

THE LUTHERAN AMBASSADOR

July 19, 1983

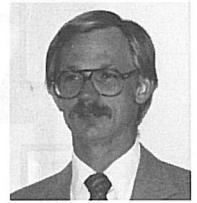


1983 ANNUAL CONFERENCE REPORT



President Snipstead held the microphone for Pastor Trygve Dahle who spoke on a resolution.

AT THE MASTER'S FEET



Pastor Philip Rokke

Unity in our midst

Unity is a very beautiful thing. The church, the kingdom of God on earth, is to be a place where unity is felt and enjoyed. Unity is an attribute of God and, as God's people, unity should exist among us. Jesus prayed, "(I ask) that they may all be one; even as Thou, Father, art in me, and I in Thee, that they also may be in Us. . . ." When we see people of one mind and heart working together to achieve a common goal, it brings us joy and satisfaction. Though we all desire unity, too often we find ourselves divided. Strife, bitterness and resentment rob us of the blessings God longs to give us in His

church. How can we achieve and preserve the unity we desire?

Surely there would be unity among us if we always agreed, always understood each other's feelings and desires, and never offended one another. Those are conditions we should strive to attain. The degree of our success will depend upon our Christlikeness. But the plain fact is that we will never achieve perfect Christlikeness, and disagreement, misunderstanding and offence will continue to be present in our midst. We shouldn't be passive in that regard simply because it is unavoidable. We should do battle with ourselves daily to overcome our sinfulness. God is worthy of that effort to please. Though Christlikeness will never be achieved to perfection, it is still a goal we must pursue relentlessly.

There is something else, other than agreement, understanding and lack of offence, which is also an aspect of

the nature of God, that contributes to unity in our midst. It is forgiveness. Being also an aspect of God's nature, it, too, is a very beautiful thing. With true forgiveness there is no demand for restitution, no lingering remembrance of the offence, no recurrence of resentment, and no obstacle to separate or alienate. It is hard for us to believe that such forgiveness can exist and the nature of our salvation is thus difficult for us to comprehend. But what joy we feel with the first discovery of what salvation really means!

There is real freedom in being thus reconciled to God. Similarly, joy and blessing come through forgiving others. We are reconciled to one another as we have already been reconciled to our heavenly Father. Then our church will be all that God wants it to be. We will be enriched. The joy that God promises will truly be ours. May God grant us grace to be forgiving.

THE LUTHERAN AMBASSADOR

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Forget and Remember

Forget each kindness that you do,
As soon as you have done it;
Forget the praise that falls to you
The moment you have won it;
Forget the slander that you hear
Before you can repeat it;
Forget each slight, each spite, each sneer,
Whenever you may meet it.
Remember every kindness done
To you, whate'er its measure;
Remember praise by others won
And pass it on with pleasure;
Remember every promise made,

And keep it to the letter;
Remember those who lend you aid,
And be a grateful debtor.
Remember all the happiness
That comes your way in living;
Forget each worry and distress;
Be hopeful and forgiving;
Remember good, remember truth,
Remember heaven's above you.
And you will find, through age and youth,
True joys, and hearts that love you.

—Selected

ANNUAL CONFERENCE REPORT

held at Osceola, Wis., last month



Pastor Samuel Flores brought greetings from Leon, Mexico, and our sister congregations in that region. Pastor Ted Kennedy, Nogales, Arizona, interpreted.

Possible New Buildings

The 1983 Annual Conference was held June 15-19 at the Association Retreat Center. Three hundred and eighty delegates were registered by 2 p.m. Saturday. They came from 12 states, Canada and Mexico. Five visitors were also registered.

In a major conference decision, although it passed without discussion, the delegates asked a Facilities Committee to report to the next annual conference on exact needs and costs for a new building at Association Free Lutheran Bible School and some kind of an apartment complex for the Free Lutheran Seminary, both on the same campus in Minneapolis, Minn.

Conference photos by S. Hjermstad

Both projects have been talked about for a number of years. The conference action calls for some exact information upon which further decisions could be based.

The apartment for seminarians could be located apart from the present church-owned acreage at Medicine Lake. The suggestion has been made that a private investor or investors purchase an apartment building for this purpose. Said investor(s) would find his (their) investment repaid and more through rentals.

The Facilities Committee is not a creature of the annual conference, but has been set up independently at the Schools and church headquarters, but now the conference has asked it to be its agent in making the study of these needs.

Pastors' Pensions

The reports of Stewardship and Pensions were moved to Friday morning by common consent in order that more delegates could take part in the decision-making process. The Board of Pensions had expressed concern that due to continually rising costs for health insurance many pastors were not getting much invested in the retirement portion of their contracts.

After good discussion, it was voted to separate the pension fund and the group health plan. The pension plan will be funded by a 4% premium paid by the congregation and a 2% premium by the pastor. The premium is to be paid on the salary plus 20% for a parsonage or housing allowance added to the base salary (2% of salary plus housing allowance).

Mr. Dale Hertle, who represents the AFLC in health insurance and pension matters, reported that good interest rates prevail for the pension funds and are promised in the next years.

A plea was again made and the conference endorsed it that all pastors and congregations participate in the AFLC health and pension plans. ◇



Committee No. 3 worked on developing resolutions on Missions and Evangelism.



Mrs. Reuben Emberson, Esko, Minn., and Mrs. Bob Dietsche at the WMF Convention. Full WMF report will be in the next issue.



Mrs. Bea Anderson, the president's secretary, kept the information flowing during Conference. Mrs. Amos Dyrud lent a helping hand during the hectic moments.



Pastor Philip Rokke and son were among the numerous campers to enjoy the spacious campground at the ARC.

REPORT . . .

Capital Investment Fund

A resolution was introduced by Mr. Ernest Miedema, business administrator of the AFLC, that the Praise Program or Praise Fund be terminated in 1985 to be replaced by a Capital Investment Fund. The date was set for two years hence because it is the intention of the Board of Trustees to pay up all loans toward the building of the boys' dormitory at Bible School by the end of 1984. A debt of less than \$187,000 exists.

In setting up a Capital Investment Fund there will be a return to what the Praise Program was originally intended to do, provide capital funds for home and world missions, as well as schools (see pages 78-79 of the 1967 Annual Report). Somewhat later the Praise Program became associated only with the Schools, primarily the Bible School.

Few details have yet been spelled out as to how the CIF will function.

Luther's Birthday

Martin Luther, the Great Reformer of the church, was born Nov. 10, 1483. This being the 500th anniversary year of his birth, the conference called upon AFLC congregations to "mark the occasion by special Reformation rallies and other events that will re-emphasize our Lutheran heritage."

Seminary Internships

In 1985, following the completion of their third academic year, seminary students will begin a year-long period of internship, the first in

AFLC history. These are the men who enrolled in 1982. It is too early to say how many interns will need to be placed in 1985 but the conference called upon the congregations to fully support this program and to begin planning now to participate by accepting an intern.

Retain Bi-weekly

Because there had been rumors that *The Lutheran Ambassador* might be changed from a bi-weekly (every two weeks) to a monthly publication, Committee No. 4 introduced a resolution stating that the conference consider monthly instead of bi-weekly issues, for economic reasons.

Lively discussion followed, the preponderance of expression being that the *Ambassador* be retained as a bi-weekly because of the contact that can be maintained. It was pointed out that subscriptions have dropped, largely due to the subscription price increase to \$10 per year.

Finally a motion was made to strike the resolution and this was done by a strong voice vote.

Work in Canada

A congregation has been formed in Lake Alma, Sask., which will seek affiliation with the AFLC. It is presently being served by Lay Pastor Gene Sundby, Outlook Sask., and Rev. John Rieth, Williston, N. Dak.. Mr. and Mrs. Dennis Rude of the congregation attended the conference.

Recognition of the AFLC in Saskatchewan is still being sought.

World Missions

It was reported that Rev. and Mrs.

