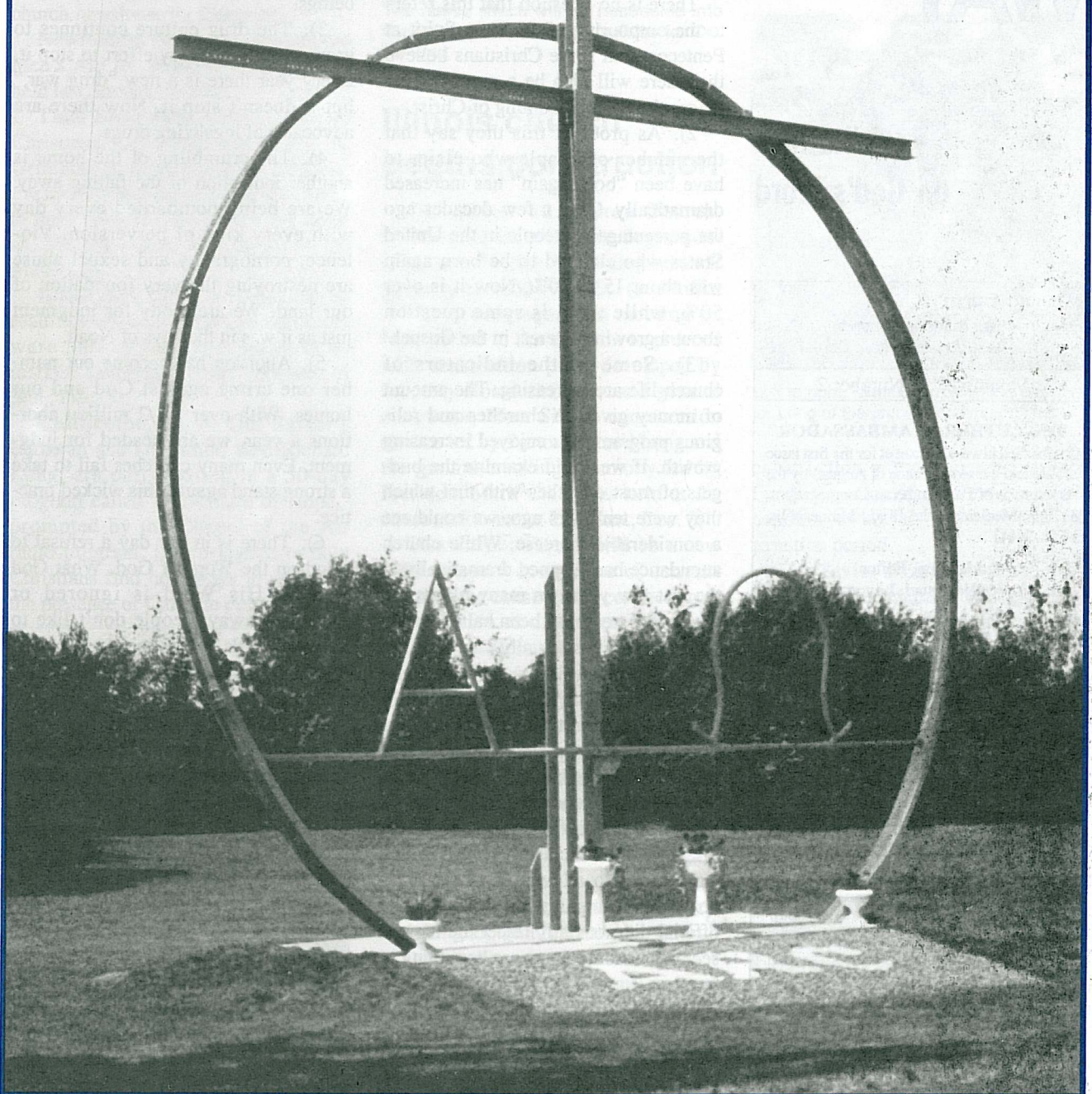


THE LUTHERAN AMBASSADOR

January 23, 1990



THE AFLC IN THE 90s

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LIGHT on the WAY

meditations on God's Word

COVER PHOTO

Sign at the entrance to
The Association Retreat Center

Volume 28 Number 2

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The question as to whether the world is getting better or worse is one which has stirred much debate within the Christian Church. Some say that there is progress in carrying out the Great Commission of the Lord. They cite as proof a number of things that are happening in recent years. Let me mention a few of them.

1). Joel 2:28, 29 is often quoted as proof of an outpouring of God's grace and power in the last days.

There is no question that this refers to the outpouring of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost, but some Christians believe that there will also be a great revival before the Second Coming of Christ.

2). As proof of this they say that the number of people who claim to have been "born again" has increased dramatically. Only a few decades ago the percentage of people in the United States who claimed to be born again was about 15 to 20%. Now it is over 50%, while there is some question about a growing interest in the Gospel.

3). Some of the indicators of church life are increasing. The amount of money given to churches and religious programs has enjoyed increasing growth. If we could examine the budgets of most churches with that which they were ten years ago, we could see a considerable increase. While church attendance has dropped dramatically in the last few years, in many places the downward trend has been halted and in some cases it has actually increased.

4). There is an increase in responses to evangelistic campaigners. Billy Graham reports that the invitations now come from places which previously were closed to the Gospel. I heard a news reporter interviewing a Soviet official a few days ago. In the interview the official was asked if they were going to allow Billy Graham to conduct a campaign in Moscow. The official did not flatly reject the idea. It seems that some doors are beginning to open.

All these are optimistic signs. But, there is another side of the picture. There are many indicators that we are entering a time of apostasy. These are

some of the signs which tell of a falling away.

1). Chapter 24 of Matthew's Gospel tells of the time preceding the return of the Lord. This surely does not sound like revival but rather a time of falling away and denial of the Lord.

2). There are more cults than ever before. People give themselves to Satan worship. We heard a few weeks ago of a group who not only sacrificed animals, but even sacrificed human beings.

3). The drug culture continues to grow in spite of every effort to stop it. Every year there is a new "drug war," but it doesn't stop it. Now there are advocates of legalizing drugs.

4). The crumbling of the home is another indication of the falling away. We are being bombarded every day with every kind of perversion. Violence, pornography and sexual abuse are destroying the very foundation of our land. We are ready for judgment just as it was in the days of Noah.

5). Abortion has become our number one crime against God and our homes. With over 1-1/2 million abortions a year, we are headed for judgment. Even many churches fail to take a strong stand against this wicked practice.

6). There is in our day a refusal to stand on the Word of God. What God says in His Word is ignored or explained away. People don't like to hear the words, "Thus saith the Lord."

This is a depressing picture. Is there no hope? The answer is a resounding "yes"! God will always have a faithful remnant who remain faithful until Jesus comes again. Amen, come quickly, Lord Jesus.



Pastor
James Asp

HIS GUIDING LIGHT

In the quiet of the midnight hour
I watched the drifting snow last night.
In gusts and waves it traveled on
And disappeared from sight.

I saw the lights across the way;
I marvelled at that harnessed power —
Its source, the Master of creation;
I sat and pondered for an hour.

