

THE LUTHERAN AMBASSADOR

December 17, 1985

Roger C. Huebner, D.D.S.

at the MASTER'S FEET

"My times in God's hands"

Psalm 31:14-15

Two years ago my barber commented to me, "At the end of the year we really wonder what the New Year holds for us, don't we?" Truly it is an awesome thought to realize that we have no knowledge of what awaits us in the coming year. Though all of us anticipate entering into 1986, yet none of us have any assurance that we will live to see even the close of 1985. About five weeks ago a man in our congregation told a 51-year old man that in just a few more weeks he would retire from his job. The younger man commented confidently, "I have a long time yet." But only a month later the body of that man was viewed in a funeral home by the older man.

Since the future is unknown to us, we do well to place our times and our trust in the hands of the only One who knows the future. This is

what David did when he wrote, "My times are in Thy hands." He committed everything into God's hands. What a wonderful thought this is for us as we approach the end of another year!

As I think of "my times" I recall that God's Word says they will be "perilous times" (II Timothy 3:1-5). These latter days will be difficult, hard, fierce and stressful. They will be characterized by gross sinning and forgetting of God. The first sin listed in II Timothy 3 is that men will be lovers of their own selves. This verse came to my mind when sometime ago I read a magazine article, "The Ten Happiest Things You Can Do." The first thing listed for us to do was: "Love yourself." This is a dangerous practice, for as we become lovers of self, we also become lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God. Loving self more than God is a perilous thing to do.

My times are perilous also because they are so uncertain and changing. Alvin Toffler has written an interesting and thought-provoking book called *Future Shock*. He speaks of the acceleration of change in our day. For example, the maximum speed of travel only a hundred years ago was 100 miles per hour (by steam locomotive). Only 50 years later man was traveling 400 mph by airplane. And by the 1960s men in space capsules were circling the earth at 1,900 mph! Toffler says that this acceleration of change in our time has brought personal, psychological and sociological consequences. In other words, he is substantiating what God's Word says about our times being perilous times.

My times are also brief times. In Psalm 89:47, David makes the sobering statement, "Remember how short

my time is." Some people may raise the objection, "but isn't our life expectancy increasing?" A recent U. S. News And World Report states that the projected life span of people today is 3.1 years longer than of people born a decade ago. And yet how extremely brief is a life of 100 years when compared with an endless eternity! It is important to remember that brief life here is our portion.

A comforting thought for the Christian at year's end is that my times are in good hands when they are in God's hands. God's hands are good hands since they are mighty hands. David said to God, "In Thy hand are power and might; and in Thy hand it is to make great and to give strength to all." God gives strength in body and spirit to all who are in His mighty hands. What a sweet comfort and assurance for every child of God at the end of this year, as we face the beginning of a new year with its uncertainties. What an appropriate time this is to commit ourselves into the loving, nail-scarred hands of Jesus so that we can with David say assuredly, "My times are in Thy hands."



by Pastor
Einar Unseth

THE LUTHERAN AMBASSADOR

USPS 588-620 ISSN 0746-3413

is published biweekly (except for the first issue of July and the second issue of August) by the Association of Free Lutheran Congregations, 3110 E. Medicine Lake Blvd., Minneapolis, Minn. 55441

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Send \$10.00 subscription to THE LUTHERAN AMBASSADOR, 3110 E. Medicine Lake Blvd., Minneapolis, Minn. 55441. Second-class postage paid at Minneapolis, Minn.

Postmaster: Send address changes to THE LUTHERAN AMBASSADOR, 3110 E. Medicine Lake Blvd., Minneapolis, Minn. 55441.

Volume 23 Number 24

"But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ" (II Peter 3:18 NASB).

Everything that is alive grows. Children are born as helpless, tiny infants but grow up to be full-grown adults. Trees start from seeds or seedlings and grow into very large trees. Life means growth.

Jesus talked about growth in relation to the kingdom of heaven. In Matthew 13:31-32, Jesus said, "The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed, which a man took and sowed in his field; and this is smaller than all other seeds; but when it is full grown, it is larger than the garden plants and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and nest in its branches" (NASB). We can see the growth Jesus talked about as we see the Church start from a small group of disciples and spread into all the world.

As individual Christians we need to realize this fact of growth in our lives. There needs to be a clear emphasis on the need to be sure that we are "in Christ" and that Christ is "in us." Assurance of our salvation must be real and clear as there can be no growth without life.

After saying this, however, we must also realize that there is also a need for growth in our Christian life. The Church must witness, preach and teach so that souls are brought into the kingdom of heaven. The Church must also preach and teach so that souls will be edified and built up in the faith. Paul talks about this in Colossians 1:28: "Whom (Christ) we preach, warning every man and teaching every man in all wisdom; that we may present every man perfect (mature, complete) in Christ Jesus" (KJV). The writer to the Hebrews declares this same need for growth



by Pastor
Laurel Udden
Mpls., Minn.

growth is a must

Deeper Life and the Power of the Spirit

and maturity. In Hebrews 6:1, we read: "Therefore leaving the principles of the doctrine of Christ, let us go on unto perfection (completion) ----." Growth is essential if our spiritual life is to remain vital and living.

How, then, are we to grow? In this verse from II Peter we see two areas of growth. First, we are to grow in grace. How does a person grow in grace? The first and essential step in growing in grace is to see our sinfulness and, because of this fallen condition, our lost state in God's sight. If I am to grow in grace I must realize that without Christ I am a lost and condemned creature. How difficult it is for a proud, self-reliant, 20th century person to admit his sin and see his lost condition. It is easy to point to church membership, giving, activity and other good works to show I am not as bad as the Bible says I am. Romans 3:23 tells us, "For all have sinned and come short of the glory of God." Because of this I stand condemned before God. If a person never really recognizes his sinfulness there can be no real growth. Paul shows progress in the understanding of his sinfulness in his epistles beginning with his saying he is "the least of the apostles" (I Corinthians 15:9) and then to his exclaiming he is "the chief of sinners" (I Timothy 1:15). Seeing my sinfulness is the first step in growing in grace.

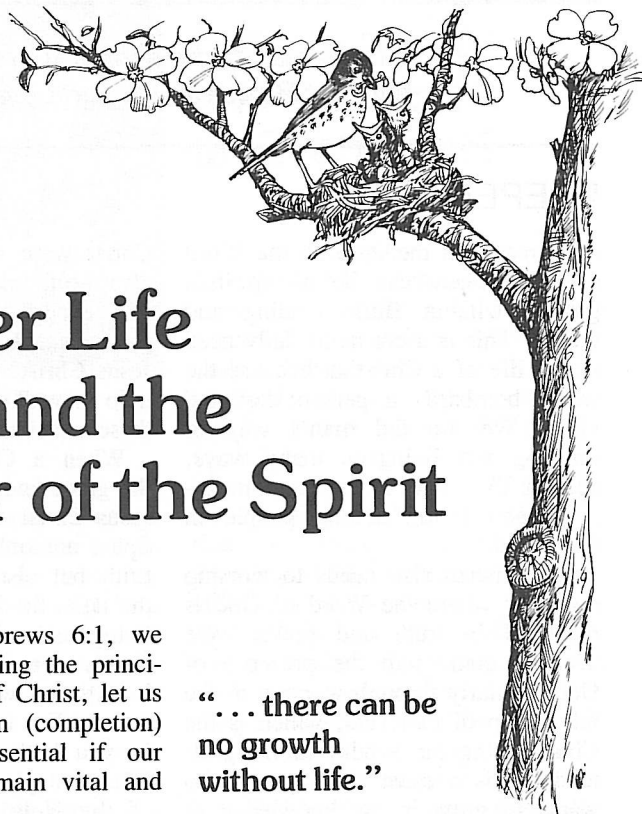
The second step in growing in

**"... there can be
no growth
without life."**

grace is not only to recognize one's sin but also to admit it before God. Repentance means we not only recognize our sinfulness but that we are sorry over it and repent of it to God. When there is true repentance, then confession before God will be genuine. If we are to have growth in grace in our spiritual life we must repent and confess our sins before God. Is the lack of true repentance and genuine confession of sin one of the main reasons for lack of growth in grace in our lives?

