

THE LUTHERAN AMBASSADOR

December 1, 1987

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Christmas
AMBASSADOR

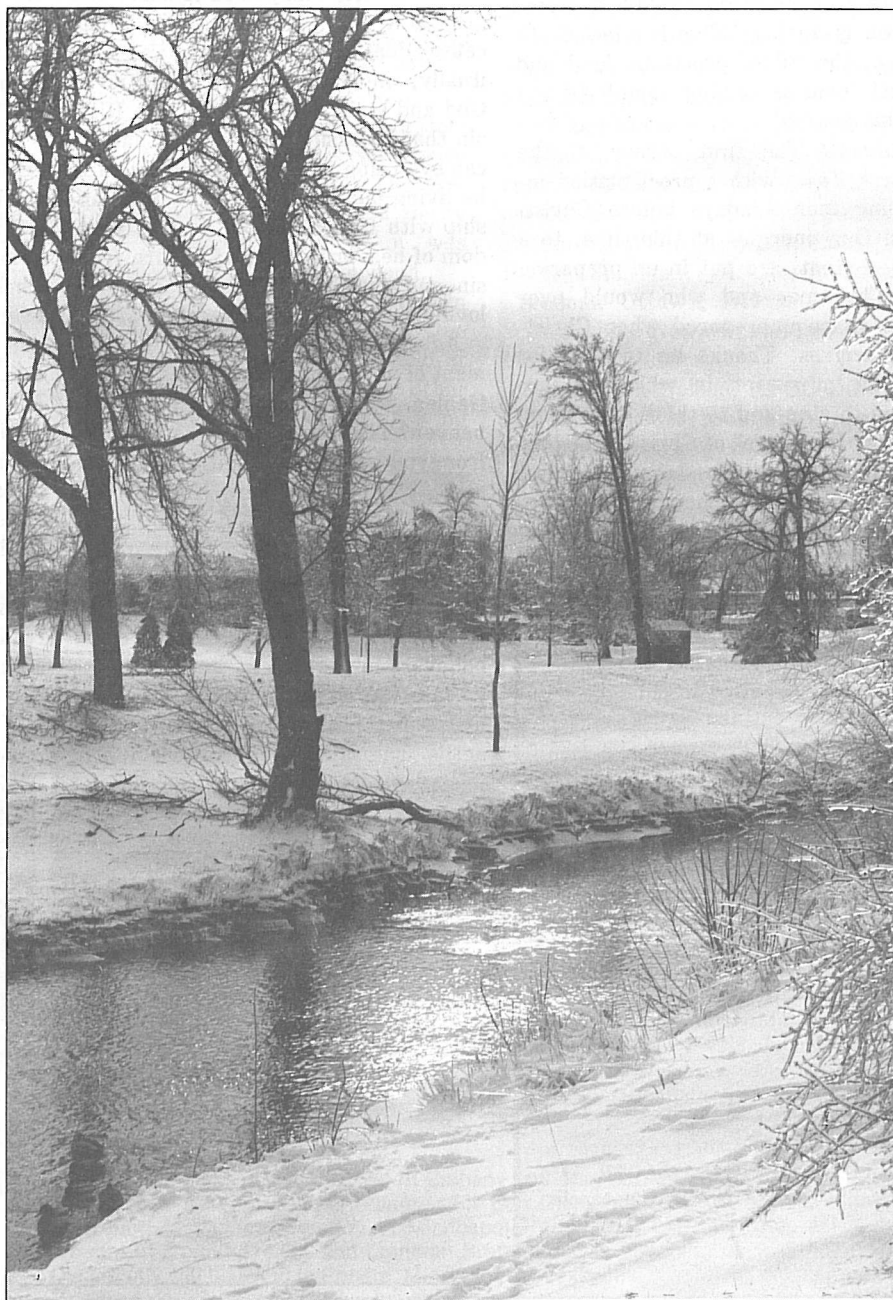


Photo by Roger C. Huebner, D.D.S.

at the MASTER'S FEET

Advent

The bells are ringing! People are singing! A witness goes out for all the world to hear! Especially that world in which we live — family, relatives, friends, fellow workers and neighbors. There is a message for all to hear: "Jesus is coming!" That is a fact God's Word, the Bible, proclaims loud and clear! Jesus is coming again! *Advent means coming!*

Advent! The first season of the Church Year, with a proclamation involving four Sundays before Christmas! Our energies at this time, to a large extent, are put in on preparing for Christmas and who would ever want to be unprepared when Christmas arrives. Thanks be to God for Advent, a season in which we are called to stop and to think concerning the two "comings" of Christ in history as shown in the Bible. Jesus came first as our Savior, fulfillment of Scripture, as Isaiah the prophet would say: "Be-

hold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call His Name Immanuel" (Isaiah 7:14 KJV).

Yes, and "Thou shalt call His name Jesus: for He shall save His people from their sins" (Matthew 1:21 KJV).

No greater message did the world need to hear and no greater message does the world today need to hear! God desires to deal with our sin, sin which causes death to us physically and spiritually, sin that causes us to say no to God and walk with our backs to Him, sin that so easily deceives us that we can even sing praises to His Name and be living outside of a saving relationship with Him. "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand." Turn from sin and turn to Christ, as Jesus so lovingly called people! (Matthew 4:17).

Advent - Today! Another announcement of very special meaning! "Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into heaven? This Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw Him go into heaven" (Acts 1:11 RSV).

After hearing this announcement, knowing the message of salvation and receiving the empowerment of the Holy Spirit, the disciples and other believers in Jerusalem were ready to go into the world, even to give their lives in order that people would know Jesus. The same Holy Spirit is calling us today: Be ready! for you do not know the day nor the hour of His coming! (Matthew 24:13).

What a privilege it is for the Christian to proclaim this message of the Lord Jesus Christ!

"Coming again, coming again,
Maybe morning, maybe noon,
Maybe evening, and maybe soon!
Coming again, coming again,
O what a wonderful day it will be—
Jesus is coming again!"

J. W. Peterson

He will come in His holiness and in His glory! In Hebrews 9:28, we read: "Christ... will appear a second time, not to deal with sin but to save those who are eagerly waiting for Him" (RSV).

"We know that when He appears we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is (I John 3:2 RSV). What blessed hope for the Christian! *To be sure*, being ready for the second coming of Christ is more important now than ever! Jesus will come in His holiness and in His glory! It is eternally important that we be prepared to enter into His presence.

"When He shall come
with trumpet sound,
O may I then in Him be found,
Dressed in His righteousness alone,
Faultless to stand before the throne."

Matthew 24:36-44 is a message of warning! "Therefore, you also must be ready; for the Son of man is coming at an hour you do not expect!" (Matthew 24:44 RSV).



by Pastor
Harvey Jackson

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**"HIS KINGDOM
IS FOREVER"**

Psalms 145:13

If yours is a typical home, life during the Advent/Christmas season is moving so fast that everything is a blur. One mother stated, "I can't wait until Christmas is over and I can start thinking again." Perhaps there is a degree of truth in what she said. Could it be possible that we run through the annual Christmas agenda of practices, programs, parties and presents without much thought as to why we celebrate Advent and Christmas? Quite likely! What a lesson we could learn in the Gospels from our Lord, the lesson that no matter how busy His day or demanding the crowds or season of the year, He never forgot *why He came*.

Jesus was conscious, first of all, of the fact that *He came to fulfill His Father's will and Word*. We remember that even as a young boy of 12 He had turned to Mary and Joseph in the temple and said, "Did you not know that I had to be in My Father's house?" (Lk. 2:49). It is interesting that Christ's first words (as quoted by Luke) are those which so clearly sum up His life's vocation to serve and glorify His Father in all things. Later, when He actually began His earthly ministry, Jesus again stated, "For I have come down from heaven, not to do My own will, but the will of Him that sent Me" (Jn. 6:38). In a very matter-of-fact and simple way, Jesus explains His incarnation as the fulfillment of His Father's will, to live, die and be resurrected for the salvation of men. "...I proceeded forth and have come from God, for I have not even come on My own initiative, but He sent Me" (Jn. 8:42).