The drifting snow ignored the light.
It passed on by and took no heed
To the guiding light that shone above;
If anything it picked up speed.

At that time it looked so beautiful —
It looked like so much fun,
But it lasted such a little while
And its race with life was done.

As I watched I thought of you and me.
We are much like the drifting snows,
Playing tag on the frozen ground,
Following every wind that blows.

The snow can drift at will, carefree —
It's been known to straddle fences.
We, too, can drift in the wrong direction
And suffer consequences.

There's danger in following the wind —
It can lead us into the darkest night.
We can wander far away from God
If we ignore His guiding light.

— Verna Kammen
Badger, Minn.



AFLTS ☐

by Dr. Francis Monseth, dean
Association Free Lutheran
Theological Seminary

Great opportunities and challenges lie before the Seminary in the coming decade. Foremost among these is the critical need to stand by the biblical foundation of our AFLC. We have a precious doctrinal heritage. We are evangelical and conservative Lutherans. As such, we put strong emphasis on the grace of God in Christ as being central to our faith and to our testimony. Our mission is to proclaim "Christ and Him crucified" (I Cor. 2:2). Our desire is to glory in "the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ" (Gal. 6:14). Our concern is to worship Him who as the Word, "became flesh and dwelt among us...full of grace and truth" (Jn. 1:14).

In our speaking and meditating upon the grace of God in Christ, we must recognize it

fundamentally as God's disposition toward us, His favor, His attitude because of the all-sufficient merits of Christ. God looks at us in Christ as though we had never sinned! That's grace! That's our theme! That's our hope! While it is true that the Bible speaks of grace sometimes as the strength God gives to a Christian to live for His glory, the sharp distinction must be made between that secondary aspect and saving grace in Christ. Principally, the grace of God is justifying grace! This is the grace spoken of in the beloved passage from Ephesians: "For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God" (Eph. 2:8-9).

We must also continue to maintain a high view of Scripture as the Word of God. Strong currents of unbelief continue to sweep across the religious landscape including parts of the Lutheran Church. The idea that the Bible is inerrant appears as foolish to some church people as accepting creationism is to an evolutionist. Those who affirm the total trustworthiness of all Scripture are considered unscholarly and naive. In the face of these attitudes and the dev-



AFLBS ☐

by Rev. Donald H. Greven
Dean, AFLBS

When I was first asked to write this article on what lies ahead for AFLBS, my first inward reaction was, "I wonder if Christ will return long before this decade is over?" We are told in Scripture to look for and long for our Savior's return. We would pray with the Apostle John, "Even so, come, Lord Jesus!"

But until that moment when we shall be caught up to meet the Lord in the air, we are called to *live* for Him; and that includes evaluating the present and planning for the future. In the light of the ministry of AFLBS, three thoughts come to mind.

First, times are changing. We are living in an ever-increasing secularistic and humanistic world, a world that is centered, not around God or His Word, or even consideration for others, but around self. Even for many who profess to be Christians, the effect of living in this kind of world tends to blur their thinking. And so we hear statements like, "With so much education ahead of me, maybe it's a waste of time to give

a whole year or two to the study and application of God's Word." There is so little thought given to true discipleship, to the surrender of my will to God's will and the surrender of the world's way of thinking to the inerrant and infallible Word of God.

Having recognized the spirit of our age, we must next realize that the basic needs of people remain the same. People need the Lord! Without that living and personal relationship with Christ there is no life! Many, even from Christian homes, have followed the world's way of thinking, have focused on making a living and have made a shipwreck of their lives. People need the word of the living God to build their lives around. Biblical principles need to be learned and applied to life in true discipleship. And that can only happen as quality time is spent with God in His Word!

What then lies in the future for AFLBS? We have seen in the last five years a real potential for growth. During this time that we have been actively involved on campus, our school has experienced a growth of about 30%. The message we are hearing from pastors and alumni is that of continued interest among youth to attend AFLBS in the years to come. Campus Days the past two years have had record-breaking attendance. For all of this we praise our wonderful Savior!

THE SEMINARY LOOKS FORWARD WITH ASSURANCE ☐

astating effect of acceptance of them upon the church at large, we must continue to teach without apology that "all Scripture is inspired by God" (II Tim. 3:16). Our future pastors must continue to be men with deep conviction that the Bible is true. They must preach the Word as fully reliable in all that it affirms.

Further, there is need for our coming leaders to be men who recognize the Bible as complete in its revelation to man. There continues to be a belief in some church circles that the Bible is not the only means God uses to reveal spiritual truths to us today. It is vital that we continue to uphold the great "Word alone" principle of the Lutheran Reformation. Not only is the Bible the *only* source of divine truth, it is at once the entirely *sufficient* source. All that we need to know for faith and life is revealed to us in the Scripture. It may be true that the Bible doesn't tell us all that we would like to know but it does give us all we need to know about the past,

about the present and about the future. The Scripture makes one "complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work" (II Tim. 3:17).

The Seminary must also continue to emphasize "wholesome Christian pietism" in a day when the level of Christians' standards and practice appears so low. In the name of evangelical Christianity, sinful practices and worldly lifestyles are carried on and seemingly condoned. Many professing Christians are barely distinguishable from their worldly counterparts. No wonder the world appears to be largely unimpressed and unaffected by what they observe among Christians. These sad conditions call for spiritual revival, revival that is characterized by true repentance and faith. Sin must be still called "sin." It must be seen for its hideousness and stench in the sight of a holy God. It must be recognized as worthy of eternal damnation. It must be confessed as sin and laid upon
continued on p. 10

"We have a precious doctrinal heritage. We are evangelical and conservative Lutherans."

The reasons for this growth are many. First, the spiritual void we spoke of earlier in this article had created a *need* for the solid foundation of God's Word. Many of our students express as they come here that they felt so alone in their high schools, and that they are longing for Christian fellowship and the true milk of the Word. The darkness and emptiness of this world can only be met in Christ and His Word.

Second, the prayers of God's people are effective! I want to encourage every Christian who reads this article to pray specifically for youth in your congregation and families by name. Pray that God would direct them, according to His will, to AFLBS.

Third, there are very few true Bible schools left in the United States, and the need is greater. I believe there is a place for Bible school and we want to remain as such. Many Bible schools that have become colleges have lost their emphasis on the Word, and with that have lost their reason for existence. I believe there is and always will be a need for a school where students can come to focus *not* on grades or career training, but on their relationship with God through His precious Word.

Fourth, the cost of Bible school is still affordable. With a little planning, discipline and work, students are still able to earn well over

half the cost of their expenses by working part-time in the afternoons or evenings. Because all our classes are held in the mornings, and jobs are plentiful, nearly all our students work their way through school.

Fifth, Bible school continues to be a very positive option because four-year Bible colleges, and even some state colleges, are accepting more of our credits. It is now possible for a student to attend AFLBS for two years, transfer to a Bible college, and receive a bachelor's degree, all in four years. We believe this factor will encourage more of our youth to come to AFLBS for the full two-year program.