The third part of growing in grace is to accept or believe God's promise of forgiveness because of what Jesus has done for us on the cross. We cannot "feel" or "see" forgiveness in any tangible way. We must receive and accept it by faith in the word God gives us: "If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness" (I John 1:9).

The second main part of spiritual growth as given in II Peter 3:18 is to grow in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. How can I grow in this knowledge? First of all, it surely would mean the individual



**“There can be no spiritual growth
without Bible reading and prayer.”**

DEEPER LIFE . . .

must read and meditate on the Word of God. There can be no spiritual growth without Bible reading and prayer. This is a constant, daily need in the life of a Christian because the world bombards a person day and night. We are fed man's way of thinking and living in many ways, such as TV, radio, newspapers, magazines and living among people in this world.

A Christian also needs to worship regularly where the Word of God is preached in truth and power. We need to come into the presence of God regularly through worship in the fellowship of believers, which is the Church. Regular Sunday morning attendance is a **must** for anyone who wants to grow in the knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Bible study with other Christians is also necessary for growing in this knowledge. I can never really believe a church ever fulfills its mission in this world if it does not have a regular Bible study program. Sunday School and midweek Bible studies are a must if the Christian is to grow in the knowledge of God. Neighborhood Bible studies can be a means of both growth and outreach and a real ministry for a Christian in his community.

The Lutheran Evangelistic Movement has called its summer camps Deeper Life Conferences for many years. The program is geared to teaching and preaching the Word of God to bring about this growth in the grace and knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. To grow is to dig deeper in God's Word and experience a closer, deeper walk with the Lord Jesus Christ. The AFLC Family Camps have this same program and purpose for the growth of the Christian. This is the deeper life. It is interesting and almost a paradox that these Deeper Life Family Camps, designed to help Christian go deeper into God's Word and experience the deeper life with the Lord, were the place where the most "first time" commitments to

Christ were also made. There have also been many other commitments and experiences of growth in the grace and knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. Many have experienced help in walking in the deeper life in these and similar conferences.

When a Christian is growing in the grace and knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ, he is allowing the Holy Spirit not only to lead him into the truth but also to empower him for the tasks the Lord gives for Christian living and witness. Philippians 2:13 is one of my favorite verses because it tells me where this power comes from: "For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do for His good pleasure." It is the power of the Holy Spirit at work in my heart that gives me both the desire and the power to do His will. Praise the Lord! This is what the Lord wants to do in our lives.

My friend, are you growing in the grace and knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ? Have you gotten beyond the basics of the faith to dig down deep in the Word of God to find the jewels, rich and rare, that can be found there? We are going backwards in our Christian life unless we are growing in His grace and knowledge. Have you grown in Christ since this time last year? Do you want to find deeper life in the power of the Holy Spirit in your own life?

May we never be satisfied in our own spiritual life to remain where we are now or have been for many years. May we ever be growing in the grace and knowledge of Christ and in the power for Christian living and witness in our life.

**From the files of Folkebladet:
December 19, 1928**

As told by S. Anker-Goli

The Laplander, Birgi Simo, sat alone in her little sod dug-out. Through a little hole in the one long wall she could see out over the long unending snow-covered expanse.

The northern lights dance in great waves over the clear star-filled heavens and the splendid shining of the moon has lit up the whole snow-covered landscape so that it is as light as in the day.

In her youth Birgi had lived in one of the towns on the coast but at a fair had become acquainted with the Laplander, Simo Lasse, whom she married. They had then settled down near here far in on the plateau in this little home and she had lived here since.

Now it was 11 winters since she had been widowed. When her husband drove away she had stood on a rise close to the dug-out and looked out over the endless snow-covered land-and there far away, she had seen for the last time the small black speck disappear.

And so she had gone into the hut again and sat down by the hearth. She stared wide-eyed at the fire. The feeling of being forsaken came over her and lay like a nightmare over her spirit. The foreboding seemed to haunt everything.

He was only going down to the market with some skins and to get some supplies in return for the winter. And then he was out again. A rumor had been spread that he had been murdered in a fight in the market town.

Several times she had tried to pray but the prayers had died on her lips. They had never been able to lift her heavy feeling of desolation and sorrow.

Christmas

in Finmark

Bitter hatred toward God had grown in Birgi's heart through these years. So He was a tyrant who took without asking, to be sure. But she would not kiss the tyrant's foot or her own heavy chains.

Birgi went over and stirred up the fire in the hearth. It had become cold in the hut. She pulled the old reindeer cloak more tightly around her and sat down as near the fire as possible. The dry peat lay and smoldered and burned and filled the whole dug-out with an agreeable smell. A cow and two sheep were Birgi's only friends in her loneliness. They lay and stretched themselves on the dirt floor with a little clean moss beneath them. Their stalls were along the one long side where there was no window.

In the long hours she had trained herself to listen like a beast of prey. The smallest animal or bird of prey did not escape her awareness. She could hear an acorn rub in the branches out in the small dwarf birches.

Hush!---she listened and stared straight ahead. Were there wolves on the prowl?

This sound was different from all the others. Even the cow stopped with her monotonous cud-chewing and listened.

Then she heard the baying of dogs. She shook worse than if she had heard the howl of a wolf at the door. She hurried out. What did she see, someone coming driving. This had never happened before in 11 long and terrible years. And on Christmas Eve at that.

Birgi's knees shook from pure joy. Her eyes must be deceiving her--No, they couldn't be. ---She was so overwhelmed that she was losing her

sense. It was *him*---Simo! She slumped down where she stood in the doorway. Simo carried her inside.

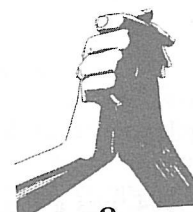
Simo Lasse's story was long. He had sold the skins and had used the money to buy liquor. He wasn't going to come home empty-handed. Things went downhill for him. It became more and more impossible for him to go home again. So it was that he had gone along south with a herd of reindeer. He remained there for a long time. During a fight he had been arrested by the sheriff. Then he was also convicted of stealing reindeer from different Lapps on the way south. In that way the years went by. One sin had produced another. Now he didn't see any way out any more. Then it was that the miracle happened. God's Word struck him. Several nights he had gone into the little mission house on the coast and heard the missionary talk about him. And of Jesus, who had come to save those who were lost. It had gripped him and at last he had found rest in that knowledge.

Simo had talked so that he had become warm.

Birgi sat completely motionless as if she were hearing a dream. One tear after the other ran gently down her weatherbeaten cheeks. She fell to her knees. Her sinful, hard heart was melted by love's sun.

While Christmas songs sounded forth from thousands of voices around the world, Birgi and Simo knelt, far up in the north country in their little earthen dug-out and gave thanks for the Christmas Gift, Jesus. "He is my Savior!"

