



## at the MASTER'S FEET

#### Ascension

"The Lord said to my Lord, 'Sit at My right hand, Till I make Your enemies Your footstool.' The Lord shall send the rod of Your strength out of Zion. Rule in the midst of Your enemies" (Psalm 110:1-2).

Truly, this is altogether prophetic of Christ. It sets before the Church of the Old Testament the Messiah as the Lord of King David and all people. No other Psalm, no other prophecy, is quoted so often in the New Testament as Psalm 110.

David recorded what he in spirit heard the Lord of heaven say to his Lord, the Messiah, "Sit at My right hand." This is an emblem of the almighty power of God with which He shows forth His great miracles, especially those for the salvation of mankind.

Christ's resurrection proves that: He was and is the Son of God; that the sacrifice which He made for sin

#### THE LUTHERAN AMBASSADOR

USPS 588-620 ISSN 0746-3413

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

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Send \$10.00 subscription to the LU-THERAN AMBASSADOR, 3110 E. Medicine Lake Blvd., Minneapolis, Minn. 55441. Second-class postage paid at Minneapolis, Minn.

Postmaster: Send address changes to THE LUTHERAN AMBASSADOR, 3110 E. Medicine Lake Blvd., Minneapolis, Minn. 55441.

Volume 23 Number 8

was sufficient and accepted by God the Father; and that we also shall rise from the dead.

Christ ascended into heaven from Mount Olivet 40 days after His resurrection. Having finished His work on earth, He returned to heaven from which He had come. There He is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty, that is, on the right hand of God's power. That is why we observe or should commemorate Ascension Day.

As the God-man Christ now wields all power in heaven and on earth (Matt.28:18), He rules over all creatures in the realm of power, over the believers in the realm of grace (the Christian Church on earth), and over angels and saints in the realm of glory in heaven.

In the midst of His enemies Christ reigns as King, establishing His Kingdom (Ps. 110:1-3).

The people mobilized by the Lord are the soldiers enrolled under Messiah's banners. These appear in the beauty of holiness, in the garments of true priests, the symbol of purity, their garments cleansed by the blood of the Lamb. Thus they are a nation of priests (I Pet. 2:9). These are like dew from the womb of the morning. As the dew falls most strongly at dawn when the morning star arises and shines, so the believing members of Christ's Church and army are brought forth when the heavenly light from the Day Star on high shines upon them—when they are converted by the power of the Holy Spirit through the Word. New spiritual life is bound to shine through the work of the Christians.

Christ continues His office of High Priest and King (Ps.110:4-7) and intercedes for us with God the Father.

The Lord shall judge among all nations (Ps. 110:6-7). In the day of His wrath, the Day of Judgment, He shall crush, He shall tread even the greatest and most powerful enemies under foot. He shall judge all unbelievers, carrying out His sentence of wrath upon all who persistently oppose His Word and work. Then is drawn a picture of carnage, a battlefield with the dead and dying strewn all over. He shall execute the heads of many countries (v. 6), very likely referring to Antichrist with his followers, of whom it is stated in II Thess. 2:8: "... the Lord will consume with the breath of His mouth and destroy with the brightness of His coming." Thus, Antichrist and all his followers will receive their reward in everlasting damnation. At the same time Christ the Victor will stand in His glory.

He who drank of the brook of suffering in the state of His humiliation, especially in His last great Passion, stands exalted before friends and enemies on the great last Day of Judgment. With His head raised up high above all His enemies He shall triumphantly hold the field forever, together with those who have received Him as their Savior and their King.

Friend, to which camp do you belong?



by Pastor Amos O. Dyrud

### when you need a Good Samaritan



by Dale Stone, Minneapolis, Minn.

When is the last time you had a problem so big you needed help to solve it?

The most famous story ever told about one person helping another was told by Jesus Christ and is called "the Good Samaritan."

The religious lawyer thought you have to do something to inherit eternal life, to go to heaven. Jesus knew that no one does anything to receive an inheritance. An inheritance is a gift: "For by grace you have been saved through faith; it is the gift of God; not a result of works, that no one should boast" (Ephesians 2:8). Grace means to get something we don't deserve. We don't deserve salvation. Mercy means not to get something we do deserve. We do deserve eternal punishment. If you tail end my car and I don't sue you to make you pay for it, I would be treating you with mercy. If, on the other hand, because your car was totalled in the accident you caused, if I bought you a new car, that would be grace. God's mercy is everlasting (Psalm 100:5). Grace and truth came by Jesus Christ (John 1:17).

So Jesus devised a situation where a person who was totally helpless still gets saved from his problem.

The victim had no clothes, no valuables with which to buy help, and was beaten within an inch of his life. He could not solve his own problem and needed help. And he knew it.

Because he was a Jewish person, he no doubt prayed to God and might even have imagined that the ideal person to help him would be a fulltime religious worker. Certainly he was relieved at what he saw coming.

The priest and Levite lived off tithes and offerings of men like the beaten-up Jewish merchant. But this man who no doubt contributed to the livelihood of these supposedly God—fearing men found out his religion didn't help him.

Does your religion help you with the biggest problems of your life? If it doesn't, you should check out Christianity, the complete way of believing and living.

These religious men did not obey their own law, "Love your neighbor as yourself" (Leviticus 19:18). They didn't practice what they preached. To try and justify their own merciless behavior, these men might have assumed that had they stopped to help the dying merchant and had he died on them, they would not have been able to work in the temple until after some days of cleansing themselves,

"Mercy means *not* to get something we do deserve. We do deserve eternal punishment." because they would have become unclean by touching a dead body. Yet, none of us can fail to see it is more important to save a life than to perform in a synagogue, temple or church

Samaritans were part Jew and part Gentile. Jews hated and looked down on them so much that when they went from Galilee (North Israel) to Judea (South Israel), they walked around Samaria. So the Jewish merchant had no expectation of help from the Samaritan. But when the Samaritan saw the dying merchant, he felt compassion and came to him.

