

THE LUTHERAN AMBASSADOR

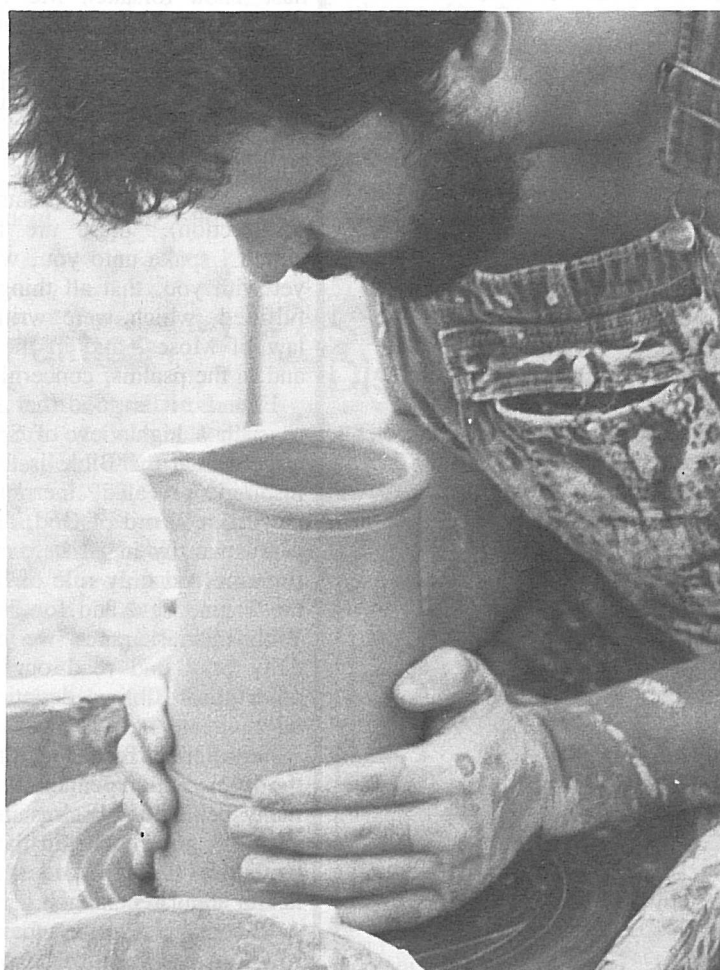
January 1, 1985

THOU ART
THE
POTTER;
I AM
THE CLAY . . .

MOULD ME
AND MAKE ME
AFTER THY
WILL . . .

HAVE THINE
OWN WAY,
LORD!

Adelaide A. Pollard



Roger C. Huebner, D.D.S.

at the MASTER'S FEET

Repentance

Greetings, this new year of 1985, in the name of Jesus our crucified and risen Lord and Savior. We pray and trust that each one of us will seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, so He can give us what we need—a repentant heart, a thankful mind and spirit, and a willingness to gladly obey His Word and will. If we, as God's children, determine to do this day by day, be assured that His benediction will rest upon us as individuals, families and church, no matter what the outward circumstances may be.

For the next six months, by God's grace, At The Master's Feet devotionals will be based on selected Psalms.

THE LUTHERAN AMBASSADOR

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Volume 23 Number 1

In the Psalms God's people generally see a fair picture of themselves, their struggles, their sins, their sorrows, their longings, their joys, their failures and their victories.

Jesus was very fond of the Psalms. They seemingly became a part of His mental nature—so much so that He uttered His dying agonies on the cross in quotations from the Psalms: Psalm 22:1—"My God, my God, why hast Thou forsaken Me . . ." and Psalm 31:5—"Into Thine hand I commit My spirit . . ." (Compare Matthew 27:46 with Psalm 22:1 and Luke 23:46 with Psalm 31:5.)

In Luke 24:44, Jesus says: "And He said unto them (to the two disciples on the way to Emmaus after the resurrection), 'these are the words which I spake unto you, while I was yet with you, that all things must be fulfilled, which were written in the law of Moses, and in the prophets, and in the psalms, concerning Me.'"

Friends, it is good that Jesus gave us such a high view of Scripture! It is good that the Bible is the divinely inspired, revealed, inerrant and authoritative Word of God, and as such is trustworthy in all its parts and the supreme and only rule of the faith in the Triune God and for daily living. With this assurance we confidently daily pray and read our Bible and other good Biblical devotional literature.

Now let us focus our attention on the topic of repentance. We have many penitential Psalms in the Bible and it is good to begin the new year by letting God's Word speak to our hearts about repentance.

Repentance is more than deep sorrow for past sins. It applies to all people. "All have sinned, and come short of the glory of God" (Romans 3:23). The Biblical word for repentance is "metanoia" in the original

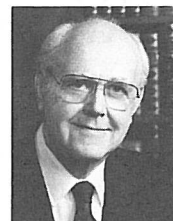
Greek. "Meta" means "change" and "noia" means "a change of mind." Yes, it means an extraordinary change in mind, heart and life wrought by the Holy Spirit of God.

The one who "truly repents, feels his sin with shame and sorrow, he freely confesses his sins to God, and earnestly seeks the grace of God in Christ." So says Martin Luther in our Small Catechism Explained. (I wish each one of us would read our Catechism more than we do. In it we have solid Biblical theology and guidance for young and old.)

Repentance is full with radical implications because a fundamental change of mind and heart not only turns us from the sinful past, but transforms our life plans, values and daily actions as we begin to see the world through the eyes of Christ. That kind of change or transformation calls for a complete surrender of self to Jesus our Lord.

The call to repentance, individual and corporate, is one of the most consistent themes of the Bible. The Old Testament is full of vivid accounts of kings and prophets, priests and people falling before God to plead for mercy, and promising to change.

Because the Bible is truth and shall continue to be eternal truth, let each one of us bow before the Lord and confess our sins today, and sincerely seek the grace and mercy of God in Christ Jesus.



by Pastor
Amos O. Dyrud



what are they among so many?

John 6:9

Look at your feeble resources: those of your faith, those of your church; and then consider the infinite needs of the world, a world dying in ignorance and hatred, a sick world that refuses remedies.

What are these for so many?

About like five barley loaves for five thousand men! Hardly anything! What is the use of offering them?

Only a little boy, a child, can be simple enough to bring his loaves and not feel ridiculous. For him, an ocean can be made with a bucket of water, and there is no difference be-

tween five and five thousand. Someone asks for bread; he has some; here it is!

It is this little boy's gesture that the Master awaits from you: this gesture that gives what it has and "foolishly" thinks it may be of use because it was asked for.

If you reason like a man you will never make this gesture, you will keep your loaves and the crowd can die of hunger. For this gesture was necessary before the miracle could be accomplished.