Charles Knapp and family have received permanent visas for Paraguay. Formal registration of the mission there is still being sought.

Pastor B. R. Dasari has been called to head up AFLC work in India. He has been a teacher at the AFLC Schools for a number of years. His response to the call was not yet known at conference time.

The World Missions Committee was asked by the conference to consider sending a Free Lutheran Youth (FLY) group to Mexico at some future date. FLY groups have gone to Brazil.

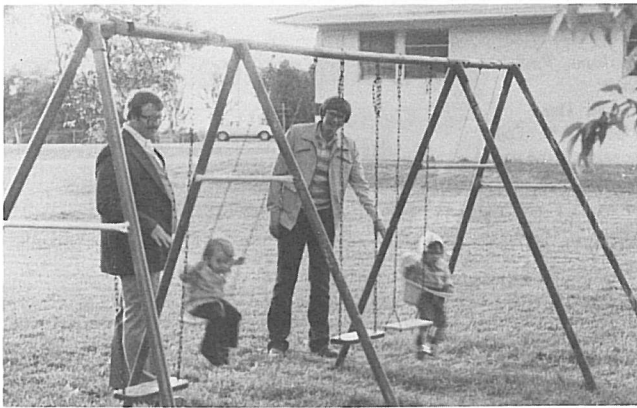
Vice-President Re-elected

Rev. Leslie Galland, Thief River Falls, Minn., was re-elected vice-president of the AFLC on the third ballot. Five candidates were nominated before the first ballot and five before the second. A motion to vote on the two top finishers on the second ballot was carried and Pastor Galland defeated Rev. David Molstre, Dickinson, N. Dak., on the third ballot.

Rev. Bruce Dalager, Grand Forks, N. Dak., was elected secretary on a second ballot. The current secretary, Rev. Hubert DeBoer, Colfax, Wis., who had served three terms, failed to get the three-fourths majority he needed to continue in office, among four candidates on the first ballot. Pastor Dalager then defeated Rev. Ralph Rokke, Minneapolis, on the second tally.

Both terms are for one year, beginning Oct. 1. Rev. Richard Snipstead, church president, is in the second year of his second three-year

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Mr. Reuben Quanbeck, McVile, N.Dak., and Mr. John Schlenk, Minneapolis, shared babysitting duties.



Pastor and Mrs. Rao Dasari and Esther. Pastor Dasari, has been called to work full time with the churches in India.

term. He will be up for re-election next year.

Million-Dollar Goal

In adopting the five individual goals recommended by the Budget Analysis Committee (see item elsewhere in this issue) the conference accepted the first million-dollar minimum goal for the AFLC. The figure, to be exact, is \$1,003,095.00. This is the amount it is hoped that congregations and individuals, plus some grants, will supply in the fiscal year of 1984-85.

The ARC Dedicated

On Sunday morning of the confer-

ence, Pastor Snipstead dedicated the Association Retreat Center at the worship service.

The ARC is a former U.S. Air Force radar base which was first purchased by individuals, then by the AFLC. Its facilities are gradually being taken into use as a retreat center for larger and larger groups. Most of the conference-goers were housed on the ARC ground.

Ordination

Two men were ordained at the closing service of the conference on Sunday afternoon. They were Michael John Klenner, called to Grace Lutheran Church, Pelkie,

Mich., and Edmundo Hassenteufel, who will be on loan to the World Mission Prayer League. He is a native of Bolivia.

Next Year

Nothing was said about the location of next year's annual conference, the church's 22nd, but it will likely be held at the church headquarters at Medicine Lake. A tradition has developed of having the conference there every third year, being also the year in which presidents are elected.

ELECTION RESULTS

*denotes re-election

Vice-President

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

Secretary

Rev. Bruce Dalager, Grand Forks, N. Dak.
(The above 1-year terms begin on October 1.)

Co-ordinating Committee

5 years

Rev. Donald Greven, Kenyon, Minn.*

Board of Trustees (Schools)

5 years

Rev. Michael Brandt, Amery, Wis.*
Mr. Arne Berge, Binford, N. Dak.

World Missions Committee

5 years

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

Home Missions Committee

5 years

Mr. Joel Rogness, Ely, Minn.

Commission on Evangelism

5 years

Lay Pastor Verle Dean, Sedan, Minn.*

Board of Pensions

5 years

Mr. Norman Haugen, Murdoch, Minn.*

Board of Publications and Parish Education

5 years

Mrs. Kenneth Moland, Minneapolis, Minn.

Stewardship Board

5 years

Rev. Ernest Langness, Faith, S. Dak.*

Youth Board

5 years

Rev. Robert Lewis, Abercrombie, N. Dak.

CORPORATION ELECTIONS

The following persons were elected by their corporations to membership after nomination by the Annual Conference on June 16:

Schools Corporation

4 years

Mr. Ole Borseth, Williston, N. Dak.

Rev. Paul Nash, Ishpeming, Mich.

5 years

Mr. Arne Berge, Binford, N. Dak.*

Mr. Stanley Holmaas, Newfolden, Minn.*

Rev. Raynard Huglen, Newfolden, Minn.*

Rev. Donald Greven, Kenyon, Minn.*

Mr. Sheldon Mortrud, Thief River Falls, Minn.*

Rev. Gary Jorgenson, Stanley, N. Dak.

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

Mr. Donald Jacobson, Binford, N. Dak.

Mr. David Russum, Grafton, N. Dak.

Mr. Ralph Peterson, Portland, N. Dak.

Missions Corporation

3 years

Mr. Ronald Gravgaard, Tioga, N. Dak.

5 years

Rev. Fred Carlson, Wadena, Minn.*

ELECTIONS . . .

Lay Pastor Verle Dean, Sedan, Minn.*
Mrs. Oscar Folden, Minot, N. Dak.*
Rev. Philip Haugen, Minneapolis, Minn.*
Rev. Kenneth Pentti, Ishpeming, Mich.*
Rev. Einar Unseth, Bismarck, N. Dak.*
Mr. Emory Flaten, Newfolden, Minn.
Rev. Peter Franz, Minot, N. Dak.
Rev. Mark Antal, Bemidji, Minn.
Rev. Wesley Langaas, McVile, N. Dak.

THE COMMITTEES FOR THE 1984 CONFERENCE

Nominating Committee

Mr. Palmer Haugen, Portland, N. Dak.
(END)
Rev. Peter Franz, Minot, N. Dak.
(WND-EM)
Mr. Arlo Kneeland, Summit, S. Dak. (SD)
Mr. Paul Flaten, Newfolden, Minn. (NWM)
Rev. Jay Erickson, Fosston, Minn. (NCM)
Mr. James Rolf, Brandon, Minn. (SWCM)
Mr. Joel Rogness, Ely, Minn. (LS)
Rev. Ralph Rokke, Minneapolis, Minn. (M)
Rev. James Gerdeen, Chassell, Mich. (NM)
Rev. Forrest Swenson, Tucson, Ariz. (A)
Rev. Alvin Grothe, Astoria, Ore. (WC)

Committee No. 1—Administration

Rev. Amos Dyrud, Minneapolis, Minn.
Mr. Harry Johnson, Chatham, Mich.
Rev. Ralph Tjelta, Apple Valley, Minn.
Mr. Will Olson, Kirkland, Wash.
Mr. Eldon Hermunslie, Abercrombie, N. Dak.

Committee No. 2—Schools

Rev. Leslie Galland, Thief River Falls, Minn.
Rev. Lyndon Korhonen, Culbertson, Mont.
Mr. Lynn Walty, Lake Stevens, Wash.
Mr. Stanley Miller, Grand Forks, N. Dak.
Mr. Wm. Picek, Pukwana, S. Dak.

