

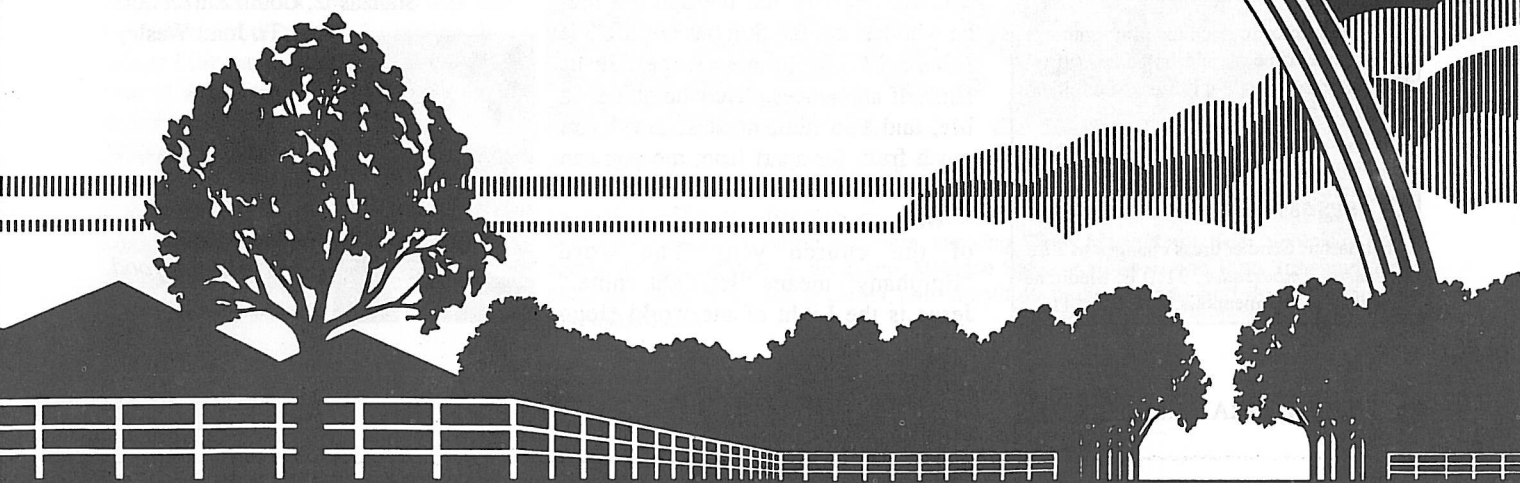
# THE LUTHERAN AMBASSADOR

January 24, 1989

*In  
looking  
back...*

*Not to us, O Lord,  
not to us but to your  
name be the glory,  
because of your  
love and  
faithfulness.*

*Psalms 115:1*



# LIGHT on the WAY

## meditations on God's Word

Volume 27 Number 2

### THE LUTHERAN AMBASSADOR

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If we say we have fellowship with Him while we walk in darkness, we lie and do not live according to the truth; but if we walk in the light, as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all sin" (I John 1:6-7).

Blood is a wonderful creation of God. It continually circulates within a living person 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Part of its function is to take oxygen and nutritional substances to each body cell as well as to remove carbon dioxide and other waste products from those same cells. In addition the white cells attack and cleanse away germs and viruses that can bring sickness to us. Blood is indispensable to life. Without blood flowing, we would die in a matter of minutes.

This illustration can be applied not only to physical life but to spiritual life also. So often when we think of Jesus' blood, we recall His suffering and death on the cross, that He shed His blood to redeem us from sin, death, and the power of the devil. Our thoughts should not end there, though, for He rose from the grave. He is alive, never to die again. So, too, His blood is not dead either but dynamic and living, to touch us effectively right now. He is to live in us and we in Him day by day, so we have unending forgiveness, life and salvation.

As He who is the Bread of life and life itself controls and flows through us, the impurity of sin is removed and spiritual nourishment is brought to us, giving us eternal health and wholeness. On the other hand, take Christ away and spiritual depravity and death come very quickly. No wonder St. John could declare, "He who has the Son has life; he who has not the Son has not life" (I John 5:12). In John's Gospel, Jesus Himself announces, "He who abides in Me, and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing" (John 15:5).

We are now in the Epiphany season of the church year. The word "Epiphany" means "let light shine." Jesus is the Light of the world (John

## Total dependence

8:12). He is also Truth itself (John 14:6). In I John 1:6-7, we're informed we are not to walk in darkness but in light, living according to the truth. This, too, is a call to live daily in Christ and He in us, to ever be in total dependence upon Him. He is the light who is to daily shine upon us, guiding us on our way. He is to be truth, dwelling in us, our uprightness and honesty moment by moment.

Do we day by day see our need of Christ? Is He who is truth and light living in us, ever flowing through us, casting us upon Himself as our life, nourishment, purity, our all? Spiritually, we cannot just live in the past. Christ is to be our dynamic, present, personal Savior as He comes to us through Word and Sacrament. It's important that He is dwelling in us this very instant, flowing through us, nourishing us with Himself, cleansing away our sins and failures. Our completeness is to be totally in and of Him and in no way of self, the old nature. Christ living His life in and through us is to be our hope of glory. In Him and Him alone may we find joy and strength to His praise forevermore.

### 1. *Jesus, Thy blood and righteousness*

*My beauty are, my glorious dress;  
Midst flaming world, in these arrayed,  
With joy shall I lift up my head.*

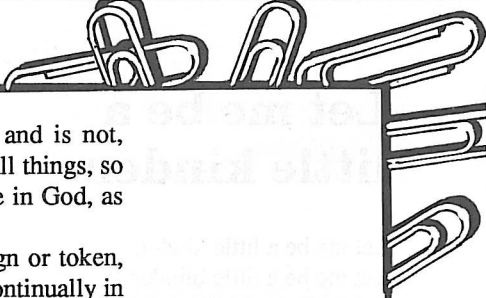
### 2. *Bold shall I stand in That great day;*

*For who aught to my charge shall lay?  
Fully absolved through Thee I am,  
From sin and fear, from guilt and shame.*

Stanza 1, Paul Eber  
Stanzas 2, Count Zinzendorf  
Tr. John Wesley



—by Pastor  
Christian Oswood



**T**he God of my rock, in Him will I trust: He is my shield, and the horn of my salvation, my high tower, and my refuge, my saviour; thou savest me from violence" (II Samuel 21:3).

I believe in God the Father, Maker of Heaven and earth.

