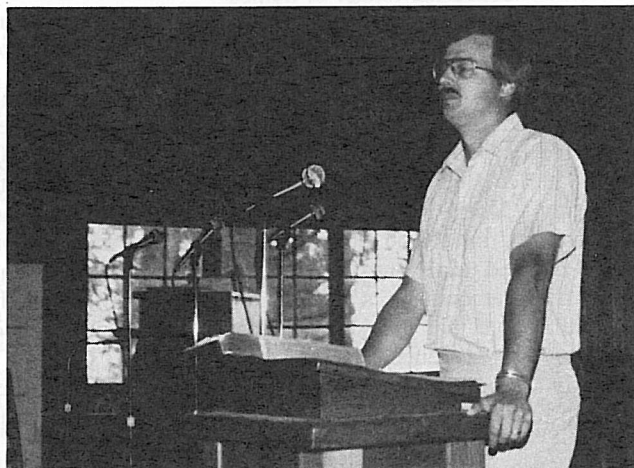
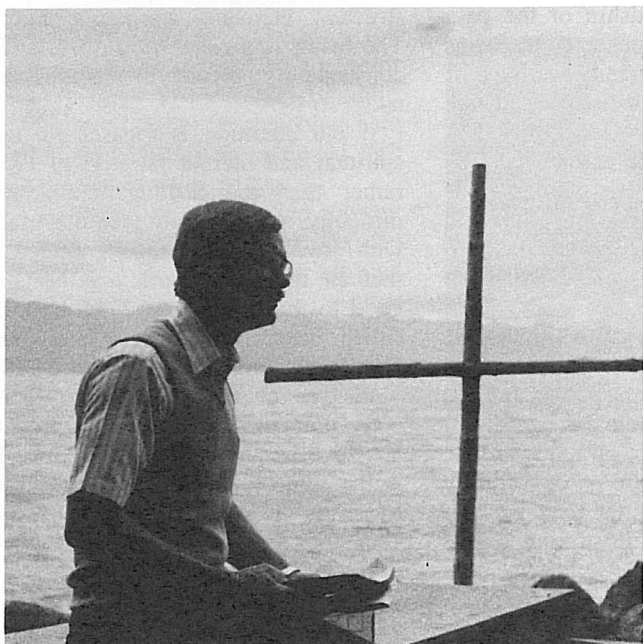


# THE LUTHERAN AMBASSADOR

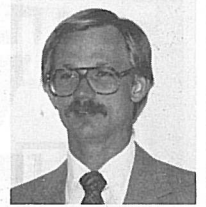
August 30, 1983



1983 Luther League  
Federation Convention  
Flathead Lake, Montana



# AT THE MASTER'S FEET



*Pastor Philip Rokke*

## The necessary trials

"Consider it all joy, my brethren, when you encounter various trials; knowing that the testing of your faith produces endurance. And let endurance have its perfect result, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing" (James 1:2-4).

At various times God finds it necessary to send trials into our lives. These trials amount to a testing of our faith. More than merely an indicator of its existence, the testing primarily serves to strengthen and build up faith.

It can, perhaps, be compared to the work of a coach with an athlete. A coach must continually set new

challenges before an athlete if he expects improved performance. The challenges involve greater skill, greater speed, greater endurance. The challenges that God puts before us require more patience, more humility, more compassion. Can we deal with the disappointment and frustration of goals and dreams deferred? Can we accept the ridicule of God's adversaries without anger or vengeance? Can we show compassion to those whose suffering is so obviously the result of their own repeated disobedience?

There could be a hundred other examples here and each should be considered an opportunity and should be met with joy. It is hard to respond joyfully to the news that your crop has been hailed out or you have failed the test again or your back requires surgery. It is difficult because we are so shortsighted. We look only at the financial hardship or the pain or the time lost. James encourages us to look at the opportunity we have of serving God in a special way. There is special honor for God when it is made known that He can sustain His children even through hardship. If God could only give happiness in times of ease and prosperity, the happiness would appear to be the result of the circumstance. But when God's children rejoice in faith and hope even though they suffer greatly, that testifies to God's great power to bless men's souls. God rejoices at such a testimony. It will not go unrewarded.

These trials also are an opportunity for us to become better than we are. In this regard, the illustration of the pruned vine is appropriate. Grape

vines are trained to follow two wires stretched parallel to the ground. Two main branches run opposite directions along each wire for a total of four main branches. All others are cut away. Once a side shoot has borne fruit, it, too, is cut away, because it will never bear fruit again. So the pruning goes on year after year. There are many things to be removed from our lives, things that are counter-productive. We grow more dependent upon our wealth until it is taken away from us. Then we learn dependence upon God. We become more and more arrogant until we are humbled by some great failure. We become more selfish until we find ourselves helpless and dependent. Then we see the beauty of charity in others and we recognize that what we possess is ours because it has been entrusted to us by God. Through the trials He sends, God prunes the destructive elements from our lives. The result is greater fruitfulness and, consequently, greater blessedness for us.

If our attention is focused on the spiritual and eternal purpose of God rather than the fleeting, temporary difficulty, we can truly face our trials with joy. We can have confidence that all things do work together for good to those who love God and are called according to His purpose. Hardships don't come because God is vindictive or trying to make some petty point. God has already proved His love by the death of His Son. It is the same love that motivates Him to act as He does today. Trust God. Trust His love and wisdom. Rejoice in the richness of your salvation.

### THE LUTHERAN AMBASSADOR

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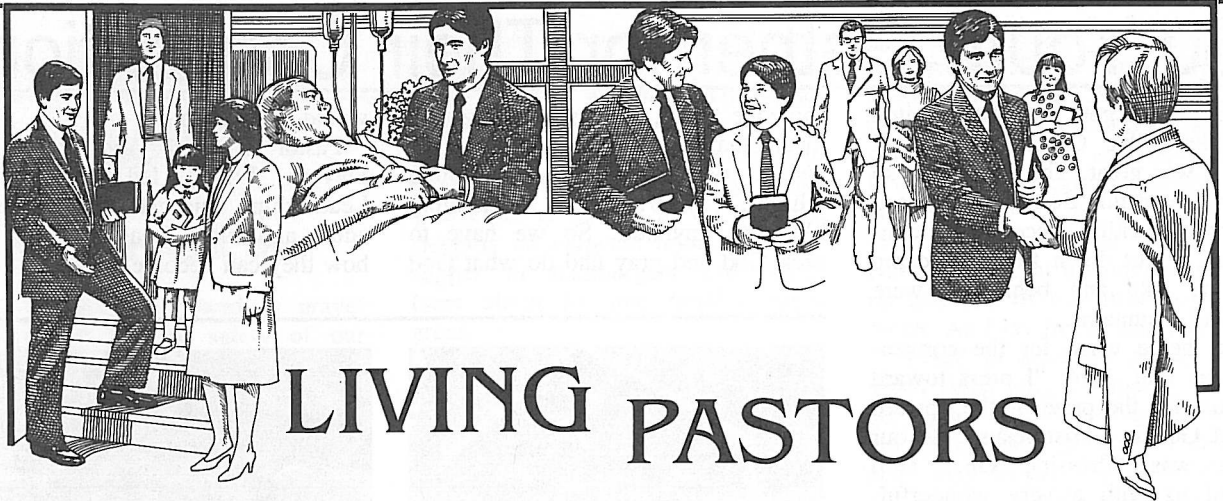
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Volume 21 Number 16

USPS 588-620



# LIVING PASTORS

The congregations are in the hands of the pastors. . . . And if there is to be any change in the direction of living congregations we must have "living preachers" who will work for awakening and life through a sound proclamation of the Gospel and the right administration of the Sacraments.