Fulfilling God's will and the incarnation were inseparable in Christ's mind; the latter served to carry out the former. From the beginning to the end of His earthly ministry, He remained in a state of obedience to His Father (cf. Phil. 2:5-8). He was also conscious of the fact that the entire Old Testament was focusing its attention on Him and His fulfillment of its Messianic prophecies. One example of this is found in His appearance in the synagogue where, upon reading Isaiah 61:1-2, He said, "Today this Scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing" (cf. Lk. 4:21). It was not mere coincidence by which

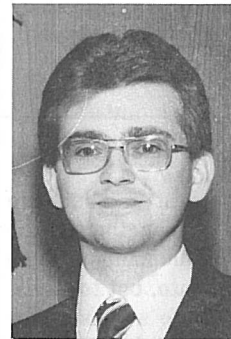
Christ fulfilled the Old Testament prophecies, but an ever-conscious awareness that through the Word God reveals His plan of salvation.

Second, Jesus was conscious of the fact that *He came to experience human suffering and temptation*. It was no accident that He was to be found eating and drinking with the tax collectors and was a friend of sinners (Mt. 11:19). John 1:11 states that Jesus came to His own. This is not only a reference to His Jewish lineage but also to the fact that His lineage could indeed be traced, that He was among other things flesh and blood. And though Jesus Himself never sinned, the important fact is that He allowed Himself to be exposed to the weaknesses and temptations that plague all mankind, His people. He wept, hungered, thirsted and faced rejection, persecution and death. Referring to the incarnation, the writer of Hebrews states that, in Christ, we have a Brother who is merciful and faithful and able to help those who are being tempted because He Himself was tempted in that which He suffered (Heb. 2:17-18). All this so that we might have a High Priest who could sympathize with our weakness, so that we could draw near the throne of God to receive grace and mercy (Heb. 4:14-16).

"... no matter how
busy His day . . .
He never forgot
why He came."

And third, Jesus was conscious of the fact that *He came to grant life and healing*. In our minds we often distinguish between Advent and Lent, Christmas and Easter. But Christ never separated the cradle and the cross. Prior to the moment of His crucifixion, Christ pointed this out to His disciples when He said, "But for this purpose I came to this hour!" The King of Kings and Lord of Lords chose to assume a human body to bear witness to the truth and bring salvation to the world

HE CAME

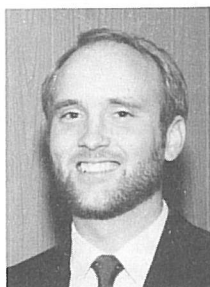


by Rev.
Lynn Kinneberg
Wadena, Minn.

(cf. Jn. 12:47, 18:37). The Jews were repulsed by Christ's statement that He was the "Bread of life which came down from heaven" (Jn. 6:41). They were abhorred that a man would claim to be divine; in their minds it couldn't happen. But it did. When the fulness of the time came, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the Law" (Gal. 4:4). During Advent we should reflect on that fact that Christ was born to die so that we who are spiritually dead could be born again. Or, as it is explained in our Catechism, "He began His life in poverty... that we might be made rich through His poverty." There is a collage of passages where Christ states Himself that this was His primary purpose for coming.



I AM WITH YOU ALWAYS



by Rev.
Stephen Snipstead
Kalispell, Mont.

HE CAME . . .

Perhaps one of the best is where He states, "The Son of man (notice the reference here to his humanity!) came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give His life a ransom for many" (Mt. 20:28, Mk. 10:45 KJV).

In the midst of our hectic schedules during November and December, shouldn't we take the time to put Christ in the forefront of our minds? Plan to take some time each day to study the Word yourself, exploring the hundreds of passages that deal with Christ's first coming. Look at the Old Testament books wherein God promised that His salvation would be carried out through a man, promises fulfilled in Christ. Study the Gospels and how Christ Himself explains the reasons for His incarnation. Examine the Epistles where the authors love to describe how the first coming of Christ affects our own today's and tomorrow's. Recall how the book of Revelation and the second coming of Christ are built on the foundation that *He came* once already. It is not all that much to ask when one considers that we were always foremost in His mind.

In times of uncertainty it's good to have someone to rely on. All of us need to have somebody or something to fall back on. There are a number of companies that realize this and make use of this need in their advertisements. There is the insurance company that says, "You can count on us when the going's rough." Or how about, "Like a good neighbor, _____ is there"? Now I'm sure these companies mean well and live up to their claims as best they can, but the stock market crash of recent weeks should have reminded us of the foolishness of putting our reliance on material wealth.

We were reminded that we are living in an uncertain age. This is an age that is capable of changing drastically in a short period of time. We are all aware that our world could be devastated by nuclear war. However, we are not living in an age where this would take months or weeks, but minutes. All around us we are faced with social, financial and governmental crises. There has never been a time of less certainty or security from the world's point of view, but God has given us a promise that we can count on even during times like these.

You will find one version of this promise in Matt. 28:20, the last part, "Lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age." There are several things we should notice about His promise. First is that Jesus wants us to notice it. He precedes it with the word "Lo." He is saying, "Look here, notice this, I will be with you." God wants us to be aware of His presence, otherwise He would not have repeated this promise so many times. You will find versions of this promise in Josh. 1:9, Ps. 37:28, 94:14, Heb. 13:5, and many other places too numerous to list. God wants us to be aware that He is there for us. His presence can be a great source of strength.

The second thing that we should notice is *who* makes this promise. Now some may be very sincere in their desire to help, but if they are unable to help their sincerity is nothing more than a nice gesture. However, God is

the one who makes this promise. Jesus promises His presence and help to His followers and He has this to say about His ability, "My Father, who has given them to Me, is greater than all; and no one is able to snatch them out of the Father's hand" (Jn. 10:29). Now consider the thought that no one is greater than our Father in heaven. Who else is better able to help no matter what the difficulty?

The third thing we should notice is the *extent* of the promise. Not only does it apply to this life, but it applies to the next as well. Jesus has promised to be with us even through death. Not long ago I spoke to an elderly woman who asked me, "What happens when we die?" Now I believe she knows the Lord, so I was able to assure her that this promise applied to her. There are many things we do not know about the next life, but one thing is absolutely certain. When we die we go to be with Jesus. We have the promise of Matt. 28:20, and if that were not enough, we have the example of the thief on the cross. Jesus said to him, "Truly... today you shall be with Me in Paradise" (Luke 23:43). On the very day that he died, this sinner who turned to Jesus at the hour of his death was with Jesus. He was never forsaken or left alone. He is with Christ to this day and so will all who put their trust in Jesus.

The last thing we should notice is to whom this promise is given. This promise belongs to those who are His disciples, His saints, His "called ones" here on earth. Those who are in heaven do not need this promise for they experience it, but those on earth who struggle with insecurity and doubt are in need of just such a promise. Worries about finances or family or even the future of our country may hinder us from serving God, but they should not. The apostle Paul, when faced with persecution and possible death, was reminded of this promise (Acts 18:20) and he served God in Corinth for a year-and-a-half without fear. We may follow His example for we have the same promise: "I am with you always, even to the end of the age."

John 14:3

I will come again." This simple statement of the Lord Jesus Christ has been the comfort and assurance of believers over the ages since it was first spoken by the Lord in the Upper Room. We may want to ask the question, "What did He mean by "I will come again?" We know that He appeared to His disciples after the resurrection, but He meant for us to understand more than that. Jesus comes to every Christian because every saved person must say, "Christ liveth in me." This is not the end of this declaration "I will come again." We still await His coming, a visible appearing of the Lord Jesus Christ, His second coming in power and glory.