I put my trust in no man on earth, not even in myself, nor in any power, skill, possession, saintliness, or whatever else may be mine. I trust in no creature, whether in heaven or on earth. I regard and put my trust in the One, True, Invisible, and Incomprehensible God alone, the Maker of heaven and earth, who is above all creatures. And again I do not take fright at the wickedness of the devil and his band, for my God is above them all. I believe not less in God even though I am abandoned or persecuted by all men. I believe none the less, though I am poor, foolish, untaught, and despised, and lacking all things. I believe none the less, although I am a sinner. For this my

faith must hover above all that is and is not, above all sin and virtue and above all things, so that it remains immaculate and pure in God, as the first commandment urges.

Neither do I entreat Him for a sign or token, for I would not tempt Him. I trust continually in Him, however long He tarries, and I set Him no term nor time, no measure nor means, but in a true and trusting faith I leave all things to His divine will.

Since He is almighty, what could I want, that He would not give or do for me? Since He is the maker of heaven and earth, the Lord of all things, who will rob me or do me harm? Yea, why should not all things work together for my good, since I have found favor with Him, to whom all are subject in obedience?"

Because He is God, then, He is able to make all things work for my good. Because He is Father, He desires to do so and gladly does it...

Martin Luther

*(Day By Day We Magnify Thee)*

## In God Alone I Will Put My Trust

a miracle

## Pinned by the car

**W**hen I came home from the army after World War I, I purchased a Ford runabout to drive to work with, as I had sold my other car when I joined the army. In fact, I had had two cars and a few years of driving experience, but I still had an accident that could have caused serious injuries or even death. By the grace of God and His sure protection I was unhurt. Not a scratch!

It happened this way! I was driving to work one cold and misty November morning in an open car, so I had a robe in the car. As I was getting cold, I started to pull the robe up around me and the robe accidentally caught in the gas throttle and pulled it down to full speed, with the result that the car reared up and fell down on its side. I was thrown out and the edge of the car landed across my neck so I was trapped with the motor running wide open. The car was shaking, but with much pulling and scratching, I finally succeeded in pulling my head out and got free. I did not feel a thing when I was thrown out and hit the ground, as it happened so fast!

The car was laid so perfectly across my neck where there was a dent in the ground. If I had landed any other place on level ground, or the car had landed just a few inches either way, it would have been on my head or chest. The

windshield kept the car from rolling over on me and the wide running board protected my head from getting hurt. If I had landed in any other place and the car had landed on my head or chest, it could have been *tragic*, and I would not have been writing this. But, praise be to God, I was unhurt! People did not travel so much then as now and it was a farming area. At that time of the morning, the farmers were at home doing their morning chores and milking their cows so nobody came by. No human help as long as I lay trapped there!

For those that have never seen the old model cars, I will explain that there was a lever on the steering column below the steering wheel for feeding the gas. This was before they had the gas pedal. The further it was pulled downward, the more gas was fed and, as a result, more speed. It was like the lever on the new car for turning on the signal lights, only bigger. It was on the side of the column for hand feeding the gas, and this was the lever that the robe caught and pulled all the way down that caused the accident.

"God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble" (Psalm 46:1).

— George R. Nelson

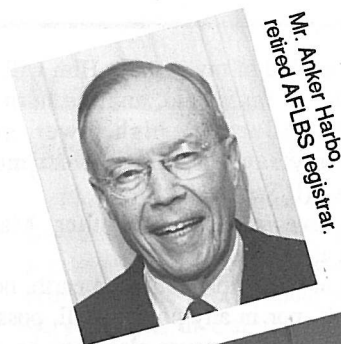
# Let me be a little kinder

Let me be a little kinder,  
Let me be a little blinder  
To the faults of those about me;  
Let me praise a little more.

Let me be, when I am weary,  
Just a little bit more cheery;  
Let me serve a little better  
Those whom I am striving for.

Let me be a little meeker  
With the other who is weaker;  
Let me think more of my neighbor  
And a little less of me.

(Youth's Favorite Poems)



Mr. Anker Harbo,  
retired AFLBS registrar.



1977 AFLBS choir in Larvik, Norway.

## The twist of the tongue

Isn't it strange what a tongue can do  
When it tells of the things they said  
about you?  
A heart can be damaged and left in  
despair  
Because of a tongue without mercy or  
care.

Isn't it sad that our tongues don't know  
That a slander will die if not made to  
grow?  
A word may be spoken — and then  
changed in a flash,  
Repeat it, and then you have started  
a rash.

Isn't it true that we change day by day,  
And we change in our thoughts of  
others this way?  
So why should our tongue, in a second  
or two,  
Tell tales that have passed and today  
are not true?

Nothing can grow if we leave it to die,  
And that small talk will vanish like  
apple pie —  
If only our tongues would get wisdom,  
and say  
The good things we heard about some  
today.

— Selected

Be patient  
with the faults  
of others.

They have to  
be patient  
with yours.

# Hill of life

As I stood on the hill of life, I could see in the beautiful valley below a broad, smooth road, like a ribbon of silk, that glistened like new fallen snow. This road led downward to the sea, and was filled with a noisy throng; some cursing, some singing, some lost in dreams, but all moving swiftly along.

I cried out, "Wait, you will all be lost!", but they would not listen to me. As they blankly stared, I cried again, "Your road leads straight to the sea!" From where I stood, the hungry waves and falling men I could see, and in agony of soul I knew they were lost for eternity.

Then, high on the mountain side, I saw a narrow, twisting trail; I thought it must be for a mountain goat, whose

feet would not falter nor fail. But as I watched, a man appeared, then two and three, and more! They were climbing that narrow winding way with a purpose not seen before. A steep cliff edged their perilous path, with dark sharp rocks below; the sky grew dark as the clouds passed o'er, and ever the wind did blow. Cruel thorns caught at their clothing, as if to hold them back, but they gained new strength in weakness to meet each new attack.

Reaching the top, they paused to look where their dusty feet had trod; then turned they with joy to the City Fair whose builder and ruler is God.

— Evelyn Foss

The late Rev. Norman Tenneboe.



## NOW NOT TOMORROW

II Cor. 6:2: "For he saith, 'I have heard thee in a time accepted, and in the day of salvation have I succoured thee: behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation.'"

Most of us have the fault of putting off to another day what we should do today. The things that we put off vary in importance.

If you should be asked, "What is the most important thing in the world?" without a doubt most of us would answer, "My salvation." Certainly there is no more important thing in life than salvation.

Nothing else in the world affects our life on this earth more. Nothing else will affect our lives in the world to come as salvation does.

Scripture tells us that the Spirit both wills and does in us His good pleasure.