Can dead preachers do this: Absolutely not! The Word of God and the sacraments are effective . . . just so that they are administered correctly, but it is just this which is lacking where the pastor is without spiritual experience, without repentance, without faith and love, without care for the flock—a hireling who neither leads the flock to green pastures, nor protects them against the destructive wolf from hell.

But has not Jesus said; "The Pharisees and the Scribes sit in the seat of Moses?" To be sure. But He did not let them sit there in comfort. He taught others to proclaim His Gospel among Jews and Gentiles and in the Christian congregations.

But some object, do not the Lutheran Confessions say that the Word and Sacraments are effective even though they are administered by those who are evil? Yes, certainly; but the large catechism says about dead preachers that "they should rather be swineherds or dog-fanciers, rather than spiritual counselors and pastors."

It is at this very point that all those who have ever desired the welfare of the church and its growth have put in their heaviest labor. It is here we must place the emphasis even today. . . .

As long as the church of God has existed no one has ever seen a congregation born, develop and grow under the guidance of a dead pastor. Show us a single example!

It is impossible to find words that will adequately express the curse which a spiritually dead pastor is, both to the converted and unconverted among those who hear him. We are not now speaking about the unconverted pastor's offensive life and the damaging effect of it. All can see that. We are talking about the damage which is caused by their public preaching and the administering of the Sacraments. Those who are sleeping are confirmed in their false hope of heaven; those who are awake are lulled to sleep; the Christian warriors lose their courage and clarity of vision; and the suffering Christians become despondent in tribulations. All these are weak expressions for the frightful results of a

diluted, abbreviated, dull and empty proclamation by an unconverted pastor.

By this, we do not intend to say that anyone who is converted is qualified to be a pastor. God's Word and experience show that this is not the case. Neither does the Word of God or experience teach us that it is a matter of indifference whether the pastor is a Christian or not, just so he has gone through Christian training.

By "living pastor" we simply mean men who are the true disciples of Jesus and who follow Him, especially at this point that they live, labor, suffer, and wrestle for the salvation of the souls of men, in faithfulness even unto death, men of Spirit, men with love, men who are fearless proclaimers of the truth, men of complete and full self-dedication.

These are the men who can labor for living congregations. Many may be zealous workers without His mind. Therefore, their labors do not lead toward this goal. Nothing more beautiful can be visualized than a life of such genuine love. It bears, also, the most beautiful fruit.

Prof. Georg Sverdrup  
—Reprinted from *Morning Glory*

*" . . . we simply mean  
men who . . . live,  
labor, suffer, and  
wrestle for the  
salvation of the souls  
of men, in  
faithfulness . . . "*

*Dr. Georg Sverdrup was one of the founders of Augsburg Seminary and College of the Lutheran Free Church. This article is translated from his book: "Menigheten" (The congregation).*



# 260 Youth Gather for Their Convention

Once we got to the United Methodist Bible Camp on Flathead Lake it was great. The camp was so big and beautiful. God surely blessed us with a beautiful place for the convention. Right down from the camp was the lake and behind it were beautiful mountains.

The theme verse for the convention was Phil. 3:14: "I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus." So our theme was "Pressing On." God blessed us with a very wonderful, Christ-filled convention.

After we got all 260 young people registered, and just before our evening service, we met in our small groups. Tuesday night everybody seemed quiet because they probably felt as if they didn't know many people in their group, but by the end of the week they had made a lot of very close and special Christian friends.

Each day we had a Bible study in the book of Philippians which was led either by Pastor Gary Jorgenson for the senior high class or Richard Bartholomew for the junior high class. They were very good classes.

Throughout the whole week we had six workshops that we could attend. One of the classes was Doctrine, which was led by Pastor Bruce Dalager, Grand Forks, N. Dak. In this class the Triune God, Baptism and the Lord's Supper were discussed.

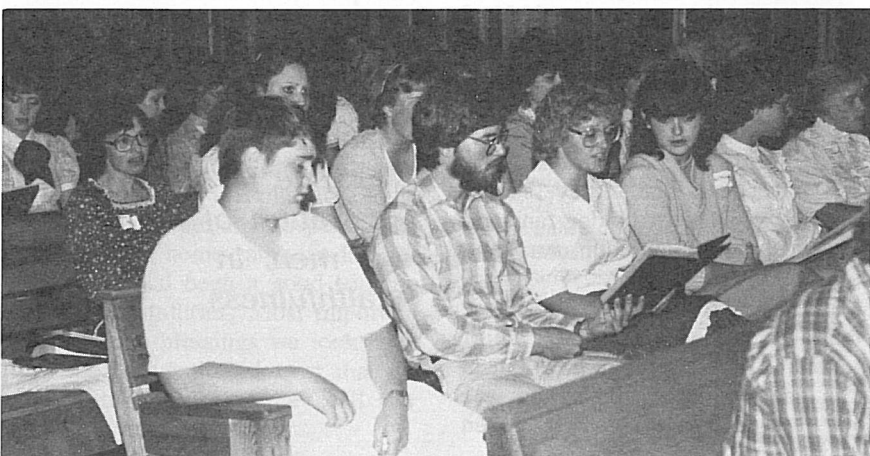
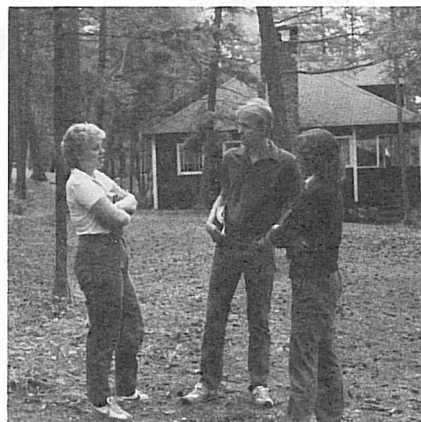
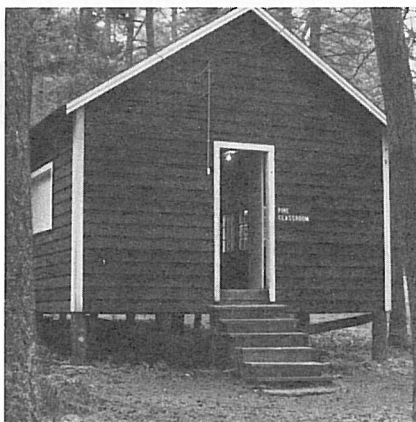
Another class was Cults which was led by Pastor John Rieth, Williston, N. Dak. What is the definition of a cult? "A cult is any religious group (or movement) that deviates from orthodox Christianity—outside the mainstream of accepted Christian belief." This, I'm sure, too, was a very interesting class and I believe it's important for us to know a little about these doctrines, especially when I believe we are living in the last days.

Another class was Christian Ethics, which was led by Pastor David Molstre, Dickinson, N. Dak. What does Christian ethics mean? It is our Christian conduct or our Christian values. We learned that just because something was wrong for

someone to do, it doesn't necessarily mean that it would be wrong for another person. But like the Bible tells us, we are not to be a stumbling block to anybody. So we have to seek God and pray and do what God

would want us to do.

