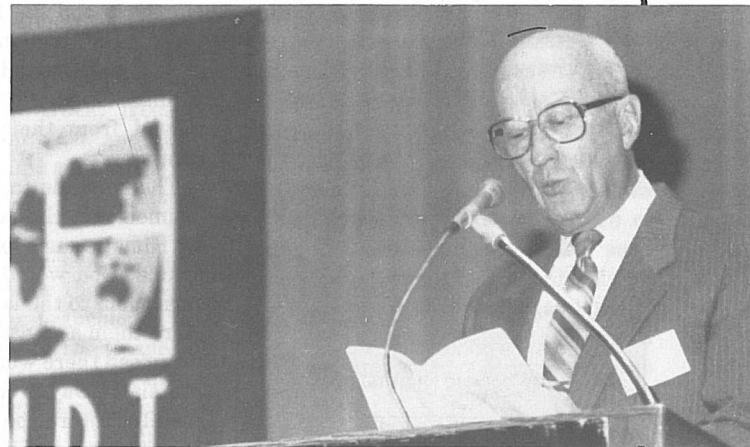


# THE LUTHERAN AMBASSADOR

July 12, 1988



Missionaries David and Janet Abel



Rev. Einar Unseth, World Missions Committee chairman

## 26th Annual Conference report

Members of the two-month-old Faith Lutheran Church, Ottawa, Ill. Standing in the center is Rev. Robert Lee, interim pastor.



# LIGHT on the WAY

## meditations on God's Word

conference photos  
by Solveig Hjermstad

Volume 26 Number 14

### THE LUTHERAN AMBASSADOR

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.

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## Satisfaction for the weary

Text: Jeremiah 31:15-37

Verse for Meditation: "For I satisfy the weary ones and refresh everyone who languishes" (v. 25).

God had for generations now been speaking to His people Israel concerning the great calamity which would come upon them if they continued in their hardhearted sinfulness. Because of their rebellion, the nation of Israel had for years been divided into two hostile kingdoms, the Northern and the Southern. And now these two kingdoms were destroyed, or being destroyed, by the great Babylonian Empire and were being removed from their land to a distant captivity.

There, while in captivity, God proclaimed that His people would cry out to Him because of their misery and shame. God would hear their cry, return them to the land of Israel, and restore them as a nation. In addition, He promised there would be another great Messianic Day in which He would completely restore the fortunes of the city of Jerusalem and the reunited nation of Israel.

These verses speak of this restoration, but it is clear that these verses also speak of another type of restoration, a spiritual restoration. The description of the physical is only illustrative of that which is spiritual.

What, then, is to be learned of the spiritual: To begin with, all people are sinful and are mercifully chastised by a loving God who continually attempts to bring men to repentance. In verses 18 and 19 of this chapter there is detailed description of this God-given repentance. It consists of:

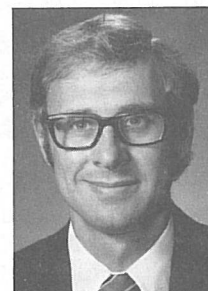
- 1.) Recognition of God's chastisement;
- 2.) Sorrow and grieving over sin and its results;
- 3.) Sincere desire to be returned to God;
- 4.) Honest confession of sin in repentance;
- 5.) Shame and humiliation because of the disgrace to God's name; and
- 6.) Prayer to God for restoration and forgiveness.

The soul cries out, "Bring me back that I may be restored."

At this point one sees the gracious preparatory work of the Master coming to completion. Now the languishing soul is in a very blessed position for God is about to fill that soul with the glorious message of the Gospel. God can and does reveal Himself to the sinner as the God who forgives. That is enough. God forgives. But still there is more to this revelation of forgiveness. In verse 20, one learns that God's forgiveness is directly related to His desire to fellowship with man. His heart intensely yearns for fellowship with sinners. And along with the desire for fellowship is just as intense a desire to show Himself full of mercy toward sinners. He states it very definitely, "I will *surely* have mercy on him" (v. 20). So now the God who once revealed Himself in chastisement reveals Himself in mercy. He patiently withholds the judgment and condemnation so that He can save. And in this one realizes a new truth. The message of the Gospel is more than simply a message of mercy. It is also a message of promise, and now God must assure the languishing soul of a promise, of a future and a hope.

The promise of mercy, forgiveness, a future and a hope is based solidly on the new covenant which God has established with man through Christ (v. 31). It is *through* Christ because it is a covenant based solely upon the sacrifice and death of Christ. This is a covenant which deals with the inward heart where the Spirit of God works (v. 33). And this is a covenant in which God gives the sinner an intimate knowledge of Himself and His forgiveness (v. 34). Such a covenant stands firm. It stands established in the heart of God and stands forever confirmed by the resurrection of Christ. Therefore,

cont. on p. 16



by Pastor  
Ralph Tjelta

**T**he Association of Free Lutheran Congregations held its first ever Annual Conference in Illinois June 15-19, at Northern Illinois University in DeKalb. Host congregation was Grace Lutheran Church, Dennis Gray, pastor.

Three hundred and eighty-eight delegates were registered (278 lay) and 18 visitors. The silver anniversary conference last year in Thief River Falls, Minn., drew the church's largest representation ever, 654 delegates, with 19 visitors.

The Conference heard that a new faculty member is being added at the church's seminary and Bible school. He is Rev. Steve Lombardo, Newark, Ill. Eleven home mission congregations were received in the past year and the goal of 30 home mission congregations in the decade has been surpassed with almost a year and a half to go. In all, the AFLC has about 187 congregations at the moment.

A brief report of the major Conference decisions follows.

#### **Election of Vice-President**

The election of the vice-president of the AFLC this year was under the three-fourths majority rule since Rev. Robert L. Lee, the incumbent, had served three consecutive terms.

## **First AFLC conference held in Illinois**

No vice-president or secretary had ever been re-elected under those terms before.

The rule is this: "The executive officers after having served three (3) consecutive terms can be elected for additional terms only by a three-fourths majority vote" (*Rules for Work*, 7e).

Pastor Lee and Rev. Elden Nelson, executive director of AFLC Home Missions, were nominated. Pastor Lee failed to get the needed majority by the barest of margins. Several write-in votes had also been cast. There was no election.

The question was asked, can an incumbent under these circumstances be re-nominated? The Chair cited the precedent that it has always been the ruling that if the candidate fails to get the three-fourths on that first ballot he can no longer be a candidate in that election, but conceded that it is not a statute in writing.

A ballot vote was taken on the question of striking down the precedent which has been in effect since 1967. By a vote of 185 to 44 the precedent was struck down, freeing the way for the re-nomination of Pastor Lee. He was nominated, as were Rev. Wendell Johnson, Stacy, Minn., and Pastor Nelson. On Friday morning delegates learned that Pastor Lee had been re-elected by just over the three-fourths majority needed.

Rev. Ronald Knutson, Canton, S. Dak., was re-elected secretary of the church. Both terms are for one year.

#### **Corporation Members**

A resolution was passed which states that no person can be a member of both the Schools and



Mrs. Brian (Margaret) Pearson and Rev. Dennis Gray at the registration table.



Grace Free Lutheran Church host congregation.



Missions Corporations at the same time. The person making the motion declared that it should be possible to find 100 persons in the Association to fill the memberships, each having 50. No manner of implementing the resolution was outlined at the Conference.

Prior to this year's conference it is believed that only one person presently held dual membership. Previously, there have been a number of such cases.