Committee No. 3—Missions and Evangelism

Rev. James Fugleberg, Ontonagon, Mich.
Rev. Laurel Udden, Minneapolis, Minn.
Mr. Lyle Mattson, Milbank, S. Dak.
Mr. Leonard Swanson, Nogales, Ariz.
Mr. Mike Hernandez, Minneapolis, Minn.

Committee No. 4—Publications, Parish Education and Youth Work

Rev. John Rieth, Williston, N. Dak.
Miss Eula Mae Swenson, Fargo, N. Dak.
Mr. Harold Voth, Minneapolis, Minn.
Lay Pastor Roger Krueger, Fergus Falls, Minn.
Mr. Victor Parsons, St. Paul, Minn.

Committee No. 5—Stewardship and Pensions

Rev. Norman Tenneboe, Eben Jct., Mich.
Mr. Duane Kinnoin, Stanley, N. Dak.
Rev. Curtis Emerson, Valley City, N. Dak.
Mr. Eugene Nesland, Thief River Falls, Minn.
Lay Pastor Emerson Anderson, Cleveland, O.

Colloquy Committee

Rev. Terry Olson, Moorhead, Minn.
Rev. Larry Severson, Roseau, Minn.
Rev. Einar Unseth, Bismarck, N. Dak.
Rev. Ralph Rokke, Minneapolis, Minn.
Rev. Herbert L. Franz, Cloquet, Minn.

Budget Analysis Committee

3 years
Mr. Eugene Nesland, Thief River Falls, Minn.
Mr. Ray Jacobson, Wadena, Minn.
2 years
Mr. Wayne Hanson, Minneapolis, Minn.
Mr. David Anderson, Grand Forks, N. Dak.
1 year
Mr. Norman Haugen, Murdoch, Minn.



Mr. Dennis Rude, Lake Alma, Sask., left and Mr. Paul Flaten, Newfolden, Minn.

Conference sermons

Opening Night

Rev. Elden Nelson, Executive Director of Home Missions, preached on the conference theme, "Forward with Confidence." His text was the conference text: Hebrews 10:19-25.

He said that he trusted that in going forward we carry on what has gone before. We have stood on the Word of God and we do. He focused attention on one word, perseverance. It has two roots.

The first, he said, is faith. God has been faithful. We need the same root of faith in the living God as the "heroes of the faith" (Hebrews 11) had. Closely tied to faith is fellowship with the Lord Jesus.

Pastor Nelson said that the second root of perseverance is activity. The chief activity is being obedient to God's holy will. He urged that all activity at the conference be for God. We persevere and move forward, he said, with confidence, in God and His Word.

Rev. Michael Brandt, Amery, Wis., led the service.

Thursday Night

The sermon by Rev. David Abel at the Women's Missionary Federation Festival service will be covered in the report of the WMF convention, June 15-16.

Laymen's Service

Mr. Arlo Kneeland, Summit, S. Dak., and a member of the AFLC Co-ordinating Committee, spoke at the laymen's service. That was led by Mr. James Peterson, Colfax, Wis.

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The 1983 AMBASSADORS sang at the youth night service.



Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Miedema, Valley City, N. Dak.. Mr. Miedema is the AFLC's Director of Development.



By Rev. Ralph M. Rokke
Minneapolis, Minn.

We ask four questions

The Lord's Supper

(A sermon preached at the communion service held at the 21st Annual Conference of the AFLC on Sunday, June 19.)

This morning it shall be our privilege to partake together of the Lord's Supper. This is one of the greatest joys that we have. There is no greater thrill, higher honor or more satisfying experience that we can have than to come to the table of the Lord.

Only baptism and the hearing of God's Word compare to Holy Communion in blessedness for us, because only they are like it in meeting the most basic needs of our hearts. And so this morning, let us look to God's Holy Spirit to work through His Word to bring again to our remembrance some old and familiar, and yet ever-new and ever-needed, truths concerning the Lord's Supper.

We shall take as our text for this morning the words of institution as found in Matthew 26:26-28: "And as they were eating, Jesus took bread, and blessed it, and brake it, and gave it to the disciples, and said, Take, eat; this is My body. And He took the cup, and gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, Drink ye all of it; for this is My blood of the new testament, which is shed for many for the remission of sins."

There are four basic questions which I would like us to consider together this morning concerning Holy Communion. The first question is simply this: *What is the Lord's Supper?*

Martin Luther answered that question very simply and very directly in the Small Catechism: "It is the *true* body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ, under the bread and wine, given unto us Christians to eat and to drink, as it was instituted by Christ Himself."

Luther's answer focused upon the real presence of the body and blood of Christ, being together with

the natural, earthly elements of bread and wine, in a gift which Christ has given to His people. Luther put enormous weight upon the words that Christ spoke: "This *is* my body," and "This *is* my blood of the new testament, which is shed for many for the remission of sins." He said that that word "is" cannot mean "represents" or "symbolizes." Rather, Christ, who was and is the Son of God, meant exactly what He said. His body and blood, in a way beyond our understanding, are really present in the elements of Communion.

It was not an easy position for Luther to take. He suffered for it. On the one hand, he had critics in the church which he had left who criticized him because he no longer joined them in teaching more than the Bible teaches about Communion. He no longer taught that it is a power in the priest which changes the bread and wine completely into the body and blood of Christ. On the other hand, there were others in the Reformation who criticized him because he did not join them in omitting part of what the Bible teaches about the Lord's Supper. He would not join them in saying that the bread and wine only *symbolize* the body and blood of Christ. He continued to insist that when a Christian goes to

"Only baptism and the hearing of God's Word compare to Holy Communion in blessedness for us. . . ."

Communion he does indeed receive the body and blood of Christ.

At one point, Luther even said, "If somebody had been able to convince me five years ago that there is nothing in the Sacrament but bread and wine, he would have done me a great service. I suffered very severe temptations on this point." But then he

adds, "But I am held captive. I cannot escape. The force of the text, as it stands there, is too great; it refuses to be wrenched from its meaning by wordy arguments."

He insisted on the literal meaning of Christ's words: "This is My body." "This is My blood of the new testament, which is shed for many for the remission of sins." Christ, Luther said, comes to us in the Sacrament, along with the bread and the wine, because Christ has promised it, and His words cannot be broken.

And this we, too believe! We cannot fully understand it, but we believe that Christ, the Son of God, said what he meant to say. Because his words are true, they carry untold blessing for us.

The second question, then, is this one: *For whom is the Lord's Supper intended?* To whom did Christ give it? Luther answers that question in the Catechism also when he writes that Christ gave it "unto us Christians to eat and to drink."

Luther's catechetical teaching is again based firmly upon the words of Christ. The Lord's instructions on the night of the Last Supper were very specific. "Drink ye *all* of it," He said. He was speaking to a group of men who believed in Him and were His followers, and He declared that this gift was for all of them. Communion, then, is for all of the mature followers of Christ and all are to partake of both of the elements of Communion.

In I Corinthians 11:27, God's Word tells us, "Whosoever shall eat this bread, and drink this cup of the Lord, unworthily, shall be guilty of the body and blood of the Lord." Thus we do not believe that Holy Communion is for the unsaved. God's Word is clear that it holds for them more harm than good. It is for those who are in a living relationship with Jesus Christ.

The next verse in I Corinthians

♦

SUPPER . . .

tells us, "but let a man *examine* himself, and so let him eat of that bread, and drink of that cup." Consequently, we believe in waiting until our children are confirmed before we include them in the Lord's Supper. This makes them able to examine themselves. Hopefully, by that time, they have gained enough intellectual and spiritual maturity and enough understanding of God's Word so that they are able to examine themselves to see if they belong to Christ through faith in Him and so are qualified to come to His table.

By the way, there is no place in the Bible where candidates for baptism are instructed to examine themselves to see if they have faith before coming to be baptized. This is a part of the reason that we baptize children. Jesus said, in Matthew 19:14, "Suffer little children, and forbid them not, to come unto Me: for of such is the kingdom of heaven." Examining oneself is not set forth in the Word as a condition for baptism, but it is for the Lord's Supper.