Finally, we expect continued growth at AFLBS because of increased opportunities to serve Christ as a student. Gospel teams, involvement in local congregations, personal work, children's ministries and summer teams all give our students an opportunity to not only *receive* in the classroom, but also to share Christ in a multitude of ways.

As we look forward to what God has in store for us in the years ahead, our need may lie in classrooms and a gymnasium. In our dorms we still have room for about 30 more students. Pray with us for the Lord to supply every need: for students, for building, faculty and staff who love the Lord, His Word, and students!

YOUTH FOCUS for the 1990s

"One of the primary goals...is to encourage the youth in their personal relationship to Jesus Christ and His Word."



Rev. Joel C. Rolf
Chairman, Youth Board

The world in which we live certainly is changing at a faster pace than we realize. The changes we have seen in the 1980s technologically, economically, politically and religiously, with the New Age Movement, among other things, will have far reaching effects for the 1990s. What implications will these developments have on our families and children? How will we respond to these needs?

As one considers the needs of youth today, the basic needs are there of love, security, acceptance, self-worth and, certainly, the primary need of knowing Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord in one's life. Certainly it is great comfort and encouragement in these days of change to know that God's Word never changes or becomes outdated. "The grass withers, the flower fades, but the Word of our God shall stand forever" (Isaiah 40:8).

It is of great encouragement to know that "All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for

reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be adequate, *equipped for every good work*" (II Timothy 3:16, 17). God's Word gives us the answers to evaluate the problems we face today and the things we will face in the future. In God's Word is the guidance and grace we need to be *"equipped for every good work."*

The Youth Board is grateful to God for the heritage we have, for the open doors of ministry to youth in the AFLC and for what God is accomplishing through His Word. It has been of great help to be able to have a part-time Youth Resources Director (Pastor Dennis Gray) for the past few years. The increase in Bible studies and helpful information to youth groups has been well received. It has also helped to increase awareness among people to recognize and respond to the needs of our youth.

One of the primary goals we see in youth ministry is to encourage the youth in their personal relationship to

Writing on behalf of the Board of Pensions, looking to the next and last decade of this century, find me very personally involved as a pastor in the AFLC. But then, aren't we all? For, you see, our Board is responsible for not only pensions, but medical insurance and the Help in Service Fund in our AFLC and we carry out the networking of these three important funds for pastors and congregations.

The question is, what will the 1990s bring? It seems as though there are certain obvious conclusions I can draw which will either control our actions or will influence our direction. Each of the three parts of the P-M-H funds will have to be treated separately.

First, **Pensions**. In this fund I see the AFLC coming of age. I have a formula to refer to by way of making a point and it is: $20 + 30 + 10 = R$. Twenty years ago we began to graduate students from our seminary. Those

first grads averaged about 30 years of age. The ten years ahead will introduce the R, or retirement age of those first

THREE IMPORTANT FUNDS

"I see for those under our pension plan a stable income in spite of inflation."



Rev. Richard Gunderson
Member, Board of Pensions

graduates. While we have had pastors entering retirement over the years, the 1990s will begin the full circle of including the former "young men." We all understand that Social Security does not provide adequate income even today and there is a need to supplement retirement income. As we see in the next ten years the beginning of retirement for those who have graduated from the seminary, there will be another crisis if these men have not been under the Pension Plan in the past. Our concern as a board and as representatives of our AFLC is that everyone has some plan in place. I am thankful to God for those who in the beginnings of our AFLC had the foresight to set up such a plan. It is a good plan and available to all of our pastors and staff. I see for those under our Pension Plan a stable income in spite of inflation.

Next is the **Medical Plan**. "Instability" best describes the future in the

a rare and beautiful treasure

In the 7th chapter of Genesis, we read that Noah and his family and all living creatures entered the ark and God shut them in. As we continue to read the 8th chapter, God opens the door again and makes a promise to never again destroy all living creation. Verse 22: "As long as the earth endures, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night will never cease" (NIV).

A few thousand years later the Association of Free Lutheran Congregations comes on the scene. Their prayerful concern is that all mankind can and will be saved through the Gospel message. About 15 years after the formulation of the AFLC and with prayer, debate and an overwhelming vote at the Annual Conference, the Association Retreat Center (ARC) was purchased, providing a place where God and man can have close communion. As we read in the 7th and 8th chapters of Genesis, Noah never had to worry about anything concerning this world or its cares because God was taking full care of him and his precious cargo while he was aboard the ark.

Now that the ARC celebrated its 10th anniversary this past August, it can be said that God has once again provided an ARC for his people to "Come away and rest awhile" (Mark 6:31).

Our special thanks and God's richest blessings to the staff, helpers, supporters, volunteers and those who



and communicating updates on pensions and medical coverages.

So what is ahead for the AFLC in the next decade? Coming of age. Meeting the wind of change. And continuing in our commitment to the love of Christ.

Jesus Christ and His Word. We have published and will continue to print Bible studies and other helpful materials that address the needs of youth today and give God's answers. Another phase of this goal that we hope to develop is a discipleship training and Scripture memory curriculum for our youth. Plans are underway right now to implement some of these things in the summer Luther League team. The team will have an adult to assist in this training and will be available to youth groups in the congregations for three to four days to share in the areas of unity, planning, fellowship and outreach.

There are also plans to continue to have the Youth Leadership Conference in cooperation with AFLBS during the even numbered years during the third week of July. This summer's conference will be July 16-20, with the theme, "Workers Well Equipped," from II Timothy 2:15.

One of the challenges the Youth Board sees for the '90s is to raise the

awareness of the needs of our youth for encouragement in the Lord and involvement in the congregation. A network of district youth representatives is being organized for this purpose. The "Friends of Youth Fellowship" is also a means by which individuals and congregations can become involved in supporting youth ministry in our AFLC with a monthly gift of \$5.00 or \$60.00 a year. Those participating will also receive a regular prayer letter with information and prayer concerns. More details on this can be found elsewhere in this issue.

The needs of youth certainly are great and the home and church certainly have great opportunities and responsibilities to encourage and train them in the way they should go. Are you praying regularly for the youth in your congregation and community and seeking opportunities to encourage them in the Lord? If not, let me encourage you to begin right now to make this a matter of prayer.

whole of medical costs. Legislative action to establish catastrophic insurance has been attempted. Talk of a national health program does not seem to be as far away as we have believed. What the future holds, I certainly do not know. The progress made in the medical field is exciting and frightening. It not only challenges our values and ethics, it raises questions as to who will be eligible for treatment from an economic point of view. Medical coverage continues to rise in cost and has shown no slow-up in that progression. It is one of the large factors in employment today. Tomorrow? Who knows? So where are we in the AFLC and where are we going? Today, we are very happy with our medical plan and can only trust that we can continue with our present company - Ministers Life. But it is going to cost us more and we can expect continued raises in the cost of medical coverage. We trust that it will be moderate. Expenses can

be reduced by having greater participation in the plan. It will give us better standing with the company.

The HIS FUND is best explained according to I John 3:16-18, "By this we know love, because He laid down His life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren. But whoever has this world's goods, and sees his brother in need, and shuts up his heart from him, how does the love of God dwell in him? My little children, let us not love in word or in tongue, but in deed and truth."

