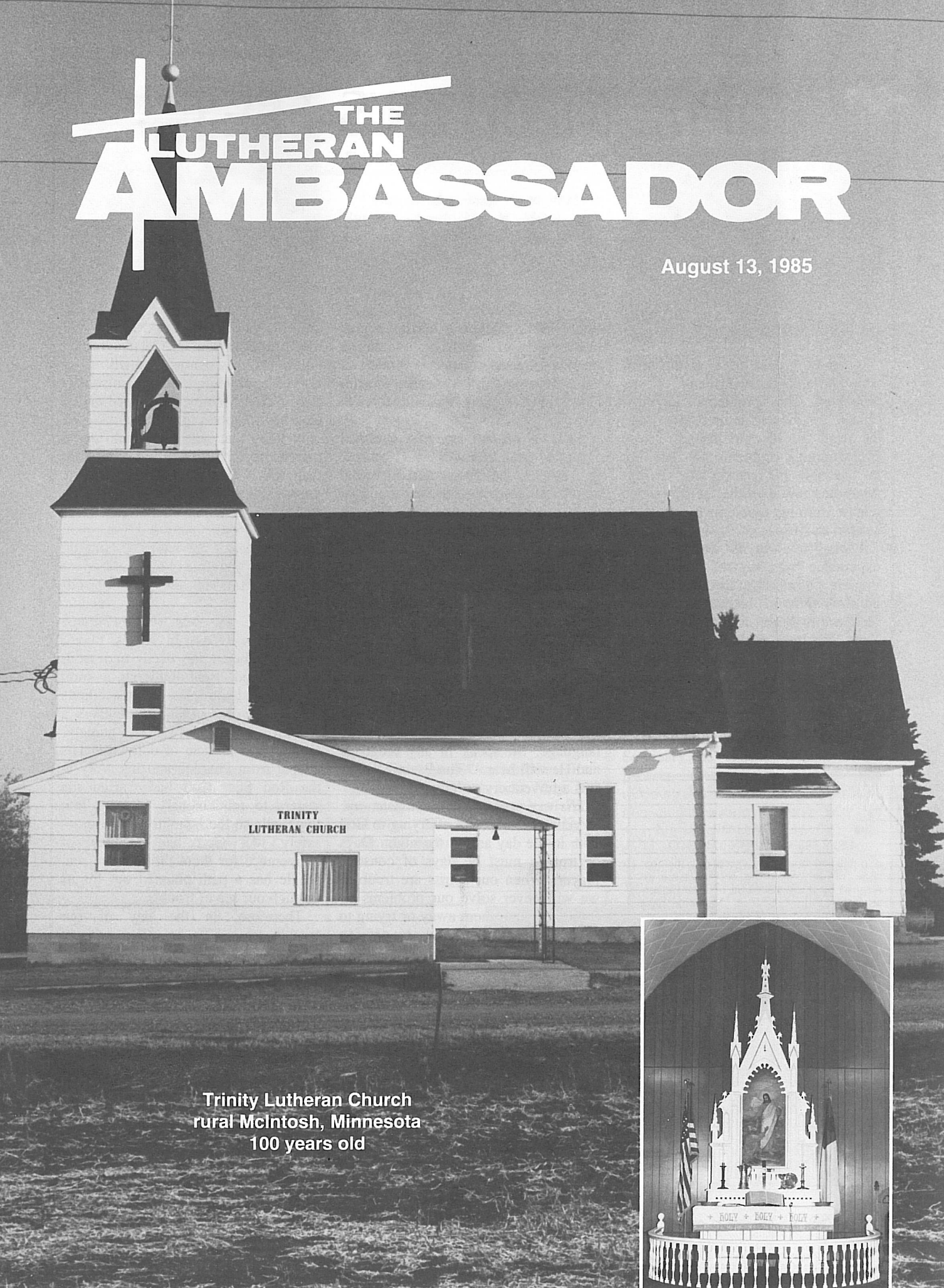


THE LUTHERAN AMBASSADOR

August 13, 1985



Trinity Lutheran Church
rural McIntosh, Minnesota
100 years old



at the MASTER'S FEET

In the day of my trouble

Psalm 77

Recently I read of a young man who had experienced many serious problems. His problems included cancer, a seriously injured knee, and the death of his girl friend. These overwhelming problems had led him to question his reason for living. According to the article, he had found release from his problems by going on a safari to Africa.

Facing troubles is not a unique experience for any of us in our imperfect world. Just as there are high and low tides in the oceans, so also there are high and low periods in our lives. We have periods when everything seems to be in our favor, but at other times everything seems to go wrong.

In Psalm 77, Asaph is pouring out his heart as he speaks of his great

trouble. Although this Psalm begins in the valley of trouble, it ends on the mountain of triumph. My prayer is that through this wonderful Psalm God will give encouragement to each of us.

First of all, we see the Psalmist crying to God. His was a fervent cry. In verse 1, he states that he cried aloud to God. Sometimes the soul feels compelled to use the voice in prayer. Fervent prayer can be uttered in any language. A little Chinese girl who lived in a mission school said to a missionary, "Do you think God understand Chinese?" The missionary replied, "Yes, why do you ask?" "Because," said the little girl, "sometimes when I feel sad, I like to pray to God in Chinese, and I wonder if He understands the same as English." Then the missionary stated, "Of course, God knows every language. So speak in any language and He will hear." The Psalmist's cry was a fervent cry as he cried aloud.

His cry was also a constant cry. In verse 2, he speaks of crying to God both in the day and in the night. Days of trouble must be days of constant prayer. When our spirits are troubled we will never solve our problems by trying to laugh them away or trying to drink them away, but only by praying them away in a constant cry to God.

Asaph's cry was also a sorrowful cry for, in verse 2, he says, "My soul refused to be comforted." He declined even those grounds of consolation which ought to have been effectual for him. But he did the right thing when he cried to God in the day of his trouble.

Secondly, we see the Psalmist questioning God, in verses 7-9. He

asked if God has rejected him "Will the Lord spurn forever?" Though man will reject his Creator, God will never reject His children. The Psalmist asks also if God's mercy has ceased and if God has forgotten to be gracious. The only thing that will keep back God's mercies is our unfaithfulness. Rather than ask, "Has God forgotten to be gracious?" we do well to ask ourselves, "Have we forgotten to be grateful?" Since God did not spare His own dear Son but gave Him up for us all, therefore we should never question Him in the day of our trouble.

Finally, we see the Psalmist remembering God. In verses 11-15, He remembered the deeds and wonders of God. Real faith has a good memory and can relate many accounts of past mercies. Asaph remembers a specific wonder of God, namely, God's great miracle of delivering His people from Pharaoh and his army at the Red Sea. God had caused the waters to miraculously pile up into two walls so the Israelites could cross safely. As God had a way of deliverance for them through the sea, so He has a path planned out for us through our sea of trouble.

