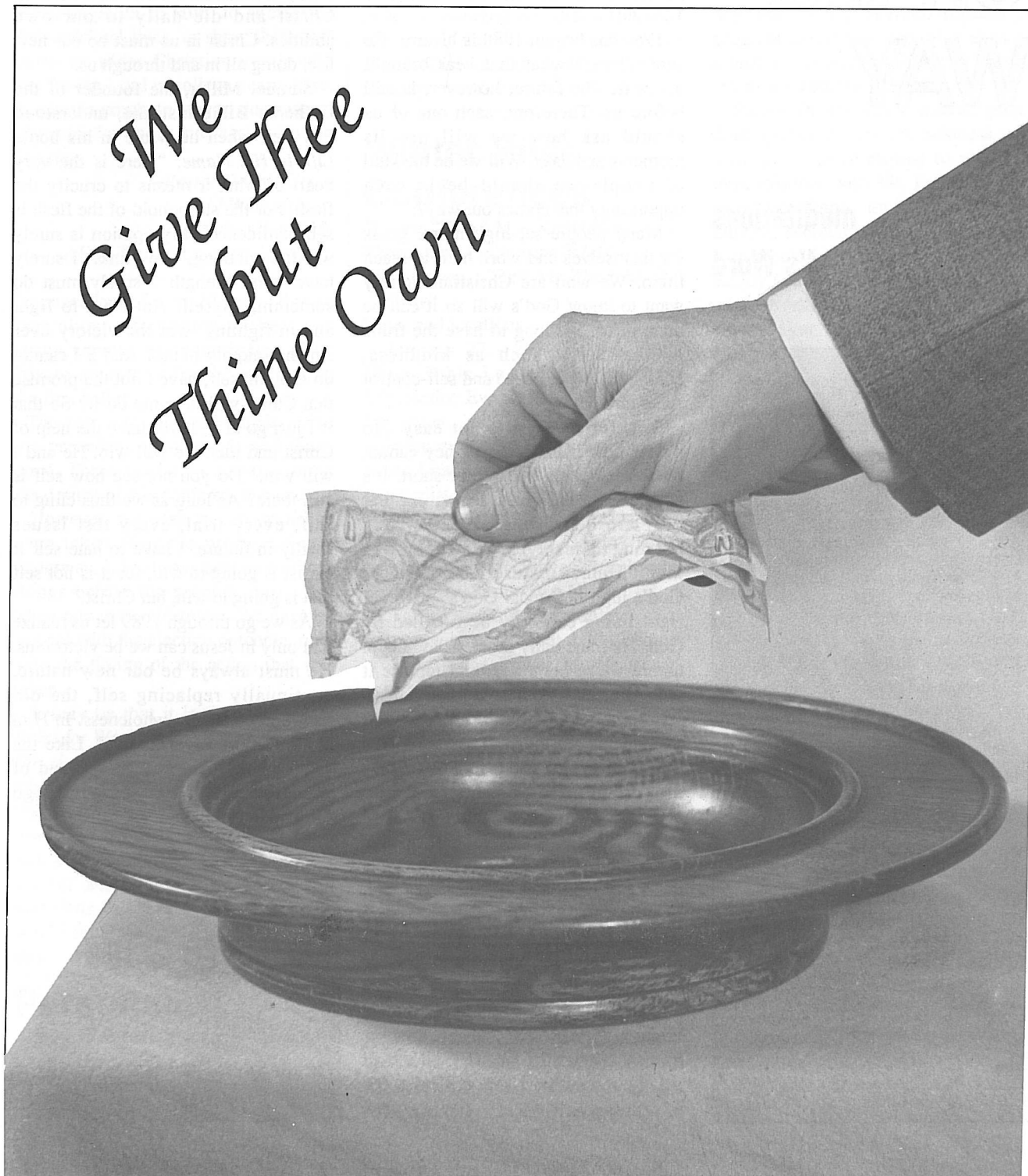


# THE LUTHERAN AMBASSADOR

January 10, 1989

*We  
Give Thee  
but  
Thine Own*



## Christ in us

# LIGHT on the WAY

## meditations on God's Word

### COVER PHOTO

*We Give Thee But Thine Own*  
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Volume 27 Number 1

### THE LUTHERAN AMBASSADOR

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Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith..." (Hebrews 12:1-2a).

1989 has begun. 1988 is history. We can't change what that year brought our way. The future, however, is still before us. Therefore, each one of us should ask how we will use its moments and days. Will we be the kind of people we should be in each opportunity that comes our way?

Many people set high moral goals for themselves and work hard to reach them. We who are Christians surely want to know God's will so it can be done in us. We long to have the fruits of the Spirit such as kindness, gentleness, love, peace and self-control show through us.

Yet, for many, it's not easy. No matter how hard they try, they cannot reach such goals but fall far short. It's not because the goals are wrong, but they are depending on the wrong person, themselves, to accomplish them. Human nature cannot fulfill God's high demands. God's ideals for right living can only be fulfilled by God. He must daily crucify the human nature we're born with and replace it with Himself as our new inner nature. It's to this end that the Word and Sacraments are given. They are God's means by which He labors to destroy the "us" in us so He can take over to do and be everything in and for us.

This is the lesson all true saints have discovered. The book of Hebrews calls them a great cloud of witnesses and, like them, we're told we need to keep our eyes on Jesus who alone is the pioneer, perfecter, author and finisher of our faith. He alone has won and can win all the battles of life. In our human might we'll be losers, but in Christ we can triumphantly fulfill God's will rightly. It must be 100% of Christ, 0% of self.

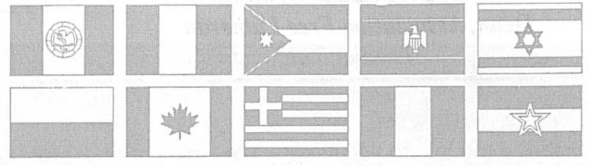
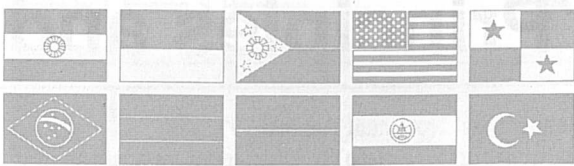
In I Corinthians 9:24, St. Paul declares, "Do you know in a race all the runners compete, but only one receives the prize?" The race of life has already been run, and the winner is Jesus. We must daily confess that of ourselves we can't be victorious, but we need to be controlled and filled by Christ and die daily to our own abilities. Christ in us must be our new life, doing all in and through us.

