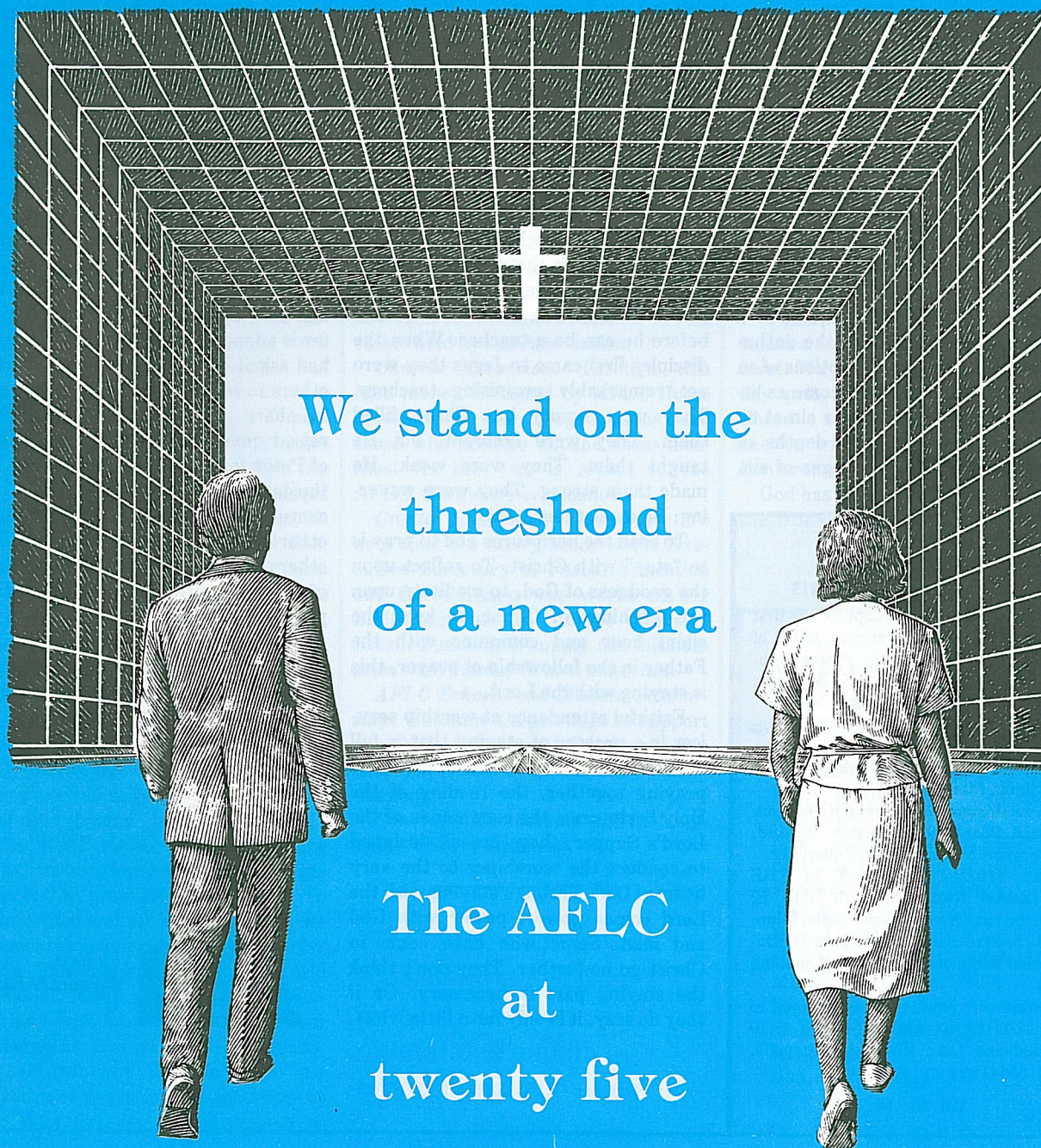


THE LUTHERAN AMBASSADOR

January 26, 1988



at the MASTER'S FEET

Three great verbs

Someone has said that the three great verbs of life are "to know," "to do," and "to be." There are also three great verbs of the Christian life.

The first of these is "Come." In Matthew we have the most precious of all the verses in which we have the word "come." Jesus says to us, "Come to Me, all who are weary and heavy laden, and I will give you rest." "Come" — that was Jesus' word to the disciples, calling them away from their former activities to Him and to a new life.

Coming is the first approach to a life of fellowship with the Savior. Some come in the simplicity and quiet of a country church, some amid the enthusiasm and deeply stirred emotions of an evangelist's crusade. Some come as little children conscious of their sin at an early age; some from the depths of despair, having paid the wages of sin.

And some come in the full splendor of young adulthood, and others — but not many — in the twilight years, bent with the burden of old age.

"Come" — this is the first great verb of the Gospel. The invitation is from the Savior Himself and it is extended to all who have not made Him the Christ of their souls.

The second great verb is "Stay." Having called His disciples to Him, Jesus' next word to them was to "stay" with Him awhile to learn of Him. "But you are to stay in the city until you are clothed with power from on high" (Luke 24:49b). One must be a learner before he can be a teacher. When the disciples first came to Jesus they were not remarkably promising teachers. They were empty but Christ filled them. They were ignorant, but He taught them. They were weak; He made them strong. They were wavering; He made them stable.

To read the Scriptures and to pray is to "stay" with Christ. To reflect upon the goodness of God, to meditate upon the teachings of Christ, to keep the silent hour and commune with the Father in the fellowship of prayer, this is staying with the Lord.

Faithful attendance at worship services is a process of staying that is full of possibilities. The hymns of faith, the praying together, the reading of the Holy Scriptures, the communion of the Lord's Supper, these are all designed to conduct the worshiper to the very heart of God. Through staying with the Lord comes power, power with God and man. Some who have come to Christ go no further. They don't think the staying part is necessary. Or if they do stay, it is only for a little while.

We soon see them disappear from the services in the house of God.

Coming to Jesus is not enough. Staying with Him is not all. Jesus also sent the disciples out to share what they had learned of Him. The parting command of Jesus to His disciples and to all who become His disciples is, "Go into all the world and preach the Gospel to all creation."

In *Prayer Changes Things*, S.D. Gordon imagines a conversation between Christ and the angel Gabriel. Gabriel asks Jesus about His plans for letting all the world know how He lived and died and rose again. And the Master is supposed to have replied that He had asked Peter, James and John and others to tell others, who in turn were to share with others. But Gabriel raised questions about the possibility of Peter forgetting, or John losing enthusiasm, or believers in the twentieth century getting so busy with so many other things that they do not tell others. And back came the quiet voice of Jesus, "Gabriel, I haven't any other plans. I am counting on them."

"Come!" "Stay!" "Go!" These are commands which must be obeyed by loyal disciples everywhere. Come to Christ. Stay to learn of Him. Then go, tell others of the Savior of the world.



by Rev.
Jerome Nikunen

THE LUTHERAN AMBASSADOR

USPS 588-620 ISSN 0746-3413

is published biweekly (except for the first issue of July and the second issue of August) by the Association of Free Lutheran Congregations, 3110 E. Medicine Lake Blvd., Minneapolis, Minn. 55441.

All communications concerning contents of this magazine should be addressed to: Rev. Raynard Huglen, Editor, Newfolden, Minn. 56738.

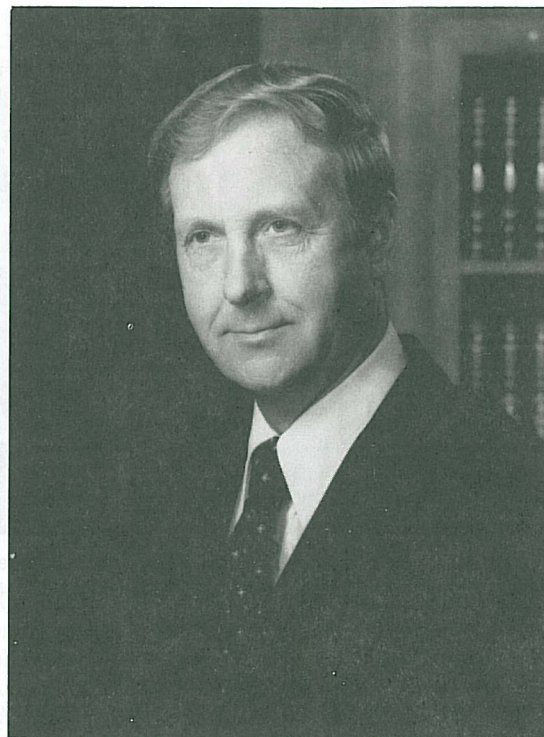
Layout design: Mrs. Wayne Hjermstad, Editorial Board: Mr. Sheldon Mortrud, Rev. Francis Monseth, Rev. Robert Lee.

Send \$10.00 subscription to THE LUTHERAN AMBASSADOR, 3110 E. Medicine Lake Blvd., Minneapolis, Minn. 55441. Second-class postage paid at Minneapolis, Minn., and additional mailing office.

Postmaster: Send address changes to THE LUTHERAN AMBASSADOR, 3110 E. Medicine Lake Blvd., Minneapolis, Minn. 55441.

Vol. 26 · No. 2

The Association of Free Lutheran Congregations



Rev. Richard Snipstead, President

They came almost 300 strong, from 76 congregations in seven states and two provinces in Canada. They came sharing one goal expressed in the resolution adopted unanimously, "That we as a conference continue the Association of Independent Lutheran Congregations under the Lutheran Free Church *Guiding Principles*."

The event referred to took place October 25-28, 1962, at Thief River Falls, Minnesota. A new church body, the Association of Free Lutheran Congregations, was born.

Those who were in attendance had no intention of starting something new. They only wanted to continue what had become a cherished heritage, the Lutheran Free Church. The *Fundamental Principles* seemed to offer them that hope. "Free congregations have no right to demand other congregations shall submit to their opinion, will, judgment, or decision; therefore, domination by a majority over a minority is to be rejected."

The same day that the resolution was adopted to continue the fellowship of free congregations, a telegram was received from a Minneapolis attorney representing the merged church, warning us that we were not entitled to use the name "Lutheran Free Church."

The Conference had confidence in the *Fundamental Principles*, but not wanting to appear presumptuous, a new resolution regarding the name was

"Those who gathered
at Thief River Falls . . .
had no aspirations
of greatness
for the new church."

adopted. "The name of the Association shall be known as the Lutheran Free Church (not merged)" but this did not satisfy the merged church. The leadership of the AFLC soon found itself in court at Warren, Minn., where a temporary injunction was handed down forbidding the use of the name Lutheran Free Church in any way. The matter came to court in June of 1963 at International Falls, Minn.

