



THE LUTHERAN AMBASSADOR

August 31, 1993



FLY '93



THE LUTHERAN AMBASSADOR

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COVER PHOTOS by W. Hjermstad and A. Arneson.

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Separatists

The Greek word "aphorizo" appears in the Bible only once and that's in II Corinthians 6:17. The word means "to put a border around, to fence off, to separate, to place apart." Those terms almost sound anti-social. The dictionary says that a separatist is "a member of a group who withdraws from a larger group." In some respects that doesn't have a very appealing ring to it, does it? To be a separatist sounds like you are one of those who has chosen to go against current, popular opinions and current trends in life.

Around the year 1600 some people who were called Separatists in England went on trial for refusing to belong to the Church of England. In 1608 a group of those people moved to the Netherlands. After a few years they secured financial backing and decided to head for a new land. The group left for England in two ships and then they were going to continue on further from there. The smaller of the two ships was not seaworthy and had to be left in England. Most of us don't know those people as Separatists — we know them as Pilgrims or Puritans. All of us know the rest of the story.

Even though they lost almost half of their members that first winter. Governor Bredford declared a celebration of thanksgiving sometime in the autumn of 1621. To be a separatist is not always popular but if you are doing God's will He blesses you. Certainly among young people, where peer approval is so important, it is not easy to be a separatist. But any Christian worth his salt has to be a separatist. God calls for that and promises His blessing.

Listen to II Corinthians 6:14-18: *"Do not be yoked together with unbelievers, for what do righteousness and wickedness have in common? Or what fellowship can light have with darkness? What harmony is there between Christ and Belial? What does a believer have in common with an unbeliever? What agreement is there between the temple of God and idols? For we are*

Light on the Way

the temple of the living God. As God has said: 'I will live with them and walk among them, and I will be their God, and they will be my people.' Therefore come out from them and be separate,' says the Lord. "Touch no unclean thing, and I will receive you. I will be a Father to you, and you will be my sons and daughters."

The other day I received a phone call from my wife telling me that a neighbor boy of ours was out playing with gasoline and starting fires. She immediately confronted him and warned him of all the potential dangers and instructed him to stay away from those dangers.

Spiritually, God comes to us and says, "Don't play with fire. Stay away from it." Our Lord says those kinds of things to us because He is concerned about us. He wants to protect us and part of that protection is separation from the things of this world that will put us in danger of hell fire. He shows His concern for us in a prayer to the Father: *"Holy Father, protect them by the power of your name ... While I was with them, I protected them and kept them safe by that name you gave me. My prayer is not that you take them out of the world but that you protect them from the evil one."*

The world around us demands our attention. It's almost like a whirlpool or tornado sucking us into the center to destroy us. If our salvation depends upon separation from the destructive influences of this world, then, so be it. God's blessings will be our ultimate reward.



— by Rev.
Walter Johnson

Hardly a day goes by when I am not confronted with information promoting the welfare of my heart. My breakfast cereal boasts, "no cholesterol." My grocery store entices me to buy "extra lean" ground beef. My local fire department and drugstore offer free blood pressure testing. My local mall sells some sort of in-home-ski-without-snow contraption that is supposed to keep my heart in shape. And my commute to work is a challenge of dodging, stopping, swerving, and passing an array of

health conscious bicyclists, walkers, rollerbladers, and joggers seeking health and/or pleasure. In this sense, many of us are "guarding" our heart. And we hope to be rewarded with a "wellspring of life." But are we? Certainly the Lord would have us to see Proverbs 4:23 in a spiritual sense far above the physical. God's Word is the ultimate guard of your heart.

Guard your heart by paying attention to God's words.

In my early elementary school years, I was frequently accused of not following directions, which came as a result of not paying attention to my teacher's words. I was too busy talking to a friend, fidgeting in my desk, daydreaming about after school activities, or most often, trying to be one step ahead of the teacher on the art project or assignment. As a result, I stumbled into needless errors by doing things wrong.

I believe that this same human tendency is what God warns us about concerning our spiritual life in verse 20. We are bombarded daily with advice and instructions from every direction in life. And if we're not paying attention to the Lord, we may take the advice of others instead. Are God's words, Scripture, meeting inattentive ears? Are we too busy conversing with others, asking them for advice? Are we caught up in life's business, fidgeting with life's unimportant details, or making foolish decisions one step ahead of God; one step ahead of his instructions? God's Word can be right in front of us yet we may not be paying attention. It can be read to us, sung to us, preached to us, and even studied by us, but until the Holy Spirit opens our minds and hearts we cannot understand it. Guard your heart by praying that the Holy Spirit will keep you paying attention.

Guard your heart by listening closely to God's words.

A second protection for your heart is also found in verse 20, "... listen closely to my words." Sure, we can pay attention to God's words, but we can still have the tendency to rush into things, thinking we know what God means. It's like the tendency to put that new purchase together without reading the instructions.

In our human attempt to do what we think God wants us to do, we often rush into action before listening closely to the Word of God. In II Timothy 2:15 we read, "Study to show yourselves approved unto God, a workman that needs not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth." It is the word of truth that needs to be closely studied. Not read and immediately

"My son, pay attention to what I say; listen closely to my words. Do not let them out of your sight, keep them within your heart; for they are life to those who find them and health to a man's whole body. Above all else, guard your heart, for it is the wellspring of life (Proverbs 4:20-23)."

