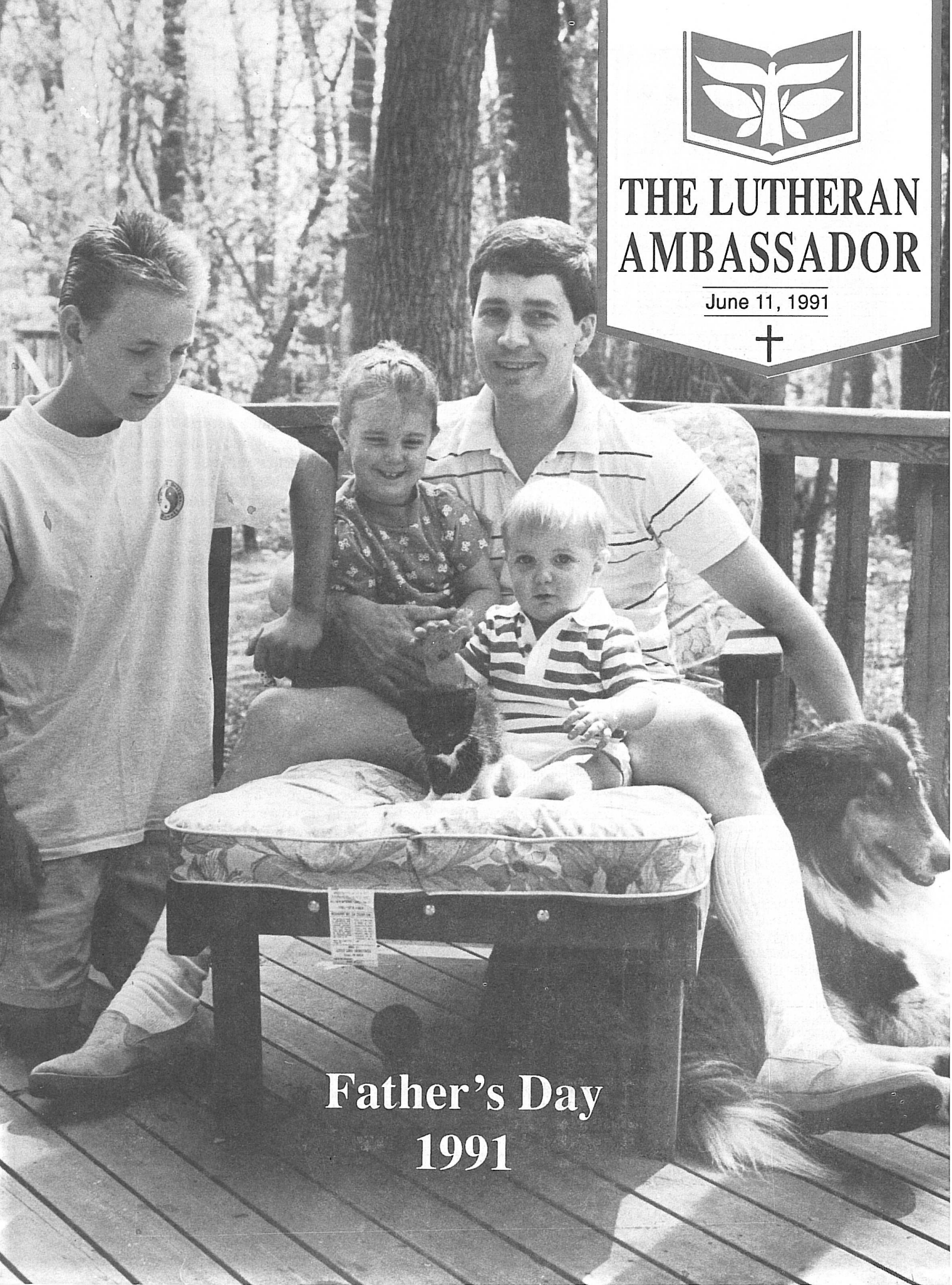


THE LUTHERAN AMBASSADOR

June 11, 1991



Father's Day
1991

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by Solveig Hjermstad

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Two Destinations

We know that there are only two final destinations for mankind, heaven or hell. Yet, we often hear that we should not preach on hell, but only on the love of God. **But it is the love of God** that has recorded the terrors of hell: punishment and judgment await all who reject God's love and plan of salvation.

Hell. What is it like? First of all, it was not prepared for man, but for the devil and his angels (Matthew 25:41). Those who are destined for hell are those who walk down the broad road of destruction, refusing to listen and obey God's Word. We can say it is of their own choosing. For God has said in His Word that He is not willing that any should perish. He desires that all should be saved. God has given everyone a will so that they may choose which road they want to take.

A young mother asked me one time: "After hell is filled, where will the rest of us go?" She knew that she was not a Christian and thereby knew that she was not headed for heaven. It was almost as though she thought if hell would be filled, then maybe there would be another place for unbelievers to go that would not be as bad as hell. I shared with her Isaiah 5:14: "Therefore hell hath enlarged herself, and opened her mouth without measure ..." **But God**, through His grace and mercy provided a way of escape." "For God sent not His Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through Him might be saved" (John 3:17).

All who will seek their refuge in Christ have a glorious future. God says in II Peter 3:12: "Wherein the heavens being on fire shall be dissolved, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat. Nevertheless, we, according to His promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness." Please read John 14:1-3 which describes the wonderful mansion being prepared for those who trust in Christ.

II Peter 1:3-4 relates the blessings we have. "According as His divine

Light on the Way

power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him that hath called us to glory and virtue: Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature ... (verse 11): for so an entrance shall be ministered unto you abundantly into the everlasting Kingdom of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ." Heaven is a kingdom where there is no more sin or sorrow. The devil and his angels are in hell. The Christian's future home is one of peace, joy and rest experienced in the presence of our loving Saviour throughout all eternity.

On the other hand, hell is the place of complete separation from God. It is a place of darkness, misery and hate, where there is no rest, joy or peace. All that is evil will thrive there.

Now that we have looked at heaven and hell and what each place has in store, what is your choice? God does not force anyone to go to heaven or hell. Hell is prepared for the devil and his angels and his followers will join him there. Heaven is also a prepared place for a prepared people, that have chosen to follow the Lord Jesus Christ. What a wonderful, different place it is. "Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love Him" (I Corinthians 2:9).

The song writer puts it well: "Children of the Heavenly Father, safely in His bosom gather, nestling bird nor star in heaven such a refuge ere was given."



— by Rev.
Alvin Larson

How great is the love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are! The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know Him. Dear friends, now we are children of God, and what we will be has not yet been made known. But we know that when He appears, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is. Everyone who has this hope in Him purifies himself, just as He is pure (1 John 3:1-3).

