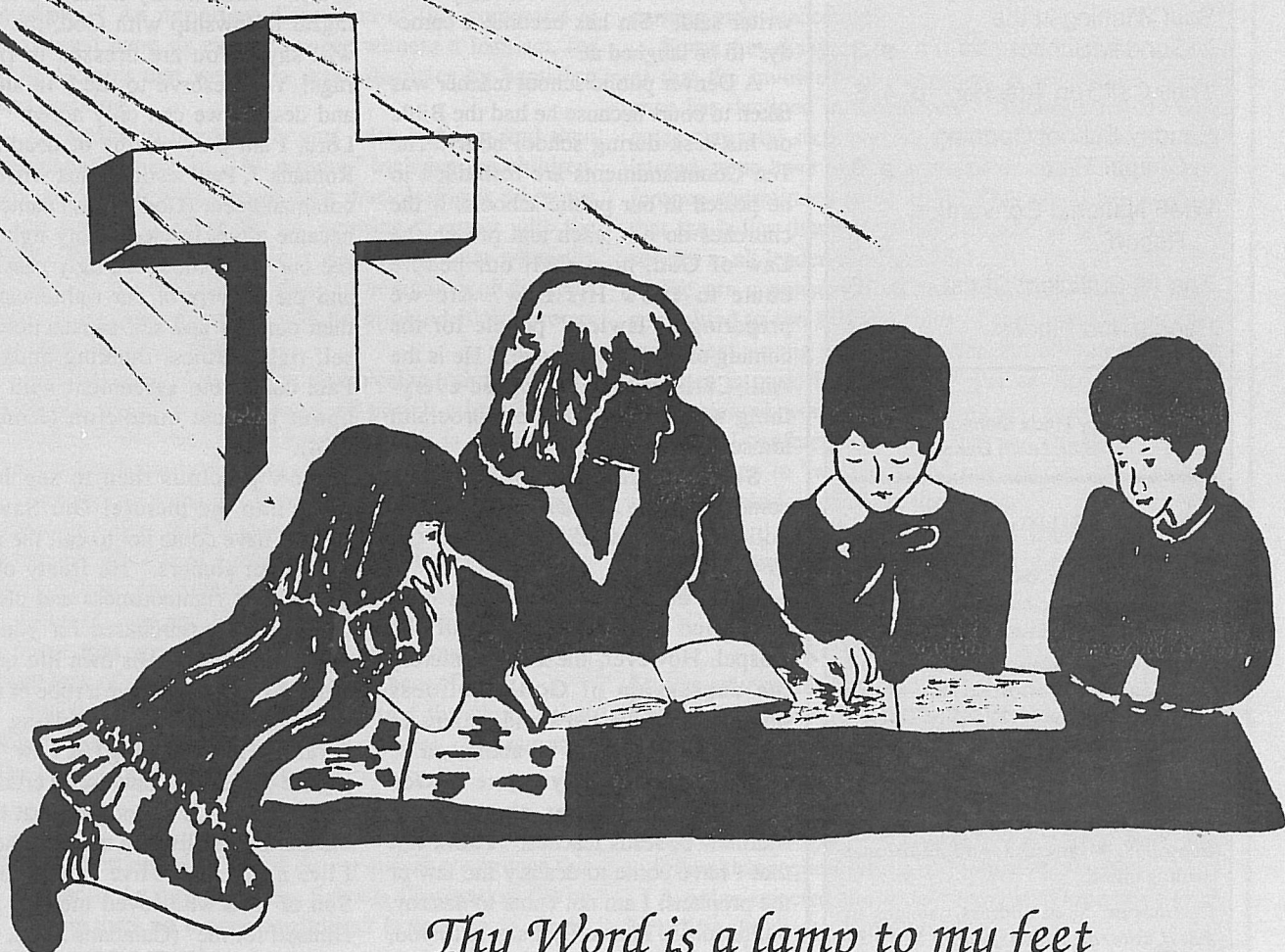


THE LUTHERAN AMBASSADOR

August 6, 1991



*Thy Word is a lamp to my feet
and a light to my path.*

Psalms 119:105

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August 6, 1991 • Vol. 29, No. 15

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COVER

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The Law of God and the God of the Law

The Law of God is generally ignored by many seminaries and pastors today along with that little word, "sin." Both have nearly disappeared from preaching and teaching. Romans 3:20 reminds us that, "through the Law comes knowledge of sin." The Law was given, "that sin might be shown to be sin, and through the commandment might become sinful beyond measure" (Romans 7:13). But today sin is not taken seriously. One writer said, "Sin has become a comedy," to be laughed at.

A Denver public school teacher was taken to court because he had the Bible on his desk during school hours. The Ten Commandments are forbidden to be posted in our public schools. If the churches do not teach and preach the Law of God, how shall our people come to know His Law? Are we preparing a "lawless" people for the coming of the "lawless one?" He is the Anti-Christ who will oppose everything which is of God and proclaim himself God!

Someone said: "Our sad state comes from the flippant regard for the holiness of God. Culture leads; the Church follows."

Many think that the Law has been abolished with the coming of the Gospel. However, the Law is merely the expression of God's holiness impinging on the lives and actions of men. It can no more be abolished or changed than the holy nature of God can be abolished or changed. In Matthew 5, Jesus teaches: "**Think not** that I have come to destroy the law or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfill. For verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass away, not one jot or one tittle shall in any wise pass from the law till all be fulfilled."

Many today walk oblivious to the holiness of God and the Law. They practice outward religious activity, but they are like the good Pharisee Paul used to be. He said: "I was once alive apart from the Law" (Romans 7:8).

The Prophet Amos once asked (3:3), "Can two walk together except they be agreed?" Can a sinful man walk and fellowship with the Holy God except they be agreed? Imagine the Holy God whose holiness shines with a splendor before which angels hide their faces, and of whom Habakkuk said (1:13): "Thou who art of purer eyes than to behold evil and canst look on no wrong," fellowshiping with sinful men whose **best righteous deeds** are as filthy rags (Isaiah 64:6)! When we try to have a meaningful fellowship with God, the Law will say: "You are dressed in filthy rags! You deserve to die." In shame and despair we can only agree: "Yes, Lord, I am only worthy of death." In Romans 7, Paul testified that when the commandment (God's Law) came, sin became alive. In God's holy light, we see our filthy thoughts, ugly passions, and the poverty of our righteousness; then our ego and self-satisfaction and self-righteousness thinking must die. Paul came into agreement with God about his lost condition (Romans 7:24).