Samuel Miller, the founder of the Lutheran Bible Institute, understood this well when he wrote in his book, *Life in His Name*: "Here is the very heart of what it means to crucify the flesh. For the stronghold of the flesh is self-confidence. 'My opinion is surely worth something,' we think. 'I surely have some strength. I surely must do something myself. Am I not to fight and in fighting, win the victory over sin and iniquity in me? And if I cannot do it by myself, have I not the promise that Christ will help me do it? So that if I just go at it, I will have the help of Christ and then we will win. He and I will win!' Do you not see how self is still there? As long as we thus cling to self, every trial, every test issues finally in failure. I have to hate self if Christ is going to win, for it is not self that is going to win, but Christ."

As we go through 1989 let us realize that only in Jesus can we be victorious. He must always be our new nature, continually replacing self, the old nature in us, as our wholeness. In Him alone can we be successful. Like the saints of the past, the great cloud of witnesses, let us triumphantly go forward in our Savior.



—by Pastor  
Christian Oswood



"This is a day of good news" (II Kings 7:9)

A friend of mine was saying he can't seem to find the time to stop, think and figure out what he believes on certain issues that are important to him. I had to admit, at times I feel too busy to even stop and think about what are the important issues. So many of us are so busy "doing" we don't have time for much serious "thinking." I am going to ask you to stop now, though, and put all of that doing on hold, and let's think for a moment.

### **I. Think about what happened**

In II Kings 7 we read about four men who suddenly become very busy doing. They were lepers who had been sitting at the entrance gate of the city of Samaria. They not only had leprosy, which made their present condition miserable, but their prospects for the future were very bleak. In verse three, they admit to each other that if they stay where they are they are going to die. In verse four, though, they recognize that they are very much, as we would say, between a rock and a hard place. On the one hand is the city of Samaria, which is suffering from a severe famine. They see no chance of finding help there. On the other hand is the camp of the enemy, the Arameans, the ones who laid siege to the city and brought about the famine in the first place. The lepers feel the chance exists, even though it might be remote, that the Arameans would spare them and let them live. The worst that could happen is that which appears inevitable if they do anything else: death.

Things turned out much better for the lepers than they could have ever imagined. The Lord had caused the Arameans to hear the sound of a great army so that they abandoned everything and left the camp just as it was and ran for their lives. Not only were the men with leprosy able to enter the camp free from threats, but they also found it full of good things that were theirs for the taking. They soon became busy eating and drinking and hiding away all kinds of riches. In the midst of all their activity and enjoyment of their tremendous good fortune, they stopped and thought for a moment. The Bible says, in verse nine, "Then they said to each other, 'We're not

# LET'S NOT == KEEP IT == TO OURSELVES

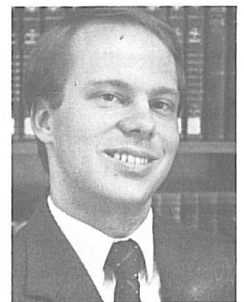
doing right. This is a day of good news and we are keeping it to ourselves."

Because of our sinfulness, the spiritual condition of each person apart from Christ is more hopeless than things were for the four lepers. Our options, when we are honest about it, look pretty dismal. We see how far short of perfection we fall and yet God demands perfection and calls anything less than that a sin worthy of eternal punishment. We find no other hope for eternity. Thus, we might think, "Let's turn to the Lord and see if He would possibly be gentle with us." Much to our amazement, when a person comes to the Lord, confessing his sins and looking to Jesus as his only hope, he finds blessings beyond measure. I can imagine one of the lepers saying to the others, "Look at how fortunate we are?" If you are a Christian, I ask you to look at how fortunate you are and think about what has happened to you.

While you were a sinner, rebellious against God, Jesus died for you (Romans 5:8). Jesus paid the penalty in full for your sins so that you can be forgiven and purified from all unrighteousness (I John 1:9, 2:2). You became, in Christ, the righteousness of God (II Corinthians 5:21). You are a new, beautiful creation (II Corinthians 5:17). You are a child of the loving, almighty God (John 1:12). You have passed from death to life (I John 3:14). You have the sure hope of a glorious home in heaven awaiting you (John 14:1-3).

### **II. Thinking about how to respond**

When the lepers thought for a moment and realized the great thing that had happened to



by Rev.  
Craig Johnson  
Eugene, Ore.

◇



# Principles and

(The following statement was received too late to accompany the first installment of this paper, but is given now.)

The Commission on Evangelism wishes to reaffirm its endorsement of this paper as the position of the AFLC on evangelism. We thank Dr. Monseth for his careful and faithful work in preparing such a clear paper. We believe that this paper presents our roots as evangelical Lutherans of the AFLC.

Pastor Peter J. Franz  
Secretary, Commission on Evangelism

(In the opening installment, Dr. Monseth traced the evangelical and evangelistic history of the Lutheran Church, noting the emphasis Martin Luther placed on evangelism. He

pointed out the importance shown by the Association from the beginning toward evangelistic outreach within and without the local congregation. He then went on to cite quotations from the AFLC's Commission on Evangelism "giving helpful counsel and guidance in regard to the evangelistic efforts of our congregations." Those quotations continue as the second installment of the paper begins today.)

## Part II

### (5) Personal Evangelism:

(a) "Every saved person must be a witness...We must witness first in 'Jerusalem,' our home; and 'Judea,' our church and neighborhood; and 'Samaria,' amongst our enemies and 'the uttermost parts of the world,' our work in foreign fields..." (AFLC

Annual Report, 1977).

(b) "...we must *rely upon the Holy Spirit* rather than man-made techniques if we shall accomplish genuine results...A *humble testimony of what God has done* is what the sinner needs to hear" (AFLC Annual Report, 1971).

Alongside the *Fundamental Principles* and *Rules for Work*, the "Declaration of Faith" has become a definitive statement of the AFLC's theological and practical convictions. Its references to evangelism reflect the deep concern of the founders for effective outreach.

"We recommend that our congregations cooperate wherever possible with like-minded Lutheran congregations and movements in programs of evangelism and witness" (Declaration of Faith, p.2).

## LET'S NOT KEEP

"That is  
evangelism  
and missions:  
sharing the  
good news  
of Jesus."

them, they just had to share the tremendous news with the starving people in the city. They didn't feel right and they knew it wasn't right to keep such good news to themselves. They were especially compelled to share since they knew this news was the answer to the people's great need.

In this world so full of problems, what a joy it is for the Christian to know that in Jesus is the answer to every individual's greatest problem. It is this good news, that Jesus died so that our sins might be forgiven and rose again that we might have eternal life, that we have the privilege of sharing with the world.

The lepers went to share good news. That is evangelism and missions: sharing the good news of Jesus. It is not giving good advice on how to live. It is not trying to make people feel better or getting them to go to church more often. It is not debating theology. It is proclaiming to every man and woman, boy and girl, in all the world, the good news of what Jesus has done for sinful human beings.

