

THE LUTHERAN AMBASSADOR

August 12, 1986

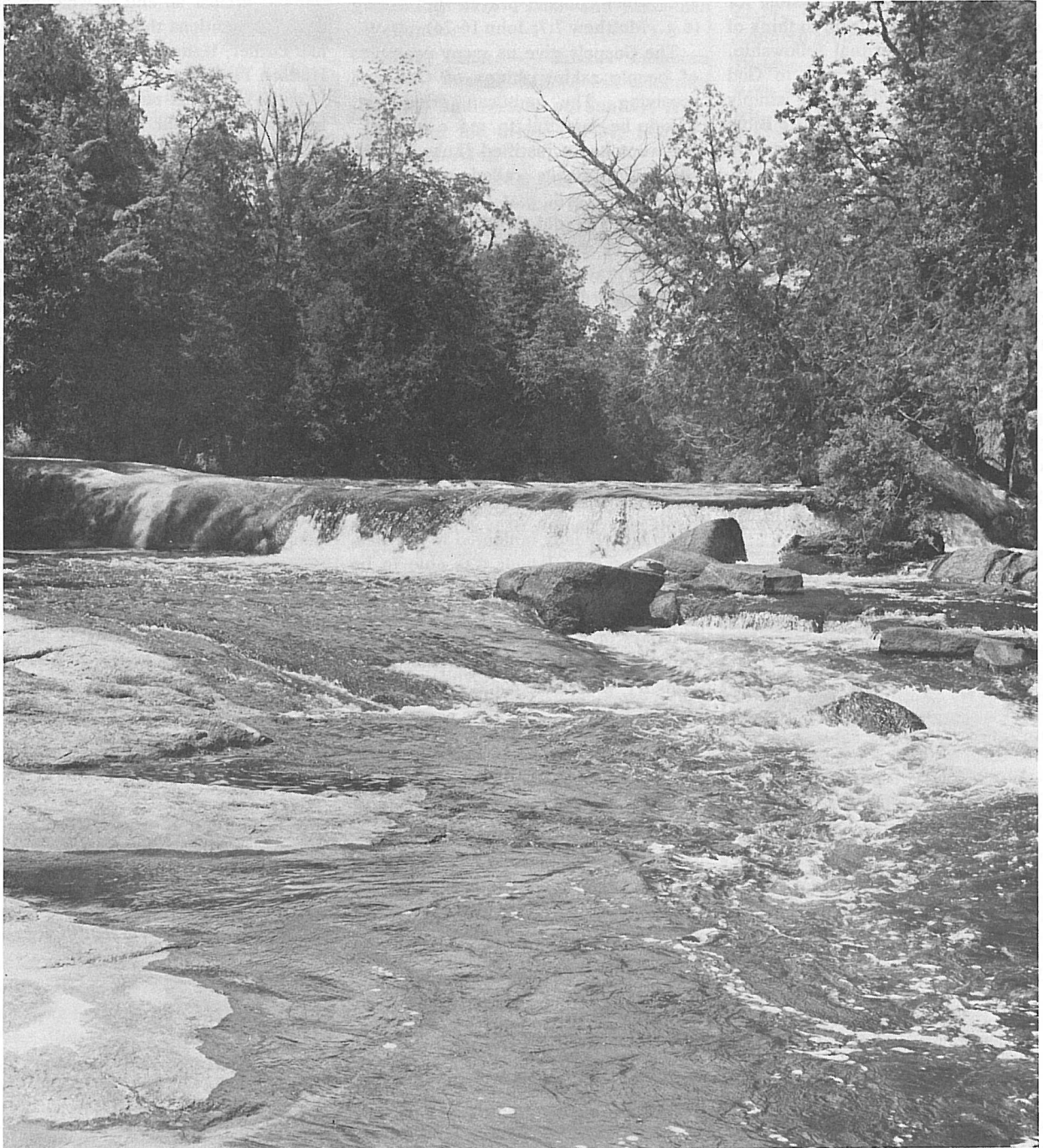


Photo by Roger C. Huebner, D.D.S.

at the MASTER'S FEET

The meaning of prayer

Part II

Many people do not think that prayer makes much difference. They like to think of prayer merely in terms of meditation or communion. It is possible for us to fall into this same trap, to think of prayer merely as spiritual fellowship, to lack expectancy in regard to God answering prayer and settling simply for a new feeling of strength. The Bible teaches us to expect that God answers prayer as we ask.

PRAYER ASKS OF GOD

There are two principal words in the Greek New Testament translated "ask." One is a word which means to inquire, as in asking questions. But the word used in regard to prayer means to crave, to desire, to call for, always meaning asking for something. It is properly translated "ask." Our Lord used this word in encouraging His disciples to pray.

"And whatsoever ye shall ask in My

name, that will I do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If ye shall ask anything in My name, I will do it" (John 14:13-14). This is one of several passages which connect prayer with asking (e.g., Matthew 7:7; John 16:24).

The Gospels give us many examples of people asking things of God and receiving. The publican cried out, "God, be merciful to me a sinner!" He went home justified (Luke 18:14). Blind Bartimaeus called out by the roadside, "Lord, that I might receive my sight." He did (Mark 10:51). Peter, sinking in the waters of the Sea of Galilee, prayed, "Lord, save me!" Our Lord restored his footing (Matthew 14:30).

Do you and I really ask God for things when we pray? Too many of us are perhaps only "window-shopping" when we pray. May God enable us to ask in prayer.

PRAYER IS WORK FOR GOD

An elderly lady lamented to her pastor that she no longer was able to be active in Christian service. "All I can do is pray!" Her pastor told her that her days of service were not over. He encouraged her to realize the great ministry that God could give her in prayer.

Perhaps we are prone to consider prayer somewhat incidental in our Christian life. We know we should pray but we have not come to value prayer as a highly effective means of advancing Christ's kingdom. And so the interest and attention so often is placed upon those "up front" who are *really doing something!*

Let us note briefly phases of Christian endeavor where prayer is so vital.

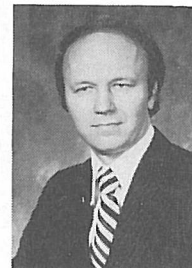
1) Prayer for Workers. In Matthew 9:37-38, our Lord indicates that it is through prayer that laborers are sent forth into the great harvest fields of

service. O. Hallesby thinks no prayer task is more important than prayer for Christian workers. He says, "If the right man gets into the right place, there is almost no end to what he can do." He mentions the influence of men like Luther, Hauge, William Carey and Hudson Taylor.

There is a great need for pastors and missionaries in our AFLC. Let us join in renewed prayer for more people of God's choosing to prepare for full-time service. Indeed, the fields are "white."

2) Prayer for Our Meetings. As we plan for our services, our Bible studies, our fellowship meetings, we often give meager attention to prayer. No wonder there is little effect from all our efforts to meet! May God help us to realize afresh how much more could be accomplished by accompanying prayer.

