

# THE LUTHERAN AMBASSADOR

April 23, 1985



# at the MASTER'S FEET

## Mother's Day

It is good during this month in which we honor mothers to remember the significant influence which they exert in shaping the future course of the Church and the world.

It is imperative that parents should realize the tremendous responsibility that is theirs. Blessed are the mother and the father who plant within a child the seed of God's Word which produces faith in the Lord, because the fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom and the secret of life—abundant living.

The Christian home is the nursery in which human lives develop Godward. The home is a God-instituted educator of mankind. It is the highest school because there the lessons of life—faith in God and the Bible, self-control, sacrifice, mutual trust, diligent work and righteous citizenship—are learned and practiced.

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**Cover photo**  
Mrs. Matilda Soli  
Vang Lutheran Church  
Walhalla, N. Dak.

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### THE LUTHERAN AMBASSADOR

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In his book, *For Better Not For Worse*, A Manual of Christian Matrimony, the late Walter A. Maier (Concordia Pub. House, St. Louis, Mo.), writes: "Among 600 representative Americans who nominated 200 different women in a ballot for 'the most interesting women in America' one vote should have attracted nationwide attention. A solitary individual had the temerity to declare that woman attains her highest ideals when, forsaking the roar of business, the mudslinging of politics, and the clash of other careers, she marries, settles down to make a home, proves herself a helpful wife, and cheerfully assumes the responsibilities and blessings of motherhood. These, we may believe, were the sentiments of the person who, at the end of a formidable list of nominations for the stars of first magnitude in the heavens of femininity, dared to propose as 'the most interesting woman in America' none other than a successful mother."

Let us all pray that the youth of our land will think clearly and constructively on the ideal of Christian womanhood and avoid influences which coax wives and mothers away from the family.

The praise and honor of consecrated womanhood is clearly emphasized in the Bible. This is clearly stated in the closing verses of Proverbs 31. Paying tribute to the various accomplishments of women, of a mother, the author says: Strength and honor are her clothing; she shall rejoice in time to come. She opens her mouth with wisdom, and her tongue is the law of kindness. She watches over the ways of her household, and does not eat the bread of idleness. Her children rise up and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praises her: "Many daughters have done well, but you excel them all." Charm is deceitful and beauty is

vain, but a woman who fears the Lord, she shall be praised. Give her the fruit of her hands, and let her own works praise her in the gates (verses 25-31).

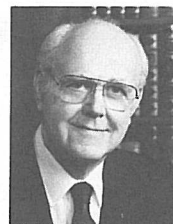
Human experience likewise pays tribute to Christian motherhood. Centuries ago Anthusa rescued her son John from the destruction of sin by leading him to Christ. Under her guidance he became one of the most eloquent preachers in the history of the Church, his pulpit oratory earning for him the name Chrysostom, "the Golden mouthed."

Monica led her wayward son Augustine from a life of extreme indulgence in sensuality to special honor and recognition.

In his Confessions, St. Augustine writes, "And you (God) sent your hand from above, and raised my soul out of that depth of darkness, because my mother, Your faithful one, wept to You for me more bitterly than mothers weep for the bodily deaths of their children. For by the faith and the spirit which she had from You, she saw me as dead; and You heard her, Lord."

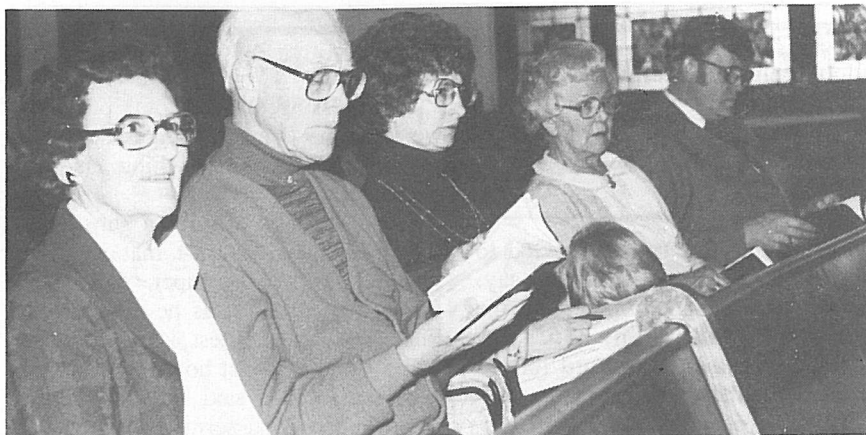
The mother of Abraham Lincoln was one of the sources of his strength and ambition. Said he, "All that I am and all that I hope to be, I owe to my angel mother."

These selected tributes to motherhood from yesteryears illustrate a truth that demands re-emphasis.



by Pastor  
Amos O. Dyrud





# learning to listen

by Warren W. Wiersbe

Three hundred years before Christ was born, the philosopher Zeno of Citium said, "The reason why we have two ears and only one mouth is that we may listen the more and talk the less." James had the same idea when he wrote: "Wherefore, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, and slow to wrath" (Jas. 1:19).

Many people don't realize the *importance* of listening, as far as the Christian life is concerned. Often our Lord cried out, "Who has ears, let him hear!" The parable of the sower makes it clear that fruitfulness of life depends on faithfulness of listening.

I have concluded that we really don't know how to listen. There is something wrong with our whole approach to Bible lessons and Sunday sermons. For that reason, I want to make several suggestions – to myself as well as to you – that might help all of us get more out of the lesson or the sermon the next time we encounter the Word of God.

## Preparation

What would you think of a pastor or Sunday School teacher who came to church unprepared to preach or teach? Or perhaps the *material* was prepared but the person was unprepared – weary, unenthusiastic, indifferent? You would probably conclude that the teacher or preacher was not taking spiritual responsibilities very seriously.

But how many times have you and I gone to God's house unprepared to hear His Word? We got little or nothing out of the message and returned home in worse spiritual condition than when we left – and probably blamed it all on the pastor!

To begin with, we ought to prepare ourselves *physically*. The workers on the night shift may have to come to church weary, but there is no reason why most of us can't plan to arrive rested and at our best. A part of worship is presenting our bodies to God (see Rom. 12:1), and we should not give Him that which is incapable of sincere worship. The Christian who goes to bed too late on Saturday night is going to rob himself and God on Sunday morning.

A weary body is usually the sign of a foggy mind. We must prepare our minds if we are going to listen to God's Word with any degree of understanding and enjoyment. I find that watching the news, reading the paper, or engaging in trifling conversation before worship all have a way of robbing my mind of the spiritual sensitivity I need to listen to God's Word. The believer who spends time each morning in the Word and prayer is the one who is best prepared to worship. The soil of the soul must be readied for the seed of the Word. James had this in mind when he wrote, "Therefore putting aside all filthiness and all that remains of wickedness, in humility receive the word implanted, which is able to save your souls" (Jas. 1:21, NASB). We must pull out the weeds before we can receive the seeds.