Pastor Richard Anderson, Lake Stevens, Wash., led the class on Leadership. This class was more for adults and Luther League officers and how they can become leaders.





Knowing God's Will was led by Pastor David Abel of Brazil. He shared with us about finding God's will for our life. He gave five ways in which we can find God's will: 1) Reading the Bible daily; 2) Praying;

3) By ourselves; we can trust the Spirit of the Lord to guide in a final decision; 4) Have a prayer partner, someone to share with; and 5) We have to have a commitment.

Last, but not least, our final class

was Dating, which was led by Pastor Kenneth Moland, Minneapolis, Minn. He shared with us the importance of only dating Christians, for the Bible says: "Do not be unequally yoked."

After our workshops our afternoons were free. Some played volleyball, some horseshoe, and some even went swimming. I'm sure by now everyone has heard how cold it was in Montana that week. But we all survived.

Our evening speaker was Pastor Molstre. Each evening he shared a very inspirational sermon. I know the Holy Spirit was surely working in the lives of all of us. We were either drawn closer to God, for God pointed out areas in our lives that we had to change, or turned our backs on Jesus.

After each evening session we had a campfire outdoors or an after-glow in the auditorium, depending on the weather. This was a time of singing praises to our God and also a time of sharing our faith and testimony with other Christian friends. Now this was a highlight for me at the convention. We were all so richly blessed. After an hour or so of sharing we all headed for our cabins where we had devotions and then all went to sleep.

Another highlight for me was going up to Glacier Park on Saturday. Just being able to drive up into the mountains and see God's handiwork was great. I'm sure some had probably never seen the mountains before so that was an experience in itself. We were able to climb a mountain part way and some even had a snowball fight in July. I'm sure everyone had a wonderful time.

It seemed that before we knew it, it was Sunday and time to say good-bye to old friends and new friends we had just met.

But there was one promise that we have that those of us who are Christians would all be together again some day in heaven. Praise the Lord for that!

We all then loaded up our cars, vans and buses and headed home.

Robbin Thompson  
Secretary



All Convention photos  
by R. Huglen

## Scenes of the 1983 LLF Convention

Right:  
Lavonne Torkelson  
Wanamingo, Minn.

Below:  
1983 AFLBS AMBASSADORS



# The Convention messages

Pastor David C. Molstre, Dickinson, N. Dak., and former evangelist in the Association of Free Lutheran Congregations, preached the evening sermons at the recent Luther League Federation biennial convention at Rollins, Mont. Here is a brief synopsis of the evening and Sunday morning sermons.

## Tuesday

"Where am I?" was the topic and the text was Gen. 3:8, 9, God's call to Adam after the Fall. Even as God made Adam answer Him, so must we one day. Pastor Molstre asked three questions and discussed three possible answers: Where am I as far as the moral law is concerned? Where am I as regards my brother (responsibility to him)? Where am I in relation to Jesus Christ? The latter question settles one's eternal destiny. The Lord God seeks us out; He initiates the search. In His Son Jesus there is life.

## Wednesday

"Who am I?" was the theme of Pastor Molstre's message on Wednesday and he used Matt. 16:26 as his text. We are more than a first, middle and last name. We have immortal souls. The soul is tested in several ways. There is the test of subtraction. If one says there is no soul, life becomes an animal existence. There is the test of meaning to existence. Earthly glory and fame fade away. And there is the test of endurance or permanence. The soul never dies. Jesus gave Himself that we might live eternally. The blood of Jesus cleanses from all sin and assures eternal life for the one who believes.

## Thursday

Using Matt. 25:14-30, Pastor Molstre discussed the question, "Lord, What Wilt Thou Have Me To Do?" on Thursday evening. Each night the chapel was filled to overflowing.

Pastor Molstre said that we are never happy until we know the Lord and are in His place for us. He said 1) all professing Christians have re-

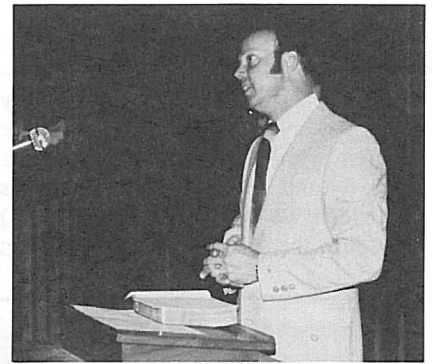
ceived something from God in the way of talents and abilities. 2) There is the danger of making poor use of our privileges and obligations. 3) He who has will get more; he who has not will lose what he has. That's what Jesus said in the parable. Never rest until you find God's work for you.

## Friday

"Pressing on in Difficult Situations" was the topic on Friday, with Dan. 3:16-27 as the Bible passage. Pastor Molstre talked about the excuses the three young friends of Daniel might have made before the threat of the fiery furnace, the confidence the men possessed and the determination of their faith and conviction. Today, we, too, need a clear sense of the divine presence (God sees all) and a deep sense of God's laws. We need people of all ages who press on for God no matter what the cost is.

## Saturday

On the last evening together, Pastor Molstre talked about "How God Will Judge Our Race." Amos 7:7, 8 was his text. Just as God used the plumb line as an object lesson in judging Israel, so the Lord builds lives that are true and Christlike. The plumb line tests what is built. Only what is built on Christ will last. The plumb line may also be used in de-



stroying something. It tells what must be torn down. If we are in Jesus Christ we will measure up and hear the happy words one day, "Enter into the joy of the Lord."

## Sunday

While some conventioners had left by the time of the morning worship service, many members of Faith and Stillwater Lutheran Churches, Kalispell, joined the delegates for it.

Pastor Molstre used the last service to consider the subject of "Witnessing." Those who have been with Jesus are to bear witness of Him. We are to witness 1) to the peace-giving power of the blood, 2) to the difference that has made in our lives, 3) to increased love for mankind, 4) to the comforting power of the presence of Christ within, and 5) to the power the Lord gives for dying. He concluded by saying that effective witness must be personal, true and consistent with the life being lived.

The Stillwater choir sang, "I Will Serve Thee."

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## Reflections . . .

### Kim Stokke, Newfolden, Minn.

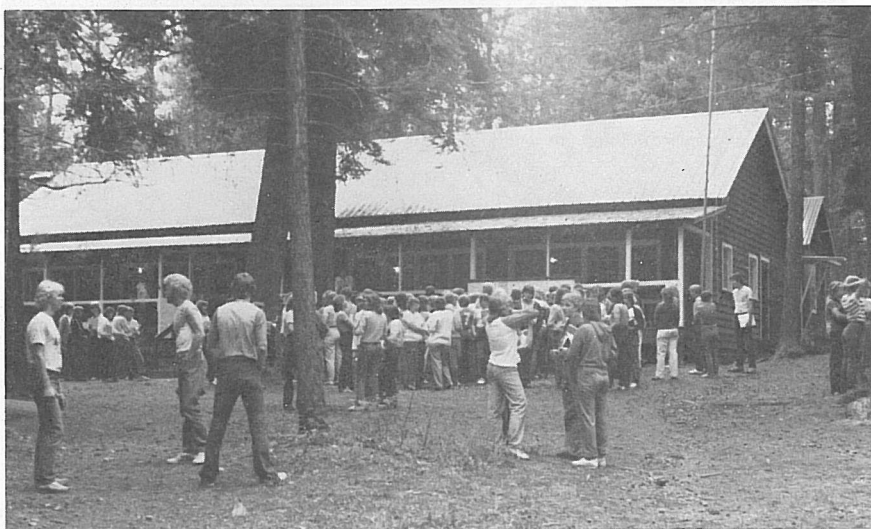
It was a great experience to sit and watch the beautiful sunrise, to watch the sun move above the mountain tops. Tuesday morning we toured Glacier National Park. Some of the things we enjoyed were having a snowball fight at Logan Pass on the 12th of July, the weeping wall, where a natural flow of water trickled through, and several beautiful waterfalls, as they tumbled down the mountainside. We then left Glacier Park and travelled on to Kalispell where we were to spend the next five

days as campers at the Methodist Bible Camp.

