

THE LUTHERAN AMBASSADOR

April 19, 1988

Inside:

**Is Jesus
everything to you?**

p. 3,4

The Good News

p. 5

**My life is
changed**

p. 7

**AFLBS team
places third
in national
tourney**

p. 12



LIGHT on the WAY

meditations on God's Word

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Roger C. Huebner, D.D.S.

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THE LUTHERAN AMBASSADOR

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Rev. Raynard Huglen, Editor
Mrs. Wayne Hjermstad, Layout Design
Editorial Board:

Rev. Robert Lee
Dr. Francis Monseth
Mr. Sheldon Mortrud

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Believe in and confess the Lord Jesus

If you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you shall be saved" (Romans 10:9 NASB).

Ever since Adam and Eve sinned in the Garden of Eden, man has been utterly helpless and hopeless in spiritual matters. Every thought, desire, word and deed is totally sinful before God. With the great Apostle Paul, we confess, "I am a lost and condemned sinner."

The sinner's only hope is the One who offered Himself as a sacrifice for our sins on the cross of Calvary, bearing the agonies of hell in His sinless body and soul.

He is the God-man. The proof for all this is the fact that God raised Jesus from the dead. Paul stakes all, his own salvation as well as ours, upon Jesus' resurrection. This resurrection has the marvelous power to save.

This salvation offered to us in the Gospel is made our own by faith and by faith alone. It is not enough to know about Jesus, His conception, birth, life, death and resurrection. We must believe these blessed truths with all our heart. We must continually put our entire hope and trust, our entire confidence, in Christ and His cross. This is the first "if" in Romans 10:9.

There is a second "if" in the text. "You shall be saved" "if you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord." It is a blessed Scripture truth that faith alone saves. But since faith is life, spiritual life, that life must show itself in action. We must not be stillborn Christians, but living, active, energetic Christians. The Christian, by the power of the Holy Spirit, must rise from his spiritual death to live and to glorify His God in good works.

We have learned from the Scriptures that a good work in the sight of God is everything that a child of God does in faith for the glory of God and the good of his fellow men.

Telling others of Jesus, personal mission work or witnessing, is an essential mark of a true Christian. But we must also confess Him by leading Christian lives. Our faith must become evident not only in our worship but also

in our work, our pleasures, our sorrows, our trials and even in our death.

The Christian is in constant and grave danger because of his sinful flesh, the world in which he lives, and the devil who constantly tries to rob him of the salvation Christ obtained. We must flee and avoid every opportunity for evil and withstand the temptations to sin. Though we must be in the world, we are not to be of the world. We must be separated from it. Daily we must remember: "I am but a stranger here. Heaven is my home."

This is the time of year when our youth confirm their faith. These children have been taught of the love of the Lord Jesus, to study His Word, that they should want to attend the services of His house, and midweek Bible study. They have been taught that they should love Christian fellowship in the various organizations of the congregation, be active in the work of the church and give of their means. Now what will you teach them by your example in the home and in daily living? Will you by example underscore what Christ has taught them in confirmation? Will they see you reading your Bible daily, praying, going to Sunday School and church regularly, attending the Lord's Supper, seeking Christian fellowship, giving proportionately? Most importantly, do they know that you yourselves have accepted Christ as your Lord and Savior and are walking daily with Him? By example you can underscore and impress or undo and remove all that the Savior and His Holy Spirit have taught these young people for the saving of their souls. Will you be destroyers or builders?



by Rev.
Jerome C. Nikunen

I trust that you agree with me that what really matters is not what I say, nor what other people say, but *what God says*. And if someone asks: but can we really know what God is saying to us, I answer, yes, we most certainly can know what God is saying to us. Not because we seen some handwriting on the wall of this building, not because some bright angel comes with a message from God for us today, not because we can hear God speaking in an audible voice, but because God has given us a very special book, the Bible.

The portion of the Bible that I want to look at with you is the first part of the fifth chapter of Romans. I have a very special reason for picking this particular section of Scripture. One of the last times that I visited Bob in the hospital, and the last time that I got a clear response from him, I shared some thoughts from this section with him and afterwards I prayed. Then he said to me, "Pastor, I listened carefully to every word that you said." For this reason, I felt that I should look into the same Scripture passage today.

I want to leave you with three simple thoughts. The first is this: *God loves you with a very deep and great love.*

How do I know that God loves us? I could give a number of indications of the love of God, as the Bible presents them, but today I limit myself to just this one evidence — we know that God loves us because He was willing to go through such deep suffering in order that very rich blessings might come to us, both now and in the ages yet to come.

After all, the willingness to sacrifice and suffer is always one of the best proofs of real love. I may say to someone, "I love you, I love you." And I may say it very emphatically and enthusiastically, and may even give some gifts. But, if I am not willing to do any suffering for the one I love, if I am not willing to give, or give up, anything that is precious to me for the sake of that person, my love doesn't amount to very much.

God has shown His love by what He has suffered for our sakes. These verses in Romans 5 speak of this: "Christ *died*," "Christ *died for us*," "the *death* of His Son," "His *blood*." Other people have paid a price so that earthly good can come to us, but when we read that "Christ died," we are dealing with something that we really cannot explain or understand. What happened on the cross is that all the wrath and anger of God against all the sins of all the members of the human race fell on Jesus. What really happened is that Jesus experienced hell so that we will not need to experience it.

ALL that I need is in Jesus

God loves you with a very deep and great love. The supreme proof of that is what happened on the cross. Anytime you feel like asking: If God really loves me, why did He permit this to happen? the best thing to do is to stand before the cross of Jesus and listen to Him as He cries out, "My God, My God, why did *You* forsake Me?" and you will know that He does indeed love you.

Before leaving this point, I want to make another brief comment. God's love is seen in the lengths to which it went for our sakes, but it is also shown in the fact that God loves us just as we are, in all our badness, wickedness and sinfulness.

One reason people don't like to spend much time reading the Bible is because the Bible tells the truth about us and it is not at all a flattering picture. In this passage in Romans 5, Paul uses four words to describe us as we are in ourselves: *helpless*, (*weak, impotent*), completely lacking in the necessary spiritual and moral power to keep the commandments of God or to please Him; *Ungodly*, out of harmony with God, not loving what He loves, not wanting what He wants, going the opposite direction; *sinners*, again and again failing to come up to the standard God has set for us, again and again failing to hit the target He has set in front of us; and *enemies*, that is, in our hearts we are rebellious against God and resent His demands on us. But this passage tells us that while we were like that, Christ died for us! That's really love!

I can't linger at this, except to say: please accept what the Bible says about you. Don't argue with God's Word. And pray that God will teach you more and more so that you really see how weak and ungodly and sinful and at enmity you really are.

But, let's move on to our second thought: *God offers you through Jesus, all that you really need.*

Romans 5:1 and 2

"After all, the willingness to sacrifice and suffer is always one of the best proofs of real love."



by Pastor
Harvey N. Carlson
St. Paul, Minn.

"God keeps
a very
careful
record of
our lives."

Here I come to what I shared with Bob that day on that visit I referred to earlier. I simply listed for him some of the blessings and benefits listed in Romans 5 that were his because he was trusting in Jesus. I want to list some of those same possible blessings for you today.

Peace. "We have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ" (v. 1). Peace is a wonderful word and people are seeking peace: peace within, peace within families, peace among the nations of the world. But, by far the most important kind of peace is peace with God, to be on good terms with God. Paul says that we can have peace with God through Jesus and uses a significant word which tells us what makes peace possible, "having been *justified*." Let me explain to you what this important Bible word means. God keeps a very careful and complete record of our lives. He puts down all of our thoughts, our words, our actions. And if He finds at any point some slip up, some sin, we stand condemned before Him, worthy of His eternal judgment. But when a sinner trusts in Jesus, a very great miracle takes place. God does two things: He cancels out, crosses out, all the charges against that person and then God puts to that person's account the perfect righteousness of Jesus Christ. He is *justified*. He is "just as if" he had never sinned. And if all the charges are removed, then that sinner has peace with God!