For whom is Holy Communion intended? The answer, then, is that it is for all of God's people who are old enough and mature enough to examine, to weigh in their own minds, what their relationship to God is.

The third question is this: *What does it do?* What good is there for God's people in eating and drinking the body and blood of Christ in Holy Communion? The answer is that it is a means of grace. It is a means

"... there is no place in the Bible where candidates for baptism are instructed to examine themselves to see if they have faith before coming to be baptized."

whereby the forgiveness which Jesus Christ won for us at the cross is conveyed to us.

Jesus Himself said, "For this is My blood of the new testament, which is shed for many for the remission of sins." That word "remission" means the putting away of our

sins. The very thing which washes away our sins, the blood of Christ, is that which comes to us in Holy Communion, and since it washes away our sins, it also brings to us other blessings such as peace with God, salvation and eternal life.

Jesus Christ, who stretched forth His hands upon the cross to receive the nails into them, and into His feet, was the Son of God. He had no need to be on that cross. There was no spot of sin upon Him. Yet He, out of His love for us, suffered the punishment and death which we deserved, and now, through faith in Him, we are clothed about with His righteousness and in the eyes of God are as pure and sin-free as He is. The salvation which He purchased for us at the cross is conveyed to us through the sacrament of His body and blood.

The Lord's Supper also comforts us and gives us joy. I have seen Christians facing surgery receive it and be strengthened to face the ordeal ahead, because of the reminder that they are not alone. God is with them. They know that because He has come to them in an individual way.

Receiving Holy Communion is such a personal thing. In it Christ comes to you individually and He says to you as individuals, "This is My body broken for you. This is My blood shed for you to put away your sins." The promises of the Gospel are very personalized for us as we come to Holy Communion.

And Holy Communion is all Gospel. We all know that God's Word consists of both Law and Gospel. The Law tells us what sin is and warns us of the judgment of God against sin. The Gospel, on the other hand, is the message of the forgiveness of God and the peace with Him which He offers to us through His son Jesus Christ.

We all need both Law and Gospel. Even Christians need to hear the Law, though it sometimes stings us as it points out our sins to us.

But Holy Communion is pure Gospel. For the one who receives it in faith, it has no sharp edge as the preaching of the Law does. Its only purpose is to bring comfort, peace and joy to God's people.

The last question for us this morn-

ing is this: *How should you and I come to Communion?* What should our attitude be? The answer is: Begin by looking at yourself. Examine yourself spiritually. Look at your own sin and failures and unworthiness. Look at these things until it is too painful to look any more. Then turn your thoughts away from these things and look to Jesus. Look to the one who saves you from all of this, and then come to receive His body and blood by which He forgives you, and cleanses you, and makes you a new creature.

Two attitudes should dominate as we come to the table of the Lord. They are humility and grateful joy. In humility we come, realizing that there is only sin and death within us and that without God's mercy we are eternally lost and deserve to be. Yet in grateful joy we come, realizing that God is merciful and that in spite of our sins He invites us to come to receive freely gifts that we could never buy or earn. I personally do not know which should make us tremble more, to realize how unworthy we are to handle and receive Christ's body and blood or to realize the love and mercy of God which gives us the privilege to do so.

As we come, then, we also come to confess Christ. We show His death until He comes again. We show that we trust in the sacrifice of the cross as the atonement for our sins. We show that we believe that He conquered death by rising again on the third day and that we, too, as a result, shall have eternal life through Him.

We come also to be joined anew to Him and to one another. I Corinthians 10:17 tells us that we become one bread and one body as we partake together of the one bread of Holy Communion.

Luther put it this way: "We are baked into one cake." As the ingredients of a cake become inseparable in the process of its baking, so we become inseparably united in Christ by partaking together of His body and blood.

What a blessing it is, then, for us to be able to come this morning to Holy Communion! Let us come discerning Christ's body and blood. Let

Continued on p. 10

editorials

A GOOD CONFERENCE

The 1983 Annual Conference last month was marked by good spirit and fellowship. Some 380 delegates attended the conference, about 35 more than were at Dickinson, N. Dak., last year. In overall attendance it ranked with the better attended conferences that we have had.

Those 380 people enjoyed being together. They would testify that it was "good to be there." A couple of times in the past, annual conferences have gone by without a time for sharing being given. That wasn't the case this year and a blessed time of testifying to the Lord's goodness followed the laymen's service on Friday night. For many who were there it was a high point of the conference.

As far as business goes, there were perhaps no big decisions made. In a way it's too bad that whole sections of church work can go by with very little discussion. That was true of the Schools and pretty much so of World Missions and Home Missions, too. There's not much to do about it now, but it would be good if more ventilation and illumination could be given to these areas outside of the formal reports made to the delegates.

More time was available to Pensions and Stewardship than normal because of a proposed change in the pension or retirement plan for pastors. We hope this will shore up the retirement income for pastors. We understand that some of them were not doing well in that regard before this change (separating the health and pension plans) was made.

The 1983 conference may go down in history as the "nominatingest" conference. Without doubt more people were nominated for a nominating committee than ever before. Some of us recall conferences when it was hard to get two nominees from a district. This year one district had six nominees, one district had five, four districts had four, four had three and only one, Arizona, had but two. How times have changed!

Then when it came to electing a vice-president, five men were nominated on the first ballot and on the second. We doubt that has happened before either. Four were nominated for secretary on the first ballot. As we said, the conference delegates were in a nominating mood.

It was good to have ordination for two men at annual conference. There is something good about the wider church family being able to share in those special events. After all, the whole church has had much to do in providing for their education. It was a beautiful service and attendance was respectable.

It seemed to us that more people stayed to Sunday this year than at many past conferences, certainly than did last year at Dickinson. It also seemed that there were more pastors still around on Sunday than usual. This is good.

We all found the Association Retreat Center attractively ready for the conference. The serving of meals was expedited better than we thought it could be. The food was excellent. Bob and Carol Dietsche and all the staff did a great job before and during the conference. We know that many others helped in getting things ready for us.

Some of us stayed "off campus" but it was a delight to drive through the beautiful Wisconsin countryside to and from the ARC. If those woodlands were here in northwestern Minnesota they would be in danger of being bulldozed down, but there in western Wisconsin they are left for enjoyment. But we are off the subject now.

Perhaps we will have further reflections on the conference later. For now, many good impressions and memories of Annual Conference 1983 remain.

SISTER CONGREGATIONS

A few pages back in this issue we have written some things about our recent visit to Tucson and Nogales, Arizona, at the end of May and in early June. Out of this has come this suggestion to our Home Mission Committee: Why not make it a priority to plant a sister congregation near all our widely isolated congregations? That is what has been done in the Nogales-Tucson situation. For many years Nogales was all alone, far from any AFLC church. Now it has a sister congregation some 60 miles away, in Tucson. While it is still very early, we foresee good fellowship developing between these two congregations and their pastors. They can visit each other, do some things together, look at other four walls than their own.

There are a number of AFLC churches which are far from another of the same persuasion. Those most isolated are the ones in Fall River, Mass.; Mt. Juliet, Tenn.; Cleveland, O.; DeKalb, Ill.; Brodhead, Wis.; Dannebrog, Nebr.. Or what about Eugene, Ore., and Astoria in the same state?

Some of these areas may be difficult ones in which to plant a Lutheran congregation, particularly our brand. But we hope the possibility of planting a sister congregation nearby will be considered. The already existing congregations would be strengthened and they would be a great help to the new ones being formed.

A big benefit, too, would be the encouragement which an isolated pastor would get from having a pastor close by from his own church body.

FOOD FOR THOUGHT: It is hard for a person to get ahead if he spends all his time getting even.

SERMONS . . .