Certainly God *could* do everything without us, but He has chosen instead to use our resources, to clothe our frailty with His power, to build His house on the little pebble that you give Him.

In itself your act is worth nothing; but if your Master takes hold of it, if He multiplies it by one hundred and then by one thousand, this gesture of an artless child will have fed the multitude.

—Philippe Vernier
(from *With the Master*)

THE NAME OF JESUS

(Taken from the Christmas letter of Pastor and Mrs. Connely Dyrud and family, Brazil.)

As we consider one more Christmas, the year 1984, it almost seems to be a mere routine with all its preparations, buying, baking, cooking, programs, etc. But during this last year the power of the name "Jesus" again became so real to us as we saw the forces of Satan and the demon world not being able to withstand against the phrase, "In the Name of Jesus leave this person" or "The blood of Jesus has power over you." Any other name does not bring results at all, but the demons in the possessed person go frantic at the name of Jesus. *Why?* If Christ was just a prophet or a great moralist His name would have no effect on the demons. But they do leave (at His name) with much blasphemy and cursing. Thanks to Jesus we saw two young girls released of demons at our

Summer Bible Camp. Then during the year two young mothers were released from the forces of demons as they sat in our church. One fell over in a faint at the name of Jesus, and the other took off her shoes and threw them at Connely and cursed the name of Jesus, but both were released with prayer.

That is why the name "Jesus" has a much deeper meaning to us. It's not just one more Christmas. We are celebrating the birth of the Son of God, Who came to this world to break the bonds of sin, death and the power of Satan, so that we might be joint heirs with Him in heaven.

(Ed. note: We are reminded, too, of Acts 4:12: "And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other *name* under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.")

watch!

"And what I say unto you, I say unto all, 'Watch!'" (Mark 13:37).

Jesus admonished us to watch. This admonition He gives to all people and especially to living Christians, because they have something so precious to watch over lest they lose the crown of life. Woe be to him who thinks that he no longer needs to watch. That spells disaster for him. That explains why Peter fell so deeply into sin that fatal night in the court of the high priest. Peter thought that his love for his Master was so fervent that he was safe from temptation.

A Christian needs to watch, not only when he sees some great temptation lie near, not only when some special warning of danger is sounded in his soul, but always, every day of his life and every hour of every day.

The enemies of the soul are always watching for opportunity to tempt and delude. A moment's unwatchfulness may prove fatal. A false step, a careless deed, a thoughtless word may lead you into great difficulties.

Oh, yes, we need to be watchful always, and watchful in all things. For there are so many things that can lull the soul into dangerous sleep. Let me mention only one here. Some people reason that since they have once been aroused from sin, have been converted and taken into fellowship with God, there is no further need of watchfulness. They feel secure in that they have once tasted God's wonderful grace. They dwell much upon past experiences and are tempted to rest satisfied with themselves, forgetting that "begun is not finished." And before they realize it

they are asleep as were the disciples in the Garden of Gethsemane.

But if we shall watch, then in the consciousness of our own weakness, and with reliance on God's protecting care we must also pray. Prayer brings us into the right place—our place at the foot of Christ's cross, where we confess our sins, and where we find comfort in His atoning blood. Therefore Jesus asks us not only to watch, but also to "watch and pray." Without prayer there is no strength and confidence, without prayer there can be no victory.

But in prayer there is victory, for Satan trembles to see even the weakest mortal on bended knees in prayer to God.

—Søren Dahl

(Courtesy, Tract Mission)

Fiscal year to end

The AFLC fiscal year ends January 31.

The needs are still great.

Individuals, congregations, send in your gifts *now* for God's work.

(Designate them or let us divide them according to the need.)

Send them to AFLC, 3110 East Medicine Lake Blvd., Minneapolis, Minn. 55441.

God bless you!

COMING NEXT TIME

Our second Scrapbook Issue

Evaluation survey for our *Ambassador* readers

The years pass. We can't stop them. But we can accomplish much by acting wisely while they are here.

—Frank Nelson

JANUARY						
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27	28	29	30	31		

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JULY						
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21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

Mark your calendar for 1985

- Jan. – Seminary Inter-Term**—Jan. 7-18 and Jan. 28-Feb. 1
- Pastors' Conference**—at the ARC, Jan. 22-24
- Feb.— Winter Bible Conferences**—Grafton, N. Dak., Feb. 6-9
- The ARC, Feb. 13-16
- Mar.— Lake Stevens, Wash., Mar. 8-10**
- June— AFLC Annual Conference**—The ARC, June 12-16
- July— Galilee Family Camp**—Lake Bronson, Minn., July 8-14
- Wilderness Camp**—Lake Park, Minn., July 24-28
- Aug.— Luther League Federation Convention**—Black Hills, S. Dak., July 29-Aug. 3
- The ARC Family Camp, Wisconsin**—Aug. 12-18

HE LEADETH ME

In pastures green? Not always; sometimes He
Who knoweth best, in kindness leadeth me
In weary ways, where heavy shadows be—

Out of the sunshine warm and soft and bright,
Out of the sunshine into darkest night;
I oft would faint with sorrow and affright—

Only for this—I know He holds my hand;
So whether in the green or desert land,
I trust, although I may not understand.

And by still waters? No, not always so;
Ofttimes the heavy tempests round me blow,
And o'er my soul the waves and billows go.

But when the storms beat loudest, and I cry
Aloud for help, the Master standeth by,
And whispers to my soul, "Lo, it is I."