GUARD YOUR HEART

— by Intern Earl Korhonen
Lake Stevens, Washington





Mr. and Mrs. Marshall Nessa, Cloquet, Minnesota (top photo) and Mr. and Mrs. Nathan Monseth, Minneapolis, Minnesota. Both couples were married on June 12, 1993.



Rev. Dennis Gray's discussion group.



Youth from Astoria, Oregon, Lake Stevens, Washington, Williston and Stanley, North Dakota and Greenbush, Minnesota.

GUARD

put down, but studied, and studied, and studied. I Corinthians 2:14 clearly states: "The man without the Spirit does not accept the things that come from the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually discerned."

Guard your heart by not letting God's words out of your sight.

"Do not let them out of your sight ..." this is how verse 21 begins. Again we are encouraged to let the Word be a part of our life. But how is it possible to not let God's Word out of your sight?

All who have participated in the classic family photo sessions that occur each holiday know what it is to have something ever before your eyes. "One ... two ... three ... cheeeez ..." — FLASH! You have a blue dot before your eyes for the next hour or so. And each flash that follows only adds to the pattern embedded in your optic nerves. This example touches on the meaning behind not letting God's words out of your sight. Each temptation and each distraction can be overshadowed and overpowered by God's Word.

The Israelites knew the importance of God's

Word from the tassels they wore. In Numbers 15:37-39 we read: "The Lord said to Moses, 'Speak to the Israelites and say to them: Throughout the generations to come you are to make tassels on the corners of your garments, with a blue cord on each tassel. You will have these tassels to look at and so you will remember all the commands of the Lord, that you may obey them and not prostitute yourselves by going after the lusts of your own hearts and eyes.'" The tassels, or fringes, that they wore were always before their eyes to remind them of the words of God.

One begins to realize that God's words must be more than merely some lofty religious writings. They are not some time fillers or sweet poetry to fill time in our worship services Bible studies and devotions. The Words of God are much, much more. They are our only protection against the enemy. They are the light in our world of darkness. Hebrews 4:12 says it clearly, "For the Word of God is living and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart."



Three of the new FLY officers: John Greven, Amy Lee and Jeremy Holm.



Mandy Prozekwas and Lenae Lee, Roseau, Minnesota.

FLY '93 Review

Facts and figures from the 1993 National Luther League Convention in Estes Park, Colorado, June 28-July 3.

* Registration for the 917 youth was efficiently handled. Each youth was assigned to a discussion group based on a geographical region. These groups also met for prayer for their specific area and for the convention.

* Praise God for the beautiful weather the entire week. Temperatures were in the 60's at night and in the 80's during the day. Many convention goers enjoyed the hiking, swimming, horseback riding, miniature golf and many other activities in the spectacular setting in the Rocky Mountains.

* Evening services began each day at 7 p.m. A half hour was devoted to worship songs, choruses, hymns and Scripture reading. Rev. Richard Anderson, Lakeville, Minnesota, spoke on the theme: "Guard Your Heart" from Proverbs 4:23. Many youth were counselled after each service. The afterglow and testimony time was held in the Long House — a huge building housing two basketball courts end-to-end. One evening the afterglow continued into the morning hour.

* At 9 a.m. each day the entire group gathered to hear Rev. Peter Amerman, a Lutheran Brethren pastor from New Jersey, conduct a Bible study on "Dating, Love, Marriage and Sex." God's principles of purity in every relationship were explored by examples from God's Word.

Guard your heart by keeping God's words in your heart.

Finally, according to verse 21, we are to "... keep (God's words) in our heart." They are to be kept down deep inside our very being. Can you say with the Psalmist, "I have hidden your Word in my heart that I might not sin against you?" (Psalm 119:11). Are you actively guarding your heart?

Guarding your heart is much more than a week long Free Lutheran Youth Convention in Estes Park Colorado. Guarding your heart is a lifetime of rich spiritual growth and fellowship in God's Word. Children, youth, and adults, are you guarding your heart? Spiritually speaking, is your "no cholesterol" breakfast cereal accompanied, or better yet, preceded by a Spiritual meal? Do you daily embed the blades of your Sword, the Word of God, as a spiritual fortification around your heart? Is your spiritual blood pressure monitored by the Scriptures, rather than your feelings or those around you? Do your eyes, ears, and lungs take in the right "foods" to keep your heart clean? Are you looking forward to the ultimate wellspring of life; an eternity with Christ? May God give you a deeper desire for his Word!

Sunday School Is Beginning A New School Year!

Do you have family or friends near these Home Mission areas?

Redeemer Lutheran Church
Cambridge, Minnesota
Pastor Jim Haga
1321 — 338th Ave. NW
Cambridge, MN 55008
(612) 537-9579

Lamb of God Lutheran Church
Topeka, Kansas
Interim Pastor Don Greven
P.O. Box 67422
Topeka, KS 66667
(913) 267-7848
Body of Christ Free Lutheran Church
Tucson, Arizona
Pastor David Nelson
4880 E. 29th St. #23106
Tucson, AZ 85746
(602) 745-3762

Monroe Free Lutheran Church
Monroe, Washington
Pastor David Hinrichs
1711 — 26th St.
Everett, WA 98201
(206) 252-6775

Other possible areas for Home Mission Outreach:
Beulah, North Dakota
Milwaukee, Wisconsin
Superior, Wisconsin
Houston, Texas
San Antonio, Texas
For more information, contact:
AFLC Home Missions
3110 East Medicine Lake Blvd.
Minneapolis, MN 55441
(612) 545-5631
Rev. Elden Nelson, Director

Iowa Congregation Invests in Youth

"Go out to the roads and country lanes and make them come in, so that my house will be full (Luke 14:23)."