How precious then to see Jesus come into the picture! Our Saviour said: "I have come not to call the righteous, but sinners." He freely offers that perfect righteousness and cleansing which He purchased for you and me at the price of His own life on the cross. Now we can have a robe of righteousness fit to wear in walking with the Holy God, fulfilling His Law. With joy we can say: "I have been crucified with Christ: it is no longer I that lives, but Christ who lives in me: and the life I live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God who loved me and gave Himself for me" (Galatians 2:20).

Would there perhaps be more joy and appreciation of Christ and the Gospel if we preached the Law and gave more people the experience of having walked with the Holy God of the Law until they had a real need of a Saviour? Would even the world see a difference? May it be so.

— by Rev. Kermit C. Grundahl

Soul Winning in the Sunday School



"The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life, and he who is wise wins souls" (Proverbs 11:30).

God can use your Sunday School classroom as a place for evangelism this year. You can learn how to win souls to Christ through personal evangelism classes or individual Bible study and as you listen to the prompting of the Holy Spirit and obey them.

The two most important truths to remember in helping someone come to a personal acceptance of Christ are that every person has a spiritual need and that God has met that need in Jesus Christ. These truths may be understood as you point out Bible verses which the Holy Spirit can use in the heart of a person so he recognizes his need, confesses his sin, and asks Jesus to come into his heart as Lord and Savior. Do not ever feel you are inadequately equipped to lead a soul to Christ because II Timothy 3:16-17 says: "All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; that the man of God may be adequately equipped for every good work."

There are several factors to keep in mind if you expect to win souls to Christ. First of all, you must have asked Jesus to come into your own heart and be living for Him before you can talk about salvation to your students. How can you expect to witness of something that you

have not experienced yourself? Soul winning begins first in the heart of the teacher.

It is important to have a salvation plan in mind in the event you are asked: "How do I ask Jesus to come into my heart?" Be prepared to answer with Scripture. As you share Scripture, ask the Holy Spirit to make you sensitive to the spiritual need and awareness of the person. If the Spirit has already applied the Law to the heart of the person and there is godly sorrow for sin, you will want to share Gospel verses. But if there is not a knowledge of sinfulness and a godly sorrow, you must share the Law of God. Gospel cannot be applied until the Law has done its work of revealing complete sinfulness and a need for the Savior. (Examples of verses you might share: **Man's Need** — Romans 5:12, Romans 3:23; **God's Provision** — John 14:6, Romans 6:23; **New Life** — II Corinthians 5:17; **Confession** — Romans 10:13, I John 1:9, Revelation 3:20; **Assurance** — I John 5:11-13. "Preach the Word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with great patience and instruction" (II Timothy 4:2).

It is also important not to assume a person is a Christian. You may assume him right into hell. Every believer is commissioned to tell others about Jesus when the Holy Spirit prompts, or their blood will be on his hands. The decision to accept or reject Christ is not your responsibility, but you are responsible to share the Word in such a way that sin and grace are made known ☞

—Mrs. Michael
(Lori) Crowell
Wichita Falls, Texas

They Call You

The following tract written by Oletta Wald (copyright 1991) has been reprinted as a tool for our pastors and Sunday School teachers to use in their monthly Sunday School teachers' meetings. The five points could easily be developed for at least five different teacher-training sessions throughout the school year. We will be happy to send as many copies of "Servants of the Lord" as you can use; just call or write to the AFLC Parish Education Department.

SERVANTS OF THE LORD

Sunday School teachers, you are servants of the Lord. You will want to consider your Position, Purpose, Preparation, Privilege and Presentation as you accept the call to teach a Sunday School class.

POSITION...

If you are a Sunday School teacher, you are a **servant** of the Lord. You may have been asked

to be a teacher by the pastor or by the superintendent or by a church board, but no matter who asked you, you are the **Lord's** servant. You are doing His work. What kind of servant are you?

Are you an **indifferent** teacher? If so, you...
*spend little time on preparation
*are late or almost late
*never try to make your class interesting
*have poor discipline
*do not care if the children learn
*do not try to understand the children
*make no attempt to improve your teaching
*live an inconsistent life.

Are you a **militant** teacher? If so, you...
*demand absolute attention
*demand that the children behave
*demand that the lessons are learned
*are not too concerned about the attitudes of the children
*seldom change your methods of teaching.

Are you a **conscientious** teacher? If so, you...
*try to have a good class
*try to prepare your lessons
*try to maintain discipline
*try to

SOUL WINNING

(Ezekiel 3:16-21 and 33:1-9). The teacher of very young children should be careful to question the child in such a way as to determine if he is convicted of doing something sinful or if indeed he is in need of asking Christ into his tender heart.

If you should happen to ask a believer if he is a Christian, he will more than likely thank you for your interest in his spiritual well-being and you may enjoy a time of fellowship and sharing of the joy you both have in Christ.

As you prepare for your Sunday School class, take the time to pray for your students. Pray daily, earnestly and specifically for individual needs. Pray that God will prepare hearts to receive the Word of God as it is taught each Sunday.

It is also important to be faithful to God in finding, preparing and teaching material that truly presents the Word of God. It has been my experience that the "Ambassador Sunday School Series" does present the Word of God in a manner that the way of salvation is made clear to all. You will see results when you teach God's Word (Isaiah 55:11). Come to class prepared in mind, heart and material so that there is

spiritual nourishment for your class. Then you will see "God's Word by which goes forth from My mouth; It shall not return to Me empty; without succeeding in the matter for which I sent it" (Isaiah 55:11).

In addition to prayer and preparation, it is essential that you, as a Sunday School teacher, become involved in the lives of your students. As a Sunday School teacher, you have an open door of opportunity to show your students that you really care for them. You are a reflection of God's love to them. Let them see Jesus in you. Some of the things you might do are: take them shopping; take them out for an ice cream treat; invite their families over for dinner; go to school activities they participate in or take them to school activities; send them birthday cards; call them if they miss Sunday School, etc. You might even give them your phone number so they can call you if they need help with a Sunday School lesson or just need a listening ear. All of these things will build confidence in the hearts of your students so that when God speaks to their spiritual needs they will know they can come to you for help if they need to.