The personal return of our Lord

How can we know for sure that Jesus will personally return to earth? Again we turn to the Word itself. There are unfilled Old Testament prophecies, but we have the Lord's own testimony and also that of the Apostles.

I. The testimony of the Lord.

On many occasions the Lord spoke of His glorious coming. The parables and the discourses teach us that after His rejection, crucifixion and ascension, the day would come when He would return to earth. Many statements were made to His disciples on the Mount of Olives which we find in Matthew 24 and 25, Mark 13 and Luke 21. In Matthew 24:30, we read, "They shall see the Son of Man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory." Verse 42 says, "Your Lord doth come." Jesus is coming again; He said so himself.

When Jesus was to be taken up to heaven, on His ascension, two angels said to the disciples, "Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven? This same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen Him go into heaven." He will come the same way as He went. Literally, in a body, through the clouds, He will come with power and glory and every eye shall see Him.

II. The Testimony of the Apostles

When we look into God's Word, we

see from the teaching of Jesus and inspiration of the Holy Spirit that the Apostles preached, spoke and wrote much about the second coming of Christ. In II Peter, we find Peter speaking about the coming of the Lord as the "day of the Lord," despite man's sin and unbelief (II Peter 3). James tells us, "Be ye also patient; establish your hearts: for the coming of the Lord draweth nigh" (James 5:8).

John marvels at the love of God which had already made us sons and writes, "It doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when He shall appear, we shall be like Him; for we shall see Him as He is" (I John 3:2).

The truth of a literal visible coming again is found in all of Paul's writings. I Thessalonians 4:16 states, "For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trumpet of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first."

**"Nothing in all the world
can change the sure Word
we have in Scripture that
'Jesus is coming again.'"**

Many other Scriptures could be taken into consideration confirming the visible coming again of Christ. Nothing in all the world can change the sure word we have in Scripture that "Jesus is coming again." To the Bible-believing Christian, there can be no question concerning the certainty of Christ's return. Questions can arise as to how and when; we will not be considering those questions at this time.

**The benefits of the Second Coming
for the Believer's Daily Life****1. An Encouragement to all who Believe.**

The teaching of Christ's return is very encouraging to the Christian. He will judge the ungodly and establish His kingdom. It may appear that sin is

HE IS COMING AGAIN

*by Rev. Wendell Johnson
Stacy, Minn.*

unchecked as it divides the world and brings chaos and heartbreak everywhere, but God has "appointed a day, in which He will judge the world in righteousness" (Acts 17:31). Things are not settled in Washington, Moscow or at the peace table, but in heaven Jesus shall reign, not the devil. Jesus will come again, not by a gradual process of improvement, but by the intervention of Almighty God.

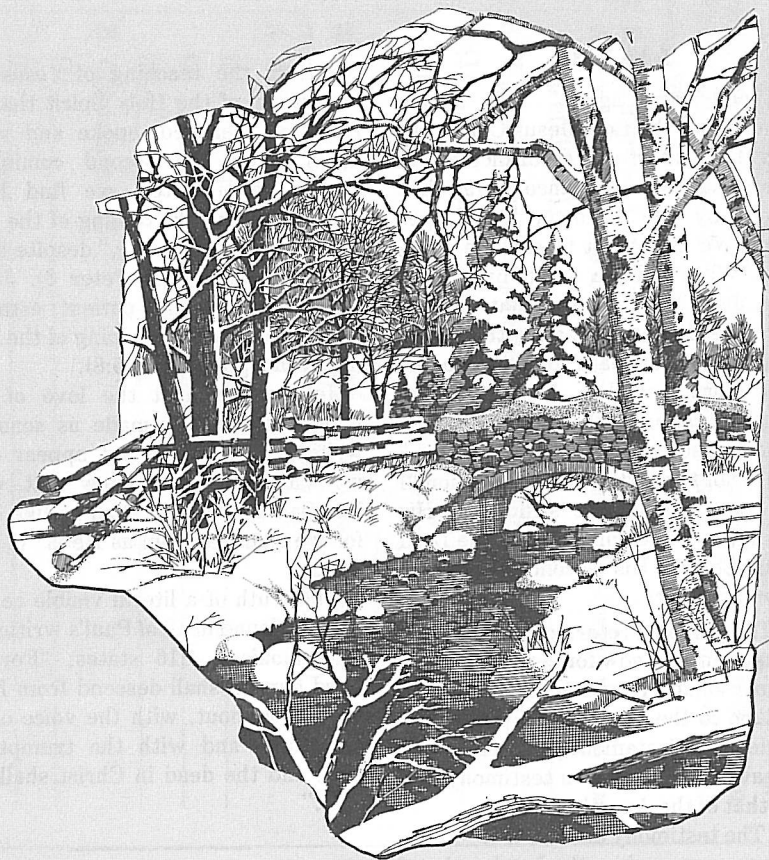
II. A Call to Holy Living

The coming of the Lord is not only an encouragement to faith but a call to holy living. Christians live their lives in the light of Christ's coming. Peter makes this clear: "Seeing then that all these things shall be dissolved, what manner of persons ought ye to be in all holy conversation and godliness... be diligent that ye may be found of Him in peace, without spot and blameless" (II Peter 3:11,14). The blessed hope of Christ's return is a sanctifying hope.

At present the kingdom of God resembles nature in its winter shroud.

But on the day of Christ's appearing, it will take on the beauty and grandeur of a midsummer's day.

—F. Hammarsten



COMING AGAIN . . .

"Every man that has this hope in him purifieth himself, even as He is pure" (I John 3:3). The believer's actions should be governed by the thought, "Shall I be ashamed of this at His coming" (see I John 2:28).

III. An Incentive to Active Service

The glorious truth of Christ's return should inspire Christian service. We are admonished to "redeem the time" because the days are evil (Ephesians 5:16). His Word must be preached. There can be no burying of talents given to our trust. As servants of the Lord we must be faithful in active service for Christ. His coming will be the examination of the believer's works and the rewarding of his service.

When He comes our glorious King,
All His ransomed home to bring,
Then anew this song we'll sing,
'Hallelujah! What a Saviour!'"

Hark! A Thrilling Voice Is Sounding

Latin Hymn, V. cent.
Tr. Edward Caswall, 1815-78 a.
(*Service Book and Hymnal*)

Hark! a thrilling voice is sounding;
'Christ is nigh,' it seems to say,
'Cast away the works of darkness,
O ye children of the day.'

Wakened by the solemn warning,
Let the earthbound soul arise;
Christ, her sun, all ill dispelling,
Shines upon the morning skies.

Lo, the Lamb, so long expected,
Comes with pardon down from heaven;
Let us haste, with tears of sorrow,
One and all to be forgiven;

So when next He comes in glory,
And the world is wrapped in fear,
With His mercy may He shield us,
And with words of love draw near.

Honor, glory, might, and blessing
Be to God: the Father, Son,
And the everlasting Spirit,
While eternal ages run. Amen.

Should the pastor be involved in youth work

by Rev. Curtis Emerson
St. Cloud, Minn.

"We need to realize the pastor is more important than we understand," said Dr. Merton Strommen, researcher for Search Institute in Minneapolis, Minn. The statement was made at a seminar he conducted at the AFLC headquarters on youth and the role of the pastor with youth today.