What the crucified and risen Lord Jesus has done is the message we proclaim and also the motivation. People maybe have gone to the mission field or witnessed to their neighbor because they have felt guilty or been afraid of being pun-

ished by God if they didn't. The lepers were afraid of punishment if they didn't share. But as we look at the church in the New Testament and especially at Paul, the great missionary, we see one who is compelled by the *love* of Christ (II Corinthians 5:14). Paul's zeal to proclaim Christ came not from guilt or fear but from joy and thankfulness. He was amazed that Jesus died for a sinner like him. The news meant so much to him, he could not help but share it with others.

The story of the four lepers serves as a vivid illustration of how God desires for His Church to do the work of missions. First to be recognized is the hopelessness of life apart from Christ and the great need all people have of salvation. Along with that, the wonderfulness of the Gospel is to be seen and experienced. The Christian is then like a cup being filled by a gushing fountain. So much is coming in, it naturally overflows. Missions is the natural response of a Christian to the good news of Jesus. The news is so great he can't keep it all to himself. It overflows from him and spreads to others.

It is so good to know Jesus! It is so wonderful that He loves us so much that He died for our sins! Let's think about that and let's share that to the ends of the earth.



# Practices of Evangelism

The cooperation could be seen as extending sometimes across denominational lines, although with certain cautions.

"We envision opportunities for our congregations to cooperate with other Protestant churches in the areas of evangelism and witness to their communities. However, care must be taken not to compromise the Lutheran understanding of the Scriptures" (Decl. of Faith, p. 2).

It is obvious from the references cited that evangelism has been a fundamental concern in the relatively short history of the AFLC. There are encouraging indications that not only is the emphasis on evangelism not abating; indeed, it is increasing. Every Christian in the AFLC, I am sure, is desirous of the salvation of precious souls. However, there is some discussion among us as to the meaning of our theological distinctives as Lutherans in application to evangelism as well in regard to certain practical measures in the ministry of evangelism. Let us acknowledge that there will always be different understanding of the application of our theology in evangelism. Without compromising our theological distinctives, let us continue to allow the kind of latitude in our evangelism practices that recognizes the varieties of backgrounds we represent and the manifold differences among the people we are seeking to reach for Christ.

It may be helpful for us to recall our theological underpinnings for evangelism once more not only to clarify our message and our mission but also to inspire us to renewed fervency in the evangelistic endeavor before us.

## Our Theology of Evangelism

To understand our evangelistic mission, it is vital to understand the Gospel. The careful definition of the Gospel is the precise task of theology. It follows, therefore, that there can be no true evangelism without sound theology. Gerhard Aho's comments are to the point:

"It simply does not follow that a

man who is deeply read in theology cannot be an enthusiastic evangelist. Evangelism always gains from theology. A fire without solid fuel to keep it going will soon die, and evangelism that has no vital substance in it must become thin and inadequate. If we can say that there are dull theologians who are sadly lacking in evangelistic fervor, we can also say that there are empty evangelists who have a fine capacity for saying little. In this day, when everything is being questioned and men are crying out for clear and clearly expressed answers, only that evangelism will be convincing which is buttressed by a sound theology" (Gerhard Aho, *The Theology of Evangelism*, p. 1).

It is important to remember that our study of theology is intended to equip us to become more fervent and effective evangelists. We are prone to forget this. There are men in the ministry who

become so interested in the discussion of ideas that they forget that their primary calling is the salvation of precious souls. J. T. Mueller, the beloved author of *Christian Dogmatics*, a standard at our seminary, is clear in keeping this purpose foremost:

"...the purpose of sacred theology is not academic or speculative, but intensely and absolutely practical; it is to lead perishing souls to Christ and through Him to communion with the true God...The Lutheran dogmatician Meisner is right when he declares: 'Whoever does not continually pursue, and keep in his mind in his entire study this purpose (the salvation of men) does not deserve the name of a true theologian'" (John Theodore Mueller, *Christian Dogmatics*, pp. 64-65).

There are other pastors who are deeply concerned about people but who lack a real burden for evangelism.

◇

## A Friend of Jesus

C. K. Solberg  
(In Quiet Moments)

Are you a friend of Jesus?  
Have you surrendered all  
To love and serve Him ever  
In answer to His call?  
And will you trace His foot-  
steps,  
Obey His will and Word?  
Is He your life-long Master,  
Your only King and Lord?

Are you a friend of Jesus?  
Then you are not your own,  
But you will be His servant  
With Jesus on the throne;  
To Him you have submitted,  
He rules within your heart,  
And you have given Promise  
No more from Him to part.

Are you a friend of Jesus?  
Then seek some soul to win,  
For sinners have compassion  
And rescue them from sin;  
You are your brother's keeper,  
Your Savior counts on you  
To seek the lost and wayward,  
And to the end be true.

Are you a friend of Jesus?  
You know He is your friend,  
He fills you with His Spirit  
And guides you to the end.  
Then live your life for Jesus,  
A life in faith and love,  
That He may find you faithful  
And bless you from above.

His friendship is eternal  
To those who are His friends,  
To them He gives His blessing,  
To them His grace extends;  
In life He is unfailing,  
In death, gives victory,  
For grace He gives them glory  
Throughout eternity.

## EVANGELISM

Sometimes the reason for their lack of enthusiasm is traced to negative experiences with so-called evangelistic types or crude evangelistic methods. But evangelism can never be rejected or become secondary when its true meaning is understood. True evangelism is not founded upon psychological tricks or gimmicks but upon the very truths by which the Church lives. "It is not just a branch of practical theology but the living expression of our doctrinal theology. It is not just another phase in the activity of the Church but the center of the whole life of the Church" (T. A. Kantonen, *The Theology of Evangelism*, pp. 3-4).

Let us recall then the theological basis for our evangelistic mission. We will proceed on the basis of several hypothetical statements with the respective Scriptural settings noted.

### Theses on Biblical Evangelism

I. According to the Word of God, every descendant of Adam, with the exception of our Lord, is born in sin, having inherited a sin-nature and is, therefore, in need of personal salvation from the earliest moment of life.

- *Ephesians 2:3* — "...and were *b y* nature children of wrath, just as the others."

- *Psalms 51:5* — "Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, and in sin my mother conceived me."

- *John 3:6* — "That which is *born of the flesh is flesh*, and that which is born of the Spirit is Spirit."

II. According to the Word of God, it is God's holy Law as revealed in the Bible which the Holy Spirit uses to convict of sin.

- *Romans 3:20* — "...for by the law is the knowledge of sin."

- *Romans 7:7* — "What shall we say then? Is the law sin? Certainly not! For I would not have known covetousness unless the law had said, 'You shall not covet.'"

III. According to the Word of God, the Gospel is the unconditional announcement that Jesus Christ, the Son of God, has made full atonement for the sins of every person through His death at Calvary's cross.

