

THE LUTHERAN AMBASSADOR

February 23, 1988

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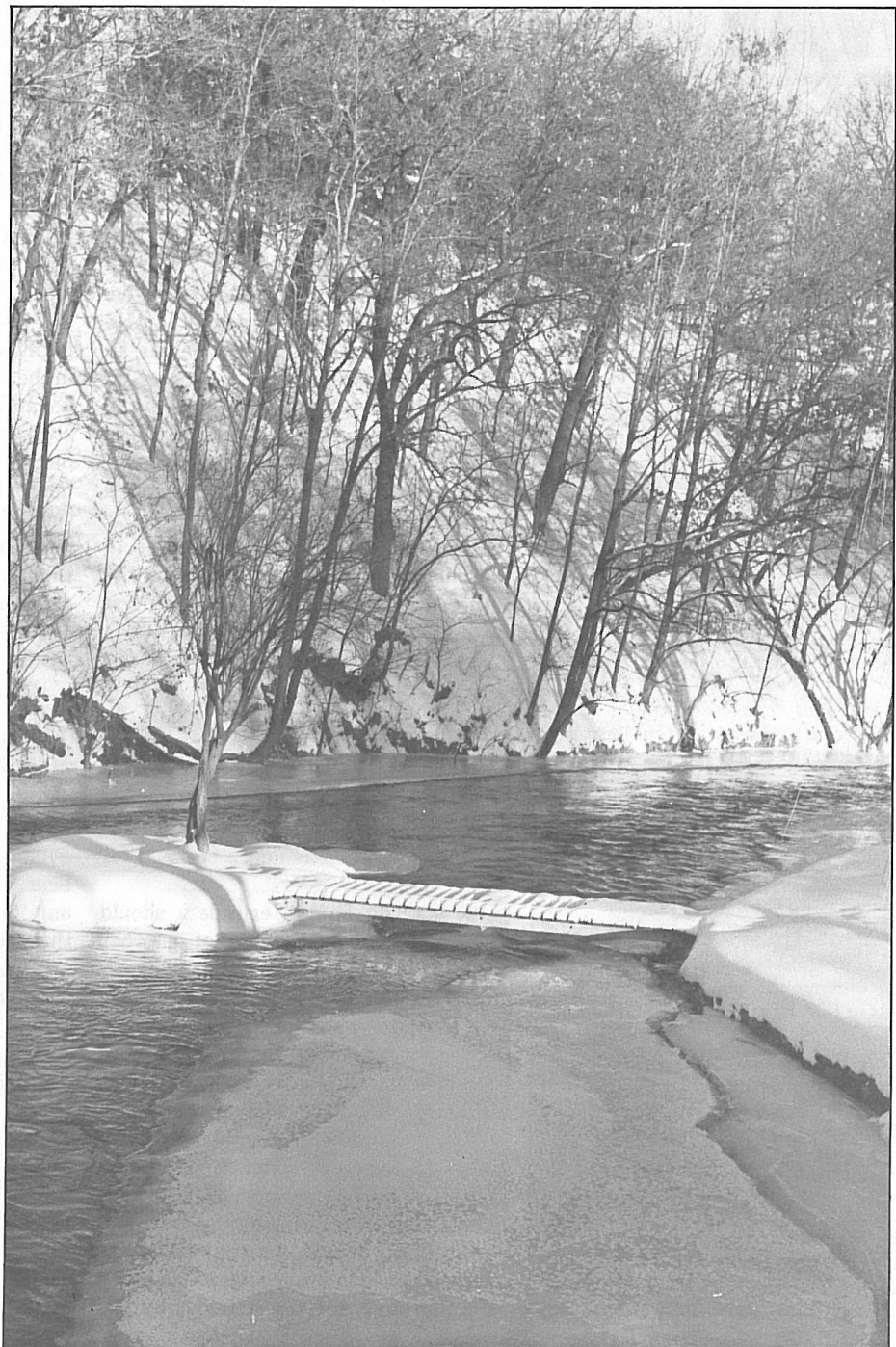
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meditations on God's Word

Cover photo
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Volume 26 Number 4

THE LUTHERAN AMBASSADOR

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Going with the man of sorrows

"Behold, we are going up to Jerusalem" (Luke 18:31).

Once again we have come to that time which the church has designated as the Lenten season, when we in spirit accompany the Savior on His last journey to the holy city, to His sufferings and death.

When we realize its importance, we must confess that it was the most momentous journey in the history of the world. The eternal destiny of man depended upon it. It was a journey that aroused very little commotion on earth, but it was watched by the hosts of heaven. It meant much for Jesus and much for us.

When Christ went up to the Passover, we are to remember that He obeyed the Law for us. When He made His triumphal entry, it was to prove Himself our Lord and King. When He shed His blood on Calvary, it was an all-atoning sacrifice for the sins of all mankind. When the Savior went up to Jerusalem, a battle was fought there the like of which the world had never known and upon its outcome depended our eternal happiness. It was a battle with God alone on one side and earth and hell combined against Him on the other. It was an hour of such darkness that even the sun could not look upon the scene.

Our Lord invites us to meditate upon His sufferings and their importance to us, to learn to know our own miserable state and sinfulness, and by clinging ever closer to Him, to become day by day more and more partakers of the blessings which His death secured for us.

This going up to Jerusalem should also serve to remind us of another journey which we must make, the journey to the Jerusalem above. There were many who did not make that earthly journey to Jerusalem and there are also many who do not make the journey to the Jerusalem above, which He purchased with His blood for all who love and serve Him. And He continues to make this journey with true Christians. He is calling to each and every one: "Behold, we are going up to Jerusalem." Do we accompany Him on His journey? Are we striving, by His

grace, to enter that heavenly Jerusalem?

Like His first journey into Jerusalem, this journey is also by way of the cross. If we would proceed on this journey, we must take up the cross and fight with the powers of darkness. They will bring trials and tribulations upon us. But we know that the way to the crown is the way of the cross, the way to the gates of heaven is the way of self-denial and death to the world.

We also know that we have a place of safety and defense if we will but dwell there. In His loyal service we find the weapons which enable us to withstand all the fiery darts of the wicked. In His church our Lord has placed His Word; He has promised to be present and to fight our battles for us. If we truly want to go with the Man of Sorrows and overcome the foes that cross our pathways we must enter in and delight in the courts of the Lord. We must take advantage of every opportunity to study this Word He has given to us, during the Sunday morning worship hour, the adult class in Sunday School, the mid-week Bible study, our own private times of devotion. Then, even though trials and crosses come, we will overcome them all, and they will only serve to bring us nearer to the city of our God.

It gives us great encouragement, then, doesn't it when we join in the company of our Lord and say, "Behold, we are going up to Jerusalem!"? What an encouragement it is to let go of the world with its honors and pleasures, even though it may mean a cross to bear. These trials and crosses will last only for a little while and will only be the prelude to a "far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory, even eternal life."



by Rev.
Jerome C. Nikunen

"Lord, is it I?"

Matthew 26:20-22: "Now when the even was come, He sat down with the twelve. And as they did eat, He said, 'Verily, I say unto you, that one of you shall betray Me.' And they were exceeding sorrowful, and began every one of them to say unto Him, 'Lord, is it I?'"

Often when an announcement is made, the speaker will say, "I have some good news and some bad news. Which one do you want to hear first?" Jesus, as He ate the last Passover with His disciples, did just that. He brought both good news and bad news. Let us consider the bad news first.

