city



life. You know, in 1968, this campus was surrounded by cornfields."

In 1975, Pastor Snipstead resigned as AFLBS dean and the family returned to Ferndale, Washington, and Triumph Lutheran. (Golgotha and First Lutheran had merged to form Triumph Lutheran.) This stay in Ferndale was to be for only three years, as in 1978 the Snipsteads moved into the AFLC president's home on Flag Avenue in New Hope, Minnesota.

With the children growing and some getting married, Leone found her thoughts returning to nursing. She had completed her RN training in 1974, at an area community college. Now she found her interests in oncology and hospice care. After working in nursing homes and Metropolitan Medical Center, Leone currently works for a local home care company.

Showing obvious satisfaction, Leone commented, "I enjoy the one-to-one contact. Most of these people are dying and thus open to spiritual things. God

### Women's Missionary Federation

#### *In memoriam gifts*

Richard Nelson, Summerville, Mass.  
Doris Jones, Stanton, Iowa  
Clarence Soland, Dalton, Minn.  
Sadie Korpi, Finlayson, Minn.  
Annie L. Dahlager, Dalton, Minn.  
Mabel Strom, Mayville, N. Dak.  
Olga Johnson, Minot, N. Dak.  
Swanhild Nelson, Tioga, N. Dak.  
Olaf Fiksdal, Lily, S. Dak.  
Harold Johnson, Chamberlain, S. Dak.  
Christine Helgeson, Colfax, Wis.  
Othelia Gunderson, Madison, Wis.  
Leona Gilberts, Sand Creek, Wis.  
Margaret Anderson, Sand Creek, Wis.

*Blessed are  
those who die  
in the Lord*



## AFLC Women's Retreat

John 15:14 "You are my friends if you do what I command you."

"Friends" is the theme for the Women's Retreat scheduled for May 5 - 7 at the Association Retreat Center at Osceola, Wisc. Plan to be there and receive many blessing through the Word, prayer and the fellowship of your sisters in Christ.

This year we are planning a craft sale with the proceeds going to the ARC. Everyone is welcome to bring their crafts for sale.

The Bible Study will be given by Mrs. Richard (Audrey) Gilmore.

Cost for the weekend is \$40. Offerings will be received to cover all other expenses.

Reservations should be received by April 29. Please send them to: Mrs. Harlan Hjermstad, Route 3, Box 71, Kenyon, Minn. 55946, (507) 824-2326.

gives me many opportunities to witness. Dealing with the family dynamics during these times also is a challenge. I think my experience and gift is there, enabling me to minister in more ways than just physically."

Besides being rewarding work, home care creates a nice bonus for Leone. "Now I'm free to travel some on weekends with my husband. A special pleasure has been attending informational meetings. I see renewed commitment to God's Word and His Kingdom. And," Leone added, "that is so encouraging."

It was clear in talking with Leone that to her all the many activities, meetings and work opportunities cannot compare with the privilege and joy of being a wife, mother and grandmother of six. In reflecting on her life, Leone said, "The Lord has blessed me and the longer I live, the more I can see His loving protection and care for our family. And that is wonderful." It is easy to believe Leone means what she says. For these words come from the lips of a very unassuming, but quietly confident lady whose strength is in her Lord.

— Solveig Hjermstad

## Mid-winter banquet held at Medicine Lake

The ladies of Medicine Lake Lutheran Church, Minneapolis, hosted the Mid-Winter Conference WMF Banquet February 11. Sixty-four ladies and ten children attended the banquet. Mrs. Donald Greven served as M. C. Mrs. Cindy Schlenk was song leader and Mrs. Shelly Walker sang two solos. Ten children from Minnesota Valley Lutheran Church, Lakeville, also sang. A skit depicting the *improper* and then the *proper* ways in which to conduct a WMF meeting was presented by ladies from the Zumbrota, Kenyon, and Kasson, Minn. churches.



Mrs. Harvey Jackson, Ishpeming, Mich., is pictured with her daughter Linda and granddaughter Elizabeth. Linda is the wife of seminarian James Johnson who currently serves as the AFLBS dean of men.

