

THE LUTHERAN AMBASSADOR

June 12, 1990



LIGHT on the WAY

meditations on God's Word

COVER PHOTO

Walking with Grandpa

by Roger C. Huebner, D. D. S.

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THE LUTHERAN AMBASSADOR

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A young man was asked to teach a class of 6th grade boys. The lesson was on the Lord's Prayer. In an attempt to give them a clearer understanding of what our Heavenly Father is like, he asked them to think of their own father and to connect the image with that of God, the Father. He was surprised at the reaction. To some there was no reaction at all. They had been raised in a fatherless family so the idea of a father who provides for their needs was completely foreign to them. Others in the class thought of father as one who would curse them and beat them. When their father was drunk, they would look for ways to get out of his sight. The image brought to them by saying "Our Father" was one of fear and anger.

But, thank God, that is not the usual image of our fathers. The picture of the family is seen in Scripture. The role of father, mother and children is clearly outlined in the 5th and 6th chapters of the Letter to the Ephesians. First, it says in 5:21, that husbands and wives are to be subject to one another in the fear of Christ. This means a oneness or a unity in Christ. It is a part of the picture that is given in Genesis 2:24, where it says that a man shall "leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife; and they shall be one flesh."

The father is to be the head of the household, just as it is with Christ and His church. That makes fathers responsible for the welfare of the family. It is in the spiritual nurture that the father most often fails to meet his responsibilities.

In each generation the role of the father is redefined. At the turn of the century the father was the absolute ruler of his home. The children usually were not very close to him.

Then came a change in attitude. The father began to be pictured as a bumbling fool with the wife and children conspiring to mislead him.

Once again, the picture has changed. The father is seldom seen. He is so busy traveling all over the world on company business that he lacks the time for a close family relationship.

Faithful fathers

As we celebrate Father's Day this year, let us look at some of the things that the Scriptures say about faithful fathers:

1.) Fathers are to be known by their love. We have developed the strange idea that fathers are not supposed to speak of love or show it by their actions. In Scripture it is exactly the opposite. The father in the story of the Prodigal Son kept looking for his son to return. When the son came back, there was an emotional celebration as the father said, "This my son was dead, and is alive again; was lost, and is found."

2.) Fathers are also to be understanding. It says in Ephesians 6:4: "And, ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord." That indicates an attitude of gentle firmness in bringing up the children.

3.) Fathers are to pray for their families. This means that the father should be in control of the devotions in the home. I have heard grown children say that while they were growing up, they never heard their fathers pray.

4.) Fathers are to be honest and upright in their lives. Nothing destroys the testimony of a father quicker than dishonest dealings or misconduct.

5.) Finally, fathers are to be fun. This means that they have an attitude that is optimistic. Their children enjoy their company and their wives look forward to the times they can be together.

So thank God for your father on this special day. Our need today more than ever is for *faithful fathers*.



by Pastor
James Asp



THREE ASPECTS OF FATHERHOOD

Fathers," says Paul Harvey, "are those who give daughters away to other men who aren't nearly good enough, so that they can have grandchildren who are smarter than anyone else's."

Fathers, by definition, are procreators or begetters and yet more than that; fathers are those who accept responsibility for the lives of those under their care and keeping. Fathering, therefore, is more than a biological part in authoring life; it is providing for the needs of the family. But even more than that, it involves the example that we give to our families. Paul, in his first letter to the Thessalonians, writes, "You are witnesses, and so is God, how devoutly and uprightly and blamelessly we behaved toward you believers; just...as a father would his own children, so that you may walk in a manner worthy of God who calls you into His own kingdom and glory" (II Thess. 2:10-12 NAS).

There are three aspects of fatherhood that give a caring, positive role-model for our families. First and most important, *He is a God-fathered child*. As it is logical to have life before we can give life to our offspring, so it is that we are not able to promote spiritual life as parents unless we, too, are born again by the precious blood of Jesus Christ. While we are incapable of procreating spiritual life, we do have the privilege and responsibility to introduce our children to the Author of life. I John 2:13 says, "I write to you fathers, because you know Him who has existed from the beginning" (TEV). Knowing who we are in the Lord frees us to be led by the

Holy Spirit"...into all the trust...", even as Jesus promised.

As children of God we have our heavenly Father's help and guidance as we partner with the Lord in the care and keeping of our children. We are privileged to have available to us an unlimited resource of divine discernment. God at work in the lives of parents frees us to deal with ourselves in such a way that we can be overcomers and enablers for righteousness and healthy living. As a Christian father, I am always in need of God's forgiveness and His grace and strength which not only enable me in my life and service for Him, but helps me with family to daily draw near to God.

The second aspect of fatherhood that is important to our families is that *he be a loving husband*. The well-known writer, Larry Christianson, in his book, *The Christian Family*, points out four explanations of this husband-love and they are: 1) Sacrificing one's self for his spouse; 2) Caring for her spiritual welfare; 3) Going the way of the cross before her; and 4) Exercising authority in humility. Husbands who love their wives even as Christ loves the Church are fathers who by that caring relationship provide for a security in the home that gives to the children that same security and loving ambiance. A husband who is open to communicating has time to share in listening, expressing and praying with his wife. Honoring his spouse's need to have time to herself so that their commitment to one another does not suffocate but stimulates, does not manipulate but



—by Pastor
Richard W. Gunderson
Lake Stevens, Wash.

PEACE

I can hardly describe the peace I feel sitting here quietly, my senses overwhelmed.

I *hear* the faint swish, swish, swish of gentle waves - upon the shore.

Now, the gulls cry - and the stately geese honk, as they forage about for food.

Soft, muted voices in the background; children at play; young couples strolling along, hand in hand; proud grandparents cooing at their new, tiny grandchildren.

I *smell* the scent of wildflowers; charcoal and barbecued meat. Also, a faint fish-like odor from waters aswirl.

I *see* many white sails gliding along the lake; birds soaring above; and small specks, walking along the breakwater, soaking in the beauty and the peace - all around.