## Association Retreat Center

The Conference voted to set up a separate board of directors for the ARC and determined that the budget of the retreat center be separated from the General Fund, where it has been. The church established a subsidy of \$10,000 for the ARC for the fiscal year 1989-90. None of that is earmarked for the retirement of the debt on the purchase of the ARC, which is currently about \$108,000 plus interest. The principle is paid from bequests and other funds.

It was pointed out in the discussion that the ARC and the Wilderness Camp, Lake Park, Minn., are the only camps owned by the Association as a whole. Other camps owned totally or in part by AFLC people can also get various grants which may be available.

One delegate pointed out that the question of ownership was not addressed in the resolution setting up the board and separate budget. The ARC is owned by the AFLC through the corporation of the Co-ordinating Committee.

The board of directors will consist of Cliff Seldal, DeKalb, Ill., Rev. John Rieth, Amery, Wis., Richard Erickson, Cloquet, Minn., Allan Anderson, Amery, Wis., and Rev. Peter Franz, Mankato, Minn.

## Hymnal Project

At the request of the Co-ordinating Committee, Mr. Tom Olson, now Rev. Tom Olson, Cumberland, Wis., brought a report on the need for a new hymnbook in the AFLC and the possibilities for such a project. He felt that a new hymnal would be welcome beyond the confines of the Association and that it would take at least five years to bring the project to fruition. He urged that action begin now in the matter of hymn selection and other material to be contained in such a book.

The Conference asked the Co-ordinating Committee to "consider" appointing a committee to begin work and which would include lay people.

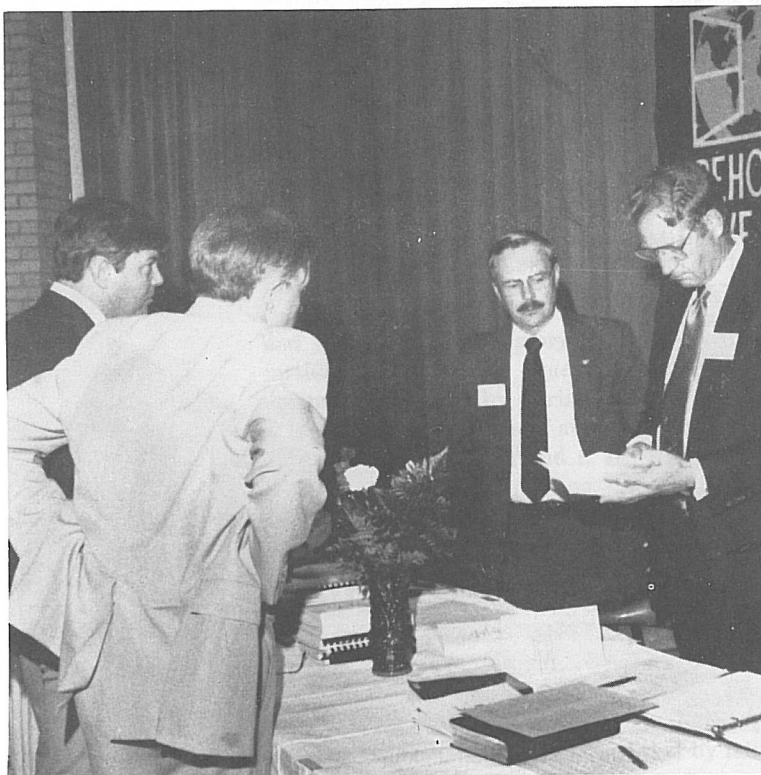
## Lutheran Evangelism

Conference packets contained a booklet "Principles and Practices of Lutheran Evangelism" by Dr. Francis W. Monseth, dean of Association Free Lutheran Theological Seminary. The material had been presented at least in part at the Pastor's Conference in January.

The seminary faculty and the Commission on Evangelism had endorsed the paper and Rev. Richard Snipstead, AFLC president, gave "strong encouragement" to the Conference to adopt it as the Association's position on evangelism.

But delegates felt that they hadn't enough opportunity to become familiar with the position paper and wanted more time to do so. A motion was passed to table consideration until the next conference.

Rev. Donald Greven, Mr. Ernest Miedema, Rev. Ronald Knutson and President Snipstead confer during a conference break.



Mr. and Mrs. Sherman McCarlson, Webster, S. Dak., and Mrs. Gary (Jeanne) Jorgenson, Stanley, N. Dak.



During recess a delegate from North Dakota pointed out that a motion cannot be tabled to a definite future time. *Robert's Rules of Order* bore him out and the Conference passed a new motion to postpone action until the conference in 1989.

Some delegates who had read the 22-page booklet felt that some changes needed to be made in the paper. The document could be the subject of much discussion at various meetings and conferences in the coming year.

#### Men's Organization

A resolution was introduced, discussed and passed which seeks to promote spiritual activity and fellowship among men of the church. The resolution is found elsewhere in this issue.

A committee of five men was elected to "establish" local, district and national lay groups to encourage devotional life, testimony and witness, mission interest, etc., among the men of the church.

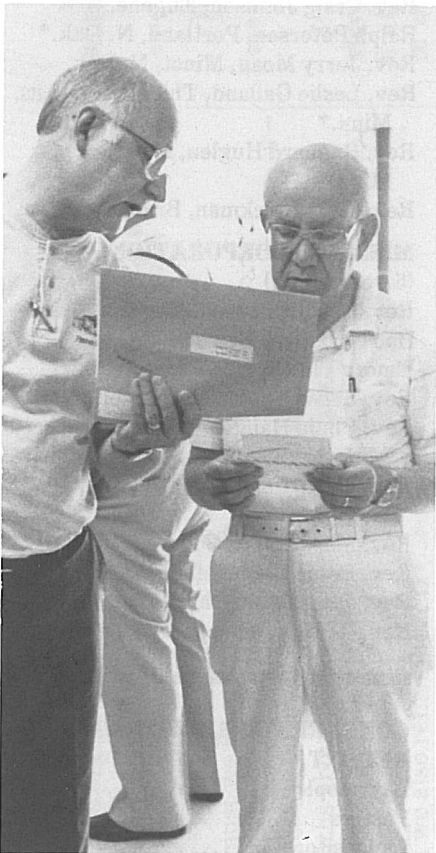
#### Ordination

On Sunday morning eight men were ordained into the ministry of the Association. They are Joel Lohafer, Holstein, Ia., called to Grace

Lutheran, Bruce, S. Dak.; Harry Bodsberg, Amery, Wis., called to Bethany Lutheran, Clayton, Wis.; Jerry Moan, McIntosh, Minn., called to Bethel Lutheran, Minot, N. Dak.; Mark Molstre, Fargo, N. Dak., called to Living Faith Lutheran, Larimore, N. Dak.; Thomas Olson, Coon Valley, Wis., called to Section Ten Lutheran, Cumberland, Wis.; Brian Pearson, Grand Forks, N. Dak., called to Calvary Lutheran, Arlington, S. Dak.; James Rasmussen, McHenry, N. Dak., called to Victory Lutheran, Park River, N. Dak., and Grace Lutheran, Edinburg, N. Dak.; and James Ritter, Stevens Point, Wis., called to the staff of Emmaus Lutheran, Bloomington, Minn.

Rev. David Molstre, Fargo, father of one of the ordinands, preached the sermon at the service.