I am sure that I speak for all those in our group as well as myself when I say, "Thank you to all those who supported us financially and remembered us daily with their prayer support."

### Glen Vatsdal, Badger, Minn.

(In the Bible hours) we used Philippians for the text and we went a chapter a day, and if I start on that I will probably write another page, so you can read it and get out of it



Hauge and his friends laid the chief emphasis upon every-day Christianity. . . . In the first place, they lived Christ in their daily lives. This was to them the way in which the genuineness of conversion was to be demonstrated. . . . In the second place, they were cognizant of the fact that their daily lives and their daily work were their real spiritual service, that is, their work for God. . . . This was their first and foremost way of bringing their fellow men under the influence of the Word, and thus winning them for the Lord.

from *Under His Wings*  
by O. Hallesby



more than if I write, if you want to, but I am going to share some highlights of each chapter.

The Book of Philippians is universally accepted as the work of Paul. 1:5 tells us the basis for Paul's and the Philippians' partnership, the Gospel. The preacher told us that we should be more active participants in the church. 2:3 tells us the key to producing unity, being humble and humility is not self-centeredness. Chapter 3 tells that for Paul the Christian life is not living in the past. 4:2, 3 tells us that Paul urges two women to quarrel no more and that could go the same for us.




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#### THE WMF TREASURER

The correct zip code for the new treasurer of the Women's Missionary Federation is Osceola, Wis. 54020. This is a correction from some information which had been given out earlier. The new treasurer is Mrs. Gerald Mundfrom, Route 1, Box 503, Osceola.

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#### WE ARE SORRY

A report on the business meeting of the Luther League Federation convention was inadvertently omitted from this issue. It will be printed next time.

We regret that one film of pictures from the convention was ruined. Therefore, a number of pictures which our readers might look for are not available.

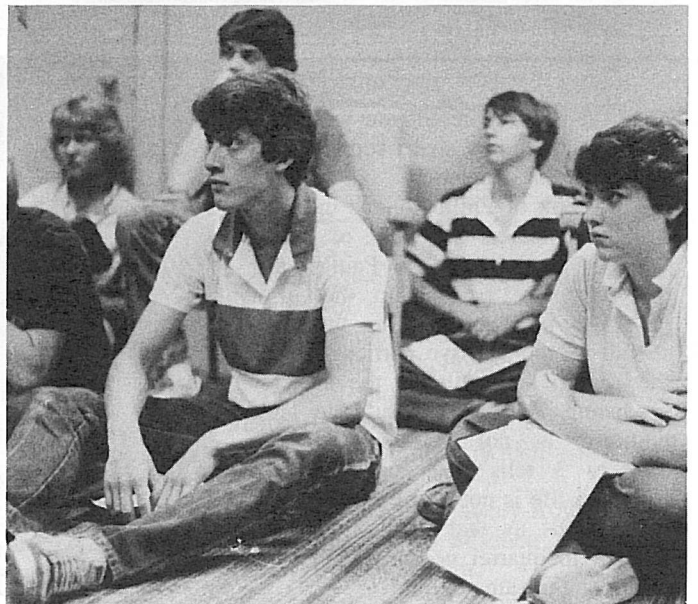




Left: Pastor Michael Brandt, evening speaker. Above: The Halvor Knapp family, Spicer, Minn.. Below: Mr. Cary Dietsche, choir director. Far Below Right: Teenagers in class. Below Left: Tubing was a popular afternoon sport.

## Family Camp at the ARC in 1983

The largest number of campers ever at the ARC enjoyed a busy and refreshing week at Family Camp, Aug. 8-14. Approximately 350 people filled the camp with an unusually large percentage being children. Green Lake Lutheran of Spicer, Minn. sent 33 campers, most of which were young families. Photos by S. Hjermstad



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# editorials

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## THE CONVENTION

It had been quite some time since I had spent any time to speak of at a Luther League Federation convention and so I determined to attend the one this year in Montana and it was possible to go. An article elsewhere in this *Ambassador* tells about the trip out and back.

During the convention the thought came, how many of us here at Flathead Lake were present at the first one at St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Fargo, N. Dak., in November, 1963? Four or five of us, and I the senior of them. It will be trivia worth noting only to the history buffs to know that I was a candidate for president of the LLF at that convention but very satisfied to be defeated by the man who is now the president of the AFLC.

By the way, it was good that Pastor R. Snipstead could visit the convention on Saturday evening and Sunday morning and bring a greeting. He and Mrs. Snipstead had come out to attend the ordination of Martin Horn on Sunday in nearby Stillwater Lutheran Church and to vacation in western U.S. and Canada with their younger daughters, Gwen and Wendy. Wendy attended the whole convention.

Not many pastors not on the program attended the convention. In Lutheran Free Church days LLF conventions brought a good many pastors along. Times have changed. Summers get very cut up. There are many activities calling for attention. Vacations have to be worked in. But a LLF convention is a fine thing to take in if one can manage it. It gives one a feel of the youth of the church, from all over the church.

The young people of the AFLC continue to be a source of much encouragement. They were that back in November of 1963, too, and nothing has changed in that regard. Some 260 Leaguers attended this convention. A little more promotion here and there and another hundred or two might easily have come.

As it was, the United Methodist Camp we used was taxed to capacity. Not everyone who came, including this writer, had registered in advance. We must do better in the future in advance registration, for the sake of the hosts, at least. The UMC provided good facilities. The setting was certainly unique and beautiful. The lack of a softball field was a surprise and a drawback, though. Incidentally, a good thing for future conventions would be to encourage the districts to enter teams in a softball tournament. That can add a lot of excitement to the recreational program.

The topical hours at the convention were very helpful. They were very practical and it was only too bad that leaguers could only choose two of the six for the week. I attended five of the six and commend the pastors who handled them for their fine jobs. Whatever was left undone in these hours, whatever discussion couldn't be held, only points up the need for the consideration of these topics back home in the local league meetings.

Hats off to the Ambassador Gospel Team for their singing at the evening services. Those fine young people, Yvonne, Karen, Jenell, Alan and Rodney, together with their advisor, Harold Voth, certainly were a fine presence in the convention. The convention choir, directed by Barb Elmquist, really did well on the two occasions when they sang.

Appreciation is expressed to Pastor Allen Monson, retiring president of the LLF, and all the members of his executive committee for the good job of program planning and carrying out of the convention schedule. Also to the host pastors, Dale Mellgren, himself a former LLF president, and Richard Bartholomew, and the members of their congregations for the arrangements they had to make and the hospitality they showed.

Pastor David Molstre did his usual fine job in preaching the sermons. He doesn't want to take personal credit, but he was used of the Lord in those services. The same goes for the Bible teachers, Pastors Gary Jorgenson and Bartholomew.