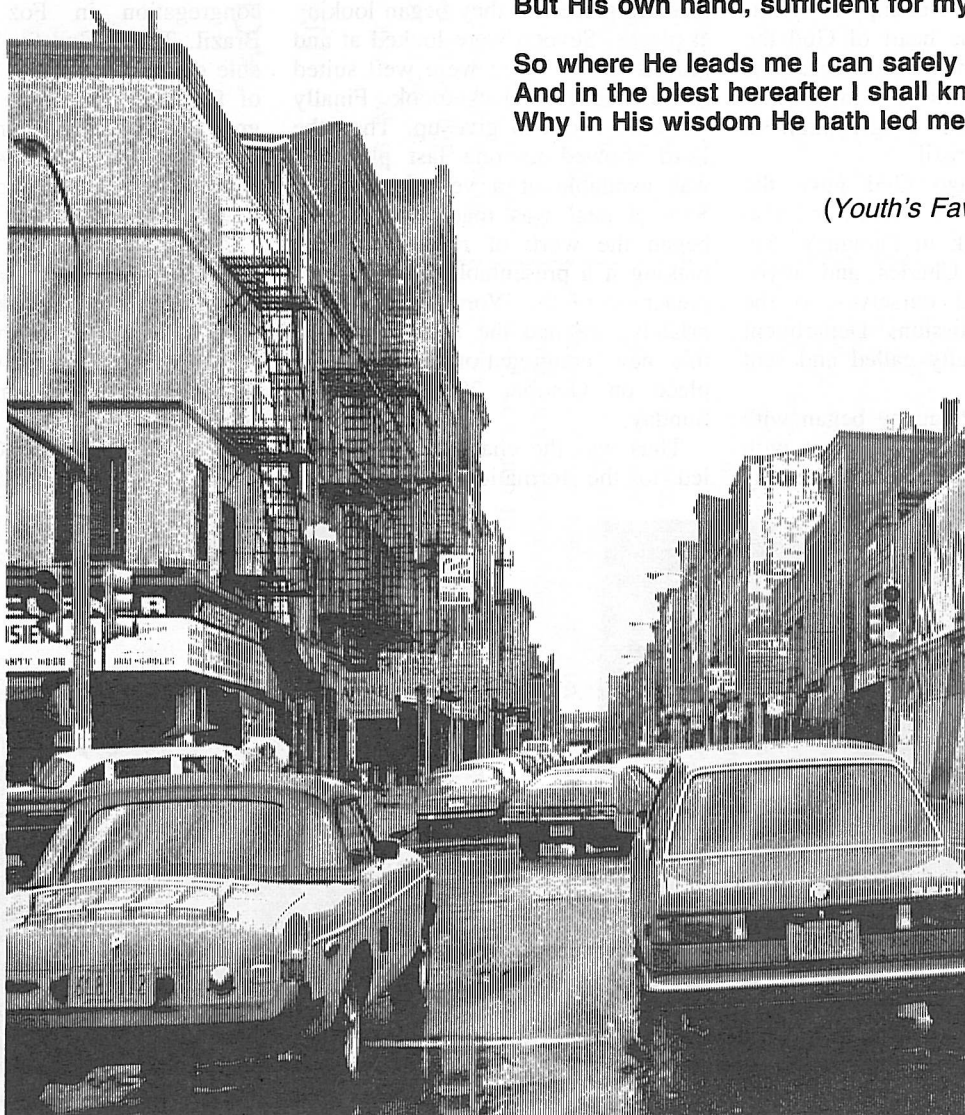
Above the tempest wild I hear Him say,
"Beyond this darkness lies the perfect day,
In every path of thine I lead the way.

So, whether on the hilltops high and fair
I dwell, or in the sunless valleys where
The shadows lie—what matter? He is there.

And more than this; where'er the pathway lead
He gives me no helpless, broken reed,
But His own hand, sufficient for my need.

So where He leads me I can safely go;
And in the blest hereafter I shall know
Why in His wisdom He hath led me so.

H. H. Barry
(*Youth's Favorite Poems*)



world missions

Congregation begins in Foz do Iquacu

"For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have everlasting life" (John 3:16 NIV).

Before the foundation of the world, God decided to love you and me. In due time He sent His only begotten Son, Jesus Christ, to suffer, die and resurrect for our justification, that we might be made the sons of God by adoption. God wants this message of love to be made known to each person in this world, that many from each tribe and nation might gather in worship of Him. Thus began in the heart of God the formation of many congregations throughout the world and the formation of the AFLC congregation in Foz do Iquacu, Brazil.

Many years ago God gave the AFLC work to do in Brazil, and also a vision for work in Paraguay. Six years ago, we, Charles and Joyce Knapp, presented ourselves to the AFLC World Missions Department and were eventually called and sent to Paraguay.

The work in Paraguay began with a family who had had contact with the AFLC in Brazil. By the time they

rejected further contact with the Gospel, we had already met another Christian family, the Westphals, who were very hungry for the Word. Many neighbors were contacted through them. In January, 1984, the DaSilva family, one of the neighbors, moved back to Foz do Iquacu from Paraguay, entreating us to continue Gospel meetings in their home in Foz. With such openness to the Gospel, we could only follow through. By July, 1984, they were asking if we could look for property and a place to put up a more regular meeting place. So they began looking at places. Several were looked at and prayed about. None were well suited to the needs or pocketbook. Finally we were about to give up. Then the Lord showed us one last place. It was available at a very low price. Soon a deal was made and we all began the work of remodeling and making it a presentable place for the preaching of the Word. Most appropriately, we had the inauguration of this new congregation and meeting place on October 28, Reformation Sunday.

Thus was the chain of events that led to the formation of an AFLC

from our Brazilian seminary

My name is Nilson Gomes de Mello. I was born in Manaus, Amazonas, and grew up in Porto Velho, Rondonia, in the north of Brazil. When I was 22 years old, in Vilhena, Rondonia, through the ministry of Pastor George Knapp and his wife Helen, I was born into the family of God through salvation by faith in Christ Jesus. This glorious event happened at the beginning of the year 1979. Today I can sing in the choir of the redeemed, "How victorious the day in which I accepted, from my Lord, salvation. The great peace that I reached stays in my

congregation in Foz do Iquacu, Brazil. Thank God for His indescribable gift, and pray that as the nucleus of five families in this congregation grows to include many more, the Word of God will always be faithfully preached and practiced in these lives.

Also pray and give, that we may continue to send out many more missionaries. Only God knows exactly who will be reached through our efforts. But it is required of us to be faithful, full of faith and full of perseverance.

Pastor Charles Knapp
(from correspondence)



The church at Foz do Iquacu

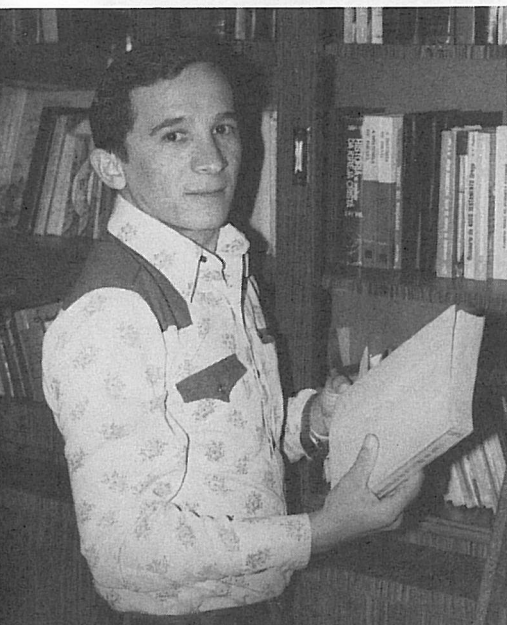


A clean-up crew. Notice Mrs. Knapp and child, third from the right.

Meet a seminarian

heart. What pleasure I feel . . . I am happy, very happy, because Jesus has satisfied me."

At the beginning of 1980 I came to study at the Instituto Biblico e Seminario Mouraoense (IBSM). This is the 3rd year I am studying here. I praise God for those who have supported and helped me in my faith, as I am also grateful to God for the IBSM, for it is there that I am receiving instructions to prepare me in the work for Christ Jesus. He has called me to be His witness until He returns. It is the way in which I can express my gratitude to my Lord who has saved me.