The other two members of this class, Craig Johnson, Astoria, Ore., called to Spencer Creek Lutheran, Eugene, Ore, and Keith Quanbeck, McVie, N. Dak., called to the staff of First Lutheran, Camarillo, Calif., are being ordained at their home churches.



Rev. Richard Gunderson, Lake Stevens, Wash. and Clifford E. Jacobson, Bloomington, Minn.



Lay pastor and Mrs. Dale Finstrom, Hatton, N. Dak. and Mr. and Mrs. Gene Finstrom, Buxton, N. Dak.

Mrs. Orville Qualley, Brockton, Mont. and Mrs. Anna Dahle, Spicer, Minn.

## Opening sermon

**T**he sermon at the opening service of the Annual Conference was preached by Dr. Francis W. Monseth, dean of Association Free Lutheran Theological Seminary. He spoke on the conference theme and texts: "An Open Door" (Rev. 3:8 and ICor. 16:9).

Pastor Monseth said that we must see in each of the Seven Letters of Revelation 2 and 3 a message to the church of today. Jesus Christ is speaking to us; are we listening?

He said that the Lord is the perfectly *holy* One. Yet He became sin for us; God laid the iniquity of all upon Him. "Have you laid your sins on Jesus?" Dr. Monseth asked. Jesus is the only *true* One. He has all *authority*. No one comes to the Father, but by Him.

The Lord Jesus says that He knows our works. He is fully aware of our efforts for Him, those of our congregations and of the church at large. Our AFLC work is not big, Dr. Monseth declared, in relation to the world and the whole organized church. But the Lord would say, "Fear not, little flock. It is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom."

The seminary dean enumerated some of the accomplishments through the AFLC, including the graduating of many from the seminary and Bible school. God's Word is going forth through us. The Lord has opened doors.

Dr. Monseth spoke of the need for the Law and the Gospel. When these are faithfully preached, God's purposes can be accomplished.

Jesus said, "I have set before you an open door." This could be translated "I have *given* you an open door." Open doors above all means the gracious opportunity to preach the Gospel. Jesus has commissioned His people and given His Holy Spirit for the task. Our field is the *world*, Dr. Monseth challenged. No *man* can shut the door God has opened. The gates of hell won't prevail against it.

Finally, Dr. Monseth asserted three things. 1) We can expect opposition in doing God's work in the world. 2) He will open doors of opportunity. Pastor Monseth cited as an example the unlimited possibilities in Home Missions.

\* denotes re-election

### Vice-President

(1 year)

Rev. Robert L. Lee, Minneapolis, Minn.\*

### Secretary

(1 year)

Rev. Ronald Knutson, Canton, S. Dak.\*

### Board of Publications and Parish Education

(5 years)

Mrs. Kenneth Moland, Kirkland, Wash.\*

### Stewardship Board

(1 year)

Walter Peterson, Ishpeming, Mich.

(3 years)

Matt Myre, DeKalb, Ill.

(5 years)

Rev. Roy Johnson, Mentor, Minn.

### Commission on Evangelism

(5 years)

Wayne Floan, Fertile, Minn.

### Board of Pensions

(5 years)

Norman Haugen, Murdock, Minn.\*

### Youth Board

(5 years)

Rev. Dale Mellgren, Tioga, N. Dak.

### Association Retreat Center Board

(Terms to be determined by the Coordinating Committee)

Cliff Seldal, DeKalb, Ill.

Rev. John Rieth, Amery, Wis.

Richard Erickson, Cloquet, Minn.

Al Anderson, Clear Lake, Wis.

Rev. Peter Franz, Mankato, Minn.

### Men's Organization Committee

(Terms to be determined by the Coordinating Committee)

Joel Fridgen, Mankato, Minn.

Dwight Jacobson, Dickinson, N. Dak.

Warren Sanford, Minneapolis, Minn.

Rick Schauland, Marquette, Mich.

Roger Hoikkala, Apple Valley, Minn.

3) The open door is effectual, that is, the Gospel is powerful. It will produce results. The call is to preach the Gospel.

The sermon was followed by the audience hymn "Glorious Things of Thee Are Spoken."

## Conference elections

### ELECTIONS BY CORPORATIONS

#### Co-ordinating Committee

(5 years)

Rev. David Molstre, Fargo, N. Dak.

#### Board of Trustees

(5 years)

Rev. Lyndon Korhonen, Culbertson, Mont.

Arne Berge, Binford, N. Dak.\*

#### Home Missions Committee

(5 years)

Henry Mohagen, Towner, N. Dak.

#### World Missions Committee

(5 years)

Rev. Einar Unseth, Bismarck, N. Dak.\*

### SCHOOLS CORPORATION

(5-year terms)

Rev. Gary Jorgenson, Stanley, N.

Dak.\*

Arne Berge, Binford, N. Dak.\*

Rev. John Rieth, Amery, Wis.

Sheldon Mortrud, Fargo, N. Dak.\*

Rev. Craig Johnson, Eugene, Ore.

Ralph Peterson, Portland, N. Dak.\*

Rev. Jerry Moan, Minot, N. Dak.

Rev. Leslie Galland, Thief River Falls, Minn.\*

Rev. Raynard Huglen, Newfolden, Minn.\*

Rev. Tony Stockman, Brandon, Minn.

### MISSIONS CORPORATION

(5-year terms)

Rev. L. C. Dynneson, Nogales, Ariz.

Bob Christian, Newark, Ill.

Emory Flaten, Newfolden, Minn.\*

Rev. Steve Kneeland, Kenyon, Minn.

Rev. Philip Haugen, Minneapolis, Minn.\*

Rev. Einar Unseth, Bismarck, N. Dak.\*

Rev. Mark Antal, Columbia, S. Car.\*

Rev. Peter Franz, Mankato, Minn.\*

Rev. James Asp, Chillicothe, Ill.

Rev. Rodney Johnson, Spicer, Minn.\*

### CONFERENCE REGISTRATION REPORT

Lay people .....	278
Pastors .....	110
Lay visitors .....	7
Visiting pastors .....	11
Total	406



Mrs. Lyle (Mary) Aadahl and Peder, Grafton, N. Dak.

## Budget, 1989-90

The budget adopted by the Annual Conference for the fiscal year 1989-90 is as follows:

General Fund .....	\$ 169,600.00
Parish Education .....	69,500.00
Association Retreat Center .....	10,000.00
Schools .....	315,887.00
Home Missions .....	397,564.00
World Missions .....	325,730.00
Capital Investments .....	30,000.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1,318,281.00</b>

(This budget represents a 26% increase over the current budget request of \$1,044,504.00.)

## 1989 Annual Conference committees

### Nominating Committee

Clarence Quanbeck, McVille, N. Dak.  
(END)

Rev. Dale Mellgren, Tioga, N. Dak.  
(WND-EM)

Bill Buck, Sinai, S. Dak. (SD-N)  
Philip Grothe, Thief River Falls, Minn.  
(NWM)

Wayne Floan, Fertile, Minn. (NCM)  
Arthur Arneson, Spicer, Minn.  
(SWCM)

Pastor Clifford Johnson, Esko, Minn.  
(LS)

Rev. Thomas Olson, Cumberland, Wis.  
(M)

Kenneth Williams, Ishpeming, Mich.  
(NM)

Rev. Ted Kennedy, Jr., Nogales, Ariz.  
(A)

Bud Haugen, Lake Stevens, Wash.  
(WC)

Rev. Earl Henley, Massapequa, N.Y.  
(E)

Elwood Vesta, DeKalb, Ill. (I)

### Committee No. 1 (Administration)

Rev. Rodney Johnson, Spicer, Minn.