Mr. Kneeland also used the conference theme, "Forward with Confidence." He thought in terms of the individual Christians moving forward with confidence in the congregation and in the Association. Mr. Kneeland stated that Christians often overlook the resurrection power available to them. The opposite of going forward is to go backward in fear. The threat of persecution may deter the believer, but the Lord has given many promises of help and strength in such times. We must check the Word for God's approval and not the world.

The Lord says to us as an Association, you have been faithful, keep on, Mr. Kneeland reminded his audience.

A testimony meeting was held with many taking part.

Youth Night

II Timothy 2:3, 4 was the text used by Rev. Richard Anderson, Lake Stevens, Wash., as he spoke at the youth night service on Saturday.

Speaking of being in the Lord's army, Pastor Anderson reminded his listeners that a person enters a regular army either by being drafted or by enlistment. It is by enlistment that one enters God's army. A soldier wears a uniform. The Christian's uniform is the robe of Christ's righteousness.

A good soldier knows his weapon, Pastor Anderson declared. The Christian's weapon is the Word of God. He recommended Bible school as a place in which one can

gain more familiarity with it. Finally, a good soldier can take orders and obey them. God will never direct a believer or give orders where He won't enable one to carry them out.

Rev. Allen Monson, Tioga, N. Dak., president of the Luther League Federation, led the service.

Communion Service

The sermon preached by Rev. Ralph Rokke, Minneapolis, Minn., is to be found elsewhere in this issue. Rev. Hubert DeBoer, Colfax, Wis., was the liturgist.

Dedication Service

Rev. Wendell Johnson, Stacy, Minn., chairman of the Co-ordinating Committee, preached at the dedication service for the Association Retreat Center on Sunday morning. Rev. Donald Greven, Kenyon, Minn., presided.

Pastor Johnson's text was the day's text, Luke 15:1-10, the parables of the lost coin and the lost sheep. In his prefatory remarks he admitted that maybe the future doesn't look so bright in the world, but also called attention to Jesus' promise to always be with His own.

He said that the text showed some good attitudes for going forward. The publicans and sinners drew near to hear Jesus. They demonstrated a loyalty. Christians demonstrate their loyalty to Jesus by their devotion to His church. Next, we see that the Pharisees were jealous of the Lord's love for sinners. Our attitude must be one of genuine love for unbelievers. They are *victims* of the evil one, Pastor Johnson declared, not the enemy himself. Then there must be urgency in going after the lost sheep. The spiritually lost will remain so unless we find them.

He concluded by saying that a person can be tied to the world, to himself, to self-pity or be just too tied up. Rather, go in joy to serve Christ, with confidence anchored in Him.

Ordination Service

Rev. Francis Monseth, dean of Association Free Lutheran Seminary, brought the message at the closing conference service on Sunday afternoon, the ordination service. He chose I Tim. 1:1-7 as his text.

There are ever-present temptations

before the preacher to get sidetracked, Pastor Monseth asserted. The devil uses false doctrine to that end or he will try to get one to "major in minors." One sidetrack is *novelty preaching*. There is always a great desire for something new, especially in periods of spiritual dryness. And so various new theologies arise, but new heresies are usually old heresies. We are to do as Jeremiah said, "Ask for the old paths." Scripture is given by God and through it the man of God may be thoroughly furnished.

Another sidetrack is engaging in *hairsplitting disputes*. Through them Christian believers become divided and the world goes on to destruction. There may be motion but there is a harvest of nothing but leaves for the Master.

The nature of a fruitful ministry for Jesus, Pastor Monseth said, is to be found in verse 5: "Now the end of the commandment is charity (love) out of a pure heart, and of a good conscience, and of faith unfeigned."

Pastor R. Snipstead led the service and officiated at ordination.

PRAYER HOURS

The leader of the three conference prayer hours this year was Rev. Mauritz Lundeen, Bagley, Minn. His meditations were based on the conference text, Hebrews 10:19-25. His three topics were the AFLC, the church at large and the individual believer.

Thursday

Jesus is the living Way to God. He is the High Priest, the Bridge. We live in space and time, and also in eternity. The Christian need not fear success because the opposite of that is failure. A living system of the church grows in two ways: holding fast to her beliefs and being active in her work. The ultimate result of the latter is to win souls for Christ.

Friday

Some congregations become self-contained and self-satisfied. But such become stagnant reservoirs instead of what they should be, aqueducts or channels of blessing. The church is to be a gathering of people where the

SUPPER . . .

us come in humility and in grateful joy. Let us come to be made one again with Him and with each other. Let us come, even as our Annual Conference theme for this year suggests, "Forward with Confidence!"

This is the greatest privilege that we have. It is a foretaste for us of the day when we shall sit together in heaven at the marriage supper of the Lamb. May the Lord bless it to our hearts today! Amen.

DEVOTIONAL LEADERS

The business session devotional leaders at the 1983 Annual Conference were as follows, with the texts which they used:

Thursday a.m.—

Mr. Peter Franz, now of Minot, N. Dak.



Mrs. Gerald Knudsvig, Buxton, N.Dak., and Mrs. Gene Smith, Spring Valley, Wis..

Gospel happens. The church is not meant to be an army occupation, but an attacking force. We must be on guard that we have a militant, confessing church. We must be concerned about all our fellow Lutherans for where one hurts all hurt.

Saturday

Pastor Lundeen used the monarch butterfly to illustrate how the people in the congregation serve the Lord. As the butterfly emerges from its cocoon, so believers are called to serve the Lord. The butterfly flies on wings given to it. That it can fly is a surprise to it. So also the Christian is called to life and service by "amazing grace."

When we fly on our God-given "wings" that is something to celebrate but not to brag about. A pastor and his congregation are as the two wings of the butterfly. They must work together or there will be no flying. Honor one another, then there will be love for one another.

II Corinthians 3:12-4:7

Thursday p.m.

Mr. Lyndon Korhonen, now of Culbertson, Mont.

Ephesians 2:13-22

Friday a.m.—

Rev. E. J. Langness, Faith, S. Dak.

Isaiah 12

Friday p.m.—

Lay Pastor Gene Sundby, Outlook, Sask.

Joshua 1:1-9

Saturday a.m.—

Mr. Kerwin Sletto, now of Buxton, N. Dak.

Psalms 23

Saturday p.m.—

Mr. Tony Stockman, now of Cloquet, Minn.
Nehemiah 4:9ff.

Where they came from

Here is the unofficial registration count according to location at the recent Annual Conference:

Arizona—3
Iowa—7
Illinois—1
Michigan—21
Minnesota—152
Montana—12
North Dakota—106
Ohio—2
Oregon—3
South Dakota—23
Washington—16
Wisconsin—29
Saskatchewan—4
Brazil—1
Mexico—1



Not everyone was involved in conference business when there were more exciting things to do. Pictured is Melissa, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Gene Froehlich, Kenyon, Minn..

Minimum Goals

Here are the Minimum Goals for the fiscal year 1984-85 as adopted by the Annual Conference last month.

General Fund	\$193,152.00
Schools	267,484.00
Home Missions	237,739.00
World Missions	274,720.00
Praise Program	30,000.00
Total	\$1,003,095.00

Minimum Goal, 1983-84

\$963,911.00

Receipts, 1982-83

\$782,317.08

ASSOCIATION OF FREE LUTHERAN CONGREGATIONS 3110 EAST MEDICINE LAKE BOULEVARD MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA 55441

Budget Receipts
February 1-May 31

	TOTAL BUDGET	TOTAL REC'D TO DATE	% of TOTAL (Ideal 33%)
General Fund	\$187,180.00	\$45,720.92	24
Schools — AFLTS	97,246.00	16,504.24	17
AFLBS	164,839.00	29,282.01	18
Home Missions	219,796.00	32,715.56	15
World Missions	265,975.00	41,093.78	15
Praise Fund	28,880.00	8,651.87	30
TOTAL	\$963,916.00	\$173,914.38	18
1982-83	\$914,003.00	\$206,539.40	23

THE WOMEN'S PAGE

WMF Rally review Eastern N. Dakota

The Eastern N. Dak. District WMF Spring Rally was held in Bethel Free Lutheran Church, Grafton, N. Dak. May 14, 1983. One hundred and seventeen ladies enjoyed the day focusing on the theme, "I Am Coming Soon" taken from Rev. 22:20.

