



THE LUTHERAN AMBASSADOR

December 29, 1987

Roger C. Huebner, D.D.S.

at the MASTER'S FEET

HIS KINGDOM IS FOREVER

Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and forever" (Hebrews 13:8).

"I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End," says the Lord, "Who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty" (Revelation 1:8).

"Thy Word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path" (Psalm 119:105).

It doesn't take long! A year of 365 days — going by in one's mind and memory. All the good events — never to be forgotten; and those times left with Jesus for His cleansing and teaching.

These three verses, plus many more, point to one very important truth: Jesus Christ is the *only* One who can truly handle time, our past, present and future! He is the *only* One who can patiently teach and lead us to know what is best in life and death.

As a member of the Association of Free Lutheran Congregations, one's

mind returns to the Conference last June and the events and inspiration involved in the week. Being a part of the fellowship, receiving new congregations into the Association, experiencing the re-election of our president, Richard Snipstead, learning more about the missions of our Church, and the ordination of three men were basic to the week. Many, many other blessings we could all share and we praise our Lord for His presence and promise.

To God be the glory!

Then it wasn't long before we were back home and sharing in the ministry of our congregations. More to learn, more to share and more to pray about; these brought enthusiasm and encouragement for life at home and in our missions. Lord, make me a fruitful steward of Your many blessings.

"This, now, is the day our Lord has made!" The best guidance we have is not the past but the inspiration of the Scriptures, God's holy Word. Just as we prayed for and sought His guidance in the past, Jesus Christ is with us *right now* to give freely *His shepherd-ing love and care!* Whatever has happened in our past year, the most important lesson we can learn is: "The Lord is my Shepherd, (and with Him) I shall have no want!" (Psalm 23:1).

David, the psalmist, shares with us these truths in Psalm 119:105. As we meditate upon this verse, God's *Word* is lifted up before us as a *lamp* and a *light!* The lamp shines upon my feet and the light upon my path. Yes, that is interesting! With my feet, I go forward step by step. A step forward with the Lord is a step of progress. It is a step of learning something new about Him and about myself. With Him each step is important for He desires to share His certainty and His joy. God's Word is truth and with His Word He desires to guide us into His truth. Living in His Word is also living in His will.

Then He gives me His Word to be an ever-powerful light! I do not have to doubt what it means to live by faith. His Word is a true, powerful and all-sufficient light. He can even use my failures, which often cloud His light, to cause me to stop and bring my focus of life upon Him and His Word! In fact, as a Christian, one has the joy of His forgiveness, the release of the burden of guilt and the peace to know that He is there, right alongside!

Jesus said, I am the same, no matter what time in life you're thinking about. His Word will never fail us and we can have His peace in knowing that the future belongs to Him. The joy of the future is mine because my present belongs to Jesus! Oh, to realize more the light of His Word and the darkness of sin. All to Jesus I can surrender. May we all be able to testify with the Apostle Paul: "For to me, to live is Christ, and to die is gain" (Philippians 1:21).

"His Kingdom Is Forever." The theme of our 25th Annual Conference is one to be remembered, recalled and meditated upon as often as possible.

"To God be the Glory — great things He has done,

So loved He the world that He gave us His Son,

Who yielded His life an atonement for sin,

And opened the Life Gate that all may go in."

May we praise our Lord for the great things He has done in 1987 and will continue to do in 1988.



by Pastor
Harvey Jackson

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All communications concerning contents of this magazine should be addressed to: Rev. Raynard Huglen, Editor, Newfolden, Minn. 56738.

Layout design: Mrs. Wayne Hjermstad, Editorial Board: Mr. Sheldon Mortrud, Rev. Francis Monseth, Rev. Robert Lee.

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The eternal victory is God's

by Rev. Maynard G. Halverson
Sandwich, Ill.

Text: Revelation 2:4 — "Thou has left thy first love."

I was born and raised in a very devout Christian home, where daily Bible reading, prayer, proper discipline and training were paramount. Even in such a loving atmosphere, I really had not surrendered to Jesus. I was lovingly baptized, confirmed, steady at church worship and Sunday School and youth activities. I thought I knew all the answers, but I did not know Jesus. All throughout the grades and high school, I was a happy-go-lucky boy. However, I did not have a personal relationship with Jesus and was unwilling to yield to Him. This kind of living continued with a period of rebellion. Thanks and praise be to God forever because through the powerful work of the Holy Spirit and witness of others, He received me in that wonderful midnight hour at college.

A personal relationship with Jesus is of prime importance on our agenda of life. As we remember the joys, victories and failures, too, of the year just passed, we thank God for the prospects of a new year of grace.

One of my favorite devotional books is *God's Word for Today* by O. Hallesby. His meditation for January 1 is a gem. I quote portions: "For of His fullness we all received, and grace for grace" (John 1:16). "We have all received, it says... Likely we have lost something during the year that has gone." Some perhaps "a great deal. Some have lost money. Others, their health. And still others, some of their dear ones."

"We have all received, for God only gives... We have all received grace... Each day is to bring us new grace and new lovingkindness from God." Then, for January 3, Hallesby writes, "...you are living today and not lying in the torment of perdition. And what grace that God calls you even today!"

No doubt some of the saddest words our Lord ever spoke are "Thou hast left thy first love." How this concern of

Jesus ought to bring us to our knees in repentance and restoration.

We who have been born again of the Spirit may remember those bright and blessed hours when we first saw the Lord. In my case the Holy Spirit had been eagerly calling me when a freshman at Waldorf College, Forest City, Iowa. The call continued for at least a half year until one midnight hour I clearly heard, "Maynard, it's tonight or never!" I was alarmed and frightened. I fell on my knees by my bed and cried out, "Jesus, forgive me and receive me right now," and He did. I shall never cease to praise Him, in spite of many failures, that He led me into the pastoral ministry, in which office I have been privileged to serve since ordination, July 2, 1939.

What a glorious day when the burden of sin rolls away and we receive the promise, "Lo, I am with you always even unto the end of the world" (Matthew 28:20).

No doubt, soon after, we are fearful that we will not be able to hold out. Nevertheless, God proves faithful so that we can continue to rejoice in our salvation.

"...until one midnight hour I clearly heard, 'Maynard, it's tonight or never!'"

Let me reminisce again. In those first hours and days, it seemed as though all the lights were on. I loved everyone and even began to love my study of German, which I had dreaded before. Oh, what peace and joy, and it was so easy to share Christ with others. I was never an athlete but would sit with friends in the bleachers and shout for my home team. All of a sudden the thought would flash through my mind, "What if Jesus should come tonight?" Then I would quit shouting and feel like asking the ones around me, "Are you ready to meet Jesus?" But sad to say, I did not witness as I ought, even then.

When I first saw the Lord

— a testimony

So you see, I had struggles. However, the Christian fellowship was strong and so many were willing to listen and help me. One showed me that the law from Mount Sinai was fulfilled completely in Christ and again the joy of the Lord would flood my soul.

Another factor of growth in grace, which is paramount, is our desire for holiness. We begin to long for all the fruit of the Spirit to be active in our lives: (Galatians 5:21-23) "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such there is no law" (RSV). In our desire for holiness, I prayed, "Oh, that I might be clean and all for Jesus because of all He's done for me and I realize that people without Him are lost." Those first days and years were most blessed. No matter what, I wanted to live for Jesus whether it meant life or death.