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**"I have concluded that we really don't know how to listen."**

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**"The soil of the soul must be readied for the seed of the Word."**

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If you have children in your home, then you must prepare the whole family. Nothing destroys our ability to enjoy the Word like arriving at church in the midst of a family feud! Junior couldn't find his shoes. Sister misplaced her Bible. Anybody who has raised children can add to this account *ad infinitum*.

When we parents are careless about our preparations for the Lord's Day, we are telling our children in a subtle way that going to Sunday School and church and hearing God's Word is not really important to us. Father usually makes better preparations for his fishing trips than he does for Sunday services!

Take extra time on Saturday to get things together. Teach your children the importance of preparing to go to the house of God. Our attitude must not be that of an army preparing for battle, but of a group of God's people going to God's house to enjoy His Word.

Preparing is essential to good listening. Yes, it demands discipline, including saying no to many Saturday-night invitations; but I think the results are well worth the sacrifice.

## Concentration

It requires concentration to listen and to learn. We must exercise our will and capture our thoughts and keep them under control. Human nature being what it is, we must expect to confront distractions and detours;



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## LISTENING . . .

but we must also yield our minds to the Lord and fight every effort of the Enemy to confuse us.

You would think that the saints would encourage each other in this matter of concentration, but such is not always the case. Quite frankly, some of the biggest distractions in a worship service come from the saints – and not just the teenagers as they giggle and pass notes, because the adults can be equally as distracting. Yet no matter what our situation, you and I must make every effort to focus our attention on the Word of God.

I find it helpful before the preaching begins to read the Scripture passage under consideration. I don't try to second-guess the pastor and anticipate his outline. Instead, I allow God's Word to speak to my own heart as I read and meditate. As the pastor speaks, I keep the Word before me and notice what it says. I pray for him that the Spirit will direct his words.

Concentration must be active, not passive. It is work! But it is *blessed* work as we share in the excitement of hearing the Word of God.

"But our preacher is boring!" somebody argues. "It's hard to concentrate when the preacher isn't saying anything."

Sad to say, some preachers are difficult to listen to – either because they are poorly prepared or simply don't know how to present the Word of God in an interesting manner. Some men preach only because they have to say something, not because they really have something to say; and that kind of preaching can be boring.

However, don't be too critical of the preacher – and don't compare him Sunday by Sunday with your favorite media minister! If your pastor is a dedicated man of God with a burden to share God's truth, then concentrate on what he says, and God will give you what you need.

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**"Concentration must be active, not passive. It is work!"**

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Outlook helps to determine outcome. If your outlook is positive, not negative, then you will discover a blessing even in a message you may think is boring.

### **Illumination**

Often when I preach I ask God to say far more to the people than I say. God's message is not limited by the preacher's outline. Many times the Lord has illumined His Word for me in ways that the preacher in the pulpit never expected. As I have listened to the Word, the Spirit has "put together" truths He taught me the previous week; and the result has been a better understanding of God's will for my life.

After all, real preaching is an act of worship, and listening to preaching ought to be an act of worship. We are not critics at a debate, spectators at an entertainment event, or passive pupils hearing a religious lecture. We are the people of God gathered to worship. We are not listening to "get an outline" or "discover a new truth." We are there to worship God, to see Him "high and lifted up." Preaching that obscures God is not biblical preaching, and listening that fails to bring us face to face with God is not true listening in the Spirit.

Illumination is the work of the Holy Spirit, and we must depend on Him to teach us new truths and remind us of truths we may have forgotten. When a congregation is "in the Spirit," the Word comes forth with power and penetration. We experience what the little girl in London meant when she said to her mother, "Mother is Mr. Spurgeon speaking to *me*?" The Word becomes personal.

Too often we focus on the earthen vessel instead of looking at the treasure. Don't permit either the inexperience or the incompetence of the preacher to rob you of the message God has for you. Ask God to say to your own heart far more than the preacher says with his lips, and He will bless you.

### **Application**

The blessing doesn't come because we *hear* the Word; it comes because we *do* the Word. Anything else is pure deception.

Good feelings are not a substitute for obedience. "Wasn't that a great sermon!" says a worshiper. "I felt the Lord so near to me as he preached!" Fine, but the big test is not how I feel after church but how I act.

A parishioner said to her pastor, "You had a good sermon today until you got to all those *therefores*!" But the "therefores" are the reason why the sermon exists in the first place. God's Word is a light to guide us,

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**"After we hear the Word, there must be application."**

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and we must follow. It is water to wash us, and we must bathe. It is a mirror to show us our blemishes, and we must be honest. It is medicine to heal our hurts, and we must apply it. We don't just look at the Word or learn the Word; we must *live by the Word* (see Matt. 4:4).

*Before* we hear the Word, there must be preparation. As we hear the Word, there must be concentration and illumination. *After* we hear the Word, there must be application.

This is the only way to hear the Word of God and benefit from it.

"It was by the ear, by our first parents listening to the serpent, that we lost paradise," said the Puritan preacher Thomas Watson, "and it is by the ear, by hearing the Word, that we get to heaven. 'Hear, and your soul shall live'" (Isa. 55:3).

After all, the fault may not lie with the preacher – it may lie with us, the listeners.

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By Pastor Earl R. Henley,  
Massapequa, N.Y.

Though I never thought of him in such terms, my grandfather was considered by most to be something of a "character." I was never very sure what was meant by that term but never liked it very much when I heard it used in reference to the man who was my "best friend" and "the world's greatest story-teller."

The day came when "my best friend" left me. I would never see him again, never again hear a story from the days of his childhood. He was 76 years old when he left me. There was a note on the kitchen counter. It rested between the two things he always prepared for his family, a pot of freshly-brewed coffee and a pitcher of orange juice, squeezed from just-picked oranges. It read: "I have gone. Will write in time. Don't worry."

The term "character" and its synonym "eccentric" were used quite a bit in the days which followed. It was a good five months before we did hear from him again. A letter finally came and in it he explained what he had done.

He had gone back "home" to the things of his own childhood and young manhood. He had returned to the mountains of northern Arkansas, purchased a modest farm, and was again following the Blue Nosed mule as it pulled a plough which cut furrows as even and as straight as those cut by aid of the strong arm and sharp eye of his youth. He could never explain the force that drew him back to those mountains or to the labors of his youth. I am not even sure he ever actually tried. The only thing he ever actually said about his sudden departure was that he "had to go home" and feared that his family would convince him not to if he spoke about it prior to the time of his departure.