Sympathy is to feel for, empathy, to feel with. Compassion is to act on one's feelings. The two religious men possibly had perfect feelings towards the dying victim, but nothing they felt helped him.

When Jesus looks at us, the first thing He notices are our wounds. Doctors are not turned off by injuries. In fact, the worse an injury is, the more interesting, the more intriguing it is to a medical doctor. Jesus is the Great and Complete Physician. Jesus wants to heal all our wounds, beginning with the biggest. He longs permission to start immediate loving care of us all (Psalm 103:1-5).

So also, the Good Samaritan came

◊

#### SAMARITAN . . .

to him and poured wine on the wounds because it has alcohol, an antiseptic to prevent infection, and also poured on oil, for healing. Then he bound the wounds, to protect them from further injury.

The Good Samaritan has come to you. Will you let him dress your wounds? He longs to take His big handkerchief out of His back pocket and wipe away all tears from our eves (Revelation 21:4).

The father of one of my high school classmates had a construction business. He lost it, and much more, because he was an alcoholic. Once this man came to my father and said, "I am sorry I am at the end of my rope." My father smiled and explained, "You need not apologize, that is where Jesus wants you to be." Moments later, this man received Jesus. Some time afterwards his road building business was restored.

If the creation that we know about so far were the size of the Pacific Ocean, earth would be the size of the head of a common pin. James 4:14 says, "You are just a vapor that appears for a little while and then vanishes away." So you and I are a mist on the head of a pin in the middle of a Pacific Ocean-sized creation. How could we ever find eternal God? Especially when we are like the nearly murdered merchant, half dead?

Matthew 18:11 explains Jesus' motive. "For the Son of Man has come to save that which was lost." There is no other reason for Jesus' coming to earth. Jesus explains His love is like a good shepherd who leaves his flock of 99 sheep and searches until he finds one lost lamb.

Some people say, "I can't become a Christian; I would fall into sin." Can you imagine the Good Samaritan not holding the man up when he traded places with him and put him on his own beast? The inn is the church, the fellowship of believers.

"So you and I are a mist on the head of a pin in the middle of a Pacific Oceansized creation."

#### SANCTIFICATION

The sum and substance of our Christian life, therefore, is that Jesus may become all the greater and more indispensable to our hearts. If you should experience no other evidence of development in your Christian life than the fact that Jesus has become more precious and glorious to your heart, be assured that this is sufficient proof that you have advanced in sanctification.

F. Hammarsten

The man was taken to the inn, where he recovered.

Ephesians 1:7,8 reads, In Jesus "we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of His grace which He lavished upon us." Jesus paid for our sins with his blood (see also Isaiah 53:6). Romans 6:23 explains we need a death to pay for our sins. "For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord."

Finally, the Good Samaritan says *He will return*. Jesus is coming back, when we don't expect it, *like a thief in the night* (I Thessalonians 5:2).

Are you ready for life? For death? For Christ's soon return? To be ready, you need to become a Christian. Becoming a Christian is such a radical event Jesus calls it being born again (John 3). A Christian is a repentent and forgiven sinner with Christ in his heart. If you were committing adultery and sleeping around, if you repented, you would be faithful to your marriage partner in deed and thought. Jesus warned, "except you repent (stop sinning), you will all likewise perish, (Luke 13:3). Christians turn from evil to walk in light, not darkness (I John 1).

I John 1:9 explains how to get forgiveness, "If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." Sins which are not confessed and forsaken damn us to an eternal hell (Luke 17:26). To confess means to say the same thing about our sins that God does, that they are wrong, period (see also Psalm 32:5).

To get Christ in your heart, follow Revelation 3:20 (Christ speaking):

"Behold, I stand at the door and knock; if any one hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and will dine with him and he with Me." In the Jewish culture, the most intimate thing you could do with someone would be to have them over for dinner. That's why the Jewish leaders were offended with Jesus. He not only was friend to tax collectors and sinners, He dined with them (Matt. 9:10)!

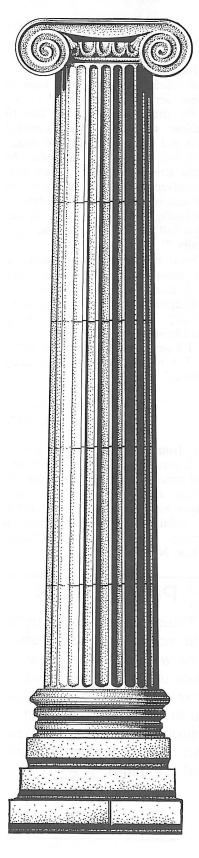
Study and apply Revelation 3:20. If you haven't already done so, can you think of any reason for not asking God into your heart right now? Jesus never turns away anyone who comes to Him. He is especially jealous to win the love of those who need to be forgiven many sins. This is because those who are forgiven most, love Him the most. If you draw near to Him, He will draw near to you. Luke 15 tells how when the prodigal son finally came to himself and returned home, while he was yet a great way off, his father saw him, and had compassion and ran to him, and fell on his neck and kissed him, etc. God is looking for, and is eager to run to receive you . . . please give Him the chance. Then you can know you have eternal life (I John 5:12,13; Mark 16:16; Matthew 28:19,20).

Eternal life starts the moment you receive Christ. Christianity is not "just pie in the sky by and by." Jesus said, "I came that you might have life and have it more abundantly" (John 10:10). Life will become full and meaningful the very moment you open your heart to Him!