We will continue in this commitment to the love of Christ. Better protocol in handling of the requests for help is needed. Each situation needs individual treatment and that has happened. I envision an effort from the Pension Board to do educational or preventive things through the Pastor's Conferences, district meetings and annual conferences in such areas as financial planning, health awareness

uphold the ARC in prayer. If you take away any one of the above, the ARC ministry would not be where it is today. Perhaps some day you will be asked to partake in some event at the ARC. Become involved.

As we stand on the threshold of the '90s and look toward the year 2000, would all of you who read this article ask yourselves if there is something the Lord wants from you concerning the ARC.

Proverbs 24:3, 4: "By wisdom a house is built, and through understanding it is established; through knowledge its rooms are filled with rare and beautiful treasures" (NIV).

When you look at long-range planning, remember long-range is only 18 months to 24 months and anything over that is visionary.

As we enter the last decade of this century, may the ARC continue to be a blessing to all who gather there and Jesus' name be glorified. Should we tarry here on earth when the year 2000 comes, maybe we could be visionary for a bit. Could there be a need for our people of the AFEC to have a place in which they would like to retire, such as the ARC? As of now there is one building which could be remodeled into a six-unit condominium. How far out of the picture would it be to maybe build some additional units or rather small retirement homes here on the property for our people. As we continue our vision, maybe there would be a new congregation located here on the property.

There are so many possibilities for these 80 acres. Remember the last part of verse 4, "Its rooms (acres) are filled with rare and beautiful treasures."

If you have an idea or vision concerning the Association Retreat Center, talk to the Lord about it first and then share it with one of the staff or a member of the Board.

Thank you and God bless all of you.

Clifford Seldal
Chairman

OUR PRESIDENT WRITES

A tribute to a dedicated saint

Two weeks ago as I was sitting in the office going through the mail, I opened a letter from one of our pastors. It contained a very generous check from a member of his congregation. This man had learned of the financial needs in our AFLC through the letter sent out from our office. He wanted to be sure that he could make his special annual offering to the work of the AFLC.

What makes this contribution from this man so significant was that the pastor's letter went on to say that "This is probably Maynerd's last opportunity to give to the Lord's work." Cancer had now brought him into a coma; he could neither eat nor drink.

I was deeply moved by the letter and the concern and generosity of this man and his family. I have known them since the early years of the Association. I sat for a while just meditating on such commitment. These people were committed to the work of the AFLC, their own congregation and to Christ Himself. The telephone rang, and as I answered I heard the voice of the pastor whose letter I sat holding in my hand. The news he conveyed was that Maynerd had passed away. He had gone home to his eternal reward. He had now heard from the blessed Lord Himself, the words, "Well done, good and faithful servant." Needless to say, I was in tears.

We can only thank God for this beloved saint, and all like him who have sought first the Kingdom of God and his righteousness. Maynerd, though in his seventies, had kept beef cattle. When he sold stock in the fall, the AFLC was always generously remembered.

We are not so fortunate as to have many men like Maynerd cross our pathway in life. When they do, it is like receiving a double blessing from the hand of God. God has seen fit to allow us a number of men and women to be that special blessing in the short history of our AFLC.

The question that is asked on many levels is "Who will take his place?" I can only pray that my sharing the example of the committed life of this departed man of God will result in many others rising up to take up the challenge of taking his place as a prayer-warrior and a faithful supporter of the kingdom work.

—Richard Snipstead

"I was deeply moved by the letter and the concern and generosity of this man and his family."

A LOOK FORWARD — II

Today we complete a collection of articles by some leaders of the AFLC in which they share some thoughts about their area of responsibility in the decade we have just entered. Their opinions are personal and yet no doubt representative of the ideas of others with whom they work.

Editorially, we are giving some views also and share more of them now. Readers, as always, are to take them for what they are worth.

World Missions — Our presence in Brazil is strong, having been there for over 25 years. Prospects are that new missionaries will not only replace retiring ones but build the total number to a higher level than ever before. And then more native Brazilian pastors are taking over parishes so that the work is well cared for everywhere.

The work in Mexico is being strengthened also and expanded. Because of our work in Mexico and on the border it will be easier for the AFLC to get into further work among Hispanic peoples in the U. S.

It is to be hoped that the Association will soon be officially involved in work in India again. Perhaps by the time this is read such a decision will have been made and implemented.

For the long-range future two other world areas beckon us. Wouldn't it be good if the AFLC could some day have work among the Chinese or Japanese and somewhere among the Black people of Africa? Opportunities may be limited, but the Lord can work it out.

Publications — We like the idea that some of the good old books be reprinted. The Board is asking for recommendations (titles). Don't be afraid to suggest them.

This decade of the '90s should see the publication of a hymnal for our church. This is very much needed. Before long the committee working on the project should be making a list available to us of proposed hymns for the book.

The *Ambassador* could very well be increased in size during this decade, from 16 to 20 or 24 pages. As the church grows the amount of material available increases. Some study should be given to the most efficient placement of responsibility for the oversight of the *Ambassador*. The Board of Publications and Parish Education, Editorial Board and Co-ordinating Committee are all presently involved in some way or other. One single body of oversight would be good.

Parish Education — The next ten years should see the completion of the reworking of the Ambassador Sunday School Series. We predict also that new high school study courses will come on line during that period.

Stewardship — One has only to leaf through the 1989 Annual Report of the AFLC to realize that there is some very good giving in some congregations to our benevolences. Yes, we know that God knows the resources out of which people give and He knows the hearts, but it surely

seems that some generous giving is being done. Such will have the reward of inner joy and blessing.

On the other hand, have we reached the limit of what can be expected of the people of our churches financially? We doubt it. While some giving is sacrificial, perhaps most of it isn't. More can be done. The needs are so great for world evangelization.

Evangelism — While the New Testament doesn't clearly delineate the work of the called evangelist as over against the local pastor, we all know what evangelism is, the bringing of the Gospel of Jesus Christ to people in spiritual need.

The AFLC is blessed with a number of men, ordained and lay, who have the gifts of what we think of as an evangelist. The requests for special evangelistic meetings can be filled. And yet we like to have someone devote full time to this work, so the search for a man continues. There are varieties of gifts in evangelistic preaching to be considered.

It would be good if every pastor in the church could be utilized for at least one week out of each year in some kind of preaching mission in another congregation or parish. Each one has some gift to offer for the good of others.

Pensions — The goal is that more pastors and church workers be a part of the AFLC medical health insurance plan. Progress is being made. It would be good if a dental package could be added.

With each passing year more congregations should accept that fact that they must help their pastors with reasonable and effective health and pension plans and the AFLC plans are the way to go.

Youth Work — Young people have always been a treasure of the Association. The teenagers of 27 years ago are now in many cases leaders and active workers in our congregations and a few are pastors. The younger generation are showing up as members of the AFLC boards and committees.

The work of developing the Luther League Federation into a year 'round cohesive organization since the 1962 merger has gone slowly, but progress is being made. The merger caused more disruption in that area than one would have suspected. In this decade there is prospect for a stronger, more united Federation with significant adult support.