The name "Association of Free Lutheran Congregations" was adopted as a temporary name. Though it seemed inconceivable in light of the *Fundamental Principles*, the court ruled against the AFLC using the Lutheran Free Church name.

The name "Lutheran Free Church" would have involved the right to properties, wills and annuities. It appears that God wanted this new church to be absolutely stripped of material goods or resources, so that it would have no

alternative but to look to God alone for its strength and supply.

Promises such as Ps. 118:8-9 became very precious. "It is better to trust in the Lord than to put confidence in man. It is better to trust in the Lord than to put confidence in princes." When a people will put their trust and confidence in God alone, how marvelously faithful He proves Himself to be.

As we look back to the beginning of the AFLC, something else is very clear. Those who gathered at Thief River Falls in October of 1962 had no aspirations of greatness for the new church. The only desire and prayer was that we be able to operate effectively as a fellowship. To that end necessary committees and boards were elected.

An amazing story developed over the next 25 years. The new church immediately began to experience growth. From 42 congregations in December of 1962, the roster increased to 70 by June of 1963.

The newly acquired property from the Hauge Innermission became the headquarters and home of the new seminary in 1964. A two-year Bible School added in 1966 enabled young people to become grounded in the Word of God.



Coordinating committee: (seated) Pastors Terry Olson, Leslie Galland, Wendell Johnson; (standing) Mr. Sheldon Mortrud, Mr. Robert Knutson and Mr. George Hartman. Absent: Mr. Arlo Kneeland.

AFLC . . .

God gave us our very own mission field and our very own missionaries in the John Abels and Alvin Grothes who went to Brazil to open the new work. World Mission outreach has included Mexico and for a time Paraguay and India.

A strong program of Home Missions has accounted for approximately one-third of the growth of the AFLC up to 1987.

The AFLC owns a fine retreat center at Osceola, Wisconsin, and has a bi-weekly church paper. A full curriculum of Sunday School materials is available from our Parish Education department.

If space would permit we could continue detailing the events of the past 25 years. Perhaps it is sufficient to say that that which has occurred far exceeds the fondest dreams of any one who was in attendance at the first conference in 1962. "This is the Lord's doing; it is marvelous in our eyes" (Ps. 118:23).

The AFLC has experienced unexpected growth in 1987. It is not because we are seeking to reach out or because of ambitions for growth. It is God who is giving the increase and we are humbled by it. About 30 congregations, about half of them newly established congregations, have joined or are looking to the AFLC at this date.

We are thankful for the convictions and spirit which these congregations are bringing to our fellowship. These are people who have struggled with the merger issues. Their convictions have forced them to take a stand and either to vote to leave their church body as a congregation or to begin a new congregation that will recognize the inerrancy and authority of the Word.

They find a kinship with us. They love God, His Word and strive for the salvation of souls. We are blessed by their coming to us. We will be strong and better able to perform the task of the kingdom which God has for the AFLC.

What is God's place for the AFLC in coming years? I do not know, but I believe it must be a special one. He has been so good to us and blessed us in such an abundant way in the past.

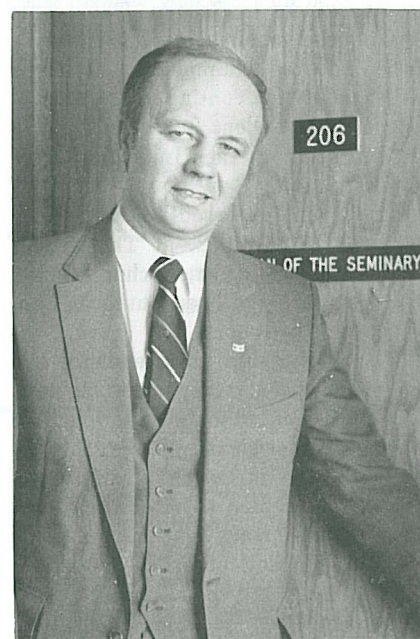
May He continue to be our Source of strength and our Resource. The last year of our silver anniversary was a year when we sought God for revival. Let us not cease our prayers and desires to that end in this new year. Only as humble, contrite, revived servants of God can we realize the peculiar goal of free and living congregations, able to serve our blessed Lord and Savior.

*Rev. Richard Snipstead
President, Association of
Free Lutheran Congregations*

a major influence on the church's life

Next year, Association Free Lutheran Theological Seminary will commemorate 25 years of existence as an educational ministry of the AFLC. Recognizing the need for pastors who understand and appreciate the faith and practice of the Association, the seminary was one of the very first projects to be undertaken by the fledgling church fellowship. Having now trained nearly three-fourths of the current AFLC clergy, it is clear that the seminary has had a major influence on the life of the church. What is the nature of that influence? What are the concerns and emphases of AFLTS that are prayerfully imparted to the students? Three words characterize AFLTS, according to its catalog:

Conservative: This refers most of all to the seminary's position that "the



Dr. Francis Monseth

"Having now trained nearly three-fourths of the current AFLC clergy, it is clear that the seminary has had a major influence on the life of the church."

AFLTS:

conservative, confessional, congregational

Bible is the divinely inspired, revealed, inerrant, and authoritative Word of God and, as such, is trustworthy in all its parts and the supreme and only rule of faith and practice."

The word "inerrant" is deliberate in application to the Bible. It is because of the Bible's own testimony of its divine character that inerrancy must be the outcome. If the Bible is inspired by God, as its human authors unitedly profess, then any other conclusion is to disregard that witness.

The late Dr. Francis Schaeffer spoke of inerrancy as a "watershed." Where one comes down on this crucial subject determines the nature of one's convictions as well as one's agenda in the Church. We thank God that the faculty members of AFLC seminary have always confessed without reservation

expositions of the Word of God. The seminary is without apology or compromise Lutheran in all its teachings. A strong emphasis on the necessity to rightly divide Law and Gospel and to keep the chief article of the *Augsburg Confession* ever primary, namely, justification by grace alone through faith, is apparent in the seminary's curriculum and practice. Holding the means of grace, Word and Sacraments, as indispensable in the formation, the maintenance, and the outreach of the living congregation, the seminary expects that all its graduates give wholehearted affirmation of these Lutheran distinctives.

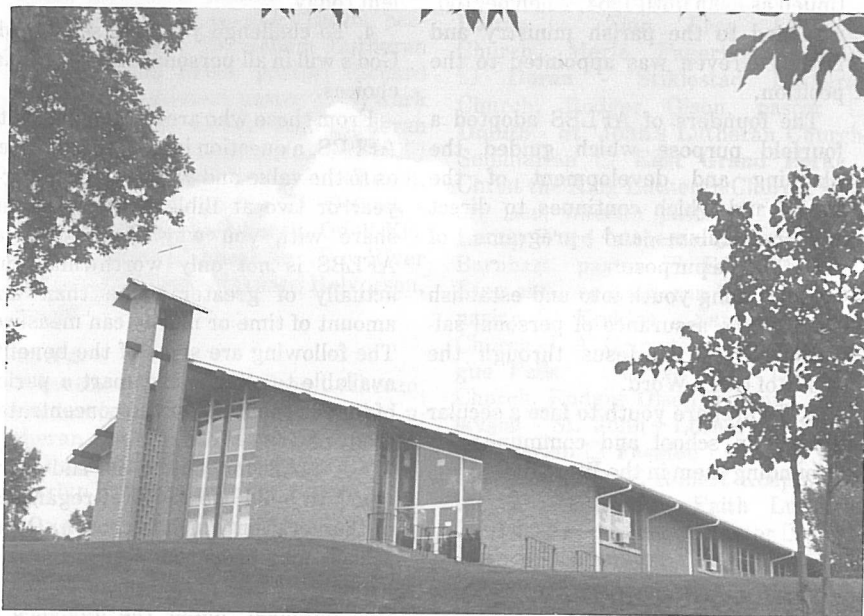
In consonance with the great Reformation "breakthrough" in regard to the priesthood of all believers, AFLTS also lays great emphasis on the responsibility

earth." That is, there is no other recognizable entity in the New Testament that has been authorized to carry on Christ's mission than the local church. The congregation has been entrusted with the blessed means of grace; it has been entrusted with all the spiritual gifts necessary for the fruitful building of the Church in Christ's name. The Holy Spirit indwells and infills God's people for powerful and effective witness in employment of the Word and Sacraments.

Congregations need other congregations to carry on tasks that are difficult to do alone, to be sure, and also to benefit from the larger fellowship of the Body of Christ, but, ultimately, it is the local congregation that is the prime mover in the work of the kingdom of God on earth.

With that conviction in mind and heart, AFLTS orients instruction in each of its departments — exegetical, systematic, historical, and practical — to the local congregation. Endeavoring to avoid "ivory-tower" theorizing, it would relate theology to personal and corporate life at every juncture. It desires that each of its graduates recognizes the centrality of the congregation and wants to serve the congregation to which he may be called in full dependence upon God.

Dr. Francis W. Monseth, Dean



AFLC headquarters and seminary building in Minneapolis.

full inerrancy of the Word of God. The faculty is unaware of any graduate of the seminary who does not earnestly embrace that belief.