Therefore, in the day of our trouble let us cry to God without questioning Him, but rather, by remembering His many mercies to us.



by Pastor
Einar Unseth

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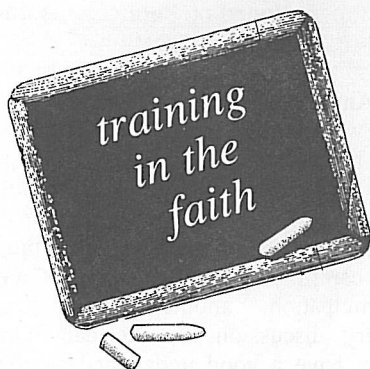
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Volume 23 Number 16



by Mrs. Kenneth (Barbara) Moland
member, Board of Publications and
Parish Education

The more one learns, the more one is aware of how little one knows and how much there is to learn. God's created world, God's humanity and God's great plan of redeeming humanity lies before us. He has given us minds to be curious, to investigate, to learn, to explore, to think and to grow within His total creation. A significant discovery in growing up years is to walk the aisles of a college library and begin to sense a bit of how small one is, yet feeling the excitement of the opportunity to get a glimpse of numerous areas of study. One realizes anew that there is so much more to learn; there always will be so much more to learn.

In contrast is the stagnant and dangerous state of mind that lacks motivation and has the air, "I have arrived," "I know it all," "What's in it for me anyway?" Such a one is often anxious to tell us of all his accomplishments and knowledge.

We, by God's grace, must provide opportunity to be challenged in training in the faith in our homes and in our churches. We need to see new horizons and new opportunities as we study God's Word and the principles of Scripture. Do our children sense, "I learned something new in Sunday School today?" Do adults see renewed necessity and opportunity to be in God's Word and live victorious Christian lives?

Public and private education is so very aggressive in our time. In school, most children are exposed ever increasingly to challenges to learn about and explore. Good educa-

We must be aggressive

tors in elementary schools try to give priority to a solid foundation in the basics and yet squeeze in exposure and experience in newly discovered areas. This awareness and knowledge will benefit a child as he lives in the adult world. Educators of older children vie for the student's time in a specific area of study and experience. Adults in the working world must exert great energies to stay abreast.

Then we come to church. We come to learn of "*the pearl of greatest price*" - the kingdom of heaven!

"And that from a child thou hast known the holy Scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus" (II Tim. 3:15). We must be aggressive in training in the faith. Young and old need to be challenged. We all need to realize anew again and again that there is so much to learn in God's Word and in the Christian life. "I have only begun."

By contrast, a ten-year-old child may come to Sunday School to sing only the same choruses he sang when he was three. He may read through his lesson and fill in the blanks and go home. No timely challenge is placed before him. What does this do to his mental picture of "*the pearl of the greatest price*," next to the challenges and opportunities before him in school and society? His Christian training is too easy for him. He has no assignment, no challenge. Christian training is set up before him as a lesser or secondary objective. In his mind it gradually moves down on his priority list. As he moves toward adulthood and he makes more choices and sets goals for himself, Christian growth is gradually pushed out of the picture. Unconfronted, he may not even realize what has happened. Amid all the challenging opportunities of work and society, and attractive entertainment, the seeking after "*the pearl of greatest price*" is a thing for little kids in early Sunday School years. It's "nice."

We must be aggressive and provide challenge in Christian educa-

tion. As Christ's church on earth we have great responsibility. In addition to the aim of "making thee wise unto salvation," we must always have the aim of Scripture before us, for us and our pupils, "Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you" (Matt. 28:19-20).

We err, however, if we strive to compete with society. We do not need to draw interest by finding every way to attract and entertain. We need to place the truths of Scripture before our people!

We sinful humans need to see God's power and wisdom next to our feeble attempts. We need to dig in God's Word for meat. Then we will see our unending need to learn and the unending reservoir of wisdom for now and eternity in God's Word. Teachers and students will always see new horizons.

But how can we provide challenge? How can we be aggressive as we train in the faith? Practically speaking, it seems we have many strikes against us in even getting people to church to receive a challenge. Our society is filled with people in whose lives any commitment to the church is far down on the priority list. The broken home may bring the Sunday School child at best to Sunday School every other Sunday. (He's with the other parent on the off Sunday. A midweek class may provide some solution.) Furthermore, with both parents working, the church is hard put to find anyone who will give adequate time to teaching preparation. Providing challenge requires time in God's Word. Creative teaching requires preparation. One must be willing to take time to learn to be creative. Everyone feels a pull on his time from many directions.

We must press on. We cannot wait for the ideal time. The Great Commission lies before us. As Christians, we must make seeking

AGGRESSIVE. . .

after "the pearl of greatest price" a priority. Then we will be available to teach with a challenge those whom we may have opportunity to teach. When we are convinced, we can, by God's grace, open new horizons for others.

One key hindrance to providing a challenge is teaching below the level of the older or more knowledgeable student in the class. Many of us in smaller churches teach with two or three grades in a class. Always gear your instruction to the upper level. The older or more knowledgeable children will be challenged and the younger ones will be in their usual setting of learning as much as they can in a situation and learning from older boys and girls. If greatest efforts are made to teach the younger children, the older ones will likely sooner or later drop out, mentally, and in heart, if not physically. There is not enough challenge. They find the class "too childish for me."

Challenge your students - children, teens or adults. In some situations, it may be wise to involve one in helping another on a suitable project. Both feel involved and learn well. In presenting a Bible Story, the story needs to come alive. Bible people were *real* people. Teacher, make the people real. A bit of drama and a visual pulled from a file in church or a drawer at home can help so much.

Make an assignment! One person could watch for an example in the newspaper this week. Organized and enthusiastic Bible memorization is always important. One could present a definition of a word next week. One week ask someone to study certain stanzas of an appropriate hymn the class is learning and present what he has found to the class. Ideas need not be sophisticated. Simply involve each student and challenge him.

Some have known a meaningful and life-shaping confirmation experience. Taking sermon notes can be helpful and a training in good disciplined listening. Do students need a simple report card signed by parents for weekly memorization? Short and / or longer and frequent papers assigned in answer to a

thought-provoking question are valuable at this age level. (As students are challenged to write in school, so they need to be in confirmation!). A chart could be passed out to encourage daily personal Bible reading.

Often we ask, what about the student who is very irregular, does not have Christian training at home, and has not parental support? Yes, we want to love, help and encourage him in any and every way we can. They, too, must come to know Christ as Savior and friend. However, as we meet this student's needs and challenge him, *we cannot afford to lower our teaching standards and level of challenge.* We may lose our leaders in the church for today and tomorrow. The less fortunate child can fit in and see his need to strive and learn as he finds success within his ability and the other students are encouraged to draw him ahead and help him. He is now likely to see his need for regular attendance and growth.