Translated from the Norwegian.
(Finmark is the northernmost region of Norway.)



a Christmas Prayer

It's CHRISTMAS! Yes, it is Christmas, and once again we come to honor you. To celebrate your birthday Jesus, please forgive our feeble ways. When as a child we wanted to give our parents a beautiful present and realizing it must come from ourselves alone, we draw a picture on a piece of construction paper, color it with the colors of Christmas and proudly present it from under the tree on Christmas eve. It comes from the heart and most parents realize the love that went into making the picture and with the heart of a parent, who already loved the child, feels warmed as they receive it. They are given a new glow of Christmas.

Even then as a child of yours, Jesus, let us bring you something from our hearts today. May we in this Christmas season, once again, bring you some small picture of our willingness to live for you.

Forgive our sinful hearts and ways. We know you already love us more than we can understand, and you will be happy as we give our hearts to you.

Thank you, Jesus, for giving yourself that we might have the most precious gift of all, the gift of eternal life with you. Thank you for the blessings of family, and for young people growing up in our midst who know you in a personal way. Thank you for our Sunday Schools and our Seminary. Thank you for men of faith who are dedicated to the teaching in these schools of Christian education. Thank you for this Christmas Season, for forgiveness, for love, for health, and for protection.

Thank you that we need not be ignorant of your will for us and that through your word we may find real joy. Thank you for Bible believing people for their prayers and their help in the ongoing of our many needs to carry on in Christian service. Be with us through the coming year and may we love Thee as we ought. Amen.

Mrs. Norris Fugleberg
Badger, Minn.

What can I give to the King?

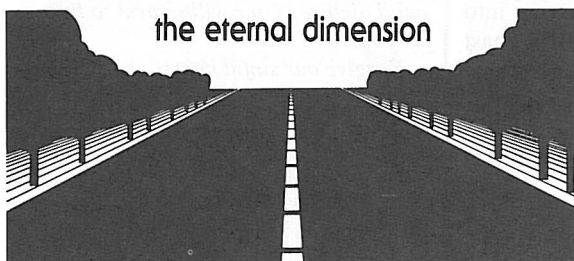
A party for Jesus

Late fall, 1984, was a special time for Emmanuel Lutheran Church in Williston, N. Dak. We were preparing for the first Sunday School Christmas program in our own building. The Board of Christian Education had to make some plans. We wanted a program and practices that would point to Jesus and be fun and memorable for the boys and girls. One board member agreed to write a program suited to the size of our Sunday School and the pupils' ages. The other board members prayed for our program writer and the program. "What Can I Give to the King?" became the theme of our program, with special emphasis on whose birthday we were celebrating.

Much effort went into the speaking parts, songs, costumes and props for the short program in the sanctuary. We scheduled practices before the family Advent services on Wednesday

evenings. Accompanying each practice was a preparation time for the birthday party for Jesus to be hosted by the children. One week they made construction paper party hats; another Wednesday they rolled and tied paper invitations to hand out to each pro-

gram guest. The invitation, printed in calligraphy, quoted verses from Isaiah 55. The children practiced their Christmas songs as they worked. Artistic moms worked on the props and sewed white robes with red ties for the choir members.



a
Christmas
gift you
really
need

In Isaiah 61:1-9, we find the nation of Israel being given hope through a promise from God. The promise was that God would send them a deliverer. Historically, these people needed what God promised for the great Assyrian Empire was soon to overthrow the Northern Kingdom (Israel), and in due time the Babylonian Empire would overthrow the Southern Kingdom (Judah). This promise was for a national restoration, international prominence, and individual spiritual rebirth. The person speaking in this prophecy was the one we have come to know as the Messiah or the Christ. This prophecy was given over 700 years before our present era.

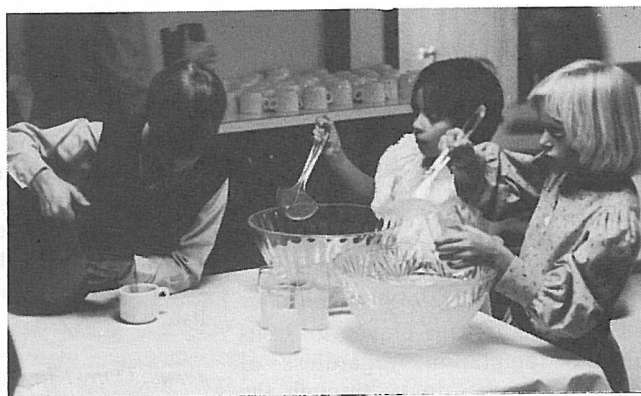
Perhaps many people had forgotten the prophecy, but God didn't forget. One day the person who spoke in the prophecy about Himself showed up in a religious assembly. He was asked to teach. He stood up and read the first verse of Isaiah 61 and part of the second verse. Then He said, "Today this Scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing." You can read of this in Luke 4:16-30.

The people who heard Him knew that he was a unique person for they were "wondering at the gracious words which were falling from His lips." Also, they knew He was unique because they knew He had performed physical miracles in Capernaum (see verse 23 in Luke 4). The strange

thing is that even though they needed this person's promised help, they rejected Him. In fact, they tried to destroy Him. This person was God's gift to Israel, and to the world. John 3:16 says, "For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life" (KJV). This person was the first Christmas gift ever given and it is this Gift which has prompted us to give gifts at Christmas.

Do you plan on becoming involved in gift-giving and receiving this year? Will your giving and receiving have any relationship to that first Christmas gift? A more important question for you is, "Have you received that first Christmas gift which God desires to give you, in order that you may be saved?"

Do the words of the angel spoken to the shepherds that first Christmas mean anything to you? They were, "Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is



Final rehearsal was the day before the big event. After rehearsing the program twice we all retired to the basement, where the fun began. Boys and girls frosted and decorated the dozens of cupcakes the moms had made. The junior girls frosted and decorated the centerpiece - the birthday cake for Jesus. Paper streamers were strung across the room. Again, the children sang as they worked. Later in the afternoon they signed a big Christmas card and walked the

few blocks to Bethel Home to sing for a gentleman from our church.

The program was set for December 16th at 4 p.m. Our pre-schoolers and kindergarteners were angels, shepherds, wisemen, and Mary and Joseph. They took their places behind big decorated packages and were revealed at the proper times. The children sang their hearts out, the angels flapped their wings, and all were reminded once again of the gifts given to Jesus. The angels gave Him glory, the shepherds gave Him praise, and the wisemen gave Him honor. And to answer the question, "What Can I Give to the King?": we are to give Him ourselves.

The program was just the beginning

of the party and each child still had a job to do. The older boys handed out the invitations and ushered. Downstairs, some children gave out the party hats, others served cupcakes, some poured coffee and punch, and still others handed out helium-filled balloons. The boys and girls experienced the joy and excitement of doing and giving, and the guests enjoyed both program and party.

That evening tired board members and teachers agreed that we had accomplished our goal. The program was memorable, a good time was had by all, and the children *knew* that Christmas was Jesus' birthday, a time for giving to Him.

born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord." Perhaps it could be said that these words have brought comfort, hope and joy to more people than any other words ever spoken to man. This Christmas we hope their significance is real to your heart.

Remember this: when this Gift from God first came to people, they rejected it and tried to destroy it. Don't let that happen in your case. This is the best Gift you will ever be given. It is eternal. It will bring joy and gladness to you throughout the ages of eternity. Receive this precious Gift from God and have the best Christmas ever! Our personal wish is that you will receive the Christmas Gift you really need, and have a very Blessed Christmas.