There was much applause after musical numbers and some other participations in the week-long program. That's something which has developed in recent years and is increasing with each passing year. I'm not sure how wise it is.

The Luther League convention continues to be a very loosely-knit organization under the AFLC. I continue to hope that district organizations can be set up or strengthened. Some districts don't have a presently functioning organization apparently. Annual district conventions and more interaction among local leagues would be a good thing. This is something to be worked at and worked for.

I endorse the efforts of the LLF to work toward revising the youth worker office and commend them for seeking to raise at least part of such a salary required. If the LLF still thinks in terms of a part-time worker, I hope they will lift their sights to a full-time worker in the area of youth.

Finally, it was good to be at Kalispell-Rollins for the convention. God was able to get through to at least some of the leaguers and to speak to them. Time will tell the results, but they will be there. In future years there will be those who will testify that the Flathead Lake convention was a mountain-top experience for them. It is always that way. Thank God. Praise to Him for His benefits and blessings to and through the youth of our fellowship.

Raynard Huglen

## A PLEASANT VISIT

It was possible during the Luther League convention at Rollins, Mont., in July to slip away one afternoon to visit my old friends, Rev. and Mrs. Ole Helland, retired at Hot Springs, Mont., a distance of some 40 miles. The drive was a very pleasant one and I didn't even mind the wrong turn I took which brought me to Lake Mary Ronan.

◇

# Give me thy heart

"Give!" That is a command. Who gave that command? God. "My son, give Me thy heart" (Prov. 23:26). Why does God want our hearts? Because, "As a man thinketh in his heart, so is he" (Prov. 23:7). Sin begins in our thought life. Unless we watch our thoughts, they will wander to things that lead to sin. Our enemy, the devil, is always busy putting evil thoughts into our hearts. The devil uses our old nature to work through and fills our hearts with worldly things, thereby drawing our hearts away from God. God says, "Love not the things of the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh and the lust of the eyes and the vainglory of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world. And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth forever" (I Jn. 2:15-17).

We cannot help that the birds fly over our heads, but we can keep them from building nests in our hair. Likewise, we cannot help that evil thoughts come into our minds, but we do not have to keep them there. We must exercise our will power and put those evil thoughts out of our mind. The best way to do that is to quote Scripture. "Thy Word have I laid up in my heart, that I might not sin against Thee" (Ps. 119:11). Paul says, in II Tim. 2:15, "Give diligence to present thyself approved unto God . . . handling aright the Word of truth." And in Ps. 119:19 we read, "Wherewith shall a young man cleanse his way? By taking heed

thereto according to Thy word." In Col. 3:16 we read, "Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly." If our heart is filled with the Word of God there will not be room for other thoughts. "Out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh" (Matt. 12:34). "Set your mind on the things that are above" (Col. 3:20).

As Christians, we have to take time to read and pray. The devil cannot meet the Word of God, therefore Jesus met the devil with the Word of God. "It is written," "It is written," "It is written." If we keep close to God daily with Bible reading and prayer, we will be victorious. We

can be well-fed Christians by taking time to read God's Word daily. Let us sing with the hymn writer, "Take time to be holy, speak oft with thy Lord; abide in Him always, and feed on His Word. Make friends of God's children; help those who are weak; forgetting in nothing His blessing to seek." Remember your confirmation vow, to resist the devil and all his works and all his ways; and to believe on God the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit. The only way to resist the devil is "with the Sword of the Spirit—the Word of God" (Eph. 6:17).

Pastor Trygve F. Dahle  
Spicer, Minn.

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## Don't be the kind of a fellow who sows his wild oats and then prays for a crop failure.

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### ASSOCIATION OF FREE LUTHERAN CONGREGATIONS 3110 EAST MEDICINE LAKE BOULEVARD MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA 55441

#### Budget Receipts February 1-June 30

	TOTAL BUDGET	TOTAL REC'D TO DATE	% of CURRENT	% of TOTAL (Ideal 42%)
General Fund	\$187,180.00	\$ 57,011.22	73	30
Schools — AFLTS	97,246.00	21,466.98	53	22
AFLBS	164,839.00	37,875.04	55	23
Home Missions	219,796.00	44,049.72	48	20
World Missions	265,975.00	56,663.50	51	21
Praise Fund	28,880.00	10,860.66	90	38
TOTAL	\$963,916.00	\$227,927.12	57	24
1982-83	\$914,003.00	\$240,715.37	63	26

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## EDITORIAL . . .

Pastor Helland, a distant relative of mine (I once visited his home place in Norway), has since had his 85th birthday. He began his ministry in the Lutheran Free Church parish at L'Anse, Mich., and then served our parish at Mason, Wis., before transferring to the Evangelical Lutheran Church (now the American Lutheran Church). His brother, Nels Reinertson, was briefly a member of my congregation at Homestead, Mont., before moving away.

Pastor Helland and I visited for a while alone before joining Mrs. Helland at her bedside where she has to

spend some of her time due to a heart condition. They spoke of the likelihood of a pacemaker being implanted in the near future. We reminisced together about many people. We joined together in prayer before I had to leave, but Pastor Helland and I continued our visit in a cafe where he treated me to pie and coffee before I left town. One treasures these moments which come sometimes in life.

The Hellands (she is from the Hawley-Rollag, Minn., area) wish to be remembered to all their friends. The Lord bless them and provide for them.

—Raynard Huglen



do we learn about the will in Genesis 1:26-27? What was Christ's prayer in Luke 22:42? Example — Acts 24:25. What should our prayer be regarding our will? Philipians 2:13 —

c. My entire body: —

- 1) *Appetites* — *Physical*: Right reason for hunger — Proverbs 16:26; warnings against — Proverbs 23:1-3, 19-21a; Christ's admonition — Luke 12:22; drunkenness — Proverbs 20:1; result — Proverbs 23:21.

*Desires*: What admonition is given here regarding the desire of coveting? Exodus 20:17. Review ninth and tenth commandments and Catechism questions 98 and 99. What are we told about the love and desire for money? Ecclesiastes 5:10. What warning is given regarding the love of money in Proverbs 10:3? Example of desire for worldly treasure — Luke 12:16-21. There can also be the extreme opposite — the lack of desire to do anything. What do Proverbs 20:4 and 13 say about this?

*Desires for love* — brother love — Psalm 133:1-3; between man and woman — Song of Solomon 8:6-7; husband and wife — Genesis 24:67, Ephesians 5:28. What warning is given regarding marriage in Hebrews 13:4? Lustful desires — examples — II Samuel 11:2-4, Matthew 5:28; admonitions against — Colossians 3:5-7, Proverbs 6:25. What will happen to the desires of the wicked? Psalm 112:10. What should be done to these desires? Galatians 5:24. Who can give us victory over sinful desires and satisfy our desires? Psalm 145:16, Romans 13:15, Galatians 5:1-18.

What should we desire? I Corinthians 14:1, Psalm 73:25. Desire to find happiness in accomplishments — examples — I Kings 9:1, II Chronicles 9:12. Should we be concerned that this desire be kept under the Holy Spirit's control, too?

*Drive* — the force at work inside us that motivates us to do things. Let us always remember that the force at work inside us that motivates us to do things must be Christ-controlled. "Whatsoever ye do, do it as unto the Lord."