It is true that we can do nothing for our salvation but there is one thing that many are doing against salvation and that is rejecting. God grant that none of you reading these lines is postponing salvation to a more opportune time.

"Today when you hear His voice, harden not your heart" is the Bible's warning for us. For continual rejection of God's gift of salvation means eternal separation from Him.

Jesus would have all of us regard today as the accepted time and day of salvation. Tomorrow may be too late.

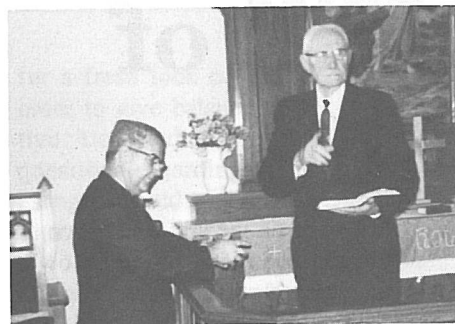
— Mrs. Francis Drown

## Ready to move

But take care that you use the world and its passing goods like a man who is awaiting the last trump; so that when it peals and when the last thunders resound you are prepared and ready, walking in holy ways and with godly spirit. If you live like that, you are in no danger.

One must be a live, wide-awake Christian before he can fall asleep in Jesus.

The Missionary George Knapp family.



The late Rev. Reuben Wee, left, and the late Rev. John DeBoer.



It has been over 10 years since these men served together on the Board of Trustees. (L. to R.) Mr. Ray Jacobson, Mr. Stanley Holmaas, Pastors Robert Lee, Jay Erickson, and Dennis Gray.

## FACE TO

**J**esus, when You stood outside Lazarus' grave, why did You cry? You *knew* that You would bring him back to life, and yet You cried. Was it because Your compassionate heart was touched by the grief of those who loved him? Was it because You understood how hard it was for them to believe that he was gone, that they would never again in this life see him smile, or ask his advice, or be able to hug him?

As God, You had no reason to cry. You could see past time into eternity. You know the power of God over death.

Whatever the reason, it assures me that You understand what we're all feeling now that You've taken Daddy Ben home to be with You forever.

You gave me a long time to get used to the idea of him leaving. Every time I'd see him, he'd be talking slower — moving slower. It was like he was gradually fading away and I wanted to hold him tight and not let him go. But death comes regardless of our ability to accept it.

I *still* hold him tight in my memories. We had so many happy times together. He encouraged me. He cheered me up. He made me laugh. I loved his kind and gentle spirit. I admired his commitment to You, even when some people he cared about turned away from him because of it.

## On the joyous occasion of your anniversary

Dear Dad and Mom:

In these times of divorce, thanks for investing your lives in each other and in my sister and me.

Thanks for going for Plan A, i.e., one man for one woman for one lifetime.

It is good to see how the seeds of good and love you have sown are growing in so many places...most of them unseen...but all of those good deeds, biblically consistent and drawing interest on the promise, "So shall My word be that goeth forth out of My mouth: it shall not return unto Me

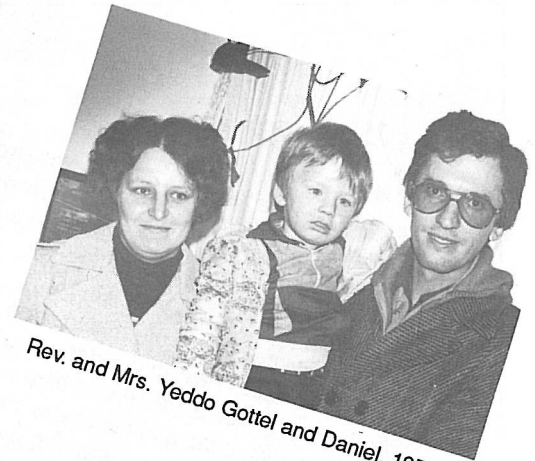
void, but it shall accomplish that which I please" (Isaiah 55:11).

My love and respect have never been higher for you both.

(Ed. note: Here is a letter sent to me by a writer who wishes to give glory to God and remain anonymous. His father is a minister and has shared in AFLC work. He sends it to them on the occasion of their wedding anniversary. At the writer's request, I am taking out his name and that of his sister. I include it to encourage the pastors and their wives in our fellowship, as per his request.)



The late Rev. Kenneth Pentti welcomed to Mexico.



Rev. and Mrs. Yeddo Gattel and Daniel, 1979.

# FACE

He wasn't critical, but always looked for and hoped for the best in people. He prayed for me and he loved me. You alone will understand how much I'll miss him.

Would You help me to see him as he is now? It isn't hard to imagine him laughing — I loved his grin and the twinkle in his eyes.

How happy You must be to have him with You! You've been waiting for him, haven't You? I try to imagine what it was like when he saw Gram again and when he saw You face to face and understood *fully* all You'd done for him and how much You love him.

Part of your "preparing a place" for me is taking people I love there ahead of me to be part of the "welcoming committee." Help me to keep looking ahead to that reunion, because I sure miss him how.

Please hug him for me. I love You for what You've done for him. I thank you for taking him quickly and gently, just like we'd asked You to. I'm counting on You to be my comfort.

Will I see You soon?

Ann

(Ed. note: This tribute was shared by Ann Wechsler Mannering at the memorial service for her grandfather, Ben Wechsler, at Our Redeemer Lutheran, Kirkland, Wash., last year.)

## HEARTS AFLAME

Lord, set our hearts aflame;  
Do it for Jesus in His wonderful name,  
Walking and talking to melt  
hearts of stone.  
We are helpless without You'  
we can't do it alone.  
Hearts are indifferent, hearts are cold.  
Young people can die, so will the old.  
Can we tell them in time?  
God, help us to,  
So we'll all be in heaven  
singing praises to You.  
—Marjorie Berge

## Life-giving vitamins

### 1. Vitamin A

This is the ACCEPTANCE vitamin. It stands for new life or life eternal. You see, Christ died for our sins, and by accepting Him, we get this new life (John 1:12).

### 2. Vitamin B

This is the BELIEF vitamin. It is essential to the development and normal functioning of our new life. Our Great Physician explains that "*all things are possible to him that believeth*" (Mark 9:23).

### 3. Vitamin C

This is the CONFESSION vitamin. It must be used daily to keep one in perfect condition (I John 1:9).

### 4. Vitamin D

This is the DETERMINATION vitamin. It is most necessary. This has a wonderful effect upon one's backbone, which, of course, is vital to good posture. Simply determine "*not to know anything...save Jesus Christ and Him crucified*" (I Corinthians 2:2).