## Newly completed church in Washington

Atonement Lutheran of Arlington, Wash., an AFLC Home Mission congregation, had its first Sunday School Christmas program in their new worship center, Dec. 11, with about 120 present. There were 37 able performers in the program with costumes, props, great direction and an enthusiastic congregation.

The newly constructed church

building was completed in July. Its main room seats about 100, and also containing a nursery (usually occupied), kitchen (Pastor's favorite place), pastor's study, restrooms and a classroom/library. During Sunday School every room becomes a classroom. Located on a small hill, there is a good view of the valley and on a clear day you can see some snow-



Atonement Lutheran, Arlington, Wash.

- *I John 2:2* — "And He Himself is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for those of the whole world."

- *Isaiah 53:6* — "All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned everyone to his own way; and the Lord has laid on Him the iniquity of us all."

- *I Timothy 1:15* — "This is a faithful saying and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am chief."

- *II Corinthians 5:18-19* — "Now all things are of God, who has reconciled us to Himself through Jesus Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation, that is, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not imputing their trespasses to them, and has committed to us the word of reconciliation."

IV. According to the Word of God, the Fall into sin has rendered man unable to respond positively to the Gospel or to accept its promises because of the bondage of the human will.

- *John 6:44* — "No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws him, and I will raise him up at the last day."

- *Genesis 8:21* — "...the imagination of man's heart is evil from his youth."

- *Romans 8:7* — "Because the carnal mind is enmity against God; for it is not subject to the law of God, nor indeed can be."

V. According to the Word of God, the Gospel engenders faith in those who do not resist its promises through the work of the Holy Spirit.

- *Romans 10:17* — "So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God."

- *Ephesians 2:8* — "For by grace you have been saved, through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is a gift of God..."

VI. According to the Word of God, the effect of the application of the Gospel upon a sinner is properly called "regeneration" or "the new birth."

- *I Peter 1:23* — "Having been born again, not of corruptible seed but

covered mountains. There are not so many days that clear, so you don't tire of the view when it is there. It is a lovely, functional building which by God's grace will soon be too small for the growing congregation.

Aided by Elim Lutheran Church, Lake Stevens, 14 dedicated Christians with a vision for a Bible-centered Lutheran Church in the Arlington area formed Atonement Lutheran. There were times of discouragement and testing, having had to change meeting places three times, difficulties getting a building program started and trouble getting a pastor. Four key members went home to be with the Lord before the vision became a reality. But the rest "hung in there" and God has shown that He is faithful and His timing is right. The ministry of Atonement is affecting people's lives for Christ. This growing congregation is learning the joy the psalmist had when he wrote,

incorruptible, through the word of God which lives and abides forever..."

• *James 1:18* — "Of His own will He brought us forth by the word of truth, that we might be a kind of first-fruits of His creatures."

VII. According to the Word of God, repentance and faith are necessary in receiving the gracious provisions of the Gospel.

• *Acts 3:19* — "Repent therefore and be converted that your sins may be blotted out, so that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord..."

• *Mark 1:15* — "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand. Repent, and believe in the Gospel."

• *Acts 16:31* — "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved..."

• *Hebrews 4:2* — "For indeed the Gospel was preached to us as well as to them; but the word which they heard did not profit them, not being mixed with faith in those who heard it."

(To be continued.)

"They that wait upon the Lord will renew their strength."

— *Pastor Frank Cherney*

## Edinburg, N. Dak. church dedicated

Grace Lutheran Church, Edinburg, N. Dak., held dedication services for its church on the afternoon of Sun., Oct. 30. Approximately 250 people gathered to give honor, praise and glory to God for graciously providing a place of worship for us. Pastor Elden Nelson, director of Home Missions in the AFLC, officiated at the dedication and also gave the message. Pastor Nelson also spoke at our morning worship service when our pastor, James Rasmussen, was installed. He was ordained last summer.

All the members of Grace Lutheran were former members of the American Lutheran Church, but voted against joining the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America on Sept. 13, 1987, and began meeting in a rural church the following Sunday. After meeting with and questioning Pastor Nelson about the AFLC, we applied for membership and on Feb. 15 we received a letter from the AFLC stating that we had been accepted on the roster of churches.

## Update

Christ Lutheran Church, Wichita Falls, Tex., will be served twice a month from Minneapolis, as the Home Mission Board assists the congregation in the calling of a full-time pastor to minister in this growing area.

AFLC services have begun recently in Rugby, N. Dak., and Floodwood, Minn., and plans are progressing to establish new congregations in both of these communities. The Rugby group is presently assisted by neighboring pastors and Floodwood is being served from St. Paul's in Cloquet, Minn.

Rev. Elden Nelson, AFLC Home Missions director, has been in contact with interested people in Menomonie, Wis., and Sioux Falls, S. Dak., regarding the possibility of new congregations in these communities. At their December meeting, the Home Mission Board authorized the beginning of services in Sioux Falls after the first of the year, with Pastor Ronald Knutson, Canton, S. Dak., assisting the new work in addition to his present ministry.

We purchased a 50' by 100' steel building in a neighboring town and had it moved to Edinburg. Work was begun on July 14 to remodel the structure and our first church service and Sunday School rally were held in it on Sept. 11.

—*Corr.*



Grace Lutheran Church, Edinburg, N. Dak.



## Testimony from Brazil

### Higher ground

Following is a testimony of Mr. Diniz Prado as given in church the Sunday he was received as a new member in Curitiba. Bible studies are held in his home weekly and the weekly church services are held in his neighbor's garage (now converted into a small chapel). He has helped considerably in the various construction projects and is always happy to open his home for the work of the Lord. Diniz lives in a simple wooden house with three daughters and a married son and his family. His mother-in-law also lives with them. Three other daughters have already left home. Currently unemployed, Diniz plans to help with the construction of the Curitiba church on the other side of town.

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Psalm 142:5-7: "I cried out to thee, O Lord; I said, 'Thou art my refuge, my portion in the land of the living. Give heed to my cry, for I am brought very low; deliver me from my persecutors, for they are too strong for me. Bring my soul out of prison, so that I may give thanks to Thy name. The righteous will surround me, for Thou wilt deal bountifully with me.'"

My Friends:

Today I am here with my family, thanking the Lord for His mercy. Years ago I could be found in any number of places, except in the house of the Lord. I was a man given over to the shameful vices of drinking, smoking and gambling. I was killing myself slowly but surely and I was causing my family to be in want of many things. One day, feeling at the end of myself, I cried desperately to Jesus. I prayed that He would save me and that He did. It was as though He had taken me from the bottom of a pit and placed me on high ground.

Today the doors of my home are always open to the work of the Lord. He will never leave me; that is why I encourage all of you to give your lives over to His control. I am certain that He can release you from all problems and save you.

Today I am also thankful to Pastor Paul (Abel) and his wife Rebecca for the dedication they have shown to us, ministering to our needs and teaching the Word of God. I pray that Jesus would guide them and give them joy and peace as they work for the Lord.