(From a tract put out by Waikiki Beach Chaplaincy)

by Don Rodvold, Director of Music, Association Schools

#### HOLD THE STANDARDS HIGH



In the Old Testament God set exacting standards for sacrifices. In the case of animals, a perfect specimen was required, one without spot or blemish. The best one.

But there seems to have been a better, more suitable sacrifice, even then; better than a perfect animal.

"I will praise the name of God with a song; I will magnify Him with thanksgiving. This will please the Lord more than an ox or a bull . . ." (Ps. 69:30-31).

In the New Testament the sacrificial transition is completed. In the New Testament our acts of sacrifice are praise and thanksgiving. God now demands a living sacrifice, committed to excellence, even perfection. He tells us to be children of God without blemish (Phil. 2:14-6) and that we must offer pleasing gifts and sacrifices (services) and acceptable worship with reverence and awe (Heb. 12:28).

God demands quality and excellence, acceptable offerings. That's the directive. But it's for us to choose the quality of our sacrifice, our gifts; it's for us to choose the excellence of our hymns and songs of praise and they are a measure of the depth of our love and the breadth of our gratitude.

Further, the Scriptures exhort us to grow, to build up in spirit, to learn of Him and be like Him, to be transformed in order to test and approve what God's will is, holding fast to what is good, acceptable and perfect, testing everything so that our faith may abound more and more with knowledge and all discernment, purifying ourselves from what is ignoble and unworthy so that we can become vessels for noble use, consecrated and useful to the master of the house, ready for any good work.

These are the principles which have guided our church from Martin Luther to today. In fact, Luther set the example and showed us how.

Upon these Scriptural principles and the examples of Martin Luther and his followers and emulators the Lutheran Church has shown the way in matters of music (and theology) for 400 years.

That is not to say that only Lutheran music is good. The good hymnal is totally ecumenical. It borrows the best and shuns the worst, regardless of its parochial source. The good hymns may be by Calvinists, Catholics, Unitarians, men, women; they may be chorales and Gospel hymns. But they may not be doctrinally misleading nor musically ill-suited. Illsuited music is as bad for the message of the Gospel as an ill-suited minister. Both can wreak havoc in the Church.

Also, not everything that contains the name of Jesus is good; not all songs are vessels worthy of the Lord, spotless and without blemish. Many are even unworthy of a Christian's mind and mouth. They're dribble. They're false musical evangelists, the pied pipers of many evangelicals. Yet we choose these, base and inferior, and reject the upright and dignified.

The standards of some Lutherans have changed. But Scripture has not. It still makes the same demands on us and the quality and reverence of our sacrifices, our hymns and spiritual songs. It still commands us to reject the ignoble, the unworthy, the inferior, the irreverent, the carnal.

While more and more of the "reformed" Christian groups recognize and adopt these Biblical priciples as espoused by the Lutheran Church for 400 years, we would drift away. That is our shame and disgrace.

Be insightful, responsible, discriminating and discerning. Continue to apply Biblical standards to our musical offerings, as our forefathers did, as God commands.

Let the words of our mouths, whether spoken or sung, be acceptable in His sight (Ps. 19:14).

Let us offer pleasing musical gifts and sacrifices, without spot or blemish. This will please Him more than an ox.

## Pastor fulfills promise to God

By R. C. Peterson

DOLLAR BAY — One of the promises of Isaac Franz of Dollar Bay to God before the birth of his first son more than (68) years ago was, that he would give that son to God's service.

Today, that son, the Rev. Herbert Franz, now of Cloquet, Minn., is still expounding the unadulterated word of God, "You must be born again," message to his congegation at St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Cloquet, Minn., and to listeners as far as Alaska on 13 radio stations in the nation.

Franz, like his brother Raymond, of Dollar Bay, are Suomi College graduates. Herbert has served parishes for (38) years, delivering his first sermon in 1947 to a Hubbell congregation.

Following 3½ years of Army service in World War II, he studied at the Suomi College Theological Seminary because his wife, Sylvia (Lahikainen) Franz, then a beautician, was working in the area; Suomi was close to home; and because he appreciated the spiritual life at Suomi. "They had a group of fellows there who really loved the Lord," he said. "I was 33 years old then."

Franz said after his ordination in 1955 in Ely, Minn., he first became aware of being a child of promise. "You are a child of promise," the father told him. He had never known that.

"Before you were born," the father related, "I told God, I have five daughters, and if you give me a son, I will give him back as a minister of the Gospel. When your mother became pregnant, Mom said will it be another girl, and I said no, it's going to be a boy, it's going to be a boy."

"When I was going to be baptized Dad took me away from the pastor and said, 'God, here is my son, I give him back to you to be a minister of the Gospel.' So there's always been God's hand upon me even though I wasn't in faith until I was converted at 30 years of age."



"His hand has always been leading and guiding me. And my dad told me after my ordination, 'Son, now I can die in peace, I have fulfilled my vow to God. I promised you to the Lord before you were born and now you are an ordained minister of the Gospel.""

Sermons of Franz draw listeners of the Gospel of all faiths, because he said he is observant in listening to people speak about their testimonies in life or experiences of other men. Those testimonies, often are used in his sermons to help soften the hard hearts of men.

His sermons, based on the Word of God, uplift listeners because he said, "I spend hours in preparation. I don't believe anyone should get into the pulpit unless time is spent alone with God in private preparation."

And he believes the only answer to America's many problems, the major one, divorce, is a revival, where men and women will turn to God in repentance. "Unless God intervenes, I see no hope for America."

Following his ordination in 1955, he became pastor of the Eben Junction Lutheran parish and served there for several years before joining his present parish where he has been pastor for the past (26) years.

In Eben Junction he officiated at the largest mass funeral held for one family in the United States. A mother, her 10 children, and the mother's brother-in-law had lost their lives when their small boat capsized in a cranberry marsh. The father swam to safety but aid to save them was too late in arrival.