Access. "We have obtained *access*" (v. 2). If I wanted to have a conversation with President Reagan this afternoon, it would be just about impossible. I couldn't get access to him. Too many people would be in the way. But through Jesus we can have access in prayer to the holy and almighty God, anytime, anywhere. We can tell Him our needs, thank Him and pour out our hearts before Him. What a blessing and privilege this is!

Hope. "We rejoice in our hope of the glory of God" (v. 2). When the Bible talks about hope it doesn't mean something we are not sure of, but which we wish would happen. Rather, "hope" as the Bible uses it, means to have good things coming in the future. In this sense, because of Jesus, we can have hope.

What happened to Bob last week? That body which had been his home for over 52 years got to be in such a condition that Bob could no longer live there and he had to move out. That is what death is, the temporary separation of the soul and the body. But then what happened? Bob didn't move into extinction or into nothingness. He didn't go into unconsciousness. He rather went to live in the immediate presence of the Lord. The apostle Paul was in prison in Rome and two possibilities faced him. He could either

be put to death or be set free. He said if the choice were left to him, he would choose to die, for that would mean going to be with Christ, which is very much better.

But what I have just said isn't the whole story. One day soon Jesus Christ is going to come back visibly and physically to this earth, and the very first thing that He is going to do when He comes is to provide new bodies for all who have trusted in Him. If Jesus were to return this month, it would mean for me that I would instantaneously receive a new and far superior body in which to live.

Victory. The word victory isn't found here, but the thought is. "We rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance." God doesn't promise freedom from trials and sufferings in this life, but He promises to be with us in them, and that He will bring good and blessing out of the hard things.

New life. Power. "The Holy Spirit which has been given to us" (v. 5). God promises not only forgiveness for the past and hope for the future, but also that He Himself will come to live within us and share His own life and resources with us. We can have the Holy Spirit, we can have Jesus living right inside of us. The person to be pitied is the person who has to face all that life brings with only his personal, limited resources to draw upon. But none of us needs to so live. We can have God Himself dwelling within us and then we can draw upon His peace, His wisdom, His patience, His courage, His strength and His love, for whatever life may bring.

It is really true, that *God offers you through Jesus all that you really need.*

My last thought is this: *God has made very clear what response he looks for from us so that the possible blessings through Christ may be personally ours.*

We have it in verses one and two: "justified by faith" "access by faith." God looks for faith, faith in Jesus.

But, we need to be on guard so that we do not have some other kind of faith than that of which the Bible speaks. For example, some people say: We have to have faith. That is, we have to have a generally optimistic attitude that somehow everything is going to turn out all right in the end. If that is the only kind of faith that we have, we will find out that it definitely will *not* turn out all right. Or again, some people have faith that God is so kind and tolerant that He eventually will bring everyone to heaven. This is a misplaced faith, because God offers mercy through Jesus and the cross. And yet again, some people really have faith in themselves: "We've done at least some good things, and we're not as bad as many others, so God won't

Brothers, my heart's desire and prayer to God for the Israelites is that they may be *saved*... if you confess with your mouth, 'Jesus is Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be *saved*. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are *saved*. As the Scripture says, 'He who believes in Him will not be put to shame.' For there is no difference between Jew and Gentile — the same Lord is Lord of all and richly blesses all who call on Him, for, 'Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be *saved*'" (Romans 10:1, 9-13).

There are many different words that the Bible uses to describe the happy condition of the Christian:

He is redeemed, restored, forgiven, justified, cleansed, born-again, reconciled, made-an-heir, converted, blessed....

And then there is that other descriptive word used four times in the text from Romans. The word: *Saved!* What a word! What an experience! What a spiritual reality!

Saved! — absolved from all the guilt of sin, acquitted from the penalty of sin, delivered from the power of sin, and one day raptured from the very presence of sin!

Saved! — pulled from the rushing, maddening stream of sin that carries us along to hell itself.

Saved! — snatched from the burning!

Saved! — plucked from the miry clay and our feet placed on the Solid Rock!

Saved! — rescued from the hawk — and the vulture! — and tucked under the protective wing of the Almighty!

Saved! — sheltered safe in the arms of Jesus, the very One who promises: "I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish, and no one shall snatch them out of my hand."

Saved! — *You can be saved!*

Why? Because God wills your salvation. He loves you. "God our Savior, who wants all

Saved! Saved! Saved!

men to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth."

How? God has made provision for your salvation. He gave His only Son to be your Substitute, the Sacrifice for your sins. Jesus is your Savior. "For the Son of Man came to seek and to save what was lost."

Believe this Good News, confess Jesus to be your Lord. Simply call to Him in your weakness, your lostness, your sinfulness. He hears the faintest cry. The paralyzing roar of the devouring lion, the devil, can never drown out the weakest cry of a penitent sinner! Jesus hears you and will save you *now!*

Biographical Sketch

Odell Kittelson, lay pastor of Freedom and St. Petrie Lutheran congregations, Ottawa and Leland, Ill., respectively, was born near Decorah, Ia. He was converted at an Augustana Lutheran congregation, East Chain Lutheran, Fairmont, Minn., and soon after felt the call to serve the Lord in full-time service.

He studied at Prairie Bible Institute, Three Hills, Alta., Seattle Pacific College and the Lutheran Bible Institute, Minneapolis, Minn. Mr. Kittelson was commissioned under the World Mission Prayer League in 1950 and went to Bolivia the following year. There he met and married Margaret Hatteberg, also a missionary with the WMPL. On furloughs he has studied at Biblical Seminary, New York City, Concordia Teacher's College, River Forest, Ill., and the Moody Bible Institute, Chicago.

Together with others in Illinois, he organized a mission called Cup of Cold Water Ministries in 1978. He has been at his congregations for five years, but continues to head CCWM.

The Kittelsons have four children: Philip, Elizabeth, David and Rebekah. The sons are missionaries with CCWM.



by Pastor
Odell Kittelson
Ottawa, Ill.

be too hard on us." But faith in self is not acceptable with God. God says: "Cursed is the one who trusts in man."

No, it is faith in *Jesus* that is all-important, trust in *Jesus*.

And faith in Jesus involves three things: (1) *Giving*. If we trust a bank, we will give it our money to keep and invest. True trust in Jesus involves giving our sins to Him, frankly and humbly confessing them and handing them over to Him to overcome them and to change us.

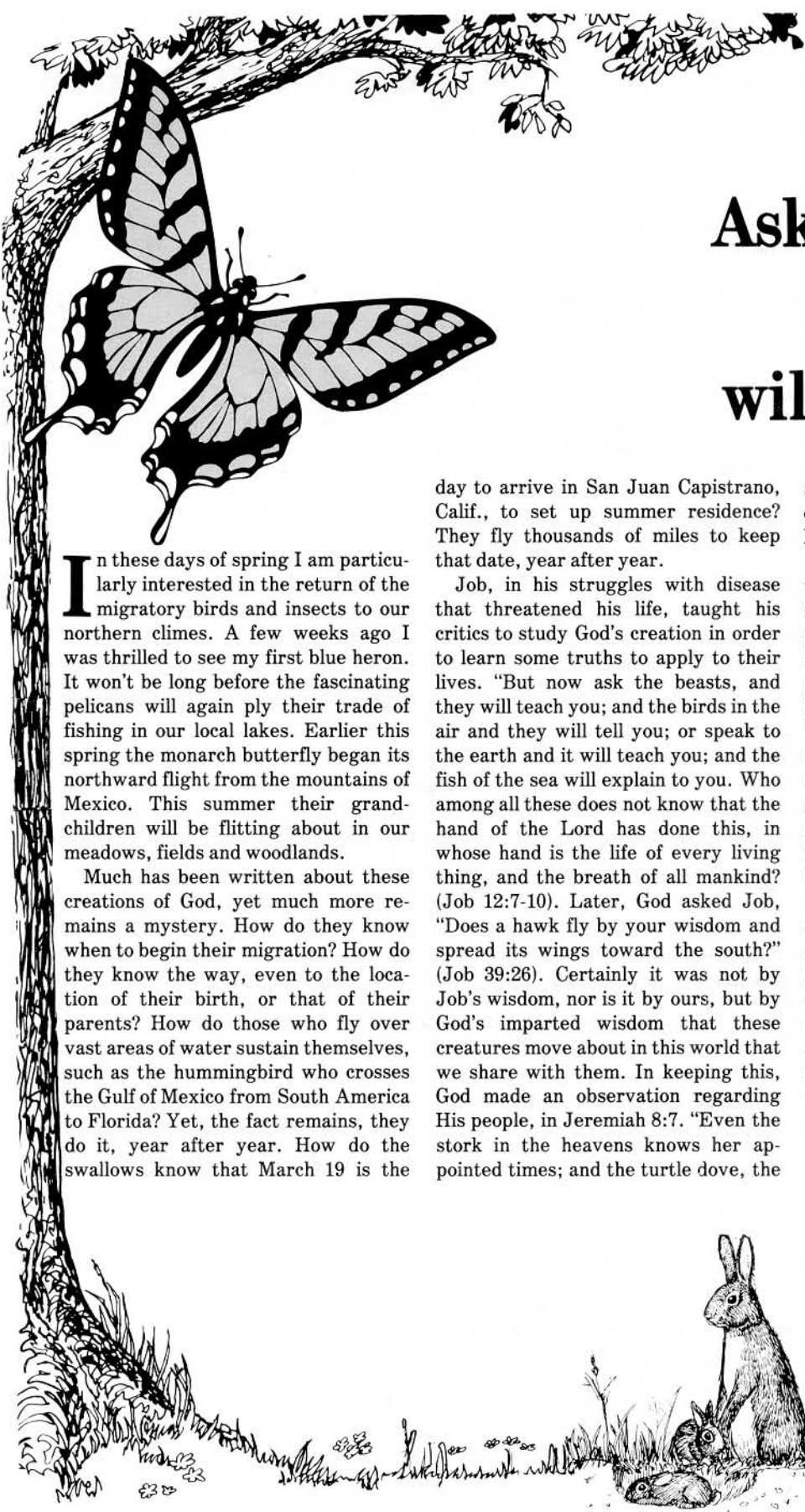
(2) *Giving up*. When we put ourselves into the hands of a doctor for surgery, we give up