Through the LLF, Bible School and the two Missions, a growing number of youth are being involved in summer Christian work.

The ARC — The Association Retreat Center enters the new decade debt-free or virtually so. That is certainly commendable. From all reports it has a growing ministry with more and more groups making use of the excellent facilities in a beautiful natural location.

Since distance limits the usefulness of the ARC for many in the AFLC, the 1990s should see one of two things happening. The ARC should be turned over without charge to

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THE NEW SERVICE BULLETIN

We received the first shipment of AFLC bulletins that have "a new look." I appreciate the intention of the Board of Parish Education, but I really wish they would not omit the devotional writing on the back cover and print the Scripture texts in their place.

The congregation I serve is new to the AFLC. They had been using the bulletins from Augsburg of the ELCA.

When we switched and began using the bulletins the AFLC uses, many people were impressed by these new bulletins and most of the positive comments were shared because of the good evangelical devotional messages printed on the back of the bulletin.

I have been encouraging the congregation to bring their Bibles to the worship service and some were

responding and bringing them along. Now when the texts are printed on the back of the bulletin, it gives people another excuse to leave their Bibles at home. Wouldn't you agree that it is better to read the Word from the Bible itself than from the back of the bulletin?

Finally, some of the shut-ins in my congregation really looked forward to

AFLTS

Jesus, who died for our sins. Yes, God graciously forgives sin for Christ's sake for all who believe.

Whenever and wherever there is true faith, there will be a corresponding and progressive change in a person (II Cor. 5:17). According to his new nature, he will hate sin. According to that same nature, he will love God and His will as expressed in the Moral Law (Rom. 7:22). He will delight in teaching and being taught that holy will. He will deeply grieve and repent when he sees how far short he falls of God's perfection. Our future pastors must not be hesitant in teaching the Law of God to believers. Yes, it always accuses, but it also informs and guides the believer regarding the righteous living God desires for His people. Since the Law cannot motivate or empower for such godly living, it must always be accompanied by the Gospel, which is the power for salvation (Rom. 1:16) and for sanctification (Rom. 12:1, 2; II Cor. 7:1). Luther, in his Large Catechism, as he treats the Ten Commandments, provides a fine example of evangelical teaching of the Law. He carefully expositis the will of God in

the light of God's grace.

There is a biblical balance that must be carefully and prayerfully maintained as we endeavor to promote wholesome Christian pietism. On the one hand, the Law must not be neglected for fear of legalism. The product will be "cheap grace" and continuing decline of Christian morality. On the other hand, the Law must not be neglected for fear of "cheap grace" or "easy believism." The result will be legalism or despair. Rather, both Law and Gospel must continue to be "rightly divided" unto the conviction of sin and the comfort of those who trust in Christ (II Tim. 2:15).

The mission of the Seminary in the 1990s, as it has been in the past, is as exciting as it is challenging! We are thrown upon the Lord in a sense of deep dependence, for without Him we can do nothing. However, with Him — and we are assured of His presence (Matt. 28:20; Heb. 13:5-6) — we can do all things through Him who strengthens us (Phil. 4:13). With this assurance, we look forward to the days ahead for the Seminary with eager anticipation. May God keep us dependent upon Him!

EDITORIAL

the two or three districts which can best utilize it for year 'round activities or the outlying districts of the AFLC should be given annual subsidies from the General Fund for their camping and retreat needs. The first course is the preferable one.

Finally, **Inner Missions** — this isn't one of our authorized benevolence programs, but let it be a dream for the future. Perhaps it can be begun before the year 2000 comes.

What we have in mind is outreach to the "inner cities," the "core cities" of larger metropolitan areas. It would be an attempt to reach people for Christ who live in miserable conditions, often threatened by the drug culture. The work would take special dedication and special grace. It would

never become self-supporting, but it would be real mission work. This inner city ministry would be tough work, maybe too tough to be realistic. But if the vision is there and any doors open for it, let's be open to the idea, and available.

These are some thoughts and ideas set forth on the threshold of a new decade. God alone knows what the ten years will bring if they are granted to us. Certain it is that we all want the end of the 1990s to find us having made substantial progress for God's kingdom. To have fallen back or merely to have maintained the status quo would be tragic. May we be obedient to the Lord's leading.

Note: Beginning next time, a series of editorials on the Fundamental Principles of the AFLC.

our bulletin because there was a personal touch in the devotional on the back of the bulletin. And I felt confident that the message would always be conservative and evangelical and that it could be read and reread to bring encouragement and to strengthen the faith of those people unable to come to church.

Week of prayer set

The Co-ordinating Committee of the Association of Free Lutheran Congregations has asked pastors and congregations of the AFLC to set the second week of February aside as a "Week of Prayer."

No methods or schedules for the week are being suggested but it is

hoped that each congregation will work out its own plan.

In his letter to the pastors for the Committee, Mr. Clifford Johnson wrote of the need for a Holy Spirit-inspired renewal in our congregations and the need for a continual burden for the lost and the spiritual health of our people.

AFLC evangelism needs prayer partners

Evangelism is preaching the Word of God in its truth and clarity so that people understand what God has done for them in Christ and see their need (revealed by the convicting power of the Holy Spirit) to surrender their lives to Christ, trusting Him as their Savior and yielding their wills to Him as Lord of their life. Evangelism of necessity must be confrontation, but it is not violation. We must confront people with the good news of the Gospel, for sinners cannot believe and repent and be saved unless they hear and understand. Yet it is prayer that brings about the divine encounter between the Holy Spirit and those "dead in trespasses and sin," so that they are given the desire and power to repent and believe. Peter said, in Acts 11:18b: "God has also granted to the Gentiles repentance to life." Also note Acts 17:30 and II Timothy 2:25. Since repentance and faith and eternal life are all gifts from God, we must have many Christians involved in praying; this opens hearts and homes. Billy Graham has said that 85 to 90% of the people who come forward in any of his crusades were

—By Pastor John H. Abel
AFLC Evangelist

prayed for. Prayer is *foundational*. In our Association today, I am convinced that we need a grass-roots prayer movement, so that we, our communities and our nation, might have an awakening sent from God.

We are living in tremendous days of materialism, humanism and immorality permeating our schools, society, homes and culture. Many have asked, can an awakening ever happen again? Things were very dark in our nation at several points in our history, yet since the 1700s God in His mercy has sent three great awakenings to our land, so we cannot conclude that God will not, nor cannot do it again, for the Holy Spirit is not bound. I read recently in the *Christian History* magazine: "Are social, ethnic, regional, economic, sexual and spiritual barriers too great for the God who created us? Is the One who made us all different hindered by the complex nature of our pluralistic society? Does awakening come from below...or from above?"