Pastor Emerson Anderson

the GIFT

The Wrapping: "And this shall be a sign unto you: Ye shall find the Babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger." (Lk. 2:12)

The Trimmings: "And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God, and saying, 'Glory to God in the highest and on earth, peace, good will toward men.'" (Lk. 2:13,14)

The Contents: "But when the fullness of time was come, God sent forth His Son, made of a woman, made under the law, to redeem them that were under the law, that we might receive the adoption of sons." (Gal. 4:4,5)

The Tag: "For unto *you* is born this day in the city of David, a Savior which is Christ the Lord." (Lk. 2:11)

Gratitude: "Thanks be unto God for His unspeakable gift." (II Cor. 9:15)

News and notes of Rosedale and Faith; Minneapolis, Minn.

Seal My Heart With Thine Impressure

Our Hymn Study

Concordia, No. 64
Thomas Kingo, 1689
Tune: O What Precious Balm
Louis Bourgeois, 1551

Here is a fervent prayer to Jesus that no temptation, regardless of whether it comes to us through the agony of pain or the alluring promise of pleasure, shall displace in our mind's eye the image of Christ on the cross, who is our life, our foundation, our glory and salvation.

*Seal my heart with Thine impressure,
Jesus, King and God of Grace,
That no pain or earth-born pleasure
Shall Thine image there efface.
Let this imprint, Lord, abide:
Jesus Christ, the Crucified,
Is my life, my firm foundation,
All my glory and salvation.*

To sketch the American history of this Danish-Norwegian hymn, and to illustrate some of the difficulties of a translator in retaining the beauty and meaning and quality of a hymn in a language other than the original, I will trace the poetic development of this choice hymn text by Thomas Kingo. In its original form it reads:

*Skriv dig, Jesu, paa mit hjerte,
O min konge og min Gud,
At ei vellyst eller smerte
Dig formaar at slette ud;
Denne Opskrift paa mig saet:
Jesus ud af Nasaret,
Den Korsfaestede; min aere,
Og min salighed skal vaere!*

A very literal translation is:

*Write, Jesus, on my heart,
O my King and my God,
So that neither luxury nor pain
Has the power to delete it.
Place this motto on me:
Jesus of Nazareth,
Your Crucifixion, my glory
And my salvation be!*

Now the translator must capture the essence of that without losing poetic and literary quality, while also

finding the proper number of syllables in words that rhyme. That's not a simple task. Observe the following effort, which was the first, by August Crull, editor of the *Hymnbook*, published in 1879.

*Jesus, O my King and Saviour,
Write Thy name within my heart,
So that world and sun may never
Blot it out with hellish art.
This inscription let it be:
Jesus Christ on Calvary
Crucified, my adoration
E'er shall be and my salvation.*

While it certainly doesn't have many weaknesses, the fourth line, "Blot it out with hellish art," is rather ponderous as are the last three lines. A composite translation from *Christian Hymns for Church, School and Home* 11 years later was a significant poetic improvement:

*On my heart imprint Thine image
Blessed Jesus, King of Grace
That life's riches, cares and pleasure,
Have no power Thee to efface.
This the superscription be:
Jesus, crucified for me,
Is my life and glory ever;
Nothing me from Him shall sever.*

Generally better imagery and flow, but lack of rhyming (lines one and three) and ease of perception (final line) diminish its strength.

In 1913, P.O. Stromme's translation for *The Lutheran Hymnary* (and old *Concordia*) solved the problem in the last two lines, the only changes he made:

*Is my life, my hope's foundation
And my glory and salvation.*

But George Taylor Rygh, one of new *Concordia's* editors, was still trying to improve it in 1930:

*On my heart imprint Thine image
Jesus, Savior, King of Grace!
That no sinner sore affliction
Shall have power Thee to efface.
This the superscription be:*

*Jesus crucified for me
Is my life, the sure foundation
Of my hope and my salvation.*

I think he took one step forward and one step backward. Rhyming is still a problem, and line three, while understandable, requires much more thinking than can occur while the phrase is being sung.

The Concordia Hymnal published it this way two years later. No one took credit for the translation; they called it a "composite," meaning borrowed from previous translations or corporately translated or both. But finally the problems were solved. The rhyme scheme (ABABCCDD) is right, the language is good with only one word (impressure) being somewhat forced to complete the pattern. (See the stanza at the beginning of this study.)

Jens Aaberg, a Danish-American Lutheran pastor who contributed to *The Concordia Hymnal*, made a more recent translation very close to the original for *The Service Book and Hymnal*:

*Print Thine image pure and holy
On my heart, O Lord of Grace;
So that nothing high or lowly
Thy blest likeness can efface.
Let the clear inscription be:
Jesus, crucified for me,
And the Lord of all creation,
Be my refuge and salvation.*

It veers a little from the earlier, more literal translations but is more singable and comprehensible because the phrases of words match the phrases of music.

The Lutheran Book of Worship (1978) uses a composite but credits P.O. Stromme. The most significant changes here are the pronouns (Thine and Thy become your), a characteristic employed throughout the hymnal:

*On my heart imprint Your image,
Blessed Jesus, king of grace,
That life's troubles nor its pleasures
Ever may your work erase;
Let the clear inscription be:*

editorials

A CONSISTENT WITNESS

In a recent article, "TV Evangelism and the Local Congregation," Pastor Ralph Rokke, after noting some problems in radio and TV evangelism, listed some of their blessings and advantages. We couldn't help but think of the latter when we learned of the death of the long-time radio speaker, Theodore Epp, director of the Back to the Bible Broadcast out of Lincoln, Nebr.

We are sure Pastor Rokke concurs when we say that Theodore Epp and his organization represented the best in the evangelical media ministry. Mr. Epp did not try to be "cute" or sensational in his presentations or approach. He limited himself to a conservative-style teaching and preaching of the Bible. In this he was reminiscent of the late Charles E. Fuller of the Old Fashioned Revival Hour radio broadcast.

This is not to say that as Lutherans we never found points of doctrinal disagreement with the interpretations of these men. There were those times when we did. But in their spirit and demeanor, and general content of their messages, there was much through which to be blessed and uplifted.

The voice of Theodore Epp has been stilled. We know that silence will leave a void in many of our homes, but his memory, written words and voice on tape live on among a great host of friends.

A LOT LIKE CHRISTMAS

It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas as we write this editorial. On land liberally covered with snow already, much more is falling today on this 25th day of November. Not only Christmas but Thanksgiving will be "white" this year.

The coming of snow in quantity brought an end to most harvest in our part of the country. While most of the harvest did get completed there are cases where

much did not get gathered in. Compounding the problem for some is that less fall plowing could be done than usual. This can pose all kinds of hardship in the spring. Let those who had favorable conditions for harvest and fall work this year be thankful and feel for those for whom circumstances were less than desirable.

Of course, Christmas isn't dependant upon the presence of snow. The real Christmas is spiritual. It's the celebration of the incarnation of God, the birth of the Savior. But somehow part of the romance of Christmas is tied up with snow. Perhaps we hark back to simpler days, before the hurry and scurry of the late 20th Century. We think of horse-drawn sleighs with bells tinkling, of carollers trudging down snow-filled streets, stopping now and again to sound the old familiar songs, heralding the Messiah's advent. Frosty windows, beautifully decorated trees, festive baking and candies, young people home for the holidays, all of these associated, for many of us, with the snows of winter.