### 5. Vitamin E

This is the well-known and absolutely necessary ENDURANCE vitamin. It is demanded for an element of true beauty (II Timothy 2:3).

*Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and thou shalt be saved* (Acts 16:31).

—Copied.

## Winter

The wintry winds have the dead leaves strown;  
 The last warm breath has far from us flown;  
 And somber dirges rang through the night;  
 The storm rolled on in its sullen might.  
 I hear it beat at the window pain  
 And tumble down o'er the frozen main.  
 The white flakes float in the stormy air  
 And nestle down on the forests bare.  
 For winter's monarch in wondrous speed  
 Spreads o'er its victims a winding sheet.  
 "That is the mercy that winters show,"  
 We say as we see the glist'ning snow.

*Alma M Nelson*

## Today

I can not change the yesterdays,  
 Nor ravel one design,  
 But I can give continued praise:  
 Today is mine.

I care not what tomorrow brings  
 To make my life complete;  
 Within my heart a small voice sings:  
 Today is sweet.

And every shining hour shall be  
 Resplendent to my mood,  
 Since I possess the certainty  
 Today is good.

Now shall I hold one lingering grief;  
 With Love made manifest,  
 My soul renews its glad belief:  
 Today is blessed!

— Selected

## fellowship corner

### USEABLE GIFTS

One day as husband Arnold and I worked at the farm, I feel I learned a lesson I'd like to share with you, if I may.

We were tearing apart an old piece of machinery. I think Arnold called it a disk. I was helping him to get the bolts out so the scrap iron could be taken apart. Then the thought came to me, this piece of machinery was so well bolted together it was useable. Isn't this what God wants our churches to be? I believe so.

Every piece had a special task to do (like Christian talents) and until torn apart each did it. Our religious world has been shaken because Christians weren't doing the job God called them to do.

I know I haven't always been used of the Lord. Sometimes maybe it's been my fault, sometimes because of others. But if we are going to help do this tremendous job of bringing the lost world to Christ, we must be completely joined together, so God can use all the gifts and all the talents He has given us just for that purpose.

— Mrs. Arnold Jodock  
 Hatton, N. Dak.



WMF executive officers serving in the late 1970's.

## Seasons and seasons

Snowbirds are gathering  
 Soft, falls the snow;  
 Springtime seems  
 Not so long ago.

One sees the ice crystals  
 Rise in night air;  
 Sweet, summer lady,  
 Where are you, oh where?

Why have cold seasons,  
 Why not always fair?  
 Maybe winter winds make  
 Springtime sun seem so rare.

And seasons of life  
 We find, too, are thus:  
 Hard times make appreciated  
 The good times for us.

*Fern Wittmayer  
 Stanley, N. Dak.*

## SCRAPBOOK ISSUE

In the past few years we've had an annual "scrapbook" issue of *The Lutheran Ambassador* at this time of year, save last year when we had to forego because of two special issues that were put out then, one on the history and work of the Association of Free Lutheran Congregations and one on the 25th anniversary of the *Ambassador*.

The scrapbook editions are efforts to gather and make use of some items which accumulate in a magazine or newspaper office, any such office, and somehow don't get used right at the time they appear on the scene. They are worthy of publication, as you will see, but somehow have had to bide their time.

Pages three through eight of this *Ambassador* contain such material. But we can't devote the whole issue to scrapbook pieces, much as we would like to, and so the rest of the magazine has items that must be included now. You will see what they are as you read this page (there *have* to be some editorials!) and the pages that follow.

Perhaps next year we can have a full scrapbook issue, but for this time, a modified one. A few pictures from the past add to the scrapbook dimension. We hope that you'll find this *Ambassador* interesting and a blessing.

## PASS THE LIGHT

Pastor Trygve F. Dahle has been with the Lord for over a year now. No doubt it seems a very short time for those who are on the "other side."

Four years ago at Christmas, Pastor Dahle wrote in his personal greeting to us about how he had seen the demonstration of light passing from one person to another on a Billy Graham TV Christmas program. It had made a great impression on him and he encouraged us to pick up the idea and "run with it," so to speak. We, in turn, asked him to make the attempt to put down his thoughts on paper for the image was fresh in his mind.

He probably never did that. Tryg Dahle had little confidence in his writing ability, although he actually did well at it, as *Ambassador* readers of some years back can attest.

But we came across Pastor Dahle's Christmas card now and want to at least share his thought with you. Perhaps we should hear it from him directly. "What a picture that is (passing the light from person to person) of the work of the kingdom of God. Each person had a candle, but it could not light the path very far ahead, but that little light could be seen by others from a much greater distance. We might feel that because our light is so small it isn't much, but others can see our light much farther than we think and it can be passed on to others without losing what we have. And our little light can be easily extinguished and then we cannot

make it light again. When it is out, it is out, but the candle can be lit again from some other light. It cannot light itself. What a picture of the Christian!"

And, "If I had the ability I would write an article about the light Jesus has kindled in us and let it spread to others and glorify our heavenly Father and also His Son, Jesus Christ."

Say, there are some great ideas. Many of us, even if we didn't see the TV program mentioned, have taken part in candlelighting services and have seen the principle demonstrated. We did it many times at our Bible Camp in South Dakota. From an original light, light was taken to the various tables in the dining hall and from those candles each individual's candle was lighted.

The song we have learned in more recent years embodies the same thought, "Pass It On."

Jesus is the Light of the world. No one has the light in himself, but it is reflected light, by nature. It is received through a meeting with Christ in Baptism, or if one has fallen away from that covenant, through conversion. "You are the light of the world," Jesus said. Believers show the light of the true Light which came into the world (John 1:9). They are to let it be seen in all of life so that others may be directed to God the Father.

While the light ultimately comes from Jesus, human instrumentalities are used to bring someone into contact with the Light. Someone introduces another person to the Savior, perhaps by explaining the way in conversation, teaching or preaching, perhaps by awakening desire for salvation through a godly life which reveals a divine presence within. In these ways the light is passed from one candle to another, from one life to another.

There is much darkness in the world. One man spoke of "a thousand points of light" in another connection. Thank God there are many more points of light than that as we think of Christian witness, but the need is still so great. If we have the light of Christ within, may it be our endeavor as never before to let it shine to Christ's glory and the salvation of our fellow men. The child's song may seem to simple, but it's so true: "Brighten the corner *where you are*" (emphasis ours).

## A minute to spend

So you have a minute to spend?

Well, here's what a minute will buy—

A word to let someone know you care,

A smile to a passerby,

A bit of communion with God and His world,

A "thank you" that's maybe long due,

A deep look inward to change your sights

And broaden your point of view.