Although the statement reflects the feelings of many pastors as they try to help and encourage young people, the simple truth is that the pastor is one of the most neglected resources youth have today. Amazingly, in a survey¹ taken by Search Institute in which approximately 8,000 young people between the grades of 5-12 were surveyed, it was found that more than 90% of young people rated the pastor as one of the least influential of all the adults they have to deal with. The survey dealt with six areas of concern for young people today: 1) trouble in school, 2) concern on how to handle their feelings, 3) use of drugs and alcohol, 4) sexuality, 5) feelings of guilt, and 6) major life decisions. Teens were asked, "When you need advice on any of these areas, whom do you go to: 1) parents, 2) peers, 3) adult friends, 4) relatives, 5) pastors or priests, 6) teachers, or 7) counselors?" It was refreshing to read that the youth preferred to go to their parents first, but the pastor was classified as one of the last persons to go to for advice. Note the results: The youth turned to a pastor when there was:

1. Trouble at school, 1.7% of the time.
2. Concern over personal feelings, 4.1% of the time.
3. Concern about the use of alcohol and drugs, 6.0% of the time.
4. Thoughts about sexuality, 2.5% of the time.
5. Thoughts of guilt, 10.5% of the time.
6. Major life decisions to be made, 4.3% of the time.

In another part of the survey, the

young people were asked, "Whom do you turn to when you need support in some crisis?" Only 2.8% thought they might go to their pastor (3.1% for a youth worker) and only 1.8% have gone to a pastor for support (2.1% for the youth worker).

Why? Why is it that pastors today are one of the last ones youth go to for counsel or encouragement in their time of crisis? Is it because we as pastors don't show the care we should for young people? Is it that we are so concerned about the more "mature" or "older" members that we give young people the impression that they are not important? In our leadership position, theological as we are, have we become so legalistic that our youth do not recognize a spirit of love and mercy for them when they face a crisis? Have we failed to impress young people with the knowledge that we are willing to help them over the rough paths to spiritual and emotional maturity? Only our Lord knows the answers to such questions.

"We as pastors need to take time to be with our young people . . . whether we feel we are good with youth or not."

Yet here we are as pastors, with the truths of God's Word in our minds and hearts, and our young people are turning to their friends, teachers and counselors, many of whom can only give unscriptural and unspiritual advice. I remember my wife telling me of a conversation she had with a young girl in Medora, North Dakota. The conversation came around to her sexuality. At 18 this young girl was very much sexually active. My wife began to share with her what the Word of God had to say about pre-marital sex. This young girl was shocked and replied to my wife, "I've never heard that before. All my teachers, counselors and even my parents have never told me it was wrong. Thank you for showing me the other side." The Word of God has the answers to the questions young people are asking today. Let me ask, who is

better equipped to share those answers than those who "rightly divide the Word of truth," the teachers and preachers of the Word?

The situation stands before us as pastors and churches begging to be resolved. How can we reverse this situation? Maybe our churches need to encourage and promote the pastor's involvement with the youth program and its activities. I believe that we as pastors need to make time to be with our young people and to take time to talk about these six areas of conflict they experience on a regular basis. We need to be open and vulnerable, applying the Word of God in practical ways so that our youth start to take confidence in their pastors once again. Young people do not need pastors who are legalistic or negative, but rather men who are willing to flex, understanding that our young people are making major life decisions that we as pastors need the opportunity to be a part of. We can bridge this gap between the pastor and the young person through patience, openness, personal contact and lots of love.

Do I feel that a pastor should be involved with the youth program in the local church? Definitely, but not only a part, but the major influence in the local ministry to youth. Our youth need to be taught by the Word and by our actions that the world's ways are not the right ways. They need to have the Word made available to them in a way that is practical and applicable to their daily lives. Whether we feel we are good with youth or not, our responsibility stands before us to be good stewards of the Word to all people.

1. *Adults Who Influence Youth: Perspective From 5th-12th Grade Students*, Peter L. Benson, David J. Mangen, Dorothy L. Williams, 1984 Search Institute: Minneapolis, Minn.

Let's make our Luther Leagues places where youth feel free to openly discuss their needs and struggles. Thank you, Pastor Emerson. We appreciate the fine work you did as our AFLC Luther League Federation president.

Pastor Dennis Gray
Youth Resources Director

I want to grow, Lord!

by Mrs. Richard (Clara) Gunderson,
Lake Stevens, Wash.

Growth in my readiness

This year Christmas is going to be different — everything is going to be perfect! I started getting ready last July when I bought some fabric and crafts at a terrific sale. Well, actually, it goes back farther than that even. After last year's holiday (which left me absolutely frazzled) I made it a point to go to the *after*-Christmas sales and I bought tons of things like wrapping paper, ribbon, some new tree decorations and lights — five new strings of lights! One store had a great bargain on boxed Christmas cards — 75% off — and I got ten boxes. I'll probably have enough for next year, too! I was especially pleased to get Aunt Olga's usual five lb. box of chocolate-covered cherries for half off. I put it on a safe shelf so it will look as good as new when I give it to her. Those things stay fresh a long time, don't they? Well, like I said, I started making gifts way back in July—

That's what I was doing when Ruth came bursting through the door, crying and holding her hands over her ears. That girl! She had had an argument with her friend Nancy and wanted me to hear all about it. But I had just laid out my pattern and couldn't stop just then. Besides, those things usually heal by themselves. I told her I'd come and tuck her into bed and we could talk then. But by the time I got there she had fallen asleep on top of the covers, so I kissed her and tucked her in. Maybe I'll have time tomorrow. Now, back to my project. I want to be ready for Christmas, Lord!

I've found that I need to make lists so

that I stay on task and really do get everything done. I do it all the time. And I don't let anything deter me. So I was really impatient when my husband suggested that after dinner we go and visit the Johnsons. They go to our church and last week her brother - or *someone* - died. I reminded him that I'm working on Grandpa's shirt and if I could get it done first, then I'd go with him. I didn't realize until I heard the car drive back in that it was after 11 o'clock and he must have gone without me. Maybe I'll run over there tomorrow. I *did* get the shirt done and I'm so relieved 'cause I want to be ready for Christmas, Lord!

With my sewing projects out of the way at last (I *love* the smocked dress I made for little Sonja and the matching shirt for her brother), I'm ready to get to my baking. I'm going to make the cutest cookies. I tasted them at my friend Joan's house and she gave me the recipe from her gourmet cooking class. I'd just gotten my hands into a huge bowl of dough when Jon came in and reminded me about his band concert at school that very night. I was angry because he hadn't told me sooner, although he said he'd brought the notice home last week. No, of course I couldn't just drop everything and go. I felt bad, but still. . . I have to get these cookies done so I'll be ready for Christmas, Lord!

Dave, the chairman of our Missions' Committee, called just as I was frosting the last batch of cookies. I could have finished hours ago if Ruth or Jon or Andy had come around to help. I always thought we should do it as a family, but it looks like they'd rather be in the garage puttering around with their father. I can hear their chatter from here. I wonder what they find to talk about so much? Anyway, Dave said the Wards, our missionary family, have had some kind of medical emer-

gency. It seems Mrs. Ward fell and broke her leg and it was necessary to have her flown to the mainland for hospital care. Dave said they need financial help as well as our prayers. Could we? I quickly assured him that we would be praying, but just now things were slow for us, too, what with all the Christmas expenses, but, yes, we surely will remember them in our prayers. I'm sorry they have had this problem, but, Lord, I've already gone over our budget so I could be ready for Christmas!

I was bone-tired when I went to bed after midnight. But what a good feeling to know that it is still a month before Christmas and I am on schedule! Late as it was, I went over my lists again. I was so tired when I woke up in the morning I called Bonnie and asked her to teach the Sunday School class. She's good at stepping in at the last minute. I told Dick to go ahead with the kids without me. Perhaps I'll make up for it and go tonight instead.