3) Prayer for the Unsaved. Prayer for the unsaved is fundamental for effective evangelism. Yet we often betray our confidence in the outward things we do or say as sufficient in seeing people come to Christ. Our Lord's repeated call to "abide" in Him is implicit direction to depend upon Him in prayer if we are to bear fruit (John 15:4-8). May God help us to see that without Him we can indeed do nothing. But with Him, abiding in Him in prayerful dependence, He promises to bring forth fruit, even much fruit.



by Dr. Frances
Monseth

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teaching with authority

Authority is not a popular word for many people today. The authority of God's Word is not even considered important in many churches. But at the close of the Sermon on the Mount, one thing that gripped the hearts and minds of the people who listened to Jesus was the *authority* of His teaching. It permeated His person and His teaching, for the deity of Jesus revealed itself in all He said, whether He spoke directly about Himself or not. It satisfied all the hungry people who listened for clear, honest, objective *truth* that mattered in their lives.

Christian education must operate with that in mind. People should know they have met God's truth taught with authority. This authority will distinguish itself from the dreary, legalistic, empty teaching of the scribes. The "talks" given in many pulpits and classrooms today, based on subjects other than the teaching and Word of Christ, with little meat for the soul, are the continuation of the teaching of the scribes.

Then, too, educational practices in the church today tend to adapt themselves to the ways of the world. The world is fast-paced, flashy, experience-oriented. We may spend so much time trying to "involve" students in some kind of activity that we never reach the heart that is eager to learn.

For better or worse, the old-fashioned lecture has been replaced by buzz groups, brainstorming, and role-playing, among other things. Participation by students in a class is essential to effective learning, but it is possible that some of these activities produce participation that is no more than game-playing or a pooling of ignorance. Students go away entertained, but that is not the final objective of instruction.

When we consider the small amount of time spent each week in a Sunday School class, for example, or Bible study, it is important that the time be used well. The Word must be planted, and the planting *can* be done with the mark of authority. There is nothing wrong with giving the impression,

"Thus saith the Lord." That may or may not involve a moving personal experience. Experiences must be tested and validated by objective facts. Experience must be submitted to the authority of the One Who said, "I am... truth" (John 14:6). If it is not, a person is more apt to be "carried about by every wind of doctrine" (Ephesians 4:14). There is always someone promising a better experience, a more exciting way.

"We may spend so much time trying to 'involve' students in some kind of activity that we never reach the heart that is eager to learn."

Paul's Letters to Timothy are filled with exhortations to study the Scriptures continually and to teach sound doctrine in his congregation. That is true of anyone called to teach Scripture. A Bible teacher must be a student of the Bible. In a recent issue of the *Good News Broadcaster*, the late Theodore Epp says this on a related matter: "The person who is given the responsibility by God of teaching other Christians must pay the price of spending much time with God. When Jesus was on earth, the scribes and Pharisees recognized that the apostles taught with authority even though they had not attended the formal schools of their day. The person who spends time with God is able to speak with God's authority, and this is very important if one is to teach others. The person who is appointed by God to teach must present the truth as God has revealed it by the Holy Spirit through His Word."

A teacher who spends hours of study in the Bible should not have to apologize because he has knowledge to impart to his students that is worthy of their attention. If he does not so study

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"The result was that when Jesus had finished these words, the multitudes were amazed at His teaching; for He was teaching them as one having authority, and not as their scribes" (Matthew 7:28,29).



by Rev. Wesley Langaas,
McVile, N. Dak.,
member, Board of Publications
and Parish Education

TEACHING . . .

and teach, he might need to apologize to the Lord. Years of study and immersion in the Word (abiding) will clearly show, and such teachers are rightly respected themselves. But more importantly, they develop in their students a love and respect for the authority of the Word of God and a desire to live by it.

Materials, techniques and methods must be subordinate to the truth and the authority of the Word, and enhance its presentation, not replace it. We are concerned about the quality of the materials that are used in the AFLC Sunday School curriculum and many comments are heard about this. Some think that the materials are too difficult for the grade level, or too easy. Some think they are unattractive. Some want more teacher's helps and student activities. All these are legitimate concerns. On the other hand, many people believe that our materials do teach with the authority of the Word.

"A man or woman of the Word can never be replaced with mere lesson material, no matter how polished it is."

Sometimes our materials are compared to other published material that is visually stimulating, filled with a variety of teacher aids and student activities. Many of these activities bear little relevance to the sowing and nourishing of the Word of God. And, are teachers depending on an abundance of helps rather than getting into the Word themselves so they have something to say? We have a greater responsibility before God than merely to keep students busy or excited. We do have a responsibility to convey the authority of the truth so that it will touch them as it touched people when Jesus spoke to the crowds.

We are, however, taking the time and effort to produce quality material, first of all in content, and also in appearance. There is no reason to settle for mediocrity either.

A man or woman of the Word can never be replaced with mere lesson material, no matter how polished it is. Methods will also vary according to the teacher, as indeed they should. Most of us feel helpless without a piece of chalk and some feel a great need for maps and pictures. The overhead projector, filmstrips, etc., are valuable aids. A well-guided discussion can be of supreme value in underscoring a lesson and making it applicable in daily life. But we've all known master Bible teachers who can hold a group, young or old, simply by speaking the deep things of the Word of God to hungering and thirsting souls.

We've been conditioned by television programs and commercials, and other media styles, in which problems and solutions are all quickly presented and disposed of efficiently, and with flashy graphics. Our attention spans have shortened and it takes more effort to hold our attention. We have met the enemy, and adopted his ways, because they seem to work. But one thing is missing: the authority of the Word that speaks to our deepest needs and satisfies the soul.

Jesus was the Master Teacher. He used wonderfully unique methods and techniques to get His message across. So can we. But they must be only vehicles for conveying the eternal truth of God. The one thing that attracted people to Jesus was that He spoke with authority. He still does, through the written Word. In a society geared to relativity and situation ethics and general uncertainty, people are hungry for authority. We who handle God's Word are the only ones who can feed them.

Time magazine once described our world as one "where the techniques of doing things have become more important than the things themselves." Is there danger of this happening in our teaching of the eternal Word of God?

"The one thing that attracted people to Jesus was that He spoke with authority."

Meaningful worship for children

Part I

"This morning, in our worship service, children, notice the word 'Collect' in the order of worship in your bulletin. Children, what is a 'Collect'? Or, what is the 'Kyrie'? What is the 'Confession of Faith'? Why does the organist play before worship begins?"

This year in Sunday School Opening Chapel Time, or in midweek children's class, or in family devotions, perhaps we could study our worship service. Children from earliest Sunday School age can learn more about our public worship. What is worship? Why do we worship? Why does a choir sing? What is each part of our order of worship for?

Perhaps a listing of the separate parts, and a few thoughts can help you, teacher or parent, be creative in helping our children be more aware and actively involved in worship.

This is the first in a series of four articles designed to be used in eighteen or more sessions, as time permits. The plan could be used through the Sunday School year, interrupted by other special emphases for Advent, Epiphany (Mission Emphasis?), Lent and Pentecost. A large poster listing all the separate parts will be helpful. Other visuals may be good as well.

Session 1: Introduction

Today, pass out the *Concordia* hymnals. Have the children find "Order of Morning Service II" in the *Concordia*, page 408. This is the order used by most Association congregations. Ask two children (ushers) to give each child a bulletin from last Sunday's or this Sunday's service. Compare the bulletin with the *Concordia* order of worship. Make a brief overview. "This year we will learn about these different parts of the worship service. Worship is to do service to God. Today, let's think about why we worship." Teacher, could we define worship as a response to a re-enactment of what God has done? We are humbled and so grateful when we see the cross before us, hear His Word read, sing a hymn about Him. We love God, and respond with a heart of worship.