8. Whom do we often blame when there is lack of self-control and temptations come? Why is this wrong? James 1:13-15 —

9. What is one who has no self-control compared to in Proverbs 25:28? —
10. List the comparisons given in Titus 1:7-9, 2:2-6. —

11. Why should we keep our bodies under control? I Peter 2:11 —
12. What is the result of those who do not keep these things under control? I Corinthians 6:9-10 —

13. Is there ever complete victory or is it something we must always be watchful over? Romans 7:18-25, Galatians 5:16-26 —

Hymn Suggestion: "Have Thine Own Way, Lord"

October, 1983

## W/MF BIBLE STUDY



### FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT

#### SELF-CONTROL

Galatians 5:22-23

Self-control, temperance: The virtue of one who masters his desires and passions. As we study the fruit of self-control we must again look to God for our example and we see Him and His attributes best in Christ.

1. What does John 14:9b tell us? —

2. What three things did Jesus tell His disciples about Himself in John 4:34 and 14:10b-11? —

3. Because of this divine inner control, Christ was master of every situation He faced. Let us look at some of them:  
Matthew 9:34, 12:1-14, 21:23-27, 22:34-40, 26:57-67 — Chief priests, elders, Sanhedrin, High Priest; Matthew 26:47-50 — Judas; Matthew 27:11-14 — Pilate; Matthew 27:27-31 — soldiers; Matthew 27:39-44 — crowd.

As we read the above verses one thing stands out. Jesus was always in control. No matter what the circumstances were, no matter where He went, no matter whom He met, He was never taken unaware. He never allowed Himself to be manipulated. Let us just take a moment to think about His last hours on earth. Even in those last hours which were filled with such terrible physical suffering and humiliation Christ moved in

quiet strength, enormous dignity and majestic might. In Galatians 5:22-23, we find self-control to be the last fruit listed but this does not mean it is the least important. It is, perhaps, the one we have the most difficulty with. There are days when we find it quite easy to act the way God would have us act. However, there are also days when we act in direct opposition to God's will. We can liken ourselves to erupting volcanoes. Our lives are a series of contrasts.

4. Let us look at James 3:11 and Isaiah 5:1-2 to see how these contrasts are described? \_\_\_\_\_

5. In your own words explain what self-control is? \_\_\_\_\_

6. We know that in ourselves we cannot begin to have this fruit of self-control in our lives. To whose direction must we submit for this? John 16:13 \_\_\_\_\_

7. W. P. Kellogg lists three areas that we must submit to Christ's control. Let us look at them:

a. My whole spirit:

1) Intuition — Perception of truth. Example — Acts 10:34.

2) Conscience — Moral sense to discern both good and evil. What do the following verses tell us about conscience? II Corinthians 1:12, Hebrews 13:18, I Peter 3:16, I Timothy 1:18-19

b. My total personality:

1) *Mind*. What does Scripture tell us regarding the mind in Romans 12:1-3 and Isaiah 26:3? Let us look at areas that relate to the mind. *Thoughts*: What does Mark 7:21a tell us about our thoughts? What does Isaiah 55:7 tell us we should do with these thoughts? In Ecclesiastes 7:25, what are we told to think about and reason out?

*Imaginations*: How are the imaginations of man described in Genesis 6:5? What are we admonished to do with these imaginations in II Corinthians 10:5?

*Pride and self-preoccupation*: What is the origin of pride? Isaiah 14:13-14, Luke 18:11. What are the evil results of pride? Proverbs 13:10, Obadiah 3-4. What follows? Proverbs 11:2, 16:18. What does the Lord say regarding pride in Jeremiah 13:15?

*Selfish aims and ambitions*: How is selfishness described in Isaiah 56:11? What admonitions do we find in Scripture regarding selfish aims and ambitions? Romans 15:1, I Corinthians 10:24, II Corinthians 5:15, James 2:8

2) *Emotions*. Let us look at a few. *Anger*: What does Proverbs 21:19 say about an angry woman? What does Proverbs 29:22 say about an angry man? What does Colossians 3:8 say to do with anger? What is the result of anger in Matthew 5:22a? What admonitions regarding anger are given in the following verses? Psalm 37:8, Proverbs 16:32, 19:11, Ecclesiastes 7:9. *Hatred*: What do Proverbs 10:12 and 18a tell us about hatred? What are the results of hatred as found in I John 2:9 and 3:15? *Jealousy*: How is jealousy described in Proverbs 6:34 and Song of Solomon 8:6? Examples of jealousy in Genesis 37:4, Matthew 20:12, Luke 15:28. Is there ever a time when these emotions can be positive and not negative? Anger — example, Mark 3:4, John 2:14; hatred — Psalm 97:10, 139:21-22; jealousy — Exodus 20:4, Ezekiel 39:25, II Corinthians 11:2.

Our emotions sometimes express themselves in different ways. Some are expressed in our *actions* and some in the things we say. What should we be careful of as far as our actions are concerned, according to Luke 23:51, Acts 5:38-39? According to I Samuel 2:3, by whom are our actions weighed? Our tongue can be such a powerful weapon—for good or bad. Let us look at what Scripture tells us about the tongue:

*Slandering and gossiping tongue* — Proverbs 10:18b-19, 11:9, 26:22. What are the results of slander and gossip, according to Psalm 101:5? *Complaining and critical tongue* — Exodus 16:1-8, Psalm 39:1, Acts 25:7 Against whom are we actually murmuring? Exodus 16:8

*Lying tongue* — Psalm 63:11, Proverbs 19:9. What should our reaction be when someone lies about us? Matthew 5:11. Example — Acts 5:1-10. What is the final result of a lying tongue? Revelation 21:8

*Cursing tongue* — Leviticus 19:12, Colossians 3:8, James 3:10. Will you take out your Catechism and review the Second Commandment and questions 38-50. Is the use of slang ever proper?

What do we learn about a man who does not bridle his tongue, in James 1:26? Study the comparisons made in Proverbs 12:13-19. According to James 3:2, who is a perfect man? What are we to use our tongue for? Ephesians 4:29, 5:4. Inner Attitudes — Psalm 26:2.

3) *Will*. The will is the key area which Christ must control. What fact

# Caravan to Kalispell

by Raynard Huglen, Editor

All heads were bowed as prayer was offered for the safety of our journey that Sunday afternoon. Perhaps two dozen parents and other well-wishers gathered outside West-aker Lutheran Church in Newfolden, Minn., to see us off on the 2,000-mile round trip to the Luther League convention south of Kalispell, Mont.

The trailer carrying most of the luggage and camping equipment was loaded and ready. Our eventual party of 13 would travel in two vehicles, two cars to begin with and one of them would be replaced by a van at Pastor Larry Haagenson's folks' place north of Minnewaukan, N. Dak.

The weather was hot that afternoon of July 10, but our excitement was high. Others from our area were travelling to the convention by bus and train. But early on we decided to drive and make a camping trip out of it.

The stop at the Boyd Haagenson's farm home was welcome. We appreciated the cake and ice cream Mrs. Haagenson served us in honor of her daughter-in-law Jan whose birthday was the next day and who joined us there for the trip. The Newfolden leaguers (Darrin, Kim, Jodi, Lorna, Carla and Melissa) and the Haagensons now took over the Chevy van with the two vertical windows on each side, carpeting and air-conditioning. Needless to say, my car, without a/c, seemed much less desirable as a vehicle of transportation, but my passengers, Glen (Badger), Greg (Roseau), Heidi (Greenbush), and Stacy (Karlstad), who joined us at Minot, were good sports about it.