However, there were struggles, even as a pastor. I read several books that I was told would give me a broader, yet deeper understanding of the holy office for our time. I was troubled, yes, deeply troubled. I felt that something was wrong. My preaching became dull and "learned," as I quoted

FIRST SAW . . .

and quoted. Then one of the members of the church I then served suggested that we have a week of evangelistic services. I readily agreed, so we invited Evangelist J.O. Gisselquist. His messages from God tore me apart and when he called for those who were in need of salvation and rededication, I was the first one at the altar. There I wept, confessed sin and cried for mercy and forgiveness. Praise God, He heard and delivered me and from then and until this very day, I have held to the "old paths wherein is the good way," Jeremiah 6:12, and been evangelistic in my ministry.

So, may I ask every reader of *The Lutheran Ambassador*, does the flame of devotion to Jesus burn within us this new year? It could be true, even for us, that we may have "slipped" as we begin to realize that our years are speeding by and that we have done so very little for Jesus.

Is it possible that, for one reason or another, we have become cold, formal, professional, loveless, exacting, and leave sins unconfessed? As a result, we lose much of the former joy and concern for spiritual growth and the salvation of souls. Isn't it sad that we can lose so much of that fresh glow and warmth of Jesus that the sacred flowers fade? As one Christian said, "We give God so little when He deserves our all, our life, heart's blood, everything!"

As I have been writing, my heart has been searched. Maybe yours has, too. Let me ask this question, "Need we continue in defeat?" No, no, the Lord has so richly blessed us that when we deal with sins in our lives and make confession to God and our fellowmen over those things that cause a hindrance and choke the free flow of the Spirit, then will be produced warmth, love and understanding. With this we

"Isn't it sad
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Melchior and the golden jewel

Melchior — the prince of the East — sat bent over on a camel's back, in serious thought. In the far-off distance the contours of little Bethlehem were silhouetted against the reddish evening sky.

This was, though, a mysterious ending to a very long journey. The son of a king they were searching for hadn't been found in Jerusalem, the capital city. In the palace no one had knowledge of him. Hurriedly the three travellers had departed. Through Herod's apparently controlled course of action, a clear suspense had been created. The eager priests' and scribes' whole response revealed an awakened hope. Could this be a descendant of one of the old Jewish royal families? Who was he otherwise and why this air of mystery?

The elderly man cast a quick glance up at the sky, as if to assure himself that he wasn't imagining things. No, the star was there, large and glistening. It moved steadily before them in the direction of Bethlehem.

Who was he? What would the result of this expedition be? At least a hundred times during these days this question had rung in his ears. Ah well, the

"Behind him
Melchior heard the feet
of the pack camels."

continue in our joy of salvation and the "first love."

How good to pray with David, "Restore unto me the joy of Thy salvation" and also, "Renew a right spirit within me" (Psalm 51:12).

As we enter the new year, we may need a thorough housecleaning so that "in times like these," we might realize, with a heavenly compassion, that the need for revival is tremendous. We need not crawl in, give up and cry "how terrible!" The eternal victory is God's, so that, filled with Him, His plans will be realized.

From the files of *Folkebladet*,
Jan. 1, 1930.

TWO LEGENDS

answer would be known eventually. And in spite of all that men said and thought, surely the star's leading wouldn't be wrong and the heavens wilfully deceive.—

The wise man became completely at peace. Therefore, he would soon kneel before the newborn king of the Jews, do homage to him as heaven's chosen one and present him with costly gifts.

Behind him Melchior heard the feet of the pack camels. Among other gifts they carried the jewel from his treasury, the golden orb, the delight of his eyes and his heart's pride. In the whole world there was none like it to be found.

By itself it was a priceless treasure, perhaps not so much because of its worth as gold and its abundance of sparkling gems, but for the memory which was attached to it, together with the symbolism of its origin.

A proud look shone out of the dark Asiatic eyes as his thoughts dwelt on the golden orb. It had been three hundred years ago since Alexander the Great had held that symbol of power in his mighty hand. That irresistible

(Ed. note: Pastor Halvorson serves the AFLC congregation, Fox River Lutheran, Sheridan, Ill. In a ministry which began July 2, 1939, he has also served Bison-Strool, S. Dak., which included Slim Buttes Lutheran, Reva; Floodwood-Cromwell, Minn.; Ebenezer, Chicago; St. Paul's, Minneapolis; Christ the King, Honolulu, Hawaii; Ascension, Ogden, Utah; Zion, Chicago; First Lutheran, Plano, Ill.; was chaplain of Bethesda Homes, Willmar, Minn; and Newark-Fox River, as visitation pastor.)

"... the
Kingdom
which is
founded on
lies and violence
rests on a volcano."

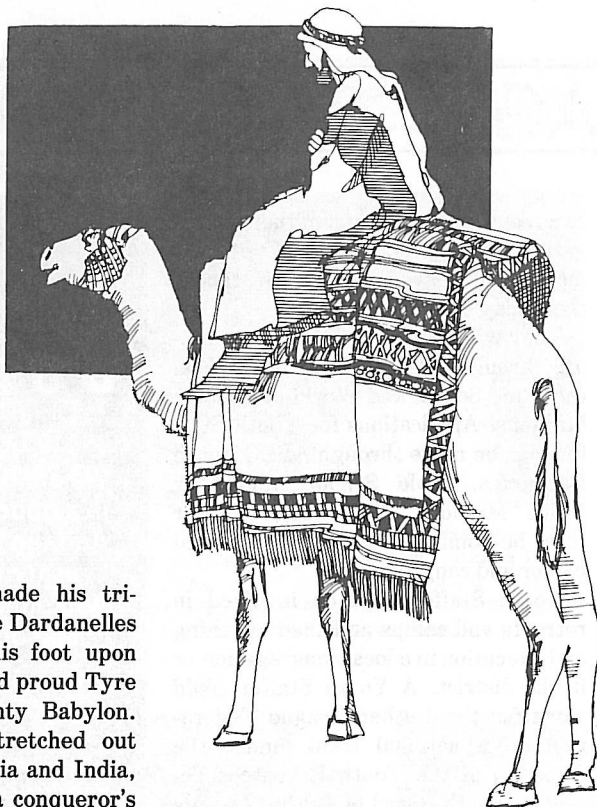
Macedonian had then made his triumphant march across the Dardanelles and India. He had put his foot upon Thebe's stiff neck, reduced proud Tyre to rubble, occupied mighty Babylon. And when his ensign stretched out over Greece, Egypt, Persia and India, he ordered, made out of a conqueror's gold and a conqueror's precious stones, a jewel as a symbol of a world conqueror's might.

Alexander didn't think about how the kingdom which is founded on lies and violence rests on a volcano.

When Alexander, scarcely 33 years old, ran out of time, he left his great empire to "the most able." But the most capable one who could keep the kingdom from falling was never found and Alexander's power collapsed little by little. His crown jewel went from hand to hand, but proud was the prince who had it in his possession, and not least Melchior.

He straightened himself in the saddle and rode through Bethlehem's city gate. Yes, now he would get to bestow his symbol of power on the Son of God and so gain for himself heaven's favor.

But Melchior's dream of greatness kept diminishing as the star which had shown the way stopped over a low stable building. With slow steps he followed the others in through the creaking stable door and he felt a strong temptation to let the golden jewel of Alexander remain lying in its ebony leather. But in the presence of that little holy Child in Mary's lap the old man became overcome with an indescribable awe. He sensed the presence of a heavenly majesty and fell humbly to his knees.



Then he lifted up the costly crown jewel which he had carried across the desert and presented it before the Child Jesus. The little One smiled at the sight of the jewel and touched with his hand the treasure of Alexander the Great. But at the same instant it broke in a thousand pieces and fell to the earth.

The old one sank to his knees, as if killed by lightning. And at once he understood the word which a scribe in Jerusalem had read from the Book of Isaiah:

"— For every boot of the tramping warrior in battle tumult and every garment rolled in blood will be burned as fuel for the fire, for to us a Child is born, to us a Son is given; and the government will be upon His shoulder, and His name will be called 'Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.' Of the increase of His government and of peace there will be no end —."