A FATHER'S LOVE

There are some instances in our English versions of the Bible where the translation into our language does not do justice to the original. Either there is not an equivalent word or phrase, or our language is simply not as colorful as the original. In any case, something is lost in the translation. John's statement in the first verse of our text is one of those instances. His statement in the Greek is much more emphatic than our English translations. As John begins to ponder the love of our Heavenly Father toward us, he is filled with a sense of awe and amazement which almost overwhelms him. John Stott, in commenting on this verse says that that phrase which reads: "How great is the love the Father has lavished on us." Our NIV versions literally translates: "Of what country the love the Father has bestowed on us." Stott writes: "It is as if the Father's love is so unearthly, so foreign to this world, that he wonders from what country it may come."

It is true! Can any love the world offers match this love from God for us, His children? He has redeemed a people who willingly wandered from Him at the price of His own Son's innocent suffering and death! He is willing to call sinful people His children, and to enter into a personal relationship with them! He graciously bestows upon them the full rights and responsibilities of family membership! Amazing! Perhaps the Living Bible comes as close as any in capturing that sense of awe which so inspired John. "See how very much our Heavenly Father loves us, for He allows us to be called His children — think of it — and we really are!" I like that.

Do you have that sense of amazement about the love of God for you? Do you take quality time and ponder such love? We need to.

The love of God which moved Him to make us His children should astonish and refresh us daily. I'm His child. I belong to the family of God. He has given me "chores" to do, work that counts, work that fulfills. I stand to inherit all

He has for me. John reminds us that the world doesn't understand God. It doesn't care about His love. Nor does it comprehend our relationship to Him. It doesn't appreciate the hope that we have because we're His children.

But we know. And we care. And we appreciate. "Everyone who has this hope in Him purifies himself, just as He is pure." The Apostle Paul puts it this way in Ephesians 5:1-2: "Be imitators of God, therefore, as dearly loved children and live a life of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God."

Most often we approach these verses from our point of view, focusing on our attempts at pleasing Him because we love our Heavenly Father. There is nothing wrong with this. But recently an experience in my life has got me thinking about these verses from God's point of view. Let me share.

I help coach a little league baseball team where I live. There is one kid on our team who loves baseball. He wants to be a third baseman. He's got fair range, a decent arm, and a good glove. But seven games into the season he's hitting .000! He really has a problem at the plate. I'm especially sensitive to this kid's problem because I'm not just his coach — I'm his father. I truly believe that I want him to get a hit even more desperately than he does. Not because I'm ashamed of him. Not because I think he is a poor reflection on me. Not even because he tries so hard and seems to get nothing in return for his efforts. It's because I love him. It's because he's my son. It's because I'm his father. My heart aches for him!

I thought at one point, a few games ago, that if I could do magic, I'd make him a great hitter. But as his slump continues, I've reconsidered that position. I've come to realize that if I did that, some special opportunities for a father and his son would be lost. Right now, we're spending extra time together, tackling a problem. He's looking to me for support. He's



— by Rev.
Gary Jorgenson
Ottawa, Illinois

A Letter to Daddy

Father's Day
1991

Dear Daddy,

Today I picked a beautiful wild rose. As I admired the pink blossom in my hand, my thoughts went back through a time span of over half a century.

That Father's Day, so long ago, as we were driving home from church, I saw the masses of wild roses in full bloom along our Minnesota country road. As soon as we got home, I made a bee-line for them, and unmindful of the thorns, I picked a little bouquet. I hurried back to the house and presented my gift to you. I will never forget the look on your face as you told me it was one of the most thoughtful and beautiful gifts you had ever received. Right then I learned the true joy of giving.

You taught us so many things, led and encouraged us, not by scolding or preaching, but by how you lived your life. You were strong and firm, yet kind and gentle. Most of all, you showed us a love for our Savior.

Do you remember how I would snuggle between you and Mama, and we would sing? My favorite songs were "Savior Like a Shepherd Lead Us," "Jesus Loves Me," and "Away In a Manger." I especially liked the words "Be near me Lord Jesus, I ask Thee to stay, Close by me forever and love me I pray." All through my growing up, I'd sing those words and all my fears would vanish.

— by Eunice Preku
Murrieta Hot Springs
California

You told us how God takes care of the lilies of the field and the little sparrows. Your plans for the future, or just day to day living was always prefaced with "if God is willing."

You were so wise. You never read a book on child psychology, but you certainly could have written one.

I remember a Sunday when it was too cold for Mama and the little ones to go along to Norwegian worship service at our little country church. You knew that if my brother, two years older than I, and I were home, our boisterous play wouldn't allow Mama much rest. Instead of a lecture or threats, you told Argyle that he was now big enough to stay home and be a help to his mother. How important he felt! You asked me if I would please go to church with you. I really felt special! Mama helped me get ready. There was quite a trick to putting on stockings so the long underwear wouldn't make them look lumpy. How proud I was when we walked into church together. You were so handsome in your big black dress up overcoat. I remember you held your hymnal over to share with me. Of course I couldn't read at all, let alone in Norwegian.

There was a lot of hard work on the farm. We all had our chores. Milking cows both morning and evening became quite boring. It was during times like that when Argyle and I had our

FATHER'S LOVE

asking me for advice. He keeps practicing in hopes of that first line drive falling in for a single. I keep advising. I keep supporting him. I let him know that I love him despite his hitless streak. And, in the meantime, I hurt with him, and swing in my heart with every swing he takes. And I wait with him, longing for that day when he'll get it right. I don't know for sure what I'll do when he gets his first hit, but I know I won't do it dry eyed! And as happy as my son will be, I'll be even happier. I truly believe that.

Think of how it is for our Heavenly Father. Think of His great love, grace, patience and faithfulness toward us, His children, as we seek to purify ourselves and imitate our Heavenly Father. We've been adopted into His family. Sometimes we do not want to do things His way

and we rebel. But most of the time we do. The results are often far from spectacular. Lots of attempts end in failure. Sometimes we wonder if we will ever get it right. But we draw near to Him and ask His help. We are willing to try what He tells us. We do not want to fail Him and it embarrasses us when we do.

How He must hurt for us in all of this! How He must long for our success. Yet how does He react toward us? With grace to forgive us, love to embolden us, patience to reassure us and faithfulness to encourage us. He does not abandon us. He does not give up on us. Why? Because He is our Father, and we're His children. What joy it must give Him when we get little things right along the way! What love!

"How great is the love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are!"

"I thank God for all that you taught us, for all that you were, and because of that, for all that we can be."