As a child, I never understood the force that drew him back into those mountains and to the difficult labors of his past. I have only just begun to understand. You see, I now know that we all have to go back home, return to simple and familiar things to meet Jesus. I don't mean this literally. I mean it in a more abstract

kind of way. There is something about the business of our daily lives, the concerns of our breadwinning and future building that can, from time to time, get in the way of vastly more important things.

That is why we find Simon Peter and his companions on Lake Tiberias in the Scripture selected for this occasion (John 21:1-14). In the weeks and days just prior to this fishing expedition, their lives had become very busy, indeed. They were called by their Master to leave behind their many concerns and to go fishing.

I wonder what people thought of those men? Instead of hiding, they hiked off to Lake Tiberias. Instead of jumping into the first available boat for Greece or Spain, they climbed into a fishing craft that was going no place. I wonder if words like "characters" and "eccentrics" were used?

My grandfather found peace in the mountains of northern Arkansas. He encountered Jesus there and ended his lifelong pilgrimage in that good company. I know this because I read the letters that he sent during those last years. They were the last chapters in his book of faith. I know that the disciples found something more than a good catch of fish when they went to Lake Tiberias, too. They found their Master. I know this because the Bible tells me so.

I also know where my mountain place, where my Lake Tiberias is. It is within me just as your mountain place and your Lake Tiberias rest within you. Prayer takes us to such places and God works wonders there. It is not easy to put aside all of the concerns of the day. It is not easy to be quiet and to wait upon the Lord.

The effort, however, reaps a harvest beyond measure. The disciples could hardly drag their net ashore because it was so filled. So, too, does Jesus fill our lives.

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"He had also gone 'home' to the things of his own childhood and young manhood."

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Prayer makes it happen

## *finding the Master*

Pastor Earl R. Henley

Earl R. Henley was a pastor of the Lutheran Church of America before being placed on the fellowship roster of the AFLC last year. He took his undergraduate training at the University of Dayton in Ohio, and the University of Sherbrooke in Quebec, Canada, and his theological training at the Lutheran Theological Seminary in Philadelphia. He has done extensive graduate work at the Jewish Theological Seminary of America in New York City, Russell Sage College, Albany, New York, and University of the State of New York at New Paltz.

Earl Henley was married to Katherine Anne Bobell of Scotia, New York. She is a graduate of Rochester (New York) Institute of Technology. They have four children, Delphina, Jacob, and twins, Elizabeth and Michael.

Pastor Henley has served parishes in New York and Wisconsin. He presently serves Unity Ev. Lutheran Church, Massapequa, New York, a congregation of 150 members. In addition he serves the Supreme Court, County of Queens, as an investigator for the Department of Probation, City of New York.

## Mother's Day

Mother's Day is a day when everyone  
Thinks of paying tribute to their mothers.  
But now we know when all is said and done,  
That day is no different from the others.

Without our mothers where would we be?  
Every day is a day we should pay tribute.  
With her love and guidance she made us see,  
Her influence left no room for dispute.

She taught us always to trust in the Lord,  
To have love in our hearts for everyone,  
And that we should live by God's every word,  
Saved by the blood of His crucified Son.

Mother gives courage when the way looks grim,  
And she teaches her children right from wrong.  
She does not humor her child's every whim,  
Persuades when obedience takes too long.

Of our mother there's not enough room to say,  
But she was the best mother one ever had.  
She always did know how to brighten the way;  
She also gave us the most wonderful dad.

—Opal Hoy



By Opal Hoy, Wannaska, Minn.

About our mother, there seemed to be nothing she couldn't do. Besides all the routine things to be done on a farm, our mother always raised a very large garden and all the kinds of poultry there were, including about a thousand turkeys, mostly hatched out. Then in the fall those had to be dressed, packed in barrels and shipped to the Cities.

Dad had a threshing machine so was away threshing for others the later part of the summer and all of the fall. Some of those places were miles from home so Dad could not make it home nights. He had a team of horses with him for hauling water and would come driving them home on the Saturday nights. There would be our mother left with some of the haying and the harvesting, besides the chores. We kids helped, but Mother was the main one.

One time to remember was Mother hitching the four horses to the grain binder on a very windy day. The wind made the horses nervous, making it difficult to hook the tugs. Mother told us to get behind the binder so we would not get run over. There they all went down that steep hill in a cloud of dust, Mother pulling at the lines. At the bottom of the hill was a sharp turn onto a narrow bridge. We held our breaths and whispered a prayer, standing there on the top of that hill. Mother made it across that bridge and we tagged after to shock a little of that oats that she was headed for.

One time my sisters and I went

## I REMEMBER MOTHER

along with our father to a town which was over 40 miles away. The road was not good and our way of transportation worse. We did not make it back in time for chores and were a whole lot later. No milking machine, all milking done by hand. Mother milked the 26 cows alone. She did not complain and was happy that we made it home safely.

Beside our mother's ability to do all and every kind of work, she was the possessor of all talents. She had no formal education, which her father thought to be a waste of time. Everything after fifth grade she taught herself. She also helped others with schooling. She had the ability to draw anything: beautiful landscapes, animal portraits, with paint, pencil, ink or charcoal, even chalk or crayon. Our mother's talent spoiled it for some of our teachers because we children expected them to be able to draw anything because they were

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"About our mother, there seemed to be nothing she couldn't do."

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grown people. Our mother taught herself to play the organ. She could sing all parts and she made up her own music to made-up songs. Our mother could speak many languages: all the Scandinavian ones, German, a little French and much of the different Indian tongues. Her belief in God was strong and she did her best to convey that to us and others.

We got a lot of discipline from our mother, not the physical kind but the verbal, which is very painful, too. When we were under school age, it was to be remembered that there was a willow branch placed behind a picture on the wall. We were told what it was for. Mother never used it but knowing its purpose left room for shame. Company might see it and have thoughts about it pertaining to our need of it. My older sister and I wanted it down from there so one day when Mother was out of the house and we were sure she wouldn't come back in too soon, we pushed the rocking chair over to that wall under the picture. I steadied the rocker and my sister balanced on the back of it and took the willow down

“... the scolding she gave us made us wish she had used the willow instead.”

and threw it behind the cook stove. Why we thought she wouldn't find it right away we'll never know. She found it and soon the scolding she gave us made us wish she had used the willow instead.

There was a family that lived about three miles north of us. Everyone knew they were destitute. We were about their closest neighbors. Their home was in a very remote area which some described as being “up in the hills.” No roads to their place, only trails. Mother and Dad had gotten word that these people were ill. It was a cold winter day and a storm was coming up. They hitched a team of good horses to a lumber wagon filled with food, quilts, grain and anything that these people might need. Before they got to this place the storm was really bad, but horses being what they are

found the place.