Perhaps never before in America can its young people be looked upon as such an urgent mission field as they are today! Christianity is slowly being squeezed out of our land while humanism, materialism and sin is leaving in its wake a generation of young people who have not heard of Jesus and His saving grace. The need to pursue youth in our communities should be a high priority for all our congregations. We cannot expect youth to come to us, for they know not that Jesus is their answer; instead, we must go to them.

I have been asked to share the history of youth work at Christian Free Lutheran Church in Wheatland, Iowa. In so doing, let me reaffirm that "the old, old story" is still the best one because God is always faithful to His Word. We only need to be the vessels to carry the word to the lost (Romans 10:14, 15).

In 1989 our congregation began investing in youth, determining to set aside three percent of all tithes and offerings to create a fund from which to hire youth workers and provide transportation to Luther League conventions. That summer six young people traveled to the convention in Vernon, B.C. They all came back strengthened in their faith, two of them sharing with the deacons of their church first time prayers to receive Jesus as their Savior. The following year the congregation raised the percentage from three to five percent for youth and called its first youth worker, AFLBS graduate Steve Carlson from Amery, Wisconsin. Steve served the Lord with great zeal and enthusiasm. Over 30 youth attended our youth meetings that summer. Through this investment in ministry, not only were young people receiving Jesus, but our congregation experienced great growth as many families began to visit the church because of the ministry to their youth.

FLY '93 REVIEW

* From 10:30-11 a.m. the youth were divided into the four groups and the speakers rotated from group to group. Speakers and topics included:

Rev. Robert Lee, AFLC President — *New Age - Old Lie*. He exposed the dangers and signs of the New Age Movement with clear warnings from Scripture.

Rev. James Ritter, Bloomington, Minnesota — *Dare to Discern*. God's principles of discernment and wisdom were explored.

Rev. Paul and Becky Abel, Missionaries to Brazil — *In Your Own Backyard*. They presented the need for missions around the world and next door.

Rev. Peter Amerman, Pemberton, New Jersey — *God Invented It-Let Him Explain It*. He was joined by Mrs. Betty Horgen, Rochester, Minnesota. The youth had the opportunity to ask questions and receive scriptural answers to the subjects of dating, love, marriage and sex.

* Counselors met each morning to share and pray with each other. Rev. Dennis Gray and Mr. Bob Halvorson led these sessions.



AFLC pastors at the convention.

In 1991 the church sent 23 teens to Colorado for the national convention. The year 1992 saw the work continue as our congregation called its second youth worker, Ryan Behne, who had attended one year at AFLBS. In addition, the youth group itself, with monies raised in fundraisers of their own, called Charles Speers to assist Ryan one quarter time. Charles was one who had been reached with the gospel partially due to the efforts of Steve Carlson, for which we praise the Lord. He has continued on to attend AFLBS.

A youth board has also been formed, consisting of both parents and youth, who plan fundraisers and events, and determine goals for the

group. Finally, we have just returned from the excellent Free Lutheran Youth Convention of 1993, where the congregation provided transportation for 31 teens and our third youth worker, Mr. Keith Quanbeck. Presently, six percent of all tithes and offerings is designated for youth work. This year's convention has had a greater impact than perhaps any other on our youth, for which we are thankful.

All of our youth workers have had to supplement their incomes, and the congregation has had to invest a great deal of money, but the result has been souls won for the Kingdom of Christ. This is worth the investment!

— Rev. Tim Carlson,
Wheatland, Iowa

* Rev. Terry Wold, Murrieta, California, led the five-day event. Park officials often commented on how well the AFLC leaguers conducted themselves throughout the entire week.

* The bi-annual business meeting was held on Thursday afternoon. The official name was changed from *The National Luther League Federation of the Association of Free Lutheran Congregations* to simply *Free Lutheran Youth*. The newly elected officers are Rev. James L. Johnson, president; John Greven, first vice president; Jeremy Holm, second vice president; Amy Lee, secretary; and Rachel Monseth, devotional life secretary. The Nominating Committee is Lyle Forde, Melissa Jameson, Eddie Britz, Holly Vachal and Erika Brandt. The 1995 convention is expected to again be held at Estes Park during the third week of July.

AMBASSADOR Hymnal Project Enters Final Phase

The AFLC Co-ordinating Committee approved a timetable for the completion of the "Ambassador Hymnal," presented to them on August 2 by project chairman Rev. Thomas Olson, that would make the new books available for next year's annual conference.

After a meeting with representatives of A-R Editions in Madison, Wisconsin, Rev. Olson and editor Rev. Brian Davidson announced that the new hymnals could be completed by the 1994 Annual Conference in Valley City, North Dakota, conditioned on the availability of necessary funds for the typesetting, printing and binding.

Almost \$30,000 in donations for the project have been provided by interested congregations and individuals, enabling the typesetting to begin and copyright costs to be paid. This means that approximately \$90,000 is still needed to cover the remaining costs, which the committee is expecting to receive from gifts, grants, and pre-sales.

The first campaign to offer the hymnal for sale is planned for October through January, offering a guaranteed price reduction for those who will purchase copies in advance dur-

ing this time.