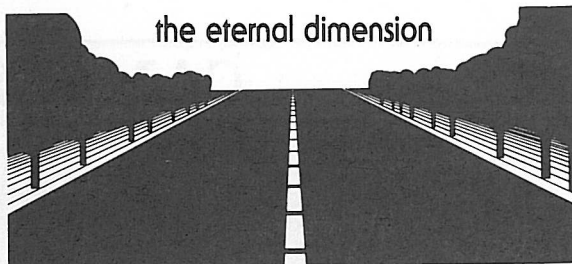


I am now 27 years old. I am a deacon in the Lar Parana Free Lutheran Church and am in my second to last year in the pastoral course. I am also directing a congregation affiliated with the Lar Parana Free Lutheran Church. To all the loved ones of Christ, I ask that you pray for me and my Brazilian nation. It is my earnest hope to be an effective witness of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

"But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people, that you may declare the wonderful deeds of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light" (I Peter 2:9). Amen.

January 1, 1985

the eternal dimension



what does
1985 hold
for you?

Do you remember the rhyme about the person who went to sea in a sieve? We smile about that, because we know it can't be done. A sea voyage requires a seaworthy vessel. A person who would go to sea in a sieve, would be a fool. Yet many people go in life's journey as ill-prepared.

How about you and your journey through 1985? Are you fully prepared for it? If you are not, the journey could end in disaster. Some basics are essential for a reasonably safe sea voyage. Laws require certain minimum safety precautions. Your journey through 1985 requires certain basics if you are to be assured a successful passage. Of course, there are the physical needs which are essential. But for some readers the needs may go further than what we normally consider essential. Some may face a need as great as that which comes with dying. We read of it every day. Just recently, we heard of a young man who didn't make it through 1984. An automobile accident brought life suddenly to an end. To him, it was like the unexpected iceberg which sinks the ship.

You may ask, "Can a person be prepared for anything as powerful as death? Isn't death something so awful that a person is wise to put it out of his mind?" That sounds reasonable, but if there is a way to be ready for it, wouldn't you be wise to learn of it and be ready? The

Bible speaks of being ready, and gives instances of persons who were ready. The Psalmist said, "Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for Thou art with me . . ." (Psalm 23). He was prepared for death because he had let the Lord become the shepherd of his soul. Apparently the Apostle Paul was ready, for he said he had a desire to depart this life and be with the Lord, which to him was "far better" (Philippians 1:23). You will not read far into Paul's writings before you learn that he considered Jesus Christ his own personal Savior from all his sin. To Paul, Christ's death on the Cross was for him personally, and it was his salvation. Paul was ready through Jesus Christ, and he taught that others could be ready in the same way. For Paul, to have Christ as one's personal Savior prepared a person for life's greatest crisis.

Now you are beginning your journey into 1985. Are you going to go to sea in a sieve, or will you be fully prepared for a successful journey? If you have not made Jesus Christ your personal Savior, you should do so without delay. We would be most happy to help you in being fully prepared. If we may help you in this, we will make ourselves available to you. It is our wish that you have a most blessed 1985!

Pastor Emerson Anderson
Cleveland, O.

ALL YOUR NEED

So when St. Paul promises, "My God shall supply *all* your need" (Phil. 4:19), he means just what he says. "*All*" you really need to carry out God's good purpose in your life will be granted through Christ. Be clear on this, however, God provides, not everything you think you need, not everything others say you need, but everything you actually require to complete His holy design.

Dr. Walter A. Maier, Sr.

Page Seven

AFLTS students share in grant

Appleton, Wis. (Nov. 1, 1984)—Aid Association for Lutherans (AAL) has awarded \$1,000 to four students at Association Free Lutheran Theological Seminary, 3110 E. Medicine Lake Blvd., Minneapolis, Minn.

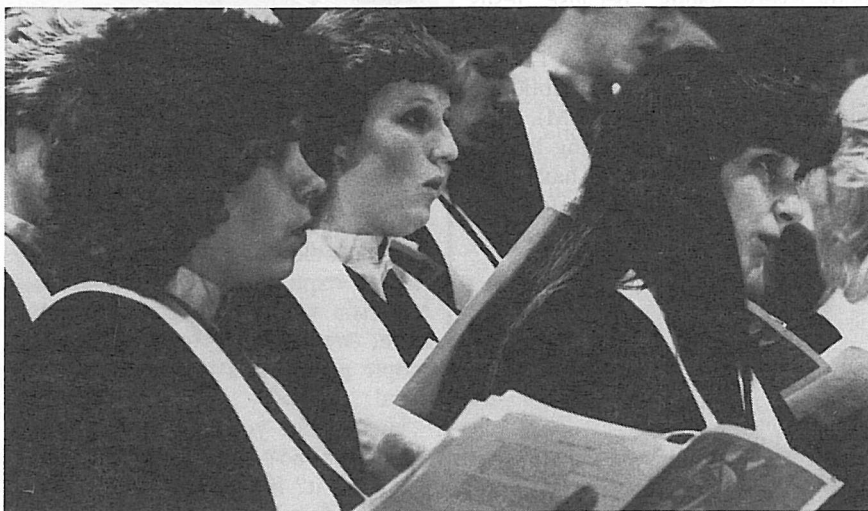
The scholarship winners are: Jim Johnson, Chatham, Mich.; Tom Olson, Coon Valley, Wis.; Keith Quanbeck, McVie, N. Dak.; Steve Snipstead, Minneapolis, Minn.

The seminarians are participating in AAL's Church Vocations Enrichment Program, and will receive awards amounting to \$250. The amounts and the recipients are determined by the seminary. In addition to the \$1,000 in scholarships, AFLTS also will receive \$4,500 in AAL grants this academic year through other emphases of AAL's Church Vocations Enrichment Program.

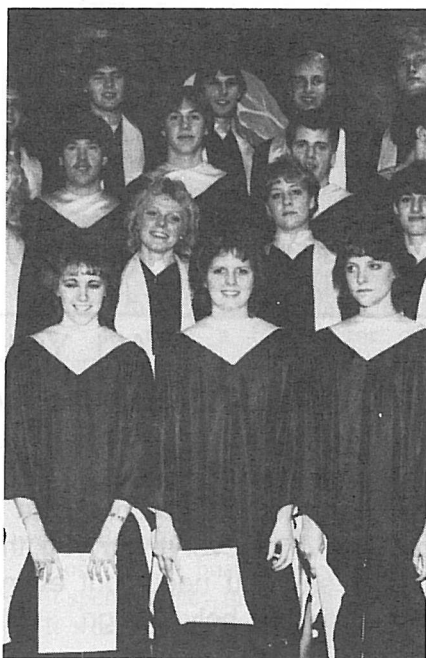


Mr. Don Rodvold, director.