Also, He has commanded us to worship Him (Matthew 4:10, Psalm 2:11).

"Children, what is a Collect?"

In obedience, we worship Him. In our weakness and humanity we may not always feel like worshipping. In objective obedience, and a fact of love for Him, we worship Him! When Sunday morning comes, we are always in God's house to hear His Word and honor, reverence and bow before our great God. We seek His forgiveness. He has saved us from sin. We can rejoice!

Teacher, discuss and pose various physical stances in worship with the children. Our physical positions are often closely related to the character and mood of our hearts and minds. It helps or hinders the sincerity of our worship. It also has a positive or negative witness to those around us. How should we stand? How should we sit? Why do we bow our heads? Why do we close our eyes? Why do we stand at certain points in the worship service?

Teacher, remind children to attend to other necessities before worship. Except in special cases, elementary age children should not need to exit and re-enter during worship. The child needs to realize this is a significant time and he must try to be attentive. Going in and out also causes other minds to wander from the extremely important matter at hand.

Parents, be creative in advance and make suggestions to children that may help with fidgety time. Little children may benefit from drawing a picture of the altar area or the baptismal font. Certainly, have your Bible ready and follow along for Scripture reading. Mark it before the worship service.

"Children from earliest Sunday School age can learn more about our public worship."

Most of all, teachers and parents, encourage children to be still and listen. When children are guided and grow into the habit, they can learn to be respectful and attentive and will learn far more than adults would ever expect. Set the standard high.

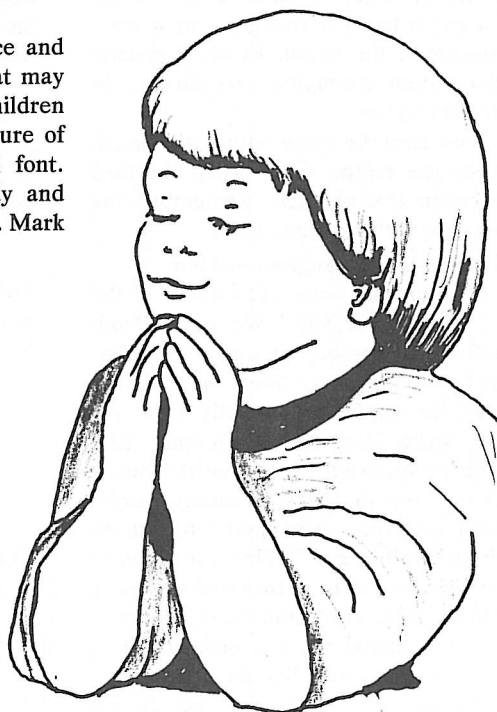
Then give a little follow-up. Talk about the worship afterward. A brief comment in Sunday School could be helpful. Look at the pictures drawn by a little one. A quick word means so much to a child.

We are most grateful and humbled as we hear again what God has done. We worship Him and rejoice!

Session 2: Introduction to Worship

Notice on Sunday, the organist plays a prelude to worship. See the "pre" in "prelude," meaning before—before the worship begins. The prelude should help direct our thoughts to God as we quietly gather in the sanctuary. We want to pray silently and think about God. We may look at the message of a banner or read over the opening hymn. Perhaps the organist has carefully chosen music to introduce the topic of emphasis for this time of worship. Perhaps

continued on next p.



Is there sincerity in your Lord's Prayer

If you pray not to the Father of our Lord Jesus, it is useless to say: "Our Father who art in heaven."

If you hold all religions to be on equal basis, why pray: "Hallowed be Thy name!"

If you are opposed to Christian missions, why pray: "Thy kingdom come!"

If you shirk cross-bearing, why pray: "Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven!"

If you trust not in God's providence, why pray: "Give us this day our daily bread!"

If you are of an unforgiving mind, why pray: "Forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us!"

If you believe in spiritual pacifism, why pray: "Lead us not into temptation!"

If you delight in materialism, why pray: "Deliver us from evil!"

If you cannot sincerely pray any or all petitions, why add: "For Thine is the Kingdom, and the power, and the glory!" And why say "Amen!" Yes, why pray the Lord's Prayer at all?

—Northwestern Lutheran

COLLECT . . .

it is joyful or majestic in honor of God as we gather in His presence. Then it may sound prayerful. Perhaps the music is chosen for the season of the church year. Encourage the children to notice the well-planned prelude. Maybe you can give examples of good and appropriate prelude music.

Ask piano students to play Sunday School prelude music. Sign students up in advance. The simplest sacred tune to more advanced sacred music could be appropriate before Sunday School. It may be repeated if necessary over and over for five minutes before Sunday School, as others gather. This will help children learn what a prelude is for or not for.

Teacher, those who sing in a children's choir may benefit from reminders to be ready early, so the director may seat the choir early enough before a worship service to hear prelude music and prepare properly for worship.

Session 3: Opening Prayer and Opening Hymn

An opening prayer from the altar often precedes the opening hymn. It is a prayer of praise. We are adoring God. We ask Him to open our hearts to hear and receive His holy Word so we can repent, believe and grow in Him.

The singing of the opening hymn follows the opening prayer. We are in the presence of God! He is great! He is holy! "Children, stand tall. Hold your hymnal up so you can read the words and sing straight forward." Teacher practice this, even with pre-readers. Show younger readers how to follow the words for each stanza. Older students can help younger children, too. Parents, finger follow with the early reader a few times in worship.

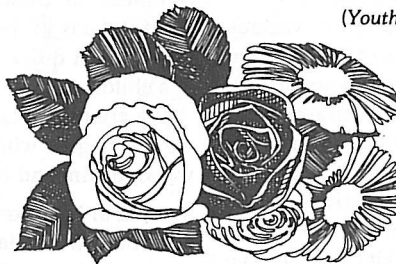
The opening hymn usually speaks of the attributes of God and praises Him. Teacher, direct the children to the table of contents in the *Concordia*. A hymn of Praise and Prayer (1-36) is often chosen as an opening hymn. Find these pages. "Children, let's read the hymn titles in this section." Teacher, teach younger children, with the help of older students, to find a hymn number. (Seat older and younger side by side today.) Then teach or practice today's opening hymn. A cappella is fine, or melody only on the piano, is good for learning a

Different

Some murmur when their sky is clear
And wholly bright to view,
If one dark speck of cloud appear
In their great heaven of blue.

And some with thankful hearts are filled
If but one ray of light—
One streak of God's great mercy gild
The darkness of their night.

Archbishop Trench
(Youth's Favorite Poems)



hymn tune. If needed, practice the melody singing a "la la" only, first. (Children in a children's choir who have learned many hymns will be a great help to the children who have not had that opportunity).

Now examine the words. Ask different children to read a phrase. What does this strange word mean? Emphasize the wonderful attributes of God. Teacher, don't belabor every word. Choose a few key thoughts, or a main concept of the hymn. Notice a conclusive, often triumphant conclusion, in the last stanza.

Now sing the hymn with enthusiasm. Keep the tempo even. Keep the flow between the phrases. Remember the purpose of the opening hymn.