entirely trying to work things out for ourselves. Faith in Jesus means to quit trying to do anything to try to make ourselves acceptable with God and to just let Jesus take care of everything.

(3) *Taking*. If we have faith in food on the table, we will take it into our bodies and let it nourish us. Faith in Jesus means that I take and I keep on taking: forgiveness, strength, wisdom, peace, victory over resentment and bitterness or whatever else I need.

This is simple but I believe it is God's message for today.

adapted from a
funeral message



Ask the beasts and they will teach you

In these days of spring I am particularly interested in the return of the migratory birds and insects to our northern climes. A few weeks ago I was thrilled to see my first blue heron. It won't be long before the fascinating pelicans will again ply their trade of fishing in our local lakes. Earlier this spring the monarch butterfly began its northward flight from the mountains of Mexico. This summer their grandchildren will be flitting about in our meadows, fields and woodlands.

Much has been written about these creations of God, yet much more remains a mystery. How do they know when to begin their migration? How do they know the way, even to the location of their birth, or that of their parents? How do those who fly over vast areas of water sustain themselves, such as the hummingbird who crosses the Gulf of Mexico from South America to Florida? Yet, the fact remains, they do it, year after year. How do the swallows know that March 19 is the

day to arrive in San Juan Capistrano, Calif., to set up summer residence? They fly thousands of miles to keep that date, year after year.

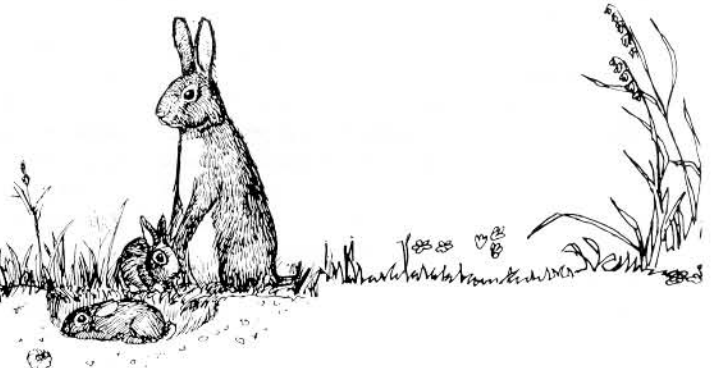
Job, in his struggles with disease that threatened his life, taught his critics to study God's creation in order to learn some truths to apply to their lives. "But now ask the beasts, and they will teach you; and the birds in the air and they will tell you; or speak to the earth and it will teach you; and the fish of the sea will explain to you. Who among all these does not know that the hand of the Lord has done this, in whose hand is the life of every living thing, and the breath of all mankind? (Job 12:7-10). Later, God asked Job, "Does a hawk fly by your wisdom and spread its wings toward the south?" (Job 39:26). Certainly it was not by Job's wisdom, nor is it by ours, but by God's imparted wisdom that these creatures move about in this world that we share with them. In keeping this, God made an observation regarding His people, in Jeremiah 8:7. "Even the stork in the heavens knows her appointed times; and the turtle dove, the

swift and the swallow observe the time of their coming. But my people do not know the judgment of the Lord."

Are you, dear reader, cognizant of the migratory patterns of the birds and insects, yet not knowing the judgment of the Lord? Jesus Christ suffered God's judgment on the cross, the judgment we deserve. Paul points out in Romans 4:25 that He "was delivered up because of our offenses and was raised because of our justification." Second Corinthians teaches: "For he (God) made him (Jesus Christ) who knew no sin, to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in him."

To the one who knows the Lord and His judgment, the returning birds and insects testify that our Lord is still on His throne in heaven and that he wants us to experience the joy of His salvation, to serve Him and to look forward eagerly for His appointed time to be fulfilled when His Son will return to take up His own.

*Pastor Henry Johansen
West Central Tribune
Willmar, Minn.*



A TESTIMONY FROM MEXICO

Christ came into my life

I would like to share my Christian experience for all my brothers who are in the United States of America. Brothers, my name is Mauro Cajero Hurtado. I am Mexican by birth and a child of a Roman Catholic family with very established traditions. I am married and have two stepsons and a wife who is also Christian. My Christian experience began one day in the month of February, 1987, by means of a brother in Christ who is named Salvador Ruiz Esporza. I, as so many people, believed that happiness was found in money and material things. My life was then a lie. I did things that now I repent of with all my heart. I got married at 19 and the things of God were unimportant to me since I didn't respect them.

I don't know how this happened, but the first time that Salvador spoke to me of the things of God it grabbed my attention so that I felt uneasy and troubled for several weeks. Salvador continued talking to me of Christ, and always, when he talked to me, it touched something inside of my heart that made me cry. There were moments when I asked myself, "What's happening to me because I have this feeling of crying? Why?" It was very rare that I would cry, since I was so hard. My life had been a story of fights in the streets and in the bars. I began my life of parties and quarrels at the age of 13 and I was already used to fighting almost everyday. I would fight with older guys and even with the police of the city and I wasn't afraid. I also went to the United States on occasion. My character was so grim that I also had many problems with the Chicanos. I tasted everything sinful in my life.

One day I commented to my wife about what I was thinking about the Roman Catholic religion and she looked at me with surprise. I knew the reason for her astonishment, since my entire family was extremely Catholic. She didn't think I was speaking seriously, but she was afraid and opposed my decision. One day Salvador told me

that an American would have Communion in his chapel of the house he was living and he asked me if I wanted to go. Almost with a jump, I said, "Yes." But in order to be able to go to Communion the following Sunday, I had to lie to my wife, saying that I was going some place else. We went to ask Mike, the other American, who was a friend of Salvador, if I could attend the worship service. He said he didn't know why not, but it was going to be in English. He would ask Daniel, the pastor who was celebrating the worship service. At Mike's house on Saturday I was very sad because I was thinking that they weren't going to let me participate. But my heart was glad when Daniel said that it was okay and that Salvador would interpret for me so that I would understand. I understand a little English, but Salvador interpreted for me. Then Daniel asked after the service ended if I wanted to receive Christ like Salvador, and I said, "Yes." In that moment I felt again the biggest desire to cry in such a manner that I

had a knot in my throat. I had such a big feeling of satisfaction of having accepted Jesus Christ. This was the most important thing that could have happened to me! About two weeks from my entry into the Christian life, my wife also accepted Christ. That was when we began to feel tribulation on the part of both families.