Add to these the skating parties on ice-covered ponds, the outings on skis and the trying out of new sleds or old faithful ones.

There are many wonderful events and traditions connected with Christmas. But as we said, the real Christmas is spiritual. And so the things we do in our homes and churches which direct us to Jesus are the most important. The reading of the Christmas Gospel, the carols we sing, the gifts we share with the needy, the Christmas Eve and Christmas Day Services (these are really two different kinds of services) we attend, the carolling and sharing we do for others, these get at the heart of Christmas.

We trust that you are having a great Christmas these days and that the Savior finds room in your heart, not just for these days but always.

A number of additional Christmas items are included in this issue of the *Ambassador* for your interest and blessing.

*Jesus crucified for me,
Is my life, my hope's foundation,
All my glory and salvation.*

Translating hymns requires skill in language, literature, poetry and music. Poets and musicians, the most successful translators, are born, not made. But beyond that, hymn translators must still develop their skill and hone the ability to recreate the original masterpiece in another tongue.

It's no small task.

Incidentally, should anyone wonder, the best one, in my opinion, is the one in *The Concordia Hymnal*.

For Thomas Kingo, see #39.

For O WHAT PRECIOUS BALM, see #181.

For Louis Bourgeois, see #35.

Don Rodvold

SIN

An examination of forty-four sermons preached sometime ago in metropolitan pulpits disclosed that there was only **one** mention of sin.

Clarence E. Macartney

LEARN THE DIFFERENCE

"Should Couples Live Together First?" That was the heading of the article by Joyce Brothers in "Parade," supplement to the *Minot Daily News*, Saturday, October 20. Dare we ask the question, "Is it right or wrong?" Most laws, civil or religious, can bring comfort or pain.

The Fourth Commandment, for example, "Honor your father and your mother" means just that, whether or not they are the parents we might have chosen. It continues, "that you may live long in the land that the Lord your God has given you."

"You shall not steal" causes fear in the heart of the thief, comfort to the honest person.

"You shall not commit adultery." The Old Testament carried a threat of death to the guilty. Today the death sentence has been abolished - or has it?

Since early man, violators have been threatened with syphilis, gonorrhea, later "herpes," and now "AIDS" for being promiscuous, but there is comfort to those who respect the law.

What was the last commandment I quoted? Was it "Thou shalt not get pregnant"? With many mothers, schools and churches advocating any number of birth control devices, the grown daughter can truly say, "Hey, look. I've never been pregnant." I wonder if the Lord may have a record of her crop failure? How much of a threat are the control devices to health?

After reading the article by Joyce Brothers, I sensed a kind of gut feeling many of the young ladies felt frustrated and ripped off, and both parties felt a bit untidy and "I wish I hadn't."

I hope every reader will read I Cor. 6:13-20. For example, verse 18 says, "Flee fornication. Every sin that a man doeth is without the body; but he that committeth fornication sinneth against his own body."

The Theory of Evolution

Pastor Bill Moberg's article on evolution was timely now that school is in session again. As a retired teacher, I am concerned that we parents sit idly by and allow the "science" (?) of evolution today to be taught in our public tax-supported schools. With this teaching arises problems for many parents who silently oppose such teaching.

Just because a belief is popular does not mean we should tolerate it when that belief has little or no proof. It seems strange that a confessedly unproven theory should be made the basis for this teaching and the reason for rejecting the teachings of Scripture. It becomes a question of deep religious concern for many because it undermines what many parents have taught their children. It borders on atheism.

Evolution is that theory which is also known as Darwinism. This theory is opposed to what Genesis teaches because it knows no God but chance. The escape from a personal and moral obligation which this trend represents could occur only in a society which lacks religious convictions and principles in the first place. The teaching of such a theory makes the existence of God only of secondary importance.

There is no possible compromise between the teaching of evolution and the teaching of Genesis. The evolutionary theory and the Biblical

account of creation can never agree, as some try to show us, since the Biblical account records a definite act while evolution is the result of a long continued process through millions of years.

In schools supported by taxation we are told that we must have a real neutrality in religion, but if the Bible cannot be defended in these schools, then neither should it be attacked directly or under the guise of a philosophy or a science.

Time and space here do not allow the presentation of multiple evidence disproving the possibility of evolution. We know evolution is not accepted by all scientists and scholars, that it is rejected by some of the greatest of these, that it is an unproven theory, that it has never been verified and cannot be, that not a single case of evolution has ever been presented and proven, and that there is no known cause by which it could have taken place. Professor H. W. Conn says, "Evolution is beyond proof." Geologist Dawson: "It is utterly destitute of proof." Dr. Etheridge of the British Museum said, "In all this great museum, there is not a particle of evidence of the transmutation of species. This museum is full of proofs of the utter falsity of the evolution theory."

Let me quote from *The Origin of Species and the Descent of Man* by Mr. Darwin himself. In regard to the lack of proof, Mr. Darwin writes, "Some of them are so serious, that

Now what kind of example is being set by "living together first" for our young kids?

It might be a good idea for each one of us to ask ourselves, "Am I in good standing in my church?" Ask your pastor, then ask the Lord. To all who truly repent, our Lord will answer, "Neither do I condemn thee: go and sin no more!" (Jn. 8:11).

We are watching a world in turmoil. America needs to learn the difference between right and wrong!

Valdemar Hovde
Minot, N.Dak.

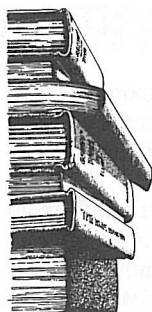
from the heart

And this is the way the Master keeps the lips of his servant, by so filling their hearts with His love that the outflow cannot be unloving, by so filling their thoughts that the utterance can not be un-Christlike. There must be filling before there can be pouring out and if there is filling, there must be pouring out for He hath said, "Out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh."

Frances Ridley Havergal

to this day I can hardly reflect on them without being in some degree staggered. First, why, if species have descended from other species by fine graduations, do we not see innumerable transition forms? Why is not all nature in confusion instead of the species being as we see them well defined? But, since by this theory innumerable forms must have existed, why do we not find them imbedded in countless numbers in the crust of the earth? Geology assuredly does not reveal any such finely graduated organic chain. Now let us turn to our richest geological museums, and what a paltry display we behold."

There are innumerable questions ardent evolutionists are not able to answer in support of their beliefs, but which they overlook in their desire to establish their unproven theory. May I mention just a few insurmountable problems or bridges which the evolutionists have never been able to cross in their groping for evidence in support of their theory: 1) Origin of matter- Evolutionists are hopelessly at a loss to account for it. Thus we see the evolutionistic theory begins by assuming that matter and force existed; 2) Origin of life- Once more, the evolutionist is at a complete loss to explain this problem of life. Dr. McNair Williams said, "Life proceeds only from life, and only from life of the same kind and type." Professor Conn writes that there is not the slightest evidence that living matter can arise from non-living matter; 3) The problem of species- Among the myriads of living creatures about us, not one is in transition from one species to another. The one big fact remains: the number of species is constant and has remained constant; 4) At some period, life was separated into two radically different spheres, the animal and vegetable kingdoms. Between these two kingdoms we find an unbridged gap. Evolutionists are silent about the cause of the cleavage; 5) Mathematical difficulty- If the earth has existed during all these ages and if the evolutionary process has continued through all these millions of years, why are we not smothered with life on earth today? Man's tendency to grow in numbers is measured by geometrical progression; 6) Other problems which



Parish Education Update

The Board of Publications and Parish Education would like you to know that progress is being made on the revisions and updating of the AFLC Sunday School Curriculum. It is something that is not done quickly or easily, especially in developing a

evolutionists fail to account for: a) force, gravity, motion of heavenly bodies which have the accuracy of a chronometer; b) the origin of the universe; c) the fine and complex adjustments in nature; d) the missing link in man's origin between the brute and man. We have remains of millions of animals; why is this particular specimen wanting? In their desperation they will take the discovery of 40 man-like teeth and two lower jaw bones and from them reconstruct another supposedly missing link in man's evolutionary process.