Session 4: The Confession of Sin

Next in our order of worship is the "Confession of Sin." We can individually recognize our sin and ask for forgiveness. Teacher, have the children read the confession directly from the *Concordia*. Study it. Break it apart. Emphasize speaking truth from the heart, as opposed to speaking empty words. Seek Scripture to support "by nature sinful and unclean." Find examples or even dramatize in a simple way sinning "in thought, word, and deed." Discuss sins of commission and omission. Use the dictionary for "flee for refuge," or "infinite" and "beseech." Oh the joy

of understanding the phrase, "remission of all our sins." How does the Holy Spirit "increase in us true knowledge of Thee and of Thy Word"? What is "the end" we refer to? How very important it is to confess our sin as we come to worship God.

Other sessions to follow include:

- Session 5 Kyrie
- Session 6 Collect
- Session 7 Scripture Lesson
- Session 8 Confession of Faith
- Session 9 Gloria Patri
- Session 10 Choir Anthem
- Session 11 Announcements
- Session 12 Offertory
- Session 13 Pulpit Hymn
- Session 14 Sermon
- Session 15 Hymn, Communion, Baptism
- Session 16 The Lord's Prayer
- Session 17 Benediction
- Session 18 Closing Hymn, Postlude

by Mrs. Kenneth Moland
Our Redeemer Lutheran Church
Kirkland, Washington,
member, Board of Publications
and Parish Education

The writer is grateful to Rev. Rodney Johnson for his article of February 11, 1986, "The Purpose of Sunday Worship", and acknowledges the help it is in preparing "Children, What Is a Collect?"

Here are excerpts from reports given to the 1986 Annual Conference of the Association of Free Lutheran Congregations at Stanwood, Washington, in June.

CO-ORDINATING COMMITTEE

In this day of growing restlessness, moral decline, terrorist activity, etc., we see a great opportunity to share the Gospel of Jesus Christ to a needy, hungry and frightened world. Opportunities abound all around us. Jesus said, "The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Therefore, beseech the Lord of the harvest to send out workers into His harvest" (Matthew 9:37-38). Let us not only pray for workers, but also pray for a spirit of broken and contrite hearts, that we may be fit and willing vessels for our Lord's use on this earth.

Rev. Ronald Knutson
Chairman

BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR

In the Book of Ruth, in that beautiful account of her decision when she says, "Whither thou goest, I will go; and where thou lodgest, I will lodge: thy people shall be my people, and thy God my God," she is not expressing some half-hearted sentiment, but a complete pledge of herself to a course of action and a way of life. It is this kind of decision that the Lord would have from each of us concerning our following after Him.

Ernest J. Meidema

BOARD OF TRUSTEES (SCHOOLS)

Fervent prayer, however, is more than correct knowledge; it is a right spirit that is in tune with God's desires. Each of us in the AFLC must pray for our students that the Holy Spirit might move them into lives of Spirit-filled prayerfulness. Churches praying for our schools and students fervently praying for our churches will provide spirits that are moldable and useable in God's eternal kingdom.

Rev. Michael Brandt
Chairman

From the Conference reports

DEAN OF THE SEMINARY

Besides the courses which deal directly with missions, evangelism and church growth, there is the fervent prayer in the heart of each instructor that the Holy Spirit might use the Word of God in every class to produce deep concern for the salvation and sanctification of souls for whom Christ died. It is heartening to kneel together as a seminary community each week-day morning and sense the burden for the lost among the men. Among the daily prayer requests for salvation are relatives, friends, neighbors, employers and fellow-employees, world and home mission fields. "The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much" (James 5:16b), the Bible says. God is answering prayers. Let us all continue fervent in prayer!

Dr. Francis W. Monseth

DEAN OF THE BIBLE SCHOOL

Our attention this week is turned to our need to be fervent in prayer. In these days when it is so easy to be anxious about many things, the Word of God gives us direction: Pray! God's solution to anxiety is fervent prayer, prayer that includes adoration, confession, thanksgiving, supplication and intercession. May this week find us responding to the call to be fervent in prayer. And as you pray, I trust that you will intercede daily on behalf of AFLBS, its faculty and staff and students.

Rev. Donald Greven

WORLD MISSIONS COMMITTEE

As a Church, let us give thanks and pray much for our faithful missionaries on the fields, those on furlough, and for faithful national workers on the fields; also pray much for our faithful director and his faithful part-time secretary.

Please continue to request visits from Rev. Enderlein to promote missions in your congregations.

Rev. Amos O. Dyrud
Chairman

WORLD MISSIONS DIRECTOR

We see in and through the Book of Acts that prayer permeated the entire life of the first century missionary church. With the beginnings of the church at Pentecost, and across the centuries until today, *Missions* has been the story of answered prayer. Missions is inseparable from prayer. Every mission advance has been the result of believing prayer.

Our church in 1986 can and should be no different than the first century church which was mightily used of God as a missionary church. The key to the spiritual life of the church is *Prayer* — prayer which will lead to sacrifice and service.

Rev. Eugene Enderlein

HOME MISSIONS COMMITTEE

Believers, also, need to grow in their Christian life through attendance at worship services, Sunday School, mid-week Bible study, and prayer meetings. Christians need to do as the two disciples did when they asked Jesus to come and abide with them. The burning hearts are a result of believing that all the Scriptures are true and letting Jesus abide in us. Jesus admonishes us in John 15:4-5 to: "Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in Me. I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in Me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without Me ye can do nothing."

Mr. Joel Rogenes
Vice-Chairman

HOME MISSIONS DIRECTOR

The theme of our Conference is very appropriate and very much needed. As our AFLC expands through the work of Home Missions, it is interesting that, when we as a church pray for open doors to step through with the Gospel,

continued on p. 13

WE MUST WILL IT, TOO

People think that what God wills must inevitably take place. This is by no means the case. God wills a great deal of blessing to His people which never comes to them. He wills it most earnestly, but they do not will it, and it cannot come to them.

Andrew Murray

"If
my
people"



reflections on parish evangelism

—Mrs. Jennie Helland
McVile, N. Dak.

I have been asked to tell about some of the impressions I have received of special meetings held in our churches down through the years.

That is quite an undertaking for a 91½ year-old woman who has been retired for 26 years from active service as a pastor's wife. My husband, Rev. M.E. Helland, a pastor in the Lutheran Free Church, retired in 1960 after being in active service for 45 years, the last two or three as interim pastor. He passed away in January, 1978, at the age of 90½ years.

His first pastorate was in Canada. The pastor just before him was an old-fashioned hell-fire preacher. His wife said once that she felt like hiding under her chair when he started one of his hell-fire sermons. He shouted so when he preached that his throat got so sore that finally he lost his voice. He died of a stroke some years after they left Canada.

One of our members said to my husband, "He sent us all to hell, but you are showing us the way to heaven." Probably they needed to realize what hell was like to be able to grasp the wonders of salvation.

My husband was an evangelistic speaker who believed in the Gospel of sin and grace, but he felt that it was good to have some outside help, too, so he had a week of special meetings in his churches in the spring before the farm work started and in the fall after the harvest was over.

I remember at the after-meeting of a special service that a young woman came up to me and said, "Oh, I wish that I were like you." I answered her, "As you believe so shall it be done unto you." Her eyes opened up wide for a minute; then she grasped the truth that it is through faith in Christ that we are saved. Then and there she received the assurance of salvation, that she was

saved by grace through faith. And as far as I know, she never lost that assurance. The speaker must have noticed her face for he said to me afterwards, "How wonderful that people can come to assurance of salvation with wide-open eyes."