"milk fights." He could squirt the milk farther and faster, so I caught it in the face many times. One evening, during such an escapade, my temper flared, and I dumped over half a pail of milk on him. Well, Daddy, you didn't punish us. You explained that by not having that milk to drink, we had wasted food. You also pointed out that Argyle sinned by aggravating me, I sinned by getting even, and we both sinned by wasting a gift from God. You taught us many lessons from that incident.

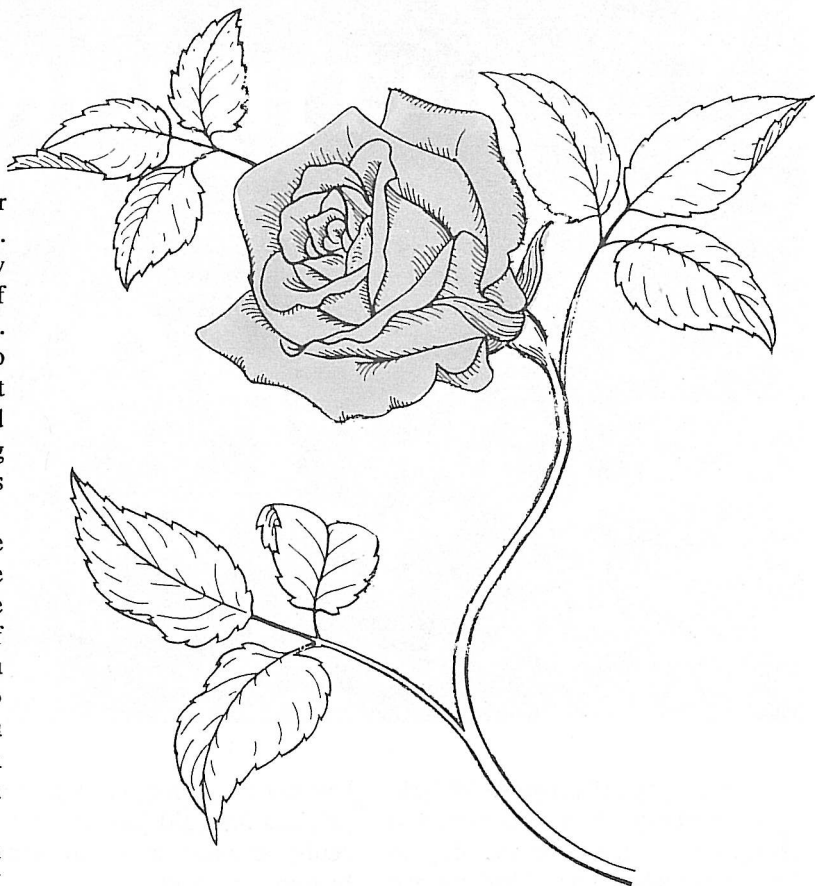
We had very little money to spend in those days. You showed us how many blessings we did have, instead of complaining about what we did not have. I remember how proud we were of the fine job you did mending our shoes. You also shopped with care. This was especially so when buying the 50 pound sacks of flour. You selected the bag according to the "print." Mama would make us girls cute dresses, or herself a new apron from the printed flour sack.

The years went by so quickly. Remember the day I showed you a picture of a young man I had recently met? You studied the picture, then said, "He has kind, honest eyes. One day he will be my son-in-law." You were right, we were married within the year. On one of our first dates, he bought me a white gardenia from a street vendor. I carried white gardenias in my bridal bouquet.

Today I am also holding a white gardenia, while I remember the many happy years with John. He learned to love his Savior, just as you did.

Daddy, as a result of yours and Mama's Christian love, guidance and prayers, we were able to teach those values to our three children, and they in turn to their children. Last Sunday, as I witnessed the baptism of infant Kendra Christine, my ninth grandchild, I thanked God for my multitude of blessings, especially for you, Daddy, and for Mama.

Daddy, today I placed this white gardenia on John's grave. As I knelt there, some tears slipped out. I then remembered the day of his funeral, when our grandson, then ten years old, said, "I am not crying because I see Grandpa going into heaven. Jesus and the angels and my great-grandpa are there saying, 'Hello, John, come on in.' That makes me happy." Daddy, I am so thankful you were there to greet him.



Now, Daddy, I am placing my pink wild rose on your grave. I remember the last time I saw you. Your body was quite helpless, following the stroke. When I told you goodbye, a tear trickled down your cheek as you whispered, "Always remember your prayers."

It is with happiness and thanksgiving that I look back on my years of "growing up," and on my years as wife and mother. Now, I look forward, seeing my grandchildren growing up with love of Christ in their hearts and with the truths you have passed on to them.

Today, on this Father's Day, I give special thanks to God for you, my Daddy. I thank God for all that you taught us, for all that you were, and because of that, for all that we can be.

I love you, Daddy.

In our Savior's name,

Your daughter,

Eunice

Eunice Preku was born and reared near Fergus Falls, Minnesota. She moved to California as a new bride. She is the mother of three children and enjoys her nine grandchildren. Eunice is a tax writer during "the season," and attends Shepherd's Church of the Valley (AFLC), Murrieta, California.

FATHERHOOD

— by David Behrens
Winsted, Minnesota



Photo by Joel Strasser

It was a March afternoon in 1979, in Murphsboro, Illinois. School had been dismissed for the day at Immanuel Lutheran and I had bus and playground duty. As I was supervising and chatting with the many students, my wife, Mary, drove into the parking lot. She got out of the car and walked over to me and gave me somewhat of a squeeze-jerk and excitedly looked up into my eyes and said, "Congratulations, Daddy!"

The moment she said that, my knees got very weak. I knew what she meant. She had just been to the doctor, where her first pregnancy was confirmed. After two years of blissful marriage, we were going to be parents! This should not have surprised me as we wanted to begin a family. Nevertheless, I had an incredible sense of fear mixed with excitement. In many ways I felt as though I was still a kid, even at age 24! I really wondered if I was ready for this awesome responsibility. Evidently the Lord thought so. As the months passed by, the feeling of apprehension faded. Excitement and anticipation grew as the October due date drew near.

On October 4, 1979, at St. Marys Hospital in Winsted, Minnesota, I first

held our tiny Sarah Marie. Seeing that precious little girl just after birth was really an exciting, joyful, and God-blessed experience.

Much has happened in our lives since then. During these eleven and a half years, the Lord has continued to fill our quiver with three more daughters and a little boy.

If someone had told me before I was married that I would be the father of five children, I would have just laughed.

Even though I myself came from a family of five children, I felt that two children would be good, three great plenty.

But the Lord has obviously changed my thinking.