I lean over and *touch* the soft, green grass, like a velvet carpet. The aluminum bench feels so sturdy - yet, it will wear out and be replaced. But, the lake, the sky, the grass, will always remain.

I *taste* the sweet beauty everywhere, and the rays of the sun above.

But, more than that --

All of my senses feel the warmth and radiance of the other Son. The Son of God, my precious Lord, Jesus - Eternal light and hope - of all who believe.

Thank You, Father, for the miracle of creation -- and life!

I Love You.

Helen L. Strom
Ishpeming, Mich.

FATHERHOOD

motivates. He has an honest appreciation of his wife and he lovingly encourages her to be all that God would have her to be in Him. He is proud of her.

Thirdly, this *God-fathered child* and *loving husband* is a *God-ordained parent*. Christian psychologist Dr. Bruce Narramore writes about parenthood, "In a real sense, God has given us a divine opportunity to shape our children's lives for time and for eternity. It is beautiful to realize we can actually teach our children the love and character of God. It is awesome to know that our own hang-ups can drive wedges between our precious children and God, the Creator of the universe." So we need to recognize our legacy which we have received and make a difference in that which we pass on to our children. Where it is negative and causes those hang-ups in our lives, we can by the grace of God confront those hang-ups and by His healing work become healthy. Where our legacy is strong and God-honoring, we can reinforce it by passing it on to our children.

Out of our healthy husband-wife relationship we can pass on to our children that sense of security and well-being. Receiving and practicing the Scriptural principles of fatherhood, we provide the leadership by example and instruction in living together, not provoking our children to anger"...or they will become discouraged..." (Colossians 3:21 TEV). Encouraging our children in the wholesome and right things of life, as well as correcting them

"...we can
actually teach
our children
the love and
character of
God."

when in error, is balanced guidance and instruction for God-honoring lives. Lives that are healthy emotionally is seen so clearly in Proverbs 23:15-16: "My son, if your heart is wise, my heart will rejoice, indeed, I myself; yes, and my inmost being will rejoice when your lips speak right things" and 20:7 "The righteous man walks in his integrity; his children are blessed after him."

So by example he gives leadership for his family. This leadership should include all aspects of life. Besides the spiritual matters of life, he gives leadership in the development of the emotional and intellectual lives of his children. What he has set his heart on will tend to carry into the lives of his children. He needs to include his children in the financial planning of the family and goals for the future. I Timothy 5:8 says, "If anyone does not provide for his relatives, and especially for his immediate family, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever" (NIV).

After saying all this, I look back over what I have written and confess how short I fall. I am still father and grandfather in spite of my many failures. So what do I do? Keep my eyes on the heavenly Father and what He has disclosed in His Word. Claim His forgiveness in Christ. By His grace follow Him in openness and trust, thanking Him for my wife, children and grandchildren, all gifted to me even as is His salvation and grace. So, dads near and far, join me in praying, that our Father's Fatherhood would be the mark of our fatherhood.

Is God trying to tell us something?

More and more we are seeing that homosexual people are gaining recognition and social acceptance. There is much in the news about their activities and of the influence they are having upon our society. But they have also brought their influence on the church and made their way into the pulpit in some places. But we hear very little report of the homosexuals repenting of their sin and changing their lifestyle.

They claim that they cannot change, that they were born to be what they are, and therefore have no choice but to act out their lifestyle. They accuse those who do not sympathize with them and the way they live as being guilty of homophobia.

But the Christian knows on the basis of Scripture (Rom. 6:16-18), and his own experience that the first thing needed for any person to receive grace to overcome sin is to recognize, repent and confess that sin to be sin. We see no such repentance on the part of the homosexual society, but only an excuse for their actions. They look upon the church not only to accept them but also to accept their sinful lifestyle.

If we are Christian and know our Bibles, we are well aware of what God has said about homosexual society. We have the outstanding example of judgment with fire from heaven upon the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah (Gen. 19). Also consider Rom. 1:26-27, Lev. 18:22, 20:13 and Jude 7.

Is God judging homosexual society today? The most dreaded disease of our time, AIDS, for which no cure has been found, can be traced to the homosexual lifestyle. But even so, this has not brought about any tears of repentance or a cry for mercy. Victims ask for sympathy as they face this dreaded disease, thinking of themselves as a severely sorrowful people and as a persecuted people because of how their lifestyle is abhorred and rejected.

Their hope is that a cure for AIDS might be found, giving freedom to continue in their sinful lifestyle without any fear of the consequences.

Recently we have heard about the terrible earthquake in San Francisco. Is this just a coincidence? Does God control the earthquakes and other weather patterns? Does He map out the places where earthquakes are to occur? Does He decide with what magnitude they are to strike?

San Francisco has become known as an active center of homosexuality. God has used earthquakes as a form of judgment before (Is. 29:6, Num. 26:10, Deut. 11:6). God also used the earthquake to warn people and to put holy fear in their hearts when Jesus was crucified (Matt. 27:51, 52). He will use earthquakes in the future to judge the people (Rev. 6:12, 8:5).

Are we guilty of judging when we dare suggest that the recent San Francisco earthquake could be a judgment from God? Some would claim that we are. No one can prove that it is a judgment from God. But dare we overlook the obvious? We know from Scripture that God does not look lightly upon unconfessed sin. And we know this from Bible history, Sodom and Gomorrah being an example of how severely God dealt with the homosexual society.

This is not the first time that San Francisco has been plagued with an earthquake. Does God ever send a second judgment to the same place? Scripture warns that if there is no repentance God will continue to judge until finally the offender is condemned to hell. A judgment can be a blessing if it will lead to confession and repentance of sin. However, if once condemned to hell, there is no escape.

But the homosexual lifestyle is not the only sin which grieves God. We are continually hearing reports from the news media of the severe drought our country is facing. There is a great

apostasy and a loss of faith in God and in His Word which is sweeping the earth, especially the more cultured areas of our world. Many are creating their own god as they subscribe to false doctrine and reject the truth of God's Word. Humanism has spread and is gaining much recognition, as it has a great influence on man's thinking in our day. This influence has not bypassed the church. Man, rather than God, is being worshiped by many.