It was bad for Judas Iscariot. He had just made a bargain with the priests to betray Jesus. Like most lawbreakers, I am sure he thought he would get away with his crime. Then Jesus announced that one of them would betray Him. "How could He know?", he must have thought, so when all the other disciples said, "Is it I?", he, too, joined in. But when Jesus indicated that it was the one who dipped his hand with His in the dish, Judas hesitated. Then he put his hand in the dish. Jesus did likewise. Judas said, "Is it I?" Jesus replied, "Thou has said (it)." It was the final confrontation. The time of grace had ended for Judas. He had made his final choice. Hell was his destiny. It was bad news.

It has been bad news for many people down through the centuries. Many have seen no need of repentance. They downplay sin. Instead of seeing their sin, they call it by some other name. They compare themselves with others. Or they blame others for their shortcomings. I remember talking with a man in a rescue mission. I made the mistake of assuming that a man in his condition would need to be convinced that he was sinful. So I said to him, "you know that you are a sinner, don't you?" You should have heard his response. He was no sinner. His parents hadn't been good to him. His wife hadn't treated him right. His community gave him trouble. It seemed that all were to blame but him. Since that time, I have come to realize that we do not want to admit and deal with sin. The words of Romans 3:23 are clear, "All have sinned, and come short of the glory of God." That means *all*. Any person who tries to make it to heaven by any other way than Jesus will be lost. The last part of John 3:36 says, "he that

believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him."

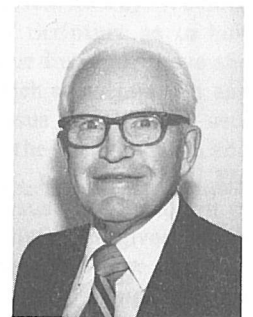
Many modern theologians look upon the death of Christ as one of the great tragedies of all time. They look upon His death as being the result of being ahead of His time. What He said offended them, so they killed Him. Nothing can be farther from the truth. His life was not taken; He gave it. It was not in their hands. He died because He was the sin-bearer of all mankind. What was thought of as defeat turned out to be victory.

That brings us to the good news! Christ's death was followed by His resurrection. Immediately, we see a change in the disciples. Peter, the one who denied Him, becomes the rock in his fearless stand for Christ. Thomas, who refused to believe that Jesus had risen from the dead before he could touch the scars on His hands and side, became the strong man of faith, who confessed that Jesus was his Lord and God. So it was with all of the disciples.

The good news has continued throughout the centuries. Many times the faith has become dim and people have lived in darkness, but then God has raised up someone to bring them back to the light. The Reformation was such a time. Many of the fundamental teachings of the early church had been replaced by man-made rules. Instead of the Bible being taught as the inspired Word of God, traditions and the decrees of the church took its place. Instead of justification by faith in Christ alone, works were added as being necessary for salvation. Instead of the teaching that all men are priests before God and can come directly through Jesus Christ, they created a class of priests who could grant or withhold forgiveness and salvation. The Reformation brought us back to the good news of salvation by faith in Christ alone.

From time to time the church has strayed from the good news of salvation. But in each case God has raised up someone to bring them back to the truth. Today is such a day. Much of the organized church has strayed away from God. We need a revival. Such a revival can come only with a conviction of sin. That is followed by confession of sin and a turning away from it. Let us heed the words of II Corinthians 13:5: "Examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith; prove your own selves. Know ye not your own

"Instead of seeing their sin, they call it by some other name."



by Rev.
James W. Asp
Chillicothe, Ill.

The question asked was,

"Couldn't you watch and pray with me?"



NEWS

selves, how that Jesus Christ is in you, except ye be reprobates?" If this self-examination reveals a need of salvation, respond to the invitation of Revelation 22:17: "And the Spirit and the Bride say, 'Come!' " That is the good news for you!

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Pastor James W. Asp was born in McIntosh, Minn. He graduated from high school at Thief River Falls, Minn., Moorhead State University, Moorhead, Minn., and Luther Theological Seminary, St. Paul, Minn. He also attended the Lutheran Bible Institute in Minneapolis, Minn., for one year.

After graduating from Luther Seminary in 1944, Pastor Asp served parishes at Hogeland, Mont., Berthold, N. Dak., Harrisburg, S. Dak., Peterson, Minn., Ames, Ia., and Rolfe, Ia. He retired in 1981 and moved to Brooklyn Park, Minn. In 1987 he helped organize Our Savior's Lutheran Church in Chillicothe, Ill., where he serves as pastor. This congregation was received into the AFLC last June and he has since been placed on the Fellowship Clergy Roster.

Pastor Asp is married to the former Anna Masted. They have five children: Dawn Aarsvold of St. Louis Park, Minn., Julie Haygeman of Kennewick, Wash., Camilla Schussheim of Fayetteville, Ark., Angela Lombardo of Newark, Ill., and James II of Washington, D.C. They have seven grandchildren.

And He cometh unto the disciples, and findeth them asleep, and saith unto Peter, 'What, could ye not watch with Me one hour?' (Matthew 26:40).

Jesus asked His disciples, "Could ye not watch and pray with Me one hour?," on the night in which He was betrayed. Jesus prepared Himself to bear the sins of the world. Jesus, in the previous verse, prayed, "... O My Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from Me: nevertheless not as I will, but as Thou wilt." Jesus became weary that night. The disciples became tired and they slept. One disciple was to betray our Lord. Another was soon to deny Him. The rest of the apostles were to scatter in fear that night as the Roman soldiers later would arrest Jesus.

Jesus wanted to spend time in prayer for and with His disciples. The world would never be the same after that night and the following days and nights. Yet most of the world lacked understanding as to Christ and His suffering, death and resurrection.

Christ desired His disciples to "watch and pray." Our Lord needed comfort and strength that night. Yet not one of the disciples spent time in prayer with our Lord that night after He made that request. Even though the disciples (except Judas) fled from Jesus that night, Jesus did not give up on them. As we look in John 17, Jesus in part of His prayer there prayed: "While I was with them in the world, I kept them in Thy name: those that thou gavest Me I have kept, and none of them is lost, but the son of perdition; that the Scripture might be fulfilled" (v. 12).

Christ Jesus came to save sinners from eternal death and draw them unto eternal life (Romans 5:8). When sinners began a new life in Christ, they were exhorted to partake in discipleship, prayer and keeping watch for our Lord's second coming (Matthew 28:20, Acts 2:42, I Corinthians 1:9, I Thessalonians 4:3, I Thessalonians 5:17, II Timothy 4:2-5, James 5:16, I Peter 4:1-8, I John 1:7, et al).

Our Lord, throughout His ministry, encouraged, taught and disciplined the Twelve (e.g. Matthew 11:1, Mark 8:31). The original Greek word for "to teach" or "to disciple" is *mathetai*. Fellowship became an important part of Christian living. Just before our Lord ascended, He gave the great commission to the apostles and others who believe in Christ to "Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them

“The world would never be the same
after that night and the following days and nights.”

in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world” (Matthew 28:20).

Yes, our Lord is risen! He is with us who trust in His Name! Jesus is with us in the person of the Holy Spirit as promised in Scripture (John 16:12-16). The principle of watching and praying in discipleship still remains true and all Christians need to watch and pray. As Christ our Lord promised not to forsake us, He has promised to help us pray. Romans 8:26 tells us: “Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered.” As comforting as this is, it is also comforting to know that when we are in Christ, He intercedes for us (John 17:20ff, I Timothy 2:5, Hebrews 4:14-16). Prayers of supplication, praise and thanksgiving and for various spiritual and other concerns can be brought before the Lord and can be placed in His hands.