Bud Anderson, Arlington, S. Dak.

Rev. Tom Tuura, McIntosh, Minn.

Bud Haugen, Lake Stevens, Wash.

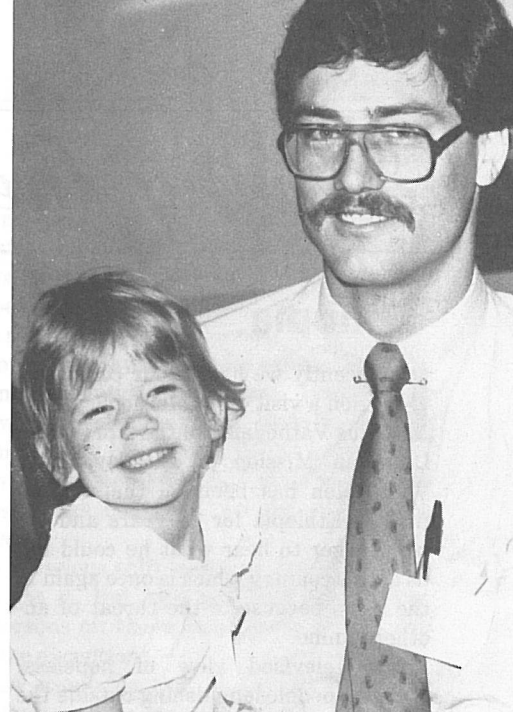
Pastor Clifford Johnson, Esko, Minn.

### Committee No. 2 (Schools)

Rev. John Rieth, Amery, Wis.

Dave Gunderson, Chamberlain, S. Dak.

Larry Johnson, Amery, Wis.



Mr. Marlowe Nash and Jennifer, Colfax, N. Dak.

Rev. Harvey Jackson, Ishpeming, Mich.

Rev. Frank Cherney, Arlington, Wash.

### Committee No. 3 (Missions and Evangelism)

Rev. Joel Rolf, Devils Lake, N. Dak.

Rev. Robert Koepp, Fosston, Minn.

Rev. J. G. Erickson, Minneapolis, Minn.

Robert Broden, Fertile, Minn.

Lyell Johnson, Bloomington, Minn.

### Committee No. 4 (Publications Parish Education and Youth Work)

Rev. Stephen Odegard, Tioga, N. Dak.

Rev. Michael Brandt, Cloquet, Minn.

Lee Schierkolk, Amery, Wis.

Rev. Lynn Kinneberg, Wadena, Minn.

Eric Westlake, Tucson, Ariz.

### Committee No. 5 (Stewardship and Pensions)

Rev. David Skordahl, Pipestone, Minn.

Rev. Orville Hiepler, Camarillo, Calif.

Rev. Steve Lombardo, Newark, Ill.

Bernard Nelson, Chassell, Mich.

Walter Lien, Minnewaukan, N. Dak.

### Colloquy Committee

Rev. Jerome Nikunen, Minnewaukan, N. Dak.

Rev. Emerson Anderson, Cleveland, O.

Rev. Peter Franz, Mankato, Minn.

Rev. Roy Johnson, Mentor, Minn.

Rev. David Barnhart, Eagan, Minn.

### Budget Analysis Committee (3 years)

James Bjorgan, Minneapolis, Minn.

Jerome Rice, Tioga, N. Dak.



Mr. Clifford Jerde, DeKalb, Ill.



# Serving the Lord

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

## Ethiopia

Recently we had in our congregation a visit from Missionary Torjus Vatnedalen of the Norwegian Lutheran Mission of Norway. Rev. Vatnedalen has been on the mission field in Ethiopia for 20 years and we were eager to hear what he could tell us of this country which is once again in the news because of the threat of another famine.

The televised view of hopeless, starving people languishing outside the feeding camps is only one aspect of life in Ethiopia, we discovered in a question and answer period over coffee hour. According to Rev. Vatnedalen, in spite of its many difficulties there is a thriving, working, active church in Ethiopia. In the port of Addis Ababa, where the Norwegian Lutheran Mission is based, there is revival among the young people. It is not uncommon to see a person running to church, his Bible under his arm.

Rev. Vatnedalen mentioned that when he travels from district to district holding Bible meetings, people will walk for miles to attend. As many as 500 people may congregate, eagerly taking notes and helping one another find Bible passages. At one meeting he began to teach at 11 a.m. and continued until 2 and still the people were not ready to leave, though many had a two-hour walk before reaching home.

Each tribe speaks a different language and two or three interpreters may be required at one meeting. However, the Bibles are written in Amharic, which has been made the state language. The percentage of illiteracy is very high in the country, but thousands are attending the bush schools conducted by the NLM as well as the Hauge Foreign Mission of the U.S.A. Whole families will come and learn to read the Amharic language and when this is accomplished and one member receives a Bible that he can actually read, he will hold it to his heart with tears in his eyes. The Word of God has now become his own possession.

One reason the Word of God is so precious and Christianity holds such interest for them, Rev. Vatnedalen feels, is because for generations they have been under the domination of Satan. When they find someone greater and stronger than Satan, they are ready to believe in Him.

But the missionary believes there is another reason for church growth in Ethiopia. Before the Communist regime, there was much persecution of the evangelical church, inspired by the formal, orthodox church. A local governor made a law forbidding the Christians to meet with the missionaries. When they were not allowed to meet in churches they met in homes. When this was forbidden, they met under a tree. This was also banned and the missionaries were not allowed to carry a Bible or even a book outside their homes.

Finally, the people decided that one thing the authorities could not prevent was prayer. So they began to carry on their Christian activities as usual, meeting one extra evening for prayer. Nothing happened to hinder them. "The Governor is dead," said the Ethiopians. This was their description for the seeming lack of power the authorities had against them.

This same prayer emphasis, Rev. Vatnedalen believes, is why the Communist regime has been unable to prevent the spread of Christianity. Restrictions against the church vary from one area to another and there is an on going effort to train people to hold a certain political ideology as well as to make them believe there is no God. But the people cannot accept this. Even the Moslem influence there teaches a holy God.

I understand that the NLM works with the HFM in Ethiopia and they have planted hospitals as well as schools and have worked extensively in relief programs.

All this is a reminder that since the Ethiopian eunuch received the Gospel in the first century A.D. and carried it to his homeland God has not forgotten

Ethiopia but is turning extreme difficulties into good for those finding peace with Him.

I have a picture of an Ethiopian home, a simple, one-room structure of grass and sticks. The housekeeping in this home must be minimal. The woman peeps shyly from the doorway, unwilling to face the cameraman who was a local farmer from this area sent to follow a shipment of relief grain from Canada.

This same farmer tells of women carrying a 50-pound sack of grain for many miles to her children at home, as the husbands are occupied in the civil war still being fought.

We would not want to change places with these women. But perhaps we could learn something from the simplicity of their lives. Can it be that with a simpler lifestyle it is easier to hear the voice of God and to serve Him with greater joy?

## Wilderness family camp

LAKE PARK, MINN.

July 20-24

Evening speaker — Rev. David Molstre, Fargo, N. Dak. (7:30)

Adult Bible studies — Rev. John Strand, Remer, Minn. (10, Thurs. and Fri., 9:30, Sun.)

Children's classes — Eula Mae Swenson and Mabel Johnson, Fargo (same as above)

Worship Service, Sunday — Rev. Paul Larson, White Earth, Minn. (11 a.m.)