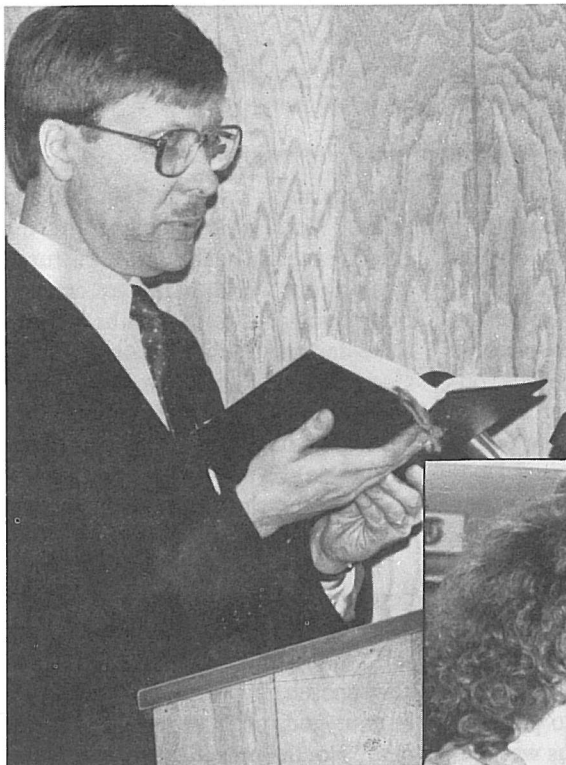
It seems that God is saying, "If you don't need Me anymore, look to the god you worship for rain. See for yourself what a dead, powerless god you have chosen for yourselves, and if man is your god, perhaps he can make it rain." Not that man has not tried it and with very little success.

There is a false optimism present in the world today. Society in general has taken upon itself a new boldness in sin and in ignoring God's warnings regarding sin. Society has come to the conclusion that this new freedom to sin has a number of advantages with more pleasure and enjoyment in life. It has concluded that greater freedom to sin will bring about more joy and happiness.

However, the wages of sin is (still) death (Rom. 6:23a). "Whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap" (Gal. 6:7b). "For they have sown the wind, and they shall reap the whirlwind" (Hos. 8:7a).

We can be sure that judgment will come — sooner or later it will come. God has said it would come. It has never failed to come where sin is not repented of and confessed. May God have mercy upon us.

— By Rev. Gerald F. Mundfrom
Osceola, Wis.



Rev. Robert Lee, Helmar, III., gave the commencement address.

The pouring rain kept the reception line indoors. Rev. and Mrs. Ralph Tjelta greeted the graduates.

Thirty seven students graduated from AFLBS. Seven men received the Graduate of Theology Degree. Rev. Martin Horn received the Master of Divinity Degree.



Dr. Steve Lombardo and Karl Yri, AFLBS student from Norway.



AFLBS graduates, Lisa Carr, Astoria, Oregon and Tamara Dyrud, Middle River, Minn.



Rev. Kenneth Moland, Kirkland, Wash., was served punch by Mrs. Todd Schierkolk, Camarillo, Calif.



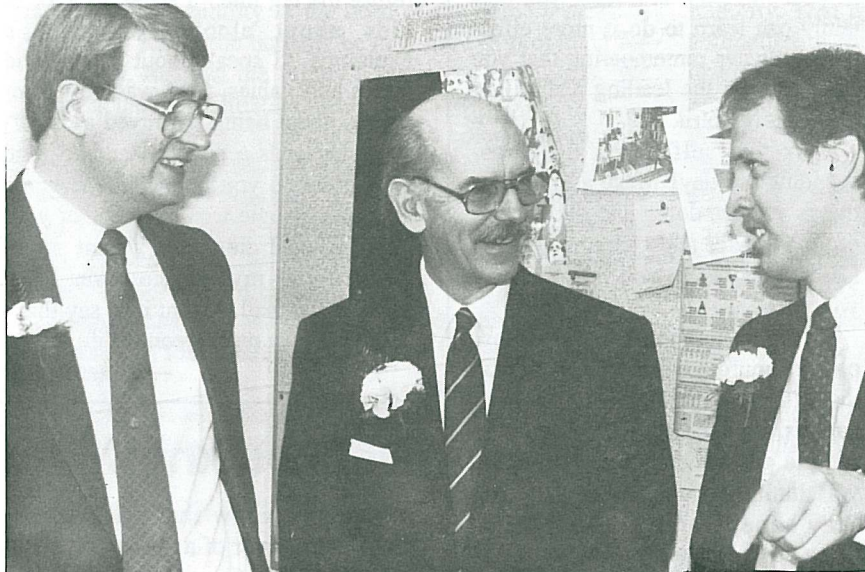
Graduation '90



Mr. Milton Flores, AFLTS graduate, is called to serve Gethsemane Lutheran, Celaya, Mexico. His sisters, Leticia and Alba flew to Minneapolis for the May 19th graduation.



Jonathan Abel, son of Missionaries David and Janet Abel, Brazil, attended graduation services during his first full day in the United States.



AFLTS graduates Steven Mundfrom, called to Bethany Lutheran, Sebeka, Minn., James Winter, called to Bethlehem Evangelical Lutheran, Calgary, Alberta, and Lloyd Quanbeck, called to Hope Lutheran, Northome and Bethesda Lutheran, Mizipah, Minn.



AFLBS graduates Stefanie Rasmussen, Pennock, Minn., and Troy Peterson, Thief River Falls, Minn.



Pictured below is AFLTS graduate, Harry Gimberg and his uncle. Gimberg is called to serve Grace Lutheran, DeKalb, Ill. Other graduates are Steve Olinger, called to Emmanuel Lutheran, Salmon Arm, B. C. and Richard Larson, called to Bethany Lutheran, Abercrombie and United Free Lutheran, McLeod, N. Dak.