Let us consider our curriculum. Is it challenging? Does it provide a solid Scriptural base for the teacher to work from? Does it include, as an integral part, the very basic and unique teachings of evangelical, traditional, conservative Lutheranism? The Lutheran Church has been a teaching church. A firm foundation in Lutheranism with an emphasis on sin and grace and nurturing in the faith must be built from early years. Confirmation age or Bible school is too late to begin.

An interesting comparison is made between curriculum now used in our churches and materials printed by Augsburg Publishing House and used by Lutheran Free Churches, and others, in the 1930s-50s. A beautifully thorough and chronological Bible story was covered in kindergarten, accompanied by worship suggestions, a hymn guide, thorough questions, a guide to application and a simple handwork suggestion. In earlier years, color was very limited and helps were simple. The content, however, was very thorough and would surely be challenging, when properly taught. Grade 2 included a lesson on Baptism and explained that at that time I became God's child. I did not want to serve the devil. By grade 3 the entire Catechism was

by Dr. Mary Lindquist,
member, Board of Publications and
Parish Education

Any Sunday School class, with its wide variety of learners, presents an educational challenge. One pupil has a rich background of Bible knowledge, another a meager grasp of even basic Christian truth. One must be carefully drawn out to elicit any participation, another monopolizes every discussion that he can. One may have a good understanding, but have difficulty reading and writing; another may have difficulty with both. One pupil is constantly on the move and needs to be actively involved with his hands or even his whole body, so that his attention may be held and the truths may become real to this heart. Sometimes even the age range in the class spans several years.

How can the teacher reach such a diverse group? How can he challenge and feed the advanced student who needs to learn that God's Word has sufficient depth for the ablest learner, and in the same lesson lead the slower learner to understanding and mastery of the Gospel truths necessary for personal faith and Christian maturity?

Various methods are useful for individualized teaching. One approach works toward individualized objectives, using common activities. Example: Certain concepts will be considered essential learning for all pupils and will be taught to mastery, whereas other concepts will be considered enrichment for those who can grasp them. Another approach works toward the same objectives for all pupils, but varies means according to

covered during the year: the Ten Commandments, The Creed, The Lord's Prayer, Sacrament of Baptism and Sacrament of the Altar. All studies were accompanied by Bible accounts, questions to search out answers for in the Bible, memory work, including the meaning of the Commandments. Daily life stories of application were included. A hymn stanza from the *Concordia* and other hymnals then in use was included to accompany every lesson. The "meat" and thoroughness of Grade 3 curricu-

to the students' learning characteristics. Some educational research has demonstrated that almost all pupils can learn age-appropriate but even difficult concepts provided that a variety of learning activities are used and vocabulary is simplified. Or both objectives and activities may be varied. Whichever approach is used, teaching is still carried out in groups. The following paragraphs suggest only a few techniques and principles.

1. In preparing the lesson, decide what you want your pupils to learn. Then express the objectives as outcomes. Example: The student will state a definition of repentance and give a practical example.

2. Divide suggested activities into two or three groups of alternative assignments, from essential to enrichment activities. Example: Advanced students answer thought questions, solve problems or locate additional Scriptural material while other groups answer questions or complete projects with teacher help.

3. At times divide the class into study groups of two or three pupils

each (one advanced, one average and one slower learner) who will complete assignments as a group. With this arrangement the advanced and average pupils tend to teach the slower ones and all profit.

4. Identify important vocabulary within the lesson and pre-teach it. Teach abstract concepts in terms of concrete illustrations. Example: Explain each part of the catechism lesson by what it means in concrete terms. Relate new concepts to those the students have previously mastered and that are relevant to their lives. Question individual pupils to ensure that they have attained sufficient understanding of these concepts. As you teach, question frequently to test understanding and adapt your vocabulary and sentence complexity to the developmental level of the pupils. Remember that most children are not ready to think in abstractions until adolescence. To challenge advanced

pupils, include some difficult vocabulary, but then restate the idea using words all the pupils understand.

5. After vocabulary has been taught and the purpose established, teach the lesson as planned. Afterward check for individual students' attainment of the objectives.

6. Pupils who demonstrate understanding can then work on enrichment activities. Some pupils might enjoy keeping a notebook or doing other writing activities. Examples: favorite Bible verses, summaries of lessons, answers to thought questions, solutions to problems, completions of unfinished stories. Others might prefer making drawings to express concepts learned. Still others might dictate their ideas to someone who will write them for them.

7. Pupils who have not mastered the objective can then be taught with

they can all learn



lum was truly commendable. As the grade level went up, more depth and challenges were provided, building on this foundation. By confirmation age, a student could have a sound doctrinal base (Baptism, awareness of sin, conversion, recommitment) that balances sin and grace, a wealth of Bible knowledge, and training in daily life application. Does the curriculum your church is using provide as much?

With a solid base a student is prepared to be challenged in con-

firmation classes in ways that are on the academic level of his present schooling in other areas of study. He can be guided even toward adult thinking and be prepared to grow daily and serve in his congregation as he moves through high school. Can his confirmation training be rightly simplified and second-rate because he is busy in school and can handle no more? Is that the priority picture to put before our young adults? We will lose extremely valuable years of

Christian training and perhaps lose a soul in the kingdom.

Let us set the priority high as we seek after "the pearl of greatest price." Let us, in God's strength and by His grace, aggressively challenge our people in the training in the faith. We can together be "wise unto salvation through faith in Jesus Christ" and "go (ye) therefore, and teach all nations."

Evangelist Pentti goes to be with the Lord

Rev. Kenneth Pentti, Evangelist-Youth Worker of the AFLC, went to be with the Lord on Wed., July 24. He was suffering from lymphoma, a form of cancer. He was 44 years old. His funeral was held in Ishpeming, Mich., on July 27. A complete obituary will be carried next time. Our prayers are with his wife, children and his mother.

ALL LEARN . . .

the objective can then be taught with a technique known as mastery learning. Select the essential concepts and truths that are not yet mastered and teach them, about four at a time, until all students show mastery. Demonstrate first, then prompt during practice until students recite without hesitancy or prompting.

8. Review frequently, during the lesson, at the end, at the beginning of the next lesson, and as often as necessary to ensure retention. Since forgetting is greatest right after learning, concentrate most of the review during that time. Pace practice and review activities at a rapid rate to allow for many student responses. Use unison responding for memory work, definitions and other verbatim learnings.

9. In practicing memory work, read through the entire verse several times with the pupils so that they see it as a whole, then teach meanings of difficult words. For practice, "chunk" the verse into the shortest meaningful segments and master them one at a time. When two segments have been mastered, put the two together. Students who memorize rapidly might be challenged to memorize longer passages.

In these and other ways, your class can be taught so that about 90% of the pupils can master all the essentials and rapid learners can be challenged.



District officers participating in the Memorial Service.

WMF Annual Convention report

One hundred ninety-two ladies registered at the Association Retreat Center June 12th for the 23rd Annual Convention of the Women's Missionary Federation of the Association of Free Lutheran Congregations.