Yes, times have been very dark in our nation's history before. At the time of the Second Great Awakening around the year 1800 until 1840, an Episcopal pastor described the South: "How many thousands...never saw, much less read or even heard a chapter of the Bible! How many Tens of thousands

It is a challenge and spiritual burden to be called to be an evangelist now, part-time in the USA and part-time in Brazil. Such responsibility sends us to our knees and we cry out to the church and to God for prayer partners.

who never were baptized or heard a Sermon! An thrice Ten thousands, who never heard the Name of Christ, save in Curses...! Lamentable! Lamentable is the situation of these people." Timothy Dwight, president of Yale and grandson of Jonathan Edwards, described the situation in our new country near the end of the 1700s. "The profanation of the Sabbath...profaneness of language, drunkenness, gambling, and immorality, toward every moral and religious subject" (*Church History*, pp. 24, 26).

Sounds like our days, doesn't it? This situation permeates the church also. Oh, what a call for every Christian to pray. Did you know that the third great awakening (1858-1859) was brought about by prayer meetings in cities of Canada and the USA and was led not by clergy, but by devoted laypersons. The awakenings at that time in Britain and America led to worldwide missionary activity which spread the Gospel around the world. In 1800, Christians were concentrated in Europe and North America; by 1900 there were many in China, Africa, India and South America. *Will you be our prayer partners* as I serve as AFLC evangelist in these trying days? God wants prayer and we are counting on it.

"Many have asked,
can an awakening
ever happen again?"

from a pastor's study

NO MODIFICATION NEEDED

Timber framing is a method of building framing where the strength of a wood building frame is in heavy timbers with mortise and tenon joinery held together with wood pegs.

The *Fine Home Building Magazine* for October/November 1989 carried a news article about the annual convention of the Timber Framers Guild of North America. Before their convention began, 400 people arrived to set up two timber frame houses in Hanover, Penn. Over the previous 12 months, members of the Guild, working with the York chapter of Habitat for Humanity, orchestrated the design, cutting, transporting and, finally, the raising of the two timber frame homes.

The 300 plus timbers, which had to fit together like a giant jigsaw puzzle, were assigned to volunteers throughout the world who then made them according to specifications in their own wood shops. This means that a window trimmer made in West Germany had to fit into the mortises cut by timber framers in Michigan. Some timbers arrived by semi-trailer truck, others on lesser means of transportation, including being carried aboard aircraft as personal baggage. When all the timbers were laid out according to blueprint, most of the over 500 joints fit perfectly the first time. After drilling and fitting the joinery pegs, the frames for the two houses were then raised the following day. The Habitat people finished the construction projects.

If mere men, sinners by birth and

nature, can pull off a stunt like that, how much more could God, Who through the Holy Spirit used mere men, sinners by birth and nature, to write His Holy Word. Peter wrote, "We also have the prophetic word made more sure, which you do well to heed as a light that shines in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts; knowing this first, that no prophecy of Scripture is of any private interpretation, for prophecy never came by the will of man but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit" (II Pet. 1:19-21).

Can I believe the claims of the Bible over other religious systems of the world? For instance, can I be certain that if Jesus Christ is my Savior and Lord, that I have peace with God? Are all of my sins forgiven? Will I have the power to resist the temptations that would bring me to ruin? Is there really a home waiting for me in glory? Peter answers, "To those who have obtained like precious faith with us by the righteousness of our God and Savior Jesus Christ" (II Pet. 1:1). There is "grace and peace...multiplied" and God's "divine power" that gives us "all things that pertain to life and godliness" along with "exceedingly great and precious promises, that by these you may be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust" (II Pet. 1:1-4). There is the fruitful growth in faith (II Pet. 1:5-8), culminating in an abundant entrance into the "everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ" (II Pet. 1:11).

This is the Epiphany season of our church year, when we remember the revealing of the Christ of God to the Gentile peoples in the visit of Magi of the East to the home of Joseph and Mary and the Child, being led there by the light of a special star. It is also a good time to begin to pay more attention to the Word of God, "as to a light that shines in a dark place." Vincent, the Greek scholar, suggests that the "dark place" means a subtle association of darkness with squalor, a

neglected place. All too often our personal Bible study is a neglected place. We desire to go and do great things for the Lord, yet we have not been soaking our intellect in the Scriptures and we go down in defeat. When it comes to claiming the "exceedingly great and precious promises of God for ourselves and others, we find ourselves woefully bereft.

We are to take heed of the word until the "day dawns and the morning star arises in your hearts." Remember that this letter was written to folks who were born anew into God's family through living faith in the finished work of Christ on their behalf. But they needed the power of the living Word in their lives as they faced the issues of life each new day. As the Word was studied and meditated on, the new day of faith began to dawn and the light of the Morning Star began to rise in their hearts. They had a new reserve of power and grace so desperately needed to do God's will. As it was then, so it is now. *Halley's Bible Handbook* reports that there are 7000 promises of grace to the believer within the pages of Scripture. Four of those promises are touched in this article. How many more can you remember at this moment?

1990 is the International Year of the Bible. Are we going to remain spiritually illiterate or will we begin to heed the Word? Three hundred timber framers brought together the framework of two houses. The pieces fit with only a little modification and God brought together His Book over centuries of time by various men who wrote as they were moved by the Holy Spirit. No modification is needed. It all fits. It all points to Jesus Christ, the "author and finisher of our faith" (Heb. 12:2). Perhaps you, dear reader, have yet to make the life-changing decision to receive Christ. John said that the right to become a member of God's family is tied into a conscious, active receiving of Christ (Jn. 1:11-13). Jesus said that life eternal is in knowing the only true God and Jesus Christ whom He has sent (Jn. 17:4).

—by Pastor Henry Johansen
Wilmar, Minn.

An urgent message about young people

Be it resolved that the conference approve the establishment of a 'Friends of Youth Fellowship' to enable their national work to continue. Be it further resolved that we encourage congregations to help their youth to establish and reach a financial commitment to the Luther League Federation with emphasis on faithful stewardship." (Resolution #5, AFLC Annual Conference, 1989).

By the time you finish reading this article, your world, your country and your community will be a different place. And there is no single group of people who will be more severely affected than our young people. In the five minutes it takes you to read this article well over 20 teens will try to take their own lives — five will succeed. In the next five minutes almost 30 babies will be conceived among *our* teens. In the next five minutes nearly 2000 of our youth will ingest some kind of lethal drug into their bod-

In the next five minutes...

ies and a number of them will die. These are *our* kids, whether they be a part of your church, your family or the AFLC: they are *our* responsibility.

The burden of the above numbers seems almost unbearable. And indeed they would be if it were up to you and me alone to somehow change these lives. But it is not!!! Our God is the one who desires and is able to change these lives through the faithful ministry of His Church. There is therefore great hope for the young people of our nation and world.

We are told that 85-90% of all who come to a living relationship with Christ do so before the age of 18. *Therefore, we of the AFLC have an incredible window of opportunity to reach into the lives of young people within our communities with the life-changing truths of Jesus Christ!!!*

Hence the purpose of this article — the Youth Board of the AFLC and the International Luther League Federation would like to afford you the opportuni-

ty to become an active part of this ministry on a national and local level. To do so we invite you to become a part of the Friends of Youth Fellowship by committing yourself to pray daily for the youth of our nation and by faithfully committing yourself to pray daily for the youth of our nation and by faithfully giving *five* (not fifty or fifteen but *five*) dollars per month to further the ministry of the AFLC among the youth. We who have been placed by you into offices of responsibility to our youth are very excited about this "Window of Opportunity" to reach into that group which is most receptive to the message of the Gospel. Please join us!