Develop your leadership potential

Everyone is not a born leader. In fact, there are very few born leaders. However, people can develop their leadership potential. Leadership can be taught and it can be learned, just like other skills. When you, under the direction of the Lord Jesus Christ, develop your potential, you will:

1. Contribute to the ministry of the local congregation. You will be led through the Holy Spirit and prayer. In doing this you will develop goals and focus more and more on what is important for your life.

2. Grow as a young person. As you are led by the Lord, you will accept opportunities (never say jobs, ok?) which will be of benefit to others.

3. Enjoy the ministry God gives you. There will be a certain satisfaction in knowing that with Christ's guidance, your life counts for the kingdom of God. You will become more and more useful.

Now leadership doesn't necessarily mean "taking charge." You need not be the president of the Luther League or even be an officer to be a leader. You can lead by example. You can lead by sharing ideas, helping to solve problems and just encouraging others to participate.

Basically, leaders are communicators. That is what Jesus asked us all to be, communicators. Read the Great Commission verses in the last chapter of the Gospel of Matthew.

Yes, you are to communicate first and foremost the precious Gospel of Jesus Christ and His atoning death!

Doing this will require communication skills. Oh, certainly, you can communicate the love of Jesus without developing such skills. However, in your ministry as a teen, you certainly can learn to do it more effectively, always remembering that you must rely on the leading and filling of the Holy Spirit.

Ask yourself: How am I now spending my day? Make a list of the things you are doing and the amount of time it takes to do them. Allow the Lord to challenge you in the use of your time.

Make an appointment with your pastor, youth pastor or advisor. Do this after you have talked with your parents. What do they think are your unique gifts and talents? What do you think they are? Revise your list. Pray about it. Give your time to those areas where you can be of real benefit to the kingdom of God.

Evaluate your decisions. Leadership is developed. Ask your pastor or another adult to give a talk on leadership.

Christian youth are not the church of tomorrow or the leaders of tomorrow. You are the leaders of *today*! As all of us, you are the developing leaders. May the Lord use you in His kingdom!

—Pastor Dennis Gray
Youth Resources Director

leaders are communicators

May we see Jesus

"We are hard pressed on every side, but not crushed, perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted, but not abandoned; struck down, but not destroyed. We always carry around in our body the death of Jesus, so that the life in Jesus may also be revealed in our body" (2 Cor. 4-10).

Until recently, every time Houston Astros infielder Glenn Davis hit a home run the Astros broadcasters announced, "Glenn Davis, this Bud's for you." But when Glenn got wind of it, he became the only major leaguer to refuse the tag line. "I speak to a lot of kids about alcohol abuse," he explained. "I speak about morals and ethics and values. So I was very concerned about being portrayed as a person who leads a double-standard kind of life. Once you're not in the game anymore, people won't remember your stats. When I die, I don't want someone to put on my tombstone that I was good in baseball. I want it to say that I had an impact on someone's life."

—Servant No. 9

Did you know?

Did you know that this summer close to a quarter of a million churches will hold a Vacation Bible School.

Have some fun with VBS statistics. If all VBSs were held consecutively, there would be a total of 447 years worth of vacation Bible school in a single summer.

If all the students in Vacation Bible School had one cup of fruit punch each day while VBS was in session, all the cups of punch combined would fill 69 Olympic-size swimming pools!

Each Vacation Bible School has an average of 85 students. Many of these children attend no other church activities. The week of learning about Jesus and interacting with Christ-centered adults may be the only Christian education these children receive.

—David C. Cook Publishing Co.

FATHER'S DAY

I'm going to do all the things my daddy does," so spoke the six-year-old boy as he played catch with an uncle. And the uncle thought to himself, "And why shouldn't this boy, any boy, feel that way about his dad?"

But it all goes to show how important it is that "Daddy" leaves a good path for his boy to follow. Naturally, he will be imitated, it's the way of life. He must set an example he will be proud to have his son, or daughter, copy.

In actuality, that isn't always the case. Some children are set off in a wrong direction by their parents and they suffer for it and maybe never do recover. Their own lives get mixed up and distorted. "Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger" (Eph. 6:4a). "Train up a child in the way he should go" (Prov. 22:6) and walk in it yourself.

And children are to honor Father, obey him and help to make his responsibility as the head of the home a pleasant one. Don't add to the burdens he may have in providing for his family. Respect the family's resources and ideals. We pray that they are Christian ideals.

An older teenage Christian girl in conversation with some friends was overheard to say, "I feel rotten when I disobey my parents." Good for her! Not that she disobeyed or wasn't always a dutiful daughter, but because she felt wrong when that was the case. Hers was a sensitive conscience, exactly the kind that is needed.

Honor Father and Mother. The one who does so, at whatever stage in life, will be spared much happiness now and later in life.

We pay special tribute to fathers. Sunday is their day. God bless them and give them much joy.

ARTICLE X

Free congregations have no right to demand that other congregations shall submit to their opinion, will, judgment, or decision; therefore, domination by a majority of congregations over a minority is to be rejected" (*The Fundamental Principles*).

We have already talked about the freedom of the congregation. The New Testament speaks of local churches; it speaks nothing of any "super church," only the uniting together of believers in Christ is a community. Such a coming together of believers in Christ in a community. Such a coming together, a church, is what the *Fundamental Principles* call "the right form of the Kingdom of God on earth."

The Article for today establishes the fact that in an association of congregations which wish to join in common work and fellowship a majority must not dominate the minority. That is, the congregations in the minority are not compelled to follow the lead of the majority. Georg Sverdrup, in discussing the matter, wrote: "In the next place, there is a fact to take into consideration, that there is no guarantee that the majority alone has good strength and views. Sometimes there can be useful people and wise counsel in the minority."

There can be no doubt that Sverdrup, who had been denied his seat in the annual convention of the United Church in 1895, still smarted from that action he felt was totally wrong when he wrote about the *Principles* three years later.