Yes, Melchior understood now that the kingdom of the newborn king of the Jews wasn't of this world. He realized that the symbol of Alexander's bloody power could not exist before the clear look from a Child's eyes, which reflected the heavens.

Melchior, the wise, realized that, and he worshipped, bowed low in the dust.

The Cradle of Flowers

The second legend is as the sound of a choir.

They had been driven to flight, Joseph, Mary and the Child. They hurried away day and night until they reached the wilderness.

Now Mary was thoroughly tired out. She cried out in her heart to Jehovah for help and renewal. And look! By the foot of a palm tree water gushes from a spring, fresh and crystal clear.

So they decided to follow heaven's timely sign and rest there over the night. The donkeys were tethered to the palm tree and Joseph began to pitch camp. Mary tended to the Child. Far off in the west, the sun sank but the sand shone and sparkled like melted gold. Around them the complete stillness of the desert prevailed. No living being was visible. The travellers were entirely alone. A few stars smiled weakly at them in the twilight.

Mary knelt by the spring of water and washed the Child's clothing. By her side, as she must, she had laid the little One. She rinsed the clothes so that the water splashed. Around her and the Child the pearls of water glittered and sparkled with an unusual splendor. But Mary didn't think anything special of it before tender spring-green plants began to shoot up here and there on the ground. With increasing wonder she discovered how more and more were shooting up. The leaves thickened, the blossoms unfolded and white and pure roses sprang out. And in all directions they spread out and formed a beautiful, fragrant bed of flowers on which the Child lay like a white lily among roses.

Yes, so goes the legend! But what a beautiful, eloquent illustration this is to the word of the prophet Isaiah:

"The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad, the desert shall rejoice and blossom; like the crocus it shall blossom abundantly, and rejoice with joy and singing. The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it, the majesty of Carmel and Sharon. They shall see the glory of the Lord, the majesty of our God... then shall the lame man leap like a hart, and the tongue of the dumb sing for joy. For waters shall break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert."

Translated from Norwegian

Youth Staffers

In just a few months, it is hoped that a new program will be offered the young men and women of the AFLC. This program will incorporate already existing programs such as the FLY teams into its format. There are several directions the Youth Staffer program can go, depending upon the interests of our youth. Your input is desired and if you are interested, please contact AFLC Youth Resources, 112 West Milner, DeKalb, Ill. 60115, or call 815-758-2531.

Youth Staffers are youth with at least one year of Bible school or college or, in the case of the FLY teams, have attended a certain maturity level and are juniors or seniors in high school. They also are not married and have not attained the 24th year. They may work singly or as a team.

Youth Staffers will be willing to work for one year in a congregation of the Association or, in the case of FLY teams, Home Mission teams or Bible School Gospel teams by special arrangement, for the summer only.

They will be working in congregations or districts of the AFLC at home or abroad in order to gain experience in ministry.

Usually, Youth Staffers will get a job in a community where they serve or

receive remuneration from the congregation, district or the AFLC department they serve. In some instances there may be pay involved.

They will be willing to receive training through AFLC Youth Resources, the Bible School and World and Home Missions. Applications for Youth Staffers can be made through AFLC Youth Resources, Bible School, World or Home Missions. The Youth Staffer must be nominated by his or her local pastor and congregation.

Youth Staffers can be involved in retreats and camps and their planning and execution in a local congregation or in the district. A Youth Staffer could work for the Luther League Federation on a national level, under the direction of the Youth Resources Director, Youth Board or Luther League Federation president. FLY teams, which take summer trips to the mission fields of the AFLC, will be under the direction of the World Missions Director. Any team going out from Home Missions will be under the direction of the Home Missions Director. Bible School teams will continue under the Dean of the Bible School and FLY teams under the direction of the World Missions Director. Training for these positions can be a co-operative venture with all involved.

Interested? Contact Pastor Dennis Gray, Youth Resources Director. It is hoped that the Youth Staffer Program will be taking applications in February of 1988.

— Pastor Dennis Gray

NEWS NOTE

The Illinois District Luther League met at the Lisbon Grade School gymnasium on Sun., Dec. 6 from 3 to 8 p.m. West Lisbon Lutheran Church, Newark, Steve Lombardo, pastor, was the host.

A Gospel team from Wheaton College, Wheaton, Ill., with one member from West Lisbon, presented the program. Election of officers was held and pizza was served for the meal.

Ephesians 6:10-20

will you
dare
to put on God's
armor and stand against
the wiles of Satan?

BUILDING

We are building every day
In a good or evil way,
And the structure,
as it grows,
Will our inmost
self disclose,

Till in every arch and line
All our faults and
failings shine;
It may grow a
castle grand,
Or a wreck upon the sand.

Do you ask what
building this
That can show both
pain and bliss,
That can be both
dark and fair?
Lo, its name is character!

Build it well,
whate'er you do;
Build it straight
and strong and true;
Build it clear and high
and broad;
Build it for the eye of God.

— I E. Dickenga

Will there be a millennial reign on earth?

Some Christians believe, on the basis of Scripture, that Jesus will rule for a time on earth. Others claim that there is not enough Scriptural evidence to justify such a claim. We are not agreed in our Association on this issue.

There also seems to be a feeling among us that in order to maintain peace in our fellowship, we do best if we leave everyone with his own opinion, and not discuss or talk about it too much, especially where there is conflict of opinion, and that perhaps it does not matter all that much whether or not we believe in a millennium.

But dare we conclude that any portion of God's Word is unimportant? Surely God does not speak out of both sides of His mouth. With the signs of the times strongly indicating that Jesus could return at any time, shouldn't we prepare for that return and acquaint ourselves with everything the Bible says about that return and everything that directly or indirectly relates to it? And, if it should be that the Bible does speak of a millennial reign, shouldn't we learn all that God would wish to teach us through His Word about that reign? Surely there must be a correct answer regarding the millennium to be found by searching the Scriptures together and sharing in love. Hasn't God said if we lack in wisdom we are to look to Him for it (James 1:5)?

In the February 10, 1987, issue of *The Lutheran Ambassador*, two single articles by two individuals with opposite views were published. This is a beginning, but hardly enough. It hasn't settled anything. There also needs to be an open debate and a chance for more concerned people to share. There needs to be an openness to learn from each other and expectancy that the Holy Spirit will lead us into the truth and bring us to an agreement. I am not speaking of compromising on the truth but of going deeper into the truth, of sharing and of together searching for the truth. Having said this, allow me to briefly share a few thoughts which support the millennial view.

One: Revelation 20, if taken literally,

supports the millennium. Those who oppose this literal interpretation believe it should be taken symbolically or spiritually and that it refers to a time in heaven. However, if we believe that the Book of Revelation (beginning with chapter four, which is after the church age) predicts future events, of which none have yet been fulfilled, then what chapter 20 has to say about the millennium fits very well between what precedes and what follows. The millennium is not an isolated event created by some over-imaginative mind. Surely this is to be considered.

Two: during Jesus' time on earth, God's people were looking for a Messiah to deliver them from the Roman bondage and to establish something similar to the millennial reign described in Revelation 20. If the Messiah ruled, it would be similar. Some prophecies in the Old Testament, such as Jeremiah 31:31-34, could be interpreted as referring to a millennium. When Jesus ascended into heaven His disciples asked Him, "Wilt thou at this time restore again the kingdom to Israel" (or set up Your millennial reign)? In answering, Jesus did not say there would never be a millennial reign

nor did he correct His disciples by stating that would be only in heaven. He merely said, "It is not for you to know times or seasons" (Acts 1:6-7).