"A-R Editions is doing an excellent job of typesetting," said Rev. Olson, who also asked that friends of the project would continue to pray that the Lord would provide wisdom for those involved in the preparations, as well as the needed funds. "People are praying, because this project is nothing short of a miracle!"

Donations are needed now, and congregations are encouraged to make plans to purchase the hymnals in advance as soon as the order forms and information are available in October.

For information on contents, lists of hymns, or answers to other questions, please send a self-addressed envelope (with two 29¢ stamps) to Ambassador Hymnal Project, Rev. Thomas Olson, 2311 — 10th Street, Cumberland, WI 54829, or call 715-822-2020.

A special word of thanks to all who have sent donations and memorial gifts to this project. Pastor Olson states that he is unable to send personal letters to all of you, but would certainly like to express his appreciation for each gift as well as for the words of encouragement and prayers which have helped to lighten the load.

AFLC Conference Elections

1994 Colloquy Committee

Rev. David Skordahl, Dalton, Minnesota

Rev. Mel Meyer, Marseilles, Illinois

Rev. Lynn Kinneberg, Mentor, Minnesota

Rev. Gerald Peterson, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

Rev. Lyle Aadahl, Upsala, Minnesota

Elected to Budget Analysis Committee (Terms to be determined)

Mr. Eldwyn VanBruggen, Valley City, North Dakota

Pastor Dale Finstrom, Glyndon, Minnesota

Introducing: YMCA of the Rockies

The AFLC National Luther League Convention has been held at the YMCA of the Rockies in 1991 and now in 1993. We have been privileged to rent these facilities with a "camp atmosphere." Likely the Free Lutheran Youth will meet there one more time in 1995.

The Estes Park YMCA has, as its goal, to provide a Christian environment for its renters. They seek to preserve an atmosphere apart from worldly influences. They provide Christian leadership conferences for the YMCA and rent its facilities to people with like mind.

Costs are comparatively low, enabling FLY to have a moderately priced conference. In addition to Estes Park Center, the YMCA offers Snow Mountain Ranch and Chief Ouray Day Camp for boys and girls. It also maintains nice camping facilities near Rock Mountain Park.

In the future you will see an expansion of the Pine Room, located in the Administration Building. The bookstore will become a lounge and the store will be moved. Ypsilon Lodge and the Alpen Inn will be renovated. Plans are to add a 300 seat auditorium. Hallets, Howard and Hague will become staff housing.

For more information on the YMCA of the Rockies, contact, Rev. Dennis Gray, 845 Old Ridge Road., P.O. Box M, Greenbush, MN 56726.



Seven hundred forty-three youth plus 90 counselors preregistered for the convention. There were 95 adult staff and guests. With the 94 late registrations, the group's size

Recent photo from the annual conference of the India work. Our workers in India report of the convention: "By the grace of our Lord and through your prayers it was successful."

The convention site was in the community of Vengalaraonagar, a town located not far from the city of Guntur.

Approximately ten years ago funds from AFLBS provided for a well in the center of town. The well continues to provide water for all the area people.

Note: It was with sadness that we received word recently of the death of Brother Aluri John, 60, one of our evangelists in India. May his family find their comfort and encouragement in the Lord Jesus. Pray that God would raise up a worker to carry forward the work in his place.

Annual Conference in India Held



Some of the conference participants gathered for one of the conference sessions.



topped the 1,000 mark! Approximately 56% of the youth were female and 16 of the 39 registered pastors served as counselors.



Repairs to the thatched prayer shed (believers meeting place) in the village of Amarthalur. Many repairs were necessary to the churches and pastors' homes following spring storms throughout the area.



Food distribution to some of the poor who have attended the Gospel meetings. Food provided through project funds from AFLC designated "India Relief Food."

A Living, Growing Youth Ministry

What God
is doing
among
youth in
Fosston,
Minnesota

The following is an interview with four individuals involved in the youth ministry at Calvary Free Lutheran Church of Fosston, conducted by Rev. Lloyd Quanbeck, Northome, Minnesota. Rev. Robert Koepp served Calvary Church from 1987-91, and currently is the pastor of Faith Lutheran Church, Colfax, Wisconsin. Rev. James L. Johnson began serving at Calvary in 1992 and is their present pastor. Richard and Lynette Miller have been youth advisers at Calvary since 1991.

WHAT WAS THE YOUTH MINISTRY LIKE AT CALVARY BACK IN 1990?

Pastor Koepp:

There were about 15 youth in grades 7-12, but there was nothing happening among them except for an occasional social event. Then about six months before the 1991 National Youth Convention some parents came to me and said there was not enough for youth in our church. A parents' meeting was held, and a parent stood up and said, "We can't expect our youth to be at church if parents don't come." This meeting was followed by nine monthly parents' meetings. It was decided to ask the Millers to be youth advisers, "because they were a couple that had concern for the souls of youth." Weekly youth meetings began.

HOW DID YOU FEEL WHEN YOU WERE ASKED TO BE YOUTH ADVISORS?

Lynette:

(Her first response was a hearty laugh.) Then we said, "We'll pray about it, and if it's God's will, we'll do it." Yes, I was a bit scared, but you have to rely on God and the Holy Spirit to work through you. We had lots of prayer support as we started.

WHAT DID YOU DO AS YOU STARTED YOUR WEEKLY YOUTH MEETINGS?