Mrs. Clarence Quanbeck of McVille, North Dakota, led the prayer service in preparation for a good day of spiritual blessings, fellowship, some business, and opportunities to give of our material means to our AFLC mission projects.

Mrs. John Mundfrom of Eben Junction, Michigan, led us in an inspiring hymn sing: "Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise," and other solid hymns of praise.

The Bible study by Mrs. Alvin Grothe of Astoria, Oregon, was centered on our theme, "Look Unto Me . . . for I am Thy God." She encouraged us to look unto God for salvation, for service, and for solace.

In conducting the Memorial Service, Mrs. Ray Jacobson of Wadena, Minnesota, encouraged us to appreciate what the women of our church do for us.

The afternoon service special presentation was by the Charles Knapp family who recently returned from the mission field in Paraguay. They spoke, played their Paraguayan harps, and sang.

Special musical numbers were brought by Mrs. Terry Olson of Fargo, North Dakota, by Mrs. John Mundfrom of Grand Forks, North Dakota, and by Pastor and Mrs. Bruce Dalager of Grand Forks. Mrs. Lucy Boyum of Kenyon, Minnesota, served as organist.

The devotions at the three sessions were by Mrs. Henry Johansen of Willmar, Minnesota, Mrs. Daniel Giles of Leon, Mexico, and Mrs. Donald Greven of Minneapolis,



Mrs. Dan Giles, Leon, Mexico



Mrs. Charles Knapp, Karlstad, Minn.



WMF ladies assisting during a coffee break, were: Mrs. Lee Quanbeck, McVile, N. Dak.; Mrs. Art Arneson, Spicer, Minn.; Mrs. Dale Quanbeck and Mrs. Albin Haugen, also of McVile.

Pastor Charles Knapp of Karlstad, Minnesota, challenged the audience at our Thursday evening meeting with the message "Arise and Go," even as Jonah was commanded to go to Nineveh. Pastor Knapp stressed the need to be faithful and leave the results with God.

The election of officers gave us one change in the present slate of officers. Mrs. Wendell Johnson of Stacy, Minnesota, is our new president. How thankful we all are for the excellent leadership of Mrs. Grace Syverson of Tioga, North Dakota, who served as president for four years.

We thank God for the wonderful convention. Also, we thank all the ladies who were used by God to prepare and participate so that all are blessed.

Respectfully submitted,
Esther Larson, Secretary



Mrs. James Fugleberg and 3 week old daughter, Ontonagon, Mich.

Photos by S. Hjermstad

Amery Free Lutheran ladies at the registration table.



We are more concerned about movement than we are about direction.

J. H. Jowett

Home Mission congregation building in Lakeville, Minn.

Work on the church building of Minnesota Valley Lutheran Congregation is well along and the congregation hopes to begin using its church by the end of this month.

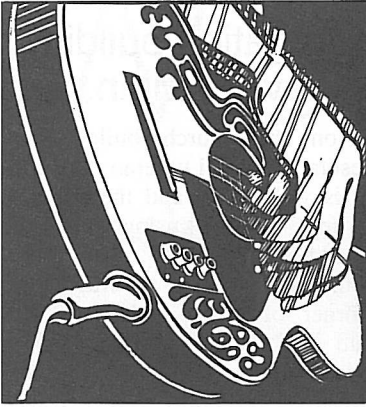
Ground was broken on May 5 at the corner of 160th and Highview Avenue in Lakeville, Minn. (16975 Highview Ave.). Excavation started that week. A big boost to the project came when many volunteers from throughout the AFLC came to aid in the construction June 10-12.

Officers of the congregation are Joe Oistad, chairman, Mario Hernandez, vice-chairman, Kathy Osthus, secretary, Stella Olson, treasurer, and Ray Bester, Wayne Hanson and Jeff Oisted, deacons. Members of the building committee are Roger Hoikkala, Eric Strand, Ellsworth Senum and Joel Oistad.

Minnesota Valley Lutheran was organized in February, 1981, and first met for services at Howard Johnson's restaurant in Burnsville. Since then they have met at Cedar Park Elementary in Apple Valley. Richard Anderson is the pastor.



Rev. Richard Anderson turns a shovelful as, left to right, Ellsworth Senum, Mario Hernandez and Roger Hoikkala look on.



NO OTHER GODS BEFORE ME

The August morning sun was casting rays through the kitchen window and I could tell it was going to be another hot day.

The telephone rang and my granddaughter Stacy asked, "Will you take me to town so that I can buy my school supplies?" Then she added, "May Lucy and Wendy go, too?" "Of course, Stacy: I had forgotten they were visiting you on the farm."

Driving out to the farm from the lake I thought how fast time flies. Here my three granddaughters were all pre-teens; Stacy was twelve, Lucy ten, and Wendy eight. A whole new life was reaching out to them. Would they be ready to cope with it, or would they be swallowed up with the world?

After picking up the girls, the usual laughing and talking filled the car as we rode along. But occasionally I'd hear, "Michael Jackson." So I listened more carefully. "Look, Stacy," said Lucy, "Mom bought me a Michael Jackson necklace. What did your mom buy for you?" "Yes, my Mom bought me a Michael Jackson ring. Stacy, what did your Mom buy for you?" asked Wendy.

Stacy, obviously embarrassed, said, "Nothing, I'm not really into Michael Jackson. I do have some stickers I traded with a girl at school. I may look for something if I have any money left after I get my school supplies."

Lucy and Wendy looked at each other and shook their heads in disbelief. "You mean you don't even have a record, cassette, poster, pictures or anything of Michael Jackson? We all think he's great. . . his singing and the way he wears the

glove." So Stacy shrugged her shoulders and repeated that if she had any money left, she might buy something.

As I listened, I held my breath. I wanted to stop the car and tell the girls my thoughts about this so-called Michael Jackson. But instead I breathed a prayer that an opening would come for me at the proper time.

Shopping was finished, and we were on our way home when again I heard, "Did you buy anything about Michael Jackson?" Stacy answered slowly and deliberately, "I found some more stickers to trade, and that's good enough for me." The other girls were disappointed for they had anticipated a new record to be played on Stacy's record player.

Miles were speeding by fast, and I still didn't know how to tell the girls about their idol without sounding "grandmotherish." Then I thought, of course, the radio! I always had it turned to KFNW, a Christian station, whenever I was driving the car. As an answer to prayer I heard the sweet sounds of "Jesus is all the world to me; my hope, my joy, my all." The girls quieted down and listened.

When it was over, I said, "Girls, you've been talking all day about your idol, Michael Jackson. What could he do for you? He is someone who is very well known to some people today and merchants are making money selling all kinds of souvenirs about him. This will all pass. But the song you just listened to is real. Jesus is all the world. He's always there loving and caring for you."