Musical numbers were sung by Mrs. Karen Johnson, Pastor and Mrs. David Abel, and Pastor and Mrs. Rodger Olson. Pastor Terry Olson, our Bible study leader, spoke on the return of Christ as the hope of the Christian. We also enjoyed having Pastor and Mrs. David Abel with us. Pastor Abel shared with us on the passage from II Timothy 4:1-5.

We thank everyone who came and those who took part and also to the ladies from Bethel and Vang. It was a day filled with many blessings.

—Mrs. Henry Mohagen

Northern Michigan

The theme "Give Your All—Time, Talents and Treasures" was chosen for the Spring Rally hosted by Maranatha Free Lutheran Church of Chassell, Michigan and assisted by Grace Free Lutheran Church of Pelkie on April 23, 1983.

Presiding over the meeting was Vivian Matero, Bessemer, Michigan. She encouraged the presidents of local groups to choose five or six women to be on teams and visit to get better acquainted as sisters in Christ. She also led a discussion on "How to Make Our Sessions More Profitable." Mini workshops were suggested to get others to know and learn what the mission needs are. One suggestion was to send out bulletins informing other groups what the meetings consist of. Another was to encourage our younger women to participate.

Special speaker for the day was Mrs. Eugene Enderlein. She stressed that we were not made for time but for eternity. She encouraged us to serve, give, pray and really expect to meet God in our prayers. Pastor Enderlein presented slides of our Association work in Brazil, Mexico, India and Paraguay. The session challenged each of us to pray earnestly for our missionaries and to be a missionary at home and in our neighborhood.

—Mrs. Harry Johnson

Lake Superior

The Spring Rally of the WMF Lake Superior District was hosted by the ladies of St. John's Lutheran Church by the lake in Finlayson, Minnesota on April 30, 1983. "The Fruit of the Spirit Is Love" was the theme for the day based on Gal. 5:22.

Mrs. Bonnie Roberts presided over the sessions. Mrs. DarLynn Kari, president of St. John's WMF, welcomed the ladies to Finlayson. Alice Wilman led us in opening prayer and devotions. Vilma Siltinen from St. Paul's Lutheran in Cloquet led the Bible study. Edna Kari, Cradle Roll Secretary, reported that four babies from St. John's (Finlayson) have been registered since the September 1982 district meeting and eight from St. Paul's in Cloquet. Mrs. Reuben Emberson shared notes from the mid-winter Bible studies.

Lay Pastor Lyle Twite spoke in the afternoon on God's love. A lot of Christians and churches are failing today he said, because the Christians aren't loving each other as Jesus loved. "They will know we are Christians by our love." Musical numbers, group singing, readings and a time of sharing filled the day.

—Anne Eletson



The Pastor and Mrs. David Abel family at the rally in Grafton.

WMF Budget Prayer Calendar

February 1, 1983
January 31, 1984

CRADLE ROLL/JUNIOR MISSIONS
\$10,000

(Project for April and November)

The CRADLE ROLL/JUNIOR MISSIONS fund of the WMF assists in the salary of the Parish Education Secretary of the AFLC, helps support Missionary Priscilla Wold, and provides Sunday School material on our mission fields.

CHURCH EXTENSION (Home Missions)
\$7,500

(Project for January and September)

Through this fund money is loaned to new congregations and those who need to expand their facilities. As the loan is repaid, the money is reloaned. The need is great.

HONORARY MEMBERSHIP AND IN MEMORIAMs
(World Missions)
\$4,500

(Project for August)

A gift of \$10 will create an Honorary Membership on the WMF thus providing opportunity for honoring faithful members as well as friends and relatives. These gifts are used to support AFLC national workers. As you honor faithful women here you become partners with pastors, evangelists, and Bible women who are proclaiming the gospel on our mission fields.

CONVENTION OFFERING
(Project for June)

Wednesday — GENERAL FUND

Thursday — CHURCH EXTENSION

MY MISSIONARY FOR A DAY (World Missions)
\$20,000

(Project for March and October)

This project supports our missionary wives, Mrs. George Knapp, Mrs. Connelly Dyrud, Mrs. John Abel, Mrs. David Abel and Mrs. Charles Knapp. Pray for strength and courage for these workers. Write to encourage them and give support to them through the WMF.

MISSION SCHOLARSHIP
\$1,000

(Project for July)

The priority use of this fund is designated for seminarians at AFLTS preparing to serve in AFLC World Missions. This fund also provides financial assistance to seminary students and their wives who attend special seminars and classes as designated by the President of the church and the Dean of the Seminary.

AFLC SCHOOLS
\$4,000

(Project for July)

The Bible School and Seminary are vital to the outreach and future of the AFLC.

WMF GENERAL FUND
\$9,500

(Project for May and December)

Our General Fund helps the WMF projects which do not reach their projected goal and is used for promotional literature and administrative expense.

PRAISE PROGRAM
\$3,500

(Project for February)

Praise Program assists the Association of Free Lutheran Congregations in the overall debt reduction as well as capital improvements on real estate held by the Association.

TOTAL — \$60,000

A visit to the brethren

In the land of saguaro, oleander and mesquite

By Raynard Huglen, Editor

How it came about

Because of the trip which I had taken to Orlando, Fla., in March to attend the convention of the National Association of Evangelicals, I was given the opportunity of a free trip to most any point served by Republic Airlines. There were a number of attractive possibilities and the one I chose was to go to Tucson and Nogales, Ariz., to visit the brethren in these communities, where AFLC work is carried on. This would also bring me to a part of the U.S. which I'd never seen before, the Southwest.

On Memorial Day I boarded the Republic flight in Bemidji, Minn., with transfers in the Twin Cities and in Phoenix. By the time we got to Phoenix the temperature must have been well on the way to the 105 degrees I later learned it reached there that day. But all in all, in the higher elevations of Tucson and Nogales, I did not suffer from the heat and found that the nights cooled off most agreeably.

Tucson

Pastor and Mrs. (Adeline) Forrest Swenson met me at the airport in Tucson. They took over the mission work some time ago. It was begun out of Nogales and Pastor Swenson is our first resident pastor there. Half of the population of this rapidly growing city is nominally Roman Catholic. Various branches of the Reformed church are much better known than Lutherans in Arizona, although the presence of "snowbirds" in the winter does change the picture somewhat. And then there are many people who simply aren't interested in church affiliation. Therefore, the work of building up an AFLC congregation is slow and there are discouragements. But the securing of a church building of its own will give the young church, Living Faith Lutheran, a permanent center of operations and that can only help.

The Swensons drove me out west of the city in the early evening hour

and we saw the saguaro cacti in great profusion. I had no idea there would be so many of them. Scattered over the hillsides the landscape looked like a burned over forest with only stripped trunks remaining. After dropping down to the desert floor and returning to Tucson by another way we went to the home of Mr. and Mrs. Orville Myron, members of the congregation, for a late supper and a pleasant visit. Lining the street in front of their home was a hedge of beautiful oleander bushes in full bloom. A fine sight.