Richard:

The parents weren't sure what they wanted to have for their youth except that there should be a Bible Study. We asked for their total support and lots of prayer. We decided that each week would begin with a business meeting in which the youth conducted the business, and we elected officers. Then we also began a weekly Bible Study, and asked for the youth's participation in that and prayer. At first the youth didn't even want to be together, but that has changed, and they now are inviting others. We also began a monthly Sunday night service, planned and led by youth.

WHAT EFFECT DID THE 1991 CON- VENTION HAVE ON THE YOUTH OF YOUR CHURCH?

Pastor Koepp:

It had a great effect! Five guys and six gals went to the convention, and they all came back knowing the Lord if they didn't before that.

Richard:

They had a joy and excitement when they returned. We asked them to give testimonies. They were at first scared and didn't want to, but now almost every week someone shares a testimony.

Pastor Johnson:

I remember visiting with Bob Koepp that year and I watched him weep as all of his kids went forward. I praised God in my heart for what happened — and never dreamed that God would call me to follow up on the job that Bob was doing so well. Those youth are still a joy to my heart.

WHAT HAPPENED WHEN YOUTH EXPRESSED AN INTEREST IN GOING TO THE 1993 YOUTH CONVENTION IN COLORADO?

Pastor Johnson:

The youth were excited to see what the Lord had in store this time. Parents rushed to support it. Without one fundraiser or any matching gifts, we raised \$9,000 through voluntary giving, parents' support, and the youth's income from jobs. Thirty-one of us attended the 1993 convention — and loved it!

IS THERE ANYTHING ELSE YOU WOULD LIKE TO SAY ABOUT THE YOUTH MINISTRY IN FOSSTON?

Pastor Johnson:

One of the biggest encouragements to me when I came in June of 1992, was that the youth ministry was "owned and operated" by the youth and their parents themselves. They didn't say, "Hey, you're the new pastor, you take over the youth group." They already had a strong Christian couple, the Millers, overseeing the group and monthly parents' meetings to help support. I just came along for the ride.

Pastor Koepp:

I believe there can be a danger if the pastor takes a strong personal control of the youth group, in that when the pastor leaves, the youth ministry dies. The control should be with the youth themselves. Then when the pastor leaves the youth ministry doesn't skip a beat. Our job is not to build our own kingdom, but to get God's kingdom built.

Two AFLTS Graduates Ordained

On July 18, **Alan Arneson** was ordained into the ministry of the AFLC at his home congregation, Green Lake Lutheran Church, Spicer, Minnesota. Leading the afternoon service was Rev. Wendell Johnson, pastor of the congregation. Dr. Francis Monseth, AFLTS Dean, brought the challenge from I Timothy 1:1-5 and Rev. Robert Lee, AFLC President, officiated at the ordination. Other pastors participating were Les Galland, Ralph Tjelta, Verle Dean, and George Knapp. Rev. Arneson and his family began serving Oiland Lutheran Church, Greenbush and Badger Creek Lutheran Church, Badger, Minnesota, on June 1, 1993.

On August 8, **James Haga** was ordained at his home congregation, Christian Free Lutheran Church,

Wheatland, Iowa. Dr. Francis Monseth spoke on II Timothy 4:1-5. Local pastor Rev. Tim Carlson was the worship leader. Other pastors participating were Merle Knutson and Ed Iverson, along with Mr. Larry Behne, chairman of Christian Free Church and Mr. Merlyn Larson, chairman of Redeemer Lutheran Church, Cambridge, Minnesota. Rev. Haga began serving the Home Mission congregation in Cambridge on July 1, 1993.

**AFLBS Homecoming
1993
October 8-9
Honoring Classes
'68 '73 '78 '83 '88**

AFLC Schools Begin New Year

The AFLC Schools are preparing for a new school year. On September 8, at least five new seminarians are expected to enroll along with the three middlers and four seniors. Four interns are serving congregations this year. On Sunday, September 12, AFLBS officially begins with a 4 p.m. opening service. The majority of juniors are expected to return for their senior year, making the class enrollment near 50. The total student body is again estimated to be over 100.

Dr. Steven Lombardo will be the seminary's acting dean in the absence of Dr. Francis Monseth who will be teaching in Latvia and Estonia until June 1, 1994. Dr. Lombardo will be assisted by retired dean Rev. Amos Dyrud. Guest faculty members are Rev. Robert Lee, American Church History; Dr. Daniel Friberg, General Epistles and Hebrews; Rev. Laurel Udden, Contextual Education; and Mr. Peter Burton, Greek. Mr. Burton is a Greek scholar living in Minneapolis and the son-in-law of Rev. and Mrs. Laurel Udden.

Mr. Tom Schierkolk and his wife, Linda, and baby daughter have moved into the Residence Head's apartment in the men's dorm. Along with his duties as Dean of Men, Mr. Schierkolk will begin his studies at the seminary.

Schools Receive IMPACT Monies

The Bible School recently received \$3,835 from Lutheran Brotherhood's IMPACT/IMPACT PLUS programs, Inviting Member Participation in Aiding Lutheran Colleges and Theological Seminaries. The latest payment covers 45 gifts of Lutheran Brotherhood members during the second quarter of 1993.

The same program has paid \$4,310 to the Seminary from 45 gifts to the school. Lutheran Brotherhood matches members' gifts of \$25 to \$100 per year to Lutheran institutions of higher education throughout the nation.



Richard:

Our youth ministry has had its share of problems and discouragements, but I believe it is working because of God's work in the lives of the youth themselves. Youth need to know they are the church of today, and to be trusted to make decisions. The kids themselves came up with their own "Ten Rules of Conduct for Youth Group."