Each one of our children is precious and unique, and any loving parent can testify. They each bring a certain sense of a joyful dimension and fulfillment into our lives. There certainly is not a dull moment during the day, and sometimes, the night, too. There was the time when Sarah decided to smear an entire jar of Vaseline on one-year-old Leah's hair, plus the bathroom fixtures.

One day last week, I noticed a lot of long, heavy, bare branches sprawled out in the back yard. My first inward

response was one of exasperation. I soon learned Leah, nine, and Hannah, seven, had dragged them from dead trees quite some distance away and were in the process of building a log cabin. They had been reading about log cabins, and were also trying to chink it with mud they had made from the garden. They had more on themselves than on the branches! Last fall there was quite a commotion outside one day because they found a lot of mice in the rabbit cage. It was then we realized we had a female rabbit with seven baby bunnies on our hands.

In the midst of these happy, memorable moments while rearing children, lies an awesome responsibility.

"... there are two things that will take a man of any background a long way to being a good Christian father."

CONVENTION UPDATE 1991

July 15-19, Estes Park, Colorado

"... give me an undivided heart, that I may fear Your name." (psalm 86:11b)
The 1991 Luther League Convention is now only a month away. We are anticipating a wonderful week on the mountain top. As the date draws nearer there are a number of matters that we wish to bring to your attention.

CAMPERS

Please remember that you must be pre-registered if you want to be at the camp. In other words: Don't come if we don't know. Space is limited and there may not be room for you.

We are requesting that your camp fee be paid in full by June 30. This will make registration go much faster. Also we do need your transportation payment in full by June 30. Send both to: Mr. Bob Halvorson, 8443 2nd Ave. S., Bloomington, MN 55420.

ADVISORS

Please arrange for your youth to each have a medical release form for the week. This form gives us permission to seek necessary medical treatment if needed. It must be signed by a parent or guardian.

For those who will be staying off the grounds but are interested in eating some or all of your meals at the camp, you must let me know at least one day before so I can inform the kitchen. Meal prices for the week are: breakfast \$4.00, lunch \$5.75 and dinner \$7.25. Please note that all meals are included for those who have registered and are staying at the YMCA.

Please feel free to call me with any questions or concerns you might have and please begin to pray daily for the convention.
— Rev. Terry Wold

AFLC June Promotion

Church Extension — This fund provides capital for new congregations to be able to borrow for land and buildings.

MISSION CONFERENCE

JUNE 28-30

Sponsored by: Hauge Foreign Mission

At: Hauge Lutheran Church

Goldfield, Iowa

Speaker: Rev. Lyndon Korhonen

Cokato, Minnesota

For information call: (515) 378-3282
after 8 p.m.

"What good is it to
have many irons in the
fire if the fire is going
out?"

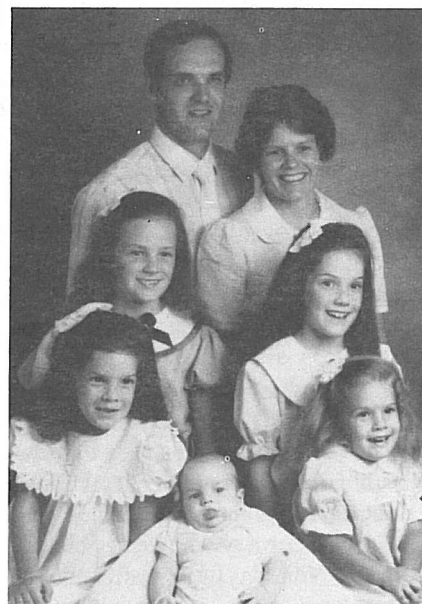
— Selected

Fathers, today more than ever, we need to know the Biblical principles for being the kind of fathers God wants us to be. I know for myself, without those principles and the grace of God, I would not be the father I am. This is not to say I have arrived at model status as I fall short each day in what God would have me to be. Although there are many helpful books and resources available, there are two things that will take a man of any background a long way to being a good Christian father. They are: 1) Love the Lord Jesus with all your **heart, mind, and soul**: be filled (controlled by) the Holy Spirit. 2) Love your wife as Christ loved the church. When children see Dad loving Mom the way he should, it builds respect and security into their lives as well. I was greatly blessed with a wonderful Christian father who gave me an example of what a godly father should be.

Nearly every night, all four of our daughters will say to me, "Good night, Daddy. I love you. Have a good night's

rest. Thanks for all you do. God bless you." Many times I'll find little love notes and notes of thanks from them on my pillow or in a lunch sack. They freely give lots of hugs and kisses. As I think on these things, the words of Psalm 100:5 ring true: "For the Lord is good. His lovingkindness is everlasting..."

In reflecting on that day in March, 1979, I can honestly say the Lord has greatly blessed me. My joy as a Christian has been multiplied many times through our children. With time passing rapidly, I only want to make the most of each moment the Lord gives me to be the father he wants me to be. With all the pressures and stresses fathers have on their lives today, it is a struggle to do this. But we must, if we want our children to live for the Lord and enjoy the blessings He has for them and us as fathers. In James 1:17 we read this: "Every good thing bestowed and every perfect gift is from above." I truly thank God for the wonderful gift of my wife and children!



Dave and Mary Behrens and family live in Winsted, Minnesota, and attend Good Shepherd Free Lutheran Church in Cokato. Dave has been involved in Christian schools for 13 years and is currently self-employed as a general laborer.

Youth, the Church of Today in Brazil

Have you heard it said that youth are important because they are the church of tomorrow? Indeed there is truth in this statement, yet the Brazilian church has found that, in a real sense, youth are the church of today. Not only has youth work been a major emphasis for us personally, but also for all of our Free Lutheran churches in Brazil.

Thousands of youth in every place are searching for identity and purpose in life. Youth are more open to the truths of the Gospel and are still in the formative years of establishing values and making important life decisions. Statistically we find that most people become

Christians before they are 20 years old.

Through our ministry with young people we have noticed barriers being broken down in older family members who have many misconceptions, fear, and prejudices about Christians. Often the witness of converted young people brings their own families to Christ. Some children are merely touched by the message of Jesus' love through ministries such as Vacation Bible School, Sunday School, and camps, but do not become actively involved in church. Yet we pray that God will use these special opportunities and relationships to draw them to Himself at another time in their lives.

Brazilian youth love to be together regularly. As there are few school activities, church becomes the major social activity for these young people. Each Saturday our youth groups meet for singing, games, Bible Study and fellowship. Most youth are also actively involved in Sunday worship and Sunday School, mid-week Bible Study and visitation. Bible Camps and retreats throughout the year serve as a means of spiritual growth and revival for Brazilian youth. Brazilian youth also love to sing and take advantage of every opportunity to do so. Wherever two or three are gathered together, a guitar is usually in the midst of them.