This family was found by Mother and Dad to be in worse circumstances than they had anticipated. The parents and three children in bed and all very ill. A window in the kitchen was broken out and all too sick to do anything about it. Snow had blown into the kitchen, no fire in the stoves and no wood for the stoves. Mother and Dad did all they could for them that day and went every day to help them until all were well. They also took good care of us children and had great concern for others, too.

About paying tribute to mothers. A wish that it should not turn out like an old cartoon that showed six grown people and five or six children sitting around a table filled with a sumptuous meal, one of the ladies saying, “Wasn't it thoughtful of us to all come home to Mother's on Mother's Day?” And the cartoon showed Mother in the kitchen bent over an open oven door, hot waves coming out over a big roast and the mother wiping sweat off her face with her apron.



The while she darns her children's socks,  
She prays for little stumbling feet;  
Each folded pair within its box  
Fits faith's bright sandals, sure  
and fleet.

While washing out, with mother pains,  
Small dusty suits and frocks  
and slips,  
She prays that God may  
cleanse the stains  
From little hearts and hands  
and lips.

And when she breaks the fragrant bread,  
Or pours each portion in its cup,  
For grace to keep their spirits fed,  
Her mother-heart is lifted up.

## MOTHER'S PRAYER TIME

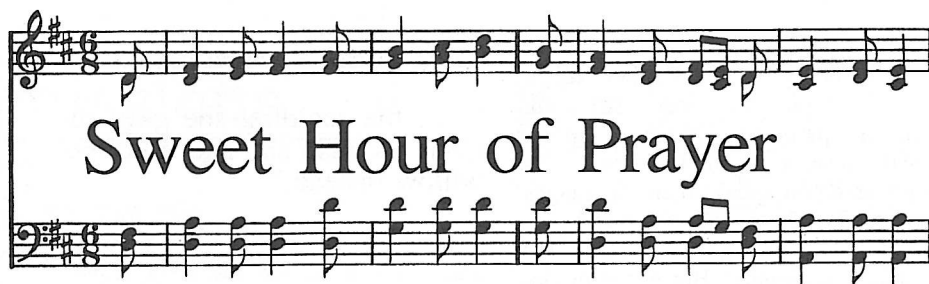


O busy ones, whose souls  
grow faint,  
Whose tasks seem longer than  
the day,  
It doesn't take a cloistered  
saint  
To find a little time to pray!

—Selected



Concordia, No. 11  
by William Walford  
Tune by William Bradbury



William W. Walford was a blind English clergyman who dictated his only known hymns to Thomas Salmon, pastor of the Congregational church in Coleshill, England, who took it with him to New York where it was first published in the *Observer* in 1845. Beyond this we have no information except that the hymn has found broad use in American hymnals.

It is literally a hymn to preach. Prayer, rather than God and Savior, is the focus and object of each stanza, and it is on this blissful experience the author reflects.

*Sweet hour of pray'r, sweet hour of pray'r!  
That calls me from a world of care,  
And bids me at my Father's throne  
Make all my wants and wishes  
known:  
In seasons of distress and grief,  
My soul has often found relief;  
And oft escaped the tempter's snare,  
By thy return, sweet hour of pray'r!*

*Sweet hour of pray'r, sweet hour of pray'r,  
The joy I feel, the bliss I share  
Of those whose anxious spirits burn  
With strong desires for thy return!  
With such I hasten to the place,  
Where God, my Savior, shows His face,  
And gladly take my station there,  
And wait for thee, sweet hour of pray'r.*

*Sweet hour of pray'r, sweet hour of pray'r!  
Thy wings shall my petition bear  
To Him, whose truth and faithfulness,  
Engage the waiting soul to bless;  
And since He bids me seek His face,  
Believe His Word, and trust His grace,  
I'll cast on Him my ev'ry care,  
And wait for thee, sweet hour of pray'r.*

William Bradbury's father was a choir director and his mother liked to sing. At the age of 14 he left the nest for Boston where he lived in the home of a music teacher. He made rapid headway in the field of music and soon was offered a job as organist in a small Baptist church at \$25 a year. When he discovered that keys of the dilapidated piano had to be pulled up after they had been struck, and that the old organ required twice the energy and effort of an ordinary one, he asked that his salary be doubled to \$50 a year.

His modest beginning led to great success including a partnership with his brother manufacturing the famous Bradbury piano. But his real specialty was teaching children and composing songs for Sunday schools. In his 26-year career he published an average of more than two books a year and more than two million copies of his collections have been sold since publication. Bradbury, Dr. Thomas Hastings, and Lowell Mason became the great trio which ushered in a new style of American hymnody, the Gospel song.

—Don Rodvold

## One Heart Beats For Them

Be kind and sympathetic towards your children. Enter into their problems, seek to disentangle their youthful perplexities. No matter who or what may be against them, let them feel that one heart pulsates warm for them.

L. B. Buchheimer

*to Mother*

You built no great cathedrals  
That centuries applaud,  
But with a grace exquisite  
Your life cathedraled God.

Had I the gift of Raphael,  
Or Michelangelo,  
Oh! what a rare Madonna  
My mother's life would show.

—Selected

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# editorials

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## MOTHER'S DAY

There is a notable emphasis on self-worth in our society today. And that's good. There is a place for good self-image. Christians understand this best and know that the ultimate self-image is found in right relationship to God through Jesus Christ.

Mother is the person who can do the most in building self-worth. This is so because of her important place in the home, not least in the earliest years of her children's lives, and as long as she is with them. A child may be the recipient of many hard knocks from his peers and unthinking adults away from home, but he can weather them with Mother's loving support at home. But without that encouragement he will have a hard row to hoe, indeed.

Today is a day to say thank you to mothers for all the good they do. They have things better in a material way than earlier generations, but they are still very busy people with many concerns weighing upon them.

Let all children, no matter their age, express and show their thankfulness to mother if they still have that opportunity and thank her for all the good she has done. This will make her and her children all feel better. God bless our mothers.

## EIGHTY-SEVEN PER CENT

We don't have figures at hand on the several items in the AFLC budget for the recent fiscal year ending last January 31. But as has been revealed before, approximately 87 per cent of the total goal was reached.

We didn't reach a million dollars, but an all-time high in total given was attained. That's cause for rejoicing.

Beyond that we have to be concerned that we fell about 13 percentage points below the minimum goal. The year previous it was 83 per cent of the goal, the year before that 86 per cent. Is an average of 85 per cent about what we can expect to do from now on?

The annual conference in June will wrestle with all of this, we trust.

Thankfulness and concern. Those are the emotions with which we go forward.