Does Article X, the Article which follows, mean that an organization, or a fellowship, if you prefer, cannot function if the minority in any decision refuses to participate in an

(Continued)

OUR PRESIDENT WRITES

THE BIRTH PANGS OF THE AFLC

At the conclusion of our article in the last issue, we wrote about the meeting at Willmar, Minnesota, in November of 1961. We stated that a number of us had looked upon that meeting as the opportunity for us to try to reorganize those of the LFC who had opposed the merger and who had voted "No" in the third and last referendum. We indicated that certain individuals came to the Willmar meeting with the determination that they were going to prevent that from happening. They were successful. We were to pray and wait for the conference in June, 1962. "God would turn it around."

What many of us feared became a reality. We lost valuable time in that delay. Our whole purpose would have been so different if we would have made the decision to step out and continue the fellowship of independent congregations in November of 1961. Instead we spent the next seven months

in pretty much the same routine of trying to convince people why we were opposed to merger. We could have put in place the new organization and alerted the whole LFC to its reality. We could have come to the LFC conference in June, 1962, with an announcement that a fellowship of free and living congregations under the *Fundamental Principles* was still alive. That did not occur.

Instead the approval of merger went through as smooth as silk at the conference. That should have been no surprise to anyone. The *Rules for Work* had been amended in 1960 to provide for a delegate system for the Annual Conference. This brought about major changes. No longer was the conference open to all members of the LFC. Decisions of the conference could now have binding power on the congregations. There is no doubt that this move to a delegate system was made with the final decision on merger in mind. Many congregations hand-picked their delegates to insure

PRESIDENT

a strong pro-merger vote at the 1962 conference.

One of the defined procedures of the third referendum was that in voting on the merger in the referendum congregations were to "authorize the Annual Conference to act for them, providing the referendum passed, on all subsequent matters relating to union."

Many of us were too naive to realize the impact of such a statement. It was our firm belief that if a congregation voted "No," it had not authorized the Annual Conference to act for it. Sadly, we were to learn differently. We were told that since the necessary majority had been obtained in the third referendum and the 1962 annual conference had voted overwhelmingly (530-112) in favor of merger, the decision was now binding on all LFC congregations. A congregation not desiring to be a part of the merger would need to vote by a two-thirds majority to sever its relationship with the LFC.

There was no announcement at the June conference that a group of congregations and pastors would continue to be faithful to the *Fundamental Principles*. There was only an empty, hopeless feeling for what the future might hold. There was nothing for those whose convictions against merger had been steeled through three referendums. There was, however, a meeting of concerned individuals, brought together by word of mouth. But the meeting was dominated by individuals with a charismatic bent and by others with some personal agenda for a new fellowship. There was nothing offered at that meeting that could kindle any hope for the future.

The Information and Planning Committee elected at Willmar in November of 1961 continued their efforts. Their task was to now try to do what we could have accomplished in November. Could enough interest and support be found in congregations to press on with a new fellowship in mind? Many congregations with no alternative available simply accepted the merger vote at the conference. The two pastors who had so strongly advocated doing nothing until June, now were no longer desirous of being a part of working for a new group. Many other pastors who had indicated an aversion to the merger, now were content to accept it and no longer showed any interest in continuing a struggle.

The Planning Committee, composed of three pastors, began to make plans for an organizational conference. The date was set for October 25-28 at Thief River Falls, Minnesota.

Of major concern was the requirement that congregations not desiring to be certified into the merged church indicate so by a two-thirds majority vote to leave the LFC. The president of the LFC had to be notified prior to January 1, 1963. Such action was not possible without violating the constitution of the local congregation. We felt that a congregation voting "No" in the referendum had indicated its wishes.

The first congregations to take action to "remain outside of the merger" was the Greenbush parish. I want to especially pay tribute to those people. The six congregations of this parish had allowed me as their pastor to spend as much time as I felt necessary to do what I could to work against the

EDITORIALS

action which has not gone its way? Hardly. Sverdrup writes of co-operative work and that God's work can go forward when there is interest and spirit and an absence of church politics.

We can still speak of the free congregation, but it must be remembered that it is in a world where much needs to be done for the Lord's kingdom, as we have written earlier. The congregation is looking for ways in which to serve and isn't easily offended and seeking means to get out of participating.

Let us hear these words of Sverdrup as we close today: "But if we mean that freedom is only to be free from working, and, by love, that we will refrain from causing any suffering or trouble for anyone, but only enjoy the pleasant fellowship of others and other good things, so is it self-evident that we are not good for anything. Let us practice freedom and love and the co-operative labor will produce results which correspond to the divine promises which are over His free servants and devoted and self-denying children.

"If everything doesn't go only excellently and joyfully, then let us not give up at once. Fair weather Christians, who can only go forward when everything is favorable, never really become free, because they have all too much to look after and be concerned about. Let us go forward manfully, each bearing his own burden, because it is right, and bear one another's burdens, for thus we fulfill the law of Christ."

IN THAT SPIRIT

The mind of the flesh is still death. There has been no cut in the wages of sin either for souls or for societies. But the Spirit still gives life and peace. In the Spirit the Church faces this changing world.

T. A. Kantonen

merger. Now they set an example and provided the encouragement for other congregations to follow them in stepping out in faith. The LFC office began to reject a number of the resolutions submitted from congregations desiring to remain free.

Both the Information Committee and the Planning Committee continued their work for the Organizational Conference. Their efforts were rewarded. A total of 255 lay people and 23 pastors from some 76 congregations attended the Organizational Conference. Only about 40 congregations had by October been released from the merger. But the results were overwhelming. The necessary officers were elected. Boards and committees were elected for almost every area of the work that the AFLC has in place today.

The AFLC was born, and God's blessing has continued on it down through the years. Today it seems that greater opportunities than ever are in store for the new body that was born out of so much difficulty and disappointment.

—Pastor Richard Snipstead

10. Read through Ps. 42. Look for words that describe or tell the feeling or emotion that David experienced. _____

11. The Psalm ends by asking questions, followed by a statement of action and faith. Write out Ps. 42:11 _____

_____ What can we learn from the above in regard to expressing our feelings?

Pause in your study time to sing "What a Friend We Have in Jesus."