Lynette:

The youth have grown through being allowed to make their own decisions. They correct each other. The support of parents and of other "prayer warriors" in the congregation has really been the key to what is happening.

Pictured above are Dr. and Mrs. Francis Monseth and their two children, Ben and Rhoda, who have just arrived in eastern Europe. Pray for them as they take up residence there and as Dr. Monseth begins his ministry in assisting the German-Russian Lutheran Church in the field of theological education. They can be reached at the following address:

Deutsche Evangelisch-Lutherische Kirche in Republiken des Ostens
Elijas iela 18
Lv-1018 Riga
Latvia.



The Thursday WMF breakfast featured a "Women of the Bible" style show. Linda Mohagen (far right) designed the clothes.



National WMF Officers at an impromptu meeting in the hallway: (left to right) Cheryl Skordahl, Karen Knudsvig, Helen Knapp, Delores Berkas and Bonnie West.

Summarized WMF Convention Report

The convention was held at DeKalb, Illinois on June 16-17 with 172 women registered.

The theme was "Serve In Joy," theme text John 15:11, and the theme song "Make Me A Servant." Mrs. Lyndon Korhonen, WMF president, presided.

Pianist was Mrs. Terry Hannan, organist was Mrs. Edith Halverson of DeKalb, and the song leader was Miss Barb Elmquist of Cloquet, Minnesota. The Prayer Service was led by Mrs. Einar Unseth and devotions were given by Mrs. Mark Olson from John 15.

Six women spoke on the topic "Serving the Lord in various stages and walks of life." They were Miss Rosalie Paulson, Mrs. Dale Finstrom, Mrs. LeRoy Flickinger, Mrs. Herbert Presteng, Mrs. Marlene Unverzagt, and Mrs. Robert Lewis. The morning offering was given to Home Missions and the offertory was a vocal solo by Mrs. Curtis Emerson. Afternoon offering was for the WMF General Fund and the offertory was a musical number by the National WMF officers.

In the afternoon missionaries Paul and Becky Abel, along with three of their children presented a skit using puppets. They sang several songs and had a slide show on the ARCA, boys home, orphanage, Bible school and seminary. Pastor David and Janet Abel shared on their work in Vitoria. There was a question and answer time. We were challenged to pray, "Lord, give me a passion for souls."

A budget of \$1,000,000 was approved.

Mrs. Ted (Delores) Berkas of Wallace, South Dakota, was elected National WMF President.

Many attended the women's breakfast on Thursday morning. Mrs. Henry Mohagen, Towner, North Dakota, presented a style show on women of the Bible. Mrs. Bob West, Kalispell, Montana, and several other women shared. A petition was signed by those present to show our opposition to gays in the

Association of Free Lutheran Congregations

3110 East Medicine Lake Boulevard
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55441

AFLC Benevolences - February 1 - July 31, 1993

FUND	TOTAL BUDGET	REC'D IN JULY	TOTAL REC'D TO DATE	% TOTAL
General Fund	\$261,657.00	\$14,602.13	\$106,601.54	41
Seminary	148,620.00	7,250.31	45,133.57	30
Bible School	214,230.00	7,771.36	64,614.53	30
Home Missions.	292,593.00	22,534.97	119,291.09	41
World Missions.	310,000.00	26,049.27	157,911.64	51
Capital Investment ..	50,300.00	2,230.23	15,432.25	31
Parish Education . . .	53,147.00	6,039.13	29,712.18	56
ARC	13,200.00	670.18	2,832.35	21
Chrisn. Acad. Ed. Bd.	4,000.00	408.51	976.21	24
TOTALS	\$1,347,747.00	\$87,557.09	\$542,505.42	40
1992 - 1993	\$1,631,326.00	\$89,713.60	\$513,687.65	31
Goal 50%				

WOMEN



Mrs. Vince Will, Springfield, Missouri, and Mrs. Becky Conradson, Salem, Alabama.



Mrs. Linda Korhonen presents a gift of appreciation to the 1993 WMF Bible Study writer, Rosalie Paulson, Fosston, Minnesota.

military and our belief in the sanctity of all human life.

The Mission Festival Service held Thursday evening began with devotions by Mrs. Dennis Gray. Special music was a vocal duet by Rev. and Mrs. Wendell Johnson and a women's group from Grace Free Lutheran in DeKalb. AFLC President, Rev. Robert Lee installed the new president, Mrs. Ted Berkas. A gift from the WMF and the National Executive Board were presented to out-going president Mrs. Lyndon Korhonen in appreciation of her work. The offering was for My Missionary for a Day and the offertory was a quartet by the two Abel families.

Rev. Allen Monson, Dickinson, North Dakota, Chairman of the Home Missions Committee, challenged us with a message from II Corinthians 2:10ff. He spoke of the battle between God and the evil forces of our world, revealing some of the deceptions of Satan that we are to guard against.

There was a musical number by the AFLBS Ambassadors. The closing and benediction were given by Rev. Eugene Enderlein, World Missions Director.

"These things have I spoken unto you, that my joy might remain in you, and that your joy might be full," (John 15:11).

— Cheryl Skordahl
Secretary



The Memorial Service was led by Mrs. Sherman McCarlson, Webster, South Dakota.



Mrs. Jan Pretitauer, Fergus Falls, Minnesota and Mrs. Carol Haugen, McVie, North Dakota.