Can we as parents be indifferent to such teachings? Is it an immaterial thing that so large a percentage of the young people who go from homes into institutes of learning should go out with a questioning attitude in regard to the spiritual element?

Probably the most damaging aspect of education is just the one in which it prides itself the most, namely, the creation of a liberal mind. Among adults liberalism often manifests itself in a lack of conviction on matters of basic right and wrong.

Palmer Haugen
Portland, N.Dak.

quality product.

We appreciate the encouragement given and the efforts already made. The writing of new lessons for grade two is almost completed; only nine of the 39-lesson series remain to be written. They will all be completed soon. A professional artist has been secured to begin work on the illustrations for these lessons. A sample of the first lesson should be out to the congregations very soon. Watch for it. We think you will be pleased and excited about what is happening. It is expected that the first quarter materials for the second grade will be ready for use in our Sunday Schools by the fall of 1986, with the remaining lessons available during that same year. Writers have also been assigned and are working on grades three and four at the present time.

Besides the lessons themselves, we need professional help for producing teachers' aids. Teachers or anyone gifted in this area can provide activities and ideas to be included in the lessons and teachers' guides. The printing for all materials is to be done on our own press. Someone is being trained to operate it. All these things take time, but we believe it will result in a good product that will be widely used. We want to do it right and with your encouragement and support it will be done.

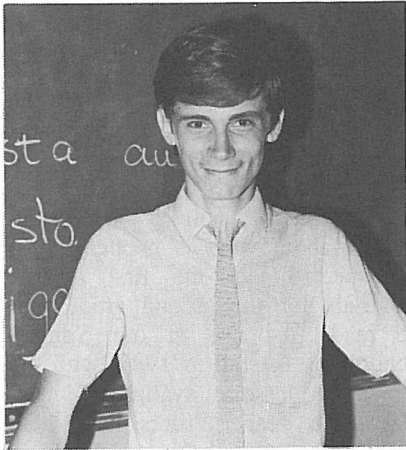
Pastor W. Langaas

Evangalistic mission

Yet it is safe to say that the true evangalistic mission of the Church can be performed only as each church is the center of a true evangalism, as each minister is his own evangalist.

Raymond Calkins

world missions news



Eduard Verner Thom

Something needed to change

Romans 10:9-13: "Because, if you confess with your lips that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For man believes with his heart and so is justified, and he confesses with his lips and so is saved. The scripture says, 'No one who believes in Him will be put to shame.' For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; the same Lord is Lord of all and bestows His riches upon all who call upon Him. For, 'every one who calls upon the name of the Lord will be saved'" (RSV).

My name is Eduard Verner Thom.

I was raised in a Christian home and my mother always sought to take me to Sunday School so I would have a life closer to God. (At that time my mother had Jesus in her heart, but not my father.)

So I became accustomed to going to church every Sunday, and hearing God's Word, without any greater commitment. But I knew that something was not right in my life, something needed changing.

One Sunday morning I understood what had been bothering me for some time — the lack of Jesus Christ in my life. I was able to understand this when I heard a story telling me

My most memorable experience

When I was a sophomore in high school, my family moved from Grafton, N. Dak., to Nogales, Ariz.

At the time, I was very confused as to why God would ask me to go to a place that seemed so remote and far from everything and everyone that I knew. My heart was full of questions and anxiety as I moved into a community where the people spoke a different language, practiced different customs, and where I was the minority.

However, as I allowed myself to become involved in this new culture, my eyes and heart were opened to a very warm, friendly and beautiful people. God began to work within me then, although I did not fully realize it, a burden and a love for the Mexican people that has deepened and developed over the years. As I matured in Him, I grew more keenly aware of the needs of this group of people and gained a great desire to work with and among them. And by the grace of God, I was able to get a small taste of what actually

that if I didn't accept Jesus I certainly would go to hell. So I prayed with my teacher asking Jesus to come into my heart and forgive my sins.

From then on I grew, stumbling many times, but trying always to correct my errors.

This year I want to study God's Word more and learn what he wants me to do with my life.

Eduard is 18 years old. His home is in Vitoria, Espirito Santo. He comes from a family of four children. Eduard is a member of the Free Lutheran Church there, where David Abel is pastor. This year Eduard is working in Central Lutheran Church and helping with an afternoon Sunday School.

living and working among them as His servant would be like as I traveled with the Summer Youth Ministries Team to Mexico this past summer.

I had wanted to see and visit Leon, Mexico, and the Samuel Flores family ever since I had met Leticia and Pastor Flores a few years ago. I expressed a great interest in the work in Leon (as best as I could without fluent Spanish) as I visited with Pastor Flores and shared with him my burden for the Mexican people. But I had to wait. For two years I thought, prayed and dreamed about going to Mexico. Then, finally, God fully opened the door for me to go. In His timing, the details and needs were fully supplied. I shared about my plans with friends and family and was greatly blessed as they so generously gave of their finances and of their time as prayer warriors. I can honestly say that I have never felt so supported by Christian friends and family members as I did while preparing to go and while being in Mexico! God demonstrated His love and provision to me through so many of His children and my heart was overflowing with gratefulness at the privilege He was giving me of serving Him for four weeks in Mexico.

After all the preparation and dreaming were over, I actually found myself in Leon. God continued to teach me. The lessons began with patience and perseverance. The first difficulty, which I encountered the moment we touched Mexican soil, was that of the language. Being in a place where one understands very little of what is going on makes one feel very helpless. That helpless feeling can lead to frustration or it can be used to establish a very rewarding experience. As I patiently tried to listen and understand, God often gave me understanding and words that I didn't even know I possessed! As I persevered in the language, God brought added blessings of strength



Left to right, Todd Shierkolk, Priscilla Mundfrom, Naomi Monseth and Terry Claus.

Is there prayer and support for an Evangelist?

I am writing on behalf of the Co-ordinating Committee and the Evangelism Commission. We have two concerns. First, will we pray? Jesus said: "Therefore beseech the Lord of the harvest to send out workers into His harvest" (Matt. 9:38). "Beseech" here means to be in want, to really desire — to fervently long for. Do we have this sense of prayer that Jesus wants us to have? Then let us pray! The Co-ordinating Committee and the Evangelism Commission will be meeting in joint prayer sessions specifically for this matter.

Second of all, will we support an evangelist? "So also the Lord directed those who proclaim the Gospel to get their living from the Gospel" (I Cor. 9:14). When Jesus sent out the twelve, He said: "...the worker is worthy of his support" (Matt. 10:10). One thing grieved our past evangelist, our beloved Ken Pentti, which he mentioned to us on more than one occasion. He was concerned that the offerings from evangelistic meetings fell so far short. The records show that the offerings did not even fully cover travel expenses. His salary had to be paid out of the General Fund of the AFLC. If we call an evangelist to our church, let us make a commitment ahead of time, at the local level, that we will pay travel expenses plus so much a meeting no matter what shall come in the offering. List this as part of your annual church budget. Let us consider this a ministry. The value of one soul means

(continued on page 16)

and wisdom. I grew to love the language and to welcome the challenge of learning it with joy and not fear or frustration.