## Northern Michigan District hosts first retreat

The first annual Retreat sponsored by the Northern Michigan District WMF was held March 10-11, 1989. The fine accommodations of Lake Ellen Baptist Bible Camp at Crystal Falls, Michigan, provided the perfect setting for the rest, relaxation, renewal, and fellowship experienced by each one in attendance. Studies in the Word were led by Dorothy Pentti, Ishpeming, (Galatians 5:22-23 the Fruit of the Spirit); Carrie Byykkonen, Ishpeming, (Peace and Contentment); and Lorilee Mundfrom, Eben Junction, (Psalm 37).

## Spring rallies scheduled

**Western N. Dak., Eastern Mont.:** Emmanuel Lutheran Church, Williston, N. Dak., April 22, at 10 a.m. (Central Time).

**Northern Michigan:** Calvary Free Lutheran, Eben Junction, May 13, at 9 a.m. Missionary Paul Abel will speak at both rallies.

### Association of Free Lutheran Congregations

3110 East Medicine Lake Boulevard  
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55441

#### AFLC Benevolences - February 7 - 28, 1989

FUND	TOTAL BUDGET	REC'D IN JANUARY	TOTAL REC'D TO DATE	%* TOTAL
General Fund.....	\$ 169,600.00	\$ 6,473.18	\$ 6,473.18	4
Schools - (AFLTS) ...	128,237.00	1,580.19	1,580.19	1
(AFLBS) ..	187,650.00	6,361.53	6,361.53	3
Home Missions .....	397,564.00	14,556.99	14,556.99	4
World Missions .....	325,730.00	5,581.56	5,581.56	2
Capital Investment ..	30,000.00	361.31	361.31	1
Parish Education .....	69,500.00	1,154.99	1,154.99	2
<b>TOTALS .....</b>	<b>\$ 1,308,281.00</b>	<b>\$ 36,069.75</b>	<b>\$ 36,069.75</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>1988-1989 .....</b>	<b>\$ 1,057,504.00</b>	<b>\$ 40,697.19</b>	<b>\$ 40,697.19</b>	<b>6</b>

\*Goal 8%



## Luther League guidelines

**L**et no one look down on your youthfulness, but rather in speech, conduct, love, faith, and purity, show yourself an example of those who believe" (I Timothy 4:12).

The purpose of the Luther League is

to aid in reaching and training young people so they may be an active part of free and living congregations, growing into spiritually mature adults who are able and willing to carry on the kingdom's work in their midst.

## The Federation Gospel Team

The Luther League Gospel Team "Cornerstone" is currently ministering to congregations around the Minneapolis area. They have been at Green Lake, Rodney Johnson, pastor, near Spicer, Minn., and the Dalton, Minn., Lutheran parish, Merle Fagerberg, lay pastor.

Mark Johnson, a graduate of AFLBS, is the team co-ordinator. The following congregations will have the "Cornerstone" Luther League team with them:

Sunday, May 7, 7 p.m., at King of Glory Lutheran in Eden Prairie, Minn., and Sunday, May 30, 9 a.m., at Maranatha Lutheran Church in Blaine, Minn.

Contact Mark Johnson, 6633 227th Avenue N.E., Stacy, Minn., if you are interested in having Cornerstone come to your congregation. You may also call (612) 462-4163.

In addition, you may contact Paul Kneeland, 36 Bison Court, Fargo, N.

Dak. 58102 if you are interested in having the "Eagle's Wings" team come to visit your congregation.

The teams are sent out by our AFLC Youth Board. Many are alumni of the Association Bible School. However, this is not always the situation.

Congregations are urged to ask the teams to speak to their Luther League officers or the entire Luther League. The teams are equipped to teach program planning and to challenge Luther Leaguers to share their faith in the local congregation and school.

While they are willing to share in an evening service, pastors and youth leaders are urged to have the smaller group meetings with just the youth and advisors present.

Follow-up material will be sent to each congregation following the appearance of the teams. God bless our Luther League Gospel teams.

— *Pastor Dennis Gray*  
*Youth Resources Director*

The Luther League is part of the congregation and should function under the supervision of the church board. League officers should be elected each year. Advisors should also be elected to offer assistance and guidance to leaguers in carrying out their responsibilities.

I. The following is a list of officers as well as an outline of the officers' and advisors' duties.

A. **President** — (Program Chairman) "Involving" Business Meetings.

1. Presides at all business meetings.

2. Sets up an agenda for all business meetings with cooperation of pastor, advisors and all other officers. Checks on program planning assignments. Co-ordinates work of the officers.