In the next place where we served, a pastor, not a Lutheran, suggested at a pastoral meeting that the churches in that town of about 1200 join together with the country churches, build a large tabernacle and invite a good evangelist to come and be the speaker. They all agreed and the people were very generous in paying for the lumber and helping in building the large tabernacle. People flocked to the meetings and a big crowd answered the altar call. When the meetings were over, the tabernacle was torn down and the proceeds went to the evangelist.

The next year that same pastor persuaded the people to build another tabernacle with different speakers. Not quite as big a crowd attended, but many people went forward. That tabernacle, too, was torn down and the proceeds went to the speakers. The following year when the pastor tried to promote the same idea again, the people refused, so that was the end of that.

I remember that in the next parish we had a very good speaker who put much emphasis on the altar call. He had two young sisters with him as singers and I believe that their beautiful, pleading voices as they sang the invitational songs stirred and melted the hearts of the audience as much or more than the speaker was able to do.

Whatever the cause, there were many who responded to the call and we had a lot of people at our prayer meetings to begin with, but it gradually tapered off so that finally there were just the really converted ones left. One man who came said, "They pray the same prayers

every time," so he quit coming.

I am sure that many of those who came forward were just emotionally stirred, like the seed planted by the roadside and there was no depth or conscience and sorrow for sin. And where a person does not feel that he is a lost sinner condemned to hell, he does not appreciate the grace of God nor can he accept it. But there were those, praise the Lord, who really saw themselves as sinners and accepted salvation full and free and continued to live and confess Christ, so we felt it worthwhile, as the Bible says that one soul is worth more to God than the whole world and that there is joy in heaven over one sinner who is converted.

I have noticed that down through the years there is less and less emphasis put on the altar call and that less and less, if any, respond and go forward. And I am hoping that the reason is that our Free Church people are Christians who brought their children to the Lord in Holy Baptism and brought them up in a Christian home under Christian influence. But we know that even so the time has to come in their lives when they have a personal meeting with Christ and realize that they are sinners, and get the assurance that they are God's children saved by grace.

Many of our young people are given that opportunity at our Bible camps around the campfire and it is further emphasized at Bible School to those who are fortunate enough to attend.

So our special or revival meetings should be just that, not negative preaching as is sometimes the case, but a call to the Christians to be revived, to be stirred up in such a way that we will live more wholeheartedly for Christ and let Him be first in our lives so that we can be an influence for Him in our communities and in that way help His kingdom come and His will be done.

editorials

PARISH EDUCATION

This first issue in August is traditionally one that gives some attention to Parish Education.

It is safe to say that few of us realize as fully as we should what a responsibility and opportunity we have as congregations for Christian education. Oh yes, it is assumed that if a handful of children can be gathered there ought to be a Sunday School; if there are one or two children of confirmation age the pastor must give them some instruction; if at all possible there should be some opportunity for adults to have Bible study in the middle of the week and, maybe even on Sunday mornings.

There is some teaching and studying going on, but are we as serious and earnest and enthusiastic and intelligent about the opportunities as we should be? Do we realize that souls are at stake? Is Christian education in the congregation seen as requiring the best effort possible? In the annual meeting does the work of Christian education, including the Sunday School, occupy a prominent place or is it deemed a concession to hear any report from them at all?

Very likely a lot of re-thinking needs to be done about our Christian education in the congregations. Our Department of Parish Education has help to offer and even more so when a

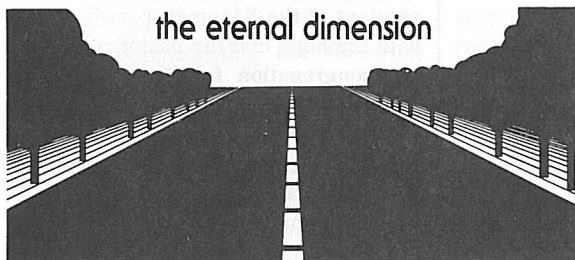
new executive secretary is secured. Let us all be thinking in our local situations about what we can do to better promote and encourage effective teaching and learning of God's truth through Christian education.

REPORT EXCERPTS

We may be accused of spreading out coverage of the 1986 Annual Conference too long, but even at that risk we are presenting excerpts from some of the reports given at the conference in this issue. True, the reports in their entirety will soon be available in the Annual Report book, but that finds its way into relatively few church homes and so we like to call attention to something in many of the reports here.

agencies give their accounts of what has happened during the previous year and their view of the task which lies ahead for that particular work. In the excerpts used in the *Ambassador* we try to highlight something inspirational and/or challenging from those reports.

We trust you will take the time to read the excerpts.



I have recently heard it said that the greatest need of the people of our day is to again see God as the great God. It is to see Him as the One to Whom all honor is due. Until that happens, we waste our lives on trivial things.

Samson was a man who wasted his life on foolish things. He never was what he could have been. The sad thing is that he never seemed to grasp what the potential and purpose of his life really was. God made him to be a Nazarene from birth, but many of the things he did showed that he never learned the need to bring his sinful heart under God's control. Read of him in Judges 13-16.

This problem is quite prevalent in our

day, too. In fact, it seems to be growing in our society at a frightening rate. Many do not seem to know what the real purpose for life is and thus they do not realize, or perhaps do not care about, the good they could be accomplishing. The recent death of two prominent athletes through overdoses of drugs only reveals a problem spreading through all levels of our society. For the sake of a "good time," or in order to exercise the unbridled will, people are risking all in some foolish, short-term act and losing everything. By death, these young athletes' lives were ended and whatever they could have been they will never be. God only knows what that is and He will hold them responsible for it.

According to Jesus Christ, life is for usefulness and that usefulness is defined by God through the word "servant." Those who have bowed to the Lord in true servanthood have found great satisfaction within. Jesus said the greatest person in God's kingdom is the one who has made himself "servant of all" (Mark 10:43-44). I am aware that I may be charged with retrogression to the "Puritan work ethic" for setting forth Jesus' pattern for greatness, but I will do so, regardless. I think we have enough evidence that our slide in the other direction is yielding undesirable and probably disastrous results.

I believe one of the things we will see when genuine spiritual awakening comes to our land is conviction over the sin of lives wasted in selfishness and one of the blessings which will come from revival will be lives lived to the glory of God and the good of our neighbors. This can't help but come when God again becomes our sovereign King and we become His glad and willing servants. Those of us who call ourselves "Christians" ought to lead the way in





Letters to the editor

Support TV clean-up

I am sure that we Christian adults share the burden of stopping the spread of anti-Christian morality that we see advancing in our nation.

In my own life I have learned that it is not enough to just be saddened, deeply grieved or righteously angered by such offenses as pornography, abortion, indecent television programming, etc. Emotionalism is never enough; it must bring forth a wise plan of action.

Recently our family read about a movement headed up by Christian Leaders for Responsible Television. It is known as CLear-TV. Over 1600 Christian leaders of various denominations and Christian organizations have pledged to promote a boycott of offending sponsors unless the television networks reduce the amount of sex, violence, profanity and anti-Christian bias in their programs. Their hope is that Christians across our nation will become involved in order to show TV executives that decent people are not going to tolerate the corruptness and anti-Christian programs that now enter American homes.

The leaders of CLear-TV feel that timing is significant. In other words, if Christians would act *now*, the late summer of 1986, an impact of letters, petitions and boycott of uncooperative advertisers would be most effective.