CAMPUS NEWS



AFLBS choirs inspire audience in their annual Christmas Concert on December 16.



Photos by J. L. Johnson

editorials

A CHANCE TO ACT

We have said it before, support any effort to curtail or limit the advertising of beverage alcohol. Now we are glad to call your attention to a national effort to that end insofar as radio and television advertising is concerned.

The American Council on Alcohol Problems has a petition available for signature which will be presented to the President and the U.S. Congress in the earlier part of this year. The petition calls for a ban on all advertising for alcoholic beverages on radio and television or, failing that, requiring these media to give equal time to health messages about alcohol.

Personally, we hope there will be a ban. It seems that now is a good time to push for that. Organizations such as Mothers Against Drunk Drivers (MADD), SADD (Students), and others are holding the cause of one facet of the alcohol problem before public gaze and this just might be the time for favorable action on an advertising ban.

If you see one of these petitions, sign it. Help make it available to others. If your church hasn't had one of these petitions, try to secure one or more soon. The address of the American Council on Alcohol Problems is 2908 Patricia Drive, Des Moines, Ia. 50322.

Another thing you can do is write to your congressman and your two senators. Let them know that you hope they will support legislation calling for an advertising ban. Ask them to look at the facts and then take the very logical and reasonable step of working toward the advertising ban on beverage alcohol on radio and television.

It is the potential young drinkers we must try to save. At a recent seminar on alcohol and drug abuse prevention in Sioux Falls, S. Dak., a South Dakota official declared that the current advertising makes more difficult the decision the young person must make about whether or not to drink. And this is because drinking is portrayed, according to the preamble of the above-mentioned petition, as an indispensable part of a happy, successful life."

In Art Linkletter's article on the home in *Family Weekly* magazine for Dec. 9, 1984, he states that the number of adolescent problem drinkers doubled between 1960 and 1980, to 20 percent of the teenage population. And that is only the "problem" drinkers. We can be sure the situation will only get worse if nothing is done.

Association people belong on the side of the advertising ban. We ask you to act on the measures given above. And if you can't find a petition to sign, at least, and by all means, write your national legislators. Letters to state representatives and senators would help them by alerting them to the sentiment abroad in the land, too.

A NEW YEAR

God doesn't mark time as we do. He needs no calendar, no system of years, months and days. But we do.

The lonely recluse crosses out each day of the month as it passes so that he can keep track of the seasons. Business people are very conscious of months and years. Busy churches and pastors think far ahead to what they will be doing in May, July, September, in the summer of 1986, and so on. We think in time concepts.

We don't know at all about what time we have, really. We know something of life expectancy in our day and of actuarial tables, but we really don't know what our times are. Yet, we must plan for the future and it's right that we do, always keeping in mind the admonition of James to add the words, "If the Lord wills" (4:15).

And so we stand at the threshold of 1985. Forty years ago, how distant that seemed, but now it is here. For individuals, a new year is a new challenge. The past carried things to feel good about and things to lament. If we have come to grips with the bad, we can leave it and go forward to better things. If we haven't, then we drag it along with us into the new year and make our situation worse. How much better, through the name of Jesus, which Pastor Connely Dyrud mentions elsewhere in this issue, to be done with the defeats and the sins of the past and to move onward to higher ground. The Holy Spirit will help us to do that.

In 1963, the year 1985 seemed far off also, but now it is here. When the Association of Free Lutheran Congregations was starting, we had to take it a day at a time, a year at a time. We still do. We look back and ask, "Has it been that long? Have we come this far?" And it's true that we have.

Right now, with so much for which to be thankful, we're taking some inventory. Recent Letters to the Editor reveal that and there'll be more of them. There's nothing wrong with this. The wrong thing would be if we say there's something wrong with doing this, asking some questions.

How large is our reasonable task? What part does faith play? What is the difference between a challenge and a burden? At what point does a challenge become a burden? Or vice-versa?

Oh, there are more questions for our still young and small church. Questions that will arise, whether we raise them or someone else does. But it's all a part of life, a part of living.

So 1985 is before us. It's a new segment of time. But we don't come into it cold. We enter the new year with our attachments to the past. We mean, as the old saying goes, "The past is prologue." We have known God in the past and He is with us now. We live in His mercies from day to day. "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and for ever" (Hebrews 13:8).

The stroke of midnight last night didn't really change anything, not any more than any other midnight hour does. But in our human way of thinking, this is a new year, a time to think with a larger sweep of the mind. What the 365 days ahead will bring for our church fellowship, we don't know, but let us search together for as much of God's will for us as we can know and in unity and love do what is God's work for us to do in our time.



Letters to the editor

THE BROADER THE BASE THE HIGHER THE PYRAMID

This might be a mathematical or engineering axiom but not necessarily a spiritual one. I read with interest the Letter to the Editor in the Nov. 20 issue. I have heard the term "Broaden the base" used quite often but seem to understand it differently from the way it was used there. I understand the term to mean "Having continued congregational growth, and the coming in of new congregations, to give us a broader congregational base." I know some have said we are top-heavy, but I don't feel that way; we know it takes just as many personnel to serve 140 congregations as it would to serve 240 or 540. So by prayer and service we should continue to broaden our congregational base.

One thing concerns me, we have taken in new congregations each year for the past four years, yet we have not gone upward in our world outreach, i.e., no new missionaries have gone out. We have broadened the base but we have not heightened the pyramid. Two new couples are included in the present budget for World Missions, they are desperately needed. This together with many School needs and Home Mission needs.

Recently, during a missions conference in North Dakota, a visiting pastor told me his church (not in the AFLC and not very large) had voted to have a faith mission promise goal of \$75,000 dollars and he hadn't seen how they were going to make it, but they had just gone over the top. With just six such congregations we could meet the entire World Missions budget. No, we are not doing too much. People in various congregations have pointed out to me that we should not talk so much about the "budget" but rather in terms of needs and people, projects and goals, then, they claim, the Association would get all that it needs. Perhaps it is true, we need to break down to more visible proportions what is contained in

the budget, but it is all there, so I personally have joy in giving toward the budget.

The base is being broadened, there should be joy in knowing this. As an Association we are reaching always upward in more service and witness; we have been "born free," only let us not use our freedom as a cloak of selfishness, but as God has prospered each one, let us be a blessing to the world.

Rev. John Abel
Hitterdal, Minn.

AGREES WITH PASTOR ROKKE

In response to the letter written by Rev. Philip Rokke in the November 20 *Ambassador*, I am in complete agreement with Rev. Rokke.