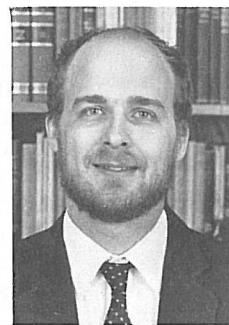
It can be a temptation to “give up” on someone after you have spent many weeks, months, even years in prayer for that person. It can be a temptation to “give up” watching and praying as we see much moral declination in the world. During times like these, when we can get weary, our Lord gives us strength as Scripture reminds us in Isaiah 40:29-31: “He giveth power to the faint; and to them that have no might he increaseth strength. Even the youths shall faint and be weary, and the young men shall utterly fall: but they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be

weary; and they shall walk, and not faint” (cf. James 1:5-6).

As our Lord Jesus Christ works through His written Word, He strengthens us and disciples us (II Timothy 3:14-17). Our Lord strengthens us when we get discouraged. Jesus said “Come unto Me, ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you, and learn of Me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For My yoke is easy, and My burden is light” (Matthew 11:28-30).

Until Christ returns, we can be discipled by Him through the Holy Scriptures. We need to pray that the Holy Spirit would illuminate us as we partake in God’s written Word. We also need to pray that the Holy Spirit would help us to have a teachable heart (Psalm 119:36, Revelation 2:7). As Christians, we can disciple one another as Scripture reminds us to “bear ye one another’s burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ” (Galations 6:2). We can also encourage one another in the Lord (Hebrews 3:13).

In a world of personal computers, space shuttles, video cassette recorders, and laser technology, people still need Jesus Christ. Christ Jesus remains the same, God’s written Word remains the same, the Great Commission remains the same, with the praying, watching and discipleship that Christians need day by day. Let us continue to pray for the forgiveness of sins, for personal and church growth, for the salvation of souls, for endurance as we watch and pray until our Lord returns. “He which testifieth these things saith, ‘Surely I come quickly.’ Amen. Even so, come, Lord Jesus. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. Amen” (Revelation 22:20-21).



*by Rev.
Todd Klemme
Faith, S. Dak.*

1. There is a change of mind. We wish to do good instead of evil.

2. There is a change of heart. Instead of loving sin, we have now set our “mind on the things above” (Colossians 3:2). We love Jesus Christ and His commandments. “O how I love Thy Law” (Psalm 119:97). Loving God’s Law can never come by an act of our will, but by an act of God. He gives us a “new heart” and a “new spirit” (Ezekiel 18:31). We become “partakers of the divine nature” (II Peter 1:4). God’s

grace begins to operate in our lives. “It is God who works in you both to will and to do His good pleasure” (Philippians 2:13).

3. There is a change of life. “Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new” (II Corinthians 5:17).

Thereby we show that our repentance is real and true.

*Pastor Henry Johansen
Willmar, Minn.*

**the three
parts of
repentance**

OUR AFLC HERITAGE

Guard the treasure that has been entrusted to you, by the Holy Spirit who dwells within us" (II Timothy 1:14).

While this Scripture was originally written to a young pastor named Timothy, it applies to all Christian believers. Like Timothy, we as servants of the Lord must *guard* the treasure that has been entrusted to us. In the Association of Free Lutheran Congregations we have been entrusted with a great treasure of truth in our Lutheran Free Church heritage. In order to guard this treasure and continue steadfastly in it, we must know it well. A sketch of our LFC heritage is outlined below.

1. *The Free and Living Congregation.* We in the AFLC believe that the local congregation should be free from the control of church hierarchies and synods. We also believe that the local congregation should be free and living — full of spiritual life and power through the empowering, life-giving work of the Holy Spirit.

2. *The Lutheran Reformation.* We in the AFLC confess without compromise the basic teachings of the Lutheran Reformation as set forth in the *Augsburg Confession*, and the *Small Catechism*. It is our firm conviction on the basis of Scripture that we are saved by God's grace alone through faith alone in Christ alone. We believe that the Bible alone is the sole source and authority for Christian doctrine and life.

3. *Biblical piety.* We in the AFLC are deeply committed to the daily practice of prayer (Col.

4:2) and Bible reading (Ps. 1) (biblical piety). The Scriptures must not only be read and studied; they must also be applied in our daily lives (Jas. 1:22).

4. *The Word of God.* We in the AFLC believe that the Holy Bible is inspired by God in the whole and in the part (II Tim. 3:16), and that it is trustworthy, inerrant and infallible in all that it affirms and teaches, whether it be geography, history or divine doctrine (Jn. 17:17).

5. *Evangelism and Missions.* We in the AFLC believe in witnessing, teaching and preaching the Gospel so that souls may be saved from sin. It is our firm conviction that every person must repent of his sins and believe in Jesus as Lord and Savior in order to be saved. It is also our firm conviction that missions — both home and foreign — is our top priority (Mt. 28:19). We are committed to witnessing and preaching the Gospel throughout the whole world.

6. *Revival.* We in the AFLC acknowledge our desperate need for revival. We are deeply committed to praying steadfastly for revival (II Chron. 7:14), so that we as individuals and as congregations may be renewed by the power of the Holy Spirit through the Word of God (Zech. 4:6; Eph. 6:17).

May we *guard* the treasure of Biblical truth in our Lutheran Free Church heritage and may we also continue steadfast in it to the glory of God alone.



by Rev.
Mark Bateson
Colfax, Wis.

North Prairie Lutheran observes 90th anniversary

One of the newer North Dakota congregations in the Association celebrated a notable anniversary last summer. North Prairie Lutheran, north of Leeds, N. Dak., observed its 90th anniversary on July 5. Rev. LeRoy Flickinger is the pastor.

A worship and Holy Communion

service was held on Sunday morning. Rev. Dale Striker, a former pastor there, preached the sermon. Irene Nestegard, Oleda Fogelson and Pastor Keith Hanson provided the special music.

In the afternoon three former pastors at North Prairie each spoke. They were Rev. Gaylen Ose, Dalton, Minn., Rev. Keith Hanson, Billings, Mont., and Rev. Douglas Stave, Rosholt, S.

Dak. Bringing the special music were Lois Jorgenson and Genevieve Ahlberg, Karen Anderson, the Ahlberg family and Mary Wilson. Shirley Harkness and Karen Anderson played the organ and piano for the services.

North Prairie was organized as a Lutheran Free Church congregation on June 1, 1897, the same year the LFC was organized. It paid a pastor's salary

cont. on p. 16

Introducing our new congregations

West Lisbon Lutheran Church

West Lisbon Church has a history rich in Norwegian tradition, some of which we would like to share with you. The first Norwegian settlement was in 1834 in Mission Township, LaSalle County, near Fox River, Illinois. The first Norwegian settler near Lisbon was John Hill (Hilde) who came in 1838 from Stavanger, Norway; however, as far as is known, the first person among the Lutherans who spoke to his fellow settlers about religion was Bjorn Hatlestad who came to the Fox River settlement in 1835. In 1843, Elling Eielsen was ordained to the ministry and served the Lisbon community as well as many other places. Mr. Eielsen, along with Ole Andrewson, took care of the pastoral work until P. A. Rasmussen became pastor in 1854.

The exact year of organized worship for the Lisbon congregation is not definite, but it is known that the settlers often gathered at the home of Wier Sjurson Weeks for services. When Mr. Weeks moved to the North Prairie in 1849, he donated this house to be used as a church. Peter Andreas Rasmussen became pastor in 1854. He felt that the teaching of children was of the utmost importance, in fact it was this dedication that brought him to America in the first place.

In 1858 the total membership recorded was 85 and the pastor's salary was \$300.00 a year plus one bushel of wheat from every 40 acres of land. At this time there were actually two congregations, South Lisbon and North Lisbon.

Since Christian education was always very important to the members of the congregation, Bible School teachers were maintained by the congregation for a number of years, one in North and one in South Lisbon. A total of five school houses were owned and maintained for Bible School.