## Brazil Tour

Places are still available for the AFLC World Missions Tour to Brazil, in April. Highlights of the tour in this 25th anniversary year of the mission will be the dedication of the memorial chapel and men's dormitory at the Bible School in Campo Mourao.

Bookings should be made by March 1. Contact Brazil Tour, 3110 E. Medicine Lake Blvd., Minneapolis, Minn. 55441 or call 612-545-5631. For details see the Nov. 29th *Ambassador*.

## Personalities

**Rev. and Mrs. Paul Abel and family** arrived from Brazil on Dec. 22. Their address during their seven-month furlough is c/o Rev. Richard Dahlin, 5365 Ann St., Winchester-Larsen, Wis. 54947. Telephone: 414:836-2286.

**Miss Rachel Mundfrom** of Lutheran Bible Translators is home from language school in France before leaving for Africa on assignment in the spring. Her address is Route 1, Box 503, Osceola, Wis. 54020.

**Dr. Peter Dyrud**, together with his wife, Judy and their four children left early this month for a three-month term of voluntary medical missionary service in the Malagasy Republic (Madagascar), where Dr. Dyrud lived for many years with his missionary parents, Amos and Ovidie Dyrud. During the return trip in April, he is scheduled to spend a week of study in Paris for a special course in heart valve repair. The Dyrud family are members of Medicine Lake Lutheran Church, Plymouth, Minn.

**Oscar Brown**, who served as a Lutheran missionary in Alaska beginning in 1930, is presently making his home with Pastor Thomas Olson, Cumberland, Wis., with whom he became acquainted during the year that Olson taught in Cordova. Mr. Brown will assist in various ways with the ministry of the parish, which includes Section Ten Lutheran Church, Cumberland, and Timberland Lutheran Church, rural Barronett, an independent congregation.



## NOT OUT OF REACH

**P**ermit me one more word about finances before this present fiscal year descends "into the bosom of the past," as Johann J. Rambach wrote long ago of a closing year.

As we write, we have no new figures as to the Association's standing vis a vis the budget goal for 1988-89. We only write in the concern that there is likely a concerted effort needed to reach the goal before Jan. 31. It is usually thus and this year hasn't seemed to be an exception.

The fields are white unto harvest. The needs are so great. Men and women, families, need to get in touch with Jesus Christ.

Brazil and Mexico remain places of unlimited opportunity for evangelical outreach such as we can give. The talk is of sending out two or three new missionary couples in the next several years to Brazil.

Home Missions has been a veritable beehive of activity. Things are moving so fast that few of us are able to keep it all straight. Most of this activity is coming from a shakedown resulting from the recent merger which created the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. This phenomenon is not complete yet. But when that is over or much more settled than now, we must be ready to go out to gather in those who have somehow "fallen through the cracks" and do all we can with God's help to bring them and the Gospel of Christ together. By no means do we imply that this outreach isn't being done now, but only that we must do more.

Our Schools, Seminary and Bible School, are in need of all the financial support we can give them. As a rapidly growing church body we have every reason to expect that enrollment at both the schools will climb steadily. To stand at present levels would not be a sign of good health, and we look for a rise in attendance at AFLTS and AFLBS.

The hymnal project, wherever that may lead, is under way now. Its success will depend on a real commitment on the part of us all. The Parish Education Department is working mightily to provide for our church even better Sunday School materials, and more visually attractive, which seems to be a need in this day and age.

Just being a church body—we often call it "fellowship"—takes a certain amount of money. There are salaries to be paid, offices to be provided, travel funds required, just many things that are necessary in order to function. These and more are taken care of through the offerings of congregations and individuals.

The fiscal year is soon over. The year hasn't been that good financially for some of our people. And yet, the task before us isn't out of reach for us. Perhaps some will have to do more to compensate for those who cannot do as much as they would like to do at this time. And the latter will have to give what they do, sacrificially. But working together for God's cause, we shall meet the challenge—by Jan. 31.

## ENCOURAGE ONE ANOTHER

**W**e have quoted the late Bishop Gerald Kennedy of the Methodist Church before and would like to do so today.

He wrote a book entitled *Who Speaks for God?* It is interesting that the popular Charles Colson now has a book out with the same title. But Kennedy has this to say in his book: "The future may be a very ominous one, but there are things about it which cannot but lift up our hearts."

It can be noted that he wrote at a time when the Cold War was a very real threat in our world. The Iron Curtain sealed in the hopes of millions of people. The sins and despair of the 1950s loomed menacingly.

What we call our future today certainly casts an ominous shadow on the landscape of our lives. It is easy to be pessimistic. But could not Bishop Kennedy say to us in our time also, "There are things about it (the future) which cannot but lift up our hearts?"

Hasn't the opening of the Iron Curtain countries and China to the entrance of Bibles given cause for new hope? Should repression once again beset those peoples, there would still be more of the Word there than before.

While claims of conversions in the U.S. seem inflated, those there are and the many occurring in Third World countries and elsewhere give reason for rejoicing. The Holy Spirit is still able to do His good work.

In our own church fellowship, there is hope in the growth that has taken place. With more members there comes a greater financial base and the potential of more full-time workers in the kingdom work.

Of course, we have to get to know one another better and, in many cases, to meet one another. This will come in time and as we work at it. We can encourage one another. In unity there is strength. That can cause us to lift up our hearts, not only in these early days of 1989, but in taking the longer view.

"Be strong and of good courage, do not fear or be in dread of them for it is the Lord your God who goes with you; He will not fail you or forsake you" (Deut. 31:6).

## Correction to the 1988 Annual Report

Contributions to the AFLC from the following churches were omitted from the Annual Report.

|   |            |
|---|------------|
| Warroad Free Lutheran Church,<br>Warroad, Minn.   | \$5,564.04 |
| Granite Free Lutheran Church,<br>St. Cloud, Minn. | \$1,333.15 |

## letter to the editor

### THAT CONFERENCE DECISION

I appreciated your discussion of the last annual conference. You requested further comments or opinions from the readers. Fearful that my comments would be misinterpreted and my motives questioned, I fought against writing for a long time. I am compelled to express myself, however. Biblical Lutheranism is costly and we must be willing to pay the price (Gal. 1:10). God has been so good to me and I know He will continue to bless. Today I write about a conference decision to interpret a section of the *Rules for Work* in a new fashion.

A bit of history is in order. The Association was organized largely by an anti-merger minority of the old Lutheran Free Church. This minority fought against the merger for years, but always felt hindered because they were a minority. While there was a great deal of discussion, they never felt they had equal opportunity with the pro-merger forces. The entrenched leadership was pro-merger. Although motives were never questioned, many were reluctant to express themselves. There was the feeling of not being really free to disagree with the prevailing efforts of the pro-merger faction. When it becomes uncomfortable to agreeably disagree, you no longer have freedom. No one is infallible and free and open discussion is necessary if the will of God is to be discovered. And God so often uses a remnant or minority to work His will. A minority must have freedom to express itself. "Where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom" (II Cor. 3:17).