12. Ps. 37 and Lam. 3 have some positive guidelines. Fill in each blank with a positive command.

Ps. 37:3 _____ in the Lord; v. 4 _____
yourself in the Lord; vs. 5 _____ you way to the Lord; v. 7
_____ before the Lord.

Lam. 3:25 _____ in Him; _____ Him.

repeated again in 3:26 _____ and _____

3:40 Let us _____ our ways and test them and let
us _____ to the Lord.

3:55 I _____ on your name, O Lord.

3:57 ... You said, "Do not fear."

3:58 ... You redeemed my life.

3:22b ... His compassions never fail.

3:23 They are new every morning; Great is Thy Faithfulness!

In closing, sing "Great is Thy Faithfulness."

Practical Application: Examine your attitudes. Apply the appropriate verses from the lesson. After confessing and dealing with those wrong attitudes, focus on the verses from Ps. 37 and Lam. 3.

Whenever negative thoughts and attitudes come to mind, handle them defensively. Quote Scripture to yourself. A good verse to memorize is Phil. 4:8: "Finally brothers, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable — if anything is excellent or praiseworthy — think about such things" (NIV).

"Living for Jesus who died in my place,
Bearing on Calvary my sin and disgrace."

ATTITUDES

WMF BIBLE STUDY

JULY, 1990

"To be made new in the attitude of your minds; and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness" (Eph. 4:23, 34 NIV).

"Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus" (Phil. 2:5 NIV).

A person's natural disposition or temperament influences her attitudes. Dr. Ole Hallesby, in his book *The Christian Faith*, points out four basic temperaments: choleric, melancholic, phlegmatic and sanguine. Rarely is a person only one type but rather is a composite of two or more types. Each type has particular strengths and weaknesses. We must allow the Holy Spirit within us to convict and transform us. God has specific promises and attributes to help us deal with each area of weakness. A weakness must be confessed and dealt with.

1. Using a dictionary, define the following words:

Disposition _____

Temperment _____

Attitude _____

Emotion _____

Heart _____

Confess _____

Repentance _____

LIVING for JESUS

2. What facts about sin are found in Prov. 28:13? _____

3. According to Matt. 5:23-24, what specific action are we to take in dealing with sin? _____
4. What should be our goal or aim?
Acts 24:16 KJ _____
Eph. 4:23-24 _____
Phil. 2:5-11 NIV _____
5. What will be the result? I Jn. 1:7 NIV _____

Jesus rebuked the Pharisees, the religious leaders of the day, for placing stress on their own man-made traditions and for setting aside the commands of God.
6. In Mk. 7:21-23, what are the evils listed that pollute men's hearts? _____

7. What is the source of these evil thoughts? Mk. 7:23 _____
8. What leads us to repentance? Rom. 2:4b KJ _____
9. Attitudes come from the heart! "For as he thinketh in his heart, so is he" (Prov. 23:7a). "The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it" (Jer. 17:9)

In the following exercise, underline the sin listed in the verse on the left. In the other two columns, record the portion of the verse that deals with the command (our part); record the portion of the verse that deals with the promise (God's part).

Identify the sin	Record the Command (our part)	Record the Promise (God's part)
Nunn. 11:1	Jn. 6:43	I Sam. 16:7
Nunn. 11:4-5		
I Cor. 10:10		
Eph. 4:32	Heb. 12:15	Matt. 6:14-15
	Eph. 4:26	Prov. 15:1
	Jas. 1:19	Jas. 1:20
Lk. 12:25	I Pet. 5:7a	I Pet. 5:7b
Mark 4:40	Is. 41:10	Is. 41:10
	Ps. 34:4	II Tim. 1:7
Matt. 27:18	Prov. 23:17	Prov. 14:30
Prov. 14:30		
Jas. 3:16	Jas. 3:14 LB	Jas. 3:16 (This is a negative promise)
	Phil 2:3	
	Heb. 13:5	Heb. 13:5c
Prov. 8:13	I Pet. 5:5	I Pet. 5:5
	Prov. 13:10	Prov. 13:10
	Gal. 6:7	Gal. 6:7

As we encounter wrong attitudes in ourselves, we need to turn them over to God. We do this by seeking His forgiveness and asking for His strength to overcome.

Meet our junior missionaries



Chester, on the evening of his confirmation with sponsors (l. to r.) Christina Dyrud, Bob Bilden, Mark Fagerstrom and Shannon.

Hi! I'm Chester Dyrud and I'm 14 years old. I would like to share a little of the Brazilian culture with you.

In the third week of February, Brazil has its famous Carnival Festival. It is known for its immoral activities. During the same time the youth and families of our AFLC churches have Bible Camp. We have many studies and activities. Sports are played, such as volleyball, soccer and relays. Sports are more competitive here in Brazil and people play very seriously.

This year I was confirmed on New Year's Eve. Every December 31st our church holds a special service and confirms new members and baptizes new converts. It was nice to have my sisters, Shannon and Christina here from the States to be my sponsors. Mark Fagerstrom and Bob Bilden, who are here helping with manual labor, were also my sponsors.

This is our second year of home schooling. We are doing this to prepare for bible school and college. Most of our friends study at night and work during the day.

Thank you for all of the Christmas and birthday cards that many of you send. I appreciate them very much.

My future plans included Bible school and college. Please continue to pray for me as I seek God's will.



Vicki works at many of our children's activities. Here she helps Christina Abel with a project at Children's Camp.

My name is Victoria J. Dyrud and I am 16 years old. My brother has told you a little of the Brazilian culture and I will be sharing about our youth activities.

We have approximately 40 members in our youth group at the Central Church. Every Saturday afternoon we get together for volleyball and ping-pong games, and the guys can't leave without a game of soccer. In the evening we have a time of fellowship and sharing. On Sunday afternoons we separate into groups: some visit homes and hospitals and others help with Good News Clubs.

In September of 1990, the AFLC Youth of Brazil will have its first Luther League Convention in Sao Paulo. We are all waiting to have lots of fun and fellowship.