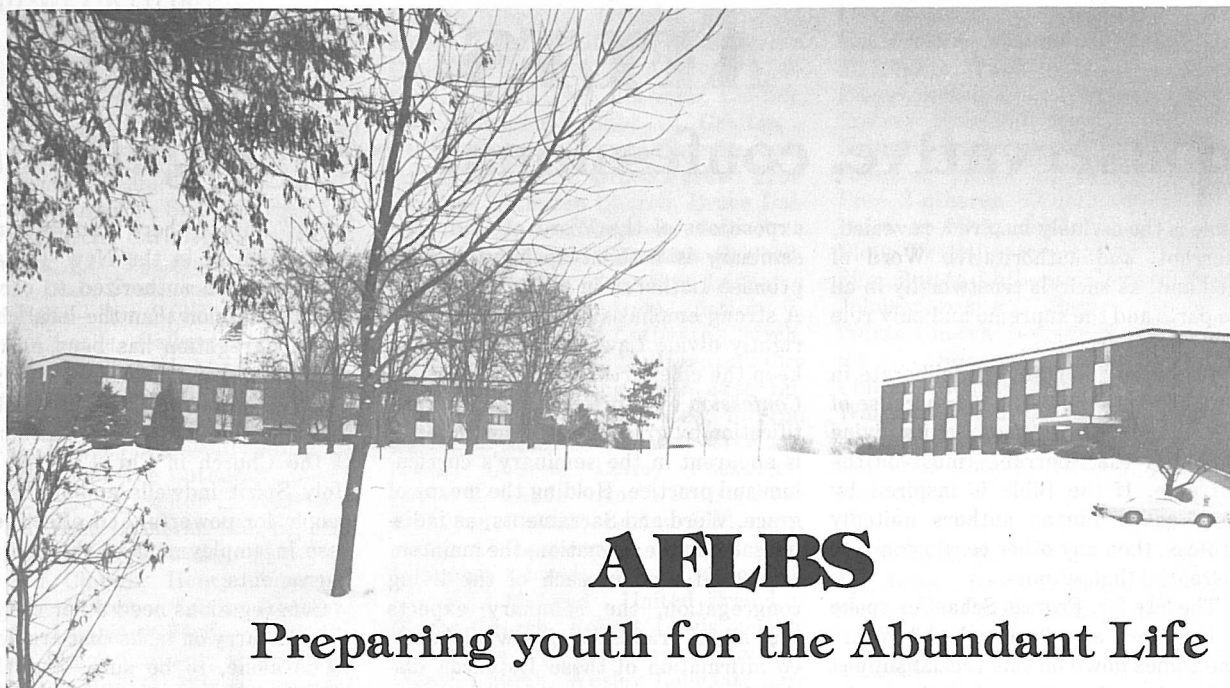
Confessional: The seminary catalog expresses the conviction that the ancient Creeds and the Lutheran Confessions of the 16th century are correct

ity and privilege of every Christian to exercise the God-given spiritual gifts entrusted to them for the edification of fellow believers in the congregation.

Congregational: It is the New Testament-based conviction of the seminary that the local congregation is the "right form of the Kingdom of God on



Professor Philip Haugen



AFLBS

Preparing youth for the Abundant Life

Fourfold purpose holds true

Association Free Lutheran Bible School was born out of the conviction that the Bible, God's inspired Word, is the primary means that God uses to give and sustain spiritual life. Soon after the AFLC was formed, many in the fellowship were prompted to begin praying for a school where students could come after high school for the specific purpose of studying that eternal Word. In the fall of 1966, those prayers and convictions became a reality.

Thirteen students met that first year in the lower level of the headquarters building. Since that time, many changes have taken place. Two classroom-dormitory buildings have been erected on the 25-acre campus overlooking Medicine Lake, primarily through the gifts of God's people. The student body has grown, averaging about 100 students per year. The full-time faculty is shared with our seminary.

John Strand, the first president of the AFLC, was also the first dean of the Seminary and Bible School. Richard Snipstead became the first full-time dean in 1968 and served until returning to the parish ministry in

1975. Amos Dyrud served as acting dean for one year until Kenneth Mo-land accepted the call in 1976. He continued as dean until 1984, when he, too, returned to the parish ministry and Donald Greven was appointed to the position.

The founders of AFLBS adopted a fourfold purpose which guided the planning and development of the school and which continues to direct the curriculum and programs of AFLBS. We purpose:

1. To bring youth into and establish them in the assurance of personal salvation in Christ Jesus through the study of God's Word.

2. To prepare youth to face a secular society in school and community by grounding them in the Word of God.

"Other schools may prepare a person to make a *living*; AFLBS prepares one to *live* as God intended, under the guidance of the Word of God."

3. To assist youth to embrace the truth as found in the Bible, and to reject the theological errors so prevalent today.

4. To challenge youth to seek to do God's will in all personal and vocational choices.

From those who are not familiar with AFLBS, a question is sometimes raised as to the value and worth of spending a year or two at Bible School. Let me share with you why time spent at AFLBS is not only worthwhile, but actually of greater value than any amount of time or money can measure. The following are some of the benefits available to all who set apart a period of time in their life for the concentrated study of God's Word.

- A solid foundation is laid upon which to build one's future, regardless of the vocation which is chosen. Other schools may prepare a person to make a *living*; AFLBS prepares one to *live* as God intended, under the guidance of the Word of God.

- Knowledge of God's Word and His unfailing promises becomes personalized. II Peter 1:4 says: "He has granted us His precious and magnificent promises, in order that by them you might become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world by lust."

- Principles for life and Christian living are learned and positive patterns of life-style are developed as one applies the principles of God's Word to daily life.

- Christian friendships that will last a lifetime are formed. Each year alumni return from all over the country to renew friendships that are built around the Friend that sticks closer than a brother.

- Opportunities for service are available. AFLBS choirs tour the country each spring; Gospel teams go out on weekends to churches, retreats, and other meetings; summer Gospel teams travel all summer to churches and Bible camps, serving in a multitude of ways.

- Recreation and sports are a part of life at AFLBS. Basketball in a Bible college league is available for both men and women, and volleyball is a part of our recreational program for all.

- Transfer of credits available to several colleges. While our goal is to build God's Word into the lives of our students, Christian colleges are recognizing the value of Bible school. Graduates from AFLBS are now able to transfer most of their credits into programs at colleges in the area, receiving a B.A. degree in about two more years.

It is my conviction that every Christian young person should set apart a period of time in his life to be devoted to the deepening of his relationship with God through the concentrated study of God's Word. We are grateful for all individuals, parents and congregations who by their prayers and gifts continue to make this kind of Christ-centered education possible.



Rev. Donald Greven, Dean



Rev. Elden Nelson conducted the first worship service for Christian Free Lutheran, Wheatland, Iowa, on Jan. 3, 1988.

Many people are involved

AFLC HOME MISSIONS

In the early years of the AFLC the requests for help in establishing new congregations were numerous and the resources were limited. Now, 25 years later, in the midst of the merger of three Lutheran synods, AFLC Home Missions is again receiving numerous requests for help to organize new congregations. Since Annual Conference time last June, the Home Mission Department has had contact with new groups in 11 communities. As of January 1, 1988, nine of these groups have made their decision to affiliate with the AFLC. All 11 groups are being served by either an AFLC pastor or faculty member or seminary student from Free Lutheran Theological Seminary in Minneapolis.

Why does the AFLC put a strong emphasis on the work of Home Missions? There are perhaps many reasons, but basically there are two. First, we have the command of our Lord to go and make disciples. There is a genuine desire among the people of our AFLC to reach the lost for Christ right here in our homeland. The second reason is the

fact of an urgent need. We are very aware from what we see and hear that the need is great. As a result, we often have people asking for help in establishing a congregation where their spiritual needs can be met. A total of 61 congregations have received financial help and direction since the AFLC was organized in 1962.

In 1980 the Annual Conference set a goal of starting three new congregations each year for the next ten years. That goal of 30 congregations for the



Rev. Robert Lee, center, greeted the people at Christ the King Lutheran, East Grand Forks, Minn., currently meeting at a motel.

HOME MISSIONS . . .

decade has already been reached. When a goal is reached, it is easy to sit back and look with pride on what has been accomplished. But let us not forget that Christ said, "I will build my Church." We can only rejoice in what He has done and is doing.

The work of Home Missions has the involvement of many people. Finances of the Home Mission fund are supplied by members of the established congregations of the AFLC. It is gratifying to see how God provides through His people. The Home Mission Committee strives to be good stewards of the monies for which they are responsible. Subsidies help to pay salaries for full-time as well as part-time pastors. The need of each new Home Mission congregation is for a pastor who cares for its spiritual welfare and feeds the people from God's Word. In the early days of a new congregation, neighboring pastors, a faculty member or students from AFLTS in Minneapolis are often used to carry out pastoral responsibilities. As the nucleus of the congregation grows, it becomes more and more important that a full-time pastor be called. Here, again, the people of the AFLC have a part. We are firmly convinced that men are not recruited into seminary and the parish ministry, but that we, as people of the AFLC, pray the Lord of the harvest to do the calling and the sending.



Rev. Elden Nelson



Ordination of three Brazilian pastors.



Mexico '87 Team with children from Irapuato.

The Home Mission congregations, which now number 35, are uniquely different. Their place of worship may be a community hall, a worshipful church building, or something in between. However great the differences may be, there is one thing they hold in common, and that is a special joy in being together with folks of like mind to hear God speak through His Word and to share in the unique fellowship of a new congregation.

In the coming months, the Home Missions Committee anticipates that the inquiries and opportunities to begin

new work will continue and that the blessings will increase. Even though the resources may be limited, even as they were 25 years ago, the number of congregations has increased considerably. The AFLC has grown from 42 congregations in 1962 to over 180 at the present time. God's Word is as powerful today as it has ever been. Christ's promise, stating, "I will build My Church," is still true. Let us be faithful to Him and to the task He has given.

Rev. Elden Nelson, Executive Director, AFLC Home Missions

AFLC WORLD MISSIONS

The world mission outreach of our Association of Free Lutheran Congregations is based upon obedience to Christ's Great Commission: "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age. Amen" (Matthew 28:18-20 NASB).

Today approximately three-fourths of the world's people are perishing without even knowing that God has a plan for their salvation. The number of those in the world who need to be won for Christ has more than doubled since 1900 and it is estimated that by the year 2000 A.D. our world's population will be seven billion. Many open doors lie before our AFLC. In the Gospel of John, chapter 9, our Lord Jesus says

that we "must work the works of Him (God) who sent Me (Christ), as long as it is day; night is coming, when no man can work" (NASB). As our Lord continues to hold doors of opportunity open before us, let us diligently persist in serving Him and doing His work while it is still light.

The work of the AFLC is in two of the most populous nations on earth, Brazil and Mexico.

BRAZIL

The AFLC in Brazil observed its 20th anniversary in January, 1986, with a homecoming celebration. These past two years have shown a strengthening of our nationalization efforts in the country of Brazil. Rev. Oseias Camara, a graduate of our AFLC Seminary, now serves as president of the Brazil AFLC. The Brazil National Council, which is made up of Brazilian pastors and laymen, meets regularly to oversee and conduct the activities of the national church.

The state of Parana is the location of our Bible School and Seminary (IBSM, Instituto Biblico E Seminario Mouraoense) in a suburb of the city of Campo Mourao. The responsibility of overseeing students, teaching classes, and overseeing both local and extended rural churches is shared by: Rev. and Mrs. John Abel, Rev. and Mrs. George Knapp, Rev. and Mrs. Connely Dyrud, Rev. and Mrs. Oseias Camara, and Miss Carol Knapp. Last January three additional seminarians were ordained as national pastors in

Brazil. Each year students enroll in the Bible Institute program from Brazil and Paraguay.

The capital of Parana is Curitiba, a flourishing university city. Rev. and Mrs. Paul Abel direct the work of our Free Lutheran congregation there. The congregation is currently using rented facilities and has recently purchased land in the city on which to build its own facility. The Abels also lead Bible studies in English in order to reach the upper class in the city.