"Make up for it, Clara? How do you make up for not drying your daughter's tears and listening to her hurts? Can she cry those same tears and feel the pain afresh? And your boy's band concert has already been played! Can you set the scene at the Johnsons' and extend comfort now that it is convenient for you? Will your husband think to ask you next time or will he just assume you are too busy? And, how can you give Me my portion of the tithe if it is already spent? No, *you* aren't ready for Christmas. The house might be, but *you* aren't! I, too, want this Christmas to be perfect for you and your family. But you are hindered by your mistaken concept of readiness. Even as My servant, John the Baptist, preached readiness through repentance, I urge you to use these days remaining until the great celebration to prepare your heart before Me."

*The people who walked in darkness
have seen a great light;
those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness,
on them has light shined.*

Isaiah 9:2

editorials

AND NOW ADVENT

Three Advent messages are to be found in this *Ambassador*. They are written by three pastors of our church. One deals with the Lord's first coming. The second tells of the continuing presence of Jesus in our world. The final one speaks of the second advent of Christ to this old world of ours. There you have it, the three broad meanings of this month-long season of the church year we call Advent.

We don't know about you, but every year it is a thrill to sing the great hymns of Advent: "O How Shall I Receive Thee," "O Come, O Come, Immanuel," "Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus," and others (no two hymnals contain exactly the same hymns or songs).

There is heightening excitement as events build up toward the festival of Christmas, culminating in the services in our churches on Christmas Day. God sent His Son into the world. That's history and it is fact. For some of us it has made all the difference in the world. It has given life, meaning and hope.

And, of course, there is the observance of Christmas in our homes. We all have our traditions and way of doing things. God bless our Christmas. We trust that the Christmas *Ambassador* will add to your enjoyment of the blessed season. And Christmas begins with Advent. May you have a rich Advent in home and church.

PLASTERER, NOT PASTOR

When we first heard about the man and lady who won the astronomical lottery prize of 46 million dollars, or whatever, month before last, we understood the man was a pastor. That disturbed us and we thought, "Are pastors going for that sort of thing also?"

Our faith in the decency of the clerical profession was restored, however, when we learned that we had misheard the first announcement. The big winner was a plasterer, not a pastor.

We must pray for this man and lady who suddenly came to such, if we may borrow a word our politically liberal friends like to use about some things, "obscene" wealth. Jesus said, "It will be hard for a rich man to enter the kingdom of heaven."

We can be sure the sum of money is not from God for He wouldn't place such a snare before anyone.

Lotteries continue to increase in popularity. The money is there (provided by the purchasers of tickets) to provide for obscene payoffs even after the state and other middlemen get their take. One wonders why government, we the people, have to operate in this way.

Anyway, we're glad it wasn't a pastor who won all that money. A pastor wouldn't come out any better in the end with it than a plasterer.

DOME SIDELIGHT

An odd sidelight following the recent World Series between Minnesota and St. Louis teams in October was an article in the Minneapolis *Star Tribune* by one John Marty. The burden of the article was the incongruity of selling advertising space in the Hubert H. Humphrey Metrodome to a manufacturer of cigarettes. A new ten-year contract is about to be drawn up.

We carry no brief for cigarettes or their advertising, but the incongruity for us was the picture that was run with Marty's article on an editorial page of the Oct. 27 issue. One of the present wall ads in the distance, in the Metrodome, is apparently one by the certain tobacco company. The picture is too dark and that ad is not clearly shown. You might know it's the one and you might not. But what is clear in the picture is the nickname of a certain beer, but Mr. Marty says nothing about that or suggests no danger in advertising such a product where thousands and now, we are told, even millions will congregate in a baseball season.

Tobacco is the current whipping boy. It is very popular to come down hard on that. As we said, we carry no brief for smoking. Many deaths are due to the habit in a year. But we do wish that more public outcry would be directed against that other evil, the alcoholic beverage. While it may not be possible to attribute as many deaths as directly to drinking as to smoking, an awful lot of other problems can be laid at its door: psychological, emotional, social, mental, physical. All of these cause a lot of heartache and cost a lot of tax dollars. How often can you read a daily newspaper or a county weekly without finding some evidence of this?

Now, we don't expect another 18th Amendment in our time or in this dispensation. But for a starter there ought to be the elimination of advertising of alcohol in television, radio and newspapers. Roadblocks should be placed in the way of the liquor traffic wherever and whenever possible, such as was done in Thief River Falls, Minn., last month when the issue of Sunday liquor with meals was again defeated in an election.

It's good to work for a "smokeless society," but let's not forget that other area that needs careful watching, too.

Further, what is the spiritual conflict within us that takes its beginning when the new life is kindled? It is nothing less than a putting on of Christ Jesus, a development into the full stature of Christ, an arming of ourselves with the mind of Christ, a striving to "know Him . . . and the fellowship of His suffering, becoming conformed unto His death." What is a life of sanctification other than a life in Christ?

F. Hammarsten

Introduction to the WMF Bible Study Series

Several years ago I used to enjoy visiting a precious older woman who had a sincere love for the Lord. Often in our visits she would say, "I'm still in God's school." That thought has often come to my mind as I have gone through various experiences in my life. Being teachable gives us a healthy perspective on what we go through because we need to realize that in it all God wants to teach us His wisdom. He wants us to see life the way He does and the only way we can gain that perspective is through His Word.

The aim of these lessons is three-fold: 1) to show how practical God's Word is for our daily situations; 2) to get our focus on God's viewpoint instead of our own; and 3) to guide women in personally applying God's principles in their areas of need so they can experience the victory God wants them to find. These studies are designed to take us from the attitudes we struggle with as women and give us a new outlook on our lives — what God wants to teach us and how He can change us. You see, we can know all kinds of *facts* about the Bible in our heads, but they all have little or no benefit for us if we don't *apply* them and build them into our daily experience.

I believe that the greatest benefit from any Bible study comes from each person's own time in God's Word. Before you even open your Bible, begin by asking God to speak to you through His Word and to open your heart and

mind to His truths. This isn't just a routine ritual; it really makes a difference! These studies are not intended to be personal evaluation as you read these passages and consider the attitudes they concern. Ask God to give you spiritual discernment as you study and that His Spirit will empower you to put it into practice in your life.

Then, as you ladies meet together to discuss each lesson, it can be to share discoveries, growth experienced and progress made, not a quiz just to recite answers.

There are two portions of Scripture I want to share as we begin: (*James 1:22-25*) — "Do not merely listen to the Word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says. Anyone who listens to the Word but does not do what it says is like a man who looks at his face in a mirror and, after looking at himself, goes away and immediately forgets what he looks like. But the man who looks intently into the perfect law that gives freedom, and continues to do this, not forgetting what he has heard, but doing it — he will be blessed in what he does." (*Romans 15:4*) — "For everything that was written in the past was written to teach us, so that through endurance and the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope" (NIV).

Are *you* in "God's School"? Are you teachable? Then come along; we've got lots to learn! The textbook is His Word. The Teacher is God's Holy Spirit.

We're graded on our "heart condition," not our outward performance, and graduation is when we reach the perfection of Christ in heaven. And don't forget: all the glory goes to the Lord!

—Linda Korhonen

Linda (Moan) Korhonen grew up on a farm near McIntosh, Minnesota. She attended two years of Bible School at AFLBS, then worked as secretary to Pastor (John) Strand in Minneapolis for 3½ years, then spent five years as a parish worker under Pastor Herbert Franz in Cloquet, Minn. She is currently a pastor's (Lyndon) wife in Culbertson, Montana.

Coming next time



The next issue of the *Ambassador* will be the special Christmas number. Dated December 15, it will contain, among other things, the following:

A meditation and greeting by our president, Pastor Snipstead.

Christmas in a Japanese prison camp by Judith Skogerboe Hyland.

A story by Ruth Jesness Tweed.

A schoolteacher alone in an Alaskan Christmas, by Thomas Olson.

The Christmas sermon by Pastor John Strand.