By the end of February, we hope to have more information to your church about the Friends of Youth Fellowship and about a special Sunday in March set aside specifically to draw our attention to the needs of our youth and what your place can be in meeting those needs. There will be a special bulletin insert with an invitation to become a member of the Friends of Youth Fellowship and to receive the *Quarterly Youth Prayer Update*.

"But in your hearts set aside Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give a reason for the hope that is within you" (I Peter 3:15).

— Pastor Keith Quanbeck,
AFLC Youth Board Member

— Pastor Terry Wold,
President of the International
Luther League Federation

SNO DAZE SCHEDULED

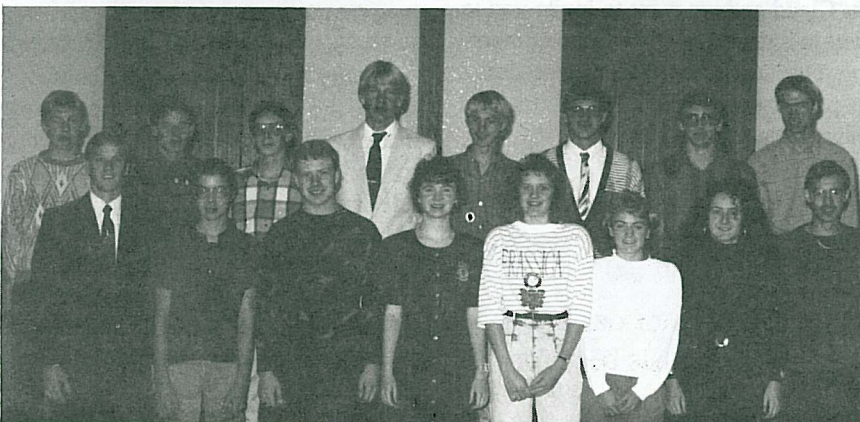
Registration for the Minneapolis District "Sno Daze" will begin at 7:00 p.m. on Friday, Feb. 2. Sno-Daze will take place once again at the Association Retreat Center in Wisconsin.

The speaker for this year's retreat will be the Rev. Donald Greven, dean of AFLBS. It is important that each

retreat goer have a health form properly filled out. Health forms used for other camps or retreats at the ARC can be used.

The retreat theme is "What If It Were Today?" The total cost of the retreat is \$45.00, which includes a \$5.00 registration fee.

— Pastor Dennis Gray



Hosting the Eastern North Dakota District youth retreat at Living Faith Lutheran Church in Larimore, Oct. 19-20, were, front row, left to right, Pastor Mark Molstre, Adam Grabanski, Tyler Stover, Minnette Wasness, Paula Amundson, Emily Gullikson, Elsa Ripoll and Willy Grabanski; and, second row, Nathan Stover, Jon Snyder, Travil Brott, Mark Sletten, Peter Grabanski, Jr., Chad Snyder, Craig Brott and Christ Grabanski.

Canadian AFLC Church News

Granite Lutheran Church, St. Cloud, Minn.

Greetings to all from Granite Lutheran Church in St. Cloud, Minnesota. We are a Free Lutheran Congregation that had its start about eight years ago in a small town named Royalton in central Minnesota. It was decided by the congregation to move to St. Cloud and begin a work of ministry for the Lord. Home Missions helped us secure a beautiful old building in the heart of residential St. Cloud. Our present pastor is Rev. Curtis Emerson, who began his ministry in the fall of 1986, and the Lord has been blessing us ever since. We have grown from a small handful to well over 100 in membership with just about that number coming on an average Sunday morning. We have been excited to see so many come to personal faith. God has blessed us with very friendly people with an enthusiasm to see the church grow and become a vital ministry in the St. Cloud area.

God has encouraged us in many ways in His work in St. Cloud. We have had the opportunity to begin a television ministry on the local cable station and have seen and heard of many tuning in to our Sunday morning service. We have been involved in a number of service projects in our community and even have a basketball team from our church that plays in a city league and that at this time has not lost a game. Last spring we had an unusual event in the church called the 100% Sunday, where we encouraged all of our members and regular attendees to come on that one Sunday morning. Our church was packed with regulars and visitors to whom we were able to minister the Word of God. There was a Children's Church with a team from the AFLC Bible School and spe-

cial singers and dinner. It was truly a great day for the Lord.

We have just recently enjoyed another one of the great fellowship opportunities within our congregation, our Christmas Sunday School program, Christmas dinner and Christmas party. On the Sunday morning that we have our Sunday School program, we all gather in the fellowship hall for a turkey dinner with all the trimmings, provided by the church. After dinner we all get involved in a Christmas party, which includes games for the kids and prizes, sometimes a Christmas song, games for all and a time of drawing close to one another in Christ. This year we served over 100 people.

We have also been blessed by doing something for those not so fortunate in the St. Cloud area. One of our trustees called one of the service agencies in town and found out that there are a lot of people that they service that do not have some of the simple things that we all take for granted, mittens and gloves. This year our church decided to decorate our Christmas tree a little differently. Each Sunday during Advent, we allow our people to come forward and decorate our Christmas tree with gloves and mittens for the needy. It is a beautiful sight to see our tree covered with mittens week by week. It seems like such a little thing, yet so important to those who do not have them.

God has been so good to us here at St. Cloud and we want to invite you to stop in and see us some Sunday morning. Our door is open to all who desire to praise and worship our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

—Corr.

MORAL FAILURE

The greatest cause for the moral breakdown of our modern generation is the fact that religious training has been forgotten in so many homes of today.

The Canadian AFLC Annual Conference will be held at Living Word Lutheran Church, Vernon, B.C., April 6th-8th, host pastor: Gerald Gettis.

We had hoped to get a Canadian directory into the 1990 Pastor's handbook but we took action about a week too late. Here is an abbreviated directory.

Officers

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Mrs. Leslie (Dawn) Johnson
Box 225, Lake Alma, Sask. SOC 1MO
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—Pastor Gene R. Sundby

MAJOR YOUTH RALLY SET FOR MARCH IN ILLINOIS

The Northern Illinois District chapters of Lutherans for Life will host a major youth rally, *Blessed for Life: A Teen Challenge for the 90s*, for ages 13 to 18, on Sat., Mar. 3. Molly Kelly, nationally known speaker on chastity, will be the keynote speaker. Lunch and snacks will be provided and there will be workshops on a variety of subjects relevant for today's teenagers. The rally will be held at Trinity Lutheran Church, Roosevelt and Meyers Roads, in Lombard. There is no charge for the all-day event, but teens must register. To register, or for more information, call (708) 620-0599.

—Lori Solyom

from here and there...

St. Paul, Minn. — Men from Maranatha Lutheran in Coon Rapids, Minn., were guests at the Men's Prayer Breakfast of Victory in Christ Lutheran on Sat., Jan. 6. Dave Hultgren brought the devotional thoughts from the Word.