In the state of Espirito Santo our new work continues to grow. Rev. and Mrs. David Abel and their family, assisted by Brazilian Pastor Carlos Eduardo, direct the work in Vitoria. The congregation has hosted one of the largest Evangelism Explosion clinics in South America. The lay people are active in witnessing and visitation teams. Membership is growing. The young people are also making decisions for Christ and the ministries of summer camps, VBS and the Sunday School have been strong and effective. This congregation is currently in a construction program.

Mexico

The AFLC work in Mexico bears the name Central Mexican Lutheran Church. The center of the mission work in this country is León, in the state of Guanajuato. Pastor Samuel Flores continues to pastor St. Andrew the Apostle Evangelical Lutheran Church in the city of León and to oversee the



The World Missions Committee at a Jan. 4, 1988 meeting. (L. to R.) Mr. Kenneth Nash, Rev. Eugene Enderlein, Mr. Martin

Bjornson and Rev. Einar Unseth. Absent were Mr. Arley Hartsoch and Rev. Ted Berkas.



Opening exercises in Sunday School in Iretama, Brazil.

WORLD MISSIONS . . .

work of the Gethsemane Mission in the city of Celaya, and the small new congregation in the city of Irapuato. Raul Ramirez, a fine Christian young man from St. Andrew congregation, is in training at a Bible School in Mexico and travels each weekend to hold worship services at Irapuato and Celaya. Milton Flores, who previously served these two works, is presently attending Association Free Lutheran Theological Seminary in Minneapolis.

Rev. and Mrs. Daniel Giles and family are based in the city of Aguascalientes, state of Aguascalientes. Pastor Giles' ministry is mainly home Bible studies and personal evangelism. We believe that God will honor His Word as it is planted in people's hearts week after week in this new work.

Both Mexico and Brazil have been blessed by the visits of lay people from the AFLC who have gone to the mission areas to assist in physical labor and spiritual witness and encouragement.

The World Missions Department has also sent teams of students to these mission areas for summer ministries.

Just last July the Mexico '87 Team assisted and encouraged our Mexican sisters and brothers with an excellent experience in helpful labor and evangelism.

The world mission outreach of our AFLC is totally dependent upon God's grace and the prayerful and financial support of concerned Christians.

In Ephesians 5:15-16, we are exhorted to, "Walk circumspectly . . . Redeeming the time, because the days are evil." Time passes all too quickly and life wanes all too soon. This is God's hour for world evangelization. God wants us to proclaim the Gospel to the unevangelized of the world while time is still on our side. God is visiting the Church and calling out a people for His Name. This is the time for reaching the world with the message of Christ's redemption, "Who will have all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man, Christ Jesus; Who gave Himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time" (I Timothy 2:4-6 KJV).

Rev. Eugene W. Enderlein
Executive Director

But whosoever wants Him (Jesus) as Lord will have the devil as his foe and enemy.

THE ADDRESSES OF THE MISSIONARIES OF OUR CHURCH

Rev. and Mrs. David Abel
Caixa Postal 242
29100 Vila Velha
Espirito Santo
Brazil, S. A.

Rev. and Mrs. John Abel
Caixa Postal 44
87300 Campo Mourao
Parana
Brazil, S.A.

Rev. and Mrs. Paul Abel
Caixa Postal 12125
Santa Felicidade
Parana
Brazil, S. A.

Rev. and Mrs. Connely J. Dyrud
Caixa Postal 44
87300 Campo Mourao
Parana
Brazil, S. A.

Rev. and Mrs. Daniel Giles
Apartado Postal 1515-C
Aguascalientes, Ags.
Brazil, S. A.

Rev. and Mrs. George Knapp
Caixa Postal 44
Campo Mourao
Parana
Brazil, S. A.

Miss Carol Knapp
Caixa Postal 44
87300 Campo Mourao
Parana
Brazil, S. A.

Clergy in Mexico

Rev. Samuel Flores
Apartado Postal 756
Leon, Gto.
Mexico

Our Chaplains in the U.S. Military

Chaplain Mark Antal
3734F McLeod Ct.
Columbia, S. Car. 29206

Chaplain (Cpt.) Timothy
K. Skramstad
3212 Valleywood Dr.
Manhattan, Kans. 66502

editorials

PASTOR TRYGVE F. DAHLE

The news came the other day, "Pastor Dahle has passed away." We had heard he had had some health problems late in the year 1987, but we didn't know that his summons was at hand. Now Pastor Dahle, beloved of his many friends, has crossed the "Jordan River" and knows much more about the glory which lies beyond than we are ever able to understand or describe on this side.

And his coming over to "Beulah Land" was all by the grace of God. He was very clear on that, salvation is by God's grace alone. Trygve Dahle knew that he was saved by grace.

There is an old saying, "The ranks are thinning." That is true of the Association of Free Lutheran Congregations. A number of the older pastors are gone, as well as laymen active in the first 25 years of the AFLC.

The words I have long felt described Trygve Dahle best are "incurable optimist." That's what he was. He believed it was always time to move forward, that a hurdle could be overcome, that a goal could be reached. He wasn't one to back away from a challenge, but rather took new heart at it.

Many times the challenge involved the need for money, for freewill gifts. Pastor Dahle would counsel generosity in giving. "Shovel out offerings to the Lord's work," he would say, "but you can't out-give God. He has a bigger shovel than you do." That is, God will bless the giver in an ever greater way. Trygve Dahle also would urge the giving of one's means while alive. "Give it while you're living so you know where it's going," he would advise.

Another word of exhortation he often made, as those who heard him take part in discussions will remember, is that "God isn't looking for ability but *availability*." Pastor Dahle was a strong believer that if the Lord found a willing person He would give the grace and abilities to do some worthwhile work for Him. But first the person had to be willing.

Trygve Dahle was a booster of all parts of the kingdom work in which the Association is involved. He boosted World and Home Missions. He rejoiced in our Seminary and Bible School. He praised God for the work being done by the Women's Missionary Federation and the Luther League Federation. I am sure that he had a long prayer list of people in leadership in the AFLC, missionaries, etc.

Pastor Dahle enjoyed Christian fellowship. He attended every annual conference, winter Bible conference and family Bible camp he could. He was 96 when he died, but even last summer, at 95 and a half years, he was at the Family Camp at Osceola, Wis., with his wife, Anna Marie. He wasn't easily dissuaded from being at these fellowship gatherings of the church. In his local congregation, even toward the last, he was at the morning worship and midweek Bible study and prayer hour if at all possible.

Past retirement age when the AFLC was begun, he served at numerous places largely on an interim basis. It seemed as though he would never give up active work as requests for help came. But gradually he did, retiring to his home on the shores of Green Lake and later in Spicer. He

certainly believed in still another adage, "It is better to burn out than to rust out."

Pastor Dahle's death thins out other ranks, too. He had a personal memory of Dr. Georg Sverdrup, one of the founders of the Lutheran free movement in America. Sverdrup died in 1907. There must be people living who also remember Sverdrup, but I don't know who they are. A link with the past, in this respect, too, is gone in Trygve Dahle's passing.

Fortunately, he was able to complete an autobiography of his eventful life, with his wife's help, and those who will be able to read it will find an exciting account of a man who saw work to be done for Jesus, and did it. —Raynard Huglen

THIS WEEK

As we have promised, this second issue of January is about the Association of Free Lutheran Congregations. Of course, every issue of the *Ambassador* is, but here are a number of articles about our work, something about our history and various pictures which you'll find interesting. All of this is meant to be helpful in introducing the AFLC to our new congregations and other new members, in giving information about us to friends outside of our church who may see this *Ambassador* and also in reminding our members of longer standing what our church believes and is trying to do to extend God's kingdom in our world.

Surely, this is a moment of great importance in the life of our fellowship. Some thousands of new members have joined the Association in the past year. We stand on the threshold of a new era in our life. It is altogether fitting that leaders in the Association share somewhat of their vision of the work the Lord has given us.

The names of the congregations on our roster are printed here today. This will help us all to know where the AFLC is in the U.S. and Canada. Now members will be better able to suggest an AFLC congregation as a church home for family members and friends who have moved to a place where there is one.

Other information is given as well, including the Directory of Officers on the last page.

The Association isn't large (it is larger than it was), but it offers some real opportunities for service. It is large enough for that. Then it is small enough so that it is possible to personally know many people in our church. The fellowship is good. We aren't a perfect society within society. We stand very much in need of God's grace and the sanctification of the Holy Spirit. And yet these are among us and are active and effective.

The *Ambassador* which follows this one, February 9, will also be useful, we trust, in showing new members and reminding old ones about our past, in order that we may better understand the present and look forward to the future. We hope that you'll be waiting for it when it comes to your mailbox next month.

Serving the Lord

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

YOU MEAN ME, LORD?

As I write this, Pastor Herbert Franz just finished a series of evangelistic meetings in our church. I see in the *Ambassador* that he preached in many places in 1987.

"Have you shared Christ with anyone this week?" Is that what this 70-year-old servant of God asked you? That is what he asked us.

Had you?

I hadn't.

So right after the services ended, Saturday morning, I prayed, "Lord, I want to be available to You. Give me the caring, loving mind to see the needs around me and give me the courage to share Jesus with those with whom you bring me into contact. Don't let us be the same as we were before Pastor Franz came."

Lo and behold, by 10 o'clock the opportunity faced me head on. Two young men stopped by to have coffee with my husband. I was scrubbing the floor in the bathroom when they came into the house and sat down at the kitchen table, so I was already conveniently on my knees.

"Here? Now? Father," I prayed, "I'm not ready for this and they're here already? Oh, surely not. This pair aren't the ones you mean me to talk to."

Who else?

"But these guys wouldn't be the least bit interes..."

Who else?

"Okay, Father, I'll try. (I wasn't sure I wouldn't still back out.) But You know how "chicken" I am, so I'm asking for the courage I need to do this. And I don't have time to think up any good witnessing tactics, so if You will put the words in my mouth, here I go."

I left the bathroom unfinished and headed for the kitchen, poured a cup of coffee and sat down with the three of them. After a time, a lull came in the conversation. The words came out slowly and carefully. "I would like to ask you fellows a question. If by some accident or mishap you were to die before this day is out, where would you be?"

Their responses, very different from each other, led into the story of the cross, the forgiveness of sin, of judgment and heaven. We parted friends that day and, oh, I wish that all of you reading this would pray that those two young men will experience conviction of sin and forgiveness. For now they have been reminded of Jesus Christ and why He came.