I am sure that many friends join our family in privately opposing these offenses by not allowing such programming into our living rooms, but I would like to urge us to act together on behalf of this effort so that the children and families of our nation would all benefit by the cooperative efforts of concerned Christians. Perhaps our churches could organize letters or petitions simply stating that they endorse the efforts of CLear-TV and will support a boycott of advertisers if TV programming does not improve by the winter of 1986. Thank-you.

Mrs. Eugene Enderlein,
Minneapolis, Minn.

Send letters and petitions to:
Mr. Roger Rice, President
Television Bureau of Advertising
477 Madison Avenue
New York, N.Y. 10022

LIVES . . .

this return to what is right. Peter said that judgment begins at the house of God (1 Peter 4:17). We should not expect the unchurched person to do more in this matter than we are willing to do. When we in the church begin to take these things seriously, we will find that repentance is no easier for us than it is for the man of the world. If we are truly praying for a reviving visitation from God, we must be willing to be shown where we are wrong and make the change. I must be willing to examine myself, and you must be willing also. God sets life and death before us and encourages us to choose life. You and I must make the choice (Deuteronomy 30:19-20). Revival will come when we begin to make some proper, vital choices.

Pastor Emerson Anderson
Cleveland, O.

Nowhere in the whole Bible is it even intimated that it is God's desire or plan that children must remain outside of the covenant of Grace, and have no part or lot in the benefits of Christ's redeeming work until they come to years of discretion and can choose for themselves.

G. H. Gerberding

Rev. Leonard O. Sogge, a pastor of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Canada, passed away from cancer this past summer at the age of 55. We take the liberty of sharing this farewell to his congregation which was reprinted in *The Echoes* Elbow, Sask., Canada.

Whether we live or whether we die

Dear Members and Friends of Bardo Lutheran Church:

It is with heaviness that we choose to write this letter of farewell rather than being able to speak it in person.

Almost five years have passed since I came to work among you as pastor. We wish to thank you for your warm welcome and for the love and support that we received over this time. Last year when Bardo decided to become independent of the Kingman parish, it was with the hope that the pastor could give the congregation full time, and thus become stronger. I, too, shared this dream and looked forward to beginning the fall, and serving in this capacity. However, by November my body showed signs of illness and though under doctor's care, not until March was the diagnosis of cancer made. I have been through a series of radiation treatments as well as cobalt treatments. The last scan showed that the cancer has moved into other parts of my body. And so we began by saying "It is with heaviness that we write this letter," but in the midst of heaviness, there is joy from knowing our Father, the eternal, the omnipotent One, One whom we trust and the One who has filled our cup to overflowing many times over during life's journey. We have no doubt that the Lord is yet able to grant restoration of health but the promises of glory with Him seem very real, too, and I would like to plead with young and old alike to be reconciled with God through Jesus "Who is able to bring you *faultless and*

continued on p. 13

2. What important instruction does God give us in Ps. 51:1,2 and Dan. 9:3-19? _____

3. How should we pray?

1. Matt. 6:6 _____ 2. I Thes. 5:17 _____
3. Jn. 14:14 _____ 4. Mk. 11:24 _____
5. Eph. 6:18 _____ 6. Col. 4:2 _____
7. II Chron. 7:14 _____ 8. Matt. 18:19 _____
9. Heb. 13:15 _____ 10. Prov. 15:29 _____
11. Jas. 5:16b _____

One thing, alone, dear Lord, I dread—
To have a secret spot
That separates my soul from thee,
And yet to know it not.

Prayer was not meant for luxury,
Or selfish pastime sweet;
It is the prostrate creature's place
At his Creator's feet.

But if this waiting long hath come
A present from on high,
Teach me to find the hidden wealth
That in its depths may lie.

So in the darkness I can learn
To tremble and adore;
To sound my own vile nothingness,
And thus to love thee more.

—Frederick William Faber

4. When should we pray? Ps. 55:17, Acts 6:4 _____

5. What conditions should be met in order to have our prayers answered?

1. I Jn. 5:14-15 _____
2. Jn. 14:13, 14 _____
3. Mk. 9:23 _____
4. Ps. 66:18 _____
5. Eph. 6:18 _____
6. I Jn. 3:22 _____
7. Jn. 15:7 _____
8. Matt. 5:23,24 _____
9. Ps. 37:4 _____

6. How does God consider our prayers? Rev. 5:8b _____
30:15? _____

7. Who makes intercession for us? Rom. 8:26,34 _____

8. What is it that will give us strength and confidence, according to Is. 30:15? _____

We have looked into the "how," "when" and "why" of prayer. We need to be learners as long as we live. In order to satisfy the soul's deep need, we need to have planned and purposeful daily prayer. We need to be filled with His Word. Let us all discover the joy of prayer.
Hymn No. 291 (*Concordia*) - "Evening and Morning"

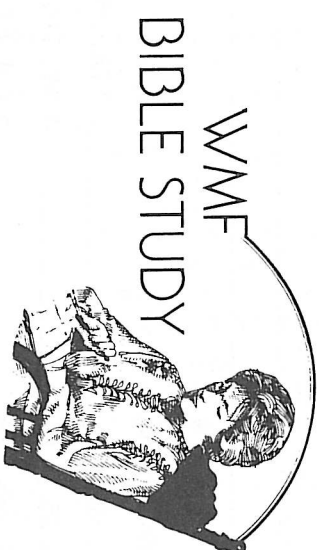
"Lord, teach us to pray . . ."

Luke 11:1

WMF September project: CHURCH EXTENSION

Through this fund, money is loaned to new congregations and to those needing to expand their facilities. Repaid loans are reloaned. The needs are great!

September, 1986



Lesson nine

KEY WORDS FROM GOD'S WORD

PRAYER

Hymn No. 18 (*Concordia*) - "Prayer Is the Soul's Sincere Desire"

"Prayer is the child-like communion of our hearts with God, in which we tell Him all our needs, and earnestly seek some gift from Him." We all have the privilege of prayer available for us; however, the impenitent, whose hearts are not right with God and who do not earnestly seek Him, do not pray in the right manner (Explanation of the Catechism).

Prayer is one of the greatest blessings that God has offered to us and yet it is also one which is so often misused or not used at all.

1. What is prayer according to these verses?

A. Lk. 18:13 _____

B. Eph. 1:15,16 _____

C. Ps. 8:1 _____

D. Eph. 5:20 _____

REPORT . . .

there are individuals and groups praying for that which we desire and purpose to share in our Home Missions efforts. Certainly it is because our Lord knows the desire and need as expressed in prayer that doors are opening to us and free, living Lutheran congregations are being established.

Rev. Elden Nelson

BOARD OF PUBLICATIONS AND PARISH EDUCATION

The Church fervent in prayer. Certainly the Apostle Paul echoes that thought in these verses in his letter to the Thessalonians. To be fervent in prayer requires that the Church also be fervent in its attitudes toward those things which are directly related to prayer. In these verses (II Thess. 1:2 and 3:1-2) Paul also is fervent in 1) his request to fellow believers that they pray specifically for him and his ministry, 2) his desire that the Word of the Lord should spread rapidly and be glorified and 3) his prayer for deliverance from perverse and evil men, recognizing that many do not have faith, but instead offer the deceitful seductions of the world as the solution to the problems of mankind.