Rev. Rasmussen served the Lisbon Congregation for 44 years. His field of labor was very extensive both to membership as well as distance. The present congregations of Platteville, Helmar, Stavanger, Newark, Morris, Mill-

brook, and Bethlehem in the village of Lisbon all originally belonged to the Lisbon congregation.

Pastors serving after Rev. Rasmussen were: Rev. N.G. Peterson, 1898-1907; Rev. O. Shefveland, 1907-1920; Rev. Lars Harrisville, 1921-1925; Rev. T.J. Knutson, 1926-1931; Rev. Nils Klungtvedt, 1931-1957; Rev. Harold Norheim, 1958-1964; Rev. John Kylo, 1964-1967; Rev. Julius Masted, 1968-1978; and Rev. Steven Lombardo, who still serves the congregation.

In 1940, at a combined meeting of both congregations, it was voted to become two separate congregations and in December, 1941, the name became Lisbon Evangelical Lutheran Church and a new constitution was adopted. In 1951 Lisbon Congregation (south) separated from Helmar Congregation (north).

On June 30 and July 1, 1979, West Lisbon celebrated its 125th anniversary and the verse printed on that anniversary program was "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever" (Hebrews 13:8).

We have given you only a brief glance into the history of the very active congregation which has sent many workers into the mission field and where the same values today are still as important as in those very early days.

Some additional information

The congregation has as part of its name "Evangelical Lutheran Congregation (or Church) of the Unaltered Augsburg Confession." From 1890 to 1917 West Lisbon was a member of the Forenede (United) Kirke. After the merger of 1917 it became a member of the Norwegian Lutheran Church, which later became the Evangelical Lutheran Church, etc.

The handsome brick church which seats 750 people was built in 1926 at a cost of \$80,000. The present parsonage was built in 1957.

The first school among Norwegian Lutherans in America, Lisbon Seminary was operated a mile and a half west of the church. It was to train gifted young Christian men to become pastors and teachers of religion. The school operated for only one year, 1854-55.

Among the many sons and daughters of the congregation who have gone into full-time Christian work is Andrew S. Burgess, who was a missionary to Madagascar and then taught missions at Luther Seminary in St. Paul, Minn., for many years.

The word "West" was added to the congregation's name in recent years to distinguish it from a Lisbon Lutheran Church in nearby Newark.

—*Pleasant Views*, publication of Pleasant View Lutheran Home, Inc.
Aug. - Sept., 1987



West Lisbon Church and parsonage.

Serving the Lord

by Mrs. Dennis (Ceta) Rude
Lake Alma, Sask.

ALL OUR NEEDS

Are you a Christian who has it all together, living a happy, serene and confident life in Christ? If so, this article may not be for you. On the other hand, is there a tense muscle running up one side of your neck, a tension headache over one eye? You've lost your temper with a child again, failed another test in your marriage relationship? You're finding it difficult to get along with your in-laws, a besetting sin has once more gained the upper hand, you haven't settled down to devotions and you feel guilty about it? If so, this could be for you.

Philippians 2:13 says, "It is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of His good pleasure."

Yes, God is at work in us to mold us according to His plan and the wonderful thing about it is that it is His work, not ours. We cannot make ourselves better any more than we can save ourselves. So let us commit ourselves joyfully into His care and let Him get on with the job.

If we could see the complete bankruptcy of our ability to be Christlike, we would stop belittling ourselves for failure and begin to trust only in the One who is able to change us. At the same time, the more we come to know the nature of God and His love for His children, the less we will be anxious about ourselves.

Hudson Taylor, founder of the China Inland Mission, in order to learn the discipline of living by faith, asked no man but only God to supply his needs.

At age 21 he set out for the largely unknown interior of China and began to spread the Gospel. Yet Hudson Taylor despaired of the inferior thoughts of his own heart. He spent hours on his knees to gain mastery over sin. A letter came from a friend who had come to understand the grace of God. Stop striving to overcome sin, the friend wrote, but look instead to the sinless One. Taylor saw the solution. He took his eyes off self and failure and placed them squarely upon the ever-present Christ.

"I am no longer anxious about anything," he wrote, "for He is able to carry out His will and His will is mine." Hudson Taylor learned what the exchanged life meant. No longer I but Christ.

Our rest comes not in striving but in resting.

"There remaineth therefore a rest to the people of God. For he that is entered into his rest, he also hath ceased from his own works, as God did from His" (Hebrews 4:9, 10).

This doesn't mean that we are to lie down and quit living a life of service to God. It means to trust Him fully to lead us and empower us.

A young woman once came to an evangelist with a burden of despair. She had been misunderstood, treated without kindness and fallen into a depression which she could not shake.

After listening to her story, the minister, pointing to his head, said, "Don't look in here." Then he pointed above and added, "Look up there."

The woman saw the wisdom in this simple advice and determined to put the whole thing out of her mind by occupying her thoughts with God. She began to study the verses in the Bible which reminded her of His constant care. She began also to thank God for everything in her life that was good: a tree, clouds, her home, food. As she focused upon God, her mental health began to improve until she was finally able to look back over her problem as a learning experience which, though painful at the time, was actually working out for her good.

God has promised us joy and peace, not despair and a constant sense of failure. If we have any problem, we are to take it to Him in plain, honest language. After we have asked forgiveness for our failures, we may say something like this, "Thank You, Father for giving me what I need to overcome this thing. I'm not sure myself what I need but I commit it to You."

Now the thing is done. We may thank the Father that He is doing a good work in us and have a feast of His love words to us. Let us underline them in the Bible, filling our minds with them until the blessed knowledge that God loves us is uppermost in our thoughts.

The enemy likes to remind us every day of our weakness. But God accepts us wholeheartedly in Christ and proceeds to supply all our needs.

CHURCH PEWS FOR SALE

Some church pews are for sale at Newfolden, Minn. (Westaker Lutheran Church), where new pews were recently dedicated. Nine 7½ ft. pews are available, as well as two 12 ft. pews. They are in pine.

If interested, please call Percy Stokke, 218-874-7901, Rev. Hubert De Boer, 218-874-8165 or the church office, 218-874-7925.

Christian School positions open

St. Paul's Academy in Cloquet, Minn., anticipates a teaching position vacancy for the 1988-89 school year. The combination classroom will most likely be first and second grades with 10 to 12 students total using the A Beka curriculum. For more information or to request an application form, contact: Dean L. Franz, Administrator, St. Paul's Academy, 18th Street and

Wilson Avenue, Cloquet, Minn. 55720, (218) 879-2536.

Medicine Lake Lutheran Academy is receiving applications from degreed elementary teachers for the 1988-89 school year.

Direct inquiries to: Mrs. Eugene Enderlein, Medicine Lake Lutheran Academy, 6300 Walker St. (Central Center), St. Louis Park, Minn. 55416.

EDITORIALS

THE LENTEN JOURNEY

The Lenten season doesn't carry with it the spirit of joyfulness found in the festivals of Christmas and Easter. "Joy to the World," we sing in contemplation of the birth of the Savior. On Easter Sunday church rafters ring with the joyous words, "Christ the Lord is Risen Again."

But the hymnody of the season of the cross is quite different. "Alas! and Did My Savior Bleed" and "Go To Dark Gethsemane" are somber hymns and none more so than the all-time classic by Bernard of Clairvaux, "O Sacred Head Now Wounded." They speak of the sinfulness of mankind and of a Savior's love which endured death itself in order to fashion or accomplish atonement and reconciliation.

Lent has a solemnity about it but it has a joyfulness about it, too. The joy comes from knowing the end of the story, from knowing that Jesus, the Son of God, wasn't defeated by evil men after all. The bands of death were broken by resurrection and He lives today, the first fruits of the resurrection to come.