January is a good time to decide upon our main goals in life. Why am I here? A good idea is to write these goals down and examine them under the telescope of God's Word. Are they in line with the life of Christ? Can I rely upon the unlimited power of God to carry them out?

Once you have three or four goals settled, doesn't it give you a positive

feeling to have defined clearly your purpose on earth? Now we have a delicious sense of direction.

Next, we may write down some short-term goals. What would I like to accomplish this week? Are these goals in line with my main goals? Are they specific? We wouldn't simply write down, I want to be a better witness, but I want to share Christ with someone *this week*.

Instead of writing, I want to be more sensitive to hurting people, write, Sue is lonely, I will visit her *this week*. Give me wisdom to comfort her, Lord.

We wouldn't only write, I will pray more, but, I will set such and such time aside *this week* for prayer. Not, I want to be a better wife and mother, but, I will thank my husband and children *this week* for everything they do for me so that I can build their confidence.

Specific goals lead us out of "self" and into the needs of people.

Mother Teresa set her goal early in life. She wanted to let Christ love the poor through her. I read her story with reverence for the awesome work she has accomplished, but on every page the question faces me, "What have *you* done?"

Do we want our AFLC to be a caring, Christ-centered church? Then we must say, "Here I am, Father; use me to bring Jesus to a lost world."

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 or she held membership.

ILLINOIS

DeKalb

Mrs. James (Eldora) Roof, 57, Nov. 3, 1987, Grace.

Peter M. Johnson, 89, Nov. 28, 1987, Grace.

MASSACHUSETTS

Fall River

George F. Lane, 75, Sept. 6, 1987, St. Paul's.

MINNESOTA

Alexandria

Mrs. Eurena Lundeen, 87, Dec. 7, Fahlun, Nelson, Minn. (Mrs. Lundeen was the mother of Pastor Mauritz Lundeen, Aberdeen, S. Dak.)

Roseau

Benney Listug, 81, Dec. 18, 1987, Rose.

NORTH DAKOTA

Northwood

Clair Land, 76, Jan. 1, Zoar, Hatton, N. Dak.

APPLICATIONS BEING RECIEVED

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

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

Pastor Trygve F. Dahle

Pastor Trygve Ferdinand Dahle was born November 14, 1891, at West Duluth, Minn., to Pastor Ole Dahle and Regine (Gulbrandson) Dahle. When he was 3½ years old the family moved to Aitkin, Minn., and in 1910 they moved to Starbuck, Minn.

He was baptized by his father in Duluth and also confirmed by his father in Cedar Lake Lutheran Church, Aitkin.

He was a World War I veteran, having served in the U.S. Navy.

He attended Augsburg College and Seminary and served as pastor in the Lutheran Free Church from 1923 to 1963 and after his retirement he served as interim pastor in the AFLC (Association of Free Lutheran Congregations).

His first parish was Waubay, S. Dak., beginning there in 1923. While serving in Waubay, on July 11, 1926, he was united in marriage to Agnes Hazel Tastad of Pierpont, S. Dak. They were blessed with six children.

Other places that he served besides Waubay were: Wannaska, Minn.; Hallock, Minn.; McVile, N. Dak.; Spicer, Minn.; Elbow, Sask., Canada; and LaPorte, Minn.

Places he served on an interim basis were: Sacred Heart, Minn.; Pukwana, S. Dak.; Kalispell, Mont.; Everett, Wash.; Grafton-Grand Forks, N. Dak.; Boscobel, Wis.; and Tioga, N. Dak. He served a total of 37 churches in 17 parishes.

His wife Agnes passed away on December 6, 1963, and he was alone for 11 years. On May 11, 1975, he was married to Anna Marie Oppen at Boscobel.

Pastor Dahle composed eight hymns, seven of which were printed in a booklet called "Songs of Prayer, Praise and Thanksgiving." He and his wife, Anna, also recorded hymns on a record album entitled, "I Will Praise Him." An autobiography of Pastor Dahle has been written and was printed in 1987.

Pastor Dahle passed away on December 30 at the Glenoaks Care Center in New London at the age of 96. He was the last member of a family of nine.

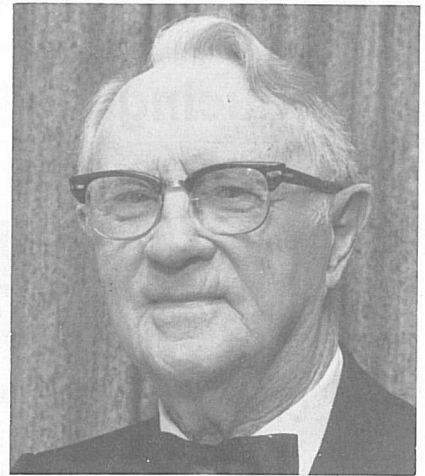
He is survived by his wife Anna and his six children: Adelene Dahle of Los Angeles, Calif.; Trygve, Jr., Cherry Valley, Calif.; Olaf, Grand Terrace,

Calif.; Mrs. Eugene (Margorie) Zugswert, St. Paul, Minn.; Norma Knutson, Elbow; and Ronald, Brooklyn Park, Minn.; also 22 grandchildren and 20 great-grandchildren and many nieces and nephews.

The funeral for Pastor Dahle was held at Green Lake Lutheran Church, rural Spicer, Minn., on Sat., Jan. 2, at 2 o'clock, with Rev. Rodney Johnson officiating. He preached the sermon as well. Greetings were brought by Rev. Richard Snipstead, president of the AFLC, and by Rev. John Strand, former AFLC president. Ronald Dahle spoke on behalf of the family. Pastor Snipstead and Dr. Francis Monseth, dean of Association Free Lutheran Theological Seminary, sang the duet, "I Lay My Sins on Jesus." Leonard Stulen sang "My Heart is Longing to Praise My Savior." Congregational hymns were "My God, How Wonderful Thou Art" and "Children of the Heavenly Father." Opal Jacobson served as organist.

Pallbearers were nephews Vincent Dahle and Rolf Dahle and grandsons Michael Dahle, and Paul, Jim and John Zugswert. Burial was in the church cemetery.

Blessed be his memory.
(See the editorial "Pastor Trygve F. Dahle" on page 11.)



Bible Conferences

The Winter Bible Conference at St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Fargo, N. Dak., will begin next week, Feb. 5-7. The one at the Association Retreat Center, Osceola, Wis., begins a week later, Feb. 12-14.

Conference theme will be "Our God — Our Help" (Psalm 121).

Rev. Philip Haugen, Association School's faculty, will be the Bible teacher at Fargo and the evening speaker will be Rev. Terry Olson, Valley City, N. Dak. Both are former pastors at St. Paul's.

At Osceola, the Bible teacher will be Rev. Ralph Tjelta, Association Schools, while the evening messages will be brought by Rev. Walter Johnson, Shakopee, Minn.

St. Paul's Lutheran in Fargo is located at 1603 North 5th St. The ARC is situated southeast of Osceola or straight east of East Farmington.

Details about housing in Fargo are to be found below. Adequate lodging is available at the ARC for the conference there.

Town House Motor Inn, 301 3rd Ave. No.: Weeknight rate is \$65.00 per night; weekend rate is \$55.00 per night. 701-232-8851.

Holiday Inn, I-29 and 13th Ave. So.: 1 bed and 1 person — \$45.00; 1 bed and 2 people — \$49.00. These charges are for the standard rooms. 701-282-2700.

Doublewood Inn, 3333 13th Ave. So.: 1 bed and 2 people — \$68.00; 2 beds and 4 people — \$74.00. These are the weeknight rates. Weekend rates are \$55.00 per night for the standard rooms. 701-235-3333.

Housing information for Fargo conference

MOTELS AND HOTELS

Select Inn, I-29 and 13th Ave. So.: 1 bed and 1 person — \$22.90; 1 bed and 2 people — \$26.90; 2 beds and 4 people — \$33.90. 701-282-6300.

Super 8 Motel, 3518 Interstate Blvd.: 1 bed and 1 person — \$22.88; 1 bed and 2 people — \$26.88; 2 beds and 2 people — \$27.88; \$1.00 per person after 2 people. 701-232-9202.

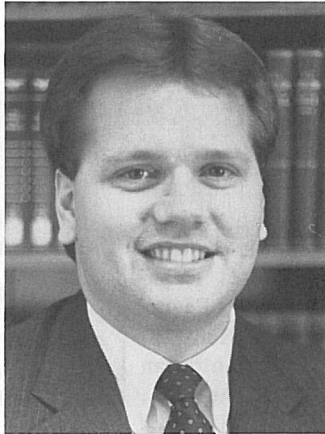
Scandia Hotel, 717 4th St. No.: 2 beds and 2 people — \$28.00; \$3.00 per person extra. 701-232-2661.

Motel 75, I-94 and 13th Ave. So.: 1 bed and 2 people — \$26.75; 2 beds and 2 people — \$27.75; 2 beds and 3 people — \$30.75; 2 beds and 4 people — \$33.75. 701-232-1321.

Introducing AFLTS Seniors

BRIAN J. PEARSON

Grand Forks, N. Dak.
Son of Arlo Pearson
and Dorryce Pearson.
Married to Margaret Hill.
Home congregation is
St. Paul's Lutheran,
Cloquet, Minn.,
Michael Brandt, pastor.
Graduate of St. Paul Bible
College, St. Bonifacius, Minn.
Attended University of N. Dak.
and AFLBS.



Special interests include sports and reading.

Personal testimony:

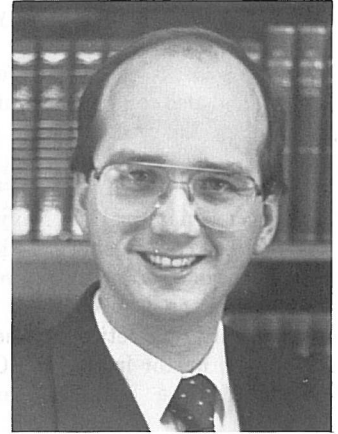
I came to a saving knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ after graduating from high school and following the death of a close friend. Through this tragedy, I began to consider my own spiritual condition and whether or not I would spend eternity in the presence of God. Through the ministry of some concerned Christian friends, I came to the place in my life and heart where I saw my utter sinfulness and unworthiness before God and my need to confess my sin before Him and receive His gift of forgiveness and eternal life. I praise God for His mercy and grace and for this wonderful gift of salvation through His Son!