Lucy spoke up, "I know, Grandma, that reminds me of the first

commandment: 'Thou shalt have no other gods before Me' . . . and we act like Michael Jackson is our god. We didn't mean to, but we didn't understand."

"Thank you, Lucy," I said. "I'm sorry to disappoint you girls, but you should remember the devil is always ready to tempt you in thought and deed. But God is also there to watch over us if we ask Him. Throughout the day, let's turn to Him for guidance, as He is our best friend. Let's strive to please Him in all we think and say and do." The girls nodded.

Arriving at the farm, the girls unloaded their shopping bags and waved a cheery good-bye, saying, "We had a good time. Thank you, Grandma; we enjoyed every minute."

I breathed a sigh of relief. What if I hadn't turned on the radio and talked to the girls heart-to-heart! We adults have a responsibility to keep close watch over those we love.

Mrs. Arnold McCarlson

AFLBS announces new faculty, staff

There will be several new faces among the faculty and staff this fall. The Board has chosen to hire two part-time men in our music department for this coming year. Mr. Dan Oie will be directing the choir. Over the past several years Mr. Oie has been active in the Lutheran church as a choir director, organist, music teacher in a Christian school, and director of several Gospel teams. He has a Master of Fine Arts degree from the University of Minnesota. Mr. Tom Olson, a middler in our seminary, will be directing the Choral Club. Tom also has a degree in Music Education and much experience in both instrumental and choral music in the church. We believe our students will gain much in this vital area as we seek to maintain a standard of music that brings honor to our Lord.

Mr. Ralph Beyer will be our new Resident Head in the Men's dorm. He and his wife Irene have been a part of our AFLC for many years, most recently serving the Lord at our

(continued on page 16)

editorials

YIELDING THE FLOOR

In the two issues previous to this one we have had to beg the reader's indulgence because there hasn't been room to accommodate the material at hand. And with another issue to be missed next time (no August 27 issue), we are trying to make every inch count this time.

And one way of doing that is by cutting the editorial way down. Just this time, mind you. More space is being given to other material which has accumulated.

An emphasis today is Parish Education. We trust that

you will read carefully what is presented, page 3 and following. The educational ministry of our congregation is so important.

It is summertime now. Here at Newfolden trees and flowers are in all their glory. Gardens and, we trust, the fields, will yield an abundant harvest. Not all areas of our church are so fortunate, we know. Drought and grasshoppers are problems. Amid summer's beauty in northern Minnesota, we are beset by a bountiful crop of mosquitoes to keep us from being too elated. And they, too, shall pass.

When we next meet, the Lord willing, it will be September. But for now also, make the most of these summer days. God bless you all.

world missions

"ENQUANTO HA VIDA HA ESPERANCA"

With great anticipation the people of Brazil waited the arrival of March 15th. On this day Dr. Tancredo Neves (75) would be sworn in as a civilian president, ending more than 20 years of military rule. It was the beginning of the "Nova Republica" (New Republic)! However, eight hours before this big event, Tancredo was taken to the hospital for emergency surgery due to an inflammation of the intestinal tract. Complications developed and he was flown to Sao Paulo, the medical center of the country. Days turned into weeks with good news and bad news. Asked what his chances for recovery were, a common reply was, "Enquanto ha vida, ha esperanca" (While there is life, there is hope).

After enduring seven operations in 38 days, with the best of medical care, Tancredo died on Sunday, April 21. The nation mourns and the future seems clouded without the leadership of this talented and charismatic man.

"While there is life, there is hope" keeps coming back to me. Mankind is terminally ill. Sin attacks his environment, his body and his soul. The best specialists have been called upon to ease the pain and remove the illness, but the infection remains. Sociologists, politicians and

liberation theologians are helpless and can only treat the symptoms. But while there is life, there is hope.

Christ is the "Great Physician." Only He can save mankind from this terminal condition. The remedy of His shed blood which cures the disease of sin needs to be accepted and applied now! After death there is no hope, only judgement.

Tancredo's family and medical team of 21 specialists spared no expense in the effort to save him. And we? Is our time too valuable to share with someone the Good News of spiritual healing? Do we hold back

our funds because we feel that they are better spent on ourselves or in our community than in reaching those in other lands who have little opportunity to hear? The Lord says His Spirit will not always strive with man (Genesis 6:3). Time is running out!

Dear Lord, help me to see that while there is life, there is hope. May I do all in my power to transmit the remedy of eternal life in Jesus to a terminally ill world, so that they might be cured and become members not just of the "New Republic," but of the kingdom of God. Amen.

Missionary David H. Abel
Vitoria, Brazil



A children's retreat at Vitoria, Espirito Santo, Brazil

Miracles do happen!

Ours was a family that had captured the American dream of being socially accepted, financially secure and goal-achieving. Ours was also a family in marital conflict because of selfish ideals and personal insecurities.

After 12 years of marriage and with three children, my husband Steven and I found ourselves disillusioned with marriage and separated. We had spent many months in counseling, but the reasons to remain married seemed vague and unacceptable. This separation was out of the ordinary, as I was the partner to move while the children remained in the home setting with their father. During this time I moved to another state and began a new, exciting career. Every two weeks I visited the children, but instead of talk about reconciliation, my husband and I spoke of financial settlements and visitation rights.

These were difficult and soul-searching months for Steven. Friends offered sympathy and advice and he found many diversions but nothing satisfied for long. Finally, God used a Christian friend to minister and lead Steven to Christ. He then began attending a strong Bible-believing church, entered into the study of the Word, became faithful in prayer and realized that he must cancel his petition for divorce. I began to hear and see a change in my husband. I was not pleased, however, that he was delaying what seemed to me our inevitable divorce. I intended to proceed with it.

God again intervened and just over nine months after we separated, I suddenly and strangely felt compelled to return home and reunite with my family. I requested a transfer and moved home within a week, humbled, yet unable to comprehend my actions. After returning home, I continued as a career woman, but I also joined the family during devotions, at church

services and Sunday School. As a family we participated in Christian fellowship at every opportunity. I soon found myself acting on faith as the truths of Scripture became clear to me.

Later that summer we spent a week at Family Bible Camp where I accepted Jesus as my personal Savior. Then, with school's opening only two weeks away, we enrolled the children at a nearby Christian academy so they could become grounded in Scripture also. Shortly after school began, I decided, with prayerful consideration and my husband's support, to become a full-time homemaker once again.

Both Steven and I now understand what the word "commitment" means -- in marriage, as a family and, most of all, to Jesus Christ. We have found hope, forgiveness and the joy of selflessness. Yes, we do believe in miracles! Our marriage and family unit was saved because we turned our lives over to Jesus Christ. Ours is now a household of faith and as children of God we rely on His Word to guide us. Our Creator does have a plan for living and He is helping us see ourselves through the light of His Word.

Mrs. Jean E. Wanless
Amery, Wis.