Three: Isaiah 11:6-8 speaks of a time when wolves, lambs, leopards, young goats, calves, lions, children, cows and bears will live in peace together. This has never been. It speaks of earthly and not heavenly creatures. What is described here fits a time on earth more than a time in heaven. Isaiah 2:4 and Micah 4:3 speak of something similar in earthly terms, of beating spears into pruning hooks and swords into plowshares.

There are other portions of Scripture which do not prove there will be a millennium but which could refer to it. However, if a Bible student has already concluded that there will be no millennium on earth, he will seek another interpretation for such verses.

Much more could be said on this subject upon which books for and against have been written. But let us pray for one another and together look to God for the truth in this important issue.

*Rev. Gerald F. Mundfrom
Osceola, Wis.*

Hallowed Be Thy Name

You speak with reverent respect
Of some great man or intellect
Who figured in your ancestry
And brought fame to your family.
You'd fight if one dared to portray
Your kinsman in a slighting way.
But do you hallow God's great Name?
Or use it lightly to your shame?
Regard it with deep consecration
And speak His name with veneration.

—Julien C. Hyer
(The Shepherd)

I want to grow, Lord!

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

Hindered by babes?

The young couple sat together in the living room of their small apartment. It was a good apartment for them... married just a year, they were caught up in a busy schedule of work, school, study and church life. The smallness of the place didn't bother them. Actually, it was cozy! Now they shared a precious secret and the *anticipation* of a new life — seed of their seed — was great within them. Young as they were, they had many times looked forward to one event after another and these events came and went. But *this*, this would be, oh, so different! A new life to care for and cherish and with all their hearts they pledged to bring this child up to love and obey God. In the fullness of time a little girl-child was born and hope turned to reality, anticipation fulfilled.

That little life changed more than one area in their home: social functions were somewhat curbed; finances and time had to be spread three ways instead of two; the role of being mother and wife constantly needed juggling and the young father's role of student-provider-husband needed daily sorting out. Yet, in spite of all this, as the years passed the longing for yet another child was great upon them. And once again, in the fullness of God's time, in great *anticipation* they awaited the birth of their second child. This time three hearts eagerly welcomed their boy-child and made room for him in their lives.

The burden of family life became considerably greater now. Tension was felt because this child did not easily

conform to the family schedule of eating and sleeping, nor to the eager mothering of his big sister. The anticipation and joy of life could not even be recognized at times. These years brought the call of God into the ministry and the heaviness of long work and study hours. Priorities needed sorting out because so often the blessing God intended these little ones to be became a burden.

Settled down now to a five-year commitment of college and seminary, the realization of another child on the way was met with mixed feelings of joy and the fear of being inadequate to handle the situation. "But," God assured them, "this life is special to Me... I have my own plans for you all." *Anticipation* once again found its way into their home and upon the birth of this second boy-child their hearts — four of them this time — eagerly, gladly made room for this babe.

Yes, there were times during those years when the burden of family was great. Yes, the demands of chores, finances, church responsibilities, etc., vied for the attention of this young couple. Never did they want nor expect that the very gifts God had given in His own time would be a hindrance for living a Christlike life, nor certainly for entering into the life of service to which He seemed to be calling them. They were to discover that the Lord made room in their hearts not only for each other but for each child as well.

Who can understand or explain this longing in a woman's heart, a man's heart, for children? Does it have its answer in the heart's capacity to love? Or in the ability to earn money and thus provide a good life? Does it have to do with seeing your own dreams realized in another's life? How did Mary's heart and the heart of Joseph make room for the birth of the Son for which neither of them planned? Did not God Himself make room in their hearts to accept His plan? Did not the angel visit each and assure them of God's working? "He is special to Me," God seemed to say. "You won't be complete without Him!"

The little family seemed complete. Even in those years three children were considered plenty. What then shall be done with this longing within for another? The pain of loss through miscarriage seemed to heighten the

desire of the mother to hold and love another babe. "I have a very special child for you," the Lord said. "Will you open your heart to one born from another's womb, of another's seed? Will you love and nurture him as your own? I want to love him through you... he is special to Me. Will you?" *Anticipation* built during the months of waiting, the weight of paperwork; disappointment was almost unbearable when it looked as if adoption wouldn't be realized after all. Now for the fourth time our couple realized the fulness of God's timing and received him into their family this child for whom they had prayed. Oh, yes, there was room for him!

Now it would seem that their lives were complete... with four healthy, beautiful children and lives spent in full-time service to the Lord. Yes, their cup was full. They didn't realize, however, that a full cup was not all that God had in mind for them. No, in His special way He planned for their cup to overflow! So at the time when abortion-on-demand was made into law, twins were born into a home ready to receive them, to hearts eager to acknowledge that God was in control.

Surely at times the molding of six lives has been seen as a burden. But never as a burden which we want to lay aside. At this time of celebration of the birth of Jesus I remember well the great anticipation felt while carrying each of my babes and I pray that I will never be a hindrance to them in their walk with the Lord because of an overburdened spirit. Lord Jesus, there is room in my heart for each one. There is room in my heart for You! I celebrate the Child Who is the Light!

(End of a series.)

**"The sacrifices which
Christians are to offer
are themselves
and their gifts."**

—Samuel B. Schieffelin

editorials

THANK YOU, PASTOR JACKSON

It's that time again, time to change writers of our devotional column in each *Ambassador*, "At the Master's Feet." And it is time to say "Thank You" to Pastor Harvey Jackson, Ishpeming, Mich., for his articles of the past six months.

He has wanted page 2 to contain the AFLC anniversary logo together with the motto of the 1987 Annual Conference, "His Kingdom is Forever" (Psalm 145:13), as a guideline and a remembrance. Pastor Jackson's articles have always been very devotional in nature. They have been warm-hearted and direct. Note this sentence from his first one: "Knowing Jesus is of eternal importance." Another emphasis we note from his writings is the urgency of telling others about the Lord. As evidence of this, hear this (Dec. 1): "*What a privilege it is for the Christian to proclaim this message of the Lord Jesus Christ!*" Those are great challenges for us to carry away from these last six months of 1987.

Thank you, Pastor Jackson, for doing this writing for us and considering it an opportunity and privilege for the Lord. May He bless your ministry in this and also the work that has been given you in Ishpeming, Negaunee and other communities in your area.

Our new writer, for the first half of 1988, will be Pastor Jerome Nikunen of Minnewaukan, N. Dak. He serves two congregations in North Dakota and previously served in northern Minnesota and Upper Michigan. Pastor Nikunen serves in the ministry energetically and also sees this task of writing as both opportunity and privilege. May the Lord bless you in this effort and we look forward to having your first article in our next issue.

Perhaps we could mention at this time that the title of our devotional articles, "At the Master's Feet," will shortly be changed to another appropriate one.

Furthermore, Mrs. Richard (Clara) Gunderson's (Lake Stevens, Wash.) concluding article appears in this issue. She has written 12 of them, all under the heading "I Want to Grow, Lord." Unless we misjudge badly, we believe that you readers have found what she has written most practical. Clara has shared from her own feelings and experiences honestly and we are sure you appreciate that. Thank you, Clara, for your stewardship through writing and may the Lord bless what you have done.

For 1988 we have secured Mrs. Dennis (Ceta) Rude, Lake Alma, Sask., as the once-a-month writer to replace Clara Gunderson. Ceta has written for church publications before and one year wrote for a Christmas *Ambassador*. Perhaps you remember that. We shall be awaiting her first article in the Jan. 26 issue. May the Lord bless you, Ceta.