## ON PREACHING

Pastor Gerald F. Mundfrom's recent series on sermons and preaching ("What Makes a Good Sermon?") should stimulate a good deal of thinking among us. When he submitted the manuscripts for consideration, the thought came that we've never had anything similar in the *Ambassador*, so why not? We trust that you feel the same way.

All of us have had considerable exposure to preaching, either as preachers or listeners (by the way, notice the article "Learning to Listen" in this issue). As hearers, we've all formed personal opinions about the preaching

we've heard; in fact, we do so each time we hear.

But lest we get into areas we shouldn't, especially in light of Dr. Wiersbe's article this time, let us concentrate on the types of sermon delivery there are, something Pastor Mundfrom wrote about last time.

We are glad Pastor Mundfrom included these two sentences in his article: "Why, as pastors, can't we be happy with the speaking and preaching gifts God has given us and not worry about the gifts we do not have? Why not develop what we have?" That is sound advice and good counsel. There are some pastors who may successfully change their styles in mid-career, but they must be few and far between. And so that shows the importance of a man's developing what type of preaching is best for him while in the seminary-internship situation. What he develops then is likely to stay with him. It might be wise during those years to experiment with several different approaches. All of this shows, too, the value of good homiletical (the art of preaching) counsel in seminary.

There are various types of preaching (we speak of the mechanics of preaching). A man may read his sermon from a full text. This may be well or poorly done. If it is poorly done, a preacher should forsake the method at the earliest opportunity. This writer may have read a couple sermons, but specifically recalls that he read one in middler (second year) homiletics. He never did so again, anywhere. He had not done a good job of reading. The "feel," the contact with the audience wasn't there. Pastor Mundfrom reads well and effectively delivers his message in that way. He should keep on.

Some pastors write out their messages and, for all practical purposes, memorize them. They hardly need to refer to their manuscripts as they preach. This method must take a lot of time and work and it can be very effective.

Others use a full outline. Not all words of the sermon are there but nearly all the points that are to be made are there in abbreviated form. Of course, there can be all sorts of variations of a full outline sermon.

Then there can be all kinds of brief outlines, the simplest being the listing of the several main points the speaker wishes to make. Use of a brief outline requires much self-discipline because the speaker will have to mentally fix his message in his mind beforehand so that the thoughts will come to him as he is preaching.

It seems doubtful that any pastor would normally go into the pulpit without any note of any kind. It might be done if one is dealing with an extremely familiar text such as the parables of the Prodigal Son and the Good Samaritan and the outline is obvious to both the speaker and the hearers already.

Preaching gifts vary, as Pastor Mundfrom suggests. Some pastors think more quickly on their feet than others. Some have better memories and can better store information for use as needed. Some have the gift of story-telling; others have no gift for it at all. We recall

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# world missions

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## Orphanage ministry to begin

Dear Friends of AFLC World Missions,

"What doth it profit, my brethren, though a man say he hath faith, and have not works? Can faith save him? If a brother or sister be naked, and destitute of daily food, and one of you say to them, Depart in peace, be ye warmed and filled; notwithstanding, ye give them not those things which are needful to the body, what doth it profit? Even so, faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone" (James 2:14-17).

Our Association of Free Lutheran Congregations, in a sincere response to God's challenge to His children to reach out to the hungry and destitute in the name of Jesus, made the notable decision at an annual conference a few years ago to move ahead toward the establishment of an orphanage ministry.

The World Missions Committee has earnestly sought the Lord's leading in this vital matter; many, many concerned friends within our Association have supported this cause in prayer, and two years ago the anniversary love offering within our AFLC churches brought forth the monies needed to purchase the orphanage property.

God has led the World Missions Committee to begin this orphanage ministry within the land of India. India's 700,000,000 people are a needy people; millions are poor and in need of Christian compassion; Hinduism and Islam dominate this country and keep millions in spiritual darkness. Because there are great needs within India, the government requires that each organization established within its country operate a program that has socially redeeming value to the people. An orphanage ministry gives credibility to our

ministry; in fact, in the eyes of the Indian government it gives a legitimate basis upon which to function.

Late in 1984 God led us to purchase a fine lot and building in the city of Guntur. The building is ideally suited for our use. It had been built to serve as an orphanage by a Christian organization which subsequently moved to another area. It is a nine-room, one-story building of poured concrete in a recently developed area of Guntur. We have one set of Indian houseparents ready to begin this ministry; more staff will be added as needed.

We have come to the place where we are ready to launch out with the orphanage ministry in the name of Jesus. Pastor B. Rao Dasari and fellow pastors within India have been evaluating the needs within our own congregations. There are definite needs among our own people whom we serve.

First, we will begin with five or six children. We are confident that support will quickly come in for these children because many dear friends and supporters of AFLC World Missions have been waiting for this opportunity of "adopting" an orphan child.

## editorial . . .

one pastor refer in a sermon to an experience he had had and who robbed it of nearly all its punch in the brief re-telling. Another pastor might have made it a vivid, heart touching story, which it really was, not soon forgotten.

And so there are all kinds of handlers of the Word of God. We are speaking here of godly men, all, but with different gifts, different training. And a man must be who he is, although the best he can be for his Lord.

After an evangelist, an official one or not, has been in a parish for a series of meetings, the local pastor may feel like a plow horse in comparison. He feels his own gifts are so different and not as appealing as a preacher. But then somehow he realizes that the people of his congregation depend on him for their Sunday-by-Sunday preaching and that he will be speaking to many who don't get out to hear an evangelist or special speaker at all. So he takes fresh courage and is buoyed by his responsibility as a preacher for a certain time and a certain place, and he goes on.

The Lord uses all kinds of preachers. There is no one mold except that of personal faith in Jesus as Savior and commitment to Him. Beyond that, gifts and talents vary. Let us remember that as preachers and hearers.

Perhaps others will wish to share thoughts on this subject through Letters to the Editor. Feel free to do so.

to  
*Mom and Dad*



While you're still here to hear it, there are things I'd like to say,

To me you're just as precious now as you were yesterday.

Your toil-worn hands so wrinkled are as beautiful to me  
As the first day I remember them when I was two, or three.

Will you forgive me, Mom and Dad, for things I did not do

To show my gratitude to God for precious folks like you?



All children to be received into the orphanage program at this time will be from four (4) to ten (10) years of age. Eventually we plan to provide for 30 to 40 orphans. We will add children as support is provided by our churches, auxiliary groups and individuals.

Our immediate need is for people to step forth in faith and provide support for these orphan children. The projected cost is \$20.00 per month. This will provide housing, food and loving Christian care.