3. Keeps order at business meetings by allowing one person to talk at a time.

4. Addresses comments or ideas to entire group and gets others to do the same.

5. Makes assignments to committees for those items not acted on in the present meeting.

6. Does not argue, but presents a positive attitude at all times, encouraging response from everyone who wishes to speak; is aware of those who are shy and tries to get them to express their ideas.

7. Follows through with all decisions. Delegates opportunities to others when possible.

### Programming

Programming is the planning of all Luther League events.

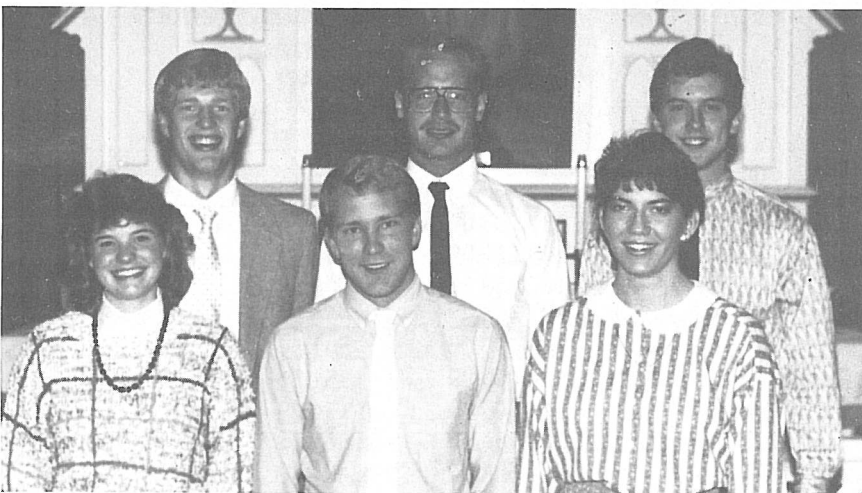
1. The president is the one who is mainly responsible for programming.

2. Program in advance; set dates, times and subject for meetings in advance.

3. Call upon the Leaguers for suggestions of topics, dates, hours, speakers, films, etc.

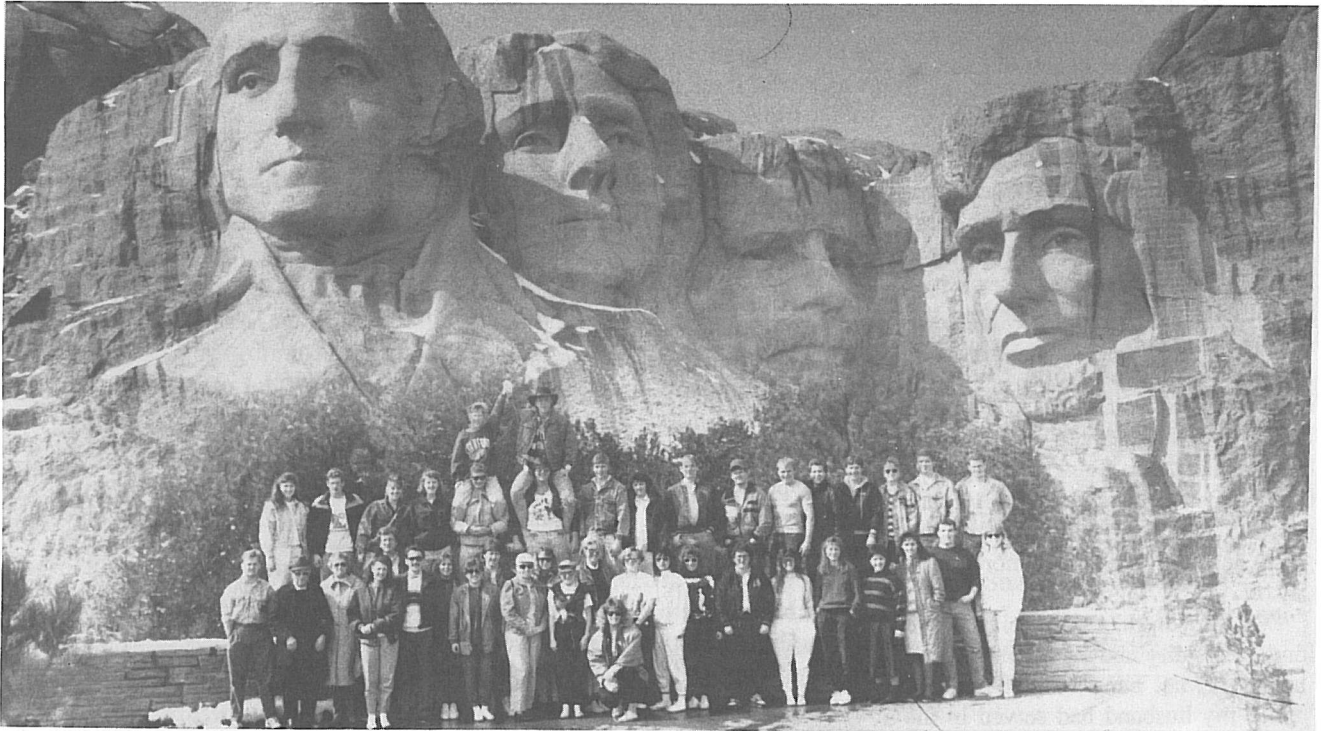
4. Meet with the executive committee or other planning committee to work on the details of a plan.