The funeral was covered by the Associated Press in 1959. A copy of Franz' sermon which related to Job in the Bible, who also had lost 10 children, was given to the Associated Press and was published world wide.

"I had letters from all over the world after the funeral," Franz said. I received a \$500 check from the Milwaukee Braves Baseball Club for the family, who wrote, 'What is losing a ball game compared to losing a family."

Franz said he plans to continue in the ministry as long as the Lord gives him health and strength in a congregation that has a growing ministry, its own Christian School and Christian Academy.

"I'll never retire from the ministry, all I'm looking forward to is being refired," he said.

-The Daily Mining Gazette, Houghton, Mich.

(Ed. Note: This article was sent to us by a pastor in the Upper Penninsula. The article also brought out that the Franzes have a son, who, when this article was first printed, was about to be ordained. Rev. Peter Franz is serving Bethel Lutheran Church, Minot, N. Dak.)

#### **PRINCIPLES**

Though we may need better and more efficient organizations within Christianity, far more urgently do we need clear-cut principles of Christian life to arouse the hearts of Christians everywhere to new and burning devotion to Christ and His cause.

Bernhard Christensen, Fire Upon the Earth



### Letters to the editor

#### NEED SYSTEMATIC GIVING

I'm sure it goes without saying, a goodly number of our people in the AFLC are much concerned over the fact that our giving to the minimum budget fell short again this past year. We ponder over the reason for this. Perhaps it could be a combination of several things. These questions come to my mind in this regard: are we as a church body getting too top-heavy so that our people are not able to support its programs adequately? Or are we losing confidence and interest in the work so that spiritual lethargy is taking over? I'm sure we all realize the need for constant spiritual renewal and commitment throughout our fellowship. Is it a matter of unsystematic stewardship that is the main culprit? I'm inclined to think so, although perhaps we cannot discount any of the other reasons given. I feel that our pastors as well as our lay leaders in the congregations could do much to promote stewardship

and systematic giving in our congregations. I wish all of our congregations would systematically send in a percentage of their local budget each month. The Lord would bless such efforts and I believe our problems would be taken care of.

As to the question of whether or not our constituency can afford a one million-dollar-plus budget, if we have approximately 6000 contributing units in our fellowship who earn about as much as the average pastor our AFLC, the benevolence budget would amount to about 1% of our income, which does not seem unrealistic. We love our AFLC and we believe it is God's work and that He raised us up for an important work and continues to bless and sustain us. If it is within our ability, is it right to neglect to provide the needed support for the work of God's kingdom through our church?

Ray Jacobson Wadena, Minn.

## Awards and grants given

In recent action of the Financial Aid Committee of AFLC schools. financial awards were distributed to several students in both the Bible school and seminary. Monies were made available for AFLBS students through the Paul Bjornstad Memorial Music Scholarship, the Marion Helleckson Memorial Scholarship, an anonymous donor and FASTEN funds. Grants were given to seminary students from St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Stanhope, Iowa, Dorris Aid, Aitkin, Minnesota, Ladies' Drummond-Mason Parish WMF. Drummond, Wisconsin, and Trinity Lutheran Church of Minnehaha Falls. Minneapolis, Minnesota. Awards are based on an applicant's statement of need or church affiliation.

Eastern N. Dak. District WMF Rally

May 4, 9:30 A.M.
Trinity Free Lutheran Grand Forks,
N. Dak.

Theme: "Spiritual Blessings Over-flowing"

#### EDITORIAL . . .

are shattering. We hope that they will find answers. We hope that congregations and Christian neighbors will be supportive and that those who are making it better than some others will "hurt with those who hurt." This is no time for a "holier (better) than thou" attitude. And if one is a Christian, and hurting, stay close to the Lord. Read your Bible, pray a lot, depend on God as never before. He'll help you to face your crisis.

#### KEEP US INFORMED

This is in the form of a "To whom it may concern" letter.

Recently there have been several cases of our having given wrong information because we hadn't been informed that changes had been made in situations of some standing. We trust that someone will let us know when changes are made because otherwise we assume the status quo obtains and report accordingly.

As an example, two congregations which had formed a parish unit for some years severed that relationship over a year and a half ago. We assumed they were still a parish together until we were informed that that is no longer the case.

You can help us to do a better job by keeping us informed of what the conditions really are.

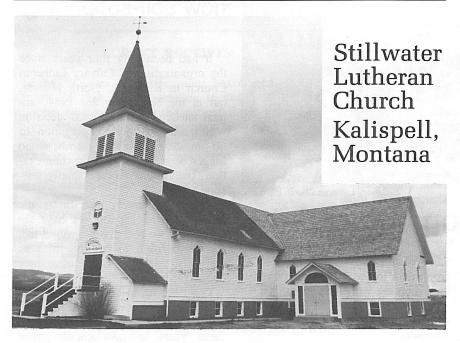
## He might have built a palace

He might have built a palace at a word,
Who sometimes had not where to lay His head:
Time was, and He who nourished crowds with bread.

Would not one meal unto Himself afford:
Twelve legions with angelic sword,
Were at His beck, the scorned and buffeted.
He healed another's scratch, His own side bled,
Side, feet, and hands, with cruel piercings gored.
Oh, wonderful the wonders left undone!
And scarce less wonderful than those He wrought;
O self-restraint, passing all human thought;
To have all power, and be as having none:
O self-denying Love, which felt alone
For needs of others, never for its own.