From Montana to Mexico

Members from Faith Free Lutheran and Stillwater Free Lutheran congregations in Kalispell, Montana, recently returned from a two-week missionary outreach to Northern Mexico.

Thirty-three people of all ages went on this short-term missions project, which had been planned for over a year. It was amazing to see the details come together to make it all possible. One family from each church has parents living in Nogales, Arizona. Both visited there over the course of the past year, gathering information about a church, which was started 300 miles south of Nogales by Gabriel Mercado. Gabriel is a member of Triumph Lutheran in Nogales, which is pastored by Ted Kennedy. We also providentially came in contact with a man who had just begun a ministry from our area taking church groups to Mexico.

So on February 15, we set out for Mexico. Nine days later, after lots of riding, hand cement mixing, plastering, painting, tiling, singing, etc. ... the church was mostly complete. Much work had been done before we arrived by AFLC churches in Nogales, Tucson and Camarillo, California. Some of our group spent time canvassing, distributing tracts and ministering to children.

What a joy it was to worship on Sunday, February 24, with a full church of new Mexican friends. We are so thankful for Pastor Mercado, who began the work, and continues as the pastor in this little farming community. Pray for him and consider supporting this part of the AFLC's world mission work. Pastor Mercado has a vision to begin other churches in unchurched communities of northern Mexico.

We returned physically tired, but so full of memories and enthusiasm about what God had done. God gave us new friends in Nogales and in Agragrista.

God gave our churches an enlarged vision and beautiful faces for our prayers and giving. We went thinking we could give, but we came home realizing we had received much more than we had given.

If you have thought of such a project for your church, (or if you haven't), begin praying and let God lead you in obedience to His command to "go." Give us a call at Faith or Stillwater in Kalispell if you'd like information, help, or suggestions.

Lead on O King Eternal!

—Submitted



A People of Prayer

A PEOPLE OF PRAYER

"And Jacob was left alone; and there wrestled a man with him until the breaking of the day (Genesis 32:24).

Most of us have little knowledge of such an experience as Jacob had as he laid hold on God that night. It is also probably true that we also have little inclination for such an experience. It is easier to become involved in some other type of service, for prayer is hard work. It is, however, the highest form of Christian service that you and I can render to God.

For many who know nothing about the ministry of intercession, prayer is thought of as something easy and simple. The prayers of those people usually center on themselves, their loved ones and their own personal needs. The time spent in prayer may be five to ten minutes in the morning and again in the evening. The prayer time can easily be set aside if something more important demands attention. Yes, that kind of prayer life is easy. And it is also most ineffective. It affects neither the Kingdom of God or that of Satan.

The day in which we are living is perhaps the most critical time in the history of mankind. The time demands that the believers make some impact on our society. More important than petitions and protests is that we have in our churches and homes, people who know how to pray.

In Glen Clark's book on the Lord's Prayer, he includes a parable of "Fanner Bees." "There arose from the beehive a sibilant note ... not unlike the sound of sea waves. 'They are fanner bees,' whispered the old beekeeper. 'It's their job to keep the hive sweet and fresh. They're standing with their heads lowered, turned toward the center of the hive. Their wings are moving so rapidly that if you saw them you would think you were looking at a gray mist. They are drawing the bad air out through one side of the entrance, while the pure air is sucked in on the other side.' The old beekeeper stepped to the hive, holding a lighted candle in his hand. Instantly, the light was extinguished by the strong current. The old man said... 'The fanners draw out the bad air and let in the fresh. Isn't that how people who call themselves Christians ought to act?'"

Clark adds: "America has all the worker bees she needs. She does not have enough fanner bees. The greatest need in America today is for prayer ... Whitefield, who achieved the most wonderful results of any evangelist who ever came to this country, always took with him a little crippled man who believed in prayer ... His prayers, even more than Whitefield's preaching, were the cause of wonderful results. The great army of shut-ins, the old people who think their lives are completed, the great army of invalids longing for opportunity to make their lives worthwhile, here are the greatest unused resources of America — these people who think their lives are of least account."

I would like to share that these resources are also the greatest resources that we have in our AFLC. I am reminded of one of our dear saints, who has been one of these great prayer-warriors since the beginning of the AFLC. Each new school year she gets the names of the seminary and Bible school students and daily intercedes for each of them. We thank God for her and many others like her. But we desperately need to enlist a host of others to be laying hold of God on behalf of our nation and our own AFLC.

Satan knows well that prayerless work will be powerless and fruitless. He will keep us so busy that we don't have time to pray. Then his purpose is accomplished.

God's Word assures us that there is power in prayer. God does not simply bestow on us the crumbs that will barely meet our needs, but He will provide "exceedingly abundantly above all that we could ask or think."

Wanted — Prayer Intercessors!

— Rev. Richard Snipstead

In 1988, the Free Lutheran youth in Brazil organized themselves on the national level, forming a Federation of Free Lutheran Youth. In September of 1990, their second convention was held with 105 youth from our various churches in attendance. All of the officers are Brazilian young people 18 years or older. Several of our churches have divided their youth — one group for 13-18 and another group for those over 18. In Brazil, a person can participate in the youth group until they marry.

As young people mature in their faith they are given opportunities to preach, teach, and lead worship services. Youth are made responsible before God and the church. They are expected to be an example to the believers. They are accountable to their own peers as well as to their advisors and pastors. At the same time, Brazilian youth know how to have fun, lots of it, in the context of Biblical truth and Christian principles.

Becky and I strive to let our home and our lives be available to young people, always praying that our example will be a means of salvation and growth in Christ for those who enter in. We pray that the words of a song by Steve Green will be a reality in our lives and in the lives of those who come behind us:

"May all who come behind us find us faithful,

May the fire of our devotion light the way,

May the footprints that we leave lead them to believe,

May the life we live inspire them to obey."

God is building His church here in Brazil. Most of our present Brazilian national pastors were once Free Lutheran youth. We pray that God would call many more of our youth to the ministry so that our church may continue growing in the years to come. May we be found faithful in providing the building blocks to strengthen our present youth so that the church of tomorrow will be even stronger than the church of today.