Seminary experience:

God prompted me to consider pastoral ministry while attending AFLBS. His Word impressed me with the great spiritual needs of mankind and moved my heart to serve Him in the ministry of the Gospel. One of the great blessings has been the privilege to study and grow under the direction of God-fearing faculty. Their respect for the Word of God and love for souls and the Savior has made a great impression upon me. I spent my internship at Living Faith Free Lutheran Church in Larimore, N. Dak., with Rev. Bruce Dalager as supervisor.

THOMAS C. OLSON

Coon Valley, Wis.
Son of Mr. and Mrs.
Harlan Olson
Member of Medicine Lake
Lutheran Church,
Laurel Udden, pastor
Graduate of University of
Wisconsin, LaCrosse.



Enjoys antique farm machinery, woodworking and fishing.

Personal testimony:

A milestone in my spiritual life was finding assurance of salvation. I had always been a good church member throughout my youth but I did not know for sure if I was going to heaven. When I was in confirmation, our church in Wisconsin got a new pastor who really knew the Lord. He showed me how Jesus did it all and how Christ is my only hope for salvation. I laid my sins on Jesus and found peace in Christ. I have not doubted my salvation since then. My testimony can be summarized by the statement "the blood of Jesus cleanses from all sin."

Seminary experience:

I was convinced that I could not attend a liberal seminary. I desired a strong Biblical education and did not know where to get it. At an LEM mid-winter conference, evangelist Sterling Johnson told me about the AFLC. This was a great blessing from God. The challenge of AFLTS has been learning how to love studying the Word of God. At times it is tempting to see seminary as just academic. Through prayer, God helps me to love my studies. A high point at AFLTS is the development of close friendships with fellow students. This will be a source of strength and counsel in the future. I spent my time of internship at Our Saviour's Lutheran in Thief River Falls, Minn., with Pastor Les Galland and Art Grimstad. I am open to any type of ministry where I can be useful. I have a great concern for helping those like myself who have left liberal congregations. I also would like to use my music background in a special way. The parish pastorate seems to be a place where I could do this.

**The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few;
therefore beseech the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest.**

Luke 10:2

CONGREGATIONS OF THE AFLC

CANADA

Saskatchewan

Frontier - Bethel Lutheran Church, Alvin Pinno, pastor □ **Lake Alma** - Faith Free Lutheran Church, Leslie Johnson, pastor □

British Columbia

Vernon - Living Word Lutheran Church, Gerald Gettis, pastor □ **Salmon Arm** - New Congregation, Kenneth Appling, pastor □

UNITED STATES

ARIZONA

Tucson - Living Faith Free Lutheran Church, Terry Wold, pastor □ **No-gales** - Triumph Evangelical Lutheran Church, Ted Kennedy, pastor □

CALIFORNIA

Camarillo - First Lutheran Church, Orville Hiepler, pastor □

Illinois

Chillicothe - Our Savior's Lutheran Church, James Asp, pastor □ **DeKalb** - Grace Lutheran Church, Dennis Gray, pastor □ **Leland** - St. Petrie Lutheran Church, Odell Kittleson, pastor □ **Morris** - Bethlehem Lutheran Church, John Skeie, pastor; Richard Thompson, assistant pastor □ **Newark** - West Lisbon Evangelical Lutheran Church, Steven Lombardo, pastor □ **Newark** - Helmar Lutheran Church, Harold Mastad, pastor □ **Ottawa** - Freedom Lutheran Church, Odell Kittleson, pastor □ **Sheridan** - Fox River Lutheran Church, Maynard Halvorson, pastor □

IOWA

Wheatland - Christian Free Lutheran, seminarian □ **Jewell** - St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Lloyd Weiland, pastor □ **Radcliffe** - Salem Lutheran Church, Marilyn Kruse, pastor □

MASSACHUSETTS

Fall River - St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church, Gerard Blais, Jr., pastor □

MICHIGAN

Bessemer - Our Savior's Lutheran Church, vacancy □ **Chassell** - Maranatha Lutheran Church, James Gerdeen, pastor □ **Eben Junction** - Calvary Lutheran Church, John Mundfrom, pastor □ **Escanaba** - Escanaba Lutheran Church, vacancy □ **Ishpeming** - Hope Free Evangelical Lutheran

Church, Harvey Jackson, pastor □ **Ontonagon** - Redeemer Lutheran Church, Michael Klenner, pastor □ **Pelkie** - Grace Lutheran Church, Michael Klenner, pastor □

MINNESOTA

Argyle - Our Savior's Lutheran Church, Milo Gudim, pastor □ **Badger** - Badger Creek Lutheran Church, Seminarian □ **Bagley** - Grace Free Lutheran Church, Lyle Twite, pastor □ **Bagley** - Rice Free Lutheran Church, Lyle Twite, pastor □ **Bemidji** - Bethany Lutheran Church, Pat Spicer, pastor □ **Brandon** - Chippewa Lutheran Church, Tony Stockman, pastor □ **Brooten** - Crow Lake Free Lutheran Church, Carl Hort, pastor □ **Brooten** - Our Savior's Lutheran Church, Carl Hort, pastor □ **Cloquet** - St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Michael Brandt, pastor □ **Cokato** - Good Shepherd Free Lutheran Church, David Hinrichs, pastor □ **Dalton** - Kvam Free Lutheran Church, Merle Fagerberg, pastor □ **Dalton** - Sarpsborg Free Lutheran Church, Merle Fagerberg, pastor □ **Dalton** - Zion Free Lutheran Church, Merle Fagerberg, pastor □ **Doran** - Stiklestad Lutheran Church, Rodger Olson, pastor □ **Duluth** - St. John's Lutheran Church, Seminarian □ **East Grand Forks** - Christ the King Lutheran Church, Robert Lee, interim pastor □ **Eagan** - Living Word Lutheran Church, David Barnhart, pastor □ **Eden Prairie** - King of Glory Lutheran Church, Seminarian □ **Ersline** - Saron Lutheran Church, J. A. Grimstad, pastor □ **Fergus Falls** - Calvary Free Lutheran Church, Rodger Olson, pastor □ **Finlayson** - St. John's Lutheran Church, Seminarian □ **Fosston** - Calvary Free Lutheran Church, Robert Koepp, pastor □ **Glenville** - Faith Lutheran Church, Ted Anderson, pastor □ **Glyndon** - Maranatha Free Lutheran Church, David Molstre, pastor □ **Goodridge** - Reiner Lutheran Church, Leslie Galland, pastor □ **Granite Falls** - Faith Lutheran Church, Ted Berkas, pastor □ **Greenbush** - Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Charles Knapp, pastor □ **Greenbush** - Oiland Lutheran Church, Seminarian □ **Greenbush** - United Free Lutheran Church, Philip Rokke, pastor □ **Kasson** - Mt. Sion Lutheran Church, Martin Horn, pastor □ **Kenyon** - Emmanuel Lutheran Church, Steve Kneeland,

pastor □ **Kenyon** - Hauge Lutheran Church, Steve Kneeland, pastor □ **Lakeville** - Minnesota Valley Lutheran Church, Richard Anderson, pastor □ **London** - Faith Lutheran Church □ **Mankato** - Word of Life Lutheran Church, Peter Franz, pastor □ **McIntosh** - Mt. Carmel Lutheran Church, Tom Tuura, pastor □ **McIntosh** - Trinity Lutheran Church, Tom Tuura, pastor □ **Mentor** - Maple Bay Free Lutheran Church, Roy Johnson, pastor □ **Middle River** - Emmanuel Lutheran Church, Leslie Galland, pastor □ **Minneapolis** - Morgan Avenue Lutheran Church, Yeddo Gottel, pastor □ **Minneapolis** - Faith Lutheran Church, Ralph Rokke, pastor □ **Minneapolis** - Medicine Lake Lutheran Church, Laurel Udden, pastor □ **Minneapolis** - Emmaus Lutheran Church, Donald Richman, pastor □ **New London** - Gausdal Lutheran Church, Seminarian □ **Newfolden** - Bethania Free Lutheran Church, Hubert DeBoer, interim pastor □ **Newfolden** - Westaker Free Lutheran Church, Hubert DeBoer, interim pastor □ **Ortonville** - Abiding Faith Free Lutheran Church, Francis Monseth, interim pastor □ **Pipestone** - Christ the King Lutheran Church, David Skordahl, pastor □ **Roseau** - Rose Free Lutheran Church, Larry Severson, pastor; Forrest Swenson, assistant pastor □ **Roseau** - Roseau Free Lutheran Church, Larry Severson, pastor; Forrest Swenson, assistant pastor □ **Roseau** - Salem Lutheran Church, Paul Flaten, pastor □ **Roseau** - Spruce Free Lutheran Church, Larry Severson, pastor; Forrest Swenson, assistant pastor □ **Salol** - Norland Free Lutheran Church, Larry Severson, pastor; Forrest Swenson, assistant pastor □ **Sebekka** - Bethany Lutheran Church, Walter Beaman, pastor □ **Sedan** - Scandia Lutheran Church, vacancy □ **Shakopee** - Faith Lutheran Church, Walter Johnson, pastor □ **Shevlin** - Alida Lutheran Church, Lyle Twite, pastor □ **Shevlin** - Landstad Lutheran Church, Dennis O'Neil, pastor □ **Shevlin** - Sell Lake Lutheran Church, Dennis O'Neil, pastor □ **Spicer** - Green Lake Lutheran Church, Rodney Johnson, pastor □ **St. Cloud** - Granite Free Lutheran Church, Curtis Emerson, pastor □ **St. James** - Hosanna Lutheran Church, Peter Franz, pastor □ **St. Paul** - Victory in Christ Lutheran Church, Wayne

CONGREGATIONS . . .