Teacher

get the children to do the lessons *try to be a good teacher, but try in your own strength.

Are you a **Christ-directed** teacher? If so, you...
*have a personal intimate relationship with Christ
*make prayer a vital part of your preparation
*seek to improve your teaching by attending classes and studying
*prepare carefully for your class
*aim to have an interesting class
*are interested in each child and his home
*seek to lead each child into a growing relationship with Christ.

You fit into one of the types or you may be a mixture. No matter what type you are, you are still a **servant of the Lord**. You are all He has to teach His children.

PURPOSE...

The purpose of the Sunday School teacher is to provide the **message** of the Lord. What is His message to the children?

That God is a heavenly Father who loves them with a great love.

Another way of opening the door to share Christ with your students is to share how the Bible relates to your own personal life. Share with them how God has made a verse real to you or how He has prompted you to pray and then graciously answered that prayer. You will be teaching your students that God's Word is for everyone's daily life. Then they will be encouraged to read and apply the Word to their lives. In my classroom, the students and I have chosen to read a chapter a day in the book of John. When we return on Sunday we discuss verses that the Holy Spirit has made important to us and ways of applying them to our lives. "But prove yourselves doers of the Word, and not merely hearers who delude themselves" (James 1:22).

As you are sure of your own salvation, present the Law and Gospel, consider all in need of the Gospel, pray, prepare, love, and share together. Someday you will be rewarded with the question: "How do I ask Jesus into my heart?" And you will have the blessed privilege of seeing a soul won to Christ.

Yes, **Lord**, give us a burden for souls!



That He sent His only Son to be their Saviour.
That they become His children in holy baptism.

That He wants them to have a growing, vital relationship with Christ.

That they must personally choose Christ as their Lord in order to remain in their baptismal covenant and to know His joy and peace.

That Christ's way of life is the only happy and satisfying way.

That He is a forgiving and prayer answering God Who is always ready to receive any one who turns to Him in faith.

That He wants His children to share their blessings with others.

PREPARATION...

How can you present the **message** of the Lord? You must first receive it from Himself, through His Word, through prayer, through experience. If you have no personal experiences with the Master, you have no message to give. The Lord must have a part in the preparation for your class or the message you present will have little effect.

PRIVILEGE...

To be servants of the Lord is a great privilege, but a tremendous responsibility. Yours is the opportunity to guide and to mold the lives of children. Their future is in your hands. You can lead children to the kingdom of God. You have a part in determining whether or not they will remain permanent members in God's family. Yours is the privilege to lead them into a growing relationship with Christ and to help them choose Him as Lord of their lives. Your personal life and your preparation will influence the effectiveness of your teaching. What are you doing with your privilege?



Sunday School Opening Chapel Time

List the order of worship on tag board and display it each Sunday. After following the chart for several Sundays, follow it without explanation to establish a setting of honor and respect for God as you gather in His Name.

Suggested Order of Worship:

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Prelude or Call to Worship
Hymn*
Bible Reading and Prayer
Pledges — Bible, American Flag, Christian Flag or Recite The Ten Commandments and The Apostles' Creed
Welcome to Visitors
Birthday Offering**
Special Observance***
Offering
Singing
Announcements****
Closing Prayer
Dismissal

*A quiet hymn should be used to call children to attention. The opening hymn should be changed occasionally to correspond with a particular theme or season of the year.

**Birthday offering is usually taken once a month.

***A meditation, story (using visuals), object lesson, etc.

****It is helpful to send notes home listing special events and inviting parents to attend them with their children.

TEACHER

PRESENTATION...

Do you present the lesson so that the child can experience God in all that he does **today**? Each Sunday he should experience God in such a way that it will directly influence him in his daily living. In the worship service he should meet God as a Holy God. One who is to be approached with reverence and respect. In his class period he should meet Him as a Teacher and Guide, learning to know Christ's way of life through the lessons and the Bible. In his prayers, he should meet Him as a Friend, a Comforter, a Saviour. A child should experience **now** the saving power, the forgiving power, the sustaining power of our Lord and Saviour. If Sunday School is only a routine exercise and never becomes an experience, the lessons which we teach may never become a vital part of his life.

Do you give the child experiences in worship? Does your worship service and your teaching create an attitude of worship, respect and reverence in the heart of the child? Have

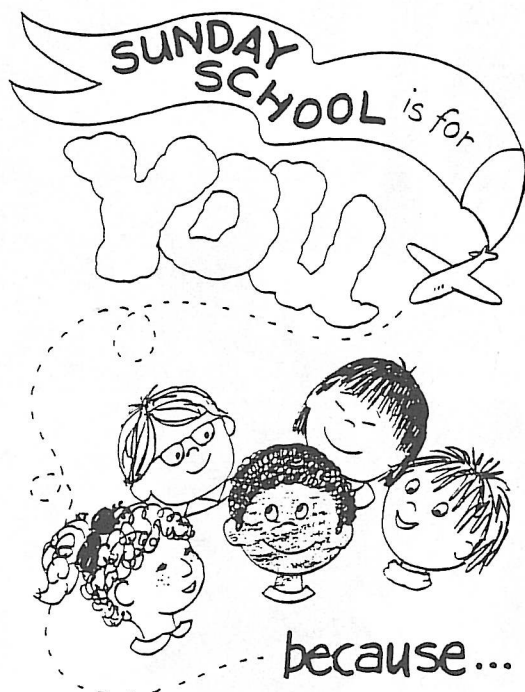
you shown him that God can be very real in his Life? Have you sought to lead him into a closer fellowship with Christ?

Do you give the child experiences in the Word of God? Is the Bible a living, useful book to him? Have you taught him to love and revere it? Has he found that it can answer his questions and help him to solve life's problems?

Do you give the child experiences in prayer? Is the Lord's Prayer the only prayer which he prays? Is prayer a definite part of your class teaching? Does your class know the meaning of prayer fellowship? Does the child know the true meaning of prayer?

Do you give the child experiences in sharing? Is the offering just a collection to him, or a part of worshipful giving? Does he find joy in giving? Is he taught how he can be a missionary himself?

May the Lord be able to say to you: "Well done, good and faithful servant: thou has been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of the Lord" (Matthew 25:23).



You will learn about...



The BIBLE: The message of salvation from Almighty God to you.



JESUS: Your Heavenly Father's only Son who came to be your Savior. †



PRAYER: You can talk to Jesus anytime, anywhere, about anything. He will listen and talk to you.