(Author unknown)

#### home mission news



## "To God be the glory: great things He hath done"

Stillwater Lutheran Church first became a part of the AFLC in 1963 when Trygve Dahle was pastor. In 1972 a sister church, Faith, was built in Kalispell and pastors were shared by the congregations. Pastors Gary Skramstad and John Rieth served both. Gary planted and John watered the seed-that Stillwater should seek to have its own pastor. Many members prayerfully considered the possibilities and the plan grew. A committee gathered the necessary statistics for the AFLC Home Mission Board and presented them to Pastor Herbert Franz, chairman, in 1979. His enthusiasm convinced us even more of the great work needed in our growing community to reach out to the unsaved. Praise the Lord, the Home Mission Board agreed to help with the financial and prayer support! Pastor Dale Mellgren was called to serve. A long-time vision of a community church with its own full-time pastor became a reality!

Answered prayers continue to overwhelm us. A building committee for an addition was formed and plans began in earnest in January, 1980.

The Church Extension Fund extended a needed loan and groundbreaking was April 27. What impressed me most about all the meetings throughout our building project was the spirit of unity that prevailed. When disagreements or unforeseen problems arose, we were reminded to pray, forgive, and trust God to lead us. And He always did! Many rededicated their lives and gave of their time, talents and resources faithfully. Through it all, the spiritual life of our congregation was never neglected, but nurtured even more, as we saw how God can work in our lives if we trust and believe.

Dedication Sunday one year later, April 26, 1981, was inspirational! God is so good! The beauty of our old church was retained while additional space doubled the capacity.

Since 1979, when our average attendance was about 50, we have seen our numbers grow and grow from month to month. For the first time we need to make an *effort* to become acquainted with all the *new* people coming to our service—we older members no longer know everyone

there.

More pews were purchased to fill the additional sanctuary space.

More chairs were needed for our dining area—the Lord provided.

The old kitchen was recently remodeled to accommodate serving larger numbers. A project now underway is the carpeting of the entire basement. We believe God wants us to finish His House as we would certainly want our own complete.

One of the most exciting things to see in a congregation is involvement of the members, especially our men. It is a real blessing to see their participation in Sunday a.m. devotions, attendance in Sunday School with their families or at a weekend men's retreat, working on committees and serving on the church board, as well as giving willingly of their time for work. In the summer the "guys" compete in the Valley Church Softball League.

Our choir now has 19 who "sing for the Lord!" The Ladies' Circle enjoys new members but, more important, enjoys a real bond of love for each other and for the Lord. The Cradle Roll was reorganized as we discovered the many babies to minister to in this way. The Luther League, though small in numbers, is big in the Lord. We look forward to an increase in their numbers as our many younger Sunday School children grow up faithful and continue in the church. The leaguers are active in working for others and when they get paid for their labor the money goes into the fund for use in going to district rallies. They enjoy camp times, retreats, winter fun days, etc. Two couples in the congregation are elected to serve as League advisors.

We are also encouraged by the attendance and participation in extra activities for furthering our Christian fellowship. Good fellowship is provided at our once-a-month dinners after services . . . you really get to knowing people best when you eat together or do dishes together, don't you? We strive to continue our relationship with Faith Church by events such as ice cream socials, mother-daughter teas, sweetheart banquet, and special evangelistic and Christian growth services.

Another real blessing is the willingness to request prayer during our



Calvary Lutheran Church Bismarck

#### Church in Tucson dedicated

Living Faith Lutheran Congregation and many friends worshipped together at the dedication of their building on Sunday, February 24th. The rites of dedication and the installation of Pastor Terry Wold were Pastor Richard conducted by Snipstead, president of the AFLC, from Minneapolis, Minn. Pastor Snipstead spent several days in Tucson and Nogales, where are located the only two Association churches in the Southwest. Living Faith has 31 charter members.

A potluck dinner followed the festive service and about 80 people enjoyed the food and fellowship, as well as the beautiful day which enabled those who wished to eat outside to do so.

On Sunday February 10th, a busload of about 50 senior citizens from the Austin/Albert Lea area in Minnesota, and a few from Iowa and Wisconsin, were welcomed at Living

Faith with coffee and cookies. The group then joined the congregation in their morning worship service.

A Sunday School has been started with four children, plus two preschoolers.

It is our prayer at Living Faith that winter visitors to the Southwest will join us for worship while they are enjoying the scenery and sunshine and that we also may continue to reach out into the surrounding community.

Living Faith is so grateful to God for the help and encouragement of the Home Mission Board, and to Pastor Elden Nelson, who has visited here several times and saw our building when we first took possession. It really took a lot of vision and faith for the Board to give us the goahead!

Orville and Iris Myron (The church is located at 6000 South Cardinal.)

## Bismarck church now self-supporting

It had been only four years since the organization of Calvary Lutheran Church in Bismarck, North Dakota, but at the November 26, 1984, annual meeting a unanimous decision was made that our congregation of 60 resident baptized members no longer be a Home Mission congregation, but instead become totally selfsupporting.

We are extremely grateful for the Home Mission support we have received but we feel that we would like our Association to be able to now use those funds to begin other new congregations.

Our decision to become a self-supporting congregation is a real step of faith, but we have learned during these years to take encouragment from Galatians 6:9, "And let us not be weary in well doing; for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not."

We are thankful that the Lord has indeed been at work in our midst and has done far more abundantly than all we could ask or think. To Him be the honor and the glory for ever and ever. Amen.

Connie Johansen

#### Prayer

after reading Psalm 139:23,24

#### STILLWATER . . .

prayer time at the close of each Sunday service. Many answers are shared at this time. There are more and more people who give testimonies and share Scripture. We are growing in the Lord and not ashamed of it. Truly God has richly blessed our "church!"

The work continues—more building projects to complete and more souls to reach. God grant the power and means to accomplish both!

My heart is rough and homespun · · .

and ordinary kind.

It's much the worse for wear and tear:

to sin it is inclined.