I'm so thankful to have had the experience of growing up in a foreign country. My future plans are as follows: In 1991 I graduate from high school; then I plan to go to our AFLC Bible School in Minneapolis and afterwards to college. Thank you for your prayers.



Maria Helena Antunes

A decision to follow Christ

My name is Maria Helena Antunes and I am 21 years old. Three years ago, I came to the knowledge of the special love God has for me and I made the decision to follow Christ. This was possible through Bible studies in my home and I praise God for this.

During these last three years I have participated in the Central Free Luther-

an Church in Campo Mourao, Parana. I have had the responsibilities of Sunday School secretary and vice-president of the youth group. Today I am 2nd treasurer of our young adult group.

As I grew spiritually, I realized that I have talents in the area of evangelism and Bible studies. I have always liked

continued on p. 16 ◇

Our Savior's Lutheran Church, Chillicothe, Ill.

During January, 1987, a small group of Lutheran Christians began meeting at the ABC Day Care Building in Chillicothe, Ill. as a result of the local ALC congregation's decision to continue alignment with the principles and practices of the ELCA. Under the leadership of Pastor James Asp we drafted a constitution and decided to associate with the AFLC as a mission congregation during June, 1987, becoming one of the first new congregations in the Illinois district.

A subsidy by the AFLC beginning in 1988 and "another" retirement by Pastor and Ann Asp resulted in the call to our current pastor, Rev. Richard Long, and his family, then of Marietta, Ga., and a former pastor of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod. Since 1987 our worship attendance has very steadily grown from about 30 to 50 per week. Current membership is 63 baptized and 35 confirmed. Also during



1988, Our Savior's bought a residential property in Chillicothe as a possible future building site. As a result of continued church growth and a 1989 mid-week study of Biblical financial principles, the decision was made to remodel the house and add a worship building without increasing our indebtedness.

Generous contributions of money and labor from within and outside our congregation have been God's answer to our commitment to become debt-free. We had our first worship service in our new church building on June

3rd. The program at Our Savior's includes the traditional worship, Sunday School, and a mid-week Bible study plus "small group" activities for men, women and youth. In addition we sponsor spring and fall programs focusing on personal renewal and support family participation in summer Bible camps of the AFLC and LEM. We are especially grateful for the opportunities our members have had to serve in inter-church ministries, both in the community and beyond.

—Corr.

Menomonie, Wis.

A Free Lutheran Mission Congregation at Menomonie, Wis., had their first service on Jan. 21, 1989. Six families were represented. Our interim pastor is Dr. Steven Lombardo. We have appreciated the seminary students who have conducted services in Dr. Lombardo's absence. The preaching has been superb and we feel the presence of the Holy Spirit in our fellowship. At present we are meeting at the Leisure Service Center.

Our needs are many and we pray for an increase in attendance and request the readers of *The Lutheran Ambassador* and all members of the AFLC to pray for this outreach and to support it in any way the Lord might lead you. We ask you to please refer any relatives or friends you may have in the Menomonie area to our fellowship. We are enjoying a 9:30 a.m. Sunday School/Bible Study, followed by worship service at 10:30.

—Mrs. Frances Christopherson

Fellowship at Mesa

Members and friends of our AFLC churches gathered at the King's Table Buffet, 1526 E. Main, Mesa, Arizona, on Feb. 24. There were representatives from many of our AFLC churches throughout the states. The 60 people who registered enjoyed a delicious noon luncheon. With everyone present enjoying the fellowship it was decided to continue this event each year. The date of Feb. 11, 1991, was selected and the reservation at the same address for the use of the room was made.

Pastor John Strand shared some thoughts from the Book of Jude. Those present were glad to hear from him and expressed their appreciation for the brief meditation. Others shared in the brief period taken for sharing.

We encourage those planning to winter in Arizona to mark the date on their calendar. There were some folks who did not know about the dinner and thus were not present. We trust that all will understand that it was not our intent to avoid anyone. But the dinner was made known by word of mouth and personal contact.

Thanks to each one who attended and for their words of encouragement in the continuation of this dinner. The sole purpose is for getting to know the friends from the many AFLC churches and to have a very special time of Christian fellowship. We leave our plans in the hands of our God and Savior Jesus Christ (Prov. 3:6).

—Pastor Orville Olson

from here and there

Western N. Dak-Eastern Mont.

Tioga, N. Dak.— "Friendimension" was the theme for the Daily Vacation Bible School at Zion Lutheran, May 29-June 2. The children encountered such Bible figures as Abraham, Ruth and Dorcas during their studies.

S. Dak. - Nebraska

Bruce, S. Dak. — At the Golden Age group which met at Grace Lutheran on Apr. 25, it was decided to plant flowers near the church. The group helped the American Legion Auxiliary serve the dinner on Memorial Day.

PASTOR NEEDED

The Bethel Lutheran Chapel Advisory Board of White Earth, Minnesota, is in need of a pastor to serve the churches at White Earth and Elbow Lake Village on the White Earth Reservation.

A large house and a vehicle for mission purposes are included for the pastor and his wife.

For more information contact Jerry Dahl, Rt. 1, Box 39, Felton, Minn. (218) 494-3608; or, Al Carlson, Rt. 1, Box 28, Borup, Minn. (218) 494-3768.

Faithful service honored

Mr. Harvey Dyrud, Newfolden, Minn., was honored by his congregation, Westaker Lutheran, at the Easter morning service for his many years of faithful work in visiting the sick and shut-ins in their homes, hospitals and rest homes. He was given a plaque in recognition of this by Mr. Gary Hodne, president of the church.

Mr. Dyrud, now 83, served at one time on the Stewardship Board of the AFLC. He is a brother of Rev. Amos Dyrud, former dean of the AFLC seminary, an uncle of Missionary Connely Dyrud and grandfather of Mrs. Jonathan (Hope) Unverzagt, who is with her husband in Ferndale, Wash., where he is serving his year of seminary internship.

Northwestern Minnesota

Greenbush, Minn. — Women from United Lutheran made curtains for the boys' dorm at Galilee Bible Camp, Lake Bronson, Minn.