Rev. Ralph Tjelta
Chairman

LUTHER LEAGUE FEDERATION

I do believe that unless we as Christians are leading victorious lives, causing the church to function under that victory, that the world will stand and gaze at us and say the church has nothing to offer, so let us continue on without Christ. The only antidote for such an attitude is the effectual fervent prayer of the righteous — the Church, kneeling in prayer before an Almighty God, begging for revival and faith to be given. Oh, how our young people need to see the church on its knees before God in fervent prayer. If we as adults don't give that example, we will not see our youth calling on the Lord either. Our task as a Church is to teach, to train, to lift up and build up our young people in the Lord. That will only be accomplished as we are fervent in every area of our life for Jesus — in our prayer, in our living, in our giving, in our praise and worship.

Rev. Curtis Emerson
President

LIVE OR DIE . . .

with great joy before His glorious presence" (Jude 1:24).

We recognize the burden which my illness has laid on you as a congregation. Thank you to all who have assumed an extra share of responsibility, and to all of you for your patience in "waiting" to see what my condition would be. Thank you also for caring for our financial needs while I have been laid low. It has been kind of you to carry this extra burden. Thank you, too, for your prayers on our behalf.

The "whys" of an illness like this are unanswered questions. As I walk this road with fellow-sufferers from our

STEWARDSHIP BOARD

A harvest is a whole lot more motivating than a hoe. But without the ordinary assignments, the "unsung end of things," there would be no harvest.

The Lord of the harvest is also the Lord of the hoe. And our personal response to the needs of the AFLC is a result of our commitment to Him.

Rev. Robert Lee
Chairman

BOARD OF PENSIONS

The churches in the Association set aside a Sunday in the fall of the year for a special offering designated to this fund (special needs for pastors and pastors' widows). This seems to work well. Several needy pastors have been helped and we are indeed grateful for these funds. We are grateful to God for supplying these funds.

Mr. Norman Haugen
Chairman

COMMISSION ON EVANGELISM

We are asking for your continual prayer for this work; then it will work as it did in Acts, "And the Word of God increased; and the number of the disciples multiplied in Jerusalem greatly." There was a rapid growth in the church. As it happened there it will happen in the AFLC. But we must be in continual prayer and filled with the Holy Ghost, praying for others. Remember, the Word is still the same. It has not changed. It is sharper than a two-edged sword.

Lay Pastor Verle Dean
Chairman

midst, we know that we are never alone because God comes to us through His people and His promises. Our faith is not simply trusting promises, but faith in God's person. Faith is recognizing that God is the sovereign Lord of the universe, free to act consistent with His love, to do what is wise and good for all of His children in all of their circumstances. We should thank God for all the promises He gives us in His Word. We should pray for the sick and trust God for healing. We should continue, with all our hearts, to believe God will supply all our needs, and that no matter how difficult the road, be assured that He who said "I will never leave you nor forsake you" is with us.

In conclusion, brethren, encourage one another, build one another up, pray for one another and for the perfecting of the Body of Christ. May Jesus be honored and glorified in your lives.

Sincerely in Christ,
Leonard O. Sogge

(Ed. note: I remember being at Pastor Sogge's ordination at Trinity Lutheran Church, Minneapolis, in June, 1950. The two men ordained that day, the other was Palmer Ringdal, have both now fallen victims to cancer. Pastor R. Snipstead was an attendant at the wedding of Leonard and Bernice Sogge in 1953.

NO ISSUE NEXT TIME

According to our policy, there will be no second issue in August. The next *Ambassador* will be dated September 9. Watch for it.

Today's *Ambassador* is the first to be printed by Roscoe Printers, Wanamingo, Minnesota. We look forward to working with this company and trust that the transition can be accomplished with a minimum of problems.

The Editor

Budget Analysis Committee, AFLC (3 years)

Mr. Tony Onnen, Cokato, Minn.
Mr. John Schlenk, Minneapolis, Minn.
(Holdover Members)
Mr. Norman Haugen, Murdock, Minn.
Mr. Walter Lien, Minnewaukan,
N. Dak.
Mr. James Bjorgan, Minneapolis,
Minn.

home mission news

A few of the Sunday School teachers and students. Mrs. Rolf is shown at the right.

Devils Lake, N. Dak.

"For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and do not return there without watering the earth, and making it bear and sprout, and furnishing seed to the sower and bread to the eater; so shall My Word be which goes forth from my mouth; it shall not return to Me empty, without accomplishing what I desire, and without succeeding in the matter for which I sent it" (Isaiah 55:10, 11).

What a tremendous encouragement these verses are to those who hear, read, study and proclaim the Word of God. Just as God gives us rain and snow for a purpose, He has given us His word for a purpose, He has given us His Word for a purpose that we might be saved and come to the knowledge of the truth. God has given us His Word "for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: that the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works" (II Timothy 3:16, 17 KJV). What a great encouragement this is for the Christian who is hungering and thirsting for righteousness to know that God will satisfy the need through His Word. God's Word is living, active and powerful to change lives.

It has been about two years already since the first report of Christ Lutheran to *The Lutheran Ambassador*. It has been of great encouragement to me these two years to see God actively at work through His Word, changing lives



in our congregation. God is always faithful to His Word. What a tremendous encouragement this is as we have opportunity to share with people from the Word in the various needs and struggles in life. God is faithful to His promises. It has been so encouraging also to see those in the congregation reaching out to others in the community and sharing the Word and praying for them. Certainly every child of God is to be His ambassador in pointing others to Jesus.

During the past two years several families have been added to the fellowship and we thank the Lord for that. Children's and adult choirs have been started and their ministry through music has enriched the worship services.

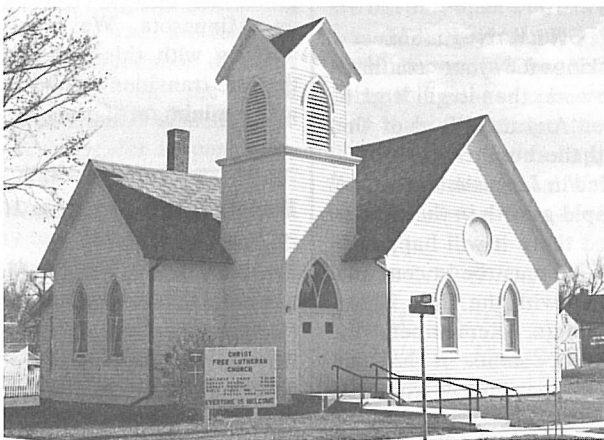
We also thank the Lord for the open door He gave us as of January 1 this

year to reach out into our community with a 25-minute radio broadcast on KZZY-FM (103.5) which reaches a radius of 60-90 miles. We have heard many positive comments from the community and surrounding areas and pray that the Lord would continue to bless His Word as it goes forth in this way.

We want to express our thanks to all of you who pray faithfully and give sacrificially to the work of Home Missions. God is answering your prayers and multiplying your gifts for the increase of His kingdom. May God richly bless you all.

"And let us not lose heart in doing good, for in due time we shall reap if we do not grow weary" (Galatians 6:9 NASB).