Hjermstad, pastor □ **Stacy** - Sunny-side Lutheran Church, Wendell Johnson, pastor □ **Strandquist** - Hegland Free Lutheran Church, Charles Knapp, pastor □ **Strathcona** - Poplar Grove Free Lutheran Church, Ailen Gjerde, pastor □ **Sunburg** - Sunburg Free Lutheran Church, Carl Hort, pastor □ **Tamarack** - Tamarack Lutheran Church, Dean Franz, pastor □ **Thief River Falls** - Our Saviour's Lutheran Church, Leslie Galland, pastor □ **Underwood** - Tordenskjold Lutheran Church, Merle Fagerberg, pastor □ **Virginia** - Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Clifford Johnson, pastor □ **Wadena** - Zion Free Lutheran Church, Lynn Kinneberg, pastor □ **Warroad** - Warroad Free Lutheran Church, Paul Nash, pastor □ **Willmar** - Zion Free Lutheran Church, Henry Johansen, pastor □ **Wilton** - Trinity Lutheran Church, Dennis O'Neil, pastor □ **Winger** - Dovre Lutheran Church, Roy Johnson, pastor □ **Winger** - Union Lake Lutheran Church, Roy Johnson, pastor □ **Wyoming** - Hope Free Lutheran Church, Wendell Johnson, pastor □ **Zumbrota** - Our Saviour's Lutheran Church, Martin Horn, pastor □

MONTANA

Brockton - Faith Free Lutheran Church, Lyndon Korhonen, pastor □ **Culbertson** - Bethel Free Lutheran Church, Lyndon Korhonen, pastor □ **Kalispell** - Faith Free Lutheran Church, Stephen Snipstead, pastor □ **Kalispell** - Stillwater Lutheran Church, Jeff Swenson, pastor □

NEW YORK

Massapequa - Unity Evangelical Lutheran Church, Earl Henley, pastor □

NORTH DAKOTA

Abercrombie - Bethany Lutheran Church, Robert Lewis, pastor □ **Binford** - Bethany Lutheran Church, Wesley Langaas, pastor □ **Bismarck** - Calvary Lutheran Church, Einar Unseth, pastor □ **Burlington** - Faith Evangelical Lutheran Church, Orville Olson, interim pastor □ **Buxton** - Ny Stavanger Free Lutheran Church, Kerwin Sletto, pastor □ **Churchs Ferry** - Antiochia Lutheran Church, Jerome Nikunen, pastor □ **Devils Lake** - Christ Free Lutheran Church, Joel Rolf, pastor □ **Dickinson** - Our Saviour's Free Lutheran Church, Allen Monson, pastor □ **Edinburg** - Grace Free Lutheran Church, Philip Haugen, interim pastor

□ **Edmore** - Living Word Lutheran Church, Christian Oswood, pastor □ **Fargo** - St. Paul's Free Lutheran Church, David Molstre, pastor □ **Grafton** - Aadalen Free Lutheran Church, Roy Mohagen, pastor □ **Grafton** - Bethel Free Lutheran Church, Lyle Aadahl, pastor □ **Grand Forks** - Trinity Free Lutheran Church, Bruce Dalager, pastor □ **Hampden** - Zoar Free Lutheran Church, Christian Oswood, pastor □ **Hatton** - Zoar Free Lutheran Church, Dale Finstrom, pastor □ **Langdon** - Aspeland Lutheran Church, Lyle Aadahl and Roy Mohagen, pastors □ **Larimore** - Living Faith Free Lutheran Church, Robert Lee, interim pastor □ **Leeds** - Lebanon Free Lutheran Church, LeRoy Flickinger, pastor □ **Leeds** - North Prairie Free Lutheran Church, LeRoy Flickinger, pastor □ **Lostwood** - First English Lutheran Church, Gary Jorgenson, pastor □ **McLeod** - United Free Lutheran Church, Robert Lewis, pastor □ **McVile** - New Luther Valley Lutheran Church, Wesley Langaas, pastor □ **Minnewaukan** - Trinity Free Lutheran Church, Jerome Nikunen, pastor □ **Minot** - Bethel Free Lutheran Church, Orville Olson, interim pastor □ **Park River** - Victory Free Lutheran Church, Philip Haugen, interim pastor □ **Portland** - Valley Free Lutheran Church, Kerwin Sletto, pastor □ **Ray** - Beaver Creek Lutheran Church, Stephen Odegaard, pastor □ **Rugby** - Tunbridge Free Lutheran Church, Edwin Kjelstrom, pastor □ **Stanley** - Our Savior's Free Lutheran Church, Gary Jorgenson, pastor □ **Tioga** - Norman Lutheran Church, Stephen Odegaard, pastor □ **Tioga** - Zion Lutheran Church, Dale Mellgren, pastor □ **Valley City** - Grace Free Lutheran Church, Terry Olson, pastor □ **Valley City** - Zion Free Lutheran Church, Terry Olson, pastor □ **Williston** - Emmanuel Free Lutheran Church, Jon Wellumson, pastor □

OREGON

Astoria - Bethany Lutheran Church, Alvin Grothe, pastor □ **Eugene** - Spencer Creek Lutheran Church, vacancy □

SOUTH DAKOTA

Aberdeen - Grace Lutheran Church, Mauritz Lundeen, pastor □ **Arlington** - Calvary Free Lutheran Church, Donald Greven, interim pastor □ **Bruce** - Grace Lutheran Church, vacancy □ **Canton** - Redeemer Free Lutheran Church, Ronald Knutson, pastor □

Chamberlain - St. Olaf Lutheran Church, Philip Featherstone, pastor □ **Eagle Butte** - Emmanuel Free Lutheran Church, Todd Klemme, pastor □ **Eden** - Buffalo Lake Lutheran Church, Rodney Stueland, pastor □ **Faith** - Bethel Lutheran Church, Todd Klemme, pastor □ **Ortley** - Ortley Free Lutheran Church, vacancy □ **Pukwana** - Pukwana Lutheran Church, Philip Featherstone, pastor □ **Reva** - Slim Buttes Lutheran Church, James Johnson, pastor □ **Roslyn** - Saron Lutheran Church, Rodney Stueland, pastor □ **Sisseton** - Hope Lutheran Church, Rodney Stueland, pastor □ **Wallace** - Calvary Free Lutheran Church, vacancy □ **Webster** - Tabor Lutheran Church, Rodney Stueland, pastor □

TENNESSEE

Mt. Juliet - Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church, David Clark, pastor □

TEXAS

Weslaco - Faith Lutheran Church, Norman Dornquast, pastor □ **Wichita Falls** - Christ Lutheran Church, Roy Ballman, pastor □

WASHINGTON

Arlington - Atonement Free Lutheran Church, Frank Cherney, pastor □ **Everett** - Calvary Free Lutheran Church, Del Palmer, pastor □ **Ferndale** - Triumph Lutheran Church, James Fugleberg, pastor □ **Kirkland** - Our Redeemer Lutheran Church, Kenneth Moland, pastor □ **Lake Stevens** - Elim Lutheran Church, Richard Gunderson, pastor □ **Spokane** - Bethany Lutheran church, Douglas Reitch, pastor □

WISCONSIN

Amery - Amery Free Lutheran Church, John Rieth, pastor □ **Beloit** - Bethany Lutheran Church, Ken Thoreson, pastor □ **Boscobel** - Trinity Lutheran Church, Merle Knutson, pastor □ **Clayton** - Bethany Lutheran Church, Harry Bodsberg, pastor □ **Colfax** - Faith Lutheran Church, Mark Bateson, pastor □ **Cumberland** - Section Ten Lutheran Church, Seminarian □ **Mason** - Drummond Lutheran Church, Harris Van Someren, pastor □ **Mason** - Faith Free Lutheran Church □ **Mason** - Moland Lutheran Church □ **Mason** - Our Saviour's Lutheran Church, Harris Van Someren, pastor □ **Onalaska** - Christ Is Lord Lutheran Church, Richard Gilmore, pastor □ **Rice Lake** - Good Shepherd Free Lutheran Church, Tom Baker, pastor □

FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPLES

(Guiding Principles of the Lutheran Free Church since 1897.)

1. According to the Word of God, the congregation is the right form of the Kingdom of God on earth.

2. The congregation consists of believers who, by using the means of grace and the spiritual gifts as directed by the Word of God, seek salvation and eternal blessedness for themselves and for their fellow men.

3. According to the New Testament, the congregation needs an external organization with membership roll, election of officers, stated times and places for its gatherings, and other provisions.

4. Members of the organized congregation are not, in every instance, believers, and such members often derive false hope from their external connection with the congregation. It is therefore the sacred obligation of the congregation to purify itself by the quickening preaching of the Word of God, by earnest admonition and exhortation, and by expelling the openly sinful and perverse.

5. The congregation directs its own affairs, subject to the authority of the Word and the Spirit of God, and acknowledges no other ecclesiastical authority or government above itself.

6. A free congregation esteems and cherishes all the spiritual gifts which the Lord gives for its edification, and seeks to stimulate and encourage their use.

7. A free congregation gladly accepts the mutual assistance which congregations can give one another in the work for the advancement of the Kingdom of God.

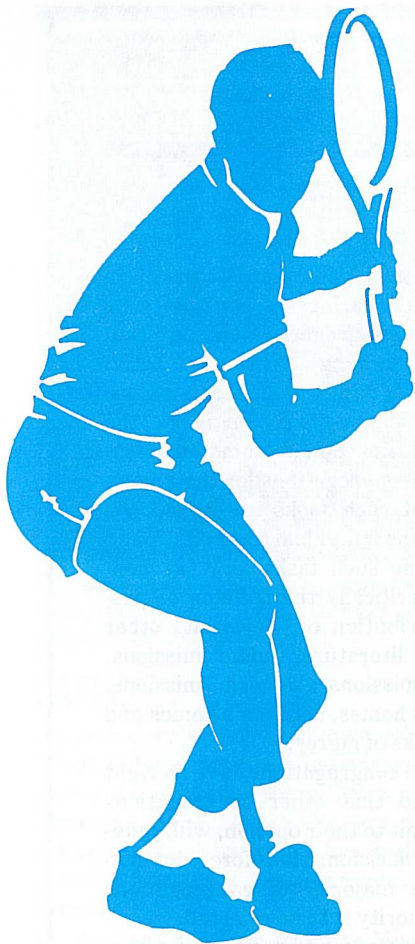
8. Such assistance consists partly in the mutual sharings of spiritual gifts among the congregations through conferences, exchange visits, lay activities, etc., whereby congregations are mutually edified, and partly in the voluntary and Spirit-prompted cooperation of congregations for the accomplishing of such tasks as exceed the ability of the individual congregation.

9. Among such tasks may be mentioned specifically the training of pastors, distribution of Bibles and other Christian literature, home missions, foreign missions, Jewish missions, deaconess homes, children's homes and other works of mercy.

10. Free congregations have no right to demand that other congregations shall submit to their opinion, will, judgment, or decision; therefore, domination by a majority of congregations over a minority is to be rejected.

11. Agencies found desirable for conducting the joint activities of congregations, such as conferences, committees, officers, etc., cannot in a Lutheran Free Church, impose any obligations or restrictions, exert any compulsions, or lay any burden upon individual congregations, but have the right only to make recommendations to, and requests of, congregations and individuals.

12. Every free congregation, as well as every individual believer, is constrained by the Spirit of God and by the privileges of Christian love to do good and to work for the salvation of souls and the quickening of spiritual life, as far as its abilities and powers permit. Such free spiritual activity is limited neither by parish nor by synodical bounds.