MUSIC: That will help you worship and praise God—and comfort you.



LIVING A LIFE: For God and others that is obedient, useful and happy.



GROWING: Pure and strong in your character.



TELLING: Others about Jesus.



FRIENDS: Teachers, other grown-ups and kids who will love you and help you with your problems.

John 3:16

Your Church
One Sunrise Avenue
Everywhere, U.S.A.
9 a.m. Sunday School

© 1991 AFLC Board of Parish Education

A great little card for kids! Use it as an invitation to Sunday School, VBS or Worship service. Use it throughout the Sunday School year as a gift for visitors. Order your supply today from the AFLC Parish Education Department.

THANK YOU

We wish to thank you — every Sunday School, church, WMF, men's fellowship, and individual — who has prayed for and given to the work of Parish Education this past school year of 1990-91. Your support of our new book fund was wonderful and we plan to have the **first** quarter of fourth grade available in August. Other new materials have also been added to benefit your church and Sunday School and are listed elsewhere in this issue.

Won't you continue to pray for us as we begin the 1991-92 school year? We are finishing second and third quarters of fourth grade. There are many other student books and teachers' manuals which need to be reprinted. Revision continues on other grade levels and other materials are being developed for use with our basic curriculum.

Budget Update

Received in May
\$1,788.56

Received in June
\$4,475.84

Total Received to Date
\$12,124.11

Percent Total
19%

Monthly Operating Costs
\$3,000



Mrs. Ralph (Katha) Tjelta, Director of Parish Education. Members of the Board of Publications and Parish Education are: Rev. Wesley Langaas, chairman; Dr. Mary Lindquist, vice chairman; Mrs. Rodney (Barb) Stueland, secretary; Mrs. Kenneth (Barb) Moland and Rev. Richard Anderson.



Mrs. Mark (Ruth) Antal, Brussels, Belgium, brought greetings along with Missionary Rachel Mundfrom, Chad, Africa.



Mrs. Dale (Chris) Finstrom, Glyndon, Minnesota, (pictured left) led the prayer service.

WMF National Convention Report

The convention was held at the Association Retreat Center, Osceola, Wisconsin, on June 12, 1991, with approximately 280 women registered.

The theme was "Hold Fast — God is Faithful" with Hebrews 10:23 as the text. Theme song was "The Solid Rock."

The morning prayer service was led by Mrs. Dale Finstrom. We were given a prayer list of our missionaries and chaplains and divided into small groups to pray.

The organist, Mrs. Paul Nash, and pianist, Mrs. Dennis Jacobson, played the prelude and accompanied the beautiful hymn singing, led by Mrs. Wendell Johnson. Devotions in the morning were by Martina Johnson and in the afternoon by Mrs. Cliff Seldal. Vocal solos were sung by Mrs. Terry Wold

and Mrs. John Mundfrom. Mrs. John Strand presented the Bible study on our theme and text. "Our hope is built on His faithfulness and He enables us to hold fast to our hope ... We encourage one another to love and good deeds and are looking forward to the Lord's return."

The Memorial Service leader was Mrs. Amos Dyrud, and all district presidents were representatives of their districts. Mrs. Steve Lombardo sang "Behold a Host."

The offerings were received for Home Missions and WMF General Fund, and the offertories were played by Marybeth Enderlein on the harp.

Rev. and Mrs. Dan Giles, Mexico, both spoke about the power of prayer. He said we have the privilege in Mexi-

co now to tell about Jesus. Debbie said "We (the Giles) prevail when you (the WMF) are in prayer."

Elected 2nd vice president was Mrs. George (Helen) Knapp, Willmar, Minnesota, and as treasurer, Mrs. Ed (Jan) Preitauer, Fergus Falls, Minnesota. A budget of \$92,000 was approved.

Thursday evening Mission Festival Service began with a prelude by the Amery Bell Choir, who also played the offertory. Devotions were given by Mrs. Ralph Tjelta, followed by a choir anthem by Good Shepherd Free Lutheran, Cokato, Minnesota. The pastors' wives also sang. Mrs. Carolyn Dyrud sang two solos and Rev. Connelly Dyrud, Brazil, gave the message. We were told how Satan binds the hearts and minds of the people. He

asked why are we born in America? It is to share Jesus Christ. When the Lord touches the hearts of people, people get a vision.

The offering was given to World Missions.

Many women gathered for the Ladies Breakfast Thursday morning. Mrs. Fran Monseth, Mrs. Dan Giles and Mrs. Connely Dyrud were on the program. Everyone enjoyed the singing of choruses.

We give thanks to Aini Myking and Harriet Rolf who have served so faithfully the last four years. Thank you also to all who participated in our program, helped with registration, ushering, serving coffee or decorations, and to each one of you who attended. God's abundant blessings were ours!

"Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful. Continue to encourage one another — and so much more as you see the day approaching" (Hebrews 10:23, 25).

— Carol Haugen, Secretary

Pictured below: the newly elected National WMF officers with the current officers. (Seated) Carol Haugen, Linda Korhonen, Karen Knudsvig. (Standing L. to R.) Aini Myking, Jan Preitauer, Harriet Rolf, Helen Knapp and Loretta Grothe.



What About Those Dried Up Brooks?

"And it came to pass after a while that the brook dried up, because there had been no rain in the land" (I Kings 17:7).

There must have been many times of testing and doubt for the prophet Elijah as he watched the supply of water in Brook Cherith diminish daily, and finally dry up. The critic observing Elijah could have been quick to point out the folly of expecting to continue an existence under such circumstances. "Elijah, you certainly made an error in your planning when you came to Cherith," they could easily have asserted. But Elijah remained at the place that God had called him to in spite of the adversity. God had a lesson to teach him that he could learn only on the bank of a dried up brook.

The leaders of various departments of the work of our AFLC are going through some heart-searchings these days. We have seen the budget shortfalls in recent years. The situation continues the same today. We come up short at the of each month. The critic is quick to point out that if we were really in God's will, the funds would be there. Is not our experience similar to that of Elijah's? There are lessons that God wants to teach us. There are lessons that we can learn only when the brook runs dry, and we have no where to turn, but to God and His provision.

The provision of God comes in surprising ways. Elijah learned that. From the parched brook, God led him to a widow with only enough provisions to feed herself and her son one more meal. But God had said that the widow would sustain him.