Roseau, Minn. — The Sunday School from Spruce Lutheran had supper at Hardee's in Roseau on May 16. The last day of Sunday School was May 20.

Southwest Central Minnesota

Dalton, Minn. — The summer schedule for the parish (Zion-Sarpsborg, Kvam and Tordenskjold) is to have services at 9 and 10:30 a.m.

Lake Superior

Cloquet, Minn. — The parish paper for St. Paul's Lutheran is called "The Epistle of St. Paul's." The May issue tells of a mission conference held in the church early in May.

Minneapolis

Cokato, Minn. — The Lighthouse Children of Good Shepherd Lutheran planted flowers at the church at their May 9 and 16 meetings. Activities have been suspended now for the summer.

St. Paul, Minn. — Bill and Joan Cetnar conducted a seminar on the Jehovah's Witnesses at Victory in Christ on May 13. They showed a film and also told of their own experiences as former members of the cult.

Minneapolis, Minn. — A Christian Education Appreciation Banquet for all involved in the education program at Medicine Lake Lutheran was held on May 3 at the Old Country Buffet in Crystal Gallery Mall.

Arizona-Calif.

Camarillo, Calif. — Members of First Lutheran were invited to the Scandinavian Festival at California Lutheran University at Thousand Oaks on May 12.

West Coast

Ferndale, Wash. — Mission Night at Triumph Lutheran was held on Sun., May 20, at 5 with the Brotherhood in charge. A narrated video dramatization of the early ministry of Jesus was shown.

Illinois

Morris, Ill. — A Good Friday service was held at Bethlehem Lutheran from 12 to 3 o'clock. Speaking on the Seven Last Words of Christ were Pastors Robert Lewis, Robert Lee, Gary Jorgenson, Melvin Meyer and Mark Olson. Local pastor John Skeie led the service.

Newark, Ill. — The Mother-Daughter Banquet for Helmar Lutheran was held on May 12 and the Father-Son Banquet on June 8. At the latter, the speaker was Jim Molinari, head basketball coach for the Northern Illinois University Huskies at DeKalb.

AFLC's oldest member?



Mrs. Hattie Mohn, 105, possibly the oldest person in the AFLC, is shown here with her two youngest great grandchildren. She is the widow of Pastor Christopher Mohn and resides in Bethany of the Northwest in Everett, Wash. Mrs. Mohn is a member of Calvary Lutheran of that city.

Pastor and Mrs. Mohn served congregations in Lake Lillian, Minn., and Poulsbo and Ferndale, Wash.

(Ed. note: I had the opportunity to meet Mrs. Mohn in 1977. She was the pastor's wife at the time my father taught parochial school in Poulsbo sometime prior to 1911. Thanks to her daughter Ruth Peterson for supplying this picture of her mother.)

Remember our AFLC Family Camps

Association Retreat Center
Osceola, Wis.

First Week : July 1-7

Faculty: Rev. Peter Franz
Rev. Philip Haugen

Second Week: August 5-11

Faculty: Rev. Robert Rieth
Rev. Robert L. Lee

Galilee Bible Camp

Lake Bronson, Minn.

July 8-14

Faculty: Rev. Craig Wentzel
Rev. James Asp

Wilderness Camp

Lake Park, Minn.

July 18-22

Faculty: Rev. Terry Olson

Rev. Wendell Johnson

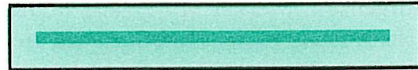
—Classes for children at all these camps.

—Reasonable rates.

THE LUTHERAN AMBASSADOR

3110 E. Medicine Lake Blvd.
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55441

Second-class



MISSIONS

to transmit knowledge and hear people tell about their lives, so I started becoming involved in the activities of evangelism and Bible studies through the church. But I also realized that I didn't have a strong enough knowledge of the Bible, so I began to plan to come to the Bible School (EBLL) in 1989, after finishing college.

This beginning of the school year here at the EBLL has been very good and I have reached my many objectives in coming.

My ministry in church this year is having Bible studies with young people and Sunday afternoon visitation and evangelism.

My goal for the future is to enter a profession in which I will feel fulfilled and through which I may continue to actively serve God.

I want to continue to grow in grace and wisdom through the study of God's Word. Psalms 119:11: "I have laid up Thy Word in my heart, that I might not sin against Thee."

Wilderness camp makes improvements

The Wilderness Bible Camp Board wishes to thank all who responded to our appeal for funds to make an essential improvement at the camp near Lake Park, Minn. A modern shower and toilet facility is needed. Much donated material and labor is promised.

On the basis of gifts already received, the decision has been made to begin the work. Several drive-through RV sites with water and elec-

FILES TO BE CLEARED

With the impending change in editorship in the *Ambassador* (Oct. 1), the files of material and pictures are all being gone over. The attempt will be made to return to rightful owners all the pictures possible.

If there is something in particular which hasn't been accounted for and you are desirous of receiving, please call that to my attention. I will try to answer your request. Thank you. Please write: Rev. Raynard Huglen, Editor, Box 128, Newfolden, Minn. 56738 or call 218-874-8465.

trical hook-ups will be completed this spring. Work will be started on the bath house. Enough money is available for the floor and walls. It is hoped that further gifts will make it possible to put on the roof, and provide sewer facilities according to stringent code. Some more money has been promised, but more is needed. Our treasurer is Mr. Roland Peterson, 1325 N. 4th St., Fargo, N. Dak. 58102. Please make all checks out to The Wilderness Bible Camp. Thank you!

We are looking forward to our scheduled camp July 18-22. Pastor Terry Olson, Valley City, N. Dak., will be the evening speaker. Pastor Wendell Johnson, Cambridge, Minn., will be the Bible study teacher and Mrs. Johnson will be in charge of the classes for the children. Pastor and Mrs. Johnson are gifted singers and will also minister through fine Christian Word-centered music. Come and join in the fellowship.

Again, thanks, in Jesus' name, for gifts already sent, and gifts to be received. Through the years many, because of blessings received in camp, will thank God for you, and your gift.

—The Wilderness Camp Board