Women's Missionary Federation

In memoriam gifts

Goldie Everson, Colfax, Wis.
Reider Pederson, Faith, S. Dak.
Mollie L. Kerley,
Minneapolis, Minn.
Lydia Stortro, Everett, Wash.
Lillian Forsberg, Everett, Wash.
Winnie Forsberg, Everett, Wash.
Mabel Gravgard, Tioga, N. Dak.
Vera Sonstebo, Wallace, S. Dak.
Gudrun Kelstrup, Ferndale, Wash.

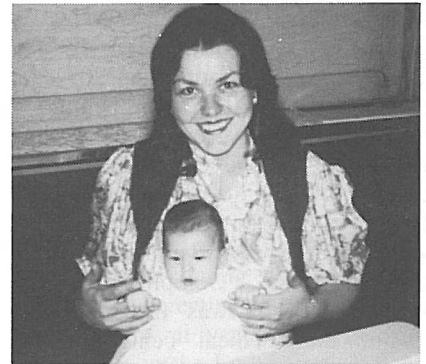
*Blessed are
those who die
in the Lord*



Women's Retreat at the ARC, Sept. 13, 14

Contact: Mrs. Reuben Emberson
117 Erickson Rd.
Esko, Minn. 55733

Sedan, Minn.

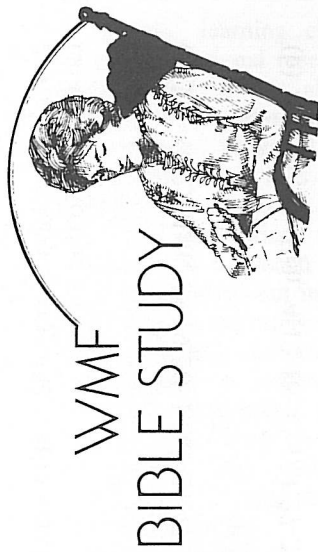


Scandia Lutheran Cradle Roll honored Mary Beth Ward, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Kyle Ward.

Greenbush, Minn.



United Free Lutheran has honored Mrs. Burton Rygh, Lola McFarlane, Louise Schaller and Bernice Brandvold.



A CLOSER WALK WITH JESUS

LESSON NINE--A WALK OF CONSECRATED SERVICE

This is the time of the year when vacations are usually over, school begins and activities in our churches are back on regular schedule. Our walk with the Lord should be one of service to Him at all times. Have you been asked or have you volunteered (Acts 9:6) to serve the Lord, perhaps in the Sunday School, with the Luther League, your WMF or in some other way? In I Chron. 29:5, this question is asked: "Who then is willing to consecrate his service this day unto the Lord?" Are you? It is a joy and privilege to serve Him. We should *want* to serve Him because we love Him. He has done so much for us. "What shall I render unto the Lord for all His benefits toward me?" (Ps. 116:12). We must first accept His salvation. We are saved through faith in Jesus, "not of works, lest any man should boast" (Eph. 2:8-10, Titus 3:5). Then we, out of gratitude for such a great salvation, will give ourselves in loving service to Him (II Tim. 1:9).

1. What are we to give first of all to Him? II Cor. 8:5, Rom. 12:1,2 —

(a) Rom. 6:13, 19-23 _____

(b) Matt. 6:24; Josh. 24:15 _____

9. In the following verses, how are we to serve the Lord? Serve the Lord: _____

(a) Ps. 100:2; Col. 3:16,17 _____

(b) Heb. 12:28b; 13:21 _____

(c) Rom. 12:11; I Cor. 15:58 _____

(d) I Chron. 28:9; Acts 20:19; Jn. 13:5,15 _____

10. What work will be lasting, abiding? I Cor. 3:11,15 _____

How will we be rewarded? I Cor. 3:8, Rev. 22:12 _____

"Only one life, 'twill soon be past, only what's done for Christ will last."

May each of us deny ourselves and take up our cross daily and follow Jesus (Lk. 9:23) and be willing to be involved in this great privilege of being His servant. The Christian life is to be a life of active service for our wonderful Lord.

Suggested Song:

"Hark, the Voice of Jesus Calling" (*Concordia*, No. 384)

2. As we are laborers together with God (I Cor. 3:9a), what is the work He wants us to do?

(a) Lk. 10:2; Matt. 28:19, 20; Luke 24:47 _____

(b) Acts 20:28; Eph. 4:12-16; Col. 1:27-29 _____

3. In whose strength, power and wisdom do we serve Him? Matt. 28:18; Acts 1:8; II Cor. 9:8; II Tim. 2:15 _____

4. What should motivate us to service? II Cor. 5:10, 11, 14a; II Pet. 3:9- _____

5. What are some wrong motives we may have in serving the Lord? Eph. 2:8, 9; Gal. 5:26, 6:14 _____

6. The Lord has given to the Church (to each of us) different gifts and talents to be used in His service, to win souls to Him, for the edifying (building up) of the body of Christ, and to glorify Him. Read Rom. 12:5-8; Eph. 4:7, 11-16; I Pet. 4:10, 11. List some gifts and abilities mentioned in these verses (list others you can think of, too) which the Lord uses in His Church. _____

Allow God to use the gifts and abilities He has given you; don't neglect them (I Tim. 4:14).

7. Is there any service too small if done in Jesus' name and for His sake? Mk. 9:41 _____

8. What are some ways we as Christian women can serve the Lord? Gal. 6:9, 10; I Tim. 2:9, 10; 5:10 _____

(a) Acts 1:8 _____

(b) Lk. 2:37; Col. 4:12 _____

(c) Rom. 12:13b; Matt. 25:34-40 _____

(d) II Cor. 1:3, 4; I Thess. 5:11-14 _____

(e) Rom. 12:13a; Acts 10:36-40 _____



Mrs. Roy Mohagen, Grafton, N. Dak., left, Mrs. Sheldon Mortrud, Fargo, N. Dak., and Mrs. Gunhild Selmanson, Thief River Falls, Minn., were the cooks.



Part of the younger generation at camp.

Photos by
R. Huglen

Lake Bronson Family Camp

This year's Family Camp at Galilee Lutheran Bible Camp, Lake Bronson, Minn., was different in that there was a father and son team on the faculty. Rev. Herbert Franz, Cloquet, Minn., the father, was the evening speaker, and Rev. Peter Franz, Minot, N. Dak., was the adult Bible teacher.

The camp was held July 8-14 with a registration of about 180 persons, slightly higher than last year. A full report will be given later. Beautiful weather favored the camp week.

In the evening service on Monday night, Pastor Herbert Franz, who is also the regular speaker on the Lutheran Ambassador radio broadcast, laid the ground work for his series of messages when he stressed the importance and power of the Word of God. Perhaps as much as anything, he drove home the point that neglect of the Word is as serious as outright rejection of it. Both have the same end result, he said, eternity in hell. Pastor Franz called upon his audience to hear the Word, read the Word, memorize the Word, and meditate on the Word.

Among his other sermons were one on the rich man and Lazarus and two on heaven and how to get there.