I was in one of our congregations recently and a lady gave me a check for one hundred dollars for the AFLC. She said, "If a thousand people would do that, it would take care of the budget deficit, wouldn't it?" I assured her that it would go a long way toward doing that.

Our task is to continue faithful in the place to which God has called us. It is God's part to provide. Our part is to trust Him.

— Richard Snipstead

BIBLES NEEDED

Pastor Tom and Patty Baker are currently involved in Portuguese language study at the Fisk School of English in the city of Londrina. Pastor Tom is also teaching English to a class of adult Brazilian students. A Bible study in English is a part of this instruction. Pastor Tom is asking for copies of English Bibles to be given to the students who are requesting them.

If you have unused copies of the Bible in contemporary English now gathering dust, and you would like to enlist them in the Lord's service, please airmail them (small packet) to:

Rev. Thomas L. Baker
c/o Fisk School of English
Rua Pernambuco, 915
86,020 Londrina, Parana
Brazil, S.A.

The All-Sufficient Christ

"But by His doing you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification and redemption" (1 Corinthians 1:30).

In this marvelous verse, the Apostle Paul reveals that we receive **all** of God's abundant blessings in Christ. It is in Christ and in Him alone that we receive every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places. (Ephesians 1:3). It is in Christ alone that we have been made complete (Colossians 2:10). Apart from Christ we have nothing. In Christ we have **everything**!

The Apostle Paul makes it abundantly clear that our being in Christ and sharing in all of His blessings is not our own doing or planning. Rather our being in Christ is the work of God the Father. As Paul reveals in our text: "But by His doing you are in Christ Jesus" (1 Corinthians 1:30a). We must give God alone the glory and the credit for our salvation. Indeed by grace we have been saved through faith, and this is not our own doing, it is the gift of God, not by works lest we should boast (Ephesians 2:8-9).

In 1 Corinthians 1:30 the apostle Paul reveals four areas in which Christ is our all in all:

WISDOM

In Jesus Christ, we have God's wisdom — the wisdom which the world regards as folly. The more we grow in Christ and abide in Him the more we will have the wisdom of God. "In Christ are hid all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge" (Colossians 2:3).

RIGHTEOUSNESS

It is in Jesus Christ alone that we are righteous and just in God's sight. We have no righteousness in ourselves. As we trust Christ as our personal Lord and Savior and rest in His righteousness, we are right with God. Christ is indeed our righteousness.

SANCTIFICATION

We grow in our faith and become like our Lord Jesus as we continually receive His life, strength and character by the power of the Holy Spirit through the Word of God. As we yield

more areas of our life to Christ who is our sanctification, we grow in sanctification — the process of becoming more and more like Christ.

REDEMPTION

It is only in Christ that we are set free from the penalty and power of sin. Christ is indeed our redemption and salvation (see Acts 4:12).

We have everything we need for spiritual health and well being in Christ. We are complete in Him. May we, therefore, seek to grow up in Christ through the Word of God and prayer. And may our earnest prayer and desire be to experience all of the blessings that we have in Him, mindful of the truth revealed in Proverbs 10:22, "The blessing of the Lord makes one rich and He adds no sorrow with it."

— Rev. Mark Bateson
Colfax, Wisconsin

National Luther League Conventions: Where and Why

Why has the Luther League Convention planning committee chosen to go to places which are not centrally located? What happened to the idea of having the convention in Moorhead at MSU?

First, we must point out that it is becoming a real concern to find a location where we can find enough sleeping space and meeting space for our national Luther League Conventions. During the 1991 Convention, we have had to ask a number of adults to stay elsewhere beside the Convention location. So, if these folks were not part of the Convention staff, they were asked to rent rooms elsewhere.

It is hoped arrangements can be made so all adults will be able to stay "on campus" for the 1993 Luther

League Convention. We feel adults are a very important part of the ministry to youth.

Secondly, at a school or at a motel complex, we will not have the "camp type" of atmosphere we had at our last conventions. It is easier to have what may be called convention unity when we are all together in one location.

Thirdly, it takes away a lot of the temptation to see what the city offers, skip classes and go shopping.

May the Lord lead us in the important ministry of reaching our youth for Christ.

— Rev. Dennis Gray,
Youth Resources Director

Next Issue: Reports from the 1991 National Luther League Convention.

Association of Free Lutheran Congregations

3110 East Medicine Lake Boulevard
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55441

AFLC Benevolences – June 30, 1991

FUND	TOTAL BUDGET	REC'D IN JUNE	TOTAL REC'D TO DATE	%* TOTAL
General Fund	\$ 276,830.00	\$15,428.33	\$76,581.08	28
Schools - (AFLTS) . .	151,900.00	5,429.93	30,198.78	20
(AFLBS) . .	193,950.00	8,414.10	44,039.58	23
Home Missions.	433,616.00	16,489.47	107,554.31	25
World Missions.	373,715.00	28,763.28	98,947.63	26
Capital Investment . .	25,000.00	2,008.59	12,034.90	48
Parish Education . . .	62,670.00	4,475.84	12,124.11	19
ARC	20,000.00	1,267.50	3,522.00	18
TOTALS	\$1,537,681.00	\$82,277.04	\$385,002.39	25
1990 - 1991	\$1,441,565.00	\$75,235.64	\$368,368.82	26
*Goal 42%				

19. With Abraham as our example, what should be our attitude toward those blessings and privileges dearest to us? Genesis 22:2-14

20. Why do some not claim the treasure even when they recognize it? (for example, church members who are not Christians) Mark 4:16-19

21. What is Paul's testimony in Philipians 3:7-9?

II Corinthians 4:17

Peter's declaration in Luke 18:28

Jesus' promise in Luke 18:29, 30

The Kingdom of Heaven has been compared to a feast. In these parables it is a treasure, a pearl of priceless worth, and a source of great joy. The Christian life is anything but dreary. "I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly" (John 10:10 KJV).

Next month we will study "THE UNMERCIFUL SERVANT"

HYMN SUGGESTION: "MOST WONDROUS IS OF ALL ON EARTH"
(Concordia #224, stanzas 1-4)

The Hidden Treasure, The Valuable Pearl

THE PARABLES OF JESUS

The parables for our study this month are often called "twin parables," for both teach the same basic truth; together they might be entitled, "The Preciousness of the Kingdom"

In ancient times it was common to hide treasure in the ground, since there were no banks. The owner might die without ever telling anyone that he had hidden valuables. In Jesus' story, a tiller of the soil was plowing in a field he had rented, or was working for hire, when he came across a rich treasure. According to the custom of the age and country, claiming the cache after buying the field was not illegal, nor was it considered immoral.