Camp Theme — "Be Still and Know" (Psalm 46)

No charge for camp or camping facilities. A free-will offering will help defray camp expenses. Campers must provide their own meals and lodging.

The camp is located 11 miles south of Lake Park.

Rev. Gordon L. Grage is the dean of Wilderness Family Camp. See you there.

## DEKALB CONFERENCE

**T**he 1988 Annual Conference is history. It took place in DeKalb, Ill., a city and state where no conference had been held before. Far from the center of Association member concentration, the total registration of almost 400 delegates has to be very satisfactory. When the final report is in on attendance it will be possible to know who came from where, and how many.

Accommodations and facilities at the Holmes Student Center of Northern Illinois University were excellent. For those of us who stayed "on campus" it was just a very convenient setup. Meals were the best and more reasonable than expected.

We had occasion to visit Grace Lutheran Church, the host congregation, and were impressed with the fine structure our people have there.

Many thanks to Pastor and Mrs. Dennis Gray and their congregation for the excellent job they did in hosting the rest of us. All went well.

The Conference was without any "big news" actions. It can be called routine, if any annual meeting of a Christian church can be called that. Needed business was conducted, but no major forward steps were taken.

Here are some comments we have in light of what did transpire at DeKalb. We regret that we had to leave the Conference early, due to the death of a brother-in-law, Dr. J.E. Agrimson, and a church anniversary. Therefore, we cannot write about all events out of firsthand knowledge.

### Three-fourths majority

During the election of a vice-president this year, delegates struck down the precedent of over 20 years, that an incumbent, after three consecutive terms, cannot be re-nominated if he fails to get a three-fourths majority on the final ballot.

The vote was overwhelming to strike the precedent (185 to 44) and that's good. There can be no question about the desires of this conference, at least.

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

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

### Representation

Someone mentioned at Conference that the Schools Corporation is getting unbalanced as to the number of clergy members on it. Of the ten members elected to the Corporation this year, seven were pastors. The same situation may exist on the Missions Corporation as seven pastors were elected this year.

The Articles of Incorporation and By-Laws of the Schools

Corporation make no distinction between pastors and lay persons on Corporation membership, nor do the *Rules for Work*. An annual conference may have to pass some rule to guide the balance between clergy and laity on Corporation memberships if it is a problem.

Another area where care may have to be exerted is in the make-up of conference resolution committees. Traditionally (again there is no written guideline), they have been made up of two pastors and three lay persons. Of the committees for next year, four have a pastoral majority and the fifth, for all practical purposes, has one, too, as one of the five members is a lay pastor.

Whether this is a conscious shift to clergy dominance, we don't know. We doubt it. But let's get back to the two pastors-three lay persons on these committees that we've had so long, with some exceptions.

Order of Business stipulates that the majority of the Nominating Committee must be lay persons so the instruction there is clear, but there, too, it might be good if there were a definite rule on how many pastors, how many lay persons.

Before leaving the matter of Corporations, is any thought being given to setting up separate Home Missions and World Mission Corporations? Someone said at the Conference that it should be possible to get 100 different persons to fill out the present two corporations (so that no one person would be on both). By the same token, it should be possible now to find 50 more people to make up a second missions corporation. If that were done we could get back to speaking of a Board of World Missions instead of a World Missions Committee, for example. There would be other more significant advantages, too, we can be sure.

### The word "consider"

The Conference passed a resolution (No. 9) under Committee No. 1 to this effect: "Be it resolved, that the Co-ordinating Committee *consider* appointing a hymnal committee, lay people included" (emphasis ours).

It seems from (now) Pastor Thomas Olson's report to the Conference and the spirit present in the DeKalb meetings that AFLC people want to move forward in the matter of a hymnal project, at least enough to do some thinking about what hymns might be in an AFLC-produced hymnbook. Therefore, the word "consider" was too weak a word. The word "directs" would be more appropriate.

There is such a fear of telling anyone what to do through our conference resolutions. We know that we can't tell our congregations what to do, but only recommend to them, plead, suggest and urge. But the conference can order some things done by officers, boards and committees.

The Conference wants a hymnal committee to proceed in the selection of possible hymns for a hymnbook and should have said so. The resolution should have been specific about what it wanted a committee to do.

### Lutheran Evangelism

The Conference action of delaying putting its imprimatur on the booklet "Principles and Practices of Lutheran Evan-

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## EDITORIALS

gelism" was wise and understandable, we believe.

Although the booklet came strongly recommended, there just hadn't been time for lay delegates, and some pastors, to read it, much less digest it in the couple days since they received it. There was no use to rush into endorsement and the delegates didn't.

The statement by our Seminary dean will ultimately be approved as our position on evangelism with very little change, but it won't hurt to hold it over for a year, during which a lot of thought, prayer and discussion can be given to it.

### The ARC

A major action of the 1988 Conference was the setting up of a separate board and budget for the Association Retreat Center at Osceola, Wis.

Ownership of the ARC will apparently still be under the Co-ordinating Committee. We will have to see how independent the new five-member board can be in administering something owned by another board, even though the Co-ordinating Committee will bend over backward to grant freedom to the ARC board.

The Co-ordinating Committee's report on the ARC concedes "It (the ARC) is of more practical use to those churches closest to it." Greatest support and interest are expected from those who will benefit most from the ARC.

The ARC is an unusual facility, well-run and attractive. But because of distance it cannot be of much use to many in the AFLC. We hope the day will come when the Minneapolis District and perhaps others can assume ownership and control of this excellent property.

### Men's Organization

Elsewhere in this issue there is a resolution which was introduced in the discussion under evangelism. It was passed after some discussion, mostly if not all favorable. The resolution set up a five-man committee of laymen to encourage spiritual activity among the men of our church on local, district and national levels.

No one can quarrel with the point of this resolution. *Fundamental Principles* 6,8 and 12 encourage the same and these have been there all the time for implementation.

All of the seven points of the resolution are ones every congregation should be working on weekly, monthly and yearly. The resolution seeks to give encouragement to the congregations in this task.

Here are several concerns about Resolution No. 5. We wish it weren't so male-oriented. Men are traditionally harder to involve in the work of the congregation and this resolution is no doubt aimed at enlisting the men, but the fact that women aren't mentioned at all seems strange. The *Fundamental Principles* are general or neutral as to gender.

Organizing men's groups in the church is a difficult task. It would be interesting to know how many successful "men's brotherhoods" there are in AFLC congregations, although there are some men's prayer breakfasts and Bible studies. On the inter-congregational level, one of the last of the men's inner mission fellowships existed in northwestern Minnesota. It ceased to function several years ago due to a lack of interest. It drew from perhaps a hundred congregations (our estimate), but couldn't continue because of dwindling interest.

Finally, it would have been good if the task of implementing Resolution No. 5 could have been given to the commission on Evangelism rather than setting up a new committee. The Commission doesn't have that much to do and the points of the resolution seem to fall into its purview.

### Addendum

These are some thoughts following our Annual Conference in DeKalb last month. There may be more later.

Please feel free to write a Letter to the Editor about any of these points we've raised, if you see something in a different way. Your comments are welcome. Or someone may wish to discuss some other aspect of the recent Annual Conference.