Pastor Herbert Franz is also serving as evening speaker at the Family Camp at the Association

Retreat Center, Osceola, Wis., this week.

Pastor Peter Franz used five topics to fill out the theme of the camp week, "In Times Like These," in his studies. With the texts taken from II Timothy, the topics were: 1) to be faithful, chap.1,2) to make disciples, 2:1-13 3) purity, 2:14-26; 4) the Bible, 3:1-4:5 and 5) encouragement, 4:6-22.

Rev. Elden Nelson, executive director of AFLC Home Missions, and Rev. Charles Knapp, Karlstad, Minn., former missionary to Paraguay, led the mission hours.

The youth Bible teacher was Rev. Lyndon Korhonen, Culbertson, Mont., while Miss Judith Wold, Thief River Falls, Minn., taught the children. Mrs. Martin Johnson, Badger,

Minn., directed the camp choir.

On Sunday morning, last day of camp, Lay Pastor Burton Rygh of Greenbush, Minn., spoke at the service of Holy Communion, while Lay Pastor J. A. Grimstad, Thief River Falls, preached at the morning worship.

A love offering for Evangelist and Mrs. Kenneth Pentti, Ishpeming, Mich., who are experiencing health problems, was received at the close of the Thursday night service.

Family Camp also provided times for sharing testimonies of the Lord's work in lives and congregations.

Rev. Leslie Galland, Thief River Falls, was camp dean and Sheldon Mortrud, Fargo, N. Dak., was manager.

Personalities

Lay Pastor Roger Krueger, who served Calvary Lutheran Church in Fergus Falls, Minn., for three years, completed his ministry there at the end of June. His future plans are not known at this time.

Services now held in Cokato

Association-sponsored worship services were to begin in Cokato, Minn., the first Sunday in August. People interested in such a worship opportunity should watch for area announcements.

In memoriam

Key: The name of the town is 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.

ILLINOIS

DeKalb

Ruth M. Lenke, June 10, Grace

Marvin A. Finnestad, July 5, Grace

Correction

In the July 16 issue of the *Ambassador* the lady pictured on page 3 as a member of Committee No. 4 in the recent Annual Conference is Mrs. Orville Myron, not Mrs. Orville Moen. She is from our congregation in Tucson, Ariz. Our apologies, Iris.

Why Confirmation?

by Pastor Peter Franz
Minot, N. Dak.

Introduction

What is confirmation? Why do we have it in the Lutheran Church? What is the purpose of it?

These are questions that perhaps all of us have asked at one time or another. And they are good questions.

While it is true that confirmation is not commanded in Scripture, we do feel it is a worthwhile part of the ministry of the congregation.

In this brief study we want to approach the subject of confirmation in two ways. First of all, we want to look at what confirmation *is not*. And secondly, we want to look at what confirmation *is*. Hopefully, this will give us a little bit better understanding of what confirmation is all about.

I. What confirmation is not.

A. Confirmation is *not* a sacrament.

Confirmation began in the Roman Catholic Church in the third or fourth century, from what we can gather. Back then, as now, the Roman Catholic Church viewed confirmation as a sacrament.

But in order for something to be a sacrament it must have three distinguishing marks. (1) It must be commanded by God. (2) It must have visible elements connected with it. (3) It must have an attached promise of grace with it. Confirmation has none of these marks.

1. What does this tell us about those who believe they will go to heaven just because they have been confirmed? Will they?
2. What does the Bible say is necessary to enter heaven?
John 3:16
Ephesians 2:8-9

B. Confirmation is *not* a substitute for spiritual training in the home.

Sometimes parents are guilty of looking at confirmation and Sunday School as substitutes for spiritual teaching in the home. They feel they have done their "duty" before God if they send their children to Sunday School and see to it that they are confirmed.

But what does the Bible say about the importance of spiritual training in the home? (Read Deuteronomy 6:1-9.)

1. What do these verses tell us about the spiritual training of children? Is it the parent's responsibility or the church's?
2. Why are parents to teach their children the Word of God in the home? (v. 2-3)
3. How often should this teaching take place? (v. 7)
4. What can happen if parents neglect the spiritual training of their children in the home?

C. Confirmation is *not* graduation from the church.

Many people seem to think confirmation means you have graduated from the church because once confirmation Sunday has passed you never see them again. But rather than graduation, confirmation is only the beginning of what ought to be a lifelong relationship to the congregation.

1. What does Hebrews 10:25 say about the idea that confirmation is graduation from the church?
2. What should be our attitude toward the congregation:
 - a. According to Jesus? (Luke 4:16)
 - b. According to the Apostle Paul? (Acts 17:2)
 - c. According to the Christians in the first century church? (Acts 2:46)

II. What confirmation is.

A. Confirmation is an opportunity to study the Word of God.

Instruction in the Bible was Luther's main contribution to the whole area of confirmation. Prior to Luther's time little, if any, instruction was given prior to the confirmation service.

1. Why do we need to be instructed in the Word of God?
II Timothy 3:15-17
I Peter 1:23
Psalm 119:9-11
2. What should be our attitude toward the instruction we receive from God's Word in confirmation?
I Peter 2:2
Job 23:12
Psalm 119:97

B. Confirmation is an opportunity to publicly confess Christ as our Savior.

1. Is it important to confess our faith in Christ openly? If so, why?
Romans 10:9-10
I John 2:23
I John 4:15
II Corinthians 4:13
2. What does the Bible say about those who will not confess Christ as Savior?
Matthew 10:32-33
Luke 12:8-9

C. Confirmation is an opportunity to vow our lives in service to the Lord and His Church.

1. What are some examples of vows made by people in the Bible?
Genesis 28:20-22
Judges 11:30-31
2. How does God view the vows we make on confirmation Sunday? Does He expect us to keep those vows?
Numbers 30:2
Deuteronomy 23:21
Ecclesiastes 5:4
3. Should we vow to God, such as we do on confirmation Sunday, if we don't mean it?
Ecclesiastes 5:5



Received in membership in Faith Lutheran Church of Running Valley, Colfax, Wis., last spring were Mr. and Mrs. Gregory Plantz, Nora Mae, Bridget and Darren, shown with Pastor Hubert DeBoer.

Willmar, Minn.



In the picture, Pastor Johansen, back row, left, is shown with the new members.

Rev. Henry Johansen was installed as pastor of Zion Lutheran Church of Willmar, Minn., on April 14th by Rev. Elden Nelson, Home Mission Director of the AFLC. Mr.

news of the churches

Fertile, Minn.

"Ona Broden Day" was held on Sunday, April 28, at Maple Bay Lutheran Church, rural Fertile, Minn., in appreciation of Ona's many years of service to church and community.

Ona has played the organ at Maple Bay intermittently since she was 12 years old and was for many years the only organist.