Camarillo, Calif. — The lawns of First Lutheran Church were greening very nicely under the careful watering of Ruby Haugrud, as reported in the church newsletter for December.

Newfolden, Minn. — The annual Men's Aid for Westaker Lutheran was held last Sunday, Jan. 21.

Thief River Falls, Minn. — Before Christmas, Lay Pastor and Mrs. J. A. Grimstad presented a copy of *This Present Darkness* by Frank E. Peretti to the library of Our Saviour's Lutheran. The book deals with the New Age Movement.

Goodridge, Minn. — A number of readings about our Christmas carols were part of the program at Telemarken Lutheran on the afternoon of Sun., Dec. 31.

Chillicothe, Ill. — Our Savior's Lutheran and her pastor, Rev. Richard Long, are participating in a 50-day program called "Adventure of Hope," promoted by the Chapel of the Air radio program. It is designed to help Christians find new ways to represent the presence of Christ in our society.

Newark church to host conference

The Illinois District of the AFLC will hold its Annual Bible Conference at West Lisbon Lutheran Church rural Newark. Conference dates are Friday and Saturday, Feb. 16 and 17.

The Rev. Ralph Tjelta, Association Schools, will be the Bible teacher. Rev. Gary Jorgenson of Ottawa, Ill., will be the speaker on Friday night and Rev. Robert Lewis, host pastor, will speak at the youth service on Saturday evening.

The ladies of the district will meet on Saturday during the noon hour.

— Pastor Dennis Gray



The house which will be remodeled into Sunday School and office facilities for Our Savior's.

Illinois church begins construction

Our Savior's Lutheran Church, Chillicothe, Ill., will soon begin construction of a church building on their property at 1603 Hoyt St. (at Moffitt Ave.). A congregational meeting on Nov. 19 led to the decision to proceed with construction plans developed by Property Board chairman and general contractor, Mort Sill. A consecration service led by Pastor Richard Long and the ground-breaking ceremony led by President Mark Craig was held at the construction site at 2 on Sun., Dec. 3.

The worship facility will be a new 1000 square foot structure of conventional frame construction connecting to the east side of the current residence (pictured) which will be remodeled to house the Sunday School and church office. The worship area will seat approximately 100 people and will be accessible by the handicapped. Construction is expected to be completed by early summer, weather permitting.

The prime sub-contractor for the project will be Larry Eftefield of Edelstein, Ill., who has been involved in several major church building projects including Epiphany Lutheran Church in Dunlap, Ill.

As a result of the current study of Financial Freedom Principles during the mid-week adult Bible study class, the congregation is planning to use the existing building fund to complete the



Left to right, Mark Craig, Mort Sill and Pastor Long at the groundbreaking on Dec. 3.

construction without increasing debt. Funds for some of the furnishings will continue to be raised during the construction period.

Our Savior's Lutheran Church was formed during January, 1987, and currently worships at 9 a.m. on Sundays at the ABC Day Care Building, 301 Maple Street, Chillicothe. During 1988, the congregation joined the Association of Free Lutheran Congregations.

Eastern N. Dak. District Bible conference Feb. 2-4

The Eastern N. Dak. District will hold a Bible conference at Trinity Lutheran Church, Grand Forks, Feb. 2-4 beginning with an evening service.

Rev. James Asp will be the evening speaker and Rev. Ralph Rokke will be the Bible teacher.

A WMF Banquet will be served on Friday at 6 p.m. at Trinity.

HISTORICAL QUARTERLY HAS NEW EDITOR

Prof. Leroy E. Vogel has the appointment as new editor of the Concordia Historical Institute Quarterly extended by the Institute's Board of Governors at a recent meeting in St. Louis, Mo. He succeeds Dr. Hilton C. Oswald. Editors have traditionally come from the faculty of Concordia Seminary and that trend continues in Prof. Vogel.

In addition to teaching at Concordia, Mr. Vogel has been a parish pastor and a Navy chaplain.

"RARE" COMMODITY KEEPS PRESS RUNNING IN CHINA

— People in the United States who feel they are being smothered in paper, find it hard to imagine that in other places individuals are short of such an integral part of everyday life.

Yet China, and parts of Eastern Europe and Africa, regularly count on the American Bible Society and its partners for a rare commodity — Bible paper.

To supply Christians crying out for the printed Word in the People's Republic of China, the Hong Kong Bible Society recently held a bike-athon to raise money for a further supply.

Although the rain put a damper on the event, 1,275 people in the Crown Colony either completed the course or simply contributed to the total of over U.S. \$5,100, enough to help the Amity Printing Press in Nanjing add still more Bibles to its output of over one million copies produced in the past 24 months.

—American Bible Society

—Sales of New Age books topped \$100 million in 1989.

—France has more than 30,000 towns and villages with no evangelical church.

—Only 16 percent of Canadians aged 19 to 24 currently attend church.

—The world's population, currently 5.2 billion, could reach 14.2 billion by 2100.

THE LUTHERAN AMBASSADOR

3110 E. Medicine Lake Blvd.

Minneapolis, Minn. 55441

Second-class

AFLBS receives two grants

Association Free Lutheran Bible School, Minneapolis, is the recipient of a \$5,100 grant from Aid Association for Lutherans (AAL). The money will be used to sponsor a three-day Campus Days weekend for high school juniors and seniors, and a tour by the school's choir.

According to the Rev. Donald Greven, dean, "As our Association of Free Lutheran Congregations continues to grow, we have a larger number of congregations that know very little about our school.

"Our need is to go to the congregations to raise their awareness of our school, and to give their high school youth a firsthand look at all that our school has to offer them," Greven said. "Surveys of students at AFLBS over the years have consistently shown that the one greatest factor in a student's decision to attend is personal contact

with present students."

While attending the weekend on campus, the high school students will experience dorm life and attend classes.

SCHOLARSHIP FUNDS

Association Free Lutheran Bible School, Minneapolis, Minn., has received a \$2,400 grant from Aid Association for Lutherans (AAL) to develop scholarships.

According to Rev. Donald Greven, dean, the grant will fund 16 scholarships of \$150 each to be awarded to students attending the school. Selection will be based on student financial need and academic competence.

"The immediate goal is to aid students, who are both competent academically and financially limited, to complete their studies," Pastor Greven said.

—During the 58 hours it took to rescue Jessica McClure, over 10,000 babies were aborted in the U.S.

—Nine in ten first pregnancies in Soviet women will end in abortion.

—Only three European countries do not permit abortions: Belgium, Ireland, and Malta. The most liberal abortion laws are in Austria, Denmark, Norway, Sweden, Greece, and the Netherlands, where abortion on demand is legal.

—As the winds of change blow across Europe, representatives of 30 U. S. evangelical publishers are rejoicing at the unprecedented freedom to exhibit and distribute Christian literature during a recent book fair in the Soviet Union.

Peter Deyneka, Jr., president of Slavic Gospel Association said, "I was deeply moved by the spiritual hunger of the people who came to the fair."

from SERVANT No. 6 and 7