During Lent we follow Jesus along His Way of Sorrows, not just through the actual streets of Jerusalem en route to the place of a skull, but in the Upper Room, the Garden and Pilate's judgment hall. It is very important that we do this through sermon and song because it is good that we be reminded again of the cost of our salvation.

May the services in your church be spiritually meaningful this year. May Lent, 1988, bring you close to the Lord Jesus—to living faith, to increased faith, as the case may be. Learn early what general theme your pastor(s) is using for Lent and try to study ahead if the opportunity is there. Come to the services with a hungry heart and a willingness to learn.

In this issue and the next, two each time, you will find four shorter messages by pastors of our church on questions that were asked by people involved in the journey of Jesus to Calvary, two of them by the Savior Himself. These ques-

tions and the answers we see to them make a fascinating Lenten study. We trust that you will find it so as you read these four presentations.

NO EASTER BOXING

It was with incredulity that we read that a championship bout for the World Boxing Association light heavyweight crown was proposed for Easter Sunday, April 3, in Bismarck, N. Dak. The champion, Virgil Hill, is a North Dakota (Williston and Grand Forks) boy and it has been his desire to fight in his home state sometime. That objective isn't to be ridiculed.

But to fight on a Sunday in North Dakota, and on Easter Sunday! We hope the proposal has been quashed by the time you read this. If it hasn't, we certainly can't wish the venture any success.

When he was a premier baseball pitcher, we recall Sandy Koufax of the Los Angeles Dodgers refusing to pitch on a certain high holy day of his Jewish religion, perhaps even in the playoffs or World Series. He just wouldn't do it and the baseball club had to make other plans, juggle the pitching rotation. But Sandy Koufax was respected for his conviction. Quickly now, what Protestant or Roman Catholic professional athletes can you name who have refused to play their sport on a high church festival (day)?

Few things are sacred any more. And that's sad. We appreciated generally an editorial in the Grand Forks (N. Dak.) *Herald* on the above subject, although not agreeing with it entirely. The writer said, "... April 3 isn't just any Sunday, it's Easter. There aren't many North Dakotans who would forsake the family on such a holiday just to attend a boxing match."

Shame on those who proposed a boxing match in Bismarck on an Easter Sunday. It is a high holy day, commemorating the resurrection of Jesus from the dead. Some of us are offended that it be even thought to use it for the purpose proposed.

FINAL REPORT

ASSOCIATION OF FREE LUTHERAN CONGREGATIONS

3110 East Medicine Lake Boulevard

Minneapolis, Minnesota 55441

AFLC Benevolences (12 months) - Feb. 1, 1987 - Jan. 31, 1988

FUND	TOTAL BUDGET	REC'D IN JAN.	TOTAL REC'D TO DATE	% TOTAL*	BUDGET MISSED BY
GENERAL FUND.....	\$208,000.00	\$ 26,800.91	\$167,101.28	80	\$ 40,898.72
SCHOOLS - (AFLTS)	99,834.00	9,709.40	91,668.69	92	8,165.31
(AFLBS)	152,060.00	13,024.78	158,578.86	104	(+6,518.86)
HOME MISSIONS.....	280,000.00	18,970.63	223,577.76	80	56,422.24
WORLD MISSIONS	250,000.00	26,581.49	231,865.62	93	18,134.38
CAPITAL INVESTMENT.	25,000.00	1,135.00	43,966.99	176	(+18,966.99)
TOTALS	\$1,014,894.00	\$ 96,222.21	\$916,759.20	90	\$ 98,134.80
1986-87 -	\$1,084,478.00	\$135,455.52	\$939,966.28	87	\$144,511.72
*GOAL 100%					

1988 AMBASSADOR SCHEDULE

Here are the deadlines for the remaining issues of *The Lutheran Ambassador* for 1988. All those who plan to submit material during the year should pay special attention.

Date of Issue	Editor's Deadline	Special Emphasis
March 8	February 13	Lent
March 22	February 27	Easter
April 5	March 12	
April 19	March 26	
May 3	April 9	Mother's Day
May 17	April 23	Pentecost and Pre-Conference
May 31	May 7	Pre-Conference
June 14	May 21	Father's Day
June 28	June 4	Patriotic
July 26	July 2	Conference Reports
August 9	July 16	Parish Education
September 6	August 13	
September 20	August 27	
October 4	September 10	
October 18	September 24	Reformation
November 1	October 8	
November 15	October 22	Thanksgiving
November 29	November 5	Advent
December 13	November 15	Christmas
December 27	December 3	Year's End
January 10, 1989	December 17	

In addition to the emphases listed, others may be added as the year progresses.

Monthly WMF Bible Studies (except for December) will usually appear in the first issue of the month before they are to be used.

Please note that the deadline for the Christmas issue is slightly earlier than for all the others.

Please send all materials to the Editor at Newfolden, Minn. See the full address in the masthead on page 2. WMF material, however, should be sent directly to Mrs. Wayne Hjermstad at 1151 Geranium Ave. E., St. Paul, Minn. 55106. Thank you.

PLEASE SAVE FOR REFERENCE!

1988 ARC FAMILY CAMPS

July 3-10

August 8-14

Reserve now

The first camp includes July 4th and a special program is being planned.

The fees for this year will be: Adults—\$50; High Schoolers—\$40; Junior High and under—\$35; maximum family charge—\$175.

The theme will be from I Peter 4:10: "Stewards of His Grace."

See you there!

—Committee

(The ARC, Association Retreat Center, is located southeast of Osceola, Wis.)

KEITH D. QUANBECK

McVie, N. Dak.

Son of Mr. and Mrs.

Lee Quanbeck

Home congregation is

New Luther Valley

Lutheran Church,

Wesley Langaas, pastor.

Graduate of AFLBS and

Moorhead State University.

Moorhead, Minn.

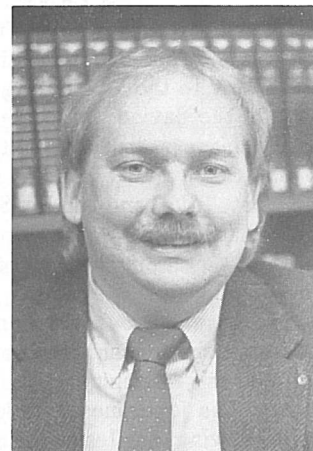
Special interests include sports, reading, photography and music.

Personal testimony:

I feel God has blessed me in a tremendous way as I look back and see how He has guided. I was born and raised in a fine Christian home where a personal faith in Christ was instilled in me. It was at an early age I acknowledged my sin and accepted Christ's payment for those sins by His death on the cross. This personal faith in Christ was buttressed with my Sunday School and confirmation training. Godly teachers and pastors who loved the Lord themselves taught the importance of a growing faith in Christ. I thank God for the influence these people had on my life.

Seminary experience:

After I graduated from high school, I attended AFLBS. It was at that time I began to feel God calling me to full-time Christian work. With much prayer and good advice from godly parents and pastors I have continued with my training toward that end. Through my seminary training and internship, I have continued to feel God's leading and direction to the ministry and, in particular, ministry within the AFLC. Seminary has given me a much deeper appreciation for God's Word. Even with an intensive studying of Scripture I realize how rich and inexhaustible it is. I spent my internship at Hope and Sunnyside Free Lutheran Churches at Wyoming, and Stacy, Minn., respectively, Wendell Johnson, pastor. I am confident that God will continue to reveal His will for my life as I trust Him (Prov. 3:5,6). I am particularly interested in the area of youth ministry. As I see the youth today, they are searching for security and purpose in life. They aren't finding it in many of their family situations. They try to find it in relationships, sports, drugs, sex, and they still do not find meaning in life. They need Jesus.