They scolded me a lot. Every time that I went to my parent's house, they didn't pay any attention to me and if I entered a bedroom they would leave, so you can imagine how I felt. Thus I looked for refuge in the New Testament that Salvador gave me. The Word of God consoled me, and after feeling very afraid of my parents and brothers, I learned one thing, which is the following: God is with me no matter who is against me. This morning as I was coming to work in the street I opened my New Testament. With my eyes closed I opened it to pray and what I read surprised me since it was what I was thinking. Read it please! It's Chapter two of the Second Letter to the Corinthians. After having read the things the Apostle Paul had to experience in order to follow God, it gave me such an immediate desire to push on ahead. I thought only about God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit. For this reason, brothers, I beg you to never stop listening to God. In your congregations you have greater numbers of pastors to take care of you, but here in Mexico we only have a few. There are not sufficient numbers to take care of the people to talk to them and insist that they accept Christ or be lost.

God bless you, brothers, and keep you. I say goodbye, after giving my testimony of how I met Christ. I don't know you, but upon writing this letter I feel that I love you. Write to me, please. I need to have contact with you. My address is: Mauro Cajero Hurtado, Circunvalacion Oriente, #605 Col Estrella, Aguascalientes, Ags., Mexico.

(Ed. note: The Daniel mentioned in the testimony is our missionary, Daniel Giles.)



Mauro Cajero Hurtado

Serving the Lord

by Mrs. Dennis (Ceta) Rude
Lake Alma, Sask.

Back to the cross

By the time you read this the lovely season of Easter will have come and gone. Spring should be firmly entrenched with fragrant winds and tree groves alive with bird song. Here in Canada winter may growl back a time or two and huff down the thermometer reading just to remind us that we live in the north.

It seems good that Mother's Day, too, comes in the spring. How I enjoy the memories of my mother who took us for walks and taught us the names of the prairie birds and wild flowers. She dressed her vegetable garden with rows of flowers and kept fresh bouquets in the house all summer.

When we romped like young colts set free in the spring, we could hear, through the open door, our mother playing the old hymns on the piano as she waited for the men to come in for supper. Had she believed as many of our generation do, I may never have seen life, for I was the second last of 13 children born into our family.

As I write this, we are looking forward to our fifth Annual AFLC Conference in Canada. This year the Conference is to be hosted by the congregation in Frontier, Sask., which has recently come into the AFLC. We are excited to have other congregations, too, who are looking to the AFLC and planning to attend.

It is natural to look back at our beginnings here at Lake Alma as the first congregation in Canada. How much we had to learn. One of the things we experienced was being totally misunderstood by our community. Perhaps some of you can relate to that. It was a reminder to us that the Christian life is the way of the cross.

Christianity in the last years has taken on a show-like quality where leaders of charisma and enthusiasm have built up large followings. We seem to want glamor and popularity in our religion. I heard the editor of a Christian book publishing company say that books about missionaries are no longer selling. People are not interest-

ed in reading about Christians who have given up everything to enter a life of comparative poverty and physical discomfort. However, books abound on self-improvement, from positive thinking to how the Christian can have prosperity.

Perhaps the recent setbacks in evangelical Christianity will trigger a movement back to the way of the cross, to Jesus, who said, "Learn of Me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls" (KJV).

In the memoirs of the dear friend who led me to Christ, I read that her grandparents gave up two beautiful talented daughters to go to the mission field of China. Six months later they were both dead of smallpox. Later, their third daughter revealed to them that in two weeks she and her husband were to sell their goods, vacate their beautiful farm in Oregon and take their two children to China to the mission field. The old couple prayed them on. Long ago they had laid their children at the foot of the cross.

Years later my friend felt the call to China herself when at Bible School in the U.S. In those days it was required that they should trust the Lord for their transportation to the field and for their first year's support. Ina left on the first lap of her journey with one dollar in her pocket. She laid her secur-

ity, her whole being, at the foot of the cross.

A Canadian officer of the Salvation Army had been moved eight times in 12 years. After two very difficult postings the family was sent to a town where the work progressed well and they were happy. When the order came to move again, the officer was tempted to take the offer of a full-time job with the local television station, the kind of work he had dreamed of. They moved instead to the new post, where he is the head of the Suicide Prevention Unit. Here he counsels people who are at the point of taking their own lives and trains volunteers to work in this area.

This Salvation Army officer laid his personal happiness and ambition at the foot of the cross.

It costs to live the life of Christ. Sometimes it costs our popularity, our time, our personal ambitions. It may cost our cozy and respectable standing in the community. Whatever it costs, God is more than able to satisfy.

"He who loves his life loses it; and he who hates his life in this world shall keep it to life eternal. If any one serves Me, let him follow Me; and where I am, there shall My servant be also; if any one serves Me, the Father will honor him" (John 12:25, 26 NAS).

THE WHEAT AND TARES

What, then, did Christ mean by saying that the wheat and the tares should grow together? He meant to forestall all persecution; to teach that in His kingdom force should never be used; that His people should never destroy the wicked and heretical, and thus make themselves the determiners of men's eternal destiny.

L.S. Keyser

EDITORIALS

DIFFICULT COMMANDMENT

No commandment of the Ten is as difficult for a pastor to preach on as the Third, "Remember the Sabbath Day to keep it holy."

The commandments, "Thou shalt not steal," "Thou shalt not kill," "Thou shalt not commit adultery," "Thou shalt have no other gods before Me," etc., are quite self-evident as to how they shall be interpreted unless one follows the path of so-called situation ethics, that is, that circumstances determine the response to be given. And in the Association we believe God's Law is absolute, that it doesn't change with the wind or popular opinion.

The issue is not one of whether the seventh day (Old Testament sabbath) or the first day (the day on which Jesus arose from the dead) should be observed as the Christian holy day. Since Apostolic times the first day, Sunday, has been universally observed. The issue is how the day shall be observed by those who care about the Law of God and would keep it.

While American society has generally long ago broken down most barriers to Sunday commerce, there are some places where laws still exist forbidding sales except for eating places, smaller grocery operations and businesses related to travel, and perhaps some others. In 1986 North Dakotans voted down a measure which would have changed Sunday closing laws greatly. From what we noted, the chief arguments raised against liberalization were that if shopping centers were open on Sundays in larger places, businesses in small towns would be hurt and, second, open stores on Sundays would hurt family life if one or more members had to work on what was a day of rest and an opportunity for families to spend time together.

These two arguments, valuable in themselves, were what is popularly termed today, humanistic. No doubt, state pastors also spoke to their congregations on the question from more biblical grounds, but that didn't find its way into Letters to the Editor columns in newspapers as readily.

In our day there is a good deal of stress laid upon going to church on Sunday as fulfilling the commandment. That is, if one only attends a worship service or some church meeting on Sunday the Third Commandment has been kept. Some go a step further and say that the church service need not even be on a Sunday, it could be on some other day of the week as well. Thus we come to an interpretation of the commandment which states that "Thou shalt spend at least one hour out of the week in a church or Christian service."

Is that what God said in the Sinai Law or did He mean the dedication of a day, a seventh, to Himself through rest and worship?

The question is also asked: Has today's mobile, technical, industrial society made the formal observance of Sunday as a holy day impossible? Was "Remember the Sabbath Day to keep it holy" apt and fitting for a simple agrarian society but not for our time? What, then, has happened to the commandment; is it replaced by anything else?

Evangelical Christians have muddied the waters, too. Let us illustrate. Whom do evangelicals hold up as the greatest

examples of Christian living and witness for their own young people? Professional athletes, all of whom do some of their public work on Sundays, sometimes presenting great stumbling-blocks in the way of attendance at Christian services and activities. Furthermore, said athletes, who have somehow resolved their Sunday work in their own minds, today make fabulous salaries, in some situations as much in a season (year) as another person may make in a 40-year span of work.

As we said, the Third Commandment isn't an easy one to preach on. The AFLC, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, the Reformed churches, don't know what to do with it. At least, that's the way it seems to us. The Lord gave the commandment for a purpose. We should be finding out what that purpose is for our time.

Perhaps our readers have thoughts to share on this subject.