The highlight of my days in Mexico came during the church's Annual Conference held at the end of our stay. As I mentioned before, I had previously shared with Pastor Flores my burden for the Mexican people and although I didn't know this before I came to Leon, he had also shared my burden with the people there. Thus, during a business session at the Conference, when they were discussing the needs they had for two single missionaries in Irapuato (a neighboring city), I was directly asked, face-to-face, if I would like to come there and be a missionary for them!!

My answer was, of course, an "unhesitant" yes, and my heart was overflowing with complete and total joy. As I sat there in the church and let the reality of what had just happened sink in, I became extremely overwhelmed and yet completely content with the thought of it.

I know, of course, that my "unhesitant" yes was simply a statement of my heart's longing and at this point not any definite commitment, but the reality of being wanted and needed there in Mexico has remained as vivid in my life and heart today as it was that day.

For many Christians, the thought of serving the Lord in a foreign country among people who have different customs and habits is terrifying and beyond their comprehension. But I believe that God has put within my heart a great fascination and eagerness to be involved with people

of other cultures. I would rather go and serve the Lord among a people from a different culture than stay here among my own people. I long to see people who have never heard of Jesus hear of His name and the grace He offers and to watch them freely receive His love.

My experience on the Summer Youth Ministries Team to Mexico was the most memorable experience that I have thus experienced in my life! I praise God for allowing me to go and I thank each person who prayed for me or gave financially to help me get there—may God richly bless you as you serve Him in your place in His kingdom.

Priscilla Mundfrom

(Ed. note: More testimonies from the Team next time.)

Personalities

Rev. and Mrs. Edwin Kjos are now living at 413 Alcott Ave. W., Fergus Falls, Minn. 56537. They previously lived in Culbertson, Mont.

Rev. Dale Mellgren, Kalispell, Mont., has accepted the call to Zion Lutheran Church, Tioga, N. Dak. He will not be taking up the work there until about July 1. He has served at Stillwater, Kalispell, since 1979.

Pulpit Available

A beautiful oak pulpit is available free to any AFLC congregation which can make use of it, from Faith Free Lutheran Church, 140 W. 44th St., Minneapolis, Minn. 55409. If interested, call Pastor Ralph Rokke, 612-869-9261.

news of the churches

McIntosh, Minn. — A parish Reformation service was held at Mt. Carmel Lutheran on Oct. 30. The film "Where Luther Walked" was shown. Mt. Carmel and Trinity Sunday Schools sang "God's Word is Our Great Heritage."

Trinity Lutheran held its annual Harvest Festival on Nov. 1. Guest speaker was Rev. Leslie Galland, Thief River Falls, Minn.

Roslyn, S. Dak. — Rev. Elden Nelson, Director of AFLC Home Missions, spoke at a missions conference in Saron Lutheran, Nov. 14-17.

Tioga, N. Dak. — Rev. Lyndon Korhonen, Culbertson, Mont., was the guest speaker at special services at Beaver Creek Lutheran, Nov. 17-19. The first service was preceded by a Harvest Festival dinner.

Ferndale, Wash. — The WMF Christmas dinner was held on Dec. 8 at 4 o'clock. The theme for it was "Home for the Holidays."

Grand Forks, N. Dak. — A Father and Son Banquet for Trinity Lutheran was hosted by the WMF at the Royal Fork restaurant on Nov. 16.

Minneapolis, Minn. — Three Wednesday evening Advent services are being held at Medicine Lake Lutheran. On the third one, the 18th, the three choirs will present their Christmas concert.

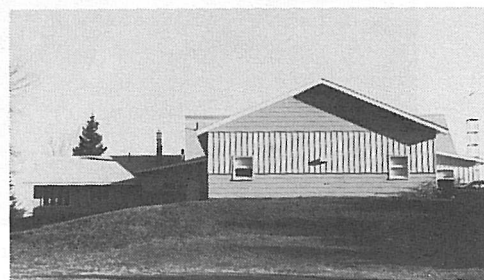
Badger, Minn. — Mr. J. A. Grimstad, Thief River Falls, Minn., was guest speaker at the Thanksgiving Festival at Badger Creek Lutheran on Nov. 17. The choir and young people also participated in the service.

The parish Thanksgiving Day service was held at Oiland Lutheran, Greenbush.

Holt, Minn. — At Emmanuel Lutheran, the film "Fractured Families" was shown at Family Night on Nov. 3.

Thief River Falls, Minn. — Pastor Bruce Dalager of Grand Forks, N. Dak., brought the message at Our Saviour Lutheran's Harvest Festival on Nov. 22.

Newfolden, Minn. — Peter and Madelyn Novellino of Thief River Falls, Minn., presented a musical program at the annual Westaker



The education wing of Hope Ev. Lutheran Church, Ishpeming, Mich., which was dedicated on Sun., Oct. 27 by Pastor R. Snipstead. Rev. Harvey Jackson is the local pastor.

Lutheran Offerfest on Nov. 3. Half of the offering went to AFLC Home Missions.

Minneapolis, Minn. — A Kid's Klub has been started at Faith Lutheran. It meets on Wednesday nights while the adult Bible study is taking place.

Wyoming Minn. — The new church addition and sanctuary at Hope Lutheran was dedicated on Sun. Nov. 17. Pastor R. Snipstead officiated at the service.

Information on Expo '86

If you are planning on attending Expo '86 in Vancouver, B.C., before or after the Annual Conference, we hope this information will help you out on ticket information.

Admission includes entrance to the more than 80 pavilions, all displays including the Ramses II and His Times exhibit, specialized demonstrations and most on-site entertainment. Unlimited use of the monorail, cable skyways and intra-site ferries is also included, as is transportation by the new regional rapid transit system between the False Creek site and the Canadian Pavilion on Burrard Inlet. There will be an additional charge for amusement rides, tickets to the World Festival and other 'name' entertainment concerts.

THREE-DAY TICKETS

Price Periods	Adult	
	Child/Senior	Regular Group
Sept. 3/85-Jan 6/86	\$24.95	\$21.50
	\$12.50	\$11.00
Jan 7/86-May 1/86	\$29.95	\$26.95
	\$14.95	\$13.45
May 2/86-Oct 13/86	\$34.95	N/A
	\$17.50	N/A

You need not attend on three consecutive days. Three-day tickets are nontransferable.

Children five years and under admitted free.

Child (6-12) years and Senior (65).

To qualify for child/senior rates: Children must be 12 years old or younger on May 2, 1986; seniors must be 65 years of age by October 13, 1986.

To get a group rate there must be a minimum order of 20 tickets ordered. Expo '86 will provide one complimentary admission per One-day ticket group for official tour escorts/group leaders.