Traveling merchants were also familiar sights in Jesus' day. Some of them merchandised in precious jewels; the particular merchant in our parable was searching for fine pearls.

We read the parables of the Hidden Treasure and the Valuable Pearl in Matthew 13:44-46. The purpose of both parables is to depict the surpassing worth of the Kingdom.

1. In what ways were the field worker and the merchant alike?

2. In what way did they differ?

WHO IS SEARCHING?

3. Which major New Testament character had his "eyes" unexpectedly opened to the worth of Jesus and eternal life in Him? Acts 9:1-20.

4. From Lutheran church history, who found peace with God only after much unrest and searching?

5. "Hearts are restless until they rest in God" (Augustine). People, by their very nature, seek happiness and satisfaction, and they do so in a thousand earthly ways. Where must we look if we are to find the treasure which alone can give us peace? Matthew 11:28-30; Romans 10:17

6. What are these Scripture promises to those who are seeking? Jeremiah 29:13

Matthew 7:7, 8

7. Who is seeking, even when we are not? Luke 19:10; Romans 10:20

A TREASURE DISCOVERED

8. What is the treasure, according to verse 44?

9. What specifics does this treasure include? John 3:16; Romans 14:17; Psalm 103. Add verses of your own choosing, if you wish.

10. Who has prepared this treasure, and might it contain surprises not revealed to us in Scripture? I Corinthians 2:9

A QUESTION OF VALUES

11. Name some temporal blessings from God that are truly "fine pearls".

12. What other things in our lives might we wrongly consider "precious"?

13. How does the Kingdom treasure differ from other treasures? John 4:13, 14

14. Many people appraise wrongly. Why? II Corinthians 4:4

15. What opens our eyes to comparative worth?

Ephesians 1:17-19

"No miracle is more unfathomable than this, that God succeeds in opening unseeing eyes so that we begin to look upon God and His salvation as a treasure, a great good. And when this miracle does take place, the same thing happens to us as happened to the merchant, we become willing to give up everything in order to keep the pearl of great price".

—O. Hallesby

A SACRIFICE OF JOY

16. Both parable characters recognized the value of their discoveries. In what spirit did they set out to make these treasures their own?

Why did they act quickly?

What is the spiritual application? Also see Isaiah 55:6.

17. Does Scripture teach that salvation can be earned or purchased? Isaiah 55:1; Romans 6:23b; I Peter 1:18, 19; Revelation 21:6

18. Nevertheless, what must we give up in order to possess the treasure? Mark 8:34, 35

Philippians 3:9

Who is the motivator and strength-giver for such action? Philippians 2:13

New Parish Education Materials for the 1991-92 School Year

1. **The Apostles' Creed**, fourth grade — The first quarter of the new fourth grade materials will be available August, 1991. It will be revised and in color. Every lesson in the student book is Bible-based; has two activities; has a Bible memory verse and catechism memory work. Student books also contain a letter to the student, a parent letter and an Overview of Lessons, an explanation of the symbols of the Trinity is printed on the inside, front cover of the student book. Also, titles for the three quarterlies are: 1. Father — Our Creator. 2. Son — Our Redeemer. 3. Holy Spirit — Our Sanctifier.

2. **Pillars of Truth** by A. W. Knock, \$3 — "The need of such a study as this is evident. There is confusion in the minds of too many, even within the church, because they have not clearly comprehended what the Bible teaches about the way, the purpose, and the goal of salvation." The Bible is the main text book for this course because the study questions are based on Scripture. The student will study The truth about: the Bible; man's need of salvation; forgiveness of sins; the new birth; faith; assurance of salvation; sanctification; God's power to keep; victory; prayer; service; steward-

ship; the church; Christ's second coming.

3. **Sunday School Is For You**, .03¢ — A 4x5 1/2" tract written especially for children. Can be used as an invitation to Sunday School, VBS, or worship service. Space is provided to add your church's name, times of services, etc.

4. **Servants of the Lord**, N/C — This tract was written for every Sunday School teacher. Pastors are encouraged to use it in their monthly Sunday School teacher's meetings and could easily develop the five points dis-

cussed in the tract for at least five different meetings.

5. **Luther's Small Catechism**, 50¢ — This little soft cover book contains the five parts of the catechism with the meanings (no questions and answers included) and coordinates with "The Ambassador Sunday School Series." Light blue cover has Luther's seal and the explanation of the seal is printed on the inside front cover.

Note: Please **do not** send remittance when ordering. Statements will be issued, which will include postage and a small handling fee.

Pastors' and Laymen's Stewardship Seminar

"Building Functional Christians and a Functional Church in a Disfunctional World"

with Dr. Waldo J. Werning, Fort Wayne, Indiana

September 20-21, 1991

at the ARC, Osceola, Wisconsin

AFLC Schools Begin in September

AFLTS currently expects fourteen men to register for classes on September 4. There are also three interns serving this year. For six men, this begins their final year in seminary.

another excellent enrollment is expected at AFLBS on September 9. A high percentage of last year's juniors are expected to return. There is still time to apply for Fall Quarter at AFLBS.

Notice: Please send all photos for *The Lutheran Ambassador* to Mrs. Wayne Hjermstad, Box 423, Faith, SD 57626. The next issue date is September 3.

Practical Helps for Working with Seekers in Sneakers

Saturday, September 28, 1991

8:30 a.m. — 3 p.m.

Parents, Pastors, Youth Workers

A Special One-Day Workshop this Fall

Designed Just for You

The Anatomy of a 90s Seeker — A helpful look at what today's teens must face physically and psychologically as they hit the world head on.

What's Sneaking Into the Seekers' Schools? — A look at how the New Age Movement is infiltrating the public school system — how to spot it and what to do about it.

Breaking the Sound Barrier — How to get teens to talk — and keep them talking.

Teaching Seekers to Speak — The basics of Peer Counseling Training — teaching teen believers to counsel their peers in a godly manner.

Keeping those Sneakers on Track — How to spot times of discouragement in teens' lives — and how to help them through it.