continued on p. 14



Cornerstone





The Choral Club at Mt. Rushmore, South Dakota

photos by Clark Landguth

### Choirs travel east and west

The sap rises. Snow banks disappear. Heavy jackets remain in closets. Faces are brighter and voices are

slightly higher. The choirs rehearse intensely. It's tour time at AFLBS.

On March 11, Pastor and Mrs. Don Greven and the Choir members loaded the bus for a fourteen day singing tour to the East Coast. The next day Seminarian Scott Gray and his wife and

Pastor and Mrs. Ernest Langness left with the Choral Club for their trip into the Dakotas, Montana and Canada. Retired Pastor Langness, Ishpeming, Mich., spoke at each concert.

The Choir began their tour with a

◇



The choir at Unity Evangelical Lutheran, Massapequa, New York

photo by Lynn Erickson

## TOURS

strenuous schedule. From the Saturday night concert in Radcliffe, Iowa, to the Sunday evening host homes in Ottawa, Ill., the Choir had performed four times. The next three evenings, concerts were held at: Peace Independent Lutheran Church, Canal Winchester, Ohio; Advent Lutheran, Richboro, Penn. and Trinity Lutheran, Walden, N.Y. Full churches and enthusiastic, hospitable host families greeted the singers in each place.

Meanwhile, the Choral Club had sung in Spicer, Minn. and Wallace, S. Dak. before their concert in Bruce was blanketed out by a South Dakota snow storm. After the March 15 and 16 concerts in Canton and Freeman, the group headed for Mt. Rushmore and a day off.

"We thoroughly appreciated the kind hospitality shown us throughout the tour." Mrs. Langness commented. "Since my husband had served in the South Dakota District, it was especially delightful to renew acquaintances."

While the Choral Club headed to the Black Hills, the Choir was taking in historic Philadelphia and West Point. They visited the Cadet Cathedral and sang "Awake, Awake" and the "Hal-

lelujah Chorus" in that impressive sanctuary. According to Pastor Greven, "We had the privilege to sing with the world's largest pipe organ in that cathedral. I think that was the highlight of the trip for many of us."

From West Point, the bus took the singers to concerts in Nanuet, N.Y. and Stanhope, N.J. On Saturday, four men from the AFLC congregation in Massapequa, organized an exciting day of sightseeing in New York City. Palm Sunday was spent with Unity Evangelical Lutheran Church, Massapequa, before driving to Galilee Lutheran, Pasadena, Maryland.

Before leaving the East Coast, the young people spent a day touring our nation's capital. Two nights later, they arrived in DeKalb, Ill., for a concert. The Choir sang at Helmar Lutheran, Newark, Ill., before coming back to the Twin Cities for their last concert at Living Word Lutheran, Eagan, Minnesota.

Back on the western front, the Choral Club began their last week of tour in Faith and Reva, S. Dak. On their way out to Frontier, Sask., they sang at Bethel Free Lutheran, Culbertson, Montana. All was well. Senior Steve Carlson, Amery, Wis. led the bus load of students in memorizing I Cor. 2.