If you have all of a minute to spend,

How very blest you are!

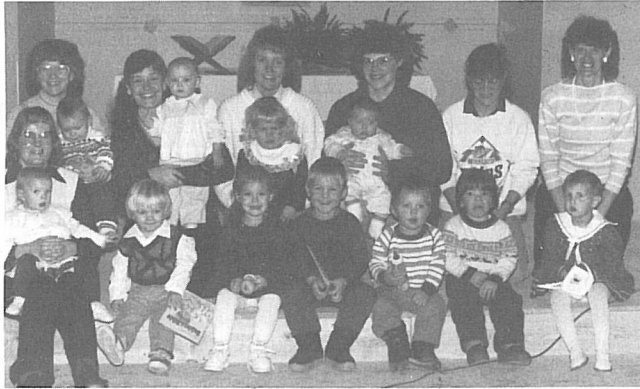
For a minute will buy a sincere cry of prayer,

And bring God's answer from afar.

— Copied

## WOMEN'S PAGE

### Warroad, Minn.



Warroad Free Lutheran Church began their Cradle Roll program last fall by enrolling 13 children. Pictured are 11 of the children and their mothers.

### McIntosh, Minn.



Trinity Free Lutheran Church Cradle Roll graduated two children and enrolled four children who are pictured with their mothers.

### Saskatchewan, Canada



Lake Alma and Frontier WMF's shared a two day Fall Rally last October. Mrs. Grace Syverson, Tioga, N. Dak., was the guest speaker. Faith Free Lutheran in Lake Alma, hosted the Rally.

### British Columbia, Canada



WMF's from Vernon and Salmon Arm hosted a Valley Retreat on Silver Star Mountain last fall. Mrs. Barbara Moland, Kirkland, Wash., was the guest speaker. Personal testimonies were shared by Mrs. Chris Kashuba, Mrs. Mary Appling and Mrs. Karen Palmer. A fashion show, using fabric colors to depict Bible characters, concluded the Retreat.

### A household keep

Each morning when you waken,  
Just offer God the day.  
Each task that's undertaken,  
Whether work or play,  
Offer Him your happiness,  
Your cares and troubles, too;  
Just tell Him that you don't forget  
All He's done for you.  
Now if you follow this recipe,  
You surely soon will find  
Your life will be without a care  
And full of bright sunshine.

—Selected

Prayer will cut many a knot  
that my own hands cannot untie.



It is one thing to praise discipline  
and another to submit to it.

The trouble is that our earning capacity  
doesn't match our yearning capacity.



# Principles and Practices of Evangelism

— by Dr. Francis W. Monseth  
Dean, Association Free Lutheran  
Theological Seminary

(In the second installment of this paper, Dr. Monseth concluded his quotations from reports of the AFLC Commission on Evangelism with references to personal evangelism. He cited also two quotations from the Declaration of Faith and then went on to begin a discussion of the theology of evangelism, setting forth some theses or propositions on biblical evangelism, with supporting Bible references. Those theses continue below.)

## Part III

VIII. According to the Word of God, little children (including infants) exemplify the essence of repentance in their passive, non-resistant spirit and serve as models for the adult in entrance to the kingdom of God through the divine bestowal of faith in the Means of Grace, Baptism.

• *Luke 18:15-17* — “Then they also brought infants to Him that He might touch them; but when His disciples saw it, they rebuked them. But Jesus called them to Him and said, ‘Let the little children come to Me, and do not forbid them; for of such is the kingdom of God. Assuredly, I say to you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a *little child* will by no means enter it.’”

• *Matthew 18:6* — “But whoever causes one of these *little ones who believe in Me* to sin, it would be better for him if a millstone were hung around his neck, and he were drowned in the depth of the sea.”

• *Psalms 22:9* — “But You are He who took me out of the womb; *you made me trust* when I was on my mother’s breasts.”

IX. According to the Word of God, there is need for the unconscious faith implanted in infancy through the Means of Grace to continue as a conscious experience of sin and grace.

• *II Timothy 3:14-15* — “But as for you, continue in the things which you have learned and been assured of,

knowing from whom you have learned them, and that *from childhood* you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.”

• *II Timothy 1:5* — “When I call to remembrance the genuine faith that is in you, which dwelt first in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice, and I am persuaded *is in you also*.”

X. According to the Word of God, one who repents and is baptized receives the forgiveness of sins and the gift of the Holy Spirit.

• *Acts 2:38* — “*Repent and let everyone of you be baptized* in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.”

• *Acts 22:16* — “*...be baptized and wash away your sins*, calling on the name of the Lord.”

• *I Cor. 12:13* — “For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body — whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free — *and have all been made to drink into one spirit*.”

XI. According to the Word of God, the effect of baptism is properly called “regeneration” or “the new birth.”

• *Titus 3:5* — “He saved us, through the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit...”

• *John 3:5* — “Jesus answered, ‘Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God.’”

XII. According to the Word of God, one may fall from grace through the neglect of the Means of Grace and continued resistance to the indwelling Holy Spirit.

• *Hebrews 2:1-3* — “Therefore we must give the more earnest heed to the things we have heard, *lest we drift away*. For if the word spoken through angels proved steadfast, and every transgression and disobedience received a just reward, *how shall we escape* if we neglect so great a salvation?”

• *Hebrews 10:26-27* — “For if we sin willfully after we have received the

knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins, but a certain fearful expectation of judgment, and fiery indignation which will devour the adversaries.

XIII. According to the Word of God, there is salvation in no one else than Jesus Christ.

• *John 14:5* — “Jesus said to him, ‘I am *the way, the truth, and the life*. No one comes to the Father *except through Me*.’”

*Acts 4:12* — “Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is *no other name* under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.”

XIV. According to the Word of God, if one departs this life without salvation in Christ, he will suffer eternally in hell.

• *Revelation 21:8* — “But the cowardly, unbelieving, abominable, murderers, sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars shall have their part *in the lake which burns with fire and brimstone*, which is the second death.”

• *Matthew 25:41* — “Then He will also say to those on the left hand, ‘Depart from Me, you cursed, into the *everlasting fire* prepared for the devil and his angels.’”

XV. According to the Word of God, one who departs this life trusting in Christ as his Savior will spend eternity in heaven.

• *John 3:16* — “For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have *everlasting life*.”

• *John 14:2-3* — “In My Father’s house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a *place for you*. And if I go and prepare a *place for you*, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also.”