Oh, see the strained relationships, the spots where love's worn thin,

frayed edges of my patience, the pockets full of sin.

I know it isn't worthy
Your label to display,
But take this tattered garment
and work on it today.
Oh, Thou Master Mender,
reweave each ugly tear;
Make it the loving raiment
a child of Thine should wear.

Doris StenslandCanton, S. Dal.

#### editorials

#### **BUDGET RECEIPTS**

For many years the *Ambassador* has carried monthly accounts of how the Association is doing in reaching minimum budget goals for the current fiscal year. Good news or disappointing, the information has been there.

Therefore, it is always disturbing when someone volunteers that he or she wasn't aware how serious the situation was concerning AFLC finances at a given point in time. "I didn't realize things were that bad," the individual will say.

The information has been there in black and white—how much had come in by the end of August, for instance, and what percentage of the whole goal that was. And the ideal percentage for that particular point in the church year is also given. There is also a comparison with the previous year as far as the total goal goes.

To make these monthly reports more noticeable, we are directing that they be enlarged somewhat. Thus, they should attract more attention and be of more use to our members.

We encourage, too, as many month-by-month offerings as possible to AFLC work, at least quarterly. Try to give as much as you possibly can, as individuals and congregations, early in the fiscal year. You will notice in the report in this issue that February, the first month in the current fiscal year, was a good beginning, although below the ideal percentage for the first month. Let us keep up the good work and do even better as we deal with our second million-dollar goal and, in all likelihood, reach the million-dollar mark in contributions for the first time.

#### THIS POOR MAN CRIED

We had intended to comment on the Winter Bible Conferences, but somehow have neglected to do so. Actually, the only one we attended was the one at Bethel Lutheran Church, Grafton, N. Dak., but at least some of what we say would be true of those at Osceola, Wis., and Lake Stevens, Wash., also.

We heard some good things at the conference. The teaching and preaching and lectures were good, of very fine caliber. I'm sure this can be said of all three locations. Bible conference-goers are exposed to some very good spiritual food. It is only a shame that so few, really, get to hear these good things. There isn't much to do about that, but maybe some day half a dozen or so regional conferences could be held annually, not necessarily sponsored by the church body as such, but locally. At present three conferences are held, whereas originally there was only one church-wide.

One man came to mind again and again as we heard lectures on Psalm 34 at the conference. That was, of course, Lay Pastor Sidney Swenson, now of Chicago.

Many of us can remember his references to Psalm 34 now and again, especially verse 6: "This poor man cried, and the Lord heard him, and saved him out of all his troubles." He would tell us of that Saturday night long ago when he assayed to go to a tavern at such and such an address, as his custom was, but ended up at a prayer meeting instead and came to peace with God. Anyway, Psalm 34 is closely identified in our mind with Sidney Swenson

Interesting how we associate certain Scripture passages with certain people. II Chronicles 7:14 and Galatians 2:20 come to our mind as examples.

And let us say a hearty thank-you to the host folks at these conferences: Pastor and Mrs. Lyle Aadahl and their people at Grafton, Bob and Carol Dietsche and their crew at the Association Retreat Center, and the folks out at Lake Stevens. Thank you for the hospitality, the good food, the Christian love and concern. May the Lord bless you in return.

#### FARM CRISIS

It has been suggested that we write something about the farm crisis or problem. It certainly is a problem which strikes close to the Association because we are such a rural church. In one sense, whatever happens on the farms will have a startling effect on our church fellowship.

But we write with fear and trembling even though there is no difficulty in writing about our love for the family farm. We grew up, not on the family farm, but in farming communities. We went with our pastor father to many farm families as he made his rounds and explored with fascination their farmyards. Later, as a pastor, many of our calls were made to farm families. A lot of money toward our college education was earned on family farms. We can get pretty nostalgic about the family farm. May they always be a significant factor on the agricultural scene in the U.S. and Canada.

And yet we realize that great changes have taken place in the family farms apart from the current economic crisis. The farms of our boyhood with their horses, milk cows, chickens and turkeys, pigs, and, sometimes, sheep have long been gone, for all practical purposes. All farms had them. Now many farmyards are very quiet places except when gas- or diesel-powerd equipment is working nearby.

What proposals can we offer to solve the farm problems? If we had any, we don't know that it would be proper to share them here. Our church paper must be careful not to take sides in political matters where there is no clear-cut moral issue involved. Even this last statement may be misinterpreted.

But we sympathize with those whose dreams and hopes

## III. JESUS' HANDS, OUR HANDS

14. Jesus is now in heaven. Whose hands does He use to do His work here on earth? I Cor. 3:9, Matt. 25:31-41, Col. 3:17,23, Eph. 2:10, Acts 1:8, Eccles. 9:10

"Christ has no hands but our hands, to do His work today . . . ." (Annie Johnson Flint)

Jesus is counting on us to carry out His work here on earth. Let us pray that we will be faithful to Him and let Him use our hands, feet, lips, our life, our love, our all to win others to Him.

Suggested Song: "Take My Life And Let It Be," Concordia, No. 406

Mrs. Alvin Grothe Astoria, Ore.

## WMF Project for May

## General Fund \$12

Our General Fund helps the WMF projects which do not meet their projected goals and is used for promotional literature, administrative expense and THE LUTHERAN AMBASSADOR. This project is for both May and December.

May, 1985



# A CLOSER WALK WITH JESUS

# LESSON FIVE-DEDICATED HANDS

Have you ever really thought of how important your hands are? As Christian women, wives and mothers, our hands can be mightily used of the Lord to be a great influence and blessing to our families, those about us, our nation and other parts of the world. This month, as we think of Mothers Day, I would like for us to center our study on the loving hands of Jesus as He healed and blessed, and on the hands of a loving, godly, mother; both are very precious.