The founders of the Association were fearful of too much power and authority over the congregations by officers, boards, committees or conferences. Such power easily develops or is easily assumed. They desired no interference in the ministry of the congregations or the pastors. (There ought not be any even by gossip or rumor.) As a spiritual movement, the Association was not to be dependent on gifted

people, but on God's grace, working through Word and Sacraments. No one is indispensable. God gifts many for service. After reasonable service, officers and boards were to be replaced to prevent power structures from developing and limiting the opportunity of others. It is so easy for cronyism, "you scratch my back and I will scratch yours," and a "lock step" mentality to develop. When it does, soon you have the "labeling" of people and the development of factions.

The *Rules for Work* for the AFLC reflect the concerns of the founders. They are patterned after the *Rules for Work* of the LFC, but with some significant changes. A committee of three, Dr. Iver Olson, Professor George Soberg and Mr. David Hanson, prepared the initial *Rules* for presentation to the annual conference. It is tragic that all three of the preparers are deceased. I will mention some of the safeguards in the *Rules for Work* and the *Order of Business* for the Annual Conference of the Association of Free Lutheran Congregations. We know that safeguards reared by humans are not enough. We are totally dependent on the grace of God to preserve the Church as it should be or should become. There must be genuine spiritual life, wrought by Word and Sacraments. In short, congregations must be living.

No one can serve for more than two consecutive terms on the boards.

Nominations for president, vice-president and secretary of the AFLC must be made from the floor and the election must be made by ballot. There is to be no election by acclamation. Voting by ballot, people may vote for persons not nominated, as is common in our society. Such votes must be recognized, unless they are frivolous (Mickey Mouse, etc.). There must be at least two nominations for these offices. There can be more than two and often there have been. The conference is not limited in this respect. Some embarrassing situations

### We need your help

At our last meeting, the Commission on Evangelism decided that in order for us to move ahead in an evangelism program there are a few things which need to be done. We ask the help of the pastors and the congregations in seeing to it that the following information be provided to the *Ambassador* for publication well in advance of evangelistic meetings:

1. The name of the congregation and the pastor.
2. The name of the evangelist.
3. The dates of the meetings.

We know that many of you, or perhaps all of you, are doing this already. However, we want to be sure that all this information is published.

Pastor Lyle Twite  
Chairman  
Commission on Evangelism

may arise because of these but they are necessary safeguards. Perhaps the "ecclesiastical ballot" would be a better procedure.

Then we have *litera e* of paragraph seven (7) of the *Rules for Work*, which reads, "The executive officers after having served three (3) consecutive terms can be elected for additional terms only by a three-fourths majority vote." When the *Rules for Work* were presented for consideration at the 1966 Annual Conference (see the 1966 Annual Report), paragraph 7 did not have *litera e*. An amendment was introduced as *litera e*, reading, "The executive officers shall serve no more than three consecutive terms." After considerable discussion the entire paragraph was referred back to the committee "to incorporate into a new paragraph some of the thinking expressed" (1966 Annual Report). There was real concern over the danger of people staying in office too long.

At the 1967 Annual Conference the committee reported, with *litera e* reading as we have it today. There was a motion to strike it out, but this motion was defeated (see 1967 Annual Report). continued on p. 14



## FOR THE BEAUTY OF THE EARTH

- 1) For the beauty of the earth,  
For the glory of the skies,  
For the love which from our birth  
Over and around us lies;  
Lord of all, to Thee we raise  
This our grateful psalm of praise.
- 2) For the wonder of each hour  
Of the day and of the night:  
Hill and vale, and tree and flower,  
Sun and moon and stars of light;  
Lord of all, to Thee we raise  
This our grateful psalm of praise.
- 3) For the joy of human love,  
Brother, sister, parent, child;  
Friends on earth, and friends above,  
Pleasures pure and undefiled;  
Lord of all, to Thee we raise  
This our grateful psalm of praise.
- 4) For Thy Church that evermore  
Lifts her holy hands above,  
Off'ring upon ev'ry shore  
Her pure sacrifice of love;  
Lord of all, to Thee we raise  
This our grateful psalm of praise.

## PSALMS IN THE NIGHT

\*\*\*\*\*  
WMF BIBLE STUDY      FEBRUARY 1989  
\*\*\*\*\*

### PSALM 8

**Memory Verse:** "O Lord, our Lord, how excellent is Thy name in all the earth! Who hast set thy glory above the heavens"  
(Psalm 8:1).

**Purpose of the Psalm:** To show praise to the Creator.

**Verse 1** — What does the word "Lord" mean? \_\_\_\_\_

In Exodus 3:13-15, God revealed to Moses, at the burning bush, the first word for Lord as a personal name for God.

God's name is excellent in all the earth! Apply the following passages:

Psalm 5:11 \_\_\_\_\_

Psalm 113:1 - 4 \_\_\_\_\_

Psalm 148:13 \_\_\_\_\_

What do you say? Is He Lord of your life?

**Verse 2** — God uses insignificant man to be the crowing act of His creation, to still the enemy and the avenger.

What is the connection between verse 2 and Matthew 21:16? \_\_\_\_\_

Who is quoted? \_\_\_\_\_ Upon what occasion? \_\_\_\_\_

Apply I Corinthians 1:27 \_\_\_\_\_

Verse 3 — What did God create? \_\_\_\_\_

What does Genesis 1:26-28 tell us about creation? \_\_\_\_\_

In our present day, do all agree to this? \_\_\_\_\_

Explain \_\_\_\_\_

Can we believe in evolution if we believe in God as the great Creator of the

universe? \_\_\_\_\_

How has man taken care of God's creation? \_\_\_\_\_

What is our responsibility, as Christians, to God's creation? \_\_\_\_\_

What does Psalm 111:2 say about God's creation? \_\_\_\_\_

Verses 4 - 6 — Then God created man! The crown of God's creation!

Explain these statements about man:

1) Little lower than angels \_\_\_\_\_

2) Crowned with glory and honor \_\_\_\_\_

3) Has dominion over what? \_\_\_\_\_

Apply Job 7:17-18; Psalm 144:3; Genesis 1:26-28; Hebrews 2:8. How do

they refer to man's place in God's creation? \_\_\_\_\_

Verses 7 - 8 — refer to what man is to be under man's dominion. Has anything been left out?

Verse 9 — This is a reaffirmation of verse 1. How excellent is Thy Name!

Is God's name excellent in all the earth? \_\_\_\_\_

Explain: \_\_\_\_\_

How can we show forth His excellence — at home, in our church, in our communities? \_\_\_\_\_



Rev. Donald Greven conducted the combined Choir and Choral Club to begin the concert.