Held at:

Living Word Lutheran Church

4300 Nicols Road, Eagan, Minnesota 55122 • Phone (612) 456-0249

****Important!** To place your name (and your church's name) on a mailing list for updated registration information, call or write to the church office at the number listed above.

PEOPLE and PLACES

Rev. Gordon Grae, Underwood, Minnesota, has accepted the call to serve Zion Lutheran, Dexter and Mt. Sion Lutheran, Kasson, Minnesota. He will begin serving these Home Mission congregations on September 15.

The new address for **Rev. Wayne Hjermstad**, is Box 423, Faith, SD 57626; phone (605) 967-2381.

Rev. Robert D. Giles, who was incorrectly listed as "retired" in the Co-ordinating Committee's report of the clergy roster to the annual conference, is available for either a full-time call or as an "interim" pastor. His current address is P.O. Box 128, Laveen, AZ 85339; phone (602) 237-3916.

Funeral services for **William R. Svanoe**, 79, Eden Prairie, Minnesota, were held on June 18. Mr. Svanoe, former owner of Svanoe Landscape Services in Edina, was active in the formation of the AFLC, and served as the first treasurer. Among the survivors are his wife, Myrtle, four sons and four daughters.

Rev. Mark Bateson, Colfax, Wisconsin, has resigned as the pastor of Faith Lutheran Church of Running Valley, in order to pursue further education. His ministry at Colfax will conclude later this summer.

Rev. James Asp, Brooklyn Park, Minnesota, will begin serving Medicine Lake Lutheran Church, Plymouth, Minnesota, as interim pastor in mid-August.

Rev. Peter Franz, Mankato, Minnesota, resigned as pastor of Word of Life Church, and Hosanna Church (St. James), where he has served since

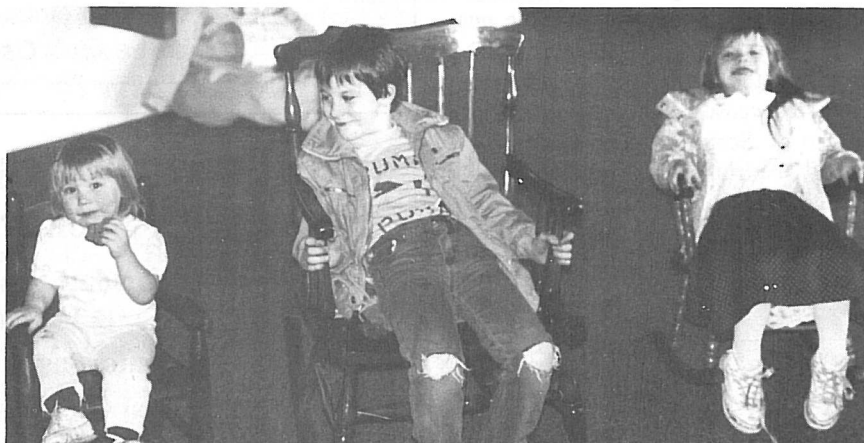
1987, to accept a call from St. Paul's Church, Cloquet, Minnesota.

Word has been received of the sudden death of **Rev. Willard Conradson**, Salem, Alabama. Funeral services were held on Friday, August 2, and a more complete report will be included in the next issue. Sincere sympathies are offered to his family and congregation.

Labor Day Family Camp — The Association Retreat Center will again host the Hauge Foreign Mission Camp on August 30 through September 2. Evening speaker will be Dr. Steven Lombardo, AFLC Schools faculty member.

For more information, contact Lenny Nelson, 16300 Hilltop Road, Eden Prairie, MN 55344; phone (612) 937-8941. There is a \$10 family discount for early registration by August 20.

Ferndale, Washington — The Sunday School of Triumph Lutheran Church recently held a rocking chair rock-a-thon to raise money for the new administration Building at the AFLC Headquarters. Half-hour pledges were gathered by 17 "rockers." Intern pastor Jonathan Unverzagt and Luther Leaguer Lance Carter rocked for 18 consecutive hours. Over eight hundred dollars was raised for the new building. Pictured are three of the younger "rockers," Adina, James and Christina Willand.



Rugby, North Dakota — The clip-clop of horses' hooves and the creaking sound of a Conestoga wagon were heard on the streets of Rugby, North Dakota, June 8, when Hope Free Lutheran canvassed for Vacation Bible School. As a result, 39 children attended the "Sonward Ho" VBS program at the young home mission church. The AFLBS Barnabas Team assisted throughout the week. One afternoon was set aside for "Pioneer Days" in the local park, which included a picnic, games and wagon rides.

Greenbush, Minnesota — The United Free Lutheran Sunday School planted trees for Arbor Day. Each class through the Confirmation class planted a tree. VBS at United concluded its week at Galilee Bible Camp, Lake Bronson. Nearly 60 children, pre-school through grade six, attended. The youth met with the Badger Creek and Oiland congregations during the evening, and the Luther League Gospel Team, Cornerstone, led the Bible studies, which emphasized fellowship and planning.

Thief River Falls, Minnesota — Our Saviour's Christian Academy held its first all-school reunion during the afternoon of July 7. The Academy began in 1976.

DISCIPLESHIP

"Go and make disciples of all nations by baptizing them in the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit and by teaching them to keep everything I have commanded you. And remember — I am with you always, until the end of time" (Matthew 28:19-20 NET).

Lutherans have always put a high premium on parish education. May it ever be so! This is because we are a people of the Book, convinced that God has revealed His saving will to us in the Word alone. Holy Scripture is the foundation of our instruction, and Luther's Small Catechism has been the traditional cornerstone. Perhaps we have not always perceived this ministry in terms of discipleship training, however.

The commission of the Great Commission is to "make disciples." An important dimension of this command is impressed upon us every time we witness a baptism, for God declares that we are to make disciples by baptizing and teaching.

Discipleship properly begins with baptism and then proceeds to teaching. "All nations" includes the children, too, and so the first step of their discipleship is when we bring them to the font for the washing of water with the Word. But we seek to make it abundantly clear when the sacrament is administered that the beginning of discipleship in the life of a baby will be blighted if the proper teaching does not follow.

The principle of providing discipleship training for our baptized children is the heart of parish education for Lutheran Christians. The Christian home is central, and the Sunday School continues to be a crucial supplement.