## ASSOCIATION OF FREE LUTHERAN CONGREGATIONS

3110 East Medicine Lake Boulevard

Minneapolis, Minnesota 55441

AFLC Benevolences Feb. 1 - May 31

FUND	TOTAL BUDGET	REC'D IN MAY	TOTAL REC'D TO DATE	% TOTAL*
GENERAL FUND . . . . .	\$ 178,997.00	\$20,744.86	\$ 61,743.66	34
SCHOOLS - (AFLTS) . . . . .	99,367.00	5,944.13	26,672.71	27
(AFLBS) . . . . .	156,150.00	8,721.75	38,033.94	24
HOME MISSIONS . . . . .	317,850.00	21,863.87	68,820.90	22
WORLD MISSIONS . . . . .	280,140.00	15,600.00	59,719.06	21
CAPITAL INVESTMENT . . . . .	25,000.00	1,324.79	7,709.55	31
<b>TOTALS . . . . .</b>	<b>\$1,057,504.00</b>	<b>\$74,199.40</b>	<b>\$262,699.82</b>	<b>25</b>
1986-87 — . . . . .	\$1,014,894.00	\$63,425.67	\$232,349.24	23

\*Goal 33%

### NO ISSUE NEXT TIME

There will be no second issue in July. To give you coverage of the 1988 Annual Conference, we are printing early this month and omitting the scheduled July 26 issue. The next *Ambassador* will come to you on Aug. 9.

*The Editor*

Bad habits are like a comfortable bed — easy to get into, but hard to get out of.



GOALS — MY MOTIVATION

To develop self-control, we need to set goals to strive for. Lack of goals means lack of organization and therefore lack of discipline.

10. A. What truth does Hebrews 12:11 tell about discipline while we're in it?

B. Where must we keep our focus? vs. 11(b)

C. If we are "trained" or exercised" by discipline, write down some truths about physical exercise that illustrate the benefits (they are also true spiritually).

11. What must we also remember? II Corinthians 5:10

12. What is an exciting aim for life? Philipians 1:20-21

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"Victory in the Christian experience is not gained by trying and conquering: it is obtained by trusting and surrendering."

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Personal Application: (not for discussion)

1. What is your goal in life? (These questions will help you pinpoint it: What do you think about more than anything else? What do you always make sure you take time for? When you die, what will people remember about you?)
2. Face your responsibilities; don't put them off. Learn to do your hardest jobs first.
3. Make a chart of areas in your life and one or two measurable, practical goals for each. In the next column write the discipline necessary to reach your goals, and keep track of your progress.

Area	Goal	Discipline Necessary	Progress
weight speech (etc.)			

THE HIGHER PERSPECTIVE

WMF BIBLE STUDY #8

AUGUST, 1988

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FROM DISARRAY TO DISCIPLINE

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It's always easiest to follow the path of least resistance. If we're going to be honest, we have to admit that self-discipline isn't fun — it's hard work! Yet God's Word is full of promises of exciting potential in our lives that we can find only by going through the door of discipline.

ATTITUDE — THE KEY

1. A. Our attitude toward discipline will determine what we learn from it. What attitude is shown in Proverbs 5:12 toward discipline or instruction?

B. What will result? vs. 13, 22-23

C. How does II Peter 2:19 further explain that?

2. Whenever the *King James* version uses the word "sober," it really means "self-control." Why is that so very important?  
A. I Peter 4:7

B. I Peter 5:8

3. I've heard so many women say, "I have no will power, no self-control." That kind of attitude is sure to stop them from any improvement.

A. Where must self-control begin? I Peter 1:13

B. As we each face battles with self-discipline, what attitude do we need? Philipians 4:13

## GOD'S GIFTS – MY “RAW MATERIALS” – HIS POTENTIAL IN ME!

Let's look at some practical areas where self-control will mean great blessings for us! Fill in this chart in your own words. (Not all verses cover each category, so you may leave blank spaces unless you want to jot down your own thoughts. This chart is mainly for *your own benefit*, so don't worry about writing things in the right places; it's up to you.)

		What to avoid (warning)	Danger (result)	Aim (purpose)	Blessing (goal)
4. Body And Health	A. Proverbs 23:2-3				
	B. I Corinthians 6:18, 19-20				
	C. I Corinthians 9:24-27				
5. House-Keeping And Possessions	A. Proverbs 24:30-34				
	B. Titus 2:5				
	C. Proverbs 31:18, 19, 27				
6. Clothes	A. Luke 12:22-23, 30-31				
	B. I Timothy 2:9-10				
7. Money	A. Isaiah 55:2				
	B. Malachi 3:10				
8. Time	A. I Timothy 5:13				
	B. Ephesians 5:16				
9. Daily Devotions	A. Luke 10:38-42				
	B. II Timothy 3:16-17				

Yielding to *His* control is the secret of self-control!

**L**ord, I have heard of Your fame; I stand in awe of your deeds, O Lord. Renew them in our day, in our time make them known; in wrath remember mercy!" (Habakkuk 3:2).

If you have had any significant amount of exposure to the teachings of the Christian faith, whether in Sunday School or church, or through a radio or television preacher, you have probably heard not only of the love and mercy of the Lord but also of His wrath and anger. Perhaps you are familiar with the accounts in the Old Testament of how God in His anger destroyed the world in Noah's day or the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah in the time of Abraham, or of God's judgment first upon the nation of Israel and then upon the Babylonians, as prophesied by Habakkuk. Or maybe you have read or heard of the incident in the life of our Lord when, in zeal for His Father's House and in anger at those who profaned it, He made a whip and used it to drive out the moneychangers from the temple courts. Then there is also the account from the Early Church of when the wrath of the Holy Spirit fell upon Ananias and Sapphira for their deceit (Acts 5). And, lastly, there is in the Revelation the vivid description of God's wrath as it falls upon our world in those last days before the return of our Lord, who will "tread the winepress of the fury of the wrath of God Almighty" (Rev. 19:15) when He comes in judgment.

If you have heard or read of these accounts or others from the Scriptures that speak of the real anger or wrath of God — Father, Son and Holy Spirit — you may have been troubled by them. Is it possible that the God of love, the God Who Is Love (I John 4:8), is also the God of Wrath Who judges and Who will one day sentence to the eternal fire of hell all who oppose Him and His Word and who refuse to repent and believe in His Son Jesus Christ?

There are many false teachers today within the institutional Church who deny the wrath or anger of God. They boldly declare that God is not a God of wrath and that the stories in the Bible that speak of His wrath are nothing more than mere myths developed by people who had an immature or unevolved understanding of God. Today, they say, we understand God much better than Christians did in the past as we know He isn't a God of wrath Who punishes sin and evil but only a God of love Who will give everyone eternal life.

Well, if we no longer believe that the Holy Scriptures are the truthful testimony of the Holy Spirit, then like these false teachers we could also deny the wrath of God, but that option is not open to anyone who trusts God's Spirit and therefore believes God's Word. From Genesis to Revelation God speaks to us of His

# The wrath and mercy of God

wrath and anger and judgment, as well of His love and mercy. The accounts of God's anger as they are revealed to us in the Bible are real and there is nothing that we can do or say to erase them. To deny the wrath of God is to deny the God Who is, the one true God Who doesn't lie. We have to admit that God is angry or, as John White said in an article a few years ago, God is the "God of white-hot rage."