They on Wednesday, March 22, the Choral Club set out on the long drive east to Lake Alma, Sask. And indeed it was long! A genuine Canadian plains blizzard put the group in an Assiniboia, Sask., motel. Food was not to be found until noon the next day — and that was at a grocery store.

On Thursday evening, the warm hospitality at Bethel Free Lutheran, Grafton, N. Dak. was especially welcomed by the snow and travel weary young people. "Though we had two storms disappoint us," Mrs. Langness said. "We were so encouraged with the tour. The young people were a delight to be with. The messages in word and song were a blessing. Their last anthem, 'Crown Him With Many Crowns' was the perfect ending." East or west, that was the message spread by this year's Choir and Choral Club tour.

—S. Hjermstad

## 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

Brooklyn Park

**Clifford Thorpe**, 72, Jan. 31, Medicine Lake, Minneapolis.

Thief River Falls

**Mrs. Olga Lerol**, 90, Feb. 26, Our Saviour's.

### WISCONSIN

Boscobel

**Melvin L. Olson**, 83, Mar. 8, Trinity.

### NORTH DAKOTA

Lostwood

**Mrs. Elvina Mickelson**, 89, Dec. 18, 1988, First English.

## Former board member dies

Albert T. Moen, 64, an original member of the Board of Pensions of the Association of Free Lutheran Congregations, passed away in United Hospital, Grand Forks, N. Dak., the day before Easter.

Not only was Mr. Moen a member of the Board of Pensions from 1964-72, but he was also in the charter membership of Trinity Lutheran Church, Grand Forks.

He was born Dec. 27, 1924, in East Grand Forks, Minn., to Carl and Bertha Moen. He attended high school there and Aaker's Business College in Grand Forks. He served in the U.S. Navy (Pacific Theater) in World War II. He was a grain buyer for the North Dakota Mill and Elevator for 42 years.

Albert Moen married Alvera Halvorson on July 23, 1943. She survives him, as do two sons, Ronald, Anchorage, Alaska, and Douglas, Grand Forks; one daughter, Debra (Mrs. Richard) Capes, Grand Forks; seven grandchildren; and one sister in Maryland.

He was preceded in death by two brothers. His funeral was held at Trinity on March 28, with the service conducted by his pastor, Rev. Bruce Dalager.

Blessed be his memory.

## GUIDELINES

5. Every officer should check on others to make certain everything is done in advance.

### Suggestions for Business Meetings

1. In an informal setting, people can simply be recognized by the chairman when they raise their hands.

2. Discussion of a motion should be discussed after it is seconded.

3. Only one motion should be discussed at a time.

4. Motions can be amended or changed but an amendment cannot be changed.

5. Nominations need not be seconded. Chairmen should make certain that all nominations are received before closing them.

6. Secretary's and treasurer's reports should be given at the beginning of the meeting.

(To be continued.)

### New work started in California

A new AFLC work has been started in Palmdale, a "bedroom" community about 65 miles north of Los Angeles. The pastoral work is being done by Rev. Orville Hiepler, who recently served as pastor of First Lutheran Church in Camarillo in the same state.

The first service was held on Palm Sunday with ten children in Sunday School and 59 in the church service. More were expected for Easter. Services are being held in Manzanita School on 35th St. E. and Ave. "Q"-4. Pastor Hiepler has an office and apartment at 38300 30th St. #299, telephone: 805-265-7511.

The population of what is reputed to

be the fastest growing city in the U. S. has grown by 30,000 in a short time and the boom has just begun. Twenty thousand invitations were sent out in reference to the new work in mid-March. In one two-week period 340 door-to-door calls were attempted.

Mrs. Hiepler (Florence) is the pianist, choir director and parish education director. The choir, which sang Palm Sunday, is called the Praise Singers.

Pastor Hiepler would welcome the names of people living in the Lancaster-Acton-Palmdale area and promises to call on them personally to invite them to visit this new work.

### Plan now for VBS and a S. S. workshop

Now is the time for Christian Education Committees to set a date for Vacation Bible School, evaluate and order materials, call teachers and staff, and begin VBS promotion in their church and community.