## I. THE LOVING HANDS OF JESUS

I like the pictures we have both in the front and the back of our church. One is of Jesus with His hands outstretched, helping Peter up from the water. The other is of Jesus standing with His hands outstretched to us saying, "Come I will help you; come unto Me with your sins, sorrows, burdens; him that cometh unto Me I will in no wise cast out; whosoever will may come" (Matt. 11:28-30, Jn. 6:37, Rev. 22:17). "The Lord's hand is not shortened that it cannot save ..." (Is. 59:1).

3	2
(c) Prov. 22:6, Deut 6:6,7	I. THE HANDS OF A LOVING, GODLY MOTHER  As we consider a mother's hands, discuss the <i>countless</i> tasks they erform.
(b) Prov. 13:24, 22:15; 29:15,17	
to the following verses?  (a) I Tim. 2:8, I Tim. 5:5, Lk. 2:37, Acts 1:14	1. Lk. 24:50,51
Name some of her other Christian virtues.  13. What does the Lord want us as Christian mothers to do, according	9. Jn. 13:5
(e) v. 31	7. Lk. 4:40
(d) v. 20	5. Mk. 5:22,23,41,42
(c) v. 19	4. Matt. 19:13-15, Mk. 10:13-16
(b) v. 16	2. Matt. 8:14,15
<ul><li>12. Read together Proverbs 31:10-31. What a beautiful example of a godly, Christian wife and mother—how busy her hands are! What do each of the following verses find her doing with her hands?</li><li>(a) v. 13</li></ul>	In the Gospels we read how Jesus' loving hands healed the sick nd sin-sick, made blind eyes see, raised the dead and blessed many. Whom did Jesus' hands heal or bless, in the following verses: (In your ersonal study read the whole account of each of these.)  1. Matt. 8:2,3

### what makes a good sermon?

By Gerald F. Mundfrom Part III Delivery

The preacher should make himself understood. He needs to speak loudly enough for all to hear. He might occasionally ask those who have sat before him if they were able to hear him. If he has a low voice, a loud-speaker can be helpful. He should be mindful of the elderly who may have difficulty in hearing.

He does well, at least occasionally, to tape his messages and later listen to them. A man can learn much about his own delivery and how to improve by listening to himself.

He should speak slowly enough so that he does not mumble his words and so that he can enunciate every syllable. Some speakers have a habit of dropping their voices, and part of what they say goes unheard, especially by those hard of hearing.

The pastor should, nevertheless, avoid speaking too slowly. Such will test the listening span of the hearers. They will become bored and stop listening.

Some speakers have a habit of stopping in the middle of a sentence in order to gather their thoughts. In the meanwhile, the listeners hang on to the half-thought they have expressed, trying to anticipate what the speaker is going to say next. Such waiting in anticipation is very wearing on the listener. His mind soon begins to wander and he becomes lost as a listener.

If the one speaking can enunciate loudly and clearly and at the same time speak somewhat rapidly he will hold the attention of his listeners better than if he speaks too slowly, and, of course, he will get a lot more said in the time allotted to him.

If he has trouble in any of the above he can practice by reading aloud or by preaching to himself in an empty church or room.

Next to having a good message, and being heard, smoothness of delivery is important. Some put a lot of emphasis on eye contact. But I do not believe eye contact is as important as smooth delivery. And because I believe smoothness of delivery to be very important in holding the attention of an audience, I personally prefer reading my message when I preach. Many seem to conclude that a read message is a boring message. True, it can be, but it need not be. With practice and experience one can learn to properly emphasize what he reads and put life into the message. He can learn to live it as he reads it. Usually it takes a more thorough preparation to read a message than to speak from notes or a brief outline. When the pastor prepares to read his message he must not only pick his thoughts but also every word that he will be using to express those thoughts. In his study he will have time to choose the very best words and sentence structure he is able to produce in expressing his thoughts later on from the pulpit. There is much to be said in favor of this procedure. We need to be careful not only in what we say, but also how we say it.

It takes an unusual gift to be able to think through or remember the thoughts and words one wishes to say while in the pulpit and then to say them on the spur of the moment.

Now some do have this gift. Some preachers seem to be able to deliver a good sermon, well thought out, in a smooth way, with very few, if any, notes. Such are able to have good eye contact and smoothness of delivery all at the same time.

As for me, I am a slow thinker and unable to form thoughts and say them in a good way all at the same time when in the pulpit. And I have a hard time to remember just what I want to say from a few notes. And

because I cannot look at the people before me and my manuscript at the same time, I need to sacrifice eye contact for the sake of smooth delivery when I preach. I am forced to choose. I prefer smoothness of delivery.

Furthermore, I can be much more sure that I will deliver the message the Holy Spirit gave me and helped me prepare in my study if I read that message from the pulpit. I find that there is far less danger of getting sidetracked or to ramble on about something else.

In listening to different preachers, I have discovered that many of them do lack in smooth, steady delivery. I fear that there are many who think they have the gift to speak from notes and think on their feet, but do not. I also fear that many of them are not being heard, or heard very effectively, because their listeners soon tire and become bored, as their minds drift elsewhere.

Such have a great deal of faith in eye contact and for this reason do not take a manuscript into the pulpit with them. But the result is an "unsmooth" delivery with pauses and stops in the wrong places.

Sad to say, our society today puts a great deal of emphasis on the importance of eye contact when speaking. So much so that it has almost become taboo to read your message. But so often much more is lost in both content and smooth delivery than what is gained by maintaining eye contact. Eye contact does not hold the attention of an audience nearly as well as what smooth delivery will.

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? Why do we conclude that a sermon given from notes is always better than one read from a manuscript?

What makes a good sermon? It is the Word of God clearly explained in an unhalting way, so that it might be easily heard and understood.