Childhood Christmas memories by Alice Lendobeja.

Poems by *Ambassador* readers.

Something for children.

Beautiful pictures.

All this and more.

Why not send a gift copy to friends and relatives? Use the order blank in the Nov. 17 issue, or write directly now to *The Lutheran Ambassador*, 3110 E. Medicine Lake Blvd., Minneapolis, Minn. 55441. Enclose 75 cents for each copy requested.

ASSOCIATION OF FREE LUTHERAN CONGREGATIONS

3110 East Medicine Lake Boulevard

Minneapolis, Minnesota 55441

AFLC Benevolences Feb. 1 - Oct. 31

FUND	TOTAL BUDGET	REC'D IN OCT.	TOTAL REC'D TO DATE	% TOTAL*
GENERAL FUND	\$ 208,000.00	\$ 9,803.77	\$102,879.24	49
SCHOOLS - (AFLTS)	99,834.00	6,025.12	59,528.25	60
(AFLBS)	152,060.00	16,805.99	99,822.40	66
HOME MISSIONS	280,000.00	17,418.63	134,180.51	48
WORLD MISSIONS	250,000.00	17,598.79	138,874.34	56
CAPITAL INVESTMENT	25,000.00	752.38	18,070.28	72
TOTALS	\$1,014,894.00	\$68,404.68	\$553,355.02	55
1986-87 —	\$1,084,478.00	\$74,380.76	\$536,325.17	49
*GOAL 75%				

9. When you can't sleep: Psalm 4:4

(1) _____
(2) _____

vs. 8: Remember . . .

10. Entertaining guests in your home for a meal: Proverbs 17:1 and
Luke 10:38-42

BALANCE

11. Work and rest — we need both. One without the other is
imbalanced. What advice do we learn from Psalm 90:12?

*"Come to Me,
all you who are weary and burdened,
and I will give you rest."*

— Jesus (Matthew 11:28)

Personal Application:

(not for discussion)

1. If you are feeling bogged down, what are some "extras" that you need to set aside (at least for right now) so you can spend your time on more worthwhile, productive things?
2. Do you tend to "waste" any time, like lying in bed for half an hour in the morning so you don't have time for devotions? Plan the changes you need to make.
3. Do you put yourself under unnecessary pressure? How can you allow Christ's peace to rule?
4. If Sunday mornings are hectic and frustrating, what changes can you put into practice to avoid that rush so you can enter church more ready to worship?
5. What do you do just to relax?

Mrs. Lyndon Korhonen

THE HIGHER PERSPECTIVE

FROM RUSHING TO RESTING

When is "busy" too busy? Should I feel guilty whenever I take time to relax? Does God intend for me to go "nonstop" through life? Is saying "No" ever God's will? Let's find answers from God's Word.

THE DANGER

The fast pace and high pressure that characterize life in society today is a threat to us in many ways. Without dealing with this issue, it will progressively grow worse until we find ourselves becoming slaves to our schedules and responsibilities and feel helplessly out-of-control.

1. What are some results of constantly pushing ourselves without a balance of rest?

physical - _____
emotional - _____
social - _____
spiritual - _____

2. What warnings do these verses give as effects of frenzied toiling and anxiety?

- A. Ecclesiastes 2:11 _____
B. Ecclesiastes 2:20 _____
C. Psalm 127:2 _____
D. Matthew 13:22 (1) _____
(2) _____
E. Luke 14:18-19 _____

REST — GOD'S PLAN

Rest is God's idea, both by example and command, right from the beginning (Genesis 2:2), so to ignore or neglect it is to disobey Him. Since God designed it, then we can be sure that it is *His will* for us today, too.

3. Read Hebrews 3:16 - 4:11.

A. Since God invites us to experience His rest, of what must we be careful? (4:1) _____

B. What 3 things keep people from experiencing it? (3:18 - 4:2)

(1) _____

(2) _____

(3) _____

4. What are God's instructions for us in order to receive peace and rest? (Take special note of verbs, actions and attitudes.)

A. Psalm 37:7

(1) _____

(2) _____

(3) _____

B. Colossians 3:15

(1) _____

(2) _____

C. Philippians 4:6-7

(1) _____

(2) _____

PRIORITIES — GOD'S ORDER

5. Setting priorities is the only way we can learn where to say "No." what must come first in our lives?

A. Matthew 6:33 - FIRST: (Of what trap must we beware?

Galatians 1:10) _____

B. Titus 2:4-5 and Proverbs 31:27-28 - SECOND: _____

C. I Corinthians 12:27 and 14:12 - THIRD: _____

6. Devotions must be a daily priority. Time alone with the Lord in His Word and prayer is a key to peace of mind and soul. What do we learn from Mark 6:30-31?

A. How busy were the disciples? _____

B. What did Jesus tell them to do? _____

C. Taking His words phrase by phrase, what guidance does this give us for our own daily "Quiet time"?

(1) _____

(2) _____

(3) _____

(4) _____

PRACTICAL APPLICATION

How can we apply God's principles for rest in these situations?
(Write answers in your own words.)

7. *One day of rest each week:* Exodus 23:12

(Explain the significance of the word "refreshed.")

8. *Have more responsibilities than you can handle:* Exodus 18:13-14

AFLBS club encourages missions

Whoever will call upon the name of the Lord will be saved. How then shall they call upon Him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in Him whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher? (*Rom. 10:13-14*).

Over and over again we've heard the Gospel story. Time and time again God's Word has met my need head on. Millions or, dare I say, billions, worldwide, have not heard that story presented in a complete and understandable manner. But we are "a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for God's own possession, that (we) may proclaim the excellencies of Him." Yes, that's you and I, we are the ones to reach the world for Christ. I am a debtor to those around me. Who am I that I should keep to myself this great God and Savior Jesus Christ while so many out there are living aimlessly and finally reaching Christless eternities? How shall they believe in whom they have not heard?

It is with this conviction that the Missions Club at AFLBS was organized. Really, though, isn't that a primary reason for being equipped in God's Word? You have to upbuild your own spiritual life so in turn you can be a

campus news

light and an example to those in darkness. Through the Missions Club, the students at AFLBS are met by the weight of the universal need for Christ. It is intended to cause them to search for God's will in their lives. Where would He have me to be? Where can I serve Him the best? This is all seen with expectation that God may call some even to specific, full-time, Christian ministry here and abroad.

Activities of the Missions Club cover anything from a stirring presentation from a missionary who has been there, to an aluminum can "stomp night" to raise money for a mission project. Occasionally we'll view a missions film or we may just meet to pray for our AFLC missionaries and others serving abroad. Of the fund-raisers the annual basket social and reverse basket social are favorites. This way we mix giving with pleasure and, hopefully, a good meal as well! On the more serious note, though, the monies are not collected in vain. Often the money is used to help finance those going out on a FLY (Free Lutheran Youth) team. These go to Mexico and some years, Brazil. Whatever the project may be, needs are partially met and more are helped to melt the world with the gospel.

Now don't get me wrong here. What did Christ say? "You shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth" (*Acts 1:8*). Don't you have that Jerusalem around you—the ready-made missions field to work on? So, what are you waiting for, let's get out there and win souls for Jesus Christ. "How beautiful are the feet of those who bring glad tidings of good things!"

—by Graig Kveen
Roseau, Minn.

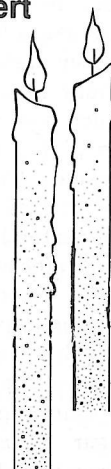
Come to the Christmas Concert

Dec. 13, 4 p.m.