Readers, do not be afraid to express your personal thanks to Pastor Jackson and Clara Gunderson, as well as any writer, by letter or a word in person.

NOT MENTIONED

We don't think it has been mentioned during the year that 1987 marked the 90th anniversary of the founding of the

Lutheran Free Church. It was congregations of the LFC which gave the impetus to the establishment of the Association of Free Lutheran Congregations 65 years later.

Even though we haven't mentioned this anniversary, much less played it up, it is right that we call it to your attention in the waning hours of 1987.

The story is too long to tell at this time but suffice it to say that the LFC came into existence over controversy about Augsburg Seminary, Minneapolis, Minn. Augsburg was to be deeded to the newly-formed United Church (Forenede Kirke). Legal difficulties and the feeling that Augsburg would not have the freedom to be what it wanted to be in the new church stiffened the resolve of the Board of Trustees of the institution to continue to hold title. The upshot was that Augsburg threw its lot in with a new organization, the Lutheran Free Church, or was it the other way around? The *Fundamental Principles* adopted for the LFC continues as a living document in the AFLC.

At least two of the congregations which stood by Augsburg in those years of upheaval, 1893-97, are in the Association. They are Bethany, Abercrombie, N. Dak., and Section Ten, Cumberland, Wis. They are very historic congregations.

It is to be hoped that some day more threads of our immediate history can be drawn together in a way and form which many in the AFLC can understand and appreciate. We must be alert to ways in which such a hope can be realized. But for the present, let us be grateful for men and women who through the years have struggled to preserve the ideals they held dear and, in the case of the LFC, and not solely within that body, the ideal of the "free and living congregation."

REMEMBER THE GOAL

The year of our Lord 1987 was to be a year of revival in the AFLC. It was preceded by a year with emphasis on prayer. As 1987 ebbs away, we must all be asking: how has it gone? what difference have the emphases made in our church fellowship, in our lives?

It may be easier to measure the year of emphasis on prayer. There were a lot of Bible studies held on prayer, talks given, sermons preached, perhaps more time spent in prayer. And books read on prayer. All of this had to be good, personally and for the local units called congregations. We learned more about prayer and likely put it to use.

As to revival, surely the emphasis on it must have done some good also. No revival fires have swept over the church, that's for sure, but here and there there has been a greater openness to the things of God. In our special *Ambassador* issue of Jan. 26 we hope to have a couple reports from places where there was special evidence of the Spirit's working. In this issue there's a report of an unusually large number of people coming out for evangelistic services at Hatton, N. Dak. That was an encouraging sign.

ASSOCIATION OF FREE LUTHERAN CONGREGATIONS

3110 East Medicine Lake Boulevard

Minneapolis, Minnesota 55441

AFLC Benevolences Feb. 1 - Nov. 30

Two Midwest Winter Bible Conferences in

Fargo, N. Dak. Feb. 5-7

Osceola, Wis. Feb. 12-14

Two Winter Bible Conferences will be held in the Upper Midwest again in 1988. They will be in Fargo, N. Dak., Feb. 5-7, and Osceola, Wis., Feb. 12-14. The one in Fargo will be at St. Paul's Lutheran Church, 1603 North 5th St., and the one in Osceola will be at the Association Retreat Center, east of East Farmington.

Conference theme will be "Our God — Our Help" (Psalm 121).

At Fargo, the Bible teacher will be Rev. Philip Haugen, AFLC Schools' faculty, and the evening speaker will be Rev. Terry Olson, Valley City, N. Dak. Both men are former pastors at St. Paul's.

Rev. Ralph Tjelta, Association Schools, will teach Bible at the ARC Conference and Rev. Walter Johnson, Shakopee, Minn., will be the evening speaker.

Details on housing at Fargo will be given later. There is adequate space available at the ARC.

FUND	TOTAL BUDGET	REC'D IN NOV.	TOTAL REC'D TO DATE	% TOTAL*
GENERAL FUND.....	\$ 208,000.00	\$ 9,822.21	\$ 112,701.45	54
SCHOOLS - (AFLTS)	99,834.00	8,150.57	67,678.82	68
(AFLBS)	152,060.00	16,890.70	116,713.10	77
HOME MISSIONS.....	280,000.00	24,865.27	161,145.16	58
WORLD MISSIONS	250,000.00	25,703.73	164,578.07	66
CAPITAL INVESTMENT.	25,000.00	688.82	18,759.10	75
TOTALS	\$1,014,894.00	\$ 86,121.30	\$ 641,575.70	63
1986-87 —	\$1,084,478.00	\$ 99,008.25	\$ 636,531.25	59

*GOAL 83%

Correction for page 197 of 1987 Annual Report. It should read:

NO.	TOTAL	GENERAL FUND	SCHOOLS	HOME MISSIONS
87) (Crow Lake, Belgrade)	287.00	.00	.00	287.00
88) (Our Savior's, Brooten)	890.25	.00	50.00	220.12
89) (Sunburg Free, Sunburg)	634.50	2.00	.00	63.00
90) (Zion, Willmar)	10,013.88	2,625.00	4,645.85	1,496.00
91) (Green Lake, Spicer)	21,943.25	6,517.22	7,185.48	3,616.15
92) (Faith, Granite Falls)	2,681.13	730.00	911.00	690.13
93) (Chippewa, Brandon)	3,614.66	861.48	731.07	1,069.58
94) (Christ the King, Pipestone)	5,611.93	844.38	2,201.02	1,081.59

(Please note that additional figures are given on page 198 to bring contributions up to the amount shown in the Total column above.)

—President's Office, AFLC

"Most of us are not intended for the mission fields.

But Jesus expects that all His friends should live for missions."

O. Hallesby

EDITORIALS . . .

And there have been conversions through the year, no doubt, people brought from darkness to light. Nothing like the revivals of 90 years ago, or even 50-60 years ago, but some who have found the Lord. Each case is cause for much rejoicing.

It was never our intention that revival could be turned on and off like one uses a faucet. Nor can we program the Holy Spirit. But it was the church's desire to cry out in the awareness of great need for quickening, awakening and revival. We don't know exactly what has hindered the coming of revival, although we may have good ideas.

The year of emphasis is over. The needs remain. God wants His people revived. He wants the lost to be found. Let us continue to pray and work for revival and renewal. Pray. Be in the Word. Seek solid Christian fellowship. Tell others of Jesus Christ. Build up family life and relationships. Make God's work your highest priority. Wait on Him.

Welcome all ladies

The ladies' gathering, in conjunction with the Winter Bible Conference in Fargo, N. Dak., will be held Friday, Feb. 5, at 5 p.m. at the Ramada Inn, 600 32nd Ave. S. in Moorhead, Minn. Cost of the meal is \$7.20, which includes the tip. Following the meal a short program will be presented. All ladies are cordially invited to attend this time of fellowship. An estimate of the number of ladies planning to attend would be appreciated. If possible, please send this information to Mrs. Delores Mortrud, St. Paul's Lutheran Church, 1603 N. 5th St., Fargo, N. Dak. 58201.

—Mrs. JoAnn Miller

Honorary Memberships

the women's page

Maple Bay Free Lutheran, Fertile, Minn.



In connection with our regular Ladies Aid meeting recently, eight members were cited with honorary memberships and pins. They are left to right back row: Bernice Ness, Marlette Thompson, Arlie Moland, Marion Ness. Front row: Myrl Moland, Blanche Moen, Helen Overland, and Helen Ness. There was a short program: Myrtle Broden gave a reading and Connie Moland sang: "I Will Serve Thee Because I Love Thee."

Ny Stavanger Lutheran, Buxton, N. Dak.