How will this program operate? Concerned churches and individuals should write to our World Missions Department of the AFLC, 3110 East Medicine Lake Boulevard, Minneapolis, Minnesota 55441-3099. Every effort will be made to match a sponsor with a selected child, if there are those who would choose to select a boy or girl. We will identify a specific child with a specific sponsor. As the program is developed, we will provide the child's photograph and biographical data for each sponsor.

Of course, we encourage each sponsor to establish a relationship of love and prayer support with the orphan. As we seek to meet the child's needs at the orphanage, we need the

partnership of a praying sponsor who will trust God to work in that child's life for salvation and Christian growth and service!

Is God speaking to your heart about supporting an orphan child? This can be an individual project or a church project. Support may be provided by monthly gifts of either the entire amount of \$20.00, or partial support. Smaller gifts may be combined with other small gifts to provide the monthly support needed for a child. In other words, several caring supporters may work together to combine funds to provide the necessary monthly support. The support may also be sent as a yearly gift.

Of course, gifts of any amount will be greatly appreciated as we launch out into this orphanage ministry and then maintain the orphanage building and grounds.

We are praying that God will raise up many supporters immediately! Will you join us in this prayer? Please pray for us as we seek to establish this ministry on a strong foundation. Thank you and God bless you.

Sincerely in Christ  
Pastor Eugene Enderlein  
World Missions Director



Pastor and Mrs. John Abel with Pastor Eugene Enderlein, AFLC World Missions Director, on the day the Abels left for another term in Brazil, Mar. 14.

Mom, I see you sit and think, sometimes with misty eye,  
Then nod your head and fall asleep. I wonder, was it I  
That caused your hair to turn to gray long before it  
should?

I know I was no angel and I'd change things if I could.  
As you knit memories into mittens, Mom, can you tell  
me why

Something you remembered brought that teardrop to your  
eye?

Dad, what are you thinking as you sit now and listen  
As we tell of childish pranks we pulled; do I see your  
eyes glisten?

Gone are the days when at early dawn your daily chores  
began,

When at eventide I'd hear Mom say, "Are all the chil-  
dren in?"

The years went by so fast, I wish we could go back  
To relive those pleasant days, or play them on "eight  
track."

Although the years have passed away, I'll always see the  
light

In the window of "Home Sweet Home;" it still is burning  
bright.

But we left the nest like all the rest; we had to try our  
wings.

We landed far away from home, so occupied with  
worldly things.

But we have not forgotten you just because we are gone,  
Although I'm sure the days seem long, now that you're  
alone.

You look so very tired; are you waiting for the day  
That Jesus takes you home? Then you will hear God say,  
"I loved the world so much I gave My only begotten Son  
To die upon that cruel cross for the sins of everyone,  
And whosoever believeth in Me shall have eternal life.

I have prepared a place for you, free from earthly strife.  
Because I know you asked Me to, I forgive you all your  
sin.

At eventide I'll take you home, but are all the children  
in?"

Verna L. Kammen  
Badger, Minn.

(The parents to whom Mrs. Kammen wrote her poem  
have since gone to be with the Lord, her mother at 95,  
her father at 93.)



Pastor and Mrs. Paul Abel and family on the day of his ordination and their commissioning in Thief River Falls, Minn., Mar. 3. They left for the Brazil field on Mar. 18.

All that I have seen teaches me to trust the Creator for what I have not seen.

### Church Dedication at Mt. Sion in Kasson, Minn. to be held on April 28.

Pastor Martin Horn and Mt. Sion Congregation of Kasson, Minnesota extend a welcome to the worship service and dedication of their new church building. Ground breaking took place on July 15, 1984 and the building was occupied on October 7, 1984 at the present address of 502-1st Avenue S.W.

**Worship service** – 11:00 A.M. – Pastor Jim Peterson, formerly of Mt. Sion and currently of Mondovi, Wis., will bring the message.

**Dedication service** – 2:00 P.M. – Pastor Francis Monseth – Dean of AFLTS will bring the message.

Lunch will be served after each service.

stewardship

## Association and interdependency

The freedom and autonomy of the local congregation is a precious heritage, and hopefully a present reality, for the AFLC. Each of the 150 congregations "directs its own affairs, subject to the authority of the Word and the Spirit of God, and acknowledges no other ecclesiastical authority or government above itself" (No. 5, *Fundamental Principles, AFLC*). With this God-given freedom, congregations flourish, not because of the organization to which they are related, but because of the free working of the Word and Spirit of God. When the Word is given free course, proclaimed and taught in its purity, God will build His Church, and the local congregation will be built up as well. That takes place independently from the relationship with the AFLC.

However, there is a relationship which exists among member congregations. How is it best described? Independent or interdependent? Does a congregation's affiliation with the AFLC take away its independence? No, the AFLC doesn't take away what is not in its power to take. But the congregation is no longer independent, because it has willingly associated with a group of congregations, namely the AFLC, and thereby submitted itself to the emphasis and influence of a group external to itself. The AFLC has not "imposed any obligations or restrictions" (see Principle 11) on the congregation, but rather has accepted a relationship of interdependency. That is to say, that we are now a part of one another, no longer independent, in a pure sense of that word.

Our Redeemer Lutheran Church of Kirkland, Wash., which I presently serve, is a good example of this interdependent relationship. Through the years, this congregation has by choice been dependent upon the AFLC. First, funds were provided to begin the work in 1967, first for the pastor's salary and then for two

building projects funded through the Church Extension Fund. Secondly, again by choice, the church has depended on the AFLC to supply pastors, and specifically those who would uphold the convictions of our church. Thirdly, there is dependence on the AFLC to provide an outreach to the ends of the earth, representing our local congregation in the work in Brazil, Mexico and India. The list could go on, but the point is made, I believe, that this congregation, at least, is not independent.

The other side of this coin of interdependency is that the AFLC is dependent upon each local congregation because the AFLC is, in fact, nothing more than an "Association" of such congregations. For this "body" to function effectively, an attitude of Spirit-wrought interdependency needs to prevail. It is no longer "us" verses "them," because they *are* us and we *are* them!

An unbalanced view of congregational independence can lead to spiritual myopia, where we are not able to see beyond the ends of our own spiritual noses. Let's remember that while Principles 5, 10 and 11 of our *Fundamental Principles* defend the autonomy of each local congregation, Principles 6, 7, 8 and 9 emphasize the value and beauty of interdependency. Remember the word of Paul in Romans 12:5, "So we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually members of one another." That is interdependence, and it is a principle of Scripture which can benefit our Association, a fellowship of like-minded and supportive congregations.

Pastor Kenneth D. Moland  
Kirkland, Washington

(For further study, the reader is directed to the publication, *Fundamental Principles and Rules for Work*, available from AFLC Headquarters.)

## Women's Missionary Federation

### *In memoriam gifts*

Edna Johnson, Winger, Minn.