— Rev. Paul W. Abel
Curitiba, Brazil

A New Lenten Witness in Wheatland, Iowa

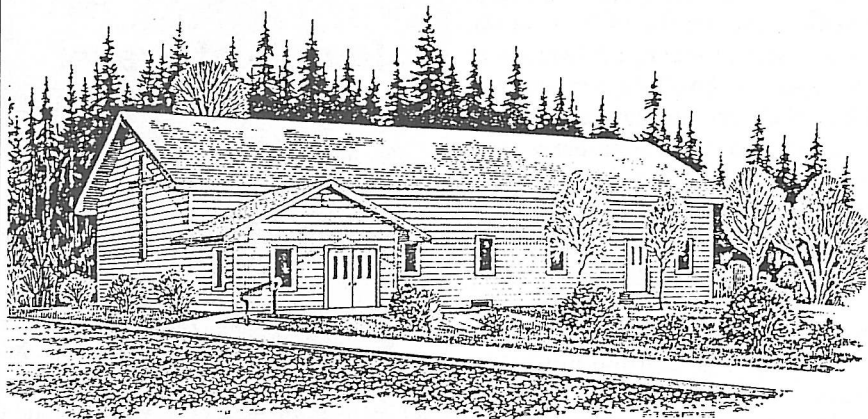
"... And you shall be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth" (Acts 1:8a).

A new AFLC home mission congregation was born in Wheatland, Iowa, in January, 1988. Now the AFLC had one more partner in sharing the witness of Jesus Christ, the embodiment of God's unfailing love and compassion. For three years the Lord has been faithfully building this congregation, and the years have been filled with many opportunities and much joy.

Sometimes our witness for Jesus Christ needs to be renewed. This past January the congregation approached another Lenten Season and Easter asking the Lord how they could make this year's testimony to the gospel especially meaningful. The decision was prayerfully made to write from the Scriptures living portrayals of the Lord's Supper, the Garden of Gethsemane, the trials before Pilate and the Jews, and the Crucifixion, to be presented during special services on Maundy Thursday and Good Friday.

The members of Christian Free Lutheran Church had never attempted such an ambitious project, and they were excited and nervous about what would happen. But they committed their plans and preparations to God in prayer, and He began to bind the congregation even closer together as over thirty adults and teens volunteered to perform. The main problem was that no one was willing at first to play the part of Judas and be the one who betrayed Christ, but finally the chairman stepped forward. Another fifteen volunteers helped to make props and costumes, and a dozen more practiced special music for the services.

The result was that nearly 180 people witnessed God's Word come to life



Warroad, Minnesota — Warroad Free Lutheran Church dedicated their new building to the Lord on Sunday, June 9, 1991, at 2 p.m. Rev. Paul Nash is the pastor.

in a powerful way. On Good Friday, as the organist played the traditional mournful music and as Jesus' mother wept, weeping spread throughout the congregation. The Spirit of God impressed upon all the unfailing love and great compassion of Christ that led Him to a cross to die for our sins.

Our little sanctuary was packed with 158 people on Easter Sunday morning, and the choir opened the service with a song of victory. The joy was everywhere. The witness was made. And, yes, God saved souls on Easter Sunday, 1991, in Wheatland, Iowa.

Pastors' and Laymen's Stewardship Seminar

"Building Functional Christians and a Functional Church in a Dysfunctional World"

September 20-21, 1991

1 p.m. Friday through noon Saturday

This seminar follows the "All Boards Meeting" being held Friday morning, September 20.

Ovenight lodging at the ARC is \$10. Meals are \$2.50, \$4 and \$3.50.

A grant will possibly be covering the cost of lodging and meals.

Waldo J. Werning, D.D., Director of Discipling/Stewardship Center of Fort Wayne, Indiana, will conduct the seminar. Dr. Werning is a well-known author and lecturer who has previously conducted a Stewardship seminar for the AFLC. We believe each of you will find this seminar very informative and valuable for your work in the parish.

It is hoped that the pastor and one key layman from each congregation will be able to attend this excellent seminar. Please put these dates on your calendar and plan on being there.

The Stewardship Board
The Co-ordinating Committee

HUMILIATION? OR EXALTATION?

24. Many verses of scripture deal with the humiliation of the proud (Proverbs 16:18; 26:12; Isaiah 2:11, 12, 17; 13:11), or contain promises to the humble (Psalms 138:6a; 147:6a; Isaiah 57:15; Matthew 5:5; James 4:10; 1 Peter 5:6). Others contrast the two (Proverbs 3:34; 18:12; 29:23; Luke 1:52). Look up one reference from each group, if time allows.

25. Nations, as well as individuals, are brought low because of pride. Read Jeremiah's warning in chapter 13, verses 9, 15-17. To whom was this warning given? Did they heed the warning? Should we be concerned for our nation? Discuss.

Honor from God is not always seen by others. Nor does the exaltation or the humiliation always take place in this life (although it often does). Those who humble themselves will eventually be bidden into the presence of the Savior Himself, the very highest place. And in the final analysis, that is the only thing that counts.

† † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † †

26. Jesus' instructions in Matthew 11:29 are followed by a promise. What are the instructions?

What is the promise?

"He has showed you, O man, what is good. And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God."

Micah 6:8

Next month we will study "WISE AND FOOLISH BUILDERS"

HYMN SUGGESTION: "WHEN I SURVEY THE WONDROUS CROSS"
(Concordia #183)

The Chief Seats

Jesus was a guest in the home of a prominent Pharisee. It seems that he had been invited by no means to honor Him, but to watch Him. The other guests, who were Pharisees and teachers of the law, did so with critical, cynical eyes. But Jesus was also watching them.

In Palestine, great importance was attached to the order of precedence at meetings of any kind, and in particular at banquets. When Jesus noticed the rivalry of the guests for the places of honor at the table, he told them this parable. It was not a lesson in etiquette, but a lesson in humility.

The Parable of the Chief Seats is recorded in Luke 14:7-11.

1. By means of a parable, what advice did Jesus give the guests?

2. Jesus saw not only their actions, but He knew their motives. What was their purpose in seeking the places of honor? v. 11

3. Jesus made the lesson of the parable clear. What is it?

4. In Luke 20:46, Jesus warns His listeners to "Beware of the teachers of the law (the Scribes)". What did they love?

What as their basic sin?

5. What is pride? Romans 12:3a

6. What do we read in James 4:6b?

THE PARABLES OF JESUS

GOD OPPOSES THE PROUD

7. We may think of pride as a fault that is sometimes offensive, but does not harm others. But what is pride in the sight of God? Proverbs 21:4

8. The apostle Paul prophesies godlessness in the end times. What are the sins he names? II Timothy 3:1, 2

9. What are some talents or accomplishments of which we might be tempted to become proud? Jeremiah 9:23

Name others not mentioned in the reference.