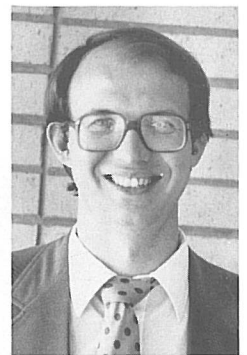
What is the Lord God our Creator so angry about? Quite simply, according to His Word, He is angry at our sin, or as Romans 1:18 puts it, He is angry at "all godlessness and wickedness of men who suppress the truth by their wickedness." God is filled with rage against everything that is opposed to the truth and righteousness that He has revealed in His Word, and through His Son, the Word made flesh.

It is good that the Lord God Whom we serve is full of wrath against all evil and falsehood! Would we prefer it if God wasn't a holy and righteous and just God Who becomes angry at all sin and evil? Would we prefer it, if, instead of being angry, the Lord our God would smile at the atrocities committed by Hitler in Europe 50 years ago or the slaughter committed by Dada Idi Amin during his reign in Uganda, or the genocide that took place in Cambodia, or the concentration camps or torture chambers that are in operation in many parts of our world today? Do we really believe it would be good if God enjoyed watching the activities of the cults or the occult, or the racism, crime, immorality, and decadence so prevalent in our own society? Do we really think that the selfish, do-your-own-thing idolatrous philosophy of our society should make the Lord our God happy with us? Should our loving Creator rejoice over our world when we murder 40-50 million unborn children, created in His image, every year? Would you want to serve a God Who would laugh and celebrate as we cut our unborn children into pieces and trash them with the garbage?

Well, there is someone who does take delight in all of these evils and we know him by the ☐

**the day  
of Judgment  
is coming**

**"Is it possible  
that the God  
of Love, the  
God Who is  
Love . . . is  
also the God  
of wrath . . .?"**



*by Rev.  
Alvin A. Pinno  
Frontier, Sask.*



## ACADEMY OPENINGS LISTED

Mustard Seed Faith Academy is presently taking applications for elementary and jr. high teachers. Please contact the administrator, Pastor Brian L. Davidson, R. R. 2, Box 359A, Amery, Wis. 54001. Call (715) 268-9218 for an application. MSFA is a ministry of Amery Lutheran Church.

Applications for elementary teaching

positions are being accepted by Our Saviour's Christian Academy, Thief River Falls, Minn. Inquiries may be sent to Box 269, Thief River Falls, Minn. 56701 or call Pastor Leslie Galand, (218) 681-1910.

## Personalities

**Rev. Einar Unseth**, has resigned as pastor of Calvary Lutheran Church,

1989 Annual Conference  
June 14 - 18  
Minot, North Dakota

Bismarck, N. Dak., where he has been for ten years, and has accepted the call to serve a Home Mission congregation at London, Minn., Faith Lutheran. He begins his ministry there on Aug. 1.

## WRATH AND MERCY

"Don't be  
fooled by the  
false prophets  
who deny  
God's wrath  
and who  
preach,  
'Peace,  
Peace,' to the  
unrepent-  
ant . . ."

name of Satan or the devil or Lucifer, the one whom our Lord describes as "a murderer from the beginning" and "a liar and the father of lies" (John 8:44). Satan rejoices at sin and evil, but on the great Day of the Lord, God's wrath will fall upon His enemy Satan and on all who unrepentantly sin and rebel against God, doing those things which are evil in His sight. Don't be fooled by the false prophets who deny God's wrath and who preach, "Peace, Peace," to the unrepentant: the Day of Judgment, the Day when God's wrath will destroy our world on account of sin and evil, is coming! The Lord will fulfil His Word!

A righteous, just and loving God has to be angry at sin and evil or He would not be righteous, just and loving. A God who would tolerate sin and evil for all eternity, allowing it to grow and mushroom, without ever judging it, would be an unrighteous, unjust God who hated His creation and the people whom He made. Only a cruel ruler tolerates and encourages evil. God's wrath against sin and evil is the result of His Righteousness, His Justice and His Love.

However, the Lord has also revealed to us in His Word that there is another result of His righteousness, justice and love, and that is the cross upon which His one and only Son was crucified. In the cross of Christ we are confronted with how great God's righteousness, justice and love are.

"There is no difference, for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified freely by His grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus. God presented Him as a sacrifice of atonement, through faith in His blood. . . He did it to demonstrate His justice at the present time, so as to be just and the One Who justifies those who have faith in Jesus" (Romans 3:22-26).

The cross of Christ loudly proclaims the righteousness and justice of God whose wrath even came upon His own Son Who became a sin offering to atone for our sin. The cross of Christ loudly proclaims the love and mercy of God, Who didn't even spare His own Son but gave Him up as a sin offering for us all so that by faith

in Christ we could become His eternal children.

"For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have everlasting life. For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through Him. Whoever believes in Him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because he has not believed in the name of God's one and only Son. . . Whoever puts his faith in the Son has eternal life, but whoever rejects the Son will not see life, for God's wrath remains on him" (John 3:16-18, 36 *The Everyday Bible*).

Repent and believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and you shall be saved by the mercy and grace of God!

He who has ears, let him hear the testimony of the Holy Spirit to the wrath and mercy of God.

O Lord, in Your coming wrath against sin and evil in our world, remember Your mercy for Your people! Amen! Come, Lord Jesus!

## Biographical Information

Alvin A. Pinno was born in Yorkton, Sask., in 1955 to Mr. and Mrs. Oskar Pinno, immigrants from Germany three years previous. He is the youngest of nine living children and four have passed away. His father is a retired carpenter.

Alvin Pinno received his elementary and high school education in Yorkton, his B.A. degree from the University of Regina, Sask., and his M. Div. from Lutheran Theological Seminary in Saskatoon, Sask. Ordained into the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Canada, he served the Duchess-Iddesleigh, Alta., parish from 1982-85. This was a joint ELCC-Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod parish. He has served Bethel Lutheran, Frontier, and Concordia Lutheran, Claydon, since 1985.

Pastor Pinno was united in marriage to Christine Hesje. The couple has two children, Rachel Erin, soon three, and Luke Elliot, one.

Pastor Pinno is active in the Pro-life movement in Canada and enjoys gardening, camping and carpentry as hobbies.

# Excerpts from conference reports

## CO-ORDINATING COMMITTEE

It is good for us as a church to meet in annual conference in Illinois. It is always our prayer that our time together might be an encouragement to all and a strengthening of our bond for the sake of His kingdom. Our conference theme, "An Open Door," is taken from Revelation 3:8 and I Corinthians 16:9. We are thankful to God for His faithfulness to us. Through these open doors of opportunity He asks that we be faithful to His Word.

*Rev. Terry Olson, Chairman*

## BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR

In today's world, on the positive side, we have words like *celebration, inspiration, information and communication*. Let us attempt to zero in on where we are — our direction and our aims — using the above four words. We *celebrate* this conference knowing that God has blessed us mightily the past 26 years. Our *inspiration* has to be from all the good things happening in our churches. The *information* — coming and going — brings joy and excitement to the Headquarters office. In the area of *communication*, I feel lacking, as it's my wish to get out to more of the parishes each year than I'm able to, but we shall keep trying!

*Ernest J. Miedema*

## DIRECTOR OF THE ASSOCIATION RETREAT CENTER

It is difficult to put on one page what has transpired on these 80 acres and 25 buildings in the last year, but it has been an interesting one. We have had more of everything — more retreats, more camps, more people, more income and more expenses. The facilities at your retreat center are being used. Since the first of January, we have had many different groups here at the ARC. We have served 3,600 meals, 1,700 snacks, and numberless cups of coffee. We have been blessed with more gifts in kind. Gifts like a plain-paper copier, pickup truck, freezer, carpeting, Ford dump truck and heating plant boiler, to name a few.