Our destination that first night was Stanley, N. Dak. Long before we got there we became aware that a stiff wind was blowing from the west and the temperature had dropped dramatically. At Stanley we realized that we couldn't pitch our four tents in that

wind. Leaves and small branches strewn the streets. And it was chilly. Contact was made with Pastor Gary Jorgenson of our church there. Could we stay in the church, Our Savior's, over night? Surely; make yourselves at home. So we did that, sleeping on carpeted floors. And the supper of hamburgers and steaks (sent along by one family) tasted great.

We got going in good time the next morning and after a Williston stop were soon in Montana. I should say that all across North Dakota and Montana we found the green countryside beautiful. Some years in Montana by July things have dried up quite a lot. Not so this year and in mid-Montana we saw evidence of recent heavy rains.

Noontime found us at Nashua where we ate a picnic dinner at a table we set on the sidewalk. A crew was busy cleaning up debris in the park left by the windstorm of the day before. Not so far away, near Wolf Point, a tornado had picked up a truck, carried it some distance and caused the death of a woman who was riding in it with her husband.

On through Malta and Havre. Somewhere between Havre and Browning we pulled into a country campground hoping to stay the night. Pastor Haagenson and I made what we thought were some reasonable inquiries about the place. Perhaps we were more cautious than we might have been about location after our experience with the wind at Stanley. I noticed that some profanity had begun to creep into the owner's conversation. He offered to show us the area where our tents could be put up and Pastor Haagenson left with him to survey the situation. They had only been gone moments when I saw the two men wheel around and head back. The owner, sizing us up as troublemakers, began to order us to leave the premises. Realizing that we were no longer welcome we were glad to do so, but it had been a very strange experience. Later Pastor Haagenson reported that the owner had been using so much profanity as they walked to look at the tenting area that he wanted no more of it and had turned back first. I can certainly concur with that.

Well, we ended up going all the way to the KOA campground just outside St. Mary on the edge of Glacier Park. We all agreed we were glad we were able to camp there as it was a lovely spot. We were late in getting camp set up and eating our evening meal, but that didn't matter. During the night a strong wind came up and one of the girls' tents blew down. As I lay in our tent, with each "whoosh" of wind that struck, I wondered what might happen. When I got up in the morning my fears were not at all allayed when I saw the dead trees in the vicinity of the tent and which a strong wind might take down.

As all of you who have camped know, food tastes great in the out-of-doors. We enjoyed our breakfast. By the way, Pastor Jorgenson and his group from Stanley camped near us that night. It was at this camp that we had our best opportunity for devotions and sharing before leaving.

That day we drove through Glacier Park on going to the Sun Highway. This was my third trip over it and it is always a great thrill. It was fun to be giving my passengers their first experience with it. Of course, we made numerous stops at lookout points. Three days later the 50th anniversary of the highway was observed and among the dignitaries attending was Secretary of the Interior James Watt. Logan Pass was crowded when we went through and it was cloudy and cool so we didn't stop long. Our lunch stop was at Lake McDonald. Some of us also were in the lodge, built as a hunting lodge.

And so on to Kalispell and south along Flathead Lake to the United Methodist Camp which has the address of Rollins. Then the commotion of getting registered by a committee swamped by more leaguers than expected. But somehow it all works out and everyone finds a place to stay. I stayed in a small cabin, Kootenai, sharing it with four and five other men.

You may have heard that we had unusually cool weather during the convention. While people back east sweltered in 90-degree heat we had much weather in the 50s and 60s.

♦



## CARAVAN . . .

Fortunately, many cabins had fireplaces, but ours did not. I was reminded of that week one year at Alexandria, Minn., when our Family Camp experienced such cool weather, and in August, yet.

There's always a sadness in leaving a convention setting. But on Sunday, July 17, it was time to leave the "mountain top." After the goodbyes we headed out, this time taking the highway around the edge of Glacier Park. I'd never driven that before and found it a beautiful drive. We drove first to Hungry Horse Dam. We found it an impressive sight. We took time to go down into it, seeing the generators, etc. The dam is 564 feet high. When it was built it was the fourth largest concrete dam in the world. It has a crest of 2,115 feet. The dam is worth seeing.

We did have some concern that first day because our two vehicles became separated. Fortunately, we had talked of the KOA campground at Havre as a stopping place that night and we were all relieved when we pulled in there within minutes of each other. While the geographical setting was nice, the location next to a major highway and the railroad left something to be desired. I was reminded of the first trip I ever made to a Luther League convention as a pastor. Our party of five, travelling from Montana to Medicine Lake (Mission Farms), stayed over night at the old Cook Hotel in Harvey, N. Dak., next to the railroad yards. What a night!

Early Monday afternoon we came to Ft. Peck Dam where some of us took a swim in the Dredge Cuts area in front of the dam and we had our lunch. The weather was very nice. It was interesting to see Ft. Peck Dam. As a boy in northeastern Montana in the late 1930s I heard about a dam that was being built. But this was my first look at it and I wish we might have lingered longer. It is the nation's largest earth-filled dam and is almost four miles long, the main section being 10,578 feet across. But it is less than half as high as Hungry Horse Dam.

A stop for ice cream at Culbertson. I began my ministry 26

## 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.

### MINNESOTA

Cloquet

**Albert (Abby) Anderson**, 62, July 13, St. Paul's

miles north of Culbertson and so I scanned every face to see if there is someone I recognize. A stop for pictures at the North Dakota line and for gas in Williston. Then on to Stanley where this time we pitched our tents in the campground annex kitty-corner from the recreational vehicle park. A lovely spot and a gorgeous prairie evening. We enjoyed our evening meal. Pastor and Mrs. Haagenenson served us well as cooks.

Early in the morning there are rumbles of thunder in the west. My roommate Darrin and I get up first. I awaken the others. It becomes evident that camp must be broken up quickly and that is done. The sky looks weird but I am not sure if there is rain in the clouds. But there is and we have no sooner "battened the hatches" and divided out milk and rolls for breakfast when strong winds and heavy rain descend on us. All we can do is sit and wait for it to subside. When it did quiet down we followed it eastward for a long way. The thought came, what in the world would we have done if the storm had caught us in the tents? Something to ponder. Later in the day we learned that this storm caused quite a bit of damage at Alexandria, Minn., in the afternoon and almost 200,000 power outages in the Twin Cities.

The Chevy van was left at Boyd Haagenenson's, but not before it was washed and cleaned after being a travel home for six grateful young people, as well as the Larry Haagensons. My young people got some rides in it, too, out at Kalispell.

We arrived home safely in late afternoon. It had been a good trip, no accidents or injuries. Most important of all are the blessings we took back from the convention. I trust that we all have them and that they will stay with us through life.

### NORTH DAKOTA

West Fargo

**Bradley A. Haugen**, 25, July 23, New Luther Valley, McVile, N. Dak.

Brad Haugen was a 1978 graduate of Association Free Lutheran Bible School. His death was by drowning in Lake Superior at Ontonagon, Mich., where he was vacationing.

## Personalities

**Mr. Martin Horn**, Kalispell, Mont., a graduate this year of Association Free Lutheran Seminary, was ordained on Sun., July 17, at Stillwater Lutheran Church, Kalispell, upon call from Our Savior's Lutheran Church, Zumbrota, Minn., and Mt. Sion Lutheran Church, Kasson, Minn. He is now serving those congregations.