MEAN CHRISTIANS

The radio preacher, J. Vernon McGee, made the statement some weeks ago that there's nothing as mean as a mean Christian. We don't have his exact words, but that is the gist of what he said.

Maybe that's a variation of the old saw that no fight is as dirty or bitter as a church fight.

We don't even like to have such things said or written. It is nicer to deny that such things could be among Christian brethren. But there are those who have been involved in such things, have seen them first hand, and have to say, yes, it can be so.

Disputes in the church involve deeply-held viewpoints. Perhaps that is why their defense may bring out words and tones that ordinarily wouldn't be used. There may be the inner feeling that what I believe must be right, especially if I have some Scripture to back it up, and I cannot tolerate the wrong that opposes it. Many times we can't separate the issue from the person and harsh words result and feelings are hurt.

In so many things there is no wrong in holding differing positions. Someone has said that when everyone thinks alike on a matter, no one thinks very much. Of course, that isn't always true. Sometimes unanimity is desirable. But many times people won't think the same, even on spiritual things, or mundane matters in the church. Then the question becomes, where must I be intransigent, unyielding, and where may I give in enough so that the work won't suffer and we can continue working and fellowshiping together?

Thank God for those who are the bridge-builders in a congregation or group and who can check the mean spirit when it arises in the discussion and pour oil on troubled waters.

There's need for further sanctification, always will be. We need to pray, "Lord, smooth the rough edges of our lives. Make us more like Christ. Amen."

fellowship corner

MY IMPATIENS

As I walked into my classroom on a Monday morning, I saw my Impatiens plant was blossoming: I couldn't help but stand and smile and admire it. You may ask what was so different about a plant blooming?

Two weeks before the picture was different and it was all my fault. I had been guilty of neglect.

The week before Christmas vacation was disrupted by a blizzard and some events were cancelled. On Thursday the decision was made to start our vacation. Before leaving, I watered the plants and even reported a small Impatiens. I mentally reminded myself that I would come back in a few days and check on my plants.

After Christmas Day and the family had all returned to their homes, I enjoyed relaxing at home. Almost daily we would drive downtown to get the mail and groceries, always going right past the school building. Glancing guiltily at the school, I would console myself with the fact that it was too cold or the janitor would maybe tend to my plants. But I knew real well that all 11 classrooms in the Middle School had plants and the janitor had refused to be responsible for plants during vacations. So excuses, excuses kept me procrastinating my duty.

Finally, on the day after New Year's, I went to my classroom to get ready for the next day. Opening the door, a quick look at my plants made me feel very

much ashamed. My hardy plants looked wilted but my poor Impatiens which had been blooming so nicely before I left looked *very* limp. I had been told that this plant needed a lot of loving care. My first impulse was to throw it into the trash can. But I thought, I'll give it a chance. They had depended on me and I had failed by my continuous procrastination.

I finally watered the plants and then it dawned on me! How very closely a plant resembles a human being. Oh, it can't talk, walk or think, but it follows the dictates of its leader.

Plants are nourished by water, clean, fresh air and sunshine. They have to be potted in good soil and with adequate room to grow.

We need to be cleansed by the blood of Christ and daily receive forgiveness so that our hearts may be pure in thought, word and deed. We blossom most when our hearts are happy and full of kind, loving thoughts. If we neglect the daily reading of the Word or our church worship, our hearts will become empty and our Christian lives become withered as the plants without water.

We depend on each other for Christian nurture and fellowship. So just like my Impatiens that almost died from lack of loving care, so void would be my life without the love and care of the heavenly Father.

*Mrs. Lydia McCarlson
Langford, S. Dak.*

Letter to the editor

SUNSET VIEW

Our family would like to acquaint the *Ambassador* readers with a great opportunity for an affordable vacation. We discovered a scenic and peaceful resort (Sunset View, Eagle's Nest Lake), 20 miles south of Ely, Minn. Joel and Audrey Rogenes own and manage the resort and have created a fine Christian atmosphere there. The fellowship was delightful. Our stay at the resort provided that time necessary for a family to re-establish personal disciplines in a busy world.

Bear's Head State Park is a neighbor

to the resort. We enjoyed a trip to Virginia, Minn., during the week where Clifford Johnson led his flock in Bible study at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church (AFLC). We thank God for providing this experience available within our AFLC family.

*Pastor and Mrs. Wayne Hjermstad
St. Paul, Minn.*

(Ed. note: Virginia is about 45 miles southwest of Ely. The resort address is County Road 128, Rt. 2, Box 5625, Ely 55731. The Rogenes are members of the AFLC.)

Kindle the fire

Blessed Jesus,
Redeemer of the world,
We thank Thee
That Thou hast died
For our sins
And rose from the dead
For our justification.

We pray Thee,
Increase our faith:
Kindle the fire
Of Thy love
In our hearts
And make more lively
Our hope of
Everlasting life.

Help us truly
To repent of our sins,
To have the assurance
Of full forgiveness
And with the whole heart
To live for Thee
All the days
Of our earthly sojourn.

And when we come
To the end of
This pilgrimage
On the earth,
Lift us up into
The Father's house,
That we may see Thee
Face to face
And be with Thee
Forever and ever. Amen

Gerhard Rasmussen
(*Vesper Meditations*)

**WORLD DAY OF PRAYER
HELD AT NORTH PRAIRIE**

March 4 was a beautiful spring day near Leeds, N. Dak. An unusually large crowd gathered at North Prairie Free Lutheran Church, host to the annual World Day of Prayer.

The program was centered on "Follow God's Guidance" from John 14:6, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life." People participated from eight area churches. The speakers emphasized the importance of being involved with our children in helping them to follow God.

This was the first time North Prairie has hosted this event in many years. It is a true country church without the modern facilities. The old pitcher pump has been used until this day. A new electric pump and faucet was used for the first time, making this World Day of Prayer even more special for the ladies at North Prairie.

— Charlott Peiler

BRANDON, MINN.

The S.W. Central Minnesota District WMF Rally will be held on May 3, at Chippewa Lutheran, Brandon, Minn. Registration will be at 9:30. Rev. Elden Nelson will give the morning Bible study on "Redeeming the Time" and Judy Mayland and Chancye Dahl will present a slide presentation on the work in Mexico.

SET US AFIRE, LORD

Set us afire, Lord,
Stir us, we pray.
While the world perishes,
We go our way,
Purposeless, passionless,
Day after day.
Set us afire, Lord,
Stir us, we pray.

Anonymous

He Blessed The Children

Our little ones are Yours, dear Lord;
We bring them unto You.
Entrusted with their care below,
Your heavenly grace we need.
You spoke, "Forbid them not to come,"
You took them in your arms.
You gave your angels charge to keep
these little ones from harm.

CHORUS:

And You blessed the children
as they sat upon your knee.
And You said, "Whoe're receives
such a one -
The same receives Me."

To teach us true humility,
Christ used a little child.
Such is the greatest in His kingdom,
Though so meek and mild.
Their faith stands firm, steadfast, and true;
It's anchored in God's love.
They simply trust and do not doubt
their Father up above.
Lord, grant that we may not offend
a little child of Yours;
But lead him in the righteous path,
Eternal life to find.
Lord, never from Your covenant,
may this dear child stray.
But safe within Your saving grace,
go forward from this day.

Mrs. Luis (Rebekah) Valdez

(Written in preparation for the birth of her third child, a son, Michael. The song was sung at his baptism by a friend.)

Copies of the words and music may be obtained by writing to the author at 7199 Quantico Ln. N., Maple Grove, Minn. 55369.

Just As I Am

There are those who would claim that the hymn, "Just as I am, without one plea," has been used to bring more souls into the kingdom of God than any other. Charlotte Elliot was 45 and an invalid when she wrote this hymn.

The day she wrote it had been a busy one in her brother's home in England. The family was preparing for a bazaar and had left her alone on the sofa. She began to feel sorry for herself but caught her thoughts and started remembering a visit from a noted evangelist in her father's house 12 years before. She always recalled that day as the day of her conversion.

From that shut-in came these lyrics:
Just as I am — without one plea,
But that Thy blood was shed for me,
And that Thou bidd'st me
come to Thee —
O Lamb of God, I come.