Dean Spence,

Webster, S. Dak.

Gloria Meuchel,

Ray, N. Dak.

*Blessed  
be their  
memory*



## Wadena, Minn.



Zion Lutheran WMF presented Mrs. Grace Karlson a life membership pin. Mrs. Eldrid Galland is shown with Mrs. Karlson.

## Cloquet, Minn.



St Paul's Lutheran WMF honored (seated): Florence Johnson; Saima Lumppio; Ida Knutilla; Julia Seppala; Ceciclia Crider; Helvi Rühiluoma; (standing L.to R.) Ingrid Tan; Elaine Blomster; Kaina Koski; Gertil Iwasko; Laina Würet and Laura Hegge. The program was given by the cradle roll members to acquaint the young with the old. The WMF also sponsored the third annual senior citizens Valentine's Banquet. Eighty-six guests enjoyed the dinner and fellowship.

# THE WOMEN'S PAGE

## How does your WMF meeting rate?

always      sometimes      seldom

—      —      —

Do you go away from your meeting refreshed from experiencing a Christ-like atmosphere?

—      —      —

Is the emphasis on knowing Christ and His Word rather than on the secondary functions of serving dinners, etc?

—      —      —

Do your business meetings reflect efficiency and orderliness?

—      —      —

Are you encouraged to constructively and positively contribute to the Bible studies and business sessions?

—      —      —

Is your WMF known for bearing one another's burdens as well as bearing with one another?

—      —      —

Are new ideas welcomed and occasionally implemented?

—      —      —

Women's MISSIONARY Federation — does the name reflect your group's purpose and activity?

IMPROVEMENT BEGINS WITH YOU!

ASK GOD FOR WISDOM AND DISCERNMENT.

May our prayer be that each WMF glorify God in all things!

## MOTHER'S COMMON TASKS — GREAT AND HOLY

O happy home, where each one  
serves thee lowly,  
Whatever his appointed work  
may be,  
Till every common task seems  
great and holy,  
When it is done, O Lord,  
as unto Thee!

Carl J. P. Spitta  
Concordia #351



# arc hi-lites

"Come ye yourselves apart . . . and rest awhile" (Mark 6:31).

We at ARC have wanted for a long time to have an update on what is happening at the ARC for the people of our AFLC.

Since the first of this year the following groups have used our facility.

River Falls Inter-Varsity-River Falls, Wis.  
Salem Lutheran-Dalbo, Minn.  
AFLBS Winter Retreat  
AFLC Home Mission Retreat  
AFLC Pastors' Conference  
New Life Christian Fellowship-Amery, Wis.  
Vision of Glory Lutheran Church-Mpls.  
Mpls. District Youth Snow Days  
Monticello Christian Missionary Alliance-Monticello, Minn.  
Osceola Women's Aglow-Osceola, Wis.  
AFLC Midwinter Bible Conference  
Way of the Cross-Blaine, Minn.  
St. Paul's Lutheran-Mpls.  
Mpls. District Men's Retreat  
Cross of Glory-Mpls.

The men who attended the very successful Minneapolis District Men's Retreat.

Upcoming events that would interest our AFLC people are: May 3, 4 and 5-Women's Retreat-sponsored by Mpls. District Women-this is open to all women- it is not limited to women of the Mpls. District.

May 24-27 - 2nd Annual Memorial Day Weekend Work Retreat - We encourage people from all over the AFLC to come and join us at this retreat. The purpose of this retreat is to help with the work at the ARC, to have fellowship, Bible study and recreation.

Our people often ask us if there are things that we need at the ARC. It continues to amaze us how God works through people to supply these needs. May we list some of these needs:

Night stands  
Mirrors  
Wall pictures and plaques  
Sturdy playground equipment  
A large 3-phase generator for standby power. We already have the diesel engine.

We completed building 20 sets of bunk beds for use in the Good News Lodge.

We hope to continue this update of what is going on at the ARC for you. We know that informed people are people who can, with more wisdom, pray and supply the needs.

Bob and Carol Dietsche, Directors




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## News of the churches

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### New work in Duluth

A new mission work has been started in Duluth, Minn. It is being "mothered" by St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Cloquet, Herbert Franz and Tony Stockman, pastors.

The mission group is meeting for Sunday services in the Annex Chapel of the Duluth Cathedral. Pastor Stockman is doing the visitation work and conducting the worship service.

For some years there was an AFLC congregation in Duluth, St. Stephen's. However, it never had a resident pastor and the work was eventually laid down.

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### Two N.W. Minnesota churches form a parish and call a pastor

Hegland Lutheran Church, rural Strandquist, Minn., and Bethlehem Lutheran Church, rural Greenbush, Minn., voted recently to call Pastor Charles Knapp, a former missionary in Paraguay, to be their pastor. He has accepted the call and will begin in the new parish on May 1.

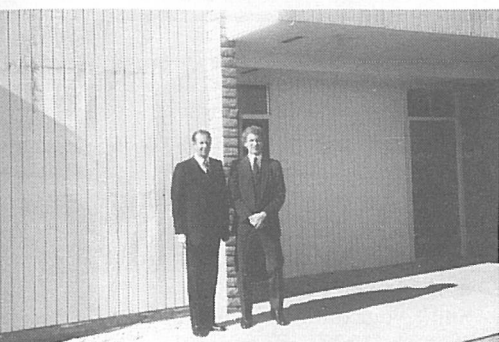
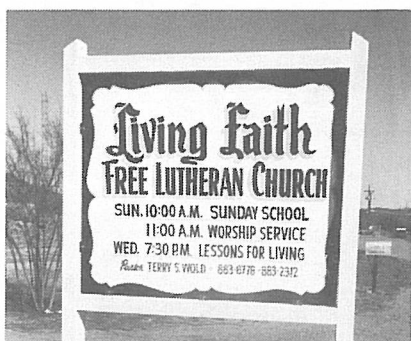
Pastor Knapp and his wife Joyce have three children. They are planning to buy a home in Karlstad.

Hegland Lutheran was part of the Newfolden parish for some years, with Westaker and Bethania. In 1981 it voted to leave that parish with the hope of securing its own pastor. For almost four and a half years Pastor William Goodman of Bemidji, Minn., has served the congregation on a temporary and part-time basis.

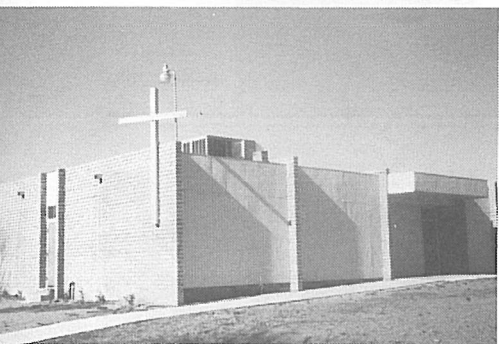
Bethlehem Lutheran has been served by various men since the time when it chose not to participate in a local merger of congregations in the Greenbush area (which formed United Lutheran in town). For over a year and a half it also has been served by Pastor Goodman.