#### Colfax, Wis.



Received into membership in Faith Lutheran Church of Running Valley, Colfax, Wis., last year were Mr. and Mrs. Jeff Buchner and their children, Benjamin, Emily and Luke. Pastor Hubert DeBoer is pictured with them.



Shown here are ladies from Faith Lutheran Church of Running Valley, Colfax, Wis., who made favors for the WMF banquet at the Winter Bible Conference at the ARC. Front row, left to right, Anna Madison, Opal Winget, Dagney Peterson and Leona Gilberts; and, back row, Vickie Meinen, Swanee Rasmussen and Carol Gustum.

#### Sedan, Minn.



New members at Scandia Lutheran are Mrs. Douglas Baker and Mr. and Mrs. Arne Klyve. Lay Pastor Verle Dean is pictured on the left.

#### news of the churches

#### from here and there . .

**Badger, Minn.**—The Badger Creek Sunday School had a Winter Fun Day on March 3 at the city arena.

Newfolden, Minn.—"Yielding to Jesus" was the theme for Pastor Michael Brandt's messages as he spoke at the Life in Christ Crusade in Westaker Lutheran Church, March 17-21.

**Wyoming, Minn.**—A Mystery Dinner was held at Hope Lutheran Church on January 27.

Minneapolis, Minn.—Rev. Ralph Tjelta of the Schools' faculty was the speaker at the Sweethearts' Banquet for Faith Lutheran Church. The banquet was held at the Red Lobster Restaurant on Feb. 17.

#### Personalities

Mrs. Julius Hermunslie is now living at 420 E. Alcott Ave., Broen Home, Fergus Falls, Minn. 56537. Her husband is in a home in Breckenridge, Minn.

Lay Pastor Kenneth Thoreson, Beloit, Wis., spoke at special meetings in Roslyn, S. Dak., Mar. 27-30, using chalk drawings with the mesages. Ferndale, Wash.—Triumph Lutheran's Valentine Dinner was held at Johnson's Fine Foods on Feb. 14. Pastor and Mrs. John Abel were special guests and both spoke and sang.

Roseau, Minn.—The February Couples' Club Snowmobile Outing was held belatedly on March 2. A potluck supper followed at 6:30.

Thief River Falls, Minn.—Our Saviour's Lutheran Church is going to get new pews for its sanctuary. Contributions for this project were to be closed on April 1.

Minnewaukan, N. Dak.—Ken and Dorothy Stuberg of Leeds, N. Dak., presented a concert of sacred music at Trinity Lutheran's Family Night on Palm Sunday.

Grafton, N. Dak.—Slides of the Holy Land were shown at Bethel Lutheran on Palm Sunday night by Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Rolf of McIntosh, Minn. Scripture readings were also used in the presentation.

West Fargo, N. Dak.— Gayle, Darrell and Yvonne Haugen, all graduates of Association Free Lutheran Bible School, are currently presenting musical programs under the name "Friends." Gayle is an elementary teacher, Darrell and Yvonne are students at Moorhead State College, Moorhead, Minn.

### ASSOCIATION OF FREE LUTHERAN CONGREGATIONS 3110 East Medicine Lake Boulevard Minneapolis, Minn. 55441

BUDGET RECEIPTS February 1-28, 1985

FUND	TOTAL BUDGET	TOTAL REC'D TO DATE	% of TOTAL*
General Fund	\$ 213,910.00	\$ 14,219.66	7
Schools — AFLTS	108,041.00	4,872.73	5
AFLBS	179,198.00	6,605.14	4
Home Missions	271,233.00	8,841.93	3
World Missions	307,000.00	16,459.35	5
Praise Fund	30,000.00	1,210.76	4
TOTAL	\$1,109,382.00	\$ 52,209.57	5*
1984-85 *Goal 8%	\$1,003,095.00	\$ 41,734.60	4

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#### Roseau church honors missionaries-elect

Rose Lutheran Church honored Dan Giles and family at a Mexican Fiesta after the 11:15 a.m. service Sunday, February 17th, in appreciation and farewell as they will be leaving shortly for the mission field in Mexico. Dan has been interning in Roseau this past year. The menu consisted of Mexican dishes such as taco salad, hot dishes, other salads, chili and Mexican soup. A large cake

beautifully decorated for the occasion with Minnesota and Mexico on it, made by Ruby Broten, and coffee were served. The kitchen workers, who were all adorned in Mexican costumes, served the meal: Monica Ziska, Audrey Jensen, Carol Holland and Selma Nikunen. The occasion was enjoyed by all and made us feel we were in Mexico, where we will be in thoughts and prayers.

#### In memoriam

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

**OREGON** 

Eugene

Bertha D. Stallings, 88, Jan. 28, Spencer Creek (Ms. Stallings died four days short of her 89th birthday.)

**MINNESOTA** 

Roseau

Alma Kellerman, 95, Feb. 28, Rose

Alvin Fugleberg, 82, Mar. 5, Rose

Anna Eugenia Anderson, 83, Mar. 8, Roseau

#### Clarification

Bethany Lutheran Church, Clayton, Wis., has been independent of Section Ten Lutheran Church, Cumberland, Wis., since July, 1983, and is being served by Lay Pastor Harry Bodsberg, Amery, Wis., a graduate of Association Free Lutheran Theological Seminary. The *Ambassador* recently, incorrectly, stated that the congregation was still affiliated with Section Ten Lutheran Church.

(See editorial "Keep Us Informed" on page. 10.)

#### S.W. Central Minn. Dist. WMF Spring Rally

May 7, 1985

Zion Free Lutheran Church Dalton, Minn. 9:30 registration

Pastor and Mrs. Curtis Emerson speaking on the "Beauty of Holiness."

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