WMF Honorary Membership pins were presented to Hazel Holland, Alvina Hanson, Theoline Gunderson, Joanne Finstrom and Karen Knudsvig.



Two children were enrolled in the WMF Cradle Roll program and one graduated. Pictured are: Linda Kuster and Justin, Debbie Jensen and Jacob, and graduate Timothy with his mother Sylvia Tollefson.



WMF Bible Study correction

In the Dec. 1, page 10, Introduction to the 1988 WMF Bible Study series, some words were unintentionally left out in the middle column. Beginning with the third line down, it should read thus: "These studies are not intended to be rushed through in 15 minutes, just to write down answers to the questions. Take time for personal evaluation as you read these passages and consider the attitudes they concern."

We are sorry that because of the omission the opposite was said from what was intended by the writer. There *should* be personal evaluation.

The Editor

Roseau Free Lutheran Roseau, Minn.

Senior citizens were given crowns to show that they were "queens for an evening." It was a delightful evening for everyone. Pictured are B. Bradley, J. Wickstrom, A. Ulvin, S. Gustafson, J. Nelson, A. Erickson, J. Danielson, C. Ziska, G. Rugland and C. Brown.

Women's Missionary Federation

In memoriam gifts

Mabel Prescott, Shevlin, Minn.
 Fern Naramore, Shevlin, Minn.
 Oscar Benson, Wallace, S. Dak.
 Stella Haarsager, Valley City, N. Dak.
 Pastor Gustav Nordvall, Roseau, Minn.
 Ida Wibeto, Wallace, S. Dak.
 Mrs. Hulda Fossaa, Tioga, N. Dak.
 David Hendrickson, Wahpeton, N. Dak.
 Ole Johnson, McIntosh, Minn.
 Edna Odgaard, Tioga, N. Dak.
 Clara Elm, Valley City, N. Dak.
 Palmer Sandness, Valley City, N. Dak.
 Waldemar Stugelmeyer, Valley City, N. Dak.
 Milo Thoreson, Valley City, N. Dak.
 Rev. Norman Tenneboe, Valley City, N. Dak.
 Pearl Jorstad, Tioga, N. Dak.
 Selim Neuvonen, Haukivuori, Finland
 Marie Tverdahl, Wahpeton, N. Dak.
 Marion Jacobs, Kenyon, Minn.
 Thea Lohman, Kenyon, Minn.
 Anna C. Nelson, Stanley, N. Dak.

*Blessed are
 those who die
 in the Lord*



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 she held membership.

NORTH DAKOTA

Binford

Mrs. Anna (Peter) Jacobson, 95,
 Nov. 24, Bethany.

Official notices

New congregations received into the Association of Free Lutheran Congregations are:

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church
 Rice Lake, Wis.

Faith Lutheran Church
 London, Minn.

Emmaus Lutheran Church
 Bloomington, Minn.

Our Savior's Lutheran Church
 Argyle, Minn.

Pastors received on the Clergy Fellowship Roster are:

Rev. Milo Gudim,
 Argyle, Minn.

Rev. James Asp,
 Chillicothe, Ill.

LFL National Convention in St. Louis

The sixth national convention of Lutherans For Life — calling Christians to "Love the Least of These" — will take place January 8-10 at the Stouffer Concourse Hotel in St. Louis, Missouri. All life-loving Lutherans are encouraged to attend this weekend filled with workshops, films, inspiring speakers and uplifting worship and fellowship.

The thrust of this year's convention is education — reaching the world with God's pro-life message through well-equipped students, teachers, voters and other concerned citizens. Setting that tone is the convention's keynote speaker, Dr. H. James Boldt, Director of Elementary and Secondary Schools for the Lutheran Church — Missouri Synod. Dr. Boldt will address the convention during the opening session on Friday, Jan. 8, beginning at 7:30 p.m.

Other speakers appearing at the convention include Hugh Owen, private school administrator and authority on secular humanism; Rev. Gottlob Hess, a pro-life Lutheran from West Germany; Adelle Nathanson, producer of the film "Eclipse of Reason"; Dr. Jean Garton, author and president of LFL National; and William L. Webster, Attorney General for the state of Missouri.

CORRECTION

We regret that the title of the book reviewed on page 13, Nov. 17, was inadvertently changed. It should have read *Evangelicalism — The Coming Generation*.

In two other instances also, evangelicalism came out as evangelism, a word the reviewer, Rev. Emerson Anderson, did not use in the review.

Please note these changes. We are sorry they occurred. *The Editor*

COMING SOON

Two special *Ambassador* issues are coming out in early 1988. They are:

January 26 — Presenting the Association of Free Lutheran Congregations.

February 9 — 25th Anniversary of *The Lutheran Ambassador*. (There will be many reprints of articles from previous issues.)

Watch for these special issues.

In addition, convention visitors can take part in up to two of seven available workshops conducted on Saturday, Jan. 9. Topics covered are Euthanasia and Assisted Suicide, School-Based Clinics, Post-Abortion Trauma, "Sex Respect" in Action, Pro-Life Education in the Christian School, Pro-Life Public Policy Issues and Crossing Cultural Barriers (with the pro-life message). Also, on Saturday morning, there will be a 4-hour program especially designed for Christian teachers. Then on Sunday morning there will be a special Youth Gathering, featuring Molly Kelly speaking about teens and "Sex Respect."

Registration begins at noon on Friday, Jan. 8. Whether registering for the entire three-day weekend, or for individual days, your package includes meals, speakers, workshops, films and exhibits at times indicated as well as convention materials. For more information about the convention or about overnight accommodations, contact Diane Schroeder, Lutherans For Life of Illinois, at (312) 495-4783.

Also, hundreds of Lutheran churches will again observe Sanctity of Human Life Sunday during the month of January, many of them on January 24, in commemoration of the January 22, 1973, Supreme Court decision on abortion in *Roe v. Wade*. That ruling required that abortion-on-demand be legally available in the United States throughout all nine months of pregnancy. This year's theme is based on the passage from Isaiah 61:1 which describes the ministry of Christ and His Church: "He sent Me to bind up the brokenhearted."

of interest historically

"In the pagan Roman Empire, abortion was freely practiced, but Christians took a stand against it. In 314 the Council of Ancyra barred from taking the Lord's Supper for ten years all who procured abortions or made drugs to further abortions. Previously the Synod of Elvira (305-306) had specified excommunication till the deathbed for these offenses."

— Francis Shaeffer
 from *How Should We Then Live?*

AFLTS Seniors Introduced

Joel Lohafer

Holstein, Ia.
Son of Mr. and Mrs.
Walter Lohafer.
Member of Medicine Lake
Lutheran Church
Laurel Udden, pastor.
Graduate of Iowa State University,
Ames, Ia.
Lutheran Bible Institute,
Seattle, Wash.
Wartburg Theological Seminary,
Dubuque, Ia.

Enjoys spending time with his wife, Annette, and their one-year-old daughter, Jessica. His special interests include music, fishing and writing.

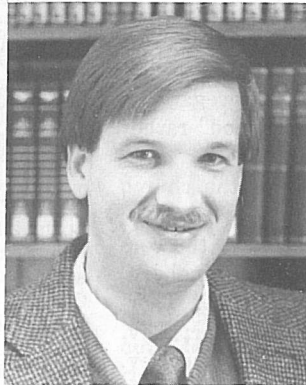
Personal testimony:

When I was a young boy I always knew that God forgave my sins in baptism and that He accepted me as His child. During my high school years, however, I struggled, wondering why I continued to sin if I were a Christian. After seriously reading the Bible, God showed me the awesomeness of His grace — that I would always be a sinner, but that Jesus died for all sinners, like myself. I was set free and God's gift of salvation became my assurance for eternal life.