## With our evangelist-youth worker

Summer is the time for camps and conferences. With autumn thoughts turn to regular church schedules and activities. In some congregations it is also the time for evangelistic series. Pastor Kenneth Pentti announces these forthcoming appointments. Uphold these missions in prayer. Ask the Lord to bless the preaching and hearing of the Word.

### Minneapolis, Minn.

Faith Lutheran Church

Sept. 18-21

Ralph Rokke, pastor

### Leeds, N. Dak.

Lebanon Lutheran Church

Oct. 5-9

LeRoy Flickinger, pastor

### Minneapolis, Minn.

Morgan Avenue Lutheran Church

Oct. 14-16

Yeddo A. Gottle, pastor

### Bagley, Minn.

Grace Lutheran Church

Oct. 23-27

Mauritz Lundeen, pastor

### Dalton, Minn.

Dalton Parish

Oct. 30-Nov. 3

Merle Fagerberg, Lay pastor

### Battle Lake, Minn.

Faith Haven Bible Camp

Nov. 4-5

Youth Retreat

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# news of the churches

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## Eugene, Oregon

Spencer Creek Lutheran Church, Pine Grove Road and Gimpl Hill, southwest of Eugene, Ore., will observe its 80th anniversary on September 17-18. Rev. Stephen E. Odegaard is the pastor.

A banquet will begin the weekend's events at 5:30 p.m. at Thunderbird Inn, Coburg Road. Reservations may be made through Mrs. Gene Synkelma, banquet chairperson.

Rev. Richard Snipstead, AFLC president, will be the speaker at both the banquet and the Sunday morning worship service.

Pastor Odegaard is the 17th pastor of the congregation which was begun in 1903 by pioneer Scandinavian families in the valley. The church was built in 1912 and an annex added in 1964.

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## Boscobel, Wis.

Trinity Lutheran Church of Boscobel, Wis., had vision. Without a permanent pastor or any prospect of one, they put in beautiful wall-to-wall carpeting in their parsonage dining room, living room and downstairs bedroom.

After an extended period of being served by seminary students, a unanimous call was extended to Pastor Ray Persson, formerly of Bemidji, Minn., who has been preaching here during July and who assumed full pastoral duties as of August 1.

The church has manifested a warm welcome to Pastor and Mrs. Persson out of their concern for the spiritual witness in this community.

(The Perssons have completed a sabbatical leave in Eugene, Ore., where they ministered each Sunday a.m. at a nursing home and conducted Wednesday evening Bible studies.)

The Perssons' address now is 1203 Park Street, Boscobel, Wis. 53804.

—Corr.

## Eagle Butte, S. Dak.

"This is the day which the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it."

So began June 5th at Emmanuel Lutheran Church, Eagle Butte, S. Dak., its 25th and 26th anniversary—25 years in our church building and 26 years as an organized church.

The day began with a communion service at 8:00. It was planned that Rev. J. G. Erickson would bring the message; however, he was unable to attend due to a funeral in his parish and was greatly missed as he and his wife Harriett were with us at the beginning and for the first few years.

The message was brought by Rev. R. Snipstead, president of the AFLC.

The regular morning worship service started at 10. The message was again brought by Pastor Snipstead.

The noon meal was buffet style. Jack Lane, president of the Church Council, and his wife Pat were host and hostess. Billie Jo Keckler had baked and decorated a beautiful anniversary cake. We also observed Pastor Ernest Langness' 25th anniversary of ordination. A gift from the congregation and a decorated cake baked by Nina Zorc were pre-



Rev. R. Snipstead, left, and Rev. Ernest Langness, with the cake which was presented to Pastor Langness on his 25th anniversary of ordination.

sented to Pastor Langness.

Afternoon services were at 2:00 p.m. and Rev. Edwin Kjos, who served Faith and Eagle Butte from 1970 until 1978, brought the message. Special music and personal testimony were brought by Ann Wall Langren, Ruthton, Minn. Also, a duet by Harold Kilness and Wayne Sletten was sung.

A closing song, "God Be With You Till We Meet Again," was presented by the Weichert Family Singers from Faith.

Organist for the day was Eileen Bayliss Smothers, the pianist was Inga Bayliss, and the ushers were John Wall, Jack Lane and Melvin Anderson, Jr. Eleven of the charter members were present. Three of our charter members, Nola Brewer, Elmer Johnson and Ray Bayliss, have gone to be with the Lord, but were with us in memories.



Seventy-one children from ages four to 14 attended the Daily Vacation Bible School at Bethany Lutheran Church of Bluegrass, Sebeka, Minn., this past summer. Thirteen teachers and four helpers taught the school. Here the children are shown giving their closing program to a packed church. Mrs. James Mell was the superintendent and Mrs. Wm. Zondlo, assistant. Rev. Fred Carlson is the pastor.

## ATTENTION AFLBS ALUMNI

Homecoming '83 begins Oct. 7 and reservations must be received by Sept. 30. This year's honored classes are '68, '73 and '78. Our theme is "God: our help in the past, our hope for the future." Come and join us in this time of praise and fellowship.

The annual meeting of the AFLBS Alumni Association will be held on Oct. 8 at 9:30 a.m. The meeting will be held at Medicine Lake Church. All alumni are encouraged to come and to participate in the work of the Alumni Association.

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Minneapolis, Minn. 55441

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### Special congregational events this fall

*500th Anniversary of the Birth of  
Martin Luther: November 10*

What plan is your congregation making to observe this occasion? Watch for the special Luther and Reformation material in our October 11 and 25 issues.

*1983: The Year of the Bible. Sunday  
observance on November 27.*

Devise some way in which to highlight our great treasure of the Holy Scriptures on that Sunday.



*Martin Luther*

**Martin Luther:  
500 years**

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#### *Luther and Music . . .*

—He had a clear, strong tenor voice, and played like a virtuoso on the lute, so that on his journeys he would often attract the attention of the passers-by.

—We must not fail to emphasize the fact that Luther introduced into worship in place of Latin the language of the people, and congregational singing as a substitute for the chanting of the priests.

—There was truth in the assertion that Luther had made more converts by his hymns than by his preaching.

—The adoration of the saints and the virgin-mother was substituted by the worship of Christ, the only Mediator, and the preaching of the Word was made the central feature of the service, about which all revolves.

—Paul Reuter

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## FALL YOUTH RALLY

**Theme:** "Jesus Is Our Life-Saver"  
**Date:** Friday, September 30-Sunday, October 2 (ends w/noon meal)  
(6 p.m. registration)  
**Where:** St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church  
18th Street and Wilson Avenue,  
Cloquet, Minn.  
**Cost:** \$10.00 for entire weekend  
**Speakers:** Main Speaker—Tom Eggum, Youth Evangelist from Albert Lea, Minn.  
Bible Study Teacher—Pastor Herbert Franz, Cloquet, Minn.  
Elective Hour Topics (led by men within our Association) are:

- 1.) Death and Dying—Are You Ready?
- 2.) Servanthood—Caring and Sharing
- 3.) Peer Pressure—Dare To Be Different
- 4.) Assurance—Steps to Spiritual Growth
- 5.) Personal and Family Relationships

**Special Music:** Mr. Dave Malmberg from Minneapolis (Friday evening)  
The Ascension Singers from Twig, Minn. (Saturday evening)

**Special Guests:** "His Image" A drama team from Minneapolis

**Film:** "The Prize"

There will also be a banquet on Saturday evening and much, much more!