10. What does scripture tell us about boasting? I John 2:16

About self-commendation? II Corinthians 10:18

11. What do the proud forget? John 3:27; I Corinthians 4:7; James 1:17

12. How do we correctly use the gifts and abilities God has given us? I Corinthians 10:31; I Peter 4:11; II Corinthians 5:9a; Galatians 1:10

13. The sin of jealousy is a close companion to pride. How do you feel when others are given recognition? Can you rejoice? See Galatians 5:19-26

14. Can you think of other "problems" that accompany pride?

15. Contrast healthy self-esteem with sinful pride. Psalm 8, especially verses 5 and 6

LET THIS MIND BE IN YOU

16. Why do some err in their judgement of themselves? II Corinthians 10:12

17. Who should be our model, our example? Philipians 2:5-8

18. The outward act of taking the "lowest place" is not what is all-important, for that may actually be pride in the guise of humility. Jesus is teaching how we ought to be "minded" toward one another and toward God. What does God see that man cannot? I Chronicles 28:9

HUMILITY IN PRACTICE

19. Humility involves more than the mind and the spirit. It often calls for "lowly service", that is, serving with little recognition from people. Again, who is our example? Matthew 20:26-28; Luke 22:27c; John 13:15; I Peter 2:21 (choose one reference to look up)

20. What is the warning in Matthew 6:1 concerning your "acts" of righteousness?

21. How do you reconcile Jesus' command in Matthew 5:16 with this warning?

22. We are role-models for our children. When we push them into the limelight or parade their talents, what are we really doing to them?

What does Proverbs 25:27 teach?

Philipians 2:3?

23. Paul warns against placing new converts in positions of leadership. Why? I Timothy 3:1, 6

Now read Isaiah 14:12-15. What caused Satan's "fall from heaven"?

Summer Teams from AFLBS

CAMPUS



Barnabas XVII — (L. to R.) Marshall Nessa, Garden City, Iowa; Elecia Hoseth, Stanley, North Dakota; Jon Carlson, Amery, Wisconsin; and Patti Anderson, Badger, Minnesota.

SUMMER TEAMS' SCHEDULE

Barnabas XVII

June 1-7 — Victory Free Lutheran, Park River, North Dakota

June 8-14 — Hope Free Lutheran, Rugby, North Dakota

June 15-21 — Abiding Savior Free Lutheran, Sioux Falls, South Dakota

June 22-28 — Warroad Free Lutheran, Warroad, Minnesota

June 29-July 5 — AFLC Family Camp, Osceola, Wisconsin

July 6-12 — Granite Free Lutheran, St. Cloud, Minnesota

July 13-19 — Neighborhood Bible Church, Oceanside, California

July 20-26 — Shepherd's Church of the Valley, Murrieta, California

July 27-August 2 — Living Faith Free Lutheran, Tucson, Arizona

August 3-9 — Redeemer Free Lutheran, Canton, South Dakota

August 10-16 — Word of Life Free Lutheran, Upsala, Minnesota

August 17-23 — Grace Free Lutheran, Floodwood, Minnesota

Majesty Team

June 2-7 — Pukwana Lutheran, Pukwana, South Dakota

June 9 — Abiding Savior Free Lutheran, Sioux Falls, South Dakota

June 9-16 — Bethel Lutheran Chapel, Waubun, Minnesota

June 16-21 — Medicine Lake Lutheran, Plymouth, Minnesota

June 23-28 — Grace Lake Bible Camp, Bemidji, Minnesota

June 30-July 5 — Zoar Free Lutheran, Hampden, North Dakota

July 7-12 — Our Savior's Lutheran, Argyle, Minnesota



Majesty Team — (L. to R.) Wendy Knutson, Waubun, Minnesota; Neal Anderson, Clearbrook, Minnesota; Mindy Lee, Sioux Falls, South Dakota; John Knuutilla, Pelkie, Michigan; and Heidi Wooton, Sorrento, B.C. Canada.

July 14-19 — Camp Simmie, Frontier, Sask.

July 21-26 — Camp Kinneso, Christopher Lake, Sask.

July 27-28 — Bethlehem Evangelical Lutheran, Calgary, Alberta

July 28, p.m. — Stillwater Lutheran, Kalispell, Montana

July 30-August 4 — West Coast District Camp

August 4-9 — West Coast Churches

August 11-16 — Atonement Free Lutheran, Arlington, Washington

August 18-21 — Emmanuel Lutheran, Salmon Arm, B.C.

August 22-25 — Vernon Youth Festival, Vernon, B.C.

Leaving for Brazil on June 1



Fly Team — (L. to R.) Angela Johnson, Nome, North Dakota; Becky Gudmundson, Fergus Falls, Minnesota; Shelly Hagen, Dickinson, North Dakota; Julie Skordahl, Murrieta, California; Angela Osland, Sycamore, Illinois; (Seated): Craig Anderson, Dassel, Minnesota and Teri Olson, Reva, South Dakota. Mr. Arnie Anderson, Dassel, will also travel with the team for their 6-week visit.

The 1991 AFLBS Ambassadors

From Generation to Generation

All of the members of the 1991 Ambassadors Gospel Team are sons or daughters of graduates of the AFLC Bible School or the Seminary. Jodi Jacobson, Sebeka, Minnesota, is the daughter of Steve and Naomi (Dalager) Jacobson, AFLBS class of 1970. Justin Jones, Wyndmere, North

Dakota, is the son of Tim and Mary (Nyhus) Jones, AFLBS class of 1971. History also repeats itself in the fact that Justin sings in a Bible School Men's Quartet, just as his father did twenty years ago.

Erika Brandt, Cloquet, Minnesota, is the daughter of Pastor Michael Brandt, AFLTS class of 1972; Jon

Greven, Plymouth, Minnesota, is the son of Rev. Don Greven, AFLTS class of 1975; and Rachel Monseth, Rogers, Minnesota, is the daughter of Dr. Francis Monseth, AFLTS class of 1967.

The schedule for the 1991 Ambassadors will be included in a forthcoming issue.

Ambassador Team — (L. to R.)
Jodi Jacobson, Sebeka, Minnesota; Jon Greven, Plymouth, Minnesota; Erika Brandt, Cloquet, Minnesota; Justin Jones, Wyndmere, North Dakota; and Rachel Monseth, Rogers, Minnesota.



Teens Gather in Nebraska and Minnesota



Fairbury, Nebraska — On April 27-28, Faith Lutheran hosted a teen lock-in. An AFLBS Gospel Team led the weekend along with seminarian Dan Klug. Team members pictured are: (L. to R. Front Row): Jason Coyle, Tina Cherney, Scott Erickson, Jodi Jacobson and Dan Klug. Standing behind the Gospel Team were the youth of Faith Lutheran and a ten-foot banana split they were about to devour.