### The 1988 Annual Christmas concert

On Saturday morning, Dec. 10, the AFLBS campus was anything but the usual sleepy morning. It was Parents' Day. Sample classes, basketball games, and a banquet highlighted the day. At 4 p.m. on Sunday, a full campus chapel heard the traditional Christmas concert.



The Seminary Chorus.



Mr. and Mrs. Vic Parsons, St. Paul, Minn. and daughter Julie, at the Parents' Day banquet



Mr. and Mrs. Herman Greven, Minneapolis, parents of Rev. Donald Greven.



## Two Gospel teams active

"Eagle's Wings" is the name for the Luther League Gospel team which is going out from Fargo-Moorhead. The name "Eagle's Wings" comes from the words found in Isaiah 40:31, which reads: "But they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings of eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint."

The Luther League team is made up mostly of students in the Fargo-Moorhead area. Most are also Association Free Lutheran Bible School alumni. A number of them

have been involved in a Bible School Gospel team and have now volunteered to represent the Lord and the Luther League in congregations in North Dakota and western Minnesota.

So far the team has worked with the Luther Leagues from McVille and Binford, N. Dak., St. Paul's in Fargo and Grace in Valley City, N. Dak. They all met on November 22 at St. Paul's in Fargo. Twenty-four Luther Leaguers were present at what was called a "lock-in."

After the team leaves a congregation or district, materials are sent from AFLC Youth Resources which are geared to helping the youth plan their programs in the future. Also, as happened in Fargo, the Leaguers asked Youth Resources for additional materi-

als on subjects of importance to them. These materials are also mailed out to the pastor or youth worker.

Paul Kneeland, 36 Bison Court, Fargo, N. Dak., 58102, is the co-ordinator for "Eagle's Wings." His phone number is 701-234-0278. Please contact Paul to make arrangements for the team to come to your congregation.

The only costs involved in having the team is to take an offering for youth work in the Association. The offering is to be mailed in to our headquarters at 3110 E. Medicine Lake Blvd., Minneapolis, Minn. 55441.

Mark Johnson is our co-ordinator for the Luther League team which comes out of the Minneapolis area. You may write Mark at 6633 227th Avenue N. E., Stacy, Minn. 55079 or

## LETTER

An amendment was proposed to replace e with the following: "The executive officers cannot be elected for more than three (3) consecutive terms." This, too, was defeated.

A substitute motion was introduced to amend paragraph 7 (e) to read as follows: "The Executive officers are eligible to hold office for three consecutive terms, but upon affirmative majority vote of the conference can be continued in office from year to year." Perhaps this is what the conference did in 1988, but that was rejected in 1967. The 1967 Conference adopted paragraph 7 as we have it today as a part of our *Rules for Work*. This simply determines that after serving three full terms, the members of the executive committee must receive 75% of the total votes cast in order to continue in office. The officer cannot continue to serve if after three terms more than 25% of the people voting desire someone else to serve. This is a compromise between limiting service to three terms and no limitations. It recognizes the legitimate concern of a majority, but also recognizes that a strong majority of 75% should not be denied.

The suggestion has come that the first ballot is not necessarily the determining ballot, but if the individual gets

75% of the votes in subsequent balloting, he or she can continue to serve. This completely negates the purpose of litera e. Obviously, if the candidate does not get 75% of the votes on the first, or on any ballot, more than 25% of the people desire someone else in the office. There are many reasons why they may vote differently in succeeding ballots. They have registered their preference for someone else, however. The Association has always recognized the first ballot as being the determining ballot. Litera e was so understood when adopted in 1967, but was interpreted otherwise in 1988.

Unfortunately, nothing is said of workers who must be hired to serve the church, but are not elected. Are they to serve until death? As salaries and situations become more attractive, this can become a problem. Should these be limited as others are? Some of these can become quite "popish" and dominate weak boards to the detriment of the church. I am thinking of positions not requiring specialized training or training not readily available. It would seem that there should be some procedure to limit or reconsider a service without "wounding spirits." Such procedures could be enacted by the corporations.

Mr. Editor, you suggest that the

*Rules for Work* should be looked at for possible revision. They are not inerrant. We hope, however, that before the *Rules for Work* are amended that there is a clear understanding of the reasons they are the way they are.

Thank you for this opportunity to express myself. I may write later of other concerns referred to in your good editorials. I am very concerned by the trend towards ecumenical song books and ecumenical Sunday School materials replacing Lutheran hymnals and Lutheran Sunday School courses. When our Lutheran birthright becomes expendable, we will be, and will have, only a mess of pottage. May God preserve our Church!

God permitting, we will be going to the Sun Belt to visit family after the first of the year. We are grateful that our constitution guarantees us life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.

—Pastor John P. Strand  
Remer, Minn.

(Pastor Strand was president of the AFLC from 1962-1978.)

(Ed. note: The pertinent part of our editorial to which Reader Strand refers is given below as background.)

During the election of a vice-president this year, delegates struck down

call him at 612-462-4163.

The Minneapolis team has been at Green Lake in Spicer, Minn., and at the Dalton, Minn., parish. We will have an article and a picture of this team in a later *Ambassador*.

The team members are excited about the Lord and want to give a clear testimony for Him. The objectives of sending teams out are to witness for Jesus and lead youth to Him, to strengthen their spiritual lives, to show them that there are older Christian youth who live for the Lord in college years. Also, to instruct youth on how to do program planning for more successful Luther Leagues.

—Pastor Dennis Gray  
112 West Milner  
DeKalb, Ill. 60115

AFLC Youth Resources Director

the precedent of over 20 years, that an incumbent, after three consecutive terms, cannot be renominated if he fails to get a three-fourths majority on the first ballot.

The vote was overwhelming to strike the precedent (184 to 44) and that's good. There can be no question about the desires of this conference at least.

However, we wish the action hadn't been taken after the procedure was underway. It is always best to do those things before the process starts, not when one is in midstream. We have no quarrel with the election outcome, only with the timing of the action that was taken.

It may be that it is time to look at *Rules for Work and Order of Business for the Annual Conference* to see whether or not there are any changes that should be made in them after 20 years. Why not set up a committee at next year's conference to make proposals for amendments, deletions and additions in these documents? That would be the proper way to go about this.

## Personalities

Rev. Forrest Swenson, who has been serving Roseau Lutheran Church, Roseau, Minn., has resigned as pastor effective Jan. 1. He and his wife

# Illinois District meets

"You are a model for the rest of our districts."

These words were spoken by AFLC President Richard Snipstead as he addressed the convention of the Illinois District, meeting in Bethany Lutheran Church, Brodhead, Wis., on Nov. 12. He was referring to the fact that, although the annual conference last June encouraged our districts to get organized, the congregations of the Illinois District had organized the previous year and were now meeting for

their second convention.