*R.L. "Bob" Dietsche*

## ARC MINISTRIES

The ARC is like a branch or a wing of the AFLC. It strives for the one common goal of our other branches in the AFLC, that of spreading the Gospel of Jesus Christ. God has touched many lives in our AFLC. He has continued to bless, too, at the ARC. It is because of this blessing that we have to earnestly pray and seek God's will on His desires for the ARC.

*Mary Pollestad, General Secretary*

## BOARD OF TRUSTEES, SCHOOLS

The "Goal of our instruction" at AFLTS and AFLBS can well be modeled after the wisdom of the *pastoral epistles*. So much of what Paul writes there directly applies to the teaching and training which goes on at our schools.

Note Paul's three-fold goal in verse five (1 Tim. 1): 1) Love from a pure heart; 2) A good conscience; and 3) a sincere faith. Each of these qualities continues to be critical to the training of effective Christian servants, whether lay or clergy. May our gracious God give wisdom to focus on the things which truly matter and avoid the "fruitless discussion" of which Paul warned in verses six and seven.

*Rev. Kenneth D. Moland, Chairman*  
**DEAN OF THE SEMINARY**

The seminary remains committed to the central task of equipping future pastors to rightly divide the Word of truth. It believes that under such preaching and teaching, truly living congregations will emerge and flourish. When people realize their sinful condition under the preaching of the Law in all "its sternness," they are prepared to hear the good news that Jesus Christ died for their sins and offers forgiveness to them. This Gospel liberates and motivates for dynamic Christian living as expressed in one's worship, walk and witness. All that God is desiring to do by way of extending His Kingdom in this world can be accomplished only by the Law and Gospel. May God continue to enable each of us as students of the Word to "rightly divide" it for the glory of God.

*Dr. Francis W. Monseth*

continued next issue

## Resolution establishing a men's lay group

(The following resolution was introduced by Rev. Ralph Tjelta, was subsequently passed and became Resolution No. 5 under Evangelism.)

*Whereas* the rich heritage of the AFLC includes a strong emphasis on the exercise of the spiritual gifts among the laity, and

*Whereas* we recognize the great need in this present day for the exercise of these gifts by our laity, and

*Whereas* we acknowledge with gratefulness the gracious provision of our Lord of a great number of capable, spiritual laymen,

*Be it resolved*, that this Annual Conference elect a committee of five (5) laymen to establish, on the local, district and national levels, a men's group for the purpose of encouraging

1) The personal study of the Word and prayer by our laymen;

2) Christian nurture in the homes of our laity;

3) Spiritual fellowship and edification among our lay men;

4) Testimony meetings and lay preaching in our congregations;

5) Personal witness of salvation by our lay men;

6) Mission interest and prayer; and

7) Other such activities that would further the use and development of the spiritual gifts among the lay men of the AFLC.

(For the names of the committee elected to serve as the "Men's Organization Committee" see the list elsewhere in this *Ambassador*.)

## 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.

### ILLINOIS

DeKalb

Orville "Ole" Halverson, 79, May 8, Grace.

### WASHINGTON

Everett

Duane Alvin Forsberg, 73, May 29, Calvary.

# ARC NEWS

We enjoyed very much being at the annual conference and seeing many new and old faces. We were pleased with the response that we received from the people about the Association Retreat Center. Two things came out of the conference for the ARC of great significance. One is that the ARC is no longer under the General Fund but has its own separate budget. Also a board was elected. Members are Rev. Peter Franz, Mankato, Minn., Rev. John Rieth, Amery, Wis., Cliff Seldal, DeKalb, Ill., Allen Anderson, Amery, Wis., and Richard Erickson, Cloquet, Minn.

When we returned from the ARC the Royal Servants were there and they began working on Monday, June 20th, and will be working on painting, cleaning, weeding, fencing, stacking wood, plus other miscellaneous tasks.

In the line of what is happening out on the ARC grounds, we were wonderfully given two electric water fountains that can now be used for all to enjoy. We also went to a State Auction and bought outside furniture that is nice and heavy to be used outdoors for all to enjoy. At that same auction, we bid on eight night stands and 12 beds and we left with those and also 60 free beds and two TV monitors that can be used for VCRs.

Our Memorial Day work weekend was a success again. We want to say a special thank you to those who came. We always marvel at how much work is accomplished. People came from Amery, Cloquet, Cokato and Rice Lake churches.

Are you all coming for Bible Camp August 8th-14th? We hope you are. There is still room for you to register. Parents, if you are wishing that you could get away with the family somewhere yourselves, consider Family Camp. In the world that we live in so much emphasis is being put forth to divide and destroy the family in any way possible. Family camp is a tool that God uses to unite and strengthen families. Please pray and consider this for your family. There is still room for more of you, so make it your "Get Away" to a quiet place to *rest awhile*.

Our ARC support program is slowly coming forth with new ARC Supporters and we thank God for all of you who have given to this. We encourage you

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

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Second-class

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## LIGHT

when one is weary with sin and its results, this covenant provides the satisfying comfort that God still forgives iniquity. And when one languishes in misery and despair over the sinful condition of his heart, this covenant still assures that God remembers sin no more. Thus it can be said, "Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be

comforted" and "Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied" (Matt. 5:4, 6).

## Second family camp week at the ARC

August 8-14

Adult Bible Teacher — Rev. Rodney Johnson, Spicer, Minn.

Evening Speaker — Rev. Donald Greven, dean, Association Bible School

Dean — Rev. John C. Rieth

Assistant Dean — Rev. Paul Nash

Cost : Adults - \$50; Teens - \$45; Grade School - \$35; Under 4 - free.

Maximum family rate: \$175.

Recreation vehicles pay \$5 per day.

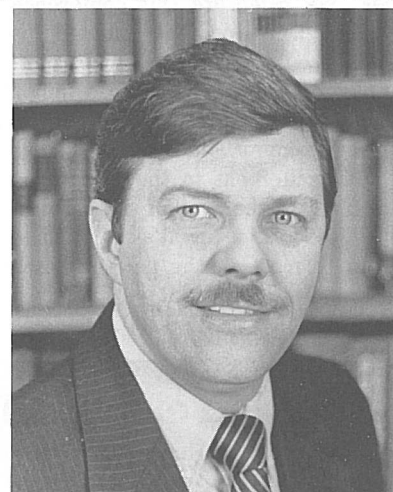
Send registration of \$5 per individual or \$10 per family to: ARC, Rt. 1, Box 92, Osceola, Wis. 54020.

The ARC is located two and one-half miles east of East Farmington, which is on State Hwy. 35.

that if you are prayerfully considering this that you would send in your support.

We covet your prayers for the ARC and we are thankful that you have taken the time to pray for us.

Mary Pollestad



REV. DONALD GREVEN

Pastor Donald Greven is Dean of the Association Free Lutheran Bible School, a position he has held since August of 1984.

Pastor Greven was raised in Minneapolis, Minnesota. After high school, he attended and graduated from California Lutheran Bible School and the University of Minnesota, and was a public school teacher for three years. He then worked as a full-time youth director for a year before attending the Association Free Lutheran Theological Seminary. Since graduation in 1975, he has served parishes in Sedan, Minn., Radcliffe, Iowa, and Kenyon, Minn., before coming to AFLBS. He and his wife Mary have three children: Cindy, Matthew and John.