North Central Minnesota District youth gathered in February for a weekend retreat and in April for a spring rally. Pictured are the forty-five teenagers who attended the retreat. District pastors led sessions on the theme, "Relationships - to Christ, to Self, to Others." Mr. Mike Palkie, Grygla, and Rev. Herbert Franz, Dollar Bay, Michigan, spoke at the spring rally on the subject, "Finding Answers." Fifty-six teens attended the rally in Bagley.

A CURIOUS CONTRAST

This is not a serious suggestion, but how would you feel if annual conference ended on Mother's Day instead of Father's Day?

Aside from the matter of the month, one would anticipate a massive protest from our people. After all, you can't expect anyone to be away from home or family on Mother's Day! The florists do a bonanza business, the greeting card companies report record sales, and more callers "reach out and touch someone" by telephone than on any other day of the year. It's one of the most important celebrations on the calendar.

Whatever happened to Father's Day?

Please don't misunderstand: this editorial is not an invitation to a pity party for disappointed dads, but only an inquiry by a curious observer. Even though I customarily spend the day away from family at annual conference, there is usually a card or two to be found at the bottom of my suitcase and a belated celebration of the holiday awaiting me at home. This father does not feel forgotten, and the same could probably be said of most fathers.

But it is still evident that Father's Day does not inspire the same outpouring of emotion and sentiment that Mother's Day does, and so the question stands. Even my encyclopedia unwittingly emphasizes the contrast: a complete survey of the origin and development of Mother's Day is included, but there is nothing on Father's Day at all.

Perhaps the answer can be found in a contrast of the different roles that moms and dads traditionally fill in our lives. Christian faith and life are good examples. The old songs still sing of mother's Bible, not father's, as well as the prayers we learned on mother's knee. Yes, in spite of "Faith of Our Fathers" and "God of Our Fathers," there is a strong tendency to see the things of God as a heritage that is passed on especially through our mothers. The same image persists in all areas of life, and it is mother who wipes away our tears, while father teaches us to change a flat tire.

It may be that this is changing, in a world where single parents often predominate, and as a new generation of fathers are challenged to stretch their nurturing skills, but the fact remains that mothers still retain their primary role in matters of the heart. Perhaps it will always be so. It is understandable, then, that Mother's Day should inspire a unique response from the heart.

May God bless you, fathers, even if you are at annual conference on your special day! We have been chosen by Him to fill a big role in the life of our families, and, though they may not respond with the same sentiments as on Mother's Day, we are loved and appreciated, too.

THE JOY OF GARDENING

Life on the edge of town in rural Illinois has special rewards, not the least of which is the joy of gardening. Last summer our neighbor to the north plowed up a piece of his farm for us, and we enjoyed a bumper crop of vegetables. This column is being written in the middle of May, but already the garden has produced winter onions and radishes, and leaf lettuce will soon be ready for our salads. Some of the farmers in our reading family may smile at such small pleasures, but we gardeners are still your close cousin.

Many years ago, a lady from Ferndale, Washington, reminded me of a spiritual dimension to the joy of gardening. "Is it wrong," she wondered, "to feel close to God as Creator when I work in the soil with my hands?" No, I assured her, nothing that turns our hearts to the Lord is wrong. It is good to see Him in the midst of His creation.

But gardening is not a path to spiritual life. We can only know the God of Creation when we know the God of Revelation. Nature can never bring us to the God of Salvation, for only in the Word can He be found. Only the person who has seen Him by faith can truly see Him in the things that He has formed. The new creation opens our eyes to the old creation.

Remember the Creator when you see new life spring forth from the seeds that are planted in the soil. Praise the Lord for the joy that is one of the fruits of your labor. It has been said that the occupation of a farmer is the only one that continues from before the Fall, and gardening would claim a small corner of the same lofty endeavor. Perhaps there is still a shadow of Eden upon it.

There is no greater story that conveys the power of prayer than that of the life of David Brainerd, the missionary to the American Indians. Brainerd's whole life was a life of prayer. Day and night he prayed. When he retired to his bed of straw in the solitude of the forest, he prayed. Hour by hour, early and late, he was praying, pouring out his soul, interceding with God. He was indeed a true son of Jacob, wrestling through the night, until the breaking of the day. Christ was formed in the hearts of the people to whom he ministered.

— R. Snipstead



AFLBS graduate Amy Lee, Helmar, Illinois, gets a hug from her mother. Beth Quanbeck, McVile, North Dakota, looks on.

THE LUTHERAN AMBASSADOR

3110 E. Medicine Lake Blvd.
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55441

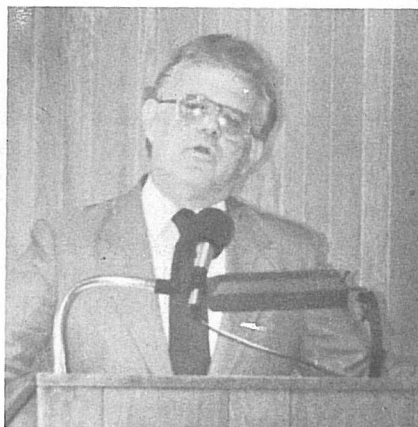
Second-Class

AFLC Schools' Graduation

May 18, 1991



Megan Hoff, Fergus Falls, Minnesota, and Julie Skordahl, Murrieta, California, were two of the 49 AFLBS graduates.



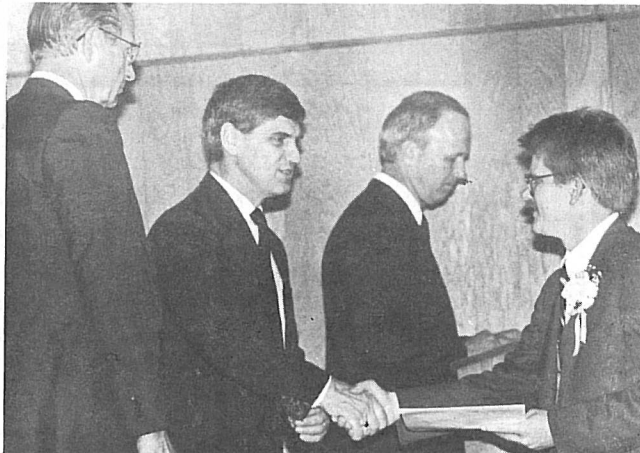
Missionary Connely Dyrud was the commencement speaker.



Seminarian wives, Marna Klug and Josie Pillman helped serve at the reception.



The Seminary Chorus sang at the graduation service.



AFLTS graduate Michael Peterson is congratulated by Rev. Richard Snipstead, Rev. Kenneth Moland and Dr. Francis Monseth.