Seminary experience:

Having grown up in the ALC, I continued on after college at one of the ALC seminaries, in Dubuque, Ia. The four years I spent there were a time of struggle as I found myself in strong opposition with the liberalism being taught. The experience was a good one in some ways. I learned that I must totally rely upon the Lord for strength. Faithful is He who calls you. . . He also will bring it to pass" (I Thess. 5:24).

During my year of internship, spent in Flanagan, Ill., I appreciated being allowed to participate in all aspects of the ministry. During my senior year at Wartburg, I also pastored a small congregation in a nearby town, Emmanuel Lutheran, Dyersville, Ia. It was also during my senior year at Wartburg that the Lord led me to apply to AFLTS for admission. The time I have spent here has been a time of refreshment and of joy. I have appreciated so much the teaching and fellowship I have experienced here. I rejoice that by God's grace I was brought here and I look forward to the ministry God will give me. My desire is that I will be able to serve Him as an AFLC pastor wherever He wants. Please pray for me and my family as we look forward to finishing our year here.



Mark Molstre

Fargo, N. Dak.
Son of Rev. and
Mrs. David Molstre
Married to Lori
Finstrom
Two children - Jessica, 2½ years
Joshua, 7 months.

Graduate of Moorhead State University
Moorhead, Minn. Attended AFLBS
for one year.

Special interests include sports and woodworking.

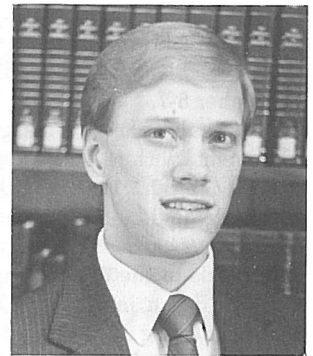
Personal testimony:

I feel from the faith given to me in baptism, God saved me during my junior high years as He revealed to me my sinful condition and offered again forgiveness and salvation. I thank God that by His grace He has kept me in this saving relationship.

Seminary experience:

I knew God was calling me into the ministry through my college experience. The time spent at AFLTS has been enriched by the fellowship of my fellow seminarians. I am continually challenged to be sensitive to God's Word to the point of properly teaching and preaching it.

My year of internship was spent in Houghton, Mich. at Maranatha Lutheran. Dr. James Gerdeen was my supervisory pastor.



THE CHRISTIAN DEATH

Thus we see what a great thing it means to be a Christian, that he is already eternally redeemed from death and can never die. For though the death and dying of a Christian appears outwardly like the dying of a godless man, they differ inwardly as much as heaven differs from earth. For a Christian falls asleep as he dies and he passes through death into life; but the godless man passes out of life and feels death eternally.

Martin Luther
(*Day By Day We Magnify Thee*)

New Lutheran fellowship finalized

"Lord Jesus — Our Hope, Our Future" was the theme for the constituting convention of The American Association of Lutheran Churches (AALC), held in Emmaus Lutheran Church, Bloomington, Minn., on November 5-7.

The result of an anti-merger protest movement within the American Lutheran Church, the AALC plans to provide a "middle-of-the-road" alternative for concerned congregations and individuals to the new Evangelical Lutheran Church in America which will come into being on January 1, 1988.

A total of 99 delegates registered for the convention, representing about 50 congregations, 12 of which have affiliated with the new association. Four of these charter congregations are located in California, two in Wisconsin, and one each in the states of Iowa, Illinois, Colorado, Montana, Washington and Pennsylvania. There are currently no congregations in the Dakotas or Minnesota, but the latter state will be included shortly when the New Hope Lutheran Church, Newfolden, Minn., is received. Other congregations are considering AALC membership, and a goal of 25 has been set for the end of the year.

The largest member congregation is the new Christ Lutheran Church, Chipewewa Falls, Wisconsin.

More than 800 ALC congregations voted against the merger and some forecasters had predicted earlier that over 200 of them would be considering withdrawal. However, many failed to muster the necessary two two-thirds votes required by the constitution. This development is leading to the formation of numerous new congregations and further divisions are expected during the coming months.

Another factor limiting the size of the AALC has been the decision of many former ALC congregations and new groups to affiliate with the AFLC. Emmaus Lutheran Church, where the convention was held, is one that made such a choice, voting to join the AFLC during the previous week.

AALC spokesmen point to three basic issues distinguishing them from the AFLC: (1) acceptance of divorced clergy, (2) a more "high-church" ap-

proach to worship, and (3) an open door to the charismatic renewal movement. A study of the new constitution would also suggest a that a fourth distinction is polity, or church government. Although provisions are included to protect the rights of local congregations, the AALC is clearly a "synod" rather than a "free association," with a delegate system for voting at the church conventions.

The new officers elected at the convention were: Dr. Duane Lindberg, presiding pastor; Rev. Donald Thorson, assistant presiding pastor; Rev. Thomas Aadland, secretary; and Rev. James Minor, treasurer.

The main issue that led to the formation of the new conservative Lutheran church body is the authority of Scripture, for it is feared that the ELCA will not hold to the view that the Bible is the inerrant and infallible Word of God. Other social issues such as the stand of the merged church on abortion and homosexuality were also mentioned.

One of the highlights of the convention was the Friday evening ordination service for the AALC's first new pastor, Rev. Scott Langager, Williston, N. Dak., who has accepted a call to serve a new congregation in Janesville, Wis.

— *Pastor R. L. Lee*

Note: A recent news report since the conference, announces that the AALC has grown to a total of 17 congregations, including ones in Williston, N. Dak. and Portland, Ore.

Sedan, Minn.



Scandia Lutheran of rural Sedan had their Fall Festival in September. The guest speakers were seminary students Harry Gimberg and Milton Flores. They are pictured here with Pastor Verle Dean. Produce and canned goods were brought in for AFLBS.

Roseau, Minn.



The Roseau (Minn.) Lutheran Parish had a potluck supper honoring Pastor and Mrs. Dan Giles and family who were home on leave from their missionary work in Mexico last summer. They were presented a quilt, shown here, by the Roseau Lutheran Sunday School children and gifts of money. Pastor Giles served internship in the Roseau parish as a student.



Pastor Barnhart in the Hatton crusade.

from here and there

Mason, Wis. — New members received at Our Savior's Lutheran on Nov. 1 were Rick Nettleton, Jessie and Charles; Helen Shelvan; Mr. and Mrs. Richard (Terri) Grand, Heather and Maime; Roy Roberts and Jenny; Ann Roberts; and Raino Mattson. A recognition dinner was held following the service.

Greenbush, Minn. — United Lutheran's adult and youth choirs presented a Christmas cantata on Sun., Dec. 20, at 8 p.m.

DeKalb, Ill. — Grace Lutheran Mission Fellowship held its annual Christmas buffet on Dec. 3 as a potluck. Irene Vesta spoke on the topic, "Christmas is God's Idea." An offering was taken for the Marie Sandvik Center in Minneapolis, Minn.

Williston, N. Dak. — Rev. and Mrs. Jon Wellumson and children were welcomed to Emmanuel Lutheran in a fellowship dinner on Dec. 13. He began his ministry there on Dec. 1.

Dalton, Minn. — A New Year's Eve worship service was held at Tordenskjold Lutheran (for the parish) at 8 o'clock. The parish Christmas Day service was sponsored by Sarpsborg Lutheran.

Canton, S. Dak. — Mr. Eugene Irons is the chairman of Redeemer Lutheran following the annual meeting of the congregation on Nov. 8.

Tiogo, N. Dak. — Rev. Dale Mellgren of Zion Lutheran informed his

news of the churches

people in the December *Parish News* that he has researched and found that there is no new move by Madalyn Murray O'Hair to remove Christian broadcasts from the airwaves. There had been a report that such had been done.