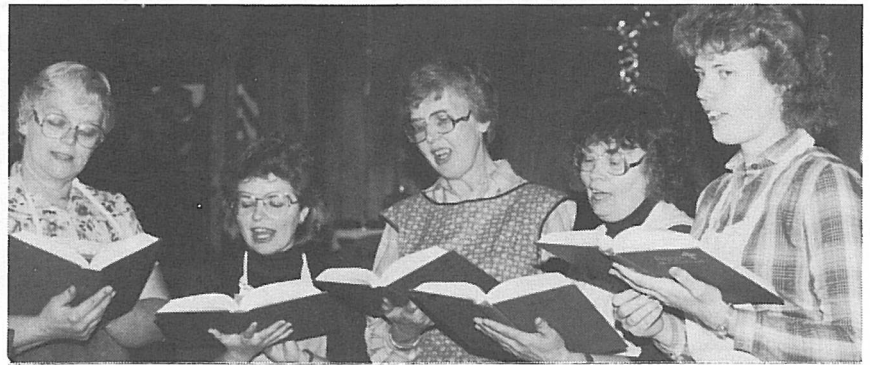
If you have any questions, the Canadian number to call is (604) 660-3976. Tickets can be charged on your charge card there. Group tickets can be ordered from EXPO' 86 Group Sales:

P.O. Box 24-1986
Seattle, Wash. 98124-1986



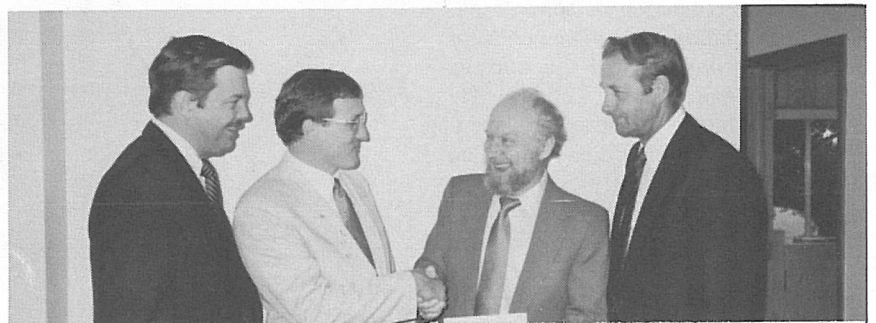
Eighty-four teens attend retreat

Pastor Gordon Grage, Brandon, Minnesota, left, and Pastor David Skordahl, Pipestone, Minnesota, were two of the 20 pastors and staff at the Southwest Central District Youth Retreat held at Faith Haven Retreat Center, Battle Lake, Minn., Nov. 8-9. Pastor Grage served as dean and Pastor Skordahl was the evangelist. Pastor Ted Berkas, Granite Falls, Minn., served as assistant dean and presented a Bible study. The Saturday morning session was given by Pastor Rodney Johnson of Spicer, Minn. A group of students from the Bible School at Medicine Lake were counselors. Eighty-four young people registered for the three-day retreat.



Introduced as the "Singing Potato Peelers," the camp cooks at the Southwest Central Minnesota District Youth Retreat, took time out from cooking and sang at the worship service, still donned in their aprons, but holding hymnbooks. Head Cook, Mrs. Ken Nash, left, said to the

group, "We love to cook for you, but we really are more interested that you are here to get spiritual food." The group, left to right, Mrs. Nash, Mrs. Dave Skordahl, Mrs. Ted Berkas, Mrs. Henry Johansen and Mrs. Lynn Kinneberg.



Mr. Don Rodvold, second from the right, is shown receiving a check for \$15,000 on behalf of the AFLC from Mr. Kurt Baldry, Aid Association for Lutherans. The grant is for work by Mr. Rodvold on "The Concordia Companion," a compilation of hymnological studies, with the objective of encouraging broader

use of *The Concordia Hymnal*. The hymns of the *Concordia* will be enhanced through education and familiarity. All pastors and congregations of the Association will receive a copy of the book when it is printed. Also pictured are Pastor Donald Greven, left, and Pastor R. Snipstead.

Thief River Falls to host youth retreat

A late December retreat for young people of the Northwestern Minnesota District will be held Dec. 29-31 at Our Saviour's Christian Academy in Thief River Falls.

The retreat cost will be \$18 per person, including the banquet at Best Western Motel on the 30th at 6 o'clock. Separately, the banquet charge is \$7.

Lodging will be at the Academy. Bring your sleeping bag. The theme for the retreat is "Rededicating Our Lives To Christ" (I John 5:4). For further information contact Mr. Todd Klemme or Pastor Leslie Galland in Thief River Falls.

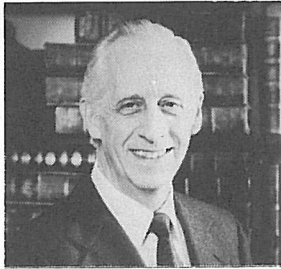
Rev. Leif Roholt dies

Rev. Leif H. Roholt, 78, Minneapolis, Minn., passed away in early November. He worked for a time at Messenger Press, Riverside Avenue, Minneapolis, the book store of the Lutheran Free Church. Later he worked in the purchasing department of Fairview Hospital, Minneapolis. Earlier he had served parishes in New York and Michigan. He also had served as interim pastor at Bethany

Lutheran Church on 25th and Franklin, Minneapolis, and later on the staff of that church.

He is survived by his wife Esther, two brothers and six sisters. Blessed be his memory. (Ed. note: I worked under Pastor Roholt's supervision during part of my employ at Messenger Press. He was a fair and considerate man.)

Pastors' Conference '86



Richard Robert Owens, author of *Revival* (Tyndale House Publishers), will present three lectures on the subject of spiritual awakenings to the annual AFLC Pastors' Conference, January 21-23, 1986, at the Association Retreat Center, Osceola, Wisconsin.

Mr. Owens, a resident of the Wheaton, Illinois, area, was instrumental in the formation of the Billy Graham Center in Wheaton, and his own private collection of some 9,000 volumes relating to movements of religious revival formed the nucleus of the Graham Center Library. He has been a student of spiritual awakenings from his youth and has compiled a bibliography of nearly 50,000 volumes relating to revivalism.

The 1986 Pastors' Conference will mark the beginning of a year of preparation for the 25th anniversary of the Association of Free Lutheran Congregations.

EVANGELIST . . .

this budget item should have priority over temporal things.

There are small churches that cannot give as much as larger ones. Larger churches may want to consider it a ministry to help smaller ones. Offerings can be sent in at any time to the General Fund and designated for the evangelist's expenses and salary.

Enough said. These words are few. May our prayers be more. May our giving be greater. Pray! Give!

Thank You, Jesus, for the ministry of Pastor Ken Pentti. Thank you for the new evangelist You will call out. Thank You, Jesus, for those you are calling to pray and give.

Pastor James C. Gerdeen
Co-ordinating Committee

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Home mission congregation dedicates building

Minnesota Valley Free Lutheran Church, Lakeville, Minn., dedicated their new building on October 20, 1985. Rev. Gordon Grage of the Home Mission Board officiated. Special music and greetings were shared including one from Pastor Ralph

Tjelta, the congregation's first pastor. Pastor Richard Anderson now serves the congregation. The building of the church was a result of many volunteer hours from many throughout the AFLC.

Seminary receives IMPACT funds

Association Free Lutheran Theological Seminary, Minneapolis, Minn., has recently received \$750 from Lutheran Brotherhood's IMPACT program, Inviting Member Participation in Aiding Lutheran Colleges and Theological Seminaries. The latest payment covers 10 gifts of Lutheran Brotherhood members made during the third quarter of 1985.

The IMPACT program matches, on a percentage basis, Lutheran Brotherhood members' gifts of \$25 to \$100 per year to Lutheran institutions of higher education nationwide.

Since the beginning of the IMPACT matching gift program in 1979, \$26,310 in IMPACT funds has been received by AFLTS.