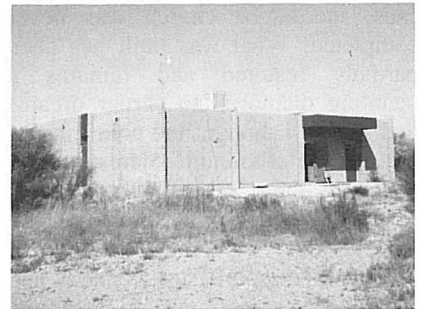
In the Swenson's mobile home I recognized Adeline's collection of antiques which had graced their home in Tioga, N. Dak., when they lived there. After breakfast the next morning they showed me the church building they had the option to buy (and which they will buy, I understand). Orville Myron was there ahead of us and had it opened for us. The church, begun by a Pentecostal Holiness congregation, was never completed on the inside. But it will provide an adequate and attractive place of worship and work for our church in Tucson. It lies near an area where hundreds, perhaps thousands, of housing units will soon be built. The building provides a sanctuary which will seat at least 80 persons, three rooms, restrooms and a hallway which can be utilized for any of several needs. There is a small chancel and altar railing, a piano and organ and a small choir loft. The church has, I think, an acre of land. The church is built in a style common in Arizona and has no windows, but that works well in a climate that is hot.

The Swensons took me to Nogales but before leaving Tucson we visited the famed San Xavier Mission. The mission work was started in 1692 by Spanish missionaries. When the Jesuits were driven from all Spanish possessions, the Franciscan order took over and erected the present mission in Spanish style, beginning 200 years ago. It shows great antiquity, but is also well preserved.

Nogales

Perhaps I had heard of Nogales before, but it became a real place to me in 1964 when the congregation there, Triumph Lutheran, joined the AFLC. That church was at times under our world mission department and our home mission department. Now for some years it has been self-supporting and is doing well.

My first impression of Nogales was that it is a larger, more progressive city than I had imagined. Later I learned that it is a center for the importing of fruits and vegetables



The church building in Tucson.

from Mexico. There are many large warehouses for this produce.

And when I got to the church compound the hill was steeper than I had anticipated. Triumph Lutheran, as you know, stands atop the hill. Several dwellings climb toward it. Pastor Ted Kennedy was the first person we met. Soon after, Pastor Richard Gunderson of the World Mission Prayer League stopped by on an errand. I learned that I was to spend some time with him on Thursday.

I stayed the three nights at the home of Pastor and Mrs. (Gola) Dynneson. He was the founder of the work at Nogales and its guiding light. He and his wife settled there in 1948 after work they hoped to do in Mexico fell through, although they were gone for some years when he went to school and then served a church in Mississippi. No longer the pastor of Triumph Lutheran (son-in-law Ted Kennedy is), Pastor Dynneson reminds one of the late Albert

◇

BRETHREN . . .

Schweitzer of Lambarene, Africa, not that he shares his talent for music and medicine, but because he is a jack-of-all-trades, among them stone mason, carpenter and animal husbandman, as well as pastor. Also today the Dynnesons lead an active life and are long-time and valued members of the community.

On Wednesday Pastor Kennedy took me back up the highway to Tubac. This old town had almost died out a few years ago but it is now an artists' colony of note. It also contains an old presidio or fort, now a museum, and we saw many fine things there. Closer to Nogales is the old Spanish mission at Tumacacori. Begun in about 1800 by the Franciscans, the adobe church was never completed. What was built has been partially restored and remains a haunting memorial to earlier dreams and hopes. I thought the collection of trees in the arboretum interesting. By the way, there or in other places I saw the Biblical trees, pomegranate, fig and olive.

That afternoon Pastor Kennedy and I walked across the border into Nogales, Sonora. This city is more than twice the size of its counterpart in Arizona. Immediately we were in a maze of shops and stores of all sizes. Some men hawked their wares on the sidewalk. The clerks in the stores we entered soon realized that the last of the big spenders hadn't come upon my arrival. But I did make a few modest purchases of souvenir items. I found the stores and merchandise quite fascinating.

That evening I attended the mid-week Bible study at the church. The topic of study was the beatitude of Jesus: Blessed are the meek. This was of special interest to me as I had preached a series of sermons on the Beatitudes earlier in the year. A lively discussion took place, all feeling free to join in. Afterward some of us had refreshments at the home of Ted and Karla Kennedy, as we had the night before. They have a unique home built on four levels of the hillside.

It was a joy to renew friendship again also with Leonard and Mae Swanson, long-time co-workers of

the Dynnesons and Kennedys. They have attended many annual conferences and hope to again next year, the Lord willing. The Swansons live on the compound also.

Thursday morning I joined members of the Martha Circle in their meeting at the Chet Cramblett home north of Nogales. Nestled in among the mesquite trees across the Santa Cruz River, they have a lovely home and gardens, and Chet gave me a tour of the yard. Having been asked to give a talk at the meeting, I shared some things about Elisha the prophet. We had a fine fellowship. The Martha Circle in the English-speaking group of the Ladies Aid, the Mary Circle being the Spanish one.

WMPL Fellowship

In the afternoon Pastor Gunderson, one of our pastors and on loan to the World Mission Prayer League, picked me up in the mission van and we went to Buenos Aires church across the border to attend a wedding. Upon my inquiry, Pastor Gunderson told me that "Buenos Aires" means good air. The church is a humble one in a poor part of the city. But there I found a collection of warm-hearted, happy Christians. Not all were from Buenos Aires, some were from the sister congregation, Correigidora, and there were American missionaries from further south in Mexico, up for a mission conference.

The groom was Jose, an evangelist from the Mazatlan area. Neither bride nor groom were what we would call young folks. They had been married about three weeks previous in a civil marriage. This was the Christian ceremony. Preceded by audience songs, Scripture and prayer, the sermon was preached by Pastor Gabriel Mercado, whom I had met at our annual conference in Ferndale, Wash., in 1973. He is the local pastor and officiated.

Following the wedding, two or three tables were set up and the whole group was served a lunch of Mexican foods, such as enchiladas, tamales, refried beans and burritos. After that the gifts were opened and for each the guests applauded.

Naturally, the language barrier pre-

vented me from conversing with the Mexican friends. But as I was sitting on a bench outside after the wedding, I was surprised when a boy of 8 or 9 sat beside me and began to speak in English, very good English. He had been to school in Phoenix and his name is Leonardo.

While still at the church I remarked to Pastor Gunderson about how good the air was. We were high above the rest of the city. He reminded me simply, "Buenos Aires."

In the evening it was my privilege to join the field workers of the World Mission Prayer League at the Gunderson home for the opening of their annual conference. Pastor Gunderson heads up the WMPL work for Mexico. Also present were the Mercados and Pastor and Mrs. Rene O. of Correigidora. Guest speaker for the conference which would last to the following Tuesday was Rev. Obed Westphal, Cottonwood, Ariz., and pastor in the former Lutheran Free Church. I hadn't seen him, I suppose, since 1962. Since then his first wife had passed away and he had remarried. His son David is married to Ruth Fostervold, daughter of the Leif Fostervolds of our congregation in Willmar, Minn.

Conference

On a New Hymbook and Music

Be it resolved, that we thank the hymnal committee for their work and report as authorized by last year's conference.

Be it further resolved, that we accept their recommendation that another survey be taken in 1985.

Be it resolved, that we thank God for our rich heritage of Lutheran hymnody and encourage usage of music that is confessional and not just enthusiastic in content.

Special Pension Offering

Be it resolved, that congregations be encouraged to continue to contribute to a special fund handled by the Pension Board for retired pastors, pastors' widows or pastors with special needs due to circumstances



Martin Luther

Martin Luther: 500 years

Following a supper of Mexican foods served by Mrs. Gunderson (Clara), the evening was spent in an informal session of getting acquainted. We introduced ourselves, telling of family, areas of service and spiritual experiences. Young and old did this. What a varied range of experiences in the group. The Mexican pastors and the son of one of them played guitars and sang, a few others joining in. One recurring phrase stays with me from a song: "Muchas gracias, Señor" (Many thanks, Lord).

I rode back to the Dynneson home with Leonard and Mae. It had been a rich day and evening. Before supper I had stood on a high place across the street from the Gunderson home and looked at mountains etched against the silver-gray of the sunset afterglow. It was a magnificent sight and I could hardly tear myself away, but it is another of the memories I carry with me from my visit to Nogales.