Minnewaukan, N. Dak. — At Trinity Lutheran one can indicate a favorite hymn by writing it on a piece of paper and placing it in a box marked "Favorite Hymns." The hymn will be used in a morning service at a time deemed appropriate.

Thief River Falls, Minn. — The senior choir at Our Saviour's Lutheran presented its Christmas cantata during the morning worship service on Dec. 20.

Minneapolis, Minn. — The church choir of Faith Lutheran and the Sunday School presented a program for Christmas on Sun., Dec. 13, at the worship service. A congregational dinner followed.

St. Paul, Minn. — A food collection was taken at Victory in Christ Lutheran on Nov. 22 for delivery to Union Gospel Mission. The congregation conducted the service at the Mission on Nov. 17 with Rev. Wayne Hjermstad bringing the message.

Eben Jct., Mich. — Rev. and Mrs. John Mundfrom hosted an open house for members and friends of Calvary Lutheran on Dec. 13. Some carol singing was done.

Bagley, Minn.

Grace Lutheran Church of Bagley, Minn., held their annual Scandinavian worship service on Sunday, November 1st. The entire service was conducted in Norwegian. Pastor Karl Stendal of Brooklyn Center, Minn., delivered the sermon. At the close of his sermon, Pastor Stendal sang a solo, accompanied on the organ by his wife, Christine. Several members of the congregation also took part in the service, reading Scripture and singing.

According to Lyle Twite, lay pastor of Grace and Rice Lutheran congregations, people of Scandinavian descent came from several neighboring communities to attend the service and enjoy the food and fellowship which followed. The ladies of the church provided a wonderful smorgasbord of traditional Scandinavian delicacies. The lefse and fattigman provided nourishment for the body, just as Pastor Stendal's message provided nourishment for the soul!

—Corr.

Cokato, Minn. — A council retreat and congregational banquet were held on Dec. 5, the latter at Prairie House in Dassel. Membership in the congregation has risen to 116.

Newfolden, Minn. — The Christmas Day service was held at Westaker Lutheran. The Thanksgiving service on Nov. 25 was held at Bethania Lutheran.

Grand Forks, N. Dak. — Rev. Robert Koepp, new pastor at Calvary Lutheran in Fosston, Minn., spoke at the Family Night service in Trinity Lutheran on Nov. 22.

Ishpeming, Mich. — On Sunday evening, Nov. 8, Pastor and Mrs. Wallace Jackson shared in one evening service of Hope Lutheran in very fine testimony in word and song. The songs that were shared were familiar and encouraged us in our walk with the Lord. Pastor Jackson is available to sing in churches as his schedule permits.

—Corr.

Kalispell, Mont. — The annual progressive dinner for Faith Lutheran was held on Dec. 13 at 5:30. Aid Association for Lutherans matched funds up to \$500 toward the medical expenses of Kelly Thompson.

Hatton, N. Dak.

Close to 500 people were present at the first service of an evangelism crusade in Hatton, N. Dak., in October, sponsored by Zoar Lutheran Church, Dale Finstrom, lay pastor. Over 400 were in attendance on Monday night of the crusade and attendance remained good the last two nights as well.

Speaker was Rev. David Barnhart, Eagan, Minn., a pastor of the Association of Free Lutheran Congregations. His topics were "Victory That Never Quits," "Power That Never Fades," "Joy That Never Ceases" and "Promises That Never Fail." People were invited to come forward each evening

for special prayer for problems they might have.

Musical numbers were presented by Joyful Praise of Northwood, N. Dak., and Wendell Berg and Ralph Peterson, Portland, N. Dak.

While the services were held in the Centennial Community Center, a nursery was provided in Zoar Church. Older children, through sixth grade, also gathered at Zoar for children's presentations. Doug and Ruth Berntson talked to the children, and showed films and led games and songs.

Decisions were made for Christ during the crusade, Pastor Finstrom reports.

HERE AND THERE . . .

Kasson, Minn. — Mr. and Mrs. Glen (Jan) Leukmann, Clayton, Tami, Cari and Melanie were taken in as members of Mt. Sion Lutheran on Nov. 8. They were honored at a potluck dinner after the service.

Rev. Rodger Olson of Fergus Falls, Minn., spoke at evangelistic services in Mt. Sion, Sept. 20-24.

Minneapolis, Minn. — New members at Medicine Lake Lutheran are John Dahl and Mr. and Mrs. Joel (Annette) Lohafer and Jessica.

Looking ahead, the Sweetheart Banquet for the congregation will be held on Feb. 11 at Tally Ho Restaurant, Crystal. Rev. John Rieth of Amery, Wis., will speak.

Hampden, N. Dak. — These people have been received into membership of Zoar Lutheran in 1987: Mr. and Mrs. Adrian Niedlinger, Mr. and Mrs. Vernon Schonauer, Mr. and Mrs. Lowell Hamre and family, Mr. and Mrs. Grant Furbur, Mr. and Mrs. Larry Werner and family, Mr. and Mrs. Marvin Wolf, Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Pollestad, Mr. and Mrs. Lee Werner and Sara, Mrs. Helen Niedlinger, Mrs. M.D. Wolf, Mrs. Gary Stegman, Mrs. Ray Boatman, Mrs. Ordale Morstad, Mrs. Lloyd Milbrandt, Mr. Brian Aanstad, and Mr. Glen Girodat. The majority of these new members formerly belonged to the Methodist Church which closed. Six families who lived in or near Edmore transferred to the new AFLC congregation there. It is also being served by Rev. Christian Oswood.

Minot, N. Dak. — Upon learning of the serving of alcohol at the nationally-known Høstfest, Bethel Lutheran voted unanimously not to be a part of the food booths. Money had been raised this way each year for missions. On Nov. 14-15 a Harvest Festival was held in place of that. Pastors taking place in the two-day festival were Terry Olson, Valley City, N. Dak., Robert Lewis, Abercrombie, N. Dak., and Orville Olson, Minot. Music was furnished by the Terry Olson family. God blessed hearts with giving and the Harvest Festival offering far exceeded those previously received through Høstfest. Matching funds were received from AAL. — *Corr.*

Roseau, Minn. — Rose Lutheran will observe its centennial July 15-17, 1988.

THE LUTHERAN AMBASSADOR
3110 E. Medicine Lake Blvd.
Minneapolis, Minn. 55441

Second-class

Lead Us, O Father, In The Paths of Peace

Lead us, O Father, in the paths of peace;
Without Thy guiding hand we go astray,
And doubts appall, and sorrows still increase;
Lead us through Christ, the true and living way.

Lead us, O Father, in the paths of truth;
Unhelped by Thee, in error's maze we grope,
While passion stains, and folly dims our youth,
And age comes on, uncheered by faith and hope.

Lead us, O Father, in the paths of right;
Blindly we stumble when we walk along,
Involved in the shadows of a darksome night,
Only with Thee we journey safely on.

Lead us, O Father, to Thy heavenly rest,
However rough and steep the path may be,
Through joy or sorrow, as Thou deemest best,
Until our lives are perfected in Thee.

—William H. Burleigh, 1868
(Old Favorite Songs and Hymns)

The theme chosen for it is "To God Be the Glory."

Badger, Minn. — The Oiland Sunday School used the theme, "Come, Lord Jesus," for its Christmas program on Dec. 20. Badger Creek Sunday School

had "An Old-Fashioned Christmas" for its theme on the same day.

Newark, Ill. — Some from New Lisbon Lutheran took part in the Adult Christian Fellowship holiday dinner (potluck) at Bethlehem Lutheran, Morris, on Dec. 5.