Just as I am — and wanting not
To rid my soul of one dark blot —
To Thee, whose blood can
cleanse each spot,
O Lamb of God, I come.

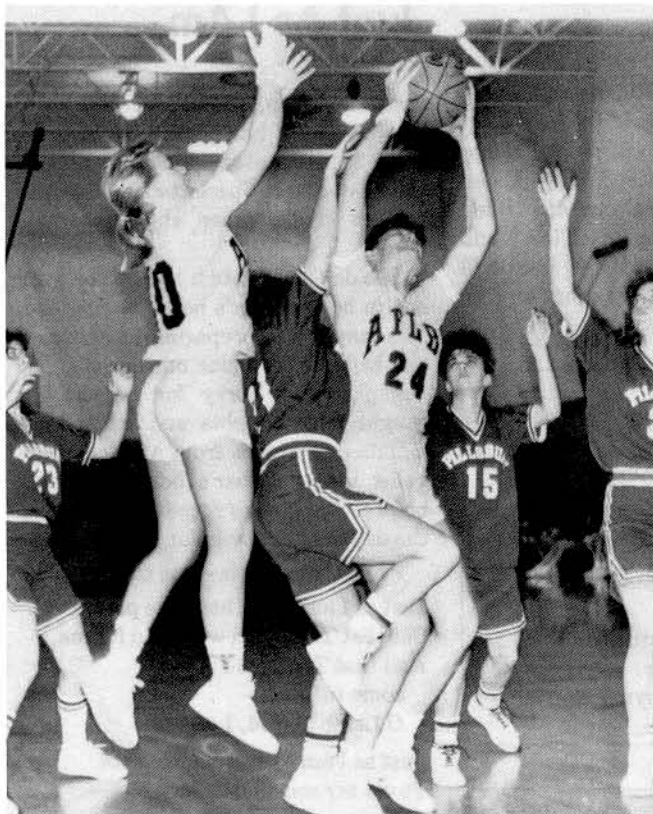
Just as I am — poor, wretched, blind;
Sight, riches, healing of the mind —
Yea, all I need, in Thee to find,
O Lamb of God, I come.
Just as I am — Thou wilt receive,
Wilt welcome, pardon, cleanse, relieve,
Because Thy promise I believe —
O Lamb of God, I come.

Just as I am — Thy love unknown
Has broken every barrier down,
Now, to be Thine, yea, Thine alone —
O Lamb of God, I come.

Just as I am — of that free love
The breadth, length, depth,
and height to prove,
Here for a season, Thou above,
O Lamb of God, I come.

McINTOSH, MINN.

Lorraine Voxland and Ida Hanson are two WMF ladies who received Honorary Membership Pins and recognition at Trinity Lutheran Church, rural McIntosh in 1987. They were both in the same confirmation class and continue to love and serve the Lord.



Martina Johnson, Roseau, Minn. got another rebound against Pillsbury Bible College. This was the first year for girls basketball at AFLBS.

Conquerors end season with consolation trophy in nationals

The AFLBS Conqueror Boys Basketball team saved its best performances for tournament games. After an average season, AFLBS entered the National Bible College Athletic Association regional tournament with little expectation, but the boys walked away with the championship trophy and earned a trip to the national tourney in Dallas, Texas, on March 12-13.

At Owatonna, Minn., the Conquerors upset Minnesota Bible College and Emmaus Bible College to win the Division II regional title.

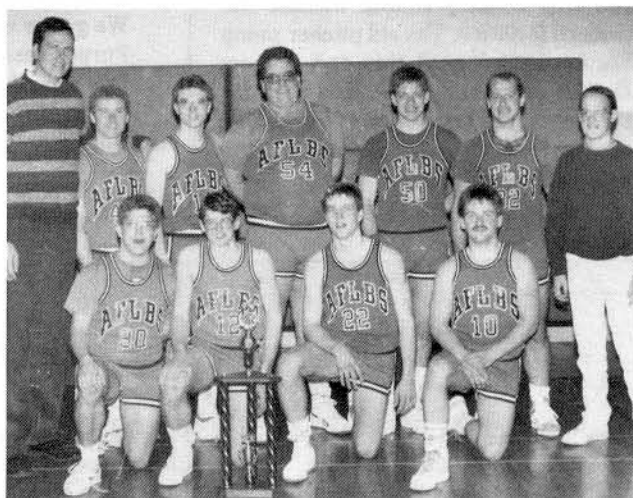
Coach Wayne Peterson and his team then quickly gathered funds and transportation for Dallas. Parents helped the players with fifty percent of the cost. Rev. Wendell Johnson drove his van, and the school van also made the trip.

The first game found AFLBS being overpowered by Arlington Bible College, Arlington, Texas, but the Conquerors rebounded with the consolation title with a victory over American Indian Bible College of Phoenix.

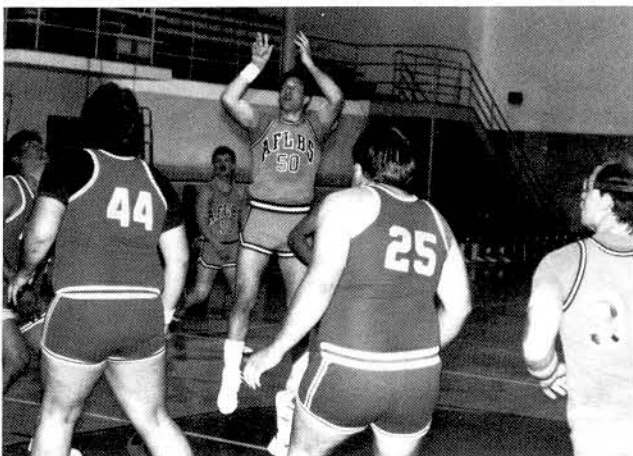
Congratulations to Coach Peterson and the 1988 Conqueror team.



Girls Basketball Team: (Standing L. to R.) Deidre Christensen, Vicky Hill, Martina Johnson, Melissa Kruse and Mary Modean. (Seated L. to R.) Lynn Erickson, Sara Huglen, Coach Keith Quanbeck, Cindy Christianson and Leanne Hegseth.



Boys Basketball Team: (Standing L. to R.) Coach Wayne Peterson, Joel Jenson, Mark Fagerstrom, Steve Hanke, Tom Schierkolk, John Dahl, Manager Brad Jackson, (Kneeling L. to R.) Charles Bergstedt, Steve Carlson, Mark Johnson and Dan Beaman.



Tom Schierkolk, Prairie Farm, Wis. goes up for a jump shot at the national tournament in Dallas.

Introducing new AFLC congregations

Fox River Lutheran Church, Sheridan, Illinois

Fox River Lutheran Church has stood for 116 years, been home for 14 pastors, had sermons preached from its pulpit in two different languages and has stood while the congregation and parish have changed since it was built to house the Fox River Norwegian Evangelical Congregation.

Originally the congregation met in the Elias Nelson home until the church was built in 1862. The congregation was first part of the Lisbon parish from 1859 to 1879, when it became part of the Stavanger parish. The Fox River and Stavanger congregations shared a pastor and parsonage for 38 years and then Stavanger became independent and the Norway Lutheran congregation joined the Fox River congregation in 1918. They took the name Norway Evangelical Lutheran Congregation.

The Norway Congregation had been organized by Elling Eielsen, the first Norwegian Lutheran pastor ordained in America. He had begun work in the area in 1839. Norway grew out of the earlier Fox River Evangelical Lutheran Congregation and was organized in 1847. Church services were held on the second floor of his log house. The house was destroyed by fire the same year and two years later the church which is still standing was dedicated. After the merger of 1918 the Norway building was used for Bible studies, prayer services, Ladies Aid, mission meetings and special Christian meetings. In 1977 it was sold to the Sons of Norway and has been kept up as a historic building.