The program for the day included a Bible study by AFLC vice-president Robert Lee, a professor at our Bible School and Seminary, and an address by Rev. Snipstead.

The two executive officers, together with Home Missions Director Eldon Nelson and WMF Treasurer Aini Myking, also presented reports of progress from their respective areas of ministry and were available to answer questions from the delegates.

Pastor Dennis Gray, district president, presided over the business session, and was re-elected to a second term together with Mr. Bob Christian, vice-president, and Miss Myrtle Duvick, secretary. Mr. Merv Mathison was elected treasurer, replacing Mr. Randy Christianson, who had requested to be relieved of his office.

A prayer time was led by Pastor Harold Masted, Helmar Church, Newark, Ill., who invited the convention to meet in his church next fall.

A special welcome was extended to the district's newest congregation, Trinity, Janesville, Wis., which is served by Lay Pastor Kenneth Thoreson together with the Brodhead church.

A unique project sponsored by the district is the position of "youth co-ordinator," which has been filled by Mr. Mark Olson, DeKalb, who has now accepted a call to serve as lay pastor for the Freedom-St. Petrie parish. Steps will be taken as soon as possible to seek a new co-ordinator, who is supported through gifts from the district congregations.

The three men who represented the national AFLC at the convention were also used on Sunday morning. Rev. Snipstead brought the messages for the Brodhead and Janesville congregations, Rev. Nelson at Grace in DeKalb, and Rev. Lee at the Ottawa and West Lisbon congregations.

Plans are being finalized by the district officers for a winter Bible conference, to be held on February 17-19 at Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Morris, Ill.

— R. L. Lee

## Winter Bible Conferences

Theme: "That I May Know Him"

Theme text: Philippians 3:7-14

Theme song: "Tell Me The Old, Old Story"

Dates and locations:

January 27 - 29 - Fergus Falls, Minn. Bible Leader - Pastor Steve Lombardo; Evangelist - Pastor Gary Jorgenson.

February 3 - 5 - Dickinson, N. Dak. Bible Leader - Pastor Ralph Tjelta; Evangelist - Pastor Lyndon Korhonen.

February 10 - 12 - Medicine Lake Lutheran, Plymouth, Minn. Bible Leader - Pastor Steve Lombardo; Evangelist - Pastor Tom Olson.

### Bible Study Schedule:

Saturday a.m. - "That I May Know Him," "The Power of His Resurrection."

Saturday p.m. - "The Fellowship of His Suffering."

Sunday a.m. - "Being Conformed to His Death."

Adeline will be traveling and visiting relatives in winter months.

Winter address for Rev. and Mrs. John Strand, Remer, Minn., is 1255 Mountain Road, Apache Jct., Ariz. 85220.

Roy Mohagen, Grafton, N. Dak., has been requested by the Home Mission Board to serve during the winter as lay pastor of St. Matthew's Lutheran Church, Mountain Home, Ark., and began in mid-December.

## LEM sets midwinter rally

Rev. Jack Aamot, director of Lutherans for Evangelism, a ministry of the Lutheran Evangelistic Movement, invites you to a Midwinter Rally, Sunday, January 22, at Emmaus Lutheran Church, 8443 - 2nd Ave. So., Bloomington, Minn. Theme: "It's Harvest time." Events begin at 2:00.

Junior and Senior High youth will gather at Emmaus, January 20 and 21, for the annual LEM youth conference.

For brochures on either event, call (612) 721-4804 or write LEM at 2717 E. 42nd St., Minneapolis, Minn. 55406.

### WELCOME TO DICKINSON

Our Saviour's Lutheran Church, Dickinson, N. Dak., extends an invitation to people of the AFLC to come to the Winter Bible Conference Feb. 3-5.

Please contact us if you have any housing needs for the weekend.

We will look forward to having each one of you in our midst for these special days. For more information, please contact Pastor Allen Monson at 85 - 10th St. E. in Dickinson, N. Dak. 58601 or by phone (701) 225-5091 (H) or 227-1652 (O).

— Pastor Monson

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

Second-class

### Hymnal committee named

The Co-ordinating Committee has appointed the following to serve on the new hymnal committee:

Rev. Thomas Olson, Cumberland, Wis. (Chairman), Mrs. Marlin Benrud, Goodhue, Minn., Rev. Norman Dornquast, Weslaco, Tex., Mrs. Gary Erickson, Mahanomen, Minn., Rev. Donald Greven, Plymouth, Minn., Rev. Rodger Olson, Fergus Falls, Minn.

One additional appointment is still pending. The committee will hold its organizational meeting this month and will encourage input from other specialists as well as all interested friends.

The appointment of this committee was in response to a resolution passed during the Annual Conference in June.

### Pastors installed

#### Duluth, Minn.

Rev. Steve Kneeland was installed as pastor of St. John's Lutheran Church, Duluth, Minn., on Sun. evening, Nov. 13.

#### Ottawa, Ill.

The Freedom/St. Petrie parish, rural Ottawa, Ill., gathered on Sunday, Dec. 4, at 2 p.m., in Freedom Church for the installation of their new lay pastor, Mark Olson.

## 1989 AMBASSADOR SCHEDULE

Here are the deadlines for the remaining issues of *The Lutheran Ambassador* for 1989. All those who plan to submit material during the year should pay special attention.

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

Monthly WMF Bible Studies 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 should, however, be sent directly to Mrs. Wayne Hjermstad, 1151 Geranium Ave. E., St. Paul, Minn. 55106. Thank you.

Please save for reference!

| Date of Issue   | Editor's Deadline | Special Emphasis           |
|-----------------|-------------------|----------------------------|
| January 24      | December 31, 1988 |                            |
| February 7      | January 14        | Lent                       |
| February 21     | January 28        | Lent                       |
| March 7         | February 11       | Lent                       |
| March 21        | February 25       | Easter                     |
| April 4         | March 11          |                            |
| April 18        | March 25          |                            |
| May 2           | April 8           | Mother's Day and Pentecost |
| May 16          | April 22          | Pre-Conference             |
| May 30          | May 6             | Pre-Conference             |
| June 13         | May 20            | Father's Day               |
| June 27         | June 3            | Patriotic                  |
| July 25         | July 1            | Conference Reports         |
| August 8        | July 15           | Parish Education           |
| September 5     | August 12         |                            |
| September 19    | August 26         |                            |
| October 3       | September 9       |                            |
| October 17      | September 23      | Reformation                |
| October 31      | October 7         |                            |
| November 14     | October 21        | Thanksgiving               |
| November 28     | November 4        | Advent                     |
| December 12     | November 11       | Christmas                  |
| December 26     | December 2        | Year's End                 |
| January 9, 1990 | December 16       | New Year                   |