AFLC-2000 Underway

Rev. Gary Skramstad continues to live in Osakis but has a new address: R.R. 3, Box 265, Osakis, MN 66360, phone 612-859-4900.

Wilderness Bible Camp, Lake Park, Minnesota — is hosting a Labor Day Retreat. Set up camp on Sept. 3rd. Join us Saturday evening for a steak fry (bring your own steaks) and evening devotions. Worship with us on Sunday, beginning at 10 a.m. On Monday, Labor Day, we'll have a pancake and sausage breakfast, followed by devotions at 9 a.m. Fellowship, relax and work together in His Spirit! Come for a day or the weekend!

Rev. Raynard Huglen, Newfolden, Minnesota, attended the 40th anniversary reunion of his graduation from Augsburg Seminary in Minneapolis on June 11-12. All 12 members of the class were present, coming from as far as California and Washington. Among other members of the class are two former AFLC pastors, Rev. Harold Schafer, Des Moines, Iowa, who served at DeKalb, Illinois; and Rev. Palmer Sevig, Willmar, Minnesota, who served at Wallace, South Dakota.



Bemidji, Minnesota — Bethany Free Lutheran Church held their first Founders' Day on June 20. Families of the charter members were recognized. Pictured with the pastor, Alvin Sather, are five of the new members who joined at the same service.



Barbara Hendricks, AAL representative, is pictured above presenting a check for \$10,000 from the Lutheran fraternal insurance company to AFLC President Robert Lee. This special grant will provide support for AFLC-2000, a plan that was presented to the 1993 Annual Conference. This program, which is a response to the AFLC's rapid growth in recent years, will create a churchwide prayer chain, as well as a network for improved communication between the pastors and the national officers. It will also challenge our people to be debt free by the time of our next annual conference, and to create a fund for future ministries.

New Editor Elected

Rev. Craig Johnson, Eugene, Oregon, was elected by the Co-ordinating Committee to a three-year term as editor of *The Lutheran Ambassador*. Johnson, a 1988 graduate of the AFLC Seminary, is pastor of Spencer Creek Lutheran Church, Eugene. The third editor in the history of the bi-weekly denominational publication he will begin his term in October.

El Campo, Texas — Faith Lutheran Church hosted the Barnabas XX Team (an AFLC Home Mission team designed to assist congregations in their summer ministries) earlier this summer. When asked to comment on the team's ministry in this new AFLC congregation, Pastor Clyde Grier exclaimed: "Absolutely the best investment we have ever made!"

Southern District — The AFLC's growing South-Central District has a newsletter called "Southern Sunrise." The editor is Steve Chase, Wichita Falls, Texas. After putting together his first newsletter in July, Steve commented: "It is a soul enriching pleasure to be able to put my professional publishing skills to work for a much higher cause than my regular employer!"

Organ available — Maranatha Free Lutheran Church, Glyndon, Minnesota, has a Wurlitzer Model 4460 organ to give to a church. It is in good condition. If your congregation could use it, come and get it. A member of Maranatha has purchased a new Rogers keyboard for the congregation to allow this gift to be available. Contact Pastor Dale Finstrom, 121 — 7th St. SW, Glyndon, MN 56547; phone (218) 4088-2808.



Freeman, South Dakota — Salem Lutheran Church hosted a supper on Saturday evening, July 10. Pictured are missionary Paul and Becky Abel and family after presenting the program later in the evening. Members from Immanuel Free Lutheran Church, Centerville, attended the program also. The Abels will be in several Illinois congregations in September before returning to Brazil in October.

Mankato, Minnesota — Word of Life Lutheran Church broke ground for their new building in May. Construction has been delayed due to the heavy rains this summer.

THE CRISIS OF OUR CHURCH YOUTH

The largest AFLC gathering in history took place during the last week in June, as 900-1,000 youth and advisors met in Estes Park, Colorado, for the National Luther League Federation Convention. This was the first LLF Convention that I had attended in several years, and it was an incredible experience to see the Spirit of God touching so many lives through the Word.

In my opinion there was a good balance between the nurture of those who continue to walk in the grace of their baptism and the call to conversion of those who have wandered away, with a clear message to all of the need for commitment to God's plan. The leaders were not afraid to close the services with an invitation, and it was a thrill to see the front of the auditorium crowded with seekers night after night.

Yet the impression that remained with me, in spite of all the good messages and encouraging reports of spiritual progress, is that the youth of our church are in crisis.

This was especially evident during the "afterglows," a time following the evening services when the young people were invited to come to the microphone and express their personal joys and sorrows. These sessions are a tradition at our youth conventions and camps, and anyone who has attended in the past is accustomed to them. But this time it was different.

Some spoke of alcohol abuse and drug addiction; many witnessed to the bitterness and pain produced by broken homes. I can still hear the hurt in the voice of the young man who hadn't seen his dad since he was two years old, and the tearful words of the young lady who told for the first time of her sexual abuse. For every one teen who thanked God for the security of a Christian home, there were several who asked for prayer because of situations far from what he ever intended. Counselors confided that this was only the tip of the iceberg, and that they were kept busy in the dorms listening and talking to many others who were hesitant about sharing their struggles in public.

How will we respond to this crisis? A national youth convention every other year is good, but not enough, and only a small percentage of our church young people are reached by the various camps and area activities. The key to successful youth outreach and nurture is still the home, of course, together with the local congregation. Unfortunately, as one counselor lamented, "Their parents don't even have a clue to what's really happening!" One would hope that this is only true in part.