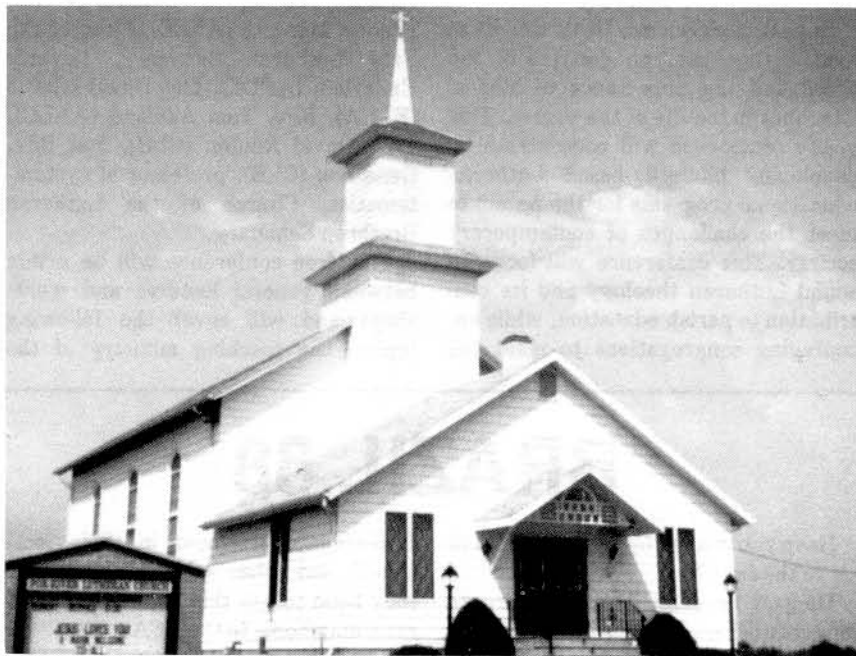
The pastors who served the first Norway Lutheran Church were, besides Elling Eielsen, A.A. Scheie, Ole Andrewson, Peter Mehus, Nils Iversen, Endre Johanneson, Amund Johnson, H.W. Abelson, O. Andresen and A.O. Mortvedt.

Returning to the congregation as it was constituted in 1918, after the local merger, it subsequently reclaimed the older name, Fox River Lutheran Congregation. Improvements were made in the church building and dedicated on Oct. 2, 1977. They included a full basement with kitchen and dining area, two

new furnaces, a narthex and redecorated sanctuary and sacristy. Pastors who have served Fox River over the years are: P.A. Rasmussen, 1862-80; N.J. Ellestad, 1880-83; J.A. Helles-tvedt, 1884-92; N.J. Lockrem, 1892-1906; F.C. Norman, 1906-10; H.G. Engum, 1910-15; B.A. Olson, 1915-19; N.J. Peterson, 1919-23; L.L. Masted,

1923-42; A.E. Windahl, 1942-48; Benjamin Ostrem, 1948-62; O.P. Haugen, 1962-72; James Brooks, 1972-76; W.A. Ostroot, 1976-79; and M.G. Halvorson, visitation pastor, 1977-79, and pastor, 1979--.

— Part of this history has come from a church booklet.



Fox River Lutheran Church



Honored at a dinner in December, these are the new members received at Fox River Lutheran Church in 1987. Pastor M.G. Halvorson is shown at the right.

A free conference

Scripture in parish education

sponsored by the
Lutheran Council
on Biblical Inerrancy

The Lutheran Council on Biblical Inerrancy announces its Third Annual Conference, entitled *Scripture in Parish Education*, April 29th and 30th, at Living Word Lutheran Church, 4300 Nichols Road, Eagan, Minn. This free conference is intended for lay people, students, pastors, Sunday School teachers and lay assistants who are interested in building a strong biblical education program.

In past conferences, LCBI sought to explain the Lutheran doctrine of the Word and the importance of biblical inerrancy in the life of the church. This year's conference will concentrate on developing biblically-based Lutheran educational programs for the parish to meet the challenges of contemporary society. This conference will focus on sound Lutheran theology and its contribution to parish education, while encouraging congregations to meet the

challenges of contemporary society.

This year's speakers are: Dr. Robert Kolb (LC-MS), professor of church history at Concordia College, St. Paul, Minn., Rev. John Pless (LC-MS), Chaplain, University Lutheran Chapel, Rev. Paul Bartz (LC-MS) of the Bible Science Association, Mr. Craig Stanford (LC-MS), Rev. Erling Teigen (ELS), professor of systematics, Bethany Lutheran Theological Seminary, Dr. Francis Monseth (AFLC), Dean of the Free Lutheran Seminary, Beverly Enderlein (AFLC), Dr. David Glesne (ELCA), Rev. Tom Aadland (AALC), Rev. David Rinden (CLB), and Rev. Gene Boe (CLB), professor of systematics, Church of the Lutheran Brethren Seminary.

This free conference will be a mix between general lectures and workshops and will cover the following topics: the teaching ministry of the

church, Luther and Christian education, revelation, interpretation, and reason, teaching confirmation creatively, the problem with modern religious education, Jesus the teacher, education for vocation, historical criticism in parish education, creating educational programs for high school and college students, improving teaching skills, developing a balanced program, evangelizing modern people, and parish education: the first and last line of defense.

The cost for the conference is \$7.00 per person (\$2.00 off for registrations received prior to April 28th; please register early), \$3.50 for students and \$3.50 for lunch on Saturday. To pre-register for the discount or to receive more information, please write LCBI, P.O. Box 16564, St. Paul, Minn. 55116 or call Craig Stanford 612-644-6416 between 8:30 a.m.-3:00 p.m.

BRAZIL 88

Have you prayed for opportunities to serve the Lord?

Do you have an earnest desire to influence others for your Savior?

A summer term of mission service might be just the right step for YOU!

What is BRAZIL 88?

— An AFLC World Missions "Summer Youth Ministries Team."

— An opportunity to work with the AFLC national church in Brazil.

— A varied kind of ministry will be carried on, including sharing Christ, working with children and youth, visitation, and manual labor, such as painting, building, etc.

Who may go?

— Team members will be chosen by the World Missions Department.

— Applicants must be active Christians of AFLC doctrinal conviction.

— Applicants must have at least completed the Junior year of high school.

— Applicants will be asked to state their purpose in applying for short term mission service, their present

Christian involvement in their local church and other activities, and how they hope to use this experience after returning home to the USA.

— Applicants need the recommendation of their local pastor plus two other Christian adults.

— Applicants need to be in good health and demonstrate a cheerful spirit of cooperation, respect for authority; and a servant's heart.

How much will this trip cost?

— Each applicant will be responsible for raising his/her necessary funds. The two month term of service in Brazil will cost \$1,800. This covers travel and food. Personal expenses are a matter for each applicant to decide for himself/herself.

— Those who are selected for the mission team may share with Christian friends and congregations their God-motivated desire to serve the Lord in this ministry; God may move them to financially support this trip. *Prayer is the key.*

Will I be trained for this trip?

— Yes, definitely! A week of training at AFLC Schools Campus in Minneapolis before the trip will provide Bible study, cultural and language training, along with character development and insights into witnessing, presenting programs, etc.

Request application form from: The World Missions Department, AFLC, 3110 East Medicine Lake Boulevard, Minneapolis, Minn 55441-3099.

MIDWEST BUS TO CONFERENCE

A bus is being chartered to travel from Minot, N. Dak., to DeKalb, Ill. for the 1988 Annual Conference. It will leave Minot on June 13 and arrive in DeKalb on the 14th, traveling straight through. It will go on to Grand Forks, Fargo and the Twin Cities, using I-94 from Fargo on. Passengers will be picked up where needed. The cost is \$87 round trip. Contact Pastor Leslie Galland, 404 Kendall Ave. So., Thief River Falls, Minn. 56701 by May 1. Or call 218-681-1910 (home) or 218-681-4643 (office).

ARC Update

The year 1988 has proven to be busy so far. We have served ten different groups. Seven of the groups have been from our AFLC. Our Association groups that have made use of the Association Retreat Center are the AFLC Home Missions Retreat, AFLC Pastors' Conference, Youth Sno Daze, AFLC Midwinter Bible Conference, Emmaus Lutheran Church Council and Men's Retreat.

The ARC has been given a plain paper copier and a pickup, for which we are most thankful, and for all other gifts we have received. Monies are still coming for the refinishing of rooms at the ARC and we praise and thank the Lord for His bountiful gifts in this area. Please send all gifts of money to the AFLC, attention Ernie Miedema, and marked accordingly.