These statements, of course, do not cover all of the possible topics related to evangelism in the Word of God. Hopefully, however, they are the most

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salient in view of our needs and concerns. The written Word must be our sole authority in understanding both the theology of evangelism as well as the practical expression of that theology. As Lutherans we are thankful for the faithful witness of our Confessions in all the matters they treat. While we believe they accurately express how we understand the Scriptures on all of the great themes of the faith which they treat, we acknowledge together that the scope of the Confessions is limited. They do not intend to deal with all matters of faith and life. The Scriptures are incomparable in this regard as they purport to be an exhaustive treatment of all of the necessary truths for life and salvation.

"All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, *thoroughly equipped for every good work*" (II Tim. 3:16-17).

All that we need to be empowered, motivated and effectively engaged in evangelism is contained in God's Word. We are not lacking a thing! There's nothing more we need to know about evangelism that is not treated adequately in the Scriptures! The Bible is our true evangelism "text-book," if you will, and of course, so much more. Thus, the truly confessional Lutheran is drawn to the Scriptures where he finds all he really needs to follow Christ as a "fisher of men."

## Our Ministry of Evangelism

There are several recurring questions in evangelical Lutheran circles which are important to consider afresh in keeping with the topic before us. These are questions that are often asked. We recognize the earnestness and sincerity of those who may differ in their answers. Often, it is a matter of helping one another to a truly biblical balance. Sometimes our differences are traceable to the negative or positive experiences we may have had relative to the issue. It is possible to overreact to our experiences and go to an extreme in attempting to counterbal-

ance the matter. We may find ourselves "majoring in minors" to the detriment of our evangelical effectiveness. It has been observed that amongst Lutherans in general, there can be found two extremes on the subject of evangelism. Dr. Oscar A. Anderson in his book, *Baptism and Its Relation to Lutheran Evangelism*, seeks to characterize the respective positions:

"We can describe the one tendency as follows: it tends to put the preservation of doctrinal purity above the salvation of souls; to overlook defection from baptism; to consider church activity, particularly in an orthodox Lutheran church, as proof of a saving faith; to look upon evangelism as being "revivalism;" to play on the necessity of conversion as something un-Lutheran; to put the label "reformed" on evangelistic efforts and methods; to minimize sanctification for fear it will become legalism; to reject emotion as having no part in the Christian experience; and to insist on only the objective aspect of Christianity.

"The other tendency must also be described as frankly. It tends to put personal faith unto salvation above preservation of pure doctrine; to enlarge upon the defections from baptism and see very few, if any, remaining true; to overlook the fact that activity in the church can be a fruit of faith; to see the organized church as consisting largely of sleeping or dead church members; to put the emphasis on "conversion" with little regard for normal Christian growth; to put great stress on sanctification in terms of legalistic "do's" and "don't's;" to lean toward Reformed groups with like spirit, ignoring doctrinal differences; to rely on emotion and an emotional approach; and to underscore the subjective experience of Christianity, usually of standard type (pp. 15-16)."

Although we all can quickly identify problems in both positions, perhaps we also find ourselves relating more or less to one of these views. Again, our sympathies are determined, more than we perhaps would care to admit, by varying experiences. We would appeal

for a fresh look at the Scriptures in order to give balance to our perspective. Let us then pose some of the questions regarding our ministry of evangelism and seek to answer them in light of God's Word.

1. How do we balance godly concern for the salvation of every member of our congregation with proper regard for the grace of God bestowed on them in the sacrament of baptism?

As Lutheran Christians, we thank God for baptism as a precious means of grace. We believe on the basis of God's own Word that our little children are received into His believing Church as a result of the work of the Holy Spirit through the Word in connection with the application of water. We would not underestimate the power of the Spirit to continue His ministry through the Word in sustaining the spiritual life originating at baptism. We want to encourage sustaining the spiritual life originating at baptism. We want to encourage timid souls that God's promises to save realized at baptism remain inviolable. God's gracious forgiveness continues to be extended through the Word and needs only to continue to be received by faith.

In seeking to comfort a Christian troubled by doubts we must be careful how we express the continuing validity of baptism in one's spiritual existence. It was not the water of baptism in itself that saved us, as our Catechism reminds us; it was the water connected with God's own Word. That "Word," of course, is the Gospel—"Word." It is the "Word" of Christ, centering in His atoning death on the cross. Indeed, it is Christ and His Word which we point to in seeking to console. If a person is simply told, "Remember your baptism," with the foundation of that baptism neglected, the impression may be left that there is another way of salvation than through Christ, or equally bad, implying that there is something mystical about the water of Baptism. Somehow, God works apart from the Word. In effect, the water displaces the Word.

(To be continued.)

## SIGHT

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth...light, firmament, vegetation, birds, sea dwellers and land animals. God then formed man and gave him woman. Besides physical features, God blessed man and woman to have the five perceptions: sight, hearing, touch, taste and smell. "They will call on My name and I shall listen, and I shall say: These are My people; and each will say, 'Yahweh is my God.'"

Tomes, treatises and tracks have been written and studied about the anatomy and functions of each of our five senses and their organs. Today, mankind knows each one and can often repair or aid non-functioning segments. Adam and Eve didn't need glasses or hearing aids in order to see and hear in their garden.

Throughout the Old and New Testaments, God's people are directed to make use of their five senses. During the next six months, I will present each of the five, one at a time, by giving a review of the anatomy and physiology which will show how God commands our using them for living in His created world. Today we explore the perception sense — *sight*.

"...And God saw that it was good" (Genesis 1:12). "And out of the ground the Lord God made to grow every tree that is pleasant to the sight and good for food..." (Genesis 2:9). "So out of the ground the Lord God formed every beast of the field and every bird of the air and brought them to the man to see what he would call them..." (Genesis 2:19). Then God made the man a helper and called her woman, and they both could see. From Genesis to Revelation, *Cruden's Concordance* lists approximately 270 references concerning: to see, we see, ye see, and seeing.

Moses said, "I will turn aside and see this great sight, why the bush is not burnt" (Exodus 3:3). He didn't read about it in the newspaper or watch it on TV; he turned aside and went to see for himself.

## the perception senses in God's wondrous design

Again God demonstrated the great power of sight when he told the Israelites, "The blood shall be a sign for you, upon the houses where you are; and when I see the blood..." (Exodus 12:13). However, in Exodus 33:20, God said, "You cannot see My face; for man shall not see Me and live." Moses only got to *see* the land that God promised his chosen people.

Throughout the Psalms and Prophets there are many references to *seeing*, *see* and *look*. Malachi sums it up when he said, "Your own eyes shall see this, and you shall say, 'Great is the Lord, beyond the border of Israel'" (Malachi 1:5).