Yes, let's continue to strengthen our national AFLC youth program. Plans are already in progress for the next convention, and the two resource directors (Dennis Gray and Bob Halverson) are doing an excellent job of providing our local groups with encouragement and helpful materials. Perhaps, too, we will finally see a full-time director secured.

Yes, let's continue to send out the summer Bible School teams. What a blessing these young adults have been to our fellowship!

The crisis of our church youth today demands a new commitment, however, to an ongoing ministry in our local congregations. There is no other group in the life of a church that is with us so short a time as our teenagers. What are we doing to hold them and win them to Jesus Christ?

What more can we do?

When can we start?

THE GREAT FLOOD OF 1993 AND GOD'S JUDGMENT

It is a flood of almost biblical proportions, declared one journalist as he tried to describe the extent of the flood that has covered so much of the Midwest this summer. A good try, but he missed the mark, because the Great Flood mentioned in the Book of Genesis was a worldwide judgment.

There are those who have tried to speak this summer with a prophetic voice, calling our current disaster a sign of God's judgment upon the United States, especially in reference to the abortion struggle. One must confess that it is tempting to compare the two floods, and many Christians are convinced that this nation is ripe for judgment.

Yet a word of caution is needed. Our world has been a fallen one since Adam and Eve were expelled from the garden, and a part of this bondage is the reality of natural disasters. The righteous suffer as a result of them, too, not only the unrighteous, and it might be difficult to defend the obvious conclusion of any modern judgment theory that Iowa, for example, is more deserving of punishment than some other state.

Having said this, however, we must declare that God does work in mysterious ways. The loss of home and possessions, as well as the widespread crop failures, should serve as a call to repentance for both Christians and those who try to live without the Lord. These natural disasters will also provide a multitude of opportunities for God's people to manifest His love through material sharing, and He continues to bless the hands that are stretched out in love to help those in need. (Gifts may be shared through World Relief Commission or Lutheran Brotherhood.)

The Great Flood of 1993 may not be a flood of biblical proportions, but it is a time for all to face biblical precepts. May God have mercy!

POSTSCRIPT

A check was received at the AFLC headquarters designated for the support of the missionary family who are currently traveling among our congregations on deputation. The note that accompanied the donation, however, said that it was for the "deportation" of the Paul Abel family.

Let's see ... how will we receipt this one?

The Last Word

THE LUTHERAN AMBASSADOR

3110 E. Medicine Lake Blvd.
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55441

Second-Class

God's Prescription

Evangelism is a pre-requisite of a free and living congregation. This is not a one-time program which is used to begin a congregation or to jump-start it again. Our "Fundamental Principles" clearly indicate that a "quickening preaching of the Word" is to be an ongoing experience in every congregation.

In some way or fashion, people need to be confronted with the finished work of Christ and then encouraged to choose this gift of salvation. To desire salvation indicates there is a realization that there is something to be saved from. There are a lot of things that people may want to be saved from but the gift of salvation will never be given unless there is realization of personal sin. Jesus is a personal Savior and He died and rose again not only for the general sin condition of the world but for the individual's personal sin.

For the heart to be prepared for the "gift" the individual must know he or she is a sinner (original sin) and also that they have actual sin. (Thoughts, words and deeds that do not meet God's perfect will.) Also, that there are sins of omission the greatest of which is not believing in Jesus Christ. When the Holy Spirit takes us through this process via the Word of God we are called not only by the preacher but more importantly, by the Holy Spirit, to receive this gift of salvation.

Once the gift of salvation in Christ is received we begin the lifelong process of what is called sanctification. This is essentially daily renewal which calls us each day to allow God to search our hearts and see if there be any wicked way. When sin is revealed, which it will if we are honest before God, we are then called upon to confess and repent of our sins and reaffirm our God-given desire to live in the grace of God through Christ Jesus.

We are also called to growth in grace which is essentially growing in obedience to our Savior again through the Word and prayer. All of this is, of

course, a gracious work of the Holy Spirit. It is also the primary work of evangelism.

However, who is it we usually think of when we think of evangelism? Is it not "the lost" or "the heathen" or "the big bad world"? The primary function of evangelism is not to reach the above but rather as the Negro spiritual put it; "It's me, oh Lord, standing in the need of prayer." Yes, the primary target is myself and from there the focus shifts to the part of the body of Christ which is my congregation. From there it must go to every member of the body of Christ which eventually would evangelize all throughout the world.

God has given us the prescription for this evangelism process in II Chronicles 7:14: "If my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then will I hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and will heal their land." Notice it is "my people" who are the first and primary target.

The sins and ills of the world are certainly plain for all to see but they do not have any possibility of changing their circumstances. This responsibility has been put squarely into the hands of the people of God. Until the people of God are properly evangelized (follow through on God's prescription) there is

no hope for change or improvement in our world. This should be no surprise to us but somehow it is always easier to blame someone or something else rather than see ourselves for what we are.

Jesus said: "You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again?" Then He goes on to say: "It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled by men" (Matthew 5:13). Is this not an exact description of what is happening to the testimony of the people of God? Thank God there are exceptions. There are few in the body of Christ who are as effective as God's people should be. Evangelism of God's people must be our priority and we must follow the prescription of God fully. Lord willing I would hope we could pursue that line of thought next time. Meanwhile, may God give us a deep desire to be doers and not only hearers of His Word. Amen.



— Pastor
Gene Sundby