To know God's will is

JAMES RASMUSSEN

McHenry, N. Dak.
Son of Mr. and Mrs.
Roy Rasmussen.
Married to Jane McCarlson.
Children: Eric — 12, Luke —
9, Joel — 5.

Home congregation is
Gethsemane Lutheran Church,
Rural Tolna, N. Dak. (now closed).
Graduated from North Dak. State Univ.
Also attended AFLBS.

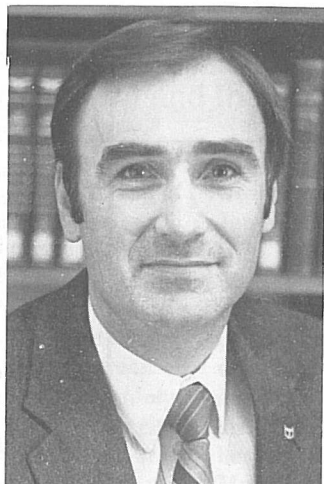
Special interests include hunting, playing ball with children,
biking and walking.

Personal testimony:

I enjoy living my life for the Lord. He has given me salvation through the shed blood of Jesus Christ. Without Christ, my life would be meaningless. He is my strength. His Word reminds me daily of His love and care for me. He daily gives me unmerited grace and strength to make it through each day. Phil. 4:19, "And my God shall supply all your needs according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus." Jesus Christ is my supplier for *everything*.

Seminary experience:

God led me to AFLTS through a series of calls, each one getting stronger and I would keep saying "no." But He did not give up and I finally said "yes" as I was preparing a field for the spring planting of sunflowers. He has worked many things out for my family and me through our years at AFLTS. I thank the Lord for not giving up on me! After not studying for ten years, my first class of summer Greek was my greatest challenge. The Lord sustained me through that time. The blessings I have received have been from the fellowship of my classmates and in how God's Word has worked in new and fresh ways every day even though it is our most studied text book. I spent my internship at Zion Lutheran Church of Tioga, N. Dak., Dale Mellgren, pastor. My family and I are looking forward to serving the Lord wherever He leads. I have come to realize that I can do nothing without Christ and it is not "I" who can save someone. It is the Lord's work. I am only His vessel.



JAMES RITTER

Stevens Point, Wisconsin.
Married to Judy Pioske.
Son of Mr. and Mrs. Robert
Ritter.

Home congregation is
Living Word Lutheran
Church
Eagan, Minnesota,
David Barnhart, pastor.

Graduated from Univ. of Wisconsin, Madison.

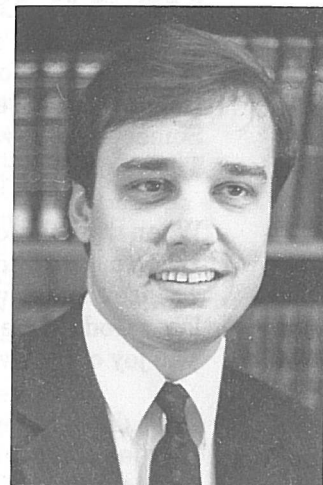
Special interests include woodworking, photography and
jogging.

Personal testimony:

I was fortunate to have parents who loved God, and believed that their responsibility of upbringing included spiritual nourishment and training in the home. At the age of 16, I was at a spiritual crossroads in my life. Through the faithful witness of friends, God challenged me to give myself completely to Him. As a result, Christ gave me a hunger to set my roots deep in Christ and a love for people who need to hear about Jesus.

Seminary experience:

God used His Word, such as Matthew 9:36-38, to impress upon me His desire for more "working in the harvest." I began to ask God if He would use my life in this way, to be a worker for Christ, to help disciple and equip His people for the great work of the Gospel. A great blessing for me at AFLTS has been my fellow classmates, their attractive spiritual walk and humility and also the humility and integrity of the teachers. I spent my internship at Living Word Lutheran Church with Pastor David Barnhart. I appreciate the concept of a pastor being the shepherd and also at the same time the one called to equip the saints for ministry. I want to help Christians become all they can be in Christ, and for Christ.



man's greatest treasure; to do His will is life's greatest pleasure.

—unknown

DEAR GOD

Dear God, comfort me in my sorrow;
Help me to face each day of tomorrow.
Someone dear was taken away from me
To live each day, please God, help me to see.

When my dear love died
When my dear love died left me broken-hearted,
To face the day when he departed.
Dear God, to me it seemed so abusing.
The joy of receiving and the pain of losing.

Deep down in my heart and in God's loving arms,
Cradled and protected safe from harm.
God take care of him. We will meet some day.
To still my sorrow, to Thee alone I pray.

Olga Halvorson
Churchs Ferry, N. Dak.
Member of Lebanon Lutheran Church
Leeds, N. Dak.
(Written the day her husband passed away.)

Storing our treasures

A mother of a toddler shared with me recently that she had put away many of her daughter's toys. This family had just been a host to members of an African children's choir for one night. The mother was overwhelmed with shock and then guilt as she began to understand the simple life of the African children versus her own complicated and cluttered life.

To be sure, it is easy and even delightful to walk through a lovely furniture store and visualize those soft pastels gracing the rooms in our homes. But to struggle desperately for things for no other reason than that someone else has them is pitiful. Perhaps we clutter our closets with name brand fashionable clothes because we think others expect us to have these things. In our frantic scramble to measure up to what we think others demand from us, we lose all sweetness and simplicity out of our lives.

We need not have an African children's choir in our homes to shock us into prayerful consideration of our lives. However, it likely would be a healthy experience. God's Word is filled with exhortations regarding the Christian's lifestyle. Christ himself said, "Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moth and rust do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also" (Matt. 6:19-21).

—S. Hjermstad

Women's Missionary Federation

In memoriam gifts

Josephine Peterson, Kenyon, Minn.
Min Chester, Tioga, N. Dak.
Mrs. Elida Eliason, McIntosh, Minn.
Trygve Dahle, Spicer, Minn.
Anne Jacobson, Binford, N. Dak.
Ida Ringdahl, McVillie, N. Dak.

*Blessed are
those who die
in the Lord*



A personal note on the Eletsons

(Mrs. J.C. Eletson died on December 2, her husband less than three weeks before.)

Many of the LFC and AFLC folks remember them as being very active in the work of the church. Alphild was the national WMF treasurer for several years starting in 1970. She was always so very capable and will be remembered for her great enthusiasm in the Lord's work. As she gave her reports on the monies that came in for missions and other projects she would spontaneously lead the WMF Board in singing the doxology in praise and thanks to God for His gifts. And now in her later years when physical strength was lost, her enthusiasm was still very much there.

Blessed be the memory of these friends.

—Mrs. Amos Dyrud
Minneapolis, Minn.

**PLAN NOW
to attend
your District
Spring Rally**

Are you alarmed?

Eighty-three percent of kids in American churches drop out by the time they are sixteen years old. There are 15,000,000 high schoolers in the U.S. today. Only 4,000,000 receive any regular religious instruction (Jewish, Christian, Catholic). That means 11,000,000 high schoolers receive no other regular religious teaching through churches or schools.

—*Pulpit Helps*, Oct., 87.

What is happening to our children? What are we teaching them? How are we leading them by example? What kind of moral and spiritual nurturing are they receiving? *And does anyone really care?*

Let us compare what is happening in our congregations to the hundreds upon hundreds of hours our young people spend in extra-curricular activities in high school and watching television.

In the meantime the Church of Jesus Christ is becoming "a voice crying in the wilderness." There is a battle being waged for your children. The results of this battle will affect the future lives of your children on this earth as well as for eternity. Why is it that it seems to be of so little concern to us?

Outside of you parents, the church is probably the only other place your children receive spiritual and moral teaching which is Christian. Let me give you some things to think about so that you might get some idea of the battle that Satan is waging against your children.