ON TARGET

the history and aims
of the

Luther League Federation

1. To promote a true Christian spirit and fellowship so that those who are Christ's may grow in His grace and knowledge.

2. To win the straying and un-churched for Christ and His church.

3. To help the young people find their places of service in the Kingdom of God.

4. To work for the extension of God's Kingdom.

The historical beginnings of the LLF are found right at the inception of the AFLC. A Youth Committee was elected at the 1963 Annual Conference in Fargo. The first youth conference was held in November of that same year. And at that conference the LLF was organized. (Pastor Snipstead was elected the first president!) So right from the start the importance of youth work was recognized.

As I look back, I'm amazed that the LLF had such vision to begin activities "way back then" that continue even today. Traveling teams of youth were sent out in 1964. Some Luther Leaguers went to Nogales (a Free Lutheran Youth team) that summer, too. They gave AFLBS scholarships as soon as AFLBS opened. They had a newsletter (League Notes, like our FLY Leaf) 20 years ago. And from the start there was a desire for a national youth advisor.

Today the vision is still being carried

out. The LLF Executive Committee and the Youth Board have been strong leaders throughout. And now the youth work of the AFLC is ready to take off with Pastor Dennis Gray in position as the AFLC Youth Resources Director.

A program is being developed to equip and channel "Youth Staffers" to work in the Association. Plans for this year's Leadership Conference have come together and plans for next year's convention on the West Coast are being made. Districts are reorganizing and local leagues are growing. I believe our aim is on target. Now let's continue to make history, not just as a national Federation, but in the lives of individual young people ready for their own personal beginnings.

—Pastor James Johnson
President, Luther League
Federation

It all began with four young people and one parent headed out on a llooonnggg trip (at least it seemed so to them) to tackle a completely new experience, a Luther League Convention! There were mixed feelings at the start: adventure, excitement coupled with being scared, homesickness and shyness of all the strangers. Who knew what to expect?!

But the results were exceptional. There were commitments to Christ. A strong youth group developed in that home church. Four young people attended Bible School. Friends from 1973 are still friends today. And one of these young people is now a pastor and the president of the Luther League Federation.

That is how the LLF had its beginnings, for me at least. And maybe that bit of personal history captures the spirit of the history and aims of the LLF as a whole. Notice how the objectives in the LLF constitution were being fulfilled in our lives with that beginning:

"The historical beginnings
of the LLF are found
right at the inception
of the AFLC."

ANNIVERSARY ISSUE NEXT TIME

The Lutheran Ambassador will be 25 years old in February. Our next issue, out on February 9th, will be a special anniversary number. Much of the magazine will be taken up by reprints from the past, giving a look at what has gone before.

Watch for the arrival of the anniversary issue next month.

We are sorry that some material has not been used as early as it might have been because of these two special *Ambassadors* (this time and next), but we will expedite its publication as quickly as we can. Among this will be a series introducing new congregations which have joined the AFLC. —The Editor

Organizing the women of the church

"And on the Sabbath we went out of the city by a river side, where prayer was wont to be made; and we sat down, and spake unto the women which resorted thither. And a certain woman named Lydia, a seller of purple, of the city of Thyatira, which worshipped God, heard us: Whose heart the Lord opened, that she attended unto the things which were spoken of Paul" (Acts 16:13, 14).

On October 27, 1962, during the convention of our church, not merged, about 30 women met for a noon luncheon in Our Saviour's Lutheran Church, Thief River Falls, Minn., to fellowship about the Word and to become acquainted in order to organize the work of the women within the Association of Free Lutheran Congregations.

The following were elected to promote the work of the Women's Missionary Federation: President — Mrs. Ole Ose, Thief River Falls; Vice-president — Mrs. Herbert Presteng, Grafton, N. Dak.; Secretary — Mrs. Tarkel Ose, Thief River Falls; Treasurer — Mrs. Richard Snipstead, Greenbush, Minn.; Advisor — Mrs. Julius Hermunslie, Spicer, Minn.

So that area WMF women might become better acquainted with each other and encouraged in the work of the WMF, we divided into districts. Each district was encouraged to have a spring and fall rally. The districts elect their own officers.

The WMF endeavors to assist the AFLC in meeting its financial obligations and in promotional activities. To be informed and united in purpose, we support the following mission projects:

My Missionary For A Day (World Missions): Many years ago a missionary lady was home on furlough from Madagascar. Due to insufficient funds, her return was doubtful. As she prayed, an interesting thought came to her. Why not ask church women to

select a day when they would pray for and financially support a missionary. We continue this idea and all monies received help to meet the family salary needs for Mrs. John Abel, Mrs. Connelly Dyrud, Mrs. George Knapp, Mrs. David Abel, and Mrs. Paul Abel in Brazil; also Mrs. Dan Giles in Mexico.

AFLC Capital Investment: We assist the AFLC in the overall debt reduction as well as capital improvements on real estate held by the Association.

Church Extension: Through this fund money is loaned by AFLC Home Missions to new congregations and those who need to expand their facilities. As the loan is repaid to the AFLC, the money is reloaned.

Cradle Roll/Junior Missions: We help meet the salary needs of the Executive Secretary of Parish Education and Carol Knapp who works at our Bible Institute in Campo Mourao, Brazil. Funds help supply our missionaries with Sunday School materials.

AFLC Schools and Mission Scholarship: We count it a privilege to support our Bible School and Seminary. We encourage those who feel God's call to missions.

Honorary Membership and In Memoriam (World Missions).

"The WMF endeavors to assist the AFLC in meeting its financial obligations and in promotional activities."



General Fund (operating expenses).

One of the resolutions presented at the first annual convention expressed concern for desirable Bible study literature. It was not long before the WMF was able to contact women and men who consented to write our monthly Bible Studies. Our study for 1988 is entitled "Higher Perspectives," dealing with released living in Christ.

Women have two other opportunities for fellowship on the national level. We meet in session the Wednesday prior to the annual convention. There is also a meal fellowship in connection with the AFLC Winter Bible Conferences.

God has greatly enriched the work of the Women's Missionary Federation.

*Mrs. Wendell Johnson
President, WMF*

WOMEN'S MISSIONARY FEDERATION

President

Mrs. Wendell Johnson
6633 227th Ave. N. E.
Stacy, Minn. 55079

Secretary

Mrs. Esther Larson
8616 Fairview Ave. No.
Minneapolis, Minn. 55428

Treasurer

Mrs. Aini Myking
4510 Rhode Island Ave, No. #20
Minneapolis, Minn. 55428

Executive Secretary

Mrs. Gerald Knudsvig
Rt. 2, Box 11
Buxton, N. Dak. 58218

AFLC Directory of Officers

President

Rev. R. Snipstead
3110 E. Medicine Lake Blvd.
Minneapolis, Minn. 55441

Vice-President

Rev. Robert L. Lee
3430 Georgia Ave. No.
Minneapolis, Minn. 55427

Secretary

Rev. Ronald Knutson
429 W. 11th St.
Canton, S. Dak. 57013

Business Administrator

Mr. Ernest Miedema
3110 E. Medicine Lake Blvd.
Minneapolis, Minn. 55441

Bookkeeper

Miss Debbie Beaman
3110 E. Medicine Lake Blvd.
Minneapolis, Minn. 55441

CO-ORDINATING COMMITTEE

Chairman

Rev. Terry Olson
1020 S. E. 10th
Valley City, N. Dak. 58072

Secretary

Rev. Leslie Galland
404 Kendall Ave. So.
Thief River Falls, Minn. 56701

ASSOCIATION SCHOOLS BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Chairman

Rev. Kenneth Moland
11611 N. E. 140th St.
Kirkland, Wash. 98034

Secretary

Mr. Ralph Peterson
Rt. 1, Box 90
Portland, N. Dak. 58274

Dean, Free Lutheran Seminary

Dr. Francis W. Monseth
3110 E. Medicine Lake Blvd.
Minneapolis, Minn 55441

Dean, Bible School

Rev. Donald Greven
3110 E. Medicine Lake Blvd.
Minneapolis, Minn. 55441

WORLD MISSIONS

Chairman, Committee

Rev. Einar Unseth
1308 No. 2nd St.
Bismarck, N. Dak. 58501

THE LUTHERAN AMBASSADOR

3110 E. Medicine Lake Blvd.

Minneapolis, Minn. 55441

Second-class

Secretary

Mr. Arley Hartsoch
Rt. 1, Box 17

Ray, N. Dak. 58849

Executive Director

Rev. Eugene Enderlein
3110 E. Medicine Lake Blvd.
Minneapolis, Minn. 55441

HOME MISSIONS

Chairman, Committee

Rev. Herbert L. Franz
Box 254, 109 Ave. C
Dollar Bay, Mich. 49922

Secretary

Rev. Philip Haugen
7816 Aster Dr. No.
Brooklyn Park, Minn. 55428

Executive Director

Rev. Elden Nelson
3110 E. Medicine Lake Blvd.
Minneapolis, Minn. 55441

PUBLICATIONS AND PARISH EDUCATION

Chairman

Rev. Wesley Langaas
Box 215
McVile, N. Dak. 58254

Secretary

Mrs. Kenneth Moland
11611 N. E. 140th St.
Kirkland, Wash. 98034

Executive Director

Mrs. Ralph Tjelta
9503 E. Sandpiper Dr.
Blaine, Minn 55434

YOUTH BOARD

Chairman

Rev. Joel Rolf
409 Pitcher Park
Devils Lake, N. Dak. 58301

Secretary

Mr. Dennis Christopherson
Rt. 1
Amery, Wis. 54001

STEWARDSHIP BOARD

Chairman

Rev. Robert L. Lee
3430 Georgia Ave. No.
Minneapolis, Minn. 55427

Secretary (To be named)

BOARD OF PENSIONS

Chairman

Mr. Norman Haugen
Rt. 1, Box 229
Murdock, Minn. 56271

Secretary

Mr. LaVern Thompson
126 W. Adolphus
Fergus Falls, Minn. 56537

COMMISSION ON EVANGELISM

Chairman

Pastor Verle Dean
Rt. 1
Sedan, Minn. 56380

Secretary

Pastor Lyle Twite
Box 119
Bagley, Minn. 56621

LUTHER LEAGUE FEDERATION

President

Rev. James Johnson
Box 92
Reva, S. Dak. 57651

Secretary

Mrs. Robert Halvorson
5920 65th Ave. N. No. 259
Brooklyn Park, Minn. 55429

Treasurer

Mr. Randy Erickson
Box 276, Northwestern College
Roseville, Minn. 55113

ASSOCIATION RETREAT CENTER

Director

Mr. Robert Dietsche
Rt. 1, Box 92
Osceola, Wis. 54020