In order for us to see, God had to give us a head. How astonishing is this organ that houses the directorship of our bodies — the brain, which controls our speaking, hearing, moving, seeing, and so forth. It permits us to think, make plans, learn and remember. God placed our eyes, ears, nose and tongue, the organs of the perception senses closest to that center.

Through an intricate system of nerves, spinal cord and brain, we function as particular man. Thirty-one pairs of nerves go from the spinal cord to the legs, arms, skin and other parts of the body. Twenty-eight billion neurons with their nuclei and component parts of dendrites and axons carry on all of our performances. Through 12 pairs of nerves, the brain is in charge and interprets the perception senses through chemicals for the tongue, particles in the air for smell, air vibrations for hearing and light waves for sight.

From school science classes, we've learned that the human eye functions almost like a camera. The iris (the colored part) can open and close to control the amount of light that can come

into the eye.

When the light reaches an area on the back surface of the eyeball (retina with the rods and cones), a message of what the eye sees is then sent to the vision centers of the brain through the optic nerve. The brain then directs the body as to what it should do about what the eye has seen. Because each eye forms its own image from a slightly different angle, a stereoscopic effect is obtained. Then depth, distance, and solidity of an object are appreciated. One can see when there is only one eye, however.

With God's gifts of eyes and sight, man has seen Jesus. Joseph, Mary, the shepherds and the wisemen saw Him at His birth (Matthew 2:10-11). Later in His life, Jesus made the blind to see. Jesus covered the main concept of our marvelous capacity to see when He said to His disciples, "But blessed are your eyes, for they see, and your ears, for they hear. Truly, I say to you, many prophets and righteous men longed to see what you see, and did not see it, and to hear what you hear, and did not hear it" (Matthew 13:16-17).

What a treasure we have — *sight*. To me, the greatest exemplification of sight occurred when Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see Jesus' sepulcher and "the angel said to the women, 'Do not be afraid; for I know that you seek Jesus who was crucified. He is not here; for He has risen, as He said. Come, *see* the place where He lay'" (Matthew 28:6).

Continually we should be praying and thanking God that we can see His "...kingdom, power, and glory forever. Amen."

Next time we will explore the gift of *hearing*.

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*A great deal of what we see  
depends on what we are  
looking for!*

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## Testimony from Brazil

### God answered

My name is Solange Lopes dos Santos. I live with my parents and three younger brothers in the town of Poema, Parana. My father has a small farm and I help my mother with housework and sometimes work out in the field with my father and brothers. I like to sing and pray. When I was a young child my father taught me to sing and our family spends many hours singing hymns. My father also taught me how



Solange Lopes dos Santos

to play the guitar.

I am glad for having been born into a Christian family. Because of this, I have known about Jesus since a young child. But since 1983 I came to acknowledge the truth in my life and was converted. I have conviction and certainty of eternal life and persevere in my faith.

My parents are members of the Presbyterian of Brazil Church, but we congregate with the Free Lutheran Church, which we love.

The reason for my being here at the Bible School (Escola Biblica Luterana Livre) was that I finally gave in to invitations to come and study here. Many times I was invited by pastors to give a year of my life and spend it in the presence of the Lord. I had, for some time, the desire to come to Bible School, but it didn't seem possible, but God heard my prayers.

Today I am happy to be here with other young people dedicating my life in the paths of the Lord. There is a verse that I like and that speaks to my heart. Psalm 61:1, "Hear my cry, O God, listen to my prayer." The Lord has listened to my prayers and answered.

—Solange Lopes dos Santos

## New Brazil project approved

The World Mission Committee Board voted at their December meeting to approve an additional building project for the Bible School and Seminary campus at Campo Mourao, the construction of a new kitchen facility.

The Women's Missionary Federation has already designated \$2,000 for this project, which will cost an estimated \$5,000 and local WMF groups will be encouraged to consider helping to reach the goal.

The initial contribution will be used to pour a concrete floor for the new kitchen, which will be utilized as a patio at the present time until funds are raised to complete the work.

An article in *The Lutheran Ambassador* (November 28, 1988) pictures the current construction on the campus, including a new chapel and a men's dormitory. The proposed kitchen facility will be an addition to the present administration-classroom building.

## Tour openings still available

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

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

sister in Norway.

His funeral was held in Trinity Ev. Free Church, Lakeville. The sermon was preached by his pastor, Rev. David Molstre, Fargo.

continued on p. 16

## Deaths of two pastors noted

Rev. R. P. Haakonson, 85, member of St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Fargo, N. Dak., passed away on Dec. 27 at Apple Valley Healthcare Center, Apple Valley, Minn., where he and his wife Clara (in villa portion) had lived since earlier this month.

Born in Nordland, Norway, in 1903, he came to the U.S. at the age of 21. He attended Waldorf College in Iowa and was a graduate of Luther Seminary in St. Paul, Minn. He married Clara Coltvet in 1936. He served parishes at Almont and LaMoure, N. Dak., Sandpoint, Id., and Chicago (Hauge), Ill. For seven years he traveled as an evangelist, headquartering at Estherville, Ia. They moved to Moorhead, Minn., in 1956 and he was editor of *Morning*

*Glory*, publication of the Hauge Inner-mission Federation, for some years. He had a radio program, weekly on Sundays, on WDAY, Fargo, and KGLO, Mason City, Ia., for many years. He served a parish at Pelican Rapids, Minn., for several years and United Lutheran, rural McLeod, N. Dak., for 17 years, both out of Moorhead.

Pastor Haakonson wrote two books, *Altar Steps* and *Synd og Soning* (Sin and Salvation).

Survivors include his wife; son, Paul, Schenectady, N. Y.; daughters, Elsie Cook, Litchfield, Minn., Lois Isvik, Lakeville, Minn., Marlys Larsen, Papua, New Guinea, and Judy Rygh, Bovey, Minn.; 19 grandchildren; four great grandchildren; and a brother and

## NEWS OF THE CHURCHES



### Duluth, Minn.

New members were recently received into the fellowship of St. John's Lutheran Church, Duluth, Minn. Shown here, left to right, by family units, are: Pastor and Mrs. Steve (Becky) Kneeland, Abigail, Benjamin, Annie and Alysha; Mr. and Mrs. Steve (Arlene) Elden, Lynn and Jeff; Mr. and Mrs. John (Kim) Schlies, Timothy, Breanne and Justin; and Ken Sletten; and, front, Alvina Johnson and Mr. and Mrs. Ted Johnson.