The ARC is still in need of white latex exterior paint, ice cream pails and rags. Tools for brushing out small trees and bushes need to be borrowed for the summer.

The ARC was a recent recipient of a \$2500.00 Aid Association for Lutherans grant to enhance the skills and training of the camp's leaders, which will help the camp survive and succeed in the

coming years. The grant enabled the camp director's staff and board of directors to attend a seminar or to work with a consultant to plan and direct the future of that organization and meet camp standards. Bob and Carol Dietsche attended the seminar held in Nashville, Tennessee, in early December because of this AAL grant. The money also assisted in the certification of camp directors and the accreditation of the camp with a national camping organization. The ARC is now a member of *Christian Camping International*. Christian Camping International is the AAA of Christian camps. The grant is part of a \$4 million 1987 AAL Program to help Lutheran affiliated outdoor ministry organizations in several specific areas of need. A total of 153 Lutheran outdoor ministry agencies are eligible to participate in the program.

We pray that you will take advantage of these opportunities to "Come away and rest a while" at the ARC.

Coming Events at the ARC: April 29 - May 1 — Women's Retreat; May 27 - 30 — Memorial Weekend Work Retreat; July 3-9 — AFLC Family Camp; July 10-15 — Youth Camp; August 8-15 — AFLC Family Camp.

COOK NEEDED AT ONCE

The ARC is in need of a full-time cook and cleaning lady (one position) immediately. Please contact Bob Dietsche, 715-294-2877.

Day School positions open

Minneapolis, Minn.

Medicine Lake Lutheran Academy is receiving applications for teachers certified for both elementary and middle school for the 1988-89 school year.

Direct inquiries to: Mrs. Eugene Enderlein, Medicine Lake Lutheran Academy, 6300 Walker St. (Central Center), St. Louis Park, Minn. 55416.

Camarillo, Calif.

There are teacher openings in the First Lutheran Christian Day School. A Pre-School Director for 150 students is needed, also teachers for pre-school children. A kindergarten teacher and a first grade teacher are needed as well.

If interested, please contact First Lutheran Church (AFLC), 380 Arneill Road, Camarillo, Calif. 93010. Or call 805-482-8482. Ask for Mr. James Newman or Pastor Orville Hiepler.

Personalities

Rev. LeRoy Flickinger, Leeds, N. Dak., will begin his work in the Newfolden, Minn., parish (Westaker and Bethania) in early June, his first Sunday being the 12th. The parish is presently being served by Rev. Hubert DeBoer in an interim appointment.

Dr. Albin Fogelquist, Jr., a graduate of Association Free Lutheran Theological Seminary, has been named a full-time professor at Faith Lutheran Seminary of the World Confessional Lutheran Association in Tacoma, Wash. He will be in charge of the Independent Study Program, as well as doing classroom teaching.

For health reasons **Lay Pastor Verle Dean** has resigned as pastor of Scandia Lutheran Church, Sedan, Minn., and he and his wife are now living at R.R. 3, Box 20, Spicer, Minn. 56288. Their phone number is 612-796-5703.

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 held membership.

WASHINGTON

Ferndale

Martin Lonseth, 100, March 9, Triumph.

WISCONSIN

Boscobel

Clarence (Pat) Swenson, 74, Mar. 23, Trinity.

PRAYER REQUEST...

As of this printing, Pastor Dean had successful major heart surgery at Veterans Hospital in Minneapolis. Two days later Mrs. Dean (Clarice) had major heart surgery at Metropolitan Medical Center in Minneapolis. The Deans appreciate your prayers.

Several deaths noted

The deaths of several persons recently are noted here today. They are:

Adolph Trooien, 83, long-time member of the Board for the Hauge Inner-mission Federation and president for a number of years, died on Feb. 7. His funeral was at Faith Lutheran Brethren Church, Hendricks, Minn. Lay Pastor Rodney Stueland, Roslyn, S. Dak., was among those participating in the service.

Mrs. Ralph (Dr. Esther) Mortensen, 88, passed away in Connecticut on Oct. 28, 1987. Her husband, an American Bible Society representative for many years in China, Hong Kong and the U.S., had died less than a year before. Mrs. Mortensen, his second wife, had been a teacher in China.

Rev. Olav S. Winther, 95, one-time Lutheran Free Church pastor, died in March in Minneapolis, Minn. A graduate of Augsburg Seminary, he served parishes in Brainerd, Minn., and Minneapolis.

Preaching missions

Eben Jct., Mich.

Calvary Lutheran Church

John Mundfrom, pastor

April 23-27

Speaker - Lay Pastor Clifford Johnson
Esko, Minn.

Amery, Wis.

Amery Lutheran Church

John Rieth and Brian Davidson, pastors

April 24-27

Speaker - Rev. Gary Jorgenson
Stanley, N. Dak.

Virginia, Minn.

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

Clifford Johnson, lay pastor

May 4-8

Speaker - Rev. Herbert L. Franz
Dollar Bay, Mich.

THE LUTHERAN AMBASSADOR

3110 E. Medicine Lake Blvd.

Minneapolis, Minn. 55441

Second-class

2038

W1

STANLEY HOLMAAS

RT 1 BOX 1

NEWFOLDEN MN 56738-9701

NEWS OF THE CHURCHES

from here and there

Badger, Minn. — The sum of \$475 was realized for World Missions through the recent Uffda Taco Supper held in Greenbush and sponsored by the parish youth.

Newfolden, Minn. — Westaker and Bethania Churches participated in the Lenten round robin services in the Northwestern Minnesota District. Twelve pastors and lay pastors took part each week in the 12 preaching places. Sermon topics were characters of the Passion story.

Morris, Ill. — Pastor John Skeie is conducting a ten-week new member and adult confirmation class, with sessions being held in the church lounge. The class is also open to present members who wish a review of Bible teaching.

Newark, Ill. — The Father-Son Banquet for West Lisbon Lutheran was held on Sat., Mar. 26. Steve Paulsen of the Verona area presented a musical program.

Ferndale, Wash. — Rev. Herbert L. Franz, Dollar Bay, Mich., was the speaker at evangelistic services in Triumph Lutheran, Feb. 21-25.

The Praise Singers, six ladies from Rock of Ages Lutheran Church of Seattle, Wash., sang at both the Sunday School and morning service at Triumph Lutheran on Feb. 7.

Greenbush, Minn. — Easter services at United Lutheran were at 8 and 10, with the Senior League serving coffee, rolls and juice between services.

Thief River Falls, Minn. — The Adult Fellowship of Our Saviour's Lutheran went to Grand Forks, N. Dak., recently as a group for supper at a restaurant there.

Goodridge, Minn. — A special mission conference was held at Reiner Lutheran, Mar. 11-13, with Rev. Eugene Enderlein, World Missions Director, as speaker. Pastor Enderlein is also a former pastor at Reiner.

Weslaco, Tex. — Refreshments at Winter Wednesday Bible and social hour at Faith Lutheran on Feb. 3 were served by Boyd and Elna Haagenson, "snowbirds" from Minnewaukan, N. Dak.

Grand Forks, N. Dak. — On Palm Sunday a Seder or Passover meal was served at Trinity Lutheran by Pastor Kernie Franzen, director of Good News for Israel, Minneapolis, Minn. The service in connection with it began at 4 p.m.

Minneapolis, Minn. — A new door has been installed between the front porch and the living room of the church apartment of Faith Lutheran. New curtains have also been put up in the nursery.

HOME MISSION NEWS

It didn't look like the churches where most of our AFLC congregations worship. The sheetrock was unfinished, the concrete floor was bare and work lights were still strung across the ceiling. There was still a lot to be done before the new church would be complete.

But Sunday, January 3, was a day of celebration for Living Faith congregation, Larimore, N. Dak., as they worshipped for the first time in their new church home. The building, located on the northeast edge of town, was constructed by members of this new AFLC congregation with the help of a Home Mission Church Extension loan.

Living Faith joins two other eastern North Dakota congregations who moved into their new churches this winter. Both Victory, Park River, and Abiding Word, Edmore, began meeting for worship in their recently constructed buildings during the month of December.

But whether they are led to God along one avenue or another, it is clearly a universal principle of New Testament Christianity that those who come to Christ come as sinners in need of forgiveness.

Bernhard Christensen