— Pastor Joel Rolf
Devils Lake, North Dakota



Christ Lutheran Church

In memoriam

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

MINNESOTA

Roseau

Dorothy Mae Anderson, 55, May 22, Rose

Reuben O. Holland, 50, June 17, Rose Newfolden

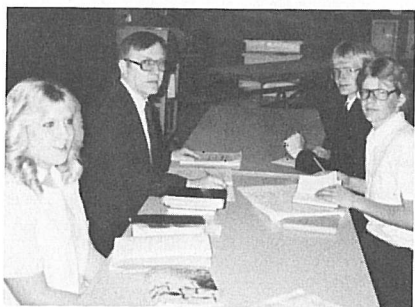
Mrs. Selma Brekkestran, 87, June 7, Bethania

Greenbush

Mrs. Erling Wahl, 70, July 18, Oiland



Jodi Johnson of Living Faith Lutheran Church taught the Sunday School the Lord's Prayer in sign language and is shown here demonstrating the word "heaven."



Rev. Elden Nelson, Home Missions Director, is shown here with three members of the confirmation class, Julie Holweger, and Paul and Mark David. Not present when the picture was taken were Frank and Kris Grabanski. The congregation conducts its activities in the Elementary School.

JUDGE WHO RULED AGAINST AFLC GROUP RETIRES

Judge Douglas Heen, 65, Devils Lake, N. Dak., retired as District Judge last month. He presided over the trial between two factions of First Lutheran Church, Valley City, N. Dak., in the summer of 1964 in which the anti-merger group, which later became Grace Lutheran Church, sought to test the legality of the procedures by which congregations were certified into the American Lutheran Church. In March of 1965, Judge Heen ruled that First Lutheran had been properly certified. The late Rev. Fritjof Monseth was pastor of the anti-merger group and first pastor of Grace Lutheran.

news of the churches

from here and there . . .

Ortley, S. Dak. — The Luther League of Ortley Lutheran Church, Ortley, S. Dak., served a breakfast to the congregations on Easter morning. Those who helped were Danny Berger, Darin Burns, Jeff Berger, Dana Swanson, Jess Hamman, Nicole Berger, Stacey Hamman, Kathy Pies and Misti Hinze. Assisting were Pastor and Mrs. Jon Wellumson.

Roseau, Minn. — Roseau Lutheran Church, Roseau, Minn., will celebrate its 20th anniversary on Sunday, Aug. 17, under the theme "If My People" (II Chron. 7:14).

Rev. Jerome Nikunen, Minnewaukan, N. Dak., will speak at the Communion service at 8:30 a.m. AFLC President Rev. Richard Snipstead will preach at the morning worship at 10:30. At a service at 1:30 p.m., Rev. Edwin Kjos, Fergus Falls, Minn., will bring a devotional message in word and song with his family.

Present pastor of Roseau Lutheran is Rev. Larry V. Severson.

Thief River Falls, Minn. — Mr. Tom Olson is the seminary intern at Our Saviour's and Reiner Lutheran Churches this year. Among other things he is working with the Luther League and a busy schedule of activities is being carried out this summer.

Grafton, N. Dak. — Youth from Bethel Lutheran went tubing on the Red Lake River on July 12. On the 25th they took part in a fellowship night at Westaker Lutheran in Newfolden, Minn.

Cloquet, Minn. — Seminarian Jerry Moan is serving his internship this year at St. Paul's Lutheran.

Kalispell, Mont. — Pastor and Mrs. Dale Mellgren and family were honored after the service on Sun., June 22, prior to their leaving for their new home at Tioga, N. Dak. Pastor and Mrs. Jeffrey Swanson and children have since been welcomed as the new parsonage family of Stillwater Lutheran.

Larimore, N. Dak. — Mr. Brian Pearson is serving as seminary intern at Living Faith Lutheran this year. The Home Mission congregation has not had a resident pastor yet.

Dalton, Minn. — Sarpsborg Lutheran, which lost its church by fire earlier this year, is currently conducting its services in Zion Lutheran in Dalton. A decision about the future will be made later.

Kalispell, Mont. — Faith and Stillwater Lutheran Churches will hold a Family Camp at Big Sky Bible Camp, Aug. 22-24. Guest speaker will be Rev. Kenneth Moland, Kirkland, Wash.

Dickinson, N. Dak. — Luther Leaguers from Our Saviour's Lutheran made a trip to the Black Hills of South Dakota, July 31-Aug. 1. Among other things the group attended the Passion Play at Spearfish.

Tioga, N. Dak. — Zion Lutheran has a seminary intern this year. He is Mr. James Rasmussen.

NORTHWESTERN MINNESOTA LUTHER LEAGUE RALLY SET

The fall Luther League Rally for Northwestern Minnesota District will be held on Sat., Sept. 20, at Warroad Lutheran Church, Rev. Paul Nash, pastor.

Sessions will begin at 8:30 a.m., under the theme "All for Jesus."

Fergus Falls, Minn.

MUSICAL BLOSSOMS

The spring musical at Calvary-Stiklestad Free Lutheran Parish has "kind of gotten bigger than we ever expected," say its directors.

What was once a single performance of songs has turned into a choreographed musical performance at seven churches by 20 children.

"Calvary used to have an Easter program," director Judy Torkelson explained. "At one time, the Sunday School would just stand up there and sing. But Mary (Christenson) said, 'We can't do that anymore—we have to have them move around.'"

Christenson said she began introducing movement into the songs to prevent both the audience and the performers from getting bored.

Three years ago, the Kids Praise I

MUSICAL . . .

performed songs with "Salty the Singing Songbook," played by Roger Rollie. The next year was a similar performance with Rollie playing Salty II.

This year, Rollie is among the directors of "The Backyard Gang," which tells the story of neighborhood children who try to convince a mischievous boy to join their group and share their faith. It features songs like "Gettalong-ability," "He Cares About Me," and "I'll be a Child in His Kingdom, Praise Him."

Religious themes are interwoven into the music and skits for a message designed to reach all ages. It's a message, the directors say, that the parish uses for its main outreach work.

"We were only going to do it one time the first year, but someone asked if we'd do it at their church. And then another person would say, 'Won't you come and do it at our church' " Torkelson said.

Last year, the performances yielded about \$500 in free-will offerings. And the directors say the musicals have been beneficial in ways other than finances.

"We have seen a lot of growth in the kids," Torkelson said. "On Sunday mornings they get up and sing solos and duets — and feel comfortable doing it."

The performers range in age from 5 to 16 and volunteer for the parts and solos they want to have. Each child is given a tape of songs to prepare for the practices. They had 17 practices scheduled before the performances began April 13 at the Calvary Church.

The Rev. Rodger Olson introduces each performance. He is pastor of the Calvary Church in Fergus Falls and gives services at the Stiklestad Church, which is near Doran, when it is open during the summer. The Calvary-Stiklestad parish synod is a member of the Association of Free Lutheran Congregations.

Debbie Christenson, pianist for the musical, said that having several performances "makes all the work worthwhile." And working up enthusiasm for each performance never seems to be a problem.

"They're really a good group of kids — they're so willing," said director Luanne Rollie. "They really have the joy in their hearts."

—Fergus Falls, Minn. *Daily Journal*

THE LUTHERAN AMBASSADOR
3110 E. Medicine Lake Blvd.
Minneapolis, Minn. 55441

Second-class postage
paid at Wamamingo, Minn.



Stacy Christensen holds a bunny named "Frenchy" while Nick Bredeson, Erin Hegseth and Erin McCullum pet it during a scene in the musical.



Members of the Calvary-Stiklestad Lutheran Parish Praise Kids sang "Come on Over to My Own Backyard" at the close of a rehearsal for the musical.