This business of budget proposals is a most difficult one to face. Yet at every annual conference we must face such. The boards have done their jobs and the Budget Analysis Committee has met and now it is up to the conference to approve these budgets. We cannot but accept the work of the boards. They have done a good job for us in the past. It is most difficult to sit on a board and work out budgets. We at the conferences have no knowledge of these budgets like the various boards and committees which work on them do. We will never have this knowledge at a conference. The boards do their work. They know the needs and make the basic plans.

The hard part comes when we are asked, perhaps in a moment of "emotion," to raise a budget for one reason or another. I find this always hard to do. Boards have the authority, upon the recommendations of the conference, or even without such, to raise budgets if they have the money to spend. At least, I would hope they would do it that way! I am certain not one of our boards or committees will spend money they don't have!

It would be better to oversubscribe

to a budget than to raise the budget on the floor of the conference!

We may be getting what a friend of mine calls "top-heavy" in the Association. We maybe should, in a special way, prayerfully consider any directives the conference has given boards and thereby release them from goals we cannot reach, at least at this time. There are needs and ministries all about us. A small group like the AFLC cannot go through all doors. We must not thrust ourselves through doors that are only partly opened by the Lord. Nor should we, for that matter, not go through doors the Lord has opened.

It is depressing for a congregation or for the AFLC to have before it unrealistic goals. And, if we are top-heavy, let us pull back and work out a plan whereby we can minister without being top-heavy.

It is a most difficult thing for pastors who have congregations which are giving heavily to the AFLC to continually go before them asking for more and more. Then it is as a pastor that I begin to wonder if we are doing the right thing in the AFLC.

May the Lord lead and guide us. I love the AFLC because it is people striving to do the Lord's will. May we prayerfully consider what our part may be in giving to the Lord in the AFLC. May He continue to lead, guide and direct us.

Rev. Dennis Gray
DeKalb, Ill.

(Ed. note: Pastor Gray is a former member of the Board of Trustees of the Association Schools and served for a time as its chairman.)

SOME QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS

I'm a Catholic and was given a subscription to *The Lutheran Ambassador*. I'm familiar with the AFLC, having attended some classes on the Lutheran religion. I've also learned something of your mission programs and your schools. I have no plans of becoming a Lutheran but still have some interest in your church.

I read the November 20 issue of
(Continued on p. 13)

8. As cleansed vessels, with what are we to be filled that will bring honor to Jesus, as stated in the following verses?

(A) Matt. 22:37 _____ Deut. 6:5 _____

(B) Eph. 4:25b,29b,32 _____ Jas. 5:16 _____
Phil. 1:27 _____

(C) Phil. 4:8 _____ I Tim. 4:12 _____
I Tim. 6:11 _____

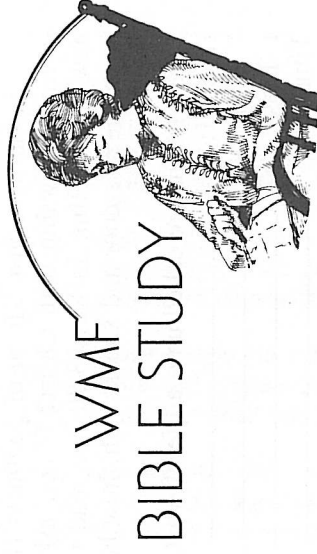
(D) Gal. 5:22,23 _____ Col. 3:10, 12-16 _____
Col. 4:6a _____

Jesus wants us to shine for Him in this world of darkness. Is His likeness reflected in our lives? Sin in our lives smudges and hinders His light from shining through. We will be barriers and a hindrance (stumbling block) to those we are trying to win if our hearts are not cleansed from all sin. You will notice in Ps. 51:13 that when we repent and are cleansed and forgiven *"then"* will I teach transgressors Thy ways and sinners shall be converted unto Thee."

Do we long for revival, more love for the Lord, victory over sin and temptation in our lives, answers to prayer, harmony and love in our churches, to be winning souls and serving the Lord more faithfully? Let us allow Him to do a deep work of repentance and grace in our hearts. We have a gracious God who knows our spiritual needs. He is able to save, bless, keep and empower us (I Thess. 5:22,24). "Lord, make us clean vessels in Thy hand and make us more like Thee."

Mrs. Alvin Grothe
Astoria, Ore.

January, 1985



A CLOSER WALK WITH JESUS

LESSON TWO—A SANCTIFIED WALK

As we walk with Jesus the deep desire of our hearts should be to live a life of holiness, godliness. Oh, to be like Him! We usually see a display of hearts during this month of the year. When Scripture refers to the heart, it speaks of our innermost life or being. Christ desires to dwell in our hearts and that our lives should reflect Him. In II Tim. 2:21, we read: "If a man therefore purge himself from these, he shall be a vessel unto honour, *sanctified*, and meet for the master's use, and prepared unto every good work." Read Ephesians 3:16-19. Oh, that we might be cleansed vessels, strengthened in our inner man, filled with love and all the fullness of God, that we will bring honor to Him and be used in His service.

1. (A) When a person is baptized, or when he comes to faith in Christ, what does Christ do for him?

Mk. 16:16 _____

Gal. 3:27 _____

II Cor. 5:17 _____

(B) What does God give him, according to Ezek. 36:25-27? _____

Some have just a form of godliness (II Tim. 3:5). Are you living in true fellowship with Christ? If not, ask Him in today and begin a new life in Him. In Rev. 3:20, we read that Jesus so tenderly stands at our heart's door and knocks. Oh, how he wants to come in!

2. Christians are called unto a life of what, according to these verses?

Lev. 11:44,45 _____

I Peter 1:15,16 _____

I Thess. 4:7 _____

Titus 2:12 _____

3. In the following verses, what is God's will for all Christians, His Church?

I Thess. 4:3,4 _____

Eph. 5:25b-27 _____

Eph. 4:22-24 _____

4. Read Col. 1:14,20-23. We have redemption through His blood by repenting of and receiving forgiveness for our sins. Praise God, the precious blood of Jesus will *never* lose its power. Jesus, the same yesterday, today and forever. It is in His righteousness we stand. How are we sanctified, as we read in the following verses?

I Pet. 1:2 _____

Jn. 17:17 _____

Luther's Catechism explains sanctification this way: "Sanctification is the gracious work of the Holy Spirit whereby He day by day renews the believer more and more after the image of God." God has given us the means of grace (the Word and the Sacraments) to bring us to Christ and to help us grow in grace and live a sanctified and godly life.

5. What should the godly woman give the most attention to: outward appearance or inner beauty and character?

I Pet. 3:3-5 _____

I Tim. 2:9,10 _____

If we as Christian women are to become more like our Savior, we will need to spend more time looking into God's Word than in the looking glass.

6. As Christians we need daily cleansing and purging from our sins if we are to be the vessels unto honor that God wants us to be. The Bible is very specific about sins that ought not to be in the hearts and lives of Christians. Let's list a few and discuss them.