Churches are also encouraged to organize an area or district Sunday School Workshop. Workshops can be a one hour presentation or they can be scheduled for 3-4 hours, covering a variety of topics. For more information, please call or write to: Director of Parish Education - AFLC, 3110 E. Medicine Lake Blvd., Minneapolis, Minn. 55441. Telephone (612) 545-5631.

### Church dedicates new organ



Dr. Tall at the organ and Pastor Hiepler.

A new Roger-Pipe-Electronic organ was dedicated by Pastor Orville G. Hiepler on January 29th as his last formal appearance in First Lutheran Church, Camarillo, Calif., the church he served for 11 years. This church and the pastor chose not to become a part of the merged ELCA, but rather, as of Jan. 1, 1988, became a part of the Association of Free Lutheran Congregations.

Dr. Robert Tall was the guest organist at this inspiring concert for the congregation and friends. Dr. Robert Tall is the dean of the L. A. Organ Guild and the official organist for the world-

renowned Hollywood Bowl Easter Sunrise Services.

The \$62,000 organ was all paid for at dedication by cash and 12-month pledges. It took several years to raise \$10,000; the remainder, \$52,000, was raised in three months. This church had an old pipe organ that was declared non-repairable about four years ago. Mrs. Cathi Peterson has been the church organist for about five years. Her music ability includes teaching and she is also a vocal soloist.

### Personalities

Rev. Gary Jorgenson, who has served Our Savior's Lutheran Church, Stanley, N. Dak., since graduation from seminary in 1982, and also First English Lutheran, Lostwood, N. Dak., for some years, has accepted the call to become pastor of Faith Lutheran Church, Ottawa, Ill., where he will begin his ministry in July. He will be the first resident pastor of the new congregation.

### *from here and there . . .*

#### Everett, Wash.

There was a packed church on Feb. 26 at Calvary Lutheran in Everett, Wash., when a farewell service was held in honor of Pastor and Mrs. Del Palmer and family.

Four sister congregations had been invited with the following pastors bringing greetings: Kenneth Moland, Our Redeemer, Kirkland; Richard Gunderson, Elim, Lake Stevens; Frank Cherney, Atonement, Arlington; and James Fugleberg, Triumph, Ferndale.

A potluck dinner followed the program, which also contained songs by a

men's quartette from the Seattle area and remarks from members of Calvary.

Pastor Palmer has since taken up work in the parish at Thief River Falls and Goodridge, Minn. His address is 404 Kendall Ave. So., Thief River Falls, Minn. 56701.

—Solveig J. Hays

#### DATES CHANGED

The Prayer and Work Breakfast announced for Wilderness Camp, Lake Park, Minn., May 12 - 13, has been moved to the weekend of May 5 - 6. Come and share the fellowship!



# GREETINGS TO OUR FRIENDS OLD AND NEW

## Christmas cards in March

The place was a parsonage in a Texas panhandle town. The time was early in the month of March, yet a pile of Christmas cards sat there in plain view on the kitchen counter. What did it mean? Can the mail be that late in Texas? Were the people just getting around to removing the remnants of a holiday season long past? Or could it be that they were getting a huge head start on the Christmas to come? The mystery was solved after breakfast.

John and Dana Chandler, in whose parsonage home this writer was a guest, placed the pile of Christmas cards on the table together with a Bible and a devotional booklet.

It always seemed a shame to them in years past to throw away all of the special greeting cards with hardly more than a glance. Then one Christmas they discovered a new way to put them to use: as a yearly prayer guide.

Here's how it works. Every morning after breakfast each member of the family (and guests) takes a Christmas card from the pile and announces the name of the sender(s), who is then remembered specifically in prayer. Sometimes there are special needs that come to mind; in other instances the prayers are more general. When the supply of cards is finally exhausted, the family can pray through them all a second time (or a third), until a new supply is received next Christmas.

"It seems like we've been getting more cards than usual since we mentioned our prayer project in a Christmas letter," the Chandlers remarked. Many commented favorably on the idea in their holiday greetings, asking to be remembered in prayer throughout the year.

Has it ever troubled you to throw away all of those beautiful Christmas cards so quickly? Perhaps you will want to consider keeping them on the kitchen counter, too, as a unique prayer reminder of family and friends. The Word of God encourages all believers to pray for one another (James 5:16), and Christmas cards in March...or during any of the other months of the year...can help us to meet this challenge.

— R. L. Lee