AFLC Headquarters

AFLBS Choir
Choral Club
Instrumental
Ensembles
Seminary Chorus

Fellowship luncheon
afterwards



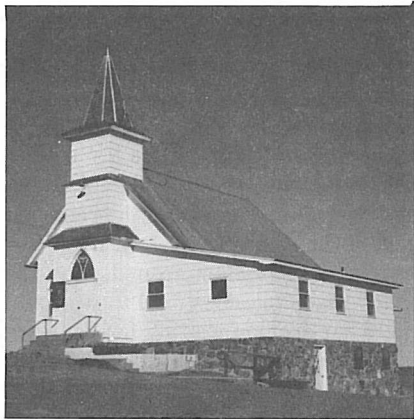
photos by Lynn Erickson



Missions Club's basket social on Nov. 12 featured a Hawaiian theme. Pictured are: Cindy Greven, Mpls.; Rodney Bottem, Suquamish, Wash.; Carla Bengtson, Newfolden, Minn.; and Victor Slaght, Glen Cove, N.Y.



Enjoying a tropical setting on the lobby floor were: Michelle Demsky, Mpls.; Julie Haugen, Cokato, Minn.; Matthew Grafstrom, Roseau, Minn.; and John Dahl, Bagley, Minn.



Reva, S. Dak. church dedicates addition

On Sunday, October 11th the Slim Buttes Lutheran Church at Reva, S. Dak., held a dedication service for their new addition completed this fall. Former pastor Philip Rokke gave the Sunday morning message. A potluck dinner was served following the service giving the new kitchen a good workout. The dedication service was held at 1:30 that afternoon with present pastor James Johnson and Pastor Rokke officiating. Congregational president, Reuben Olson, had Scripture and prayer. A church history prepared by Amy Olson was read by Bill Johnson. Scripture passages were read by council members (Joe Wilkinson, Edgar Johnson, Charles Week, Bill Johnson and Gene Tenold) between stanzas of the hymn, "I Love Thy Kingdom, Lord," sung by the congregation. Other special music was sung by the church choir and Pastor and Mrs. Rokke. A beautiful cake made by Alice Wilkinson and Vi Week was served for lunch following the service.

The building of the new addition was mainly done by willing and able members of the church, headed by Reuben Olson. The work began in the fall of 1986 and was completed in the fall of this year. The addition is two stories, 14 feet wide, running the full length of the original building. The upstairs includes a cry room, Sunday School room, and two other Sunday School rooms, which can be opened up to be used as overflow seating for the sanctuary. The downstairs has an office, kitchen, two bathrooms and an entry, also used as a Sunday School room.

—Corr.

Home missions

Duluth, Minn.

Mark Molstre, his wife Lori and their children are serving the Home Mission church in Duluth, Minn. Mark, a senior at the Seminary travels to Duluth three out of four Sundays a month.

Mark served the congregation, St. John's, on a full-time basis during the months of June, July and August. During that time he made frequent visits to the members of the congregation, as well as canvassing the neighborhood for new members. He also helped to coordinate the Vacation Bible School in June with the Barnabas Team.

Under his ministry the congregation has grown in members and has increased in its commitment in serving the Lord. Many visitors to the church have commented on the Christ-cen-



Lori is shown holding Joshua and Mark is holding Jessica.

tered messages that Mark has preached.

St. John's, located at 1630 Kenwood Avenue, holds its Sunday service at 10 a.m. We invite other Free Lutheran brethren to visit our church when they are in the Duluth area. —Corr.

Edmore N. Dak.

On Sunday, October 11, 1987, Pastor Christian Oswood announced that word had been received that Living Word Lutheran Church, Edmore, North Dakota, had been accepted as a member in the Association of Free Lutheran Congregations.

September 20 was a day of great excitement and joy. It was the birthday of this new congregation. But there was rejoicing too because of a young Japanese college student named Kioi Kobuchi. Kioi was visiting a friend in Edmore. Kioi was from Soka City, Japan, a suburb of Tokyo. Like most Japanese, Kioi was not a Christian. Living Word congregation had been told about Kioi's coming visit and prayer had been asked on behalf of this young man. Many were praying that Kioi would come to know Jesus during his visit in Edmore. On Saturday, September 19, the prayers of many were answered. Kioi became a Christian and made the decision to follow Jesus. On the day that Living Word Free Lutheran Church was born, Kioi was introduced to the congregation as our newest brother in Jesus.

On October 4 the congregation voted to construct a new church building. Two weeks later, following the regular worship service, members of Living Word gathered at the building site of their new church.

Pastor Christian Oswood gave a



Rev. Christian Oswood, center, and other committee members watch as Ralph Mackey, left, chairman of the steering committee, and Arnold Ivesdal, chairman of the building committee, break ground for the church building of Living Word Free Lutheran Church.

brief message, using Matthew 7:24-27 as his text. This exhortation was followed by the moment of the turning of the soil when ground was officially broken. Pastor Oswood concluded that part of the service with a prayer-benediction. Before the congregation members joined in singing the anthem "How Great Thou Art," steering committee chairman Ralph Mackey expressed his appreciation and gratitude, as well as the congregation's, for what is believed to be God's blessings as well as His abundant provision.

The wind was chilling but hearts were warmed in gratitude and joy as many voices united in praise to sing those much loved words:

"Then sings my soul, my Savior,
God to Thee,
How great Thou art,
how great Thou art!"

—Corr.

news of the churches

from here and there

Minnewaukan, N. Dak. — Trinity Lutheran hosted the Eastern North Dakota District Men's Retreat, Nov. 21. Rev. Robert Lee of the AFLC Schools' faculty was the guest speaker.

Cokato, Minn. — New members received into Good Shepherd Lutheran on Nov. 8 were Mr. and Mrs. Jim (Gail) Barka, Andrew, Jacob and Jeremy; Joanna Amborn and Jonathon; Mr. and Mrs. Joey (Connie) Berg, Jami, Cari and Candice; Mr. and Mrs. David (Sharon) Borg, Tim, Michael, Mark, Julianne and Leif; and Mr. and Mrs. Jon (Karen) Engstrom and Jon Colin.

Greenbush, Minn. — Rev. John P. Strand, former president of the AFLC, spoke at the Family Night at United Lutheran on Nov. 22.

Minneapolis, Minn. — Medicine Lake Lutheran is holding four Advent services this year, on Wednesday evenings.

Mason, Wis. — Parish evangelistic meetings were held at Our Savior's Lutheran (Nov. 1-3) and Drummond Lutheran (Nov. 4, 5) with Pastor Harvey Jackson, Ishpeming, Mich., as speaker.

Dalton, Minn. — The Emmanuel Ladies Aid served a benefit dinner featuring potato dumplings in behalf of Terry Larson on Nov. 7 at the town hall. Terry is a recent recipient of a kidney transplant.

Roseau, Minn. — Following the 11:15 worship service on Nov. 1 a pot-luck dinner was served at Spruce Lutheran.

St. Paul, Minn. — Oct. 11th was installation Sunday at Victory in Christ Lutheran. Rev. Wayne A. Hjermstad was installed in a 4 p.m. service by Rev. Robert L. Lee, vice-president of the AFLC, who also preached the sermon. There was special music and greetings were shared. A supper was served by the congregation. Pastor Hjermstad began his ministry at Victory in Christ on July 5.

Tioga, N. Dak. — Wild game and chicken were specialties at the annual Sportsman's banquet at Zion Lutheran on Nov. 1. Beaver Creek and Norman Churchmen also sponsored the event.

Eben Jct., Mich. — The annual Appreciation Banquet for the ladies of

Calvary Lutheran was held on Nov. 7. The program featured former pastor at Calvary, Rev. Wallace Jackson. He also preached at the worship service the next morning. Mrs. Jackson accompanied him to Eben Jct.

Minneapolis, Minn. — Kyle Schirmer of Faith Lutheran received a response from the balloon he released on Sunday School rally day in Sept. It was from someone who lives about 160 miles southwest of Minneapolis.