She was superintendent of the Sunday School, as well as teacher there and in Vacation Bible School. She taught 22 years of released time classes. Ona has been active in the Ladies Aid and has served as an officer in all capacities.

She received several gifts on her



special day. Among the guests present for the day was Mrs. Bernice Nyhus, Cumberland, Wis., widow of former pastor Horace Nyhus.

Danny Skanson, president of the congregation, is shown presenting Ona with a plaque. Rev. Roy Johnson is the pastor at Maple Bay.

Byron Klemmetsen, chairman of the congregation, presided at the afternoon service. Remarks were given by Leif Fostervold and Roger Rasmussen, and special music was by Lee and Esther Floren, and the Ladies Chorus. New members welcomed at the morning service were Mr. and Mrs. Carl Kjos and Mr. and Mrs. Gerald Swanson and their children Keir and Chimene.

A Graduation-Confirmation Recognition Dinner was held May 19th honoring nine young people of Zion. The film "The Greatest Story Never Told" was shown.

There will be no issue of the Ambassador on August 27. According to our policy the second issue in August is omitted each year. Your next Ambassador will be dated September 10.

Dan Giles ordained

Dan Giles, recent graduate of Association Free Lutheran Theological Seminary, is shown here with his parents, Pastor and Mrs. Robert Giles of South Africa, following his ordination on June 16 at Osceola, Wis. He and his wife Debbie and their two children are now living in Leon, Mexico, where they serve under the World Missions Committee.



Conclusion

It is certain that we haven't said everything that could be said about confirmation, but hopefully we have hit some of the main points. In conclusion, two thoughts need to be shared.

First, confirmation ought to be taken seriously. Many look at confirmation as a drudgery and they are glad when they are done with it. God forbid that such an attitude be characteristic of any of our hearts.

Secondly, confirmation ought not to be viewed as an *end*, but as a *beginning*. Confirmation instruction cannot give you all you need to know about the Bible for the rest of your life. But, hopefully, it will give you a foundation upon which you will desire, with joy, to build.

McIntosh congregation observes centennial

Trinity Lutheran Church, rural McIntosh, Minn., was organized on December 27, 1884. On June 8th and 9th the special services commemorating the 100th anniversary were held. "To God Be The Glory" was chosen as the theme. Isaiah 40:8: "The grass withereth, the flower fadeth, but the Word of our God shall stand forever" was chosen as the theme Bible verse. Lovely banners of the theme and theme Bible verse were made. "Praise to the Lord, the Almighty" was chosen as the theme hymn.

Saturday evening, following a fellowship supper, a Confirmation Reunion service was held. Roy Quam, president of the congregation, gave the welcome and led in Scripture and prayer. Special music was given by a male quartet: Arthur Ramse, Kenneth Jore, Kenneth Rolf and Truman Rolf. These men, all former confirmands, also sang at the 75th anniversary of the congregation. Rev. Joel Rolf brought a greeting and sang a vocal solo. Letters and greetings were read, and Rev. Obert Lowe, also a former confirmand, brought the evening message.

The Sunday morning message was given by Rev. Walt Beaman,

AFLBS . . .

Association Retreat Center. They bring with them years of experience of working with people in a Christian setting. Miss Susan Beebe will be on staff as of August 15 as our Student Accounts Secretary. She will work in several areas: the Booknook, the Alumni work, the AFLBS yearbook, mailing, as well as with student accounts. Susan is a graduate of AFLBS, has served on one of our Barnabas teams, and has been active in her local church since graduating from AFLBS. It is a joy to see an increasing number of our graduates deciding to return to AFLBS to serve the Lord here.

AFLBS begins another school year on September 9. It is encouraging to see the enrollment continue to climb. There is still time to register for fall classes!

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pastor of the congregation.

Sunday afternoon devotions were given by Lowell Quam, missionary in Ecuador, South America. Mr. Alfred Hegland played a violin solo. Former pastors present who brought greetings were: Rev. G. Gabrielsen, Rev. Orville Olson, and Mr. Ed Mathison. Greetings also were given by Mrs. Harry Molstre, a former pastor's widow and Mrs. Melvin Walla, who had served as a parish worker. Many written greetings were also read. Rev. Rodney Johnson also gave a greeting and he and his wife sang a duet. Trinity church choir also shared a message in song. Melvin Voxland and Kenneth Rolf spoke about the contents of the cornerstone box. It also was displayed for viewing.

Sunday evening devotions were given by Vicar Arvid Salvhus. Mrs. Mary Aadahl brought a greeting and also sang a duet with her sister, Miss Naomi Rolf. Jack Randall brought a greeting and sang a duet with his wife. Rev. Lindell Quam brought the evening message, centering our thoughts on the closing thought of "Pressing On."

Trinity confirmands serving the Lord as pastors or missionaries are as follows:

Knute Jore - has served as a missionary to the Indians in Ariz. and at Redby, Minn. He has also served as lay pastor in the AFLC at Culbertson, Mont., Spokane, Wash., and Thief River Falls, Minn.; Arthur Ramse - served as missionary to the Indians at Tokio, N. Dak.; Obert Lowe - an ALC pastor, Eau Claire, Wis.; Lindell Quam is a pastor in the Church of the Lutheran Brethren,

Westby, Wis.; Lowell Quam is a missionary in Ecuador, South America under the World Mission Prayer League; Rodney Johnson is a pastor in the AFLC, Spicer, Minn.; Joel Rolf is a pastor in the AFLC, Devils Lake, N. Dak.; Arvid Salvhus is at present a vicar in the Missouri Synod at Superior, Wis.; Mrs. Owan Erickson (Doreen Quam) and her husband were missionaries in Garoua, Cameroon, Africa, under the Church of the Lutheran Brethren (both recently deceased); daughters of the congregation serving the Lord as pastors' wives are: Mrs. Lyndon Korhonen (Linda Moan) Culbertson, Mont.; Mrs. Peter Franz (Judy Moan) Minot, N. Dak.; Mrs. Lyle Aadahl (Mary Rolf) Grafton, N. Dak.

Many confirmands of Trinity have attended Bible schools. Confirmands of Trinity who are present students at the Association Free Lutheran Theological Seminary are Jerry Moan and Mark Molstre.

Trinity Lutheran Congregation is thankful to God for the pioneers who began this congregation and to faithful pastors and teachers who have proclaimed the inspired Word of God. The pastors who have served Trinity are: N. Heierman, 1884-93; Andreas Helland, 1893-94; K. Dalager, 1895-1903; Gabriel N. Isolany, 1903-04; J. B. A. Dale, 1904-22; D. M. Westermoe, 1922-43; G. Gabrielsen, 1943-49; A. H. Grimstad, 1949-53; Harry Molstre, 1954-63; Joel Pederson, 1963-67; Hubert DeBoer, 1967-68; Ed Mathison, lay pastor, 1968; Orville Olson, 1969-76; Ralph Rokke, 1976-79; and Walter Beaman, 1979--. To God be the glory!