Evangelism must not be eliminated from this ministry either, any more than it should dominate it in a living congregation. The life of a disciple consists of many decisions, and a call to commitment can be a direct result of the right division of Law and Gospel. Also, it can be dangerous to assume that we are only dealing with young disciples, since lack of years is not a limit to hardness of heart.

Parish education is a department of the church that deserves our encouragement, participation, and support. The Great Commission commands nothing less.

WHY NO WOMEN?

The questions were raised during annual conference this year at the meeting of the Schools Corporation: "Why were there no women candidates? Is there a rule requiring only male members on the corporation? Aren't there some women serving on the Mission Corporation?"

The answers to the last two questions are no and yes. There is no rule blocking women from membership on the Schools Corporation or Board of Trustees, and the Missions Corporation does have female members. One woman did serve on the Schools Corporation, in fact, but her term expired in 1973. (It can also be noted that the new ARC Corporation has a totally male constituency.)

The first question is more difficult to answer. Perhaps the unspoken premise is that, since the Schools Corporation deals with the training of pastors, the authority should rest with the men, in accord with scriptural principles concerning male leadership.

Some may disagree, but it is the opinion of this observer that the involvement of women at the annual conference has declined in recent years. Although female delegates may total sixty percent (1990) of the lay people registered, none have been nominated or elected to any conference committees since 1986. This could also suggest that the ladies themselves have chosen to select men for service in all leadership capacities.

We are a conservative and traditional church body, committed to the Biblical roles of men and women. Any movement among us for the ordination of women into the ministry is quite invisible. Yet gender distinctions have not prevented women from filling an important place at our annual conferences in the past, and neither a negative over-reaction to "women's lib" nor the fear of a feminist stigma should forestall it in the future.

The Board of Publications and Parish Education may not be the only avenue for women's gifts to be applied within the AFLC.

MERCY KILLING REVISITED

It was several months ago that *The Lutheran Ambassador* (February 19, 1991) reported the tragic case of Mrs. Hilda Wanglie, an 87-year-old nursing home patient whose family was resisting the State of Minnesota's attempt to have her removed from life support systems. A call to prayer was issued, and it is good to be able to follow that request with a call to praise.

A judge rejected the state's request. Three days later, Mrs. Wanglie died a natural death.

"The Lord gave and the Lord has taken away. Blessed be the name of the Lord" (Job 1:21).

Ground Broken for New Administration Building

Ground breaking ceremonies were held July 22 for the new administration building at AFLC headquarters on Medicine Lake Boulevard in Plymouth, Minnesota.

Construction will begin soon with completion expected in three to four months.

Three-fourths of the money has been raised for the building and the remainder will be financed. The guaranteed maximum cost is \$593,800.

A more detailed story will be published in the next *Ambassador*.

WORLD WATCH

Ottawa, Illinois (EP) — A federal appeals court has ruled that the Jaycees cannot use a public park to display sixteen paintings of the life of Christ during the Christmas season.

In banning the display, which had been placed in Washington Park in Ottawa, Illinois, by the Jaycees for over twenty years, the Seventh Circuit Court of Appeals ruled 2-1 that by allowing the art works to be displayed in a municipal park, the city had "endorsed" the religious message of the paintings.

The National Legal Foundation represented the Jaycees and is considering an appeal. "This ruling underscores the absurd posture of our federal government," said Robert Skolrood, executive director of the foundation. "Where Christ is depicted as a drug addict or His crucifix is immersed in urine, the work magically becomes art and is paid for by the National Endowment for the Arts with taxpayers' money. On the other hand, sincere religious expression is labeled unconstitutional and banished for the public square."

St. Paul, Minnesota (EP) — Delegates from across the U.S. who attended the fourth annual convention of the fledgling American Association of Lutheran Churches (The AALC) decided, among other things, to open a new seminary somewhere in the Midwest at some time within the next two years. Possible sites for the new institution include the Minneapolis-St. Paul area.

The AALC was formed about four years ago, shortly before the Lutheran merger, which created the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) was finalized. Members of The AALC chose not to join the merger because "we chose rather to go the way that Martin Luther laid out for us — the infallibility and inerrancy of the Scriptures as the only norm for life," explained Gene Quist, administrative coordinator of the association and coordinator of this year's convention.

The AALC is comprised of about 90 churches, representing states on both coasts and in the Midwest. The national headquarters is in Minneapolis.

Delegates to the convention in St.

THE LUTHERAN AMBASSADOR

3110 E. Medicine Lake Blvd.
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55441

Second-Class

Missionfest '91

Christ Lutheran, Wichita Falls, Texas, invites you to join them in a unique mission awareness project on September 7-9. There will be a number of mission presentations on Saturday and Sunday. In addition to local events, other congregations are encouraged to contact Christ Lutheran (and hopefully missionaries John Abel and Dan Giles) via amateur radio! At the last AFLC annual conference, numerous amateur radio operators met and determined to set up a "missionary net," whereby a word of encouragement could be given to our missionaries in the field.

Local congregations are encouraged to find out if they have an amateur radio operator within the congregation, or if not, to contact a local "ham" club to assist them in participating! A log of contacts will be kept during the event. Following the event, all contacts will receive a post card from Christ Lutheran.

The times and frequencies for the contacts are as follows:

Saturday: 8 a.m. to 9 a.m. CDT. 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. CDT, 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. CDT, 8:30 p.m. to ? CDT.

Sunday: 7 a.m. to 9 a.m. and noon to ? CDT.

Frequencies will be 28.400 MHz (Novice 10m band), 21.360 MHz (General 15m band), 14.285 (General 20m band) and 7.280 MHz (General 40m band).

Call sign for Christ Lutheran will be N5JRF, courtesy of Mr. Lester Dykes, an amateur extra-class operator.

It is hoped to have a contact from every AFLC congregation in demonstration of our mission emphasis and awareness.

Paul, June 19-22, elected Dr. Norman Lund as president of the, as yet, unnamed seminary. Lund has been serving as the dean of students at the California Lutheran Bible Institute. Delegates also unanimously re-elected Dr. Duane Lindberg, presiding pastor, the designation given to the head of the association. Lindberg is pastor of Ascension Lutheran Church, Waterloo,

Iowa. His term is four years. Also elected was Pastor Robert Dennis as a new assistant presiding pastor.

The convention, attended by nearly 400, was marked by "tremendous worship," remarked Quist. "We are an association made up of orthodox, evangelical and charismatic Lutherans. We had worship services that met the needs of all of us."