According to Robert C. Rupert in his book *Gateway Drugs*, 65 percent of all youth ages 12 to 17 have used alcohol at least once. Twenty-six percent are regular users, and 15 percent of those in grades 10-12 reported themselves as heavy drinkers.

Bob Larson, in his study reported in *Family Issues*, states that 40 percent of girls become pregnant in their teens and by the age of 19 only one-third say they have retained their virginity. Last year there were 1.2 million teenage pregnancies. Out of every three babies born to teenage mothers, there were five abortions. Only 17 percent of babies born to teenage mothers were conceived after marriage.

Each year 6,000 teenagers kill themselves. Another 600,000 try but do not succeed. One out of every six youths has tried suicide. Fifty percent said they thought seriously about it.

We, as Christians, have an answer to the meaningless pomp and glitter of a society which has lost its way. We have the teachings of Scripture as to how we are to lead our lives. We have the Word of God which convicts of sin and the Gospel of Jesus Christ which sets people free from the bondage to sin and makes them into new creations. We have the Lord Jesus Christ who brings meaning to our lives. He gives us the abundant life here and now and forever. *Why, in God's name, are we keeping it from our children? Maybe we don't believe it.*

Pastor Richard Thompson
Bethlehem Star,
Morris, Ill., Nov., 1987

Illinois Luther League organizes

December 6 was a historical day for the newly formed Illinois District. Over 70 youth from the District met at the Lisbon grade school.

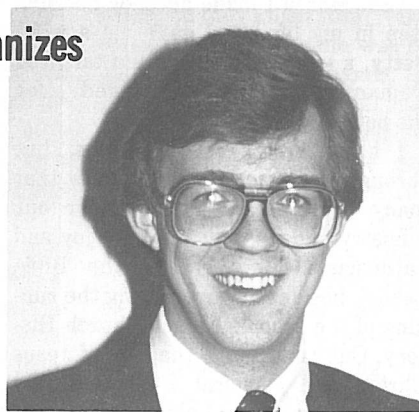
Pastor Steve Lombardo and the deacons of West Lisbon Lutheran were our hosts. A group from Wheaton College (Ill.) came to share with us. Delicious pizza was served. Troy Funte, youth director at Bethlehem in Morris led the group in a lot of "fun" things to do.

After a brief message from Pastor Dennis Gray, DeKalb, on the duties and responsibilities of Luther League officers, the youth elected a tremendous group of young people to take these important positions. They also elected representatives from every church, so no local Luther League would be without representatives in the district planning.

Steve Southcombe from Fox River Lutheran at Sheridan was elected president. He conducted the rest of the meeting, which elected Sonja Anderson, West Lisbon, as first vice-president; Karla Ness from Bethlehem as second vice-president; Sheri Tollefson from Newark Lutheran as secretary and Tonya Nagel from Newark Lutheran, treasurer.

Representatives from other congregations are Phillip Hatland and Paul Benson from St. Petrie; Bob Schultz from Bethany at Brodhead, Wis.; Angela Osland from Grace in DeKalb and Cheri Christian from Helmar Lutheran.

The officers and representatives then met with Pastor Gray, Mark Olson and Troy Funte to continue plans for upcoming district events.



Mark Olson

Mr. Mark Olson, DeKalb, was appointed by the Illinois District officers as the youth work co-ordinator for the district. As youth work co-ordinator, Mark will be in charge of overseeing the total district youth program. He will also be available to local congregations. This is a salaried position with salary coming from the district.

Illinois officers making this appointment were: Pastor Dennis Gray, chair; Robert Christian, vice-chair; Myrtle Duvick, secretary; and Randy Christianson, treasurer.

Previously, at an October meeting at Grace in DeKalb, a steering committee was appointed. They were Sonja Anderson, Paul Benson, Jennie Funte, Mike Gray, Mark Mathison, Steve Southcombe and Dan Vogt.

BIBLE MATHEMATICS

We are not to add to the Bible,
nor to subtract from it,
but to rightly divide it.

Meet the president of the AFLC, Brazil

PASTOR OSEIAS CAMARA

Psalm 108:1: "O God, my heart is fixed; I will sing and give praise, even with my glory."

I was born on August 4, 1954, in a small town called Araruna, Parana, but the greatest part of my life I've spent in Campo Mourao, where I now reside. My parents were simple people and my mother feared the Lord. Thus, when because of family circumstances I needed to go to a boarding school, my mother chose an evangelical school directed by Lutherans in the town of Guarapuava (which in the Indian language means "mad wolf"). I also studied at an agricultural school (this school was sponsored by a program of the late President Kennedy, named "Alliance for Progress"). When I returned to Campo Mourao, by God's grace, I had the firm purpose of having a commitment with God. I started attending the Free Lutheran Church, making public profession of faith with Pastor John Abel and having continued communion with the other missionaries, Pastors George Knapp and Connely Dyrud. They were battling to establish the Free Lutheran Mission and by the grace of God it is a consummated fact today.

I spent a year in the Army in our federal capital, Brasilia, in a battalion whose specialty was to render honors to diplomats who visited our country.

When I left the Army I returned to Campo Mourao and worked for five years in a bank until I received an invitation from Missionary Dyrud to be dean of men at the Bible School. I accepted without hesitation, having already studied at the Bible School and knowing my vocation. As it was within my reach, I studied at the Seminary and afterward pastored the Lar Parana Free Lutheran Church for a few years.

Last March I made another decisive step in my life. God gave me a wife, Betty, a very enchanting and talented woman, and my life has changed... for the better, obviously.

I have many responsibilities, but through the grace of God I know that many brethren are praying for our ministry and this fills me with joy and enthusiasm. As dean of the Bible School, besides our overseeing the running of the school, I teach Church History, Cults and Isms, the Life of Jesus Christ, and Physical Education. My wife teaches Music. I also teach classes in the Seminary. For three years now I have had the office of president of the Association of Free Lutheran Congregations of Brazil and I thank God for the excellent team with which I work. This year I am also responsible for the presidency of the pastoral council of our town. With the help of God, I would like to do much more. The needs are very great and workers and resources so few that we are compelled to work doubly hard.

Former World Relief head dies

Mr. Everett S. Graffam, 72, executive vice-president of World Relief from 1967 to 1978 passed away on Oct. 20, 1987, in Shell Point Village retirement center, Ft. Myers, Fla.,

He travelled more than a million miles during his tenure with World Relief. He helped the WR budget increase from \$108,000 to \$1.5 million.

The National Association of Evangelicals named Mr. Graffam its Layman of the Year in 1974.

He is survived by his wife Lillian and three children.

Mr. Graffam addressed the pastor's banquet at the 1976 AFLC Annual Conference in Chassell, Mich., the banquet being held on the campus of Michigan Tech in nearby Houghton.

ANNOUNCEMENT:

Lutheran Brotherhood has reinstated its matching grant program. Your gift to an AFLC organization could be doubled. Check with your representative.

I have many blessings for which I thank God; as the song says, "He is kind, He is wonderful..."

I am thankful to God for the joyful privilege of participating in the 25th AFLC Annual Conference last June. We love this living organism of the body of Christ and we want to use our lives serving Jesus in this institution.



Bible school campus: girls' dorm (right); chapel, classrooms, cafeteria (center); boys' dorm (left).

from here and there

NEWS OF THE CHURCHES

Williston, N. Dak. — A Love Service was held on Valentine's Day at Emmanuel Lutheran in the evening for the purpose of raising funds for new microphones. Songs were sung by the Sunday School departments and the Junior and Senior Choirs. There was also an appearance by the new Nursery Choir directed by Mrs. Jon Wellumson.