Pastor Goodman will hold his final services in the congregations the last Sunday in April.

## A look at a new home mission facility



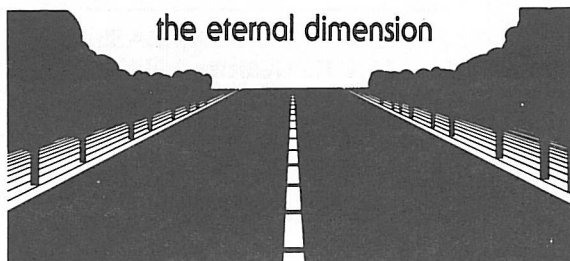
Pastor Richard Snipstead, AFLC president, and Pastor Terry Wold outside Living Faith Lutheran Church, Tucson. Pastor Wold was installed as pastor that day, Feb. 24.



Living Faith Lutheran Church, Tucson, at 6000 S. Cardinal.



April 23, 1985



when life  
isn't worth  
living

Most of us, early in life, have high aspirations and we set out to satisfy them. For many, life's brightest dreams become shattered. Some have dreamed of a happy marriage and now it is in ruins. Others have dreamed of professional success and that has been dashed to pieces. For some, when this happens, it is so devastating that they feel they can't go on. Certainly this was the case with a prominent public figure in Cleveland who recently took his life. He said the events of his life had made reporting to work meaningless. Wasn't he saying all that he had lived for now seemed lost, and there was no reason to go on? All he could see was shattered dreams.

From the Bible's viewpoint, suicide is an unacceptable option for dealing with shattered dreams. The Bible reminds us that every life belongs to God. What is God's, we dare not treat as our own. If we do, we have sinned. Further, the Bible teaches us there are aspirations which can never be shattered. All our earthly hopes may be dashed to bits, but such cannot happen to those treasures we have in heaven. Jesus once said we should not lay up our treasures on earth where they could be ruined. Rather, He taught us to lay up treasures in heaven because in that place

they can never be ruined. He said that our hearts will be where we put our treasures. How can a person whose heart is in heaven, then take that life?

We are told that suicide in our nation is on the increase and that it is especially high in the teens and early twenties groups. This indicates more youth either have found no reason for a realistic aspiration in our day or that they are having their aspirations shattered quite early in life. For some, this seems too much to bear. They choose to escape their emptiness by taking their lives. Such persons need to learn how to lay up treasures in the place where they can never be ruined.

How about you? What if the bottom drops out for you? Are your dreams susceptible to ruin that could wipe you out, or are your treasures in that place where they can never be lost? Your answer to this question hangs on whether your aspirations depend on you or God. The Bible reminds us that the world is passing away, as well as all its wrong aspirations; but those who do God's will are to abide forever. It also reminds that the one whose treasures are in heaven will inherit a kingdom which cannot be shaken. If you are greatly distressed at this time because the bottom has dropped out for you, we want you to know that it is not too late to begin again to build your life on a more sure foundation. There is a way into that sure kingdom. We encourage you to find someone who can tell you of the One Who can get you into that kingdom. There you can begin to lay up your treasures in a place which keeps them in safety. Do this without delay. Then when your earthly success comes to an end (and it does for everyone), you will still have something worth living for.

## 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.

MINNESOTA  
New London

Casper Albert Arneson, 68, Mar.  
17, Green Lake, Spicer

Pastor Emerson Anderson  
Cleveland, Ohio

Page Fifteen

## With our evangelist — youth worker

Evangelist Kenneth Pentti is back at this work, although with some help from other speakers. Here are the appointments made through the evangelist's office. Promissions of the Gospel of Christ and for those who have the Word in them.

### Wyoming, Minn.

Hope Lutheran Church

Apr. 28 - May 1

Speaker—**Mr. Clifford Johnson**,  
Esko, Minn.

Wendell Johnson, Pastor

### Minnewaukan, N. Dak.

Trinity Lutheran Church

May 5-8

Speaker—**Pastor Pentti**

Jerome Nikunen, pastor

### Bessemer, Mich.

Our Savior's Lutheran Church

May 12-16

Speaker—**Pastor Pentti**

Johan Koren, pastor

## Personalities

The Address of **Rev. Henry Johansen**, new pastor of Zion Lutheran Church, is 382 Lakeland Drive, Apt. 2, Willmar, Minn. 56201.

**Rev. Wilmore Gunderson**, associate speaker of the Lutheran Gospel Hour, Cooperstown, N. Dak., was speaker at a recent series of meetings at Zoar Lutheran Church, Hatton, N. Dak.

**Rev. Dale Hanson**, Hagen, Sask., was the guest speaker at evangelistic services at Calvary Lutheran Church, Fosston, Minn., Mar. 27-31.

**Rev. Arnold Stone**, Minneapolis, Minn., preached at evangelistic services in Zion Lutheran Church, Dalton, Minn., Mar. 10-14.

**Rev. Herbert Franz**, Cloquet, Minn., was guest speaker at Christ Lutheran Church, Devils Lake, N. Dak., Apr. 10-14.

**Rev. Paul Nash**, Tioga, N. Dak., brought the messages from God's Word in meetings in Lebanon Lutheran Church, Leeds, N. Dak., Apr. 14-18.

**THE LUTHERAN AMBASSADOR**  
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paid at Minneapolis, Minn.

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## How to be perfectly miserable

1. Think about yourself.
2. Talk about yourself.
3. Use "I" as often as possible.
4. Mirror yourself continually in the opinion of others.
5. Listen greedily to what people say about you.
6. Expect to be appreciated.
7. Be suspicious.
8. Be jealous and envious.
9. Be sensitive to slights.
10. Insist on consideration and respect.
11. Never forget a criticism.
12. Demand agreement with your own views on everything.
13. Sulk if people are not grateful to you for favors shown.
14. Never forget a service you may have rendered.
15. Be on the lookout for a good time for yourself.
16. Shirk your duties if you can.
17. Do as little as possible for others.
18. Love yourself supremely.
19. Be selfish.

This recipe is guaranteed to be infallible.

C.J.S.  
—Selected



Pastor Lawrence Dynneson, left, gives a greeting at the 20th anniversary of Triumph Lutheran Church,

Nogales, Ariz., on Feb. 17, as the present pastor, Ted Kennedy, looks on. Note the new carpet in the church.