Newark, Ill. — At special meetings in West Lisbon Lutheran, Nov. 8-11, Rev. Michael Brandt, Cloquet, Minn., was the guest speaker.

Kalispell, Mont. — There was a Harvest Festival dinner and special service at Faith Lutheran, Nov. 15. The program was given by Larry and Becky Hefty. The offering to them was matched by Lutheran Brotherhood.

Stanley, N. Dak. — The Western North Dakota-Eastern Montana District Luther League rally was held at Our Savior's, Nov. 21. Among other things, the rally featured the showing of the film "Twice Pardoned."

Williston, N. Dak. — Gifts for the needy at Christmas through the Salvation Army will be given at Emmanuel Lutheran on Dec. 13.

Amery, Wis. — A talent night for the purpose of raising money to buy athletic uniforms for Mustard Seed Faith Academy was put on by the

students on Nov. 22. Mustard Seed is a ministry of Amery Lutheran.

DeKalb, Ill. — "Grace to You" is the name of the parish paper of Grace Lutheran. The November issue reports that Rev. Harold Bailey of Latin American Lutheran Mission was to present the cause of that work at Grace on Nov. 11.

FIRST ILLINOIS DISTRICT CONVENTION HELD

The first annual Illinois District Convention was held on Oct. 17 at Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Morris, John Skeie and Richard Thompson, pastors. One hundred twenty-eight people were registered from the following churches: Our Savior's, Chillicothe; Bethany, Brodhead, Wis.; Grace, DeKalb; Rox River, Sheridan; St. Petri, Baker; Freedom, Ottawa; Helmar, Newark; West Lisbon, Newark; and Bethlehem, Morris.

Rev. Elden Nelson, AFLC Director of Home Missions, brought the keynote message. Later he gave a report on the standing of the current AFLC budget.

The 1988 convention will be held on the second Saturday in November. An invitation from Bethany Lutheran, Brodhead, was accepted.

Officers elected were: Chairman—Rev. Dennis Gray; Vice-chairman—



Pictured here are some of the men of Bethany Lutheran Church, Binford, N. Dak., who helped serve a benefit pancake supper for Dan Oien, Jr., who will be undergoing a heart-lung transplant operation in Minneapolis soon. Day-long activities at Binford brought in around \$14,000 and Lutheran Brotherhood is matching up to \$15,000. The Oien family will be living in Rogers, Minn., for the next while. The Oiens are members of Bethany. Mrs. Oien recently lost her father.

ILLINOIS . . .

Bob Christian; Secretary—Myrtle Duvick; and Treasurer—Randy Christianson.

A Bible study was given by Pastor James Asp, Chillicothe. There was also prayer fellowship.

The women of Bethlehem Lutheran served the noon meal.

In the afternoon presentations were made by the following concerning AFLC common work: Rev. Ralph Tjelta, Seminary and Bible School; Pastor Nelson, Home Missions; Rev. Eugene Enderlein, World Missions; Pastor Gray, Youth Ministry; Mrs. Wendell Johnson, Women's Missionary Federation; and Mrs. Ralph (Katha) Tjelta, Parish Education and Sunday School. Small group discussions were also held.

The closing rally was a sing-along with the Gospel Chords from Wisconsin, with a message, "Unto the Mountain," and a parable in chalk by Lay Pastor Kenneth Thoreson, Brodhead, his wife Marilyn and daughter Erica.

Former pastor at Mason-Drummond dies

Rev. Ole R. Helland, former pastor of Faith and Moland Lutheran Churches, Mason, Wis., and Drummond Lutheran Church, Drummond, passed away on Oct. 13 at Hot Springs, Mont., at the age of 89 years.

He was born at Storvik, Fitjar, Norway, on Aug. 11, 1898, and emigrated to the U.S. in 1914. He was a graduate of Augsburg College (1928) and Augsburg Seminary (1931), Minneapolis, Minn. Ole Helland was ordained in the Lutheran Free Church, transferring to the Evangelical Lutheran Church (now ALC) in 1950. He and Esther Mostrom were united in marriage in 1934.

They served parishes at L'Anse, Mich., 1931-40, Mason, 1940-50, Savage, Mont., 1950-55, Shepherd, Mont., 1955-66, and Hot Springs, 1966-77. He also served as chaplain of the Immanuel Lutheran Home in Kalispell for some years but lived in Hot Springs.

The funeral for Pastor Helland was held at First Lutheran Church, Plains, Mont., on Oct. 18, with Rev. Lorin Sanden, officiating. Burial was at Plains.

He is survived by his wife, one

THE LUTHERAN AMBASSADOR

3110 E. Medicine Lake Blvd.

Minneapolis, Minn. 55441

Second-class

daughter, Gracia Zimmerman, San Jose, Calif., two grandsons, four brothers and one sister.

Blessed be his memory.

(Ed. note: Even though Pastor Helland left the LFC in 1950, he maintained a keen interest in it and in the AFLC until his stroke of a couple of years ago. I first met him when we both served parishes in northeastern Montana. Pastor Helland visited our Annual Conference at Whitefish in 1979. I visited him twice at Hot Springs, the last time during our Luther League Convention at Flathead Lake in 1983. One of his brothers especially is known to some of our people. I refer to Nels Reinertson, Paradise, Calif. Formerly of Homestead, Mont., and Moorhead, Minn., he and his family have sent a generous gift to AFLC Schools in memory of his brother. Thank you, dear friends.)

MRS. CLEMMENCE DYRUD

Mrs. Clemmence (Mae) Dyrud, 73, passed away at Silverton, Ore., on Oct. 31. Her husband was pastor of Hope Lutheran, Sisseton, and Saron Lutheran, Roslyn, both in South Dakota, from 1941-46. From 1952-58 he was pastor of Bethel Lutheran, Pelican Rapids, Minn.

Mae Brye was born May 2, 1914, to Mr. and Mrs. Ole Brye, Harvey, N. Dak., and was baptized in Bethania Lutheran, rural Harvey. She was a graduate of Oak Grove Lutheran High School, Fargo, N. Dak., and St. Luke's School of Nursing, Fargo. She was united in marriage to Clemmence Dyrud of Newfolden, Minn., on Aug. 21, 1941. With her husband she served in parishes at Grenville, S. Dak., Silvana, Wash., Pelican Rapids, Minn., Silver-

ton, Ore., Kathryn, N. Dak., and Almira, Wash. Upon retirement in 1973 they returned to Silverton to make their home.

Mrs. Dyrud is survived by her husband; two sons, Dennis, in Germany, and David, Klamath Falls, Ore.; three grandchildren, the youngest of whom was born five days before her death; three brothers and two sisters. A son, Paul, died shortly after birth and lies in Zoar churchyard, Grenville.

Her funeral was held on Wed., Nov. 4, at Trinity Lutheran, Silverton, where she was a member. Rev. Donald L. Tigges officiated. A brother-in-law, Rev. Amos O. Dyrud, Minneapolis, Minn., spoke on behalf of the family. His wife Ovedie and Mr. Harvey Dyrud, Newfolden, another brother-in-law, were also in attendance. Burial was in Miller Cemetery, Silverton.

Blessed be her memory.

(Ed. note: I shall long remember the pleasant days at the Saron 100th anniversary three years ago last June with the Dyruds and our trip back to Newfolden together.)

IN MEMORIAM

Key: The name of the town was the address of the deceased. Following that is listed the name of the deceased, age, date of death and the church in which he or she held membership.

MINNESOTA

Thief River Falls

Vernon E. Holmstrom, 71, Oct. 12, Our Saviour's.

Spicer

Leonard Giesler, 76, Oct. 22, Green Lake.

Kandiyohi

Nora Thorpe, 71, Oct. 27, Green Lake, Spicer.