(A) Col. 3:5,8 _____

(B) Eph. 4:25a,28,29a,30,31 — Eph. 5:3,4 _____

(C) Titus 2:3 _____

(D) Jas. 3:8,9; 4:11 _____

(E) Jn. 2:15 — Rev. 2:4 _____

(F) Phil. 4:2 _____

(G) Matt. 6:15 _____

(H) Prov. 6:16-19 _____

7. May Ps. 139:23,24 be our prayer. We strive against the devil, the world and our flesh (old nature). God, through His Word and the Holy Spirit, is able to keep us from falling, but if we sin He reveals it to us, brings us to repentance and confession and cleanses us from it. I Jn. 1:9; Prov. 28:13; Ps. 66:18. We must allow God to search every area (all the "closets") of our hearts and lives to bring conviction, cleansing and healing.

LETTERS . . .

the *Ambassador* and read Rev. Philip Rokke's letter. I had a little trouble making head or tail of it. He writes of congregations being servants of missions and mission departments as servants of congregations. Also he noted how schools were supposed to serve congregations and not congregations serve schools. My question, I suppose, would be, when did they quit serving God? The congregations and schools and missions I've seen and heard of sure seemed to be, but maybe in the last few months they've quit, but I doubt it.

I've seen your budget for your church organization as a whole. If the giving of your congregations in this rich nation had ever been from overflowing hearts as Rev. Rokke states it once was, your church would be a very small island in a very big sea. Christ commanded us to give from our need. How do you interpret that? I really don't think I

have to tell you. If the people of your church, or any other, for that matter, in this country, gave from anything approaching their need the words "budget shortfall" and "unpaid salaries" wouldn't be in our vocabulary.

As for the last paragraph of your letter, Rev. Rokke, I ask you this: Why did the Good Shepherd leave the 99 to look for the one lost sheep? Was his first responsibility not with the 99?

Bob Hunt
Crookston, Minn.

(Ed. note: Perhaps the letter of Pastor Gray will answer some of Reader Hunt's questions about how the AFLC works. Pastor Rokke will, of course, have opportunity to reply also, but we will wait to see if other letters come in on the subject at hand.)

NO RETRENCHMENT

Responding to "Straight Priorities" (Nov. 20), the embarrassing appraisal might be mollified by suggesting that any seeming retrogression is simply a matter of growing pains. When a family becomes larger it is not possible for the children to derive as much individual personal attention. So it is when churches and budgets must necessarily increase. To not pursue the enlargement of our tents or to stretch forth the curtains (Isaiah 54:2) is to become stalemated or decadent, even though the family circle is more closely knit together.

Actually, the problem relates to filthy lucre. If everyone were to give twice as much as is now tendered, there would be no difficulty in being short of mammon. Or if all of us would know what it is to sacrifice for our Association then all our preachers could ride around in Rolls Royces like the guru out here in Oregon who has 73 of them. Seek out one who is really sacrificing for our church and when you have found one we can go out to meet such with lighted lanterns in broadest daylight with sackcloth around our loins and then resolve to do better ourselves.

Pastor R. S. Persson
Lake Stevens, Wash.

from Pastor Pentti

SO MANY PRAYED

It was early October when the doctor told me I had "hairy cell leukemia" and I had to have my spleen removed. I had the surgery here in Ishpeming (Mich.) on Oct. 24. I was coming along quite well when two weeks and two days after my surgery I had to be taken back for an emergency operation as I had a perforation of the small intestine due to a drug I was getting for my temperature. I made it through the second surgery okay, but soon after being taken to intensive care I had a cardiac arrest. I guess the doctors really didn't have too much hope for me, but God had other plans. Many hospital personnel see me as a miracle, and we know that's true. With the leukemia, along with all the infection in my abdomen, I really didn't have much to fight back with, and being in such a weakened condition to begin with, but God is still a God of miracles and we believe it's because of the prayers of God's people that I'm still here.

The doctors say the leukemia is presently in remission and won't

need any further treatment, so we're thankful for that.

Many were under the impression that I was in a coma; I wasn't. I was on a respirator for three days following my second surgery which helped to keep me going, but I was awake.

I write this because so many of you have been praying and have been concerned, and I want to express my deepest gratitude and love to you. It has meant so much to me and to my family to know you've been there!

Thanks for all the lovely, encouraging cards, letters and gifts, and phone calls. God has been so good in meeting all of our needs and we praise Him for it.

I trust that because of this experience in my life I'll be able to minister to you in a more effective way in the work of evangelism.

I love you all in Jesus.

Rev. Kenneth Pentti
Ishpeming, Mich.

(Ed. note: See Evangelist Pentti's schedule for meetings on page 15.)

"For My thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways My ways,' saith the Lord. 'For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways, and My thoughts than your thoughts'"
(Isaiah 55:8,9).

1985 AMBASSADOR SCHEDULE

Here are the deadlines for *The Lutheran Ambassador* for 1985. All those who plan to submit material during the year should pay special attention.

<i>Date of Issue</i>	<i>Editor's Deadline</i>	<i>Special Emphasis</i>
January 1		
January 15		Scrapbook Issue
January 29	January 5	
February 12	January 19	Patriotic
February 26	February 2	Lent
March 12	February 16	Lent
March 26	March 2	Easter
April 9	March 16	
April 23	March 30	Mother's Day
May 7	April 13	Pentecost and Pre-Conference
May 21	April 27	Pre-Conference
June 4	May 11	Father's Day
June 18	May 25	
July 16	June 22	Conference Reports
July 30	July 6	
August 13	July 20	Parish Education
September 10	August 17	
September 24	August 31	
October 8	September 14	
October 22	September 28	Reformation
November 5	October 12	
November 19	October 26	Advent
December 3	November 9	Christmas
December 17	November 23	Year's End
December 31	December 7	New Year
January 14, 1986	December 21	

In addition to the emphases listed above, others may be initiated 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 send all material 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 16980 Duck Lake Trail, Eden Prairie, Minn. 55344.

Thank You.

PLEASE SAVE FOR REFERENCE!

Lead On, O King Eternal

Lead on, O King Eternal,
The day of march has come;
Henceforth in fields of conquest
Thy tents shall be our home.
Thro' days of preparation
Thy grace has made us strong,
And now, O King Eternal,
We lift our battle song.

Lead on, O King Eternal,
Till sin's fierce war shall cease,
And holiness shall whisper
The sweet Amen of peace;
For not with swords, loud clashing,
Nor roll of stirring drums;
With deeds of love and mercy,
The heav'nly kingdom comes.

Lead on, O King Eternal,
We follow, not with fears;
For gladness breaks like morning
Where're Thy face appears;
Thy cross is lifted o'er us;
We journey in its light;
The crown awaits the conquest;
Lead on, O God of might.