The next morning after breakfast and devotions Pastor Dynneson drove me to Tucson to catch my flight home. It had been good to visit the brethren in the far southwestern corner of our church.

Resolutions

beyond their control. (October has been the traditional time for such offerings to be given.—Ed.)

Biblical Stewardship Principles

Be it resolved, that we acknowledge our thanks to the Stewardship Board for sponsoring the Stewardship Workshop with Dr. Waldo Werning and be it further resolved, that all congregations implement the Biblical principles of stewardship as taught at that workshop. Be it further resolved that each congregation be encouraged to set aside a Sunday during the Thanksgiving season with an emphasis on Biblical-principle stewardship.

On the Wisløff Book

Whereas, the fine book on theology, *I Know in Whom I Believe*, by

the preacher . . .

A preacher, says Luther, must be able to teach the truth, should speak slowly, have a good head and a good voice, be diligent, put his very life into his work, and expect that all men will criticize him.

—John H. C. Fritz

the arts . . .

"I do not think that all arts should be trampled under foot by the Gospel and vanish before it, as some deluded clericals (Zwingli, Carlstadt, etc.) pretend. I long to see all arts, especially music, in the service of Him who created them."

Martin Luther,
quoted by Paul Reuter

change of address

The bookstore and offices of the Lutheran Evangelistic Movement have been moved to 4200 28th Avenue South, Minneapolis, Minn. 55406.

Communications concerning the tour to Israel, Oct. 17-27, under the leadership of Rev. Laurel Udden, Director, should be sent to him at this new address.

Dr. Carl Fr. Wisløff, is now available to us in English and is suitable for use both in the Schools and congregations, *Be it resolved*, that we express our thanks to Rev. Karl Stendal for his work of translation and we encourage many to avail themselves of this fine book on Lutheran doctrine.

Seminary Enrollment

Whereas the enrollment in our Seminary has been at its highest level these past several years and prospects continue good, *Be it resolved*, a) that we give thanks to God for the graduates of this spring, for the new middler and senior classes and for the students enrolling for the next academic year, and b) that we continue to pray the Lord of the harvest to send forth laborers into our portion of His vineyard.

the pastor's family . . .

Luther's family has ever been the ideal of the evangelical Lutheran pastor's home. Since the Reformation the pastor has again become a man of family. He no longer lives in the seclusion of a wrongfully called higher state. He lives as other men. His family life is an example to his flock. In his family the Word of God rules. Christian conduct is observed and Christian ideals followed both as to rearing and educating of children. The family learns and lives its faith, as it was done in Luther's family.

Arthur H. C. Both

Personalities

Rev. John Kjos, pastor at Cumberland, Wis., (Section Ten and Bethany) since 1978, has resigned effective later this summer. Future plans are indefinite at this time.

The address of **Rev. Donald Greven**, now serving the Kenyon, Minn., parish, is 317 S. 3rd St., Kenyon 55946.

Co-ordinating Committee actions

Congregational roster: One new congregation has been received in the past year—Mt. Zion Lutheran Church, Kasson, Minn., and one has been removed, Zion Lutheran Church, Alsen, N. Dak., which has merged with Zoar Lutheran Church, Hampden, N. Dak. The congregational roster stands at 138.

One pastor has been removed from the clergy roster: Charles Kvanvig.

A lazy man is never able to comprehend the mysterious judgments of time that passes on and never returns again.

Adolf Køberle

AFLC Family Wilderness Camp

(Second Season)

July 29-31
Lake Park, Minnesota
Lawrence Dahlgren Farm

South of Lake Park on County Road 5; north of Pelican Rapids on U.S. 59, County Road 9 and County Road 5.

SCHEDULE

Friday
Worship Service 7:30 p.m.
Rev. Dennis Gray
Campfire Fellowship 9:00 p.m.

Saturday
Adult Bible Study 10:00 a.m.
Rev. Robert Lewis
Children's Bible Study 10:00 a.m.
Mrs. Robert Lewis

Recreation
A time to look over the Wilderness Bible Camp.
Worship Service 7:30 p.m.
Rev. Dennis Gray
Campfire 9:00 p.m.

Sunday
Adult Bible Study 10:00 a.m.
Rev. Robert Lewis
Children's Bible Study 10:00 a.m.
Mrs. Robert Lewis
Worship Service 11:00 a.m.
Rev. Dennis Gray
Pot Luck Dinner 12:00 noon

Camp Staff
Dean: Rev. Gordon Grage, Brandon, Minn.
Manager: Mr. George Hartman, Dalton, Minn.

Our permit limits us to the number of people and campsites. If you plan to attend, please contact Mr. Hartman or Pastor Grage.

No charge for camping. There will be free will offerings.

Drinking water and outdoor toilets will be available.

COME . . . with your tent, trailer, or motor home . . . food . . . sporting goods . . . lawn chairs . . . musical instruments and mosquito lotion.

THE LUTHERAN AMBASSADOR

3110 E. Medicine Lake Blvd.
Minneapolis, Minn. 55441

Second-class postage
paid at Minneapolis, Minn.

AFLC Family Bible Camp

August 8-14

Theme Verses: Eph. 5:15-16
Theme Song: "In times like these"

DAILY SCHEDULE
(5:30 p.m. — Monday Supper)

Rising Bell and Devotions	7:00
Youth Breakfast	7:45
Adult and Children Breakfast	8:00
Clean Up	8:30
Bible Classes (all ages)	9-9:50
Adult Choir	10-10:45
Adult Discussion	
Youth Discussion	
Confirmation Discussion	
Missions Hour	
(All older groups)	11-11:45
Youth Lunch	12:00
Adult and Children Lunch	12:15
Quiet Time	1:00
Choir	
Recreation and Free Time	1:30-4:30
Youth Supper	5:00
Adult and children Supper	5:15
Prayer Time (all ages)	7:00
Evening Service	7:30
Afterglow	9:15
Dorm Devotions	10:00
Lights Out	11:00

CAMP FACULTY:
Evening Speaker
Pastor Michael Brandt

Association Retreat Center Osceola, Wis.

Adult Bible Teacher
Pastor Ralph Tjelta
Junior and Senior High Bible Teacher
Pastor Kenneth Pentti
Grade School Teacher
Mrs. Eugene Enderlein
Choir Director
Mr. Cary Dietsche
Missions Hours
The David Abels
Pastor Eugene Enderlein
Pastor Elden Nelson

CAMP STAFF:

Dean — Pastor Donald Greven
Ass't. Dean — Pastor Harris Van Someren
Dean of Men — Mr. Ted Berkas
Dean of Women — Miss Naomi Rolf
Registrars — Mr. and Mrs. Allen Delzer
Mr. and Mrs. Allen Anderson
Treasurer — Mr. Gary Modean
Camp Nurses — Mr. and Mrs. Rod Kjersten
Camp Editor — Pastor Gerald Mundfrom

Send registration fee of \$2 per individual or \$5 per family to:

ASSOCIATION RETREAT CENTER,
R.R. 1, Box 92, Osceola, Wis.
54020.

Less of me

Let me be a little kinder,
Let me be a little blinder,
To the faults of those about me,
Let me praise a little more;
Let me be when I am weary
Just a little bit more cheery—
Let me serve a little better
Those that I am striving for.

Let me be a little braver
When temptation bids me waver,
Let me strive a little harder
To be all that I should be;
Let me be a little meeker
With the brother who is weaker,
Let me think more of my neighbor,
And a little less of me.

—Selected

Eastern N. Dakota Bible Camp

The youth camp of the Eastern North Dakota District will be held at Red Willow Bible Camp, Binford, N. Dak., August 14-19. Registration begins at 3 p.m., on that Sunday. The cost is \$10 per day or \$50 for the week.

Rev. Robert L. Lee of the AFLC Schools' faculty will be the guest speaker.