St. John's is a home mission church in its fifth year of existence. Pastor Kneeland became the first full-time pastor on Sept. 1, 1988. St. John's is located at 1630 Kenwood Ave., and holds its Sunday worship services at 10 a.m.

Truly God is answering the prayers of His people, as the work in Duluth moves ahead, with membership growing and the Word proclaimed. May God continue to work a miracle in the lives of people unto the salvation of souls.

—Corr.

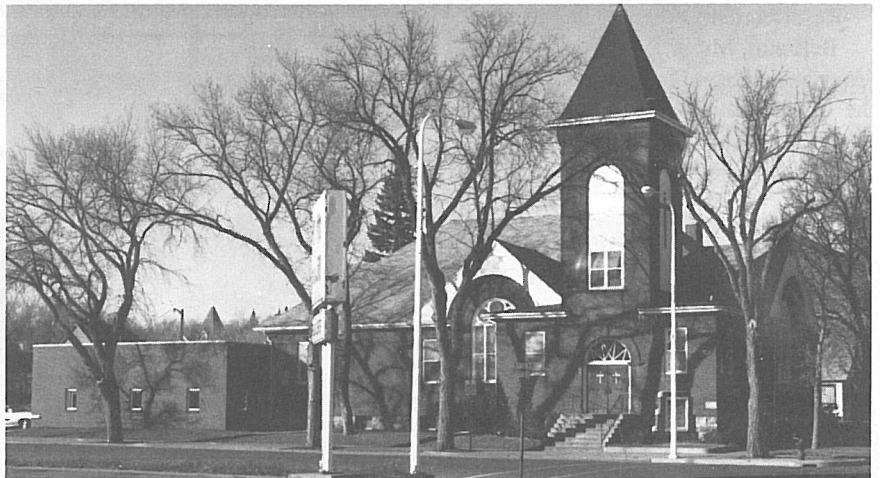
### In memoriam

Key: The name of the town was the address of the deceased. Following that is listed the name of the deceased, age, date of death and the church in which he held membership.

#### SOUTH DAKOTA

##### Sturgis

**Chester A. Johnson**, 94, Oct. 31, 1988, Bethel, Faith. Mr. Johnson was the last charter member of his congregation to pass away.



### Valley City, N. Dak.

Grace Lutheran Church, Valley City, N. Dak., celebrated the dedication of a new 40' by 57' addition on Sunday, October 30, during the morning worship service.

The cost of the building project, which almost reached a \$100,000 total, was paid in full through contributions by members and friends of the congregation, plus generous legacies from the estates of Edna Sjulli and Ella Engstrom.

Sorensen Construction Company, Valley City, was the contractor for the

project, which provides needed office and educational space, as well as new restrooms, and makes the church building handicap-accessible. The addition is constructed of red brick, matching the original turn-of-the-century structure that has been the congregation's home since 1965.

Officiating at the dedication was Rev. Robert Lee, AFLC vice-president and former pastor of the congregation, which is presently served by Rev. Terry Olson and Intern Jon Benson.



Pictured here are the members of the "Eagles' Wings" Gospel team which headquarters in the Fargo-Moorhead area and which was mentioned in the Jan 10 *Ambassador*. Standing, left to right, Mike Gray, Scott Vance, Joel Erickson, Jane Nelson, Duane Twedt, Paul Kneeland, coordinator, and Karen Summers; kneeling, Cindy Mortrud and Kristi Schmitke; and, sitting, Janeen Galland, at the piano, Melodee Stave, Kari Lane and Ruth Kneeland. Not pictured: Mike Rice, Dana Lanter and substitute helpers, Todd and Joyce Erickson, Mayville, N. Dak.

## NEW CONGREGATIONS

- Word of Life Lutheran Church  
Upsala, Minn.
- Resurrection Lutheran Church  
Beltrami, Minn.

(Accepted into AFLC membership by the Co-ordinating Committee at their December meeting.)

## WINTER BIBLE CONFERENCES

Jan. 27 - 29 — Calvary Lutheran Church, Fergus Falls, Minn.

Feb. 3 - 5 — Our Saviour's Lutheran Church, Dickinson, N. Dak.

Feb. 10 - 12 — Medicine Lake Lutheran Church, Minneapolis, Minn.

Bible Conferences are also being planned in the West Coast and Illinois Districts.

## DEATHS NOTED

**Rev. Luthard O. Gjerde, 77**, one-time vice-president of the former Lutheran Free Church, and retired executive director of Lutheran Social Services in Minnesota, died on Dec. 30 in hospital.

He was the son of Rev. and Mrs. Mons Gjerde and was born June 5, 1911, in Camrose, Alta. He was a graduate of Augsburg College and Augsburg Seminary, Minneapolis, Minn., being ordained in 1936. In the same year he was united in marriage to Sophia Iverson of Hampden, N. Dak.

Pastor Gjerde served a parish at Rugby, N. Dak., before going into Lutheran welfare work. He worked in the Welfare Societies of North Dakota and Wisconsin (executive director) before taking the Minnesota post in 1953.

In addition to his wife, he is survived by a son, Mark, Burnsville, Minn.; daughters, Marie Schlink, Northfield, Minn., and Margaret Lynden-Sudheimer, St. Paul, Minn.; seven grandchildren; three great grandchildren; and three brothers.

His funeral service was held on Jan. 2 at Oak Grove Lutheran Church, Richfield, Minn., and burial was in Lakewood Cemetery, Minneapolis.

## THE LUTHERAN AMBASSADOR

3110 E. Medicine Lake Blvd.

Minneapolis, Minn. 55441

Second-class

# THE BROKEN PINION

I walked through the woodland meadows,  
Where sweet the thrushes sing;  
And I found on a bed of mosses  
A bird with a broken wing.  
I healed its wound, and each morning  
It sang its old sweet strain;  
But the bird with the broken pinion  
Never soared as high again.

I found a young life broken  
By sin's seductive art;  
And, touched with Christ-like pity,  
I took him to my heart.  
He lived with a noble purpose  
And struggled not in vain;  
But the life that sin had stricken  
Never soared as high again.

But the bird with the broken pinion  
Kept another from the snare;  
And the life that sin had stricken  
Raised another from despair.  
Each loss had its compensation,  
There is healing for every pain;  
But the bird with the broken pinion  
Never soars as high again.

Written by someone else:  
"Oh, ye who would fain mount upward,  
But are fettered by broken wing,  
Despair not...One will help you  
to loftier heights attain;  
He can heal the broken pinion,  
Till it soars as high again."

*Hezekiah Butterworth*