Ernest Warburton Shurtleff

NEEDED: an educator or pastor who wants to supplement his income by working as a part-time administrator at Our Saviour's Christian Academy, Thief River Falls, Minn. If interested, contact Pastor Leslie Galland, Box 269, Thief River Falls, Minn. 56701.

Christian men and women in every pursuit and profession constitute God's working force for the advancement of His kingdom

—Frank Nelson

It is a fine thing so to live that every day widens our vision of life. There is much that we should see and know and understand.

—Frank Nelson

With our evangelist-youth worker

The AFLC rejoices that Evangelist Kenneth Pentti has been restored to health and is resuming his schedule this month. Please see his letter in the Letters section of this issue for an account of his illness and pray for him as he takes up his work again in these following appointments. Pray that the Holy Spirit may be able to work in hearts as the Word is preached.

Nogales, Ariz.

Triumph Lutheran Church
Jan. 20-24

Rev. Ted Kennedy, Jr., pastor
Tucson, Ariz.

Living Faith Lutheran Church
Jan. 27-31

Rev. Terry Wold, pastor
Granite Falls, Minn.
Faith Lutheran Church
Feb. 13-17

Rev. Ted Berkas, pastor
Minot, N. Dak.
Bethel Lutheran Church
Feb. 23-27

Rev. Peter Franz, pastor
McLeod, N. Dak.
United Lutheran Church
Mar. 3-6

Rev. Robert Lewis, pastor
Mentor, Minn.
Maple Bay Lutheran Church
Mar. 17-21

Rev. Roy Johnson, pastor

THE ALPHA AND OMEGA

If Jesus is Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the ending, then let Him be not only your Alpha, but also your Omega. Begin not only with Jesus, but end also with Him; or rather, let Him finish that which he has begun in you. There are many who remain standing at Alpha, who are satisfied with the rudiments, with the first letters in Christianity, with the first emotions, or even with good resolutions, with which, as the ancients said, "the road to hell is paved." The continuance in piety and the earnest practice thereof are wanting (I Tim. 4:7,8; II Tim. 3:5).

news of the churches

from here and there . . .

Stacy, Minn.—Association Free Lutheran Bible School presented a Christmas concert at Sunnyside Lutheran on Sun., Dec. 9, at 7 o'clock. A potluck supper preceded the concert.

Tioga, N. Dak.—The community choir rendered the cantata "He Started the Whole World Singing" at First Lutheran Church (ALC) on Sunday evening, Dec. 9.

Newfolden, Minn.—The Living Dimension Gospel Team of the Lutheran Evangelistic Movement presented programs at Westaker Lutheran, Dec. 10-11.

Badger, Minn.—The "Secret Pal" parties for the parish were held Dec. 14 for Oiland Lutheran and Dec. 15 for Badger Creek.

Minnewaukan, N. Dak.—Trinity Sunday School, Senior Choir and

Junior Choir put on a Christmas program entitled "Wow! It's Christmas!" on Sunday, Dec. 16, at 3 p.m. Sunday School teachers were honored at a dinner that noon and carolling in the community followed the program.

Roseau, Minn.—Spruce Lutheran had a fellowship dinner on Dec. 2 after the service. The Sunday School Christmas program was on Dec. 9.

Minneapolis, Minn.—Don Hansen is leading the Adult Bible Class each Sunday morning at Rosedale-Faith Lutheran. On the second Sunday of each month the class goes to Nicollet Health Center to put on a service for the folks there.

Thief River Falls, Minn.—Our Saviour's Youth Choir presented a program of song and testimony at Mt. Carmel Lutheran, McIntosh, Minn., on Dec. 9.

Personalities

Rev. Norman Tenneboe has resigned as pastor of Calvary Lutheran Church, Eben Jct., Mich., where he has served since 1979, to accept the call to be the first resident pastor of the Home Mission work at Park River, N. Dak. The mission is called Victory Lutheran. Pastor Tenneboe will begin work at Park River in the spring.

Rev. Dennis Gray, DeKalb, Ill., recently spoke at special meetings at Faith Lutheran Church of Running Valley, Colfax, Wis. Rev. Hubert DeBoer is the pastor there.

Rev. John P. Strand, Remer, Minn., spoke on Jesus' Olivet Discourse when he preached in a spiritual emphasis week at Grace Lutheran, DeKalb, Ill., recently.

Pastor R. S. Persson, Astoria, Ore., has been called to interim service at Elim Lutheran Church, Lake Stevens, Wash. He preached there Sundays in December and he and his wife moved there now for full-time ministry.

SW Central Minn. District meets

The annual meeting of the Southwest Central Minnesota District of the Association of Free Lutheran Congregations was held on Nov. 17 at Chippewa Lutheran Church, Brandon, Minn. Rev. Gordon Grage is pastor of the host congregation.

Mr. Douglas Johnson, president, presided at the sessions. At the morning session Rev. Richard Snipstead, AFLC president, told of the work of the Association. He reviewed all areas of AFLC work, the current budgets and deficits, and commended the members for their support of the total work.

In the afternoon Pastor Snipstead led a Bible study on Romans 12:1-6. He said that with a renewing of our minds and the use of our spiritual gifts we can be living sacrifices for Christ.

Various items were discussed in the business meeting. The date of the 1985 meeting was set as Nov. 16.

◇

The calendar marks the milestone on the trail of life.

—Frank Nelson

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MEETING . . .

An offering of \$656 was received and given to the AFLC General Fund. Mr. Johnson was re-elected president; George Hartman was elected vice-president and LaVern Thompson, secretary-treasurer.

Special music was by the Gospel Messengers of Chippewa Lutheran and Mary Ralph.

Eighty-three persons were in attendance.

—La Vern Thompson
Secretary

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GROW IN KNOWLEDGE OF GOD'S WORD

Believers are exhorted to "study" the Scriptures in order to "handle accurately" the precious truths therein contained (II Timothy 2:15). An excellent tool in that study is the AFLC Seminary Press publication, *I Know In Whom I Believe*, by Dr. Carl F. Wisløff (translated by Pastor Karl Stendal).

Key Bible truths that are surveyed in this sound Bible-believing book include:

- The inspiration and authority of the Bible
- The person and work of Jesus Christ
- The way of salvation
- The sacraments of Baptism and the Lord's Supper
- How God builds the congregation
- The Second Coming of Christ

The reader will appreciate the *reverence for God's Word* in the presentation of these truths as well as the *clarity of expression* in conveying their meaning. This book is representative of the best *orthodox Lutheran pietism* currently available.

To place an order, write or call the following address:

AFLC Seminary Press
3110 East Medicine Lake Boulevard
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55441
(612) 544-9501

Single copies are \$3.50 plus tax and postage. Ask for information on rates for volume orders (10 or more).