Thief River Falls, Minn. — The Sandland family of Roseau, Minn., presented a Gospel music concert at Family Night at Our Saviour's Lutheran on Feb. 21.

Eben Jct., Mich. — Video cassettes on the Books of Genesis and Luke have been purchased with memorial funds in memory of Waino Rajala. The films will be shown periodically at Family Nights in the coming months at Calvary Lutheran.

Dalton, Minn. — Rev. Gordon Graze spoke at the Luther League meeting at Zion Lutheran on Feb. 7th. Pastor Graze lives at Underwood, Minn.

New members at Zion Lutheran on Jan. 3rd were Paul Sonmor, Mr. and Mrs. Larry (Laurel) Jenson, Pam, Lee and Amy, and Burdell Lunning. On the following Sunday, Kvam received into membership Mrs. Ann Bratvold, and Mr. and Mrs. Donald (Norma) Larson and Robert.

Roseau, Minn. — The Father and Son banquet at Rose Lutheran was held on Feb. 13.

Kalispell, Mont. — The women of Stillwater and Faith Lutheran Churches held a Christmas party at the home of Sharon Tutvedt. There was a cookie exchange.

Grand Forks, N. Dak. — The parsonage for Trinity Lutheran has been sold. The Rev. Bruce Dalager family are presently living at 822 13th Ave. So., five blocks west of their former home.

Greenbush, Minn. — The Badger Creek and Oiland Youth Group served an Uffda Taco supper at the Community Center in Greenbush on Feb. 6. Proceeds went to AFLC World Missions.

Minneapolis, Minn. — The annual Sweethearts' Banquet was held at Faith Lutheran on Feb. 14. Rev. Wayne Hjermstad, St. Paul, Minn., was the speaker.

Minneapolis, Minn. — A film series featuring Gary Smalley entitled "Love is a Decision" has recently been run at Medicine Lake Lutheran on six Sunday evenings. The films emphasized Christian relationships.

Colfax, Wis.



Faith Lutheran of Running Valley, Colfax, Wis., held their annual Mission Festival last fall. Pictured here are missionaries George and Helen Knapp (left), with Mrs. Charles Freeberg, Suzanne and David.

DeKalb, Ill. — The film "Thin Ice" was shown at the Fifth Sunday Youth Night at Grace Lutheran on Jan. 31.

St. Paul, Minn. — Rev. Kenneth Sortedahl of Peniel Christian Home, Spring Valley, Wis., was the speaker at the initial men's prayer breakfast for Victory in Christ Lutheran on Dec. 5.

Aberdeen, S. Dak. — New members received at Grace Lutheran recently were Maria Kania, Mrs. Hilda Kuebler, Darlene Heupel and Mr. and Mrs. Tim Berg.

Some spruce trees that Pastor Mauritz Lundeen brought along from his former parish at Bagley, Minn., now grace the church grounds of Grace Lutheran.

Tioga, N. Dak. — Members of Norman Lutheran and the Sunday School went on a hayride and sang Christmas carols in the Beauty Valley and Norman areas on Dec. 6. They visited several shut-ins.

Cokato, Minn. — Home Bible studies were recently conducted in homes of Good Shepherd Lutheran. The booklet "Beginnings" was the basis for the studies.



ADDRESS CORRECTION

The address of Missionary and Mrs. Daniel Giles is Apartado Postal 1515-C, Aguascalientes, Ags., Mexico. Inadvertently, they were placed in Brazil in the recent listing of our missionaries (Jan. 26).

WEST COAST DISTRICT BIBLE CONFERENCE

The West Coast District Winter Bible Conference will be held next week, March 4-6, at Bethany Lutheran Church, Astoria, Ore. The theme will be the same as for those previously held in the Upper Midwest: "Our God . . . Our Help" (Psalm 121).

The guest speaker will be Rev. Herbert Franz, Dollar Bay, Mich., who will speak each evening and on Sunday. The Bible study leaders will be Pastors Richard Gunderson, Del Palmer and Kenneth Moland. Rev. Frank Cherney will conduct an hour for young people on Saturday. The Sunday School hour teacher will be Rev. Bill Moberg. All are pastors of the district.

ANNIVERSARY

of \$125 per year at the beginning to Rev. A.A. Brunsvold, who stayed on to serve for 21½ years. That mark was later exceeded by Rev. A.L. Larson, who was at North Prairie for 26 years.

The church building was erected in 1916 and dedicated on June 3, 1917.

Other pastors who have served at North Prairie were H.C. Casperson, Johan Dahlen and Clifford Johnson. The congregation was a part of the American Lutheran Church for 19 years, joining the AFLC in 1982.

Many memorial gifts have been given over the years to beautify the church and enhance the work of the congregation.

HERE AND THERE

Weslaco, Tex. — Five members of Grace Lutheran in Valley City, N. Dak., vacationing in Texas, sang at the Sunday morning worship service of Faith Lutheran on Jan. 17. They were John Simpson, Bonnie and Eldwyn Van Bruggen, and Donna and Emil Hass. The song they sang was "The Longer I Serve Him."

Tioga, N. Dak. — Rev. Dale Mellgren has been leading a series of studies on Creation vs. Evolution at the midweek services of Zion this winter.

Park River, N. Dak. — Victory Lutheran held a candlelight service at 5 p.m. on Christmas Eve. Although we are without a pastor, young men of our congregation read God's Word and spoke of our Savior's birth, His death on the cross for our sins and His coming again in majesty and glory. Christmas carols were sung by the audience. Amy Green of Grand Forks, N. Dak., favored us with two violin selections, accompanied by her mother. Amy and her sister Karina also played a piano duet. We felt God's Spirit was truly in our midst and everyone went home having been blessed. — *Corr.*

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

Second-class

George Washington's Prayer

WRITTEN AT THE AGE OF 20



Almighty God and most merciful Father . . . Since Thou are a God of pure eyes, and wilt be sanctified in all who draw near unto Thee, who dost not regard the sacrifices of fools, nor hear sinners who tread in Thy courts, pardon, I beseech Thee, my sins, remove them from Thy presence, as far as the East is from the West, and accept me for the merits of Thy Son, Jesus Christ; that when I come into Thy temple and compass Thine altar, my prayer may come before Thee as incense; and as Thou wouldst hear me calling upon Thee in my prayers and give me grace to hear Thee calling on me in Thy Word, that it may be wisdom, righteousness, reconciliation, and peace to the saving of my soul and the day of the Lord Jesus Christ. Grant that I may hear it with reverence, receive it with meekness, mingle it with faith, and that it may accomplish in me, gracious God, the good work for which Thou hast sent it. Bless my family, kindred, friends, and country; be our God and guide this day and forever, for His sake who lay down in the grave and rose again for us, Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

In his will, which is recorded in Westmoreland County, Virginia, is his testimony written by him:

"Being heartily sorry from the bottom of my heart for my sins past, most humbly desiring forgiveness of the same from Almighty God, my Saviour and Redeemer in Whom and by the merits of Jesus Christ, I trust and believe assuredly to be saved and to have full remission and forgiveness of all my sins."

George Washington was not ashamed to witness for Christ. ARE YOU?

—Submitted by Gustav Kveen, Roseau, Minn.

Personalities

Rev. Orville T. Olson is serving as interim pastor of Bethel Lutheran Church, Minot, N. Dak. He and his wife are living in the parsonage at 1701 Terrace Drive, Minot 58701. Their telephone is 701-852-3940.

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.

MINNESOTA

Thief River Falls

Elida (Moan) Eliason, 88, Dec. 11, 1987, Trinity, McIntosh, Minn.

Elizabeth (Mrs. H.C.) Haugen, 93, Jan. 5